

A COWBOY'S WIFE

How to Create a Self-Hosted Wordpress Blog

Free tutorial with step-by-step instructions!

Lori

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This tutorial will help you create a **self hosted Wordpress blog!**

About Me and this Tutorial

My name is Lori from [A Cowboy's Wife](#) & [My Wooden Spoon](#). This ebook was written in hopes of preventing others from being as clueless as I was when I first started my blog. Like you, I had so many questions and found it a frustrating process to find someone to walk me through it.

This is the first ebook of many and all will be geared towards helping you.

Should you have any requests and/or questions & comments, please feel free to email me at lori@acowboyswife.com.

The funds needed for this tutorial to get you started, will be less than \$10 bucks if you choose Host Gator, and around \$100 for Bluehost. Just thought you would want to know before we get started!! A how-to for Blogger (blogspot) coming soon!

I hope you find this tutorial helpful. If you do, please consider [making a donation](#). Anything is appreciated and, as always, I will donate a percentage to the [Skin Cancer Foundation](#) in honor of my Mother-in-law who is no longer with us. Please consider donating to them directly or any other charity. It's great to give!

A list of wonderful charities for your consideration:

[Cancer Foundations](#)

2 more in honor of my Grandmother who is probably with my Mother-in-law, telling her stories about my youth :-0

[American Diabetes Association](#)

[Arthritis Foundation](#)

HOW TO CREATE A BLOG

With this tutorial, you will learn how to create a self hosted Wordpress blog, with a custom domain name along with some bonus information.

My absolute favorite web host is [Bluehost](#). Their customer service rocks and they are reliable! If you can afford to pay by the year, I highly recommend Bluehost. You will get a free domain if you choose to go through [Bluehost](#). If you can only afford to pay monthly, then scroll down for step by step instructions. If you decided to use Bluehost, you can [click here for step by step instructions](#) on what to do once you've made your purchase.

For NON-[Bluehost](#) purchasers:

Step 1:

First, you will need to buy a domain first. *Get your domain name through [GoDaddy](#) and only pay \$6.95 by using the coupon code: [Skinny3](#) or [ZINE3](#)*

[Click here to buy a Godaddy domain name](#)

You MUST have a custom domain before you continue to the next step.

Step 2:

GETTING YOUR WEB HOST:

This is VERY important because you need a good host to support your new blog and domain. Unfortunately, not all web hosts allow you to pay monthly but lucky for you, [Host Gator](#) does. They only have three shared hosting packages to choose from but you need to make sure to choose the [hosting](#) package that is named "Baby" because that is the one you need for the coupon & setup to work!

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP WITH [HOST GATOR!](#) Remember to enter the word (**wordpress**) or (**jury**) when it asks you for your promo or coupon code and a discount will be applied. What's the discount? You will get your first month for only 1 cent!!! After that it will be \$10 or less a month.

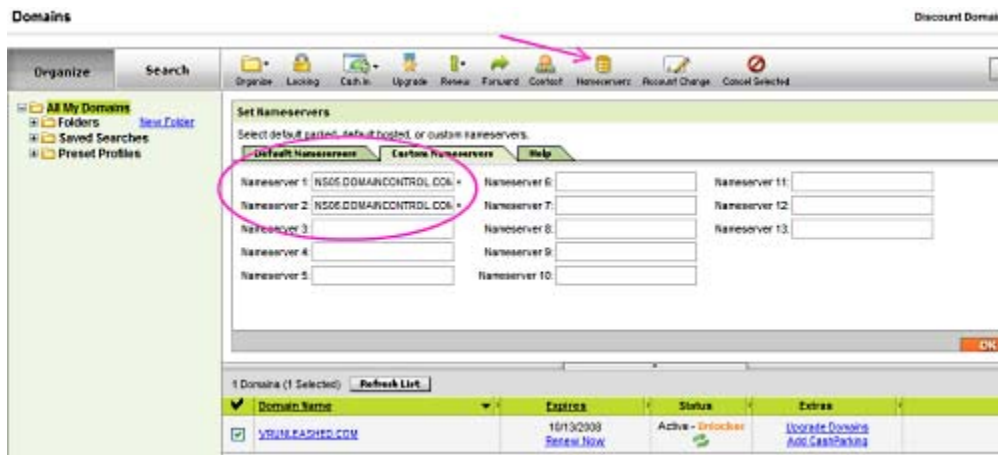
*** You must complete the steps above before continuing on to the next step! ***

Step 3

Once you have the domain and hosting ordered and ready, you should get emails from both [Godaddy](#) and [Host Gator](#) about your two new accounts and products. You should have received an email from Host Gator with some instructions and information. In that email you will see something that says name servers and it will have two name server IP addresses. **Write those down** and **CLICK HERE TO LOGIN AT GODADDY TO MANAGE YOUR DOMAIN.**

UNLOCKING YOUR DOMAIN & MANAGING NAMESERVERS

The first thing you're going to need to do is unlock your domain & confirm. So you're logged into your domain manager, you will need to check the box of your domain and then click on Nameservers. This is what you will see:



You must wait for your domain to be active (usually takes about 30-60 minutes after you purchase your domain) for this step to work and allow you to proceed. Do you see the 2 addresses I have circled in the picture? You will need to erase those and put in the ones you wrote down earlier from your [Host Gator](#) email. Once done, click OK. Now you **MUST LOCK** your domain - **YOU MUST do this folks**, it is extremely important!!! Simply check the box for the domain again and click on **LOCKING** above there. Super easy to do.

Now your domain should be set up and they say changes will take effect in 24 hours or less but it's usually much less than that...like around a couple of hours. Once the changes have taken effect, you can continue with the next step.

Step 4

SETTING UP YOUR BLOG WITH YOUR HOST

Remember that email that [Host Gator](#) sent you? There will be information in that email on how to login to your Cpanel.

This Cpanel is where you are going to setup and edit certain aspects of your blog. I realize that it can be quite intimidating but it's very simple to navigate and use. I promise to help you along the way so don't fret;)

Once you are logged into your cpanel, you want to scroll down to the bottom of the page where you will see a blue smiley face that says "fantastico" - Click his face!

On the left, you will see a menu that say Blogs and 3 links under it. One will say Wordpress - Click that Wordpress link!

In the middle of the screen you will see something that says "New Installation" - Click on that dark blue link and it will automatically install your blog for you. It will ask you a few questions so that you can set up your blog now...

Here are these questions and what you should type in to install wordpress:

- **INSTALL IN DIRECTORY:** Leave this blank guys!!!

*** Below in red - whatever username and password you decide on I URGE you to

write these down NOW before you proceed - you'll need them in a few minutes again and you may forget)

- **Administrator-username:** Enter the name of your new blog (same as your domain but without the www. and also with the .com - just the text name of it with NO spaces!
- **For example...if your domain name was www.mynewblog.com** you would just enter the name (mynewblog) and that's all.
- **Password:** Enter a password for your new blog - ONLY you will use this

Then it says: **Base Configuration**

- **Now it asks for an admin nickname:** Enter the same username you did above
- **Admin e-mail:** Just enter any email address you want here (your main email address is best)
- **Site name:** Just enter the name of your new blog here
- **Description:** Enter the description (keep it really short) for your new blog here.

Then it says: **E-mail account configuration**

- Now here you are setting up a custom email address that is associated with your blog...
- So you can type in here whatever you want to go before the @yourdomainname.com.
- For example if my domain name was www.yourbloghere.com and I wanted to make my email lori@yourbloghere.com
- I would simply enter my name or whatever text I wanted here in this box. This has to be filled out but you don't have to use this email after setting it up - It is optional :)
- Next it asks you to set a password for that email address you just created...
- Skip the next two lines that read: POP/SMTP server and POP/SMTP server port. Leave them as is - DO not erase nor type anything in these boxes!!!

Now Click The Button At The Bottom That Says INSTALL WORDPRESS.

Now some text will appear and it says step 2/3 , Just click the FINISH INSTALLATION button at the bottom!

Once you click that button, a lot of useful info will appear so get a pen and print this next page - MUST save for your records!!!

Write these details down and print, also it should appear that your blog should be set up as follows:

<http://www.yourblogdomainname.com/wp-admin>

So it should be **your domain name** and **/wp-admin** at the end.

That is the link you will need ALWAYS from now on to edit your new blog!

*** BOOKMARK IT AND WRITE IT DOWN ***

Step 5

BLOG LOGIN & THEME

Now once you go to that URL they gave you with the /wp-admin at the end...go to it and it will ask you for a username and password. This is the username you typed in during sign up a few steps back (**listed above in RED**) Same as the password!

You are now logged into your new blog - Whew! Quite a task eh?

Choose your blog theme/template--- Click on DESIGNS, then click on the theme that you want. Your choices are limited right now but you'll be able to add more later on. If you want to see a preview of it, you can go check it out by typing in your domain name <http://www.yourdomain.com/>

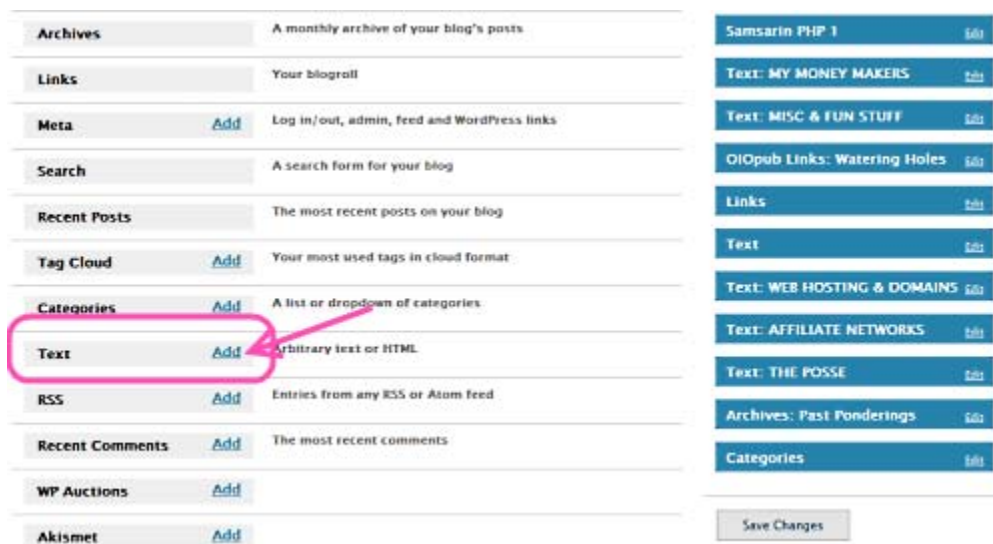
Step 6

TEXT WIDGETS & ADDING ADVERTISING

So now if you want to add advertising to your new theme/blog to make some moolah! You go here:



You're already in the right place (Designs) now click on widgets like shown in below image.



Here you will be able to add as many as you want. Add the widgets you want and then click SAVE!

Now by doing this we have allowed ourselves more opportunities to add as many widgets, html codes, blocks of text and advertising links as we need :) - So what does this all mean?

If you have more than 1 sidebar, you can do this in both.

To add something in your text widget box just click on edit. See pic above.

There is a top bar that is to be used for the TITLE NAME of your advertisement or widget/html code. Enter your title in there...name it anything you want.

*** Then the big blank white box is where you place or paste the code or widget code you have *** You can also put just plain text if you want.

Once you're done pasting in the code or text/widget/advertisement - click on change and then **SAVE CHANGES !!**

That's all folks.

Repeat this step with the following remaining text boxes. You can use as many as you want! Just play around with them☺

HAVE FUN BLOGGING FOLKS!!!!!! STAY TUNED FOR MORE EDITIONS ABOUT UPLOADING VIA FTP AND MORE!

******FOR THE PEOPLE WHO CHOSE BLUEHOST******

Once you've made your purchase, you'll need to allow up to 48 hours for your domain to propagate...a fancy word for setup;) It usually only takes about 2 hrs though. Once that has completed, you can now login in to your cPanel to install wordpress.

Scroll down until you see Fantastico...click it.



Click on Wordpress under the Blogs category like you see in pic below.

- Navigation
- Fantastico Home
 - Control Panel Home

- Blogs
- b2evolution
 - Nucleus
 - **WordPress**

Fantastico

Use Fantastico
the left. Install
databases. Install
MySQL data

Click on any

Click on NEW INSTALLATION!

WordPress

Short description: WordPress is a personal publishing tool with focus on aesthetics and featuring cross-blog tool, password protected posts, importing, typographical niceties, multiple authors, bookmarklets.

Homepage: <http://wordpress.org/>

WordPress support forum
(We are not associated with the support forum)

New Installation (1.5)

Disk space required: 5.62 MB
Disk space available: 306028.5 MB

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- I would simply enter my name or whatever text I wanted here in this box. This has to be filled out but you don't have to use this email after setting it up - It is optional :)
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That is the link you will need ALWAYS from now on to edit your new blog!

*** BOOKMARK IT AND WRITE IT DOWN ***

[Now go and and pick your theme and add text widgets!!!!](#) Just click that link and you'll be taken to that section☺

HAVE FUN BLOGGING!

Sponsors:

[Bluehost](#) [Godaddy](#) [Host Gator](#)

[Donations can be made to A Cowboy's Wife](#)