Why Joomla Is Better than WordPress

James Guill   18

Although WordPress has the lion's share of the content management system (CMS) market, it's not the only viable product you can use to create your website. One popular alternative is Joomla, which presently **powers approximately 6.6% of global websites (just over 2 million)**, such as Holiday Inn Express and the U.K. National Crime Agency.

While Joomla doesn't offer as many themes or plug-ins as WordPress, Joomla users find the platform much more robust than WordPress. While it's true that Joomla isn't as user-friendly on the surface, there are many reasons to use the platform that are worth taking the extra time to learn it.

Clayton Mattatall

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Dear NPARC Executive and IT Committee,

After the initial IT Committee meeting, I had some time to do some very well needed thinking about myself and my involvement in the club.

It has always been pointed out to me by others that they feel I have taken on too much, whether that be within NPARC or in my personal life. Lately I will admit that my ability to perform my duties has been limited. NPARC Is a very time-consuming club. I don't feel that anyone knows better than myself how much time a person must be willing to devote to this club to keep it running. There are numerous jobs that need people to perform them and as everyone currently knows, there are not enough bodies to take on those positions. As such, it has always been necessary for those that are willing to step up to fill in multiple positions within NPARC.

This club means a lot to me as it does too many others and the failure of this club is not an option in my books. As you all know, I am currently the person providing the IT services for the club. I chose to do this out of the goodness of my heart for a few reasons. Firstly, to save the club money that I, as Treasurer, did not feel it needed to spend for the few services that were being provided by the then IT company. Secondly, at that time I had the infrastructure that was required and that allowed me to offer the equivalent services. As most of you know my IT structure was attacked by ransomware in early January of 2019. This occurred at no fault of my infrastructure and what was caused by a security hole in the RDP protocol used by Microsoft. After this happened, I immediately started to rebuild the servers at my home. While doing so I put NPARC as the top priority to be taken care of. I have also been attempting to bring my other websites and such back online as well. These other websites include my personal ones as well at the ones for my businesses. As I was working on mine, the NPARC website, processing software, CRM software and document library software all had version and security updates released. I decided that while doing my work, I would update the NPARC stuff as well. As it turns out, and as it usually happens, problems arose and the NPARC sites were affected and at time were inaccessible. That brings us to where we are today….

In comes the IT committee…

The President, Steve, VA3FLF, asked for an IT Committee to be formed. The committee has been formed and the first meeting has taken place. It was explained to me that the purpose of the committee was to look at the needs of NPARC members and the NPARC Executive, and to alleviate the burden I have of maintaining the NPARC infrastructure. Ok, so that is pretty much where I'm going with this letter.

There really is NO NPARC infrastructure as all NPARC sites and services co-exist with my websites on my servers. Essentially when I upgrade the software that runs my sites, the NPARC sites get upgraded as well, if not automatically, then manually. Now any one in the field of IT will, and if not should, tell you that with all software there are risks of bugs and problems. Not admitting this is ludicrous as well as dishonest to those you are consulting or providing services to. So very recently, I began to install the newest LTS (Long Term Service) version of some software packages being used by NPARC and the inevitable happened. There were issues with the upgrade, and it caused the NPARC sites to do down as well as my own. As soon as I was aware of the this, I began to diagnose the problem and work on a fix or a rollback to get ALL the sites back up and operational. Well of course, this situation added fuel to the fire of removing the NPARC services and sites from my systems and moving them to a commercial provider. So be it.

At the IT committee meeting, it became aware to me that those present have the club is in good hands pertaining to IT services and knowledge. I was told by Ken, that he has been involved in IT since 1970 and that he can rebuild the NPARC sites in 5 days. Garth later mentioned that he has a diploma to do with IT and can program in 6 languages. After hearing this information, I began to relax greatly with regards to the issues that I have been stressing about and contemplating lately.

Another happening at the IT meeting was that an offer was put to me to continue as the "webmaster" for NPARC. This came up during the discussions regarding the probable conversion of the club website over to WordPress. Thank you for the offer, but I will in no way accept responsibility for a website that uses what I, as well as many industry professionals, consider to be an inferior piece of software when it comes to security and is a known target of hackers. Thanks, but no thanks. Attached to this letter are a couple, of the many comparisons that are available of the three major CMS packages, WordPress (In reality a blogging package), Joomla (A CMS package) and Drupal (A CMS package). They are from individuals that have worked at major companies and are not from some kid writing a review based on their personal opinion rather than actual facts.

Onto the issues that have been rolling around in my mind… Hosting of NPARC's sites… Due to recent events and the fact that many are wanting me to lighten my workload within the club, I would like the IT Committee to have the NPARC sites, Website, CiviCRM, Email, and OpenKM, transferred to a new host by June 15, 2019, 23:59 EDST as at that time I will begin shutting down and purging the club information from my systems, save and except, any and all files pertaining to the continued operation of the Treasurers position. As I recounted earlier, it was said that 5 days was all that was needed to recreate the NPARC sites. I will ensure that John, VA3WM is provided with backup copies of all three sites as they are run here. Please be aware that transferring the historical email over will be a bit more involved and I will supply PST files for each of the actual club email addresses/boxes as fast as I can. They will be placed on the Google Drive in the backup folder.

I must stress that I am not doing any of this maliciously or to hurt the club at all although I know there will be those that may feel otherwise. It has consistently been told to me to unload some of the things I do, and I am doing just that. NPARC is not the first entity to have to move from my servers nor will it be the last. I am finally doing as many have said and I am taking steps to lower that workload and the associated stress levels. The date and time of June 15, 2019, 23:59 EDST, were chosen as I have some major events happening in my life over the next couple months and I would like to be able to concentrate on them. June is when my fiancé is moving down from Toronto and in July, I am playing in a music festival called "Day of 1000 Musicians". I will also be getting married at that event. So you can just imagine the workload I am under now trying to plan all of this. It was suggested to me to give a different date and time, but I can't considering future events.

So, to summarize all the above ramblings, I am resigning from NPARC as, the provider of IT services, and from all NPARC related IT positions effective June 15, 2019, 23:59 EDST.

Thank you for your time in reading all of this.

Sincerely

Clayton Mattatall. VE3AUO

You'll Enjoy Greater Content Flexibility

One knock against WordPress is that you're locked into a single theme when designing your website. You get the same basic layout regardless of which webpage you visit. **You don't get the same limitation with Joomla, as you're allowed to use multiple templates on your website**. Want a different template for your blogs than for your primary webpage? No problem!

Also, if you need to display different forms of content on your website, Joomla gives you greater flexibility, with modules that allow you to mix up the content types on each webpage. WordPress themes and plug-ins sometimes have difficulty handling multiple content types, or they may restrict how you display certain content on your webpage. By contrast, Joomla gives you exceptional design freedom

Joomla Has Better Backend Organization

One reason some people like WordPress is that you can easily create content and add webpages to your website, but one knock against the platform is that it lacks proper organization. Sometimes it's difficult to figure out how to make an article appear on specific webpages or to make plug-ins work on one specific area of the website. If you want to add something as simple as a menu, it takes extra coding or plug-ins to make it work properly.

With Joomla, the backend is much more organized, and your available options are much more straightforward than WordPress. **If you want to restrict articles to certain webpages, you can do so easily. Want to add a new menu to your webpage? The option is simple and doesn't require a bunch of extra coding**. For users who want excellent organization, Joomla is a clear winner.

to install plug-ins for your website. This requires regular updates of your language plug-ins and even replacements if a plug-in quits working with a future update.

With Joomla, multilingual functionality comes standard with the platform. To make your website multilingual, head over to the language manager and select the languages you wish to translate your content into. **If you need a language that doesn't come with the backend, all you need to do is install that language module**; you don't need to install a new plug-in, as you might with WordPress.

System ˅ Users ˅ Menus ˅ Content ˅ Components ˅ Extensions ˅ Help ˅			Joomla 3.8 ☑ ⚹ ˅	
Extensions: Install Languages			**Joomla!**	

			Help	Options
	Search 🔍 Clear		Language ascending	˅ 20 ˅
Install				
Update	Language ↑	Language Tag	Version	Details URL
Manage				
Discover	Install Afrikaans	af-ZA	3.8.1.1	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/af-ZA_details.xml
Database	Install Albanian	sq-AL	3.1.1.2	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/sq-AL_details.xml
Warnings				
Install Languages	Install Arabic Unitag	ar-AA	3.7.5.1	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/ar-AA_details.xml
Update Sites	Install Armenian	hy-AM	3.4.4.1	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/hy-AM_details.xml
	Install Bahasa Indonesia	id-ID	3.6.2.1	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/id-ID_details.xml
	Install Basque	eu-ES	3.7.5.1	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/eu-ES_details.xml
	Install Belarusian	be-BY	3.2.1.2	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/be-BY_details.xml
	Install Bengali	bn-BD	3.8.0.2	https://update.joomla.org/language/details3/bn-BD_details.xml

Joomla Provides More Configurable Options

A running theme you've probably noticed with WordPress is that you need plug-ins and extensions to unlock functionality. This includes even simple things such as basic SEO. **Joomla gives you many more options you can configure on the backend without having to install additional plug-ins**.

Head over to the global configurations webpage, and you'll find options for everything: from **articles and banners, to menus, media, redirects, and more. You can also modify SEO settings from the backend without having to install a program such as Yoast**. Instead of having settings for just a few components for your website, you have settings for all components.

Granted, all these extra options will require a bit more work from the user, so beginners will have a bit of a learning curve. However, the extra time needed to learn the platform is worth it due to increased functionality.

Your Website Will Have Stronger Default Security

That's not the case with Joomla, which **comes with options to enable 2FA and to force SSL connections for your website**. This ensures that those connecting to your website enjoy the safest experience possible.

Joomla also provides a wide variety of security extensions, similar to WordPress, so both platforms can be made extremely secure. **The difference is that you'll do a lot less legwork in securing your Joomla website than you would with WordPress**.

Looking to improve your website security? Check out this article about protecting your website with Sucuri.

Simpler Doesn't Always Mean Better

The main reason that WordPress has its massive market share is that it's tailored toward beginners and bloggers. **So if you're a rank beginner, or if you're looking to make a simple website such as a blog, then WordPress may be your best choice**. Feel free to learn more about the platform in our WordPress expert review . There's no reason to reinvent the wheel if a platform fits your needs.

However, WordPress has its limitations. You have to add plug-ins to unlock the majority of features on WordPress, and if the platform is upgraded, there's a good chance that some of your add-ons will stop functioning correctly. **This doesn't happen as often with Joomla, as many basic features come built into the platform**. And if there's an issue with an extension, Joomla's developers work quickly to fix problems to prevent hacks and other problems.

Next, WordPress is not as capable of handling complex websites. It can manage many personal and small-business websites, but more complex e-commerce websites sometimes run into issues, especially those handling massive amounts of data. Often, you'll find that WordPress websites bog down with more advanced setups — something Joomla is better suited to handle.

Joomla is a better solution for larger and enterprise-grade websites. That's why websites such as IKEA and Linux.com use Joomla It provides a well-organized backend with the scalability necessary to handle large website projects.

Where do you envision your website in a few years? If you see it as a simple website with only minimal feature changes, then going to Joomla may be unnecessary. However, **if you have big plans for your website and see either massive growth or the need to handle more complex data and content, then Joomla is going to be the better option**.

James Guill

James Guill is a veteran writer with a background in IT support. He's worked for some of the world's largest companies including Ericsson, Compaq, GE, Bank of America and Dell.

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Joomla vs. WordPress

Written by tomtcs on November 6, 2018. Posted in Software.

I've been developing and designing websites for over 10 years. For much of that time I've been using Joomla as my go-to content management system (CMS) due to its flexibility and ease-of-use – not to mention the large number of plugins available to extend its already awesome capabilities.

This website – however – is personally my first to be fully envisioned to be running on WordPress. That's not to say I haven't developed websites for clients on WordPress – I've just always preferred Joomla, until now.

The question of WordPress vs Joomla has been the focus of many online discussions and many of the developers and users that use CMS sites, always say theirs is the best.

Let's start with the basics. Why would you use a Content Management System? Well, for one, it does exactly what the name says. It manages content in a manner that actually makes sense. Gone are the days of managing content through folders and static HTML, Joomla and WordPress each allow you to develop content in a manner that easy to write and easy to manage – all in a system that doesn't require the knowledge of HTML (for everyday writing). They have given everyday users the ability to create and manage high-quality websites without being a web developer. Consequently, they have helped start countless new businesses, careers, projects and information outlets.

From many options out there, WordPress and Joomla have emerged as the most popular. Together they cover about 71 percent of the CMS market. Therefore, when starting a new website, you will most likely choose one of them.

Which one to pick?

They both do the same thing: Enable you to build and manage websites. Both of them are also open source and thus *free to use*.

What criteria should you use to make a choice?

To help you reach a decision, in this CMS comparison we will give you a detailed breakdown of all three content management systems and their strengths and weaknesses. We will compare important markers like:

- website cost,
- ease of use,
- support,
- ability to customize,
- performance,
- security,
- SEO and more.

While this won't settle the WordPress vs Joomla debate once and for all, it aims to help you make an informed decision about which system to use for your own project or website. Before we get into the actual CMS comparison, let's first get to know the CMS a little better.

Two of the Best Open Source CMS – Facts & Figures

Before getting into how these CMS differ from one another, let's take a look at some background information and statistics. That way, you have a better idea of what you are dealing with.

WordPress – The Dominating Force

WordPress was first released in 2003. Its principle technology is PHP with an SQL database in the background. In recent years, like many other sites on the web, JavaScript has been becoming more important. This is especially obvious from projects like Calypso and the upcoming Gutenberg editor.

Since its inception, WordPress has undeniably had the best run of all available content management systems.
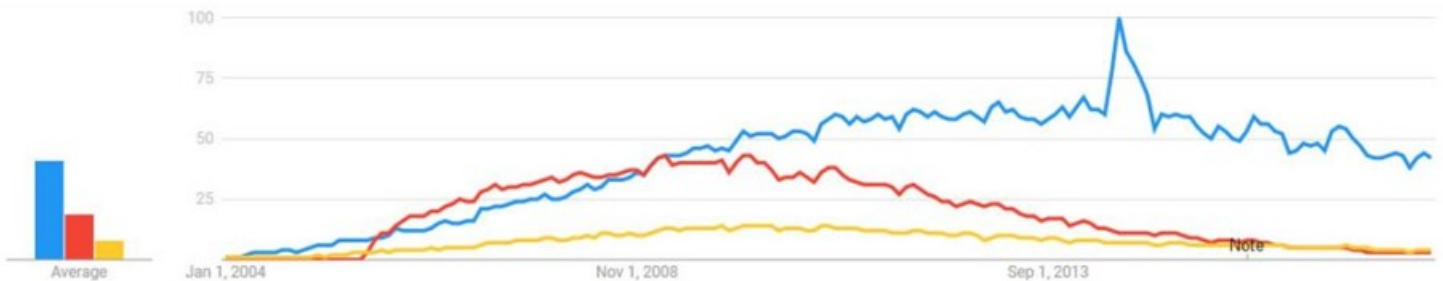
On the CMS market, it is the big fish in the pond with a market share of 60 percentand climbing. Additionally, it will soon run a full third of the entire Internet. WordPress recently crossed the 30 percent threshold for usage overall. Based on Internet Live Stats that means about 560 million websites run on WordPress. It also makes WordPress the fastest growing CMS of the last eight years.

Content Management System of the Year 2017

WordPress

Another great year for WordPress, now used by 29.2% of all websites, up from 5.6% eight years ago. It is the fastest growing content management system for the 8th year in a row. Runners-up are Shopify and Squarespace, both increasing their user base by more than 40% in 2017.

Result 2017	Winners of previous years
1. WordPress	2017 WordPress
2. Shopify	2016 WordPress
3. Squarespace	2015 WordPress
	2014 WordPress
	2013 WordPress
	2012 WordPress
	2011 WordPress
	2010 WordPress

The latest version (4.9) alone has been downloaded over 90 million times. Among its users are some of the most well-known websites. From the New York Times over TechCrunch to Forbes – many big names out there choose WordPress to power their online presence.

The New York Times' blogs cover everything imaginable, ranging from arts to economics.

CNN hosts blogs for their many on-air personalities and for breaking news.

Forbes is a leading source for reliable business news and financial information.

Reuters' blogs deliver critical news to decision makers, powered by the world's most trusted news organization.

Maclean's enlightens readers with investigative reporting and exclusive stories from leading journalists.

Fortune 500 Companies

GM's FastLane blog is a forum for GM executives to talk about GM's current and future products and services.

UPS' Upside shares personal insights and perspective about the world's largest transportation company.

eBay Ink is your official source for information, opinion and perspective on eBay, Inc.

PlayStation.Blog is where the people who create the PlayStation experience meet gamers & fans directly.

Best Buy uses WordPress Multisite to power 1050 local store blogs & their mobile site.

Music

The Rolling Stones' website ("the World's Greatest Rock 'N' Roll Band") including a complete discography and videos.

LifeandTimes.com is curated by Jay-Z and covers a wide range of the artist's interests.

Katy Perry is an American singer and songwriter. Her site offers videos, lyrics, ringtones, & more.

Lollapalooza is an annual music festival featuring heavy metal, alternative, punk and hip hop.

MP3.com features over 1 million tracks, artist profiles, photos, videos, and new music daily.

Joomla – My Go-to Choice

Joomla! (as it is correctly spelled) was established in 2005, as a fork of another CMS called Mambo. The name derives from Jumla, a Swahili word meaning "all together". This refers to its nature as an open source project maintained by a community of volunteers.

Joomla is the second most popular CMS on the web. Its market share On the CMS market is 6.3 percent, it powers 3.1 percent of all websites on the internet. This translates to roughly 58 million websites. In overall, it has been downloaded more

than 93 million times.

Like WordPress, Joomla is based on PHP and an SQL database. Other characteristics are also similar, such as the division into a front-end (the visible part of the website) and back-end (the administration area). You will learn more similarities below.

WordPress vs Joomla – The Big CMS Comparison

Now that we know a little more about the systems we are talking about, let's compare them. What follows is the big showdown of the content management

systems. vs.

Cost and Expenses

An important consideration for building a website is how much it will cost. Something that all three content management systems in our CMS comparison have in common is that they are open source and completely *free to use*. Be aware that creating a website still comes with expenses, even if your CMS is free.

For one – unless you have a server at home, you need to pay for hosting. Depending on which type of hosting you use, prices will differ but hosting is still a fixed expense. You will also need a domain name (learn how to pick one) which comes with additional costs.

This applies to all three CMS and is relatively even for all of them. They still vary in costs down the line.

WordPress

The most likely additional expenses for WordPress are premium plugins, themes and extensions. While the CMS offers a lot of free stuff (as you will learn soon), for some things it's still necessary and makes sense to spend money. This is especially true if you are running a professional website.

For example, WooCommerce, the most popular e-commerce solution, is itself free. However, extensions such as new payment gateways and other features need to be bought on the official marketplace. Prices range from $29 to $299. This type of business model and pricing is quite typical for the WordPress sphere. There are also a bunch of free extensions.

PayPal _Powered by_ Braintree

Accept PayPal, credit cards and debit cards with a single payment gateway solution — PayPal Powered by Braintree.

FROM: $0.00 >

Authorize.Net AIM

Take credit card payments direct on your checkout using the Authorize.net (AIM) payment gateway for WooCommerce.

FROM: $79.00 >

Square

Accepting payments is easy with Square. Clear rates, fast deposits (1-2 business days). Sell online and in person, and sync all payments, items and inventory.

FROM: $0.00 >

Another cost factor can be a professional help that you might need to implement more complex things on your site. Due to the popularity of WordPress, such services are readily available and affordable. Hourly pay on sites like Upwork vary greatly but

you will easily find someone within your budget.

In overall, WordPress is a great option to build a website on the cheap scale. Keep in mind that the platform tends to be a little more resource hungry than the other two candidates. For that reason, this might increase your hosting cost as your site grows.

Joomla

The expenses of running a Joomla site are similar to WordPress. The software itself is free but you will likely have to spring for premium templates and/or extensions. Prices on the official directory have about the same range as for WordPress.

Since Joomla is a little more complex than WordPress, the likelihood that you will need professional help is higher. Because of market forces (less supply, higher demand), this might be a little harder but it's still doable. The price range for development work is about the same compared to WordPress.

Ease of Use and Beginner Friendliness

User friendliness is one of the main selling points of content management systems in general. They have enabled the less tech-savvy to create websites without having to have to have coding skills. For that reason, usability is an important decision factor, especially for beginners. Thus, it has to be a part of any CMS comparison.

WordPress

Ease of use is one of the biggest strengths of WordPress and one of the main reason for its success. Setup is quick and easy and is called <u>the 5-minute install</u> for a reason.

Additionally, many hosting companies (e.g. <u>Bluehost</u>) offer one-click install options for WordPress. This makes creating a website no more complicated than submitting an online form.

The WordPress user interface is very simple. It offers less options than your Facebook news feed and you can achieve most things with simple mouse clicks, such as updating your site. The latter is also very important for <u>WordPress security</u>.

Content creation is super easy as well. If you can use a normal word processor, you can create posts and pages with WordPress. The process is intuitive including adding images and other media to your posts. WordPress also lets you embed content from many external services with a simple copy and paste.

For more complex layouts, there are page builders. These enable beginners to create and modify the look of pages with a graphic interface rather than coding. All of this also makes it simple to teach WordPress to clients.

I am text block. Click edit button to change this text. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Ut elit tellus, luctus nec ullamcorper mattis, pulvinar dapibus leo.

Single Image
CSS Animation: Fade In

Call To Action
Alignment: Left

Call To Action
Alignment: Left

Call To Action
Alignment: Left

Call To Action
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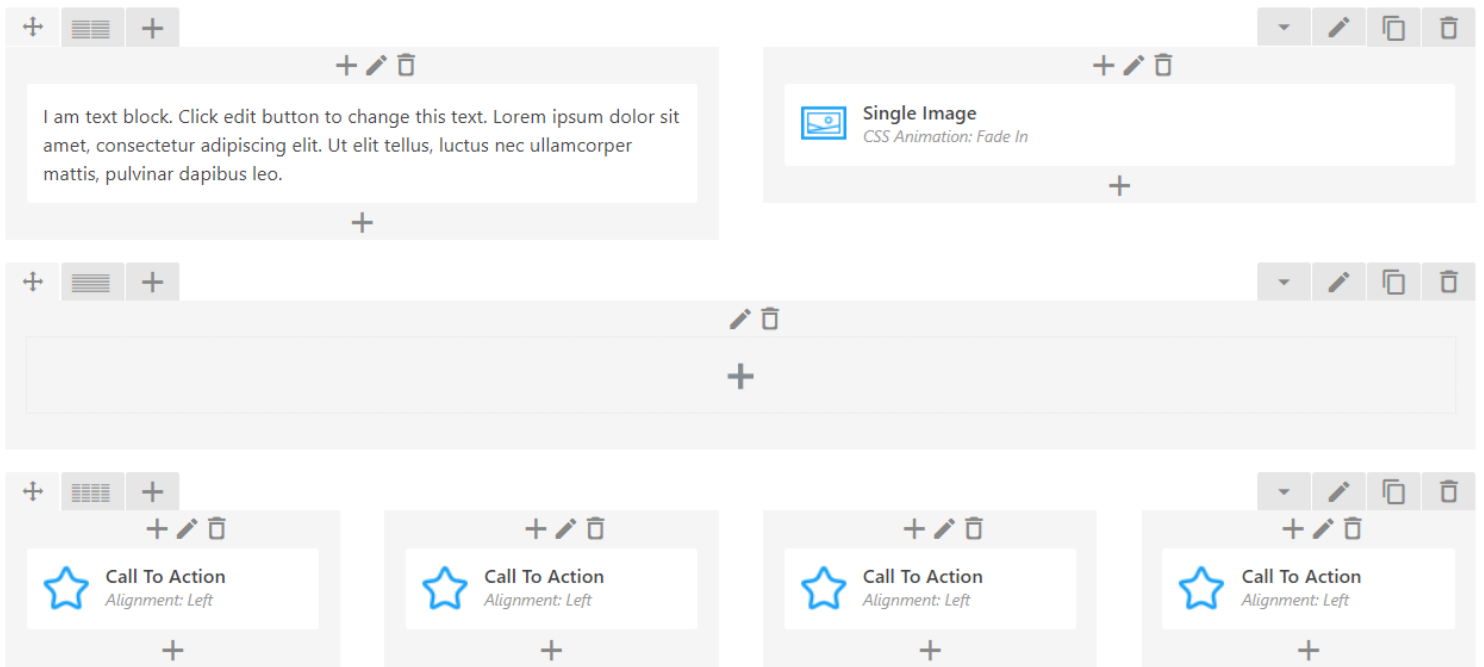
Joomla

In terms of complexity, Joomla is somewhere between WordPress and Drupal. If you are a moderately technical person, you should be able to get into it quite quickly.

Manually installing Joomla is also similar to WordPress. Simply download the software, upload it to your server and run the installation script (check our detailed guide). Many hosting providers also offer one-click installs for Joomla.

Aside from that, the CMS also provides a graphic interface to add and manage articles, media, menus, extensions and change settings.

Here, too, page builders are emerging to help beginners implement more complex layouts without having to code. Joomla also comes with one-click updates. In overall, the CMS offers more functionality out of the box than WordPress but is consequently also more complex.

Support Architecture

One thing paid solutions have going for themselves is that they offer a defined and central point of contact. If something is not working, you know who to talk to. Open source solutions, which by definition have no single owner, don't have that. For that reason, it's important that they put other support structures into place.

WordPress

One of the advantages of using WordPress is that you become a part of one of the largest online communities in existence. Consequently, there are abundant opportunities for support.

The official support forums are well frequented by volunteers who are eager to help for free. The CMS also offers lots of documentation in form of the WordPress Codex, developer documentation and handbooks.

There is also a wide network of blogs published on the topic (such as this one) so you can usually find solutions to your problems posted online. The aforementioned freelance developers and agencies offer paid support when necessary.

Aside from that, you also have the option to go for managed WordPress hosting. When you do, your host takes care of all the technical parts of your website. That way, you are able to fully concentrate on creating content and marketing your site.

The platform itself is also well maintained with regular updates coming out every three to four months. These bring new features, improvements and security measures to keep your site a well-oiled machine.

May 17, 2018	WordPress 4.9.6 Privacy and Maintenance Release
April 3, 2018	WordPress 4.9.5 Security and Maintenance Release
February 6, 2018	WordPress 4.9.4 Maintenance Release
February 5, 2018	WordPress 4.9.3 Maintenance Release
January 16, 2018	WordPress 4.9.2 Security and Maintenance Release
November 29, 2017	WordPress 4.9.1 Security and Maintenance Release
November 16, 2017	WordPress 4.9 "Tipton"

Joomla

As the second-largest open source CMS on the web, Joomla also has a good support structure in place. The first address is the official help portal. You can ask questions and receive technical support there. The community is not as big as for WordPress but you can still get replies quickly and easily.

Aside from that, you can dig into the documentation, sign up to mailing lists and even swing by a dedicated IRC chatroom. Similarly to WordPress, there are third-party resources such as blog posts and paid trainings online. Professional services from developers are also available.

Joomla!®

Documentation

An online collaborative community manual for Joomla! users, developers or anyone interested in learning more about Joomla! Currently, we have 6,767 articles written, maintained, and translated by our Joomla! community members.

Other languages:

العربية ⊞ • беларуская ⊞ • български ⊞ • বাংলা • català • čeština ⊞ • dansk ⊞ • Deutsch ⊞ • Ελληνικά ⊞ • **English** ⊞ • español ⊞ • **eesti** ⊞ • فارسی ⊞ •
français ⊞ • hrvatski ⊞ • Հայերեն ⊞ • Bahasa Indonesia ⊞ • italiano ⊞ • 日本語 ⊞ • Nederlands ⊞ • português ⊞ • português do Brasil ⊞ • русский ⊞ •
ಕನ್ನಡ ⊞ • ไทย ⊞ • Türkçe ⊞ • українська ⊞ • 中文 ⊞ • 中文（中国大陆）⊞ • 中文（简体）⊞ • 中文（繁體）⊞

As for technical maintenance, Joomla is updated more frequently than WordPress. In general, there is a new minor version every one to three months. Major releases come out only about once a year.

Site Customizability

The ability to customize websites built with a CMS (and the CMS itself) is paramount for users. The systems serve a highly diverse user base and need to be able to accommodate many different cases. Therefore, additionally to a solid core product, they have to offer ways to extend and modify it.

WordPress

Customizability is another advantage of the WordPress platform. There's almost nothing that you can not change. Even the built-in options allow you to make sweeping design and functionality changes. From the admin panel's color scheme and site design to custom menus, widgets, background images and header images.
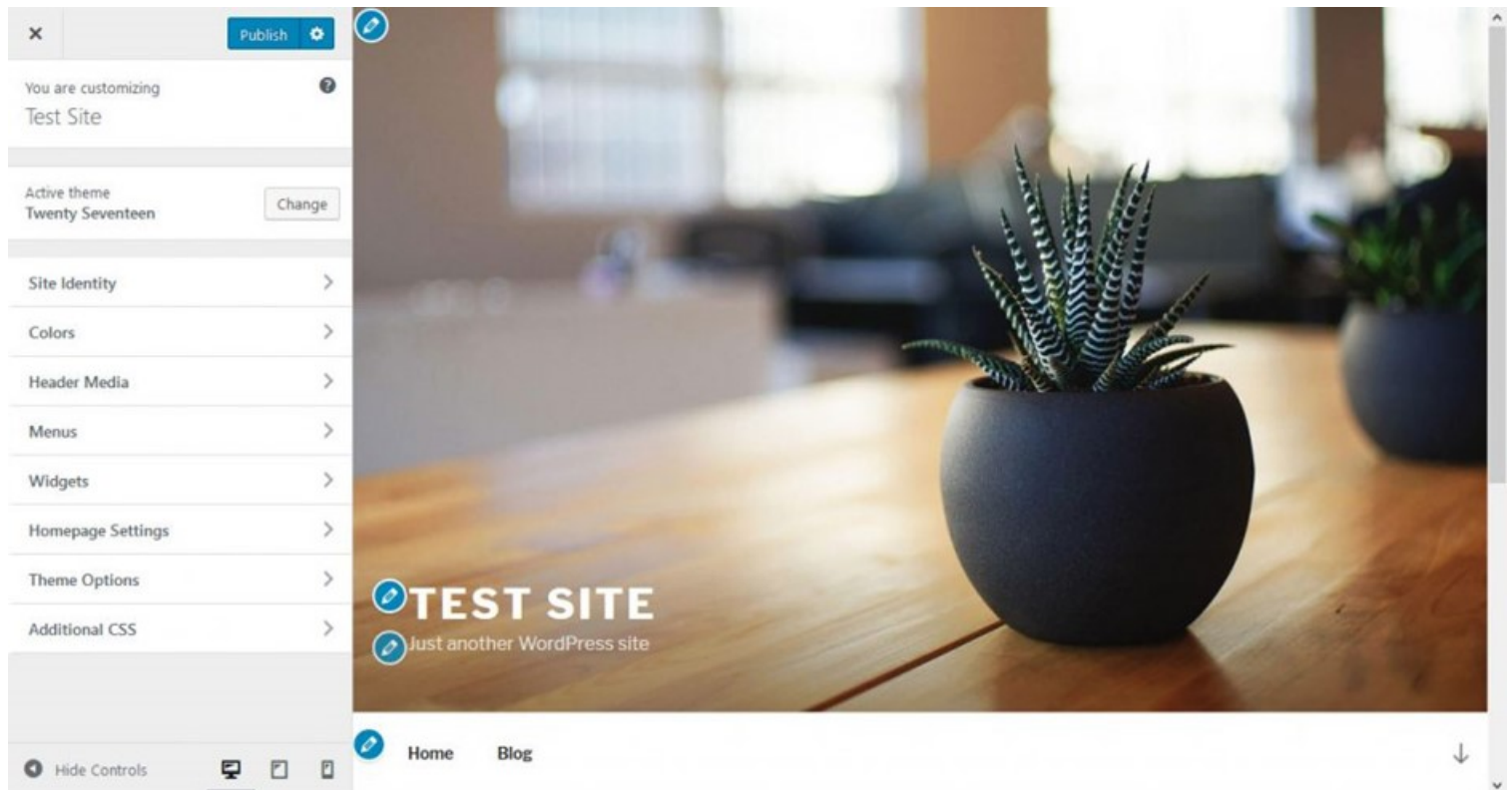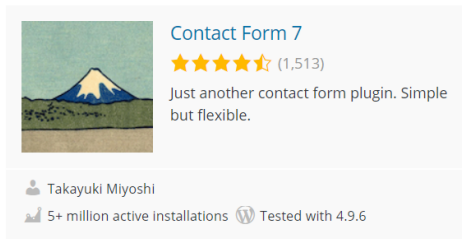

Additionally, there are almost 55,000 plugins and several thousand themes only waiting to extend your site. Whichever site purpose or functionality you have in mind, there are likely already specialized themes and/or plugins for it. That's not even
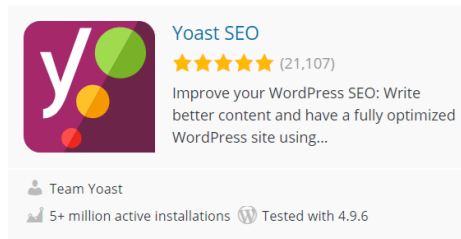
including the numerous premium offers.

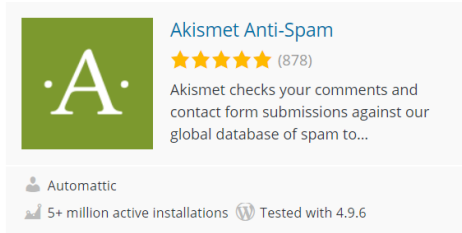Popular Plugins   See all

Contact Form 7
★★★★⯨ (1,513)
Just another contact form plugin. Simple but flexible.
👤 Takayuki Miyoshi
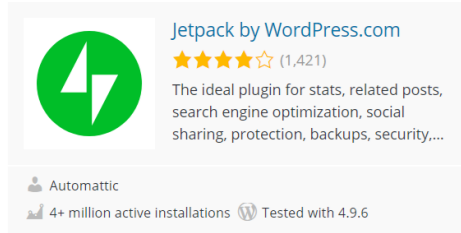📊 5+ million active installations 🅆 Tested with 4.9.6

Yoast SEO
★★★★★ (21,107)
Improve your WordPress SEO: Write better content and have a fully optimized WordPress site using...
👤 Team Yoast
📊 5+ million active installations 🅆 Tested with 4.9.6

Akismet Anti-Spam
★★★★★ (878)
Akismet checks your comments and contact form submissions against our global database of spam to...
👤 Automattic
📊 5+ million active installations 🅆 Tested with 4.9.6

Jetpack by WordPress.com
★★★★☆ (1,421)
The ideal plugin for stats, related posts, search engine optimization, social sharing, protection, backups, security,...
👤 Automattic
📊 4+ million active installations 🅆 Tested with 4.9.6
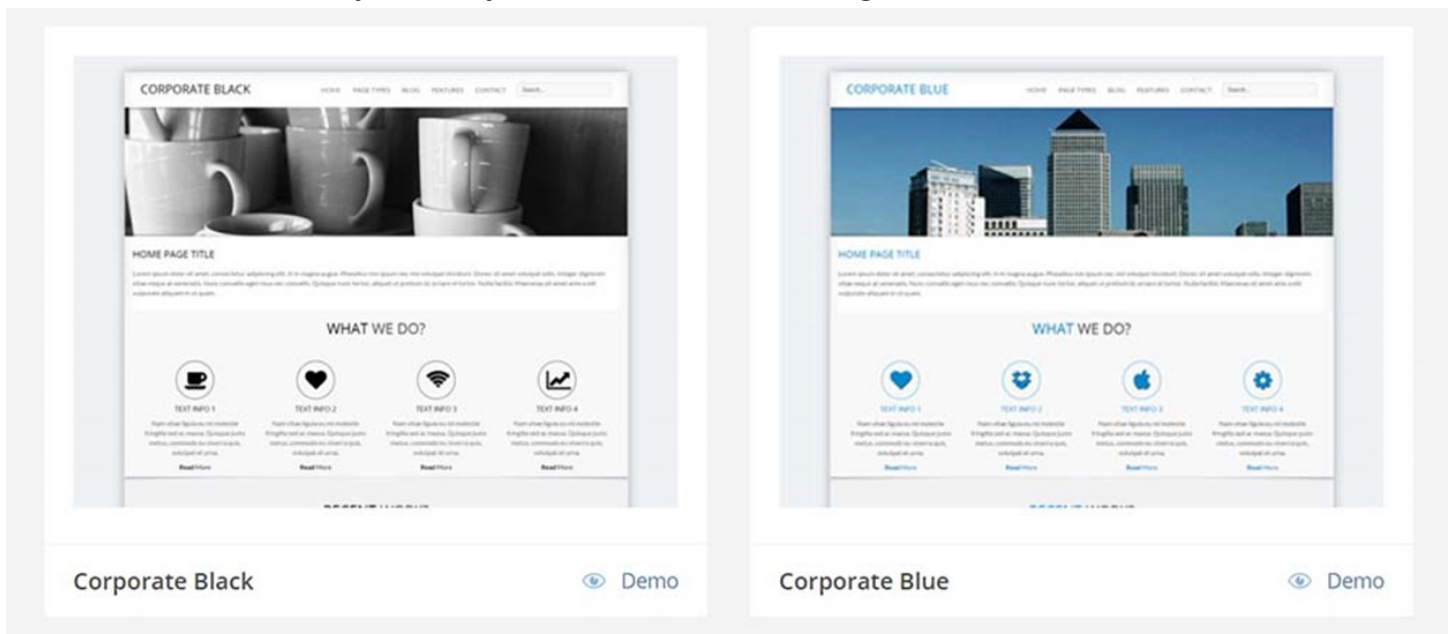
<u>Child themes</u> give you the ability to modify almost anything on your site in a safe way. That way you can completely make it fit your needs.

In short, WordPress can be molded into any type of website you want.

Joomla

Joomla also has a theme and plugin ecosystem in place to add new features to your site. They also have many more different types of extensions:

- **Templates** — These are the same as for WordPress themes. Templates handle the look, feel and layout of your website including the back end.

Corporate Black   👁 Demo

Corporate Blue   👁 Demo

- **Components** — Modify parts of the page body and have their own menu items in the Joomla back end.
- **Modules** — The equivalent to widgets. They add search forms, breadcrumbs and other page components.
- **Plugins** — These are event handlers that only execute under certain conditions, such as to block parts of the content.
- **Languages** — Pretty self-explanatory, more on that below.

What's different about Joomla is that there is no central directory for themes. Instead, users need to find their own trusted sources.

For components, modules and plugins, you can use the official directory. At the time of this writing, it contains almost 8,000 Joomla extensions, searchable by type, category, tags, compatibility and more.

Unlike WordPress, not everything on the directory is free. A good chunk is made up of paid extensions. Also, not all components are compatible with all Joomla versions. Yet, the same can be said about WordPress plugins that are no longer maintained.

Site Performance

Page loading times matter both to visitors and search engines. Your site can have an award-winning design and the most valuable content but if it doesn't load within a few seconds, some people will never wait to see it.

This is especially true on mobile devices, which have <u>overtaken desktop computers in usage numbers</u>. For that and other reasons, performance needs to be a crucial part of any CMS comparison out there.

StatCounter Global Stats
Desktop vs Mobile vs Tablet Market Share Worldwide from Feb 2017 - Feb 2018
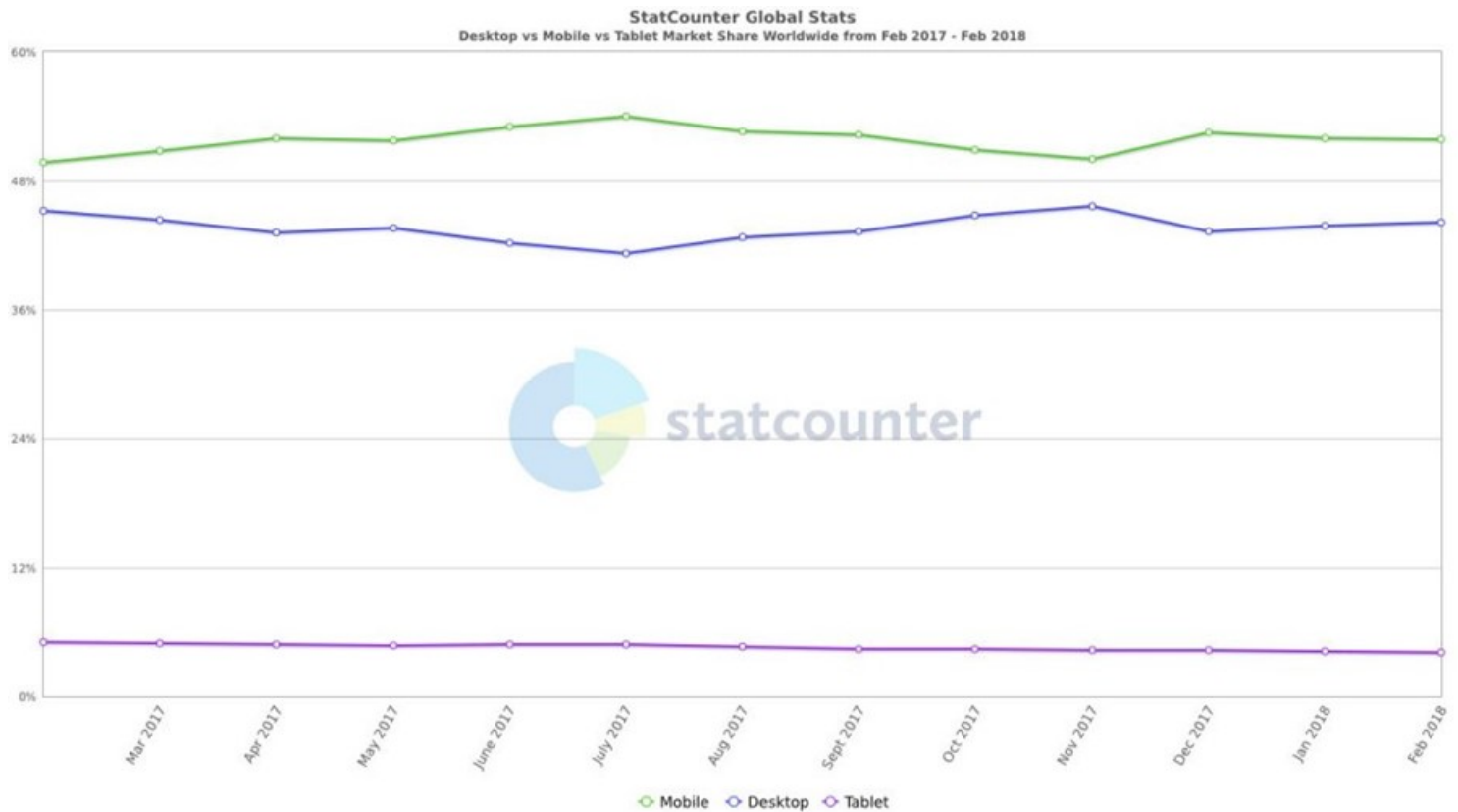
WordPress

Performance is often cited as one of the weak spots of WordPress. It's true that its focus on providing backward compatibility and supporting older versions hold it back a little in this regard. At the same time, it's partly because of the popularity of the platform.

While WordPress may be the least scalable of the three CMS on this list, it can still power large-scale websites with sub-second page loading times. As with everything, you need to know what you are doing.

First of all, there is the aforementioned <u>WordPress managed hosting</u>. If you opt for it, your provider takes care of the heavy lifting of site performance like caching and even site updates. That plus proper site maintenance (meaning not going crazy on the number of plugins) will already produce a quick loading site. Aside from that, there are many more things you can do to <u>speed up WordPress</u>.

The WordPress platform has also shown that it can successfully handle sites with thousands of pages and millions of monthly visitors. The <u>notable users' section</u> should already tell you lots about its capabilities.

Joomla

Joomla has a good reputation concerning performance. Part of the reason is that it has performance-boosting functionality built in. For example, you can enable caching and Gzip compression from the dashboard. It also comes with plugins to make it even faster.
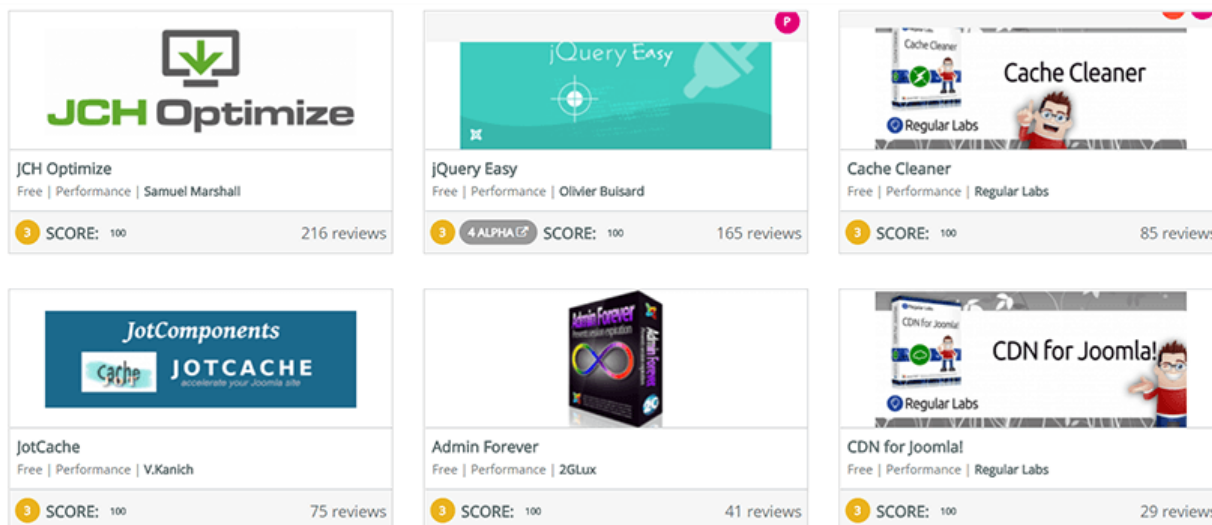
Aside from that, it's up to you to take the usual measures like minimizing plugins and HTTP requests, optimizing images etc. to make your site load quickly. There is also some Joomla-specific hosting, but it's not nearly as common as for WordPress.

Website Security

Any website owner is aware of the inherent risk of running a website. Those who are not, learn that quickly! Spam and automatic hacking attempts are our daily bread. While a lot of the burden for safety lies with the hosting provider, your chosen CMS also needs to be able to deal with it.

WordPress

In the past, WordPress has gotten a lot of bad press when it comes to security. Some of it is deserved.

However, the perspective is also a bit skewed. Due to its popularity, WordPress also offers a bigger target for hackers. With such a wide user base, there are many more opportunities to try your luck.

Aside from that, by now WordPress has gotten its act together. One example is that all WordPress sites running version 3.7 and up now apply maintenance and security updates automatically. Therefore the WordPress core product has never been safer. Current security problems are most often related to third-party plugins, not the CMS itself.

Aside from that, one of the biggest weak spots for WordPress security is the user. Insecure login information and websites that have not been updated are among the chief reasons sites get hacked. For that reason, it's your own responsibility to educate yourself (for example on how to move WordPress to HTTPS) and do the best on your part!
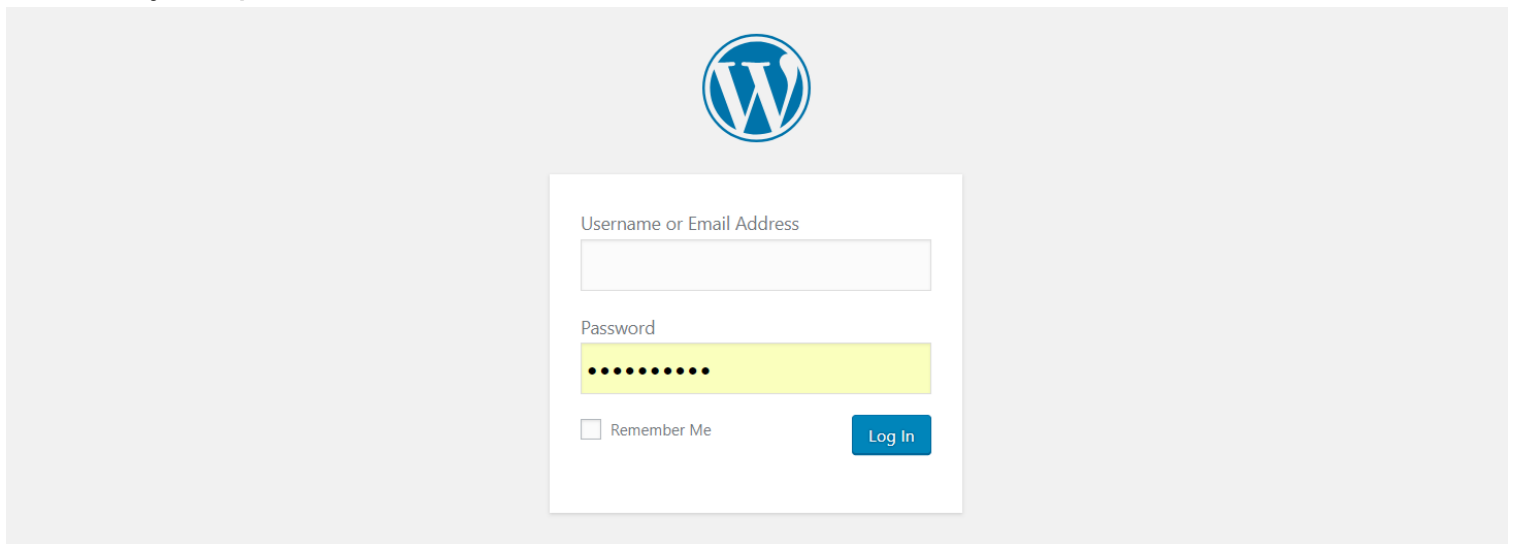
Joomla

Joomla also places much of the burden for keeping your site safe on the user. While the community reacts to vulnerabilities and creates patches, the application of the security is up to the individual user. It doesn't happen automatically, yet you can do it from your back-end.

Aside from that, there are also extensions to increase your website's security. The Joomla documentation also offers a security checklist. It covers everything from hosting over setup and administration to recovering from a hack. To secure your site,

this is a good place to start.

Security Checklist Articles

- Getting Started
- Hosting and Server Setup
- Learn about file permissions
- Testing and Development
- Joomla Setup
- Site Administration
- Site Recovery
- You have been hacked or defaced

Search Engine Optimization

SEO is one of the main concerns for many site owners. Search engines are still one of the most important sources for generating traffic. While Google doesn't care about which CMS you use as long as it delivers content in a way they can understand, the ease of being able to take care of SEO matters for you as a user.

WordPress

WordPress' search engine optimization is pretty good out of the box with features like custom URLs and SEO-friendly markup. That's probably part of the reason why it was endorsed by important people at Google.

WordPress takes care of 80 to 90 percent of (the mechanics of) search engine optimization – Matt Cutts (former head of web spam at Google)

Additionally, plugins like Yoast SEO give you complete control over every aspect of SEO and immensely help with creating optimized content. We use it for every article here on Website Setup.

Analysis

^ **Problems (2)**

● The focus keyword doesn't appear in the first paragraph of the copy. Make sure the topic is clear immediately.

● The keyword density is 0.2%, which is too low; the focus keyword was found 13 times.

^ **Improvements (1)**

● The slug for this page is a bit long, consider shortening it.

^ **Good results (11)**

● The meta description contains the focus keyword.

● The meta description has a nice length.

● The focus keyword appears in 2 (out of 47) subheadings in your copy.

● The images on this page contain alt attributes with the focus keyword.

● The text contains 5682 words. This is more than or equal to the recommended minimum of 300 words.

With mobile SEO becoming more important, WordPress has seen a big push towards responsive design. By now, every theme accepted into the directory needs to adjust to mobile devices by default. There are also plugins to support Google Accelerated Mobile Pages.

In short – in terms of SEO, WordPress has got you covered!

Joomla

Doing SEO in Joomla is slightly messier. It does have solid functionality like URL rewrites (to include keywords in your page and post address), meta descriptions, title tag optimization and even metadata like noindex and nofollow out of the box. It is more complicated to implement than with WordPress. Especially beginners might struggle with it.

Aside from that, there is an extension available to give you extra capabilities. In overall, Joomla is considered less SEO friendly than WordPress.

Translation and Localization

Companies and websites are operating in an increasingly international market. For that reason, they need to appeal to visitors from different areas of the world. The ability to localize and translate your content is a crucial feature in any CMS comparison.

WordPress

WordPress has been making a push in the direction of localization in recent years. Thanks to measures like global translation day, the platform is now available in dozens of languages. Each user can also choose the language of their back-end — perfect for multilingual teams.
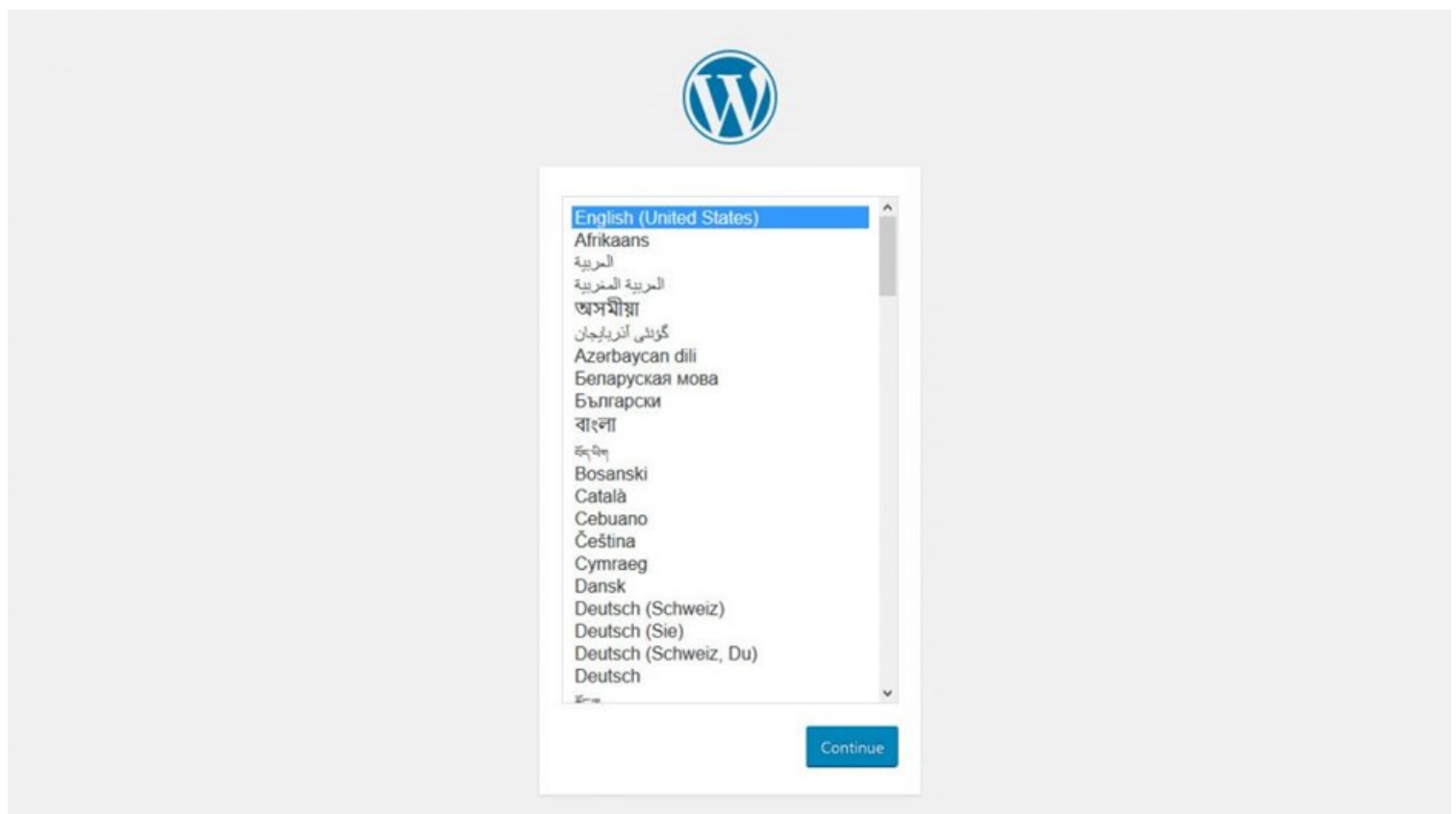
Aside from that, WordPress has built-in functions to help developers make their themes and plugins translatable. There are also a number of _excellent plugins_ to translate website content, including _WordPress Multisite_. The latter lets you _build a network_ of websites from one installation, each with its own language if necessary.

Joomla

Localization and translation are something where Joomla shines. It has _translation packs_ available for many languages.

Afrikaans | Albanian | Arabic Unitag | Armenian | Basque | Belarusian | Bengali (Bangladesh) | Bosnian | Bulgarian | Catalan | Chinese Simplified | Chinese Traditional | Croatian | Czech | Danish | Dari Persian | Dutch | Dzongkha | English (Australia) | English (Canada) | English (USA) | Estonian | Finnish | Flemish | French | French (Canada) | Galician | Georgian | German | German (Austria) | German (Liechtenstein) | German (Luxembourg) | German (Switzerland) | Greek | Hebrew | Hindi | Hungarian | Indonesian | Irish | Italian | Japanese | Khmer | Korean | Latvian | Macedonian | Malay | Montenegrin | Norwegian (Bokmål) | Norwegian (Nynorsk) | Persian | Polish | Portuguese (Brazil) | Portuguese (Portugal) | Romanian | Russian | Serbian (Cyrillic) | Serbian (Latin) | Sinhala | Slovak | Slovenian | Spanish | Spanish (Colombia) | Swahili | Swedish | Syriac (East) | Tamil (India) | Thai | Turkish | Turkmen | Ukrainian | Uyghur | Vietnamese | Welsh

Additionally, there are language extensions that allow users to translate the admin area in the back-end. Joomla also has default capabilities to handle multilingual content so you can start creating content in another language any time.

Team Collaboration

Few websites are one-person projects. Especially in the commercial and news sector, there are often whole teams running each part of a website. Consequently, the CMS has to provide the tools to work together effectively.

WordPress

To ensure effective team collaboration, WordPress offers different _user roles and capabilities_ out of the box. That way, you can give people on your site only the abilities they actually need. If the default roles are not working for you, plugins like _User Role Editor_ allow you to create custom solutions for your site.

For collaborative content creation, the WordPress editor offers revisions to track changes. In addition to that, there are a number of plugins to enhance your editorial workflow. Among them are Edit Flow and Editorial Calendar. The aforementioned language options make it a great option for international teams.

Joomla

The Joomla platform also comes with different access levels and permissions. Like WordPress, you can also see your content's history to track changes over time.

Aside from that, there are plenty of extensions for task management and workflow improvements as well as plugins to control access levels for other users.

Types of Websites You Can Build

As should be apparent by now, all of the systems discussed in this CMS comparison share features and capabilities. This is to be expected as they have the same goal after all: Letting people create and manage websites. Each of them has areas where they shine and types of websites they are especially suited for.

WordPress

Even though WordPress is now a fully-featured content management system capable of powering any kind of website, its roots are in blogging. For that reason, it does this part extremely well.

If you want to build a blog or make blogging central part of your marketing strategy, WordPress is the way to go. It has all the necessary features out of the box from post archives to taxonomies to a commenting system. While the other candidates of

this CMS comparison can also be equipped with blogging capabilities, WordPress takes some extra steps.

E-commerce is another strength of WordPress. Not only is WooCommerce the most popular WordPress e-commerce extension, but it also runs <u>almost half of the online shops on the web</u>.
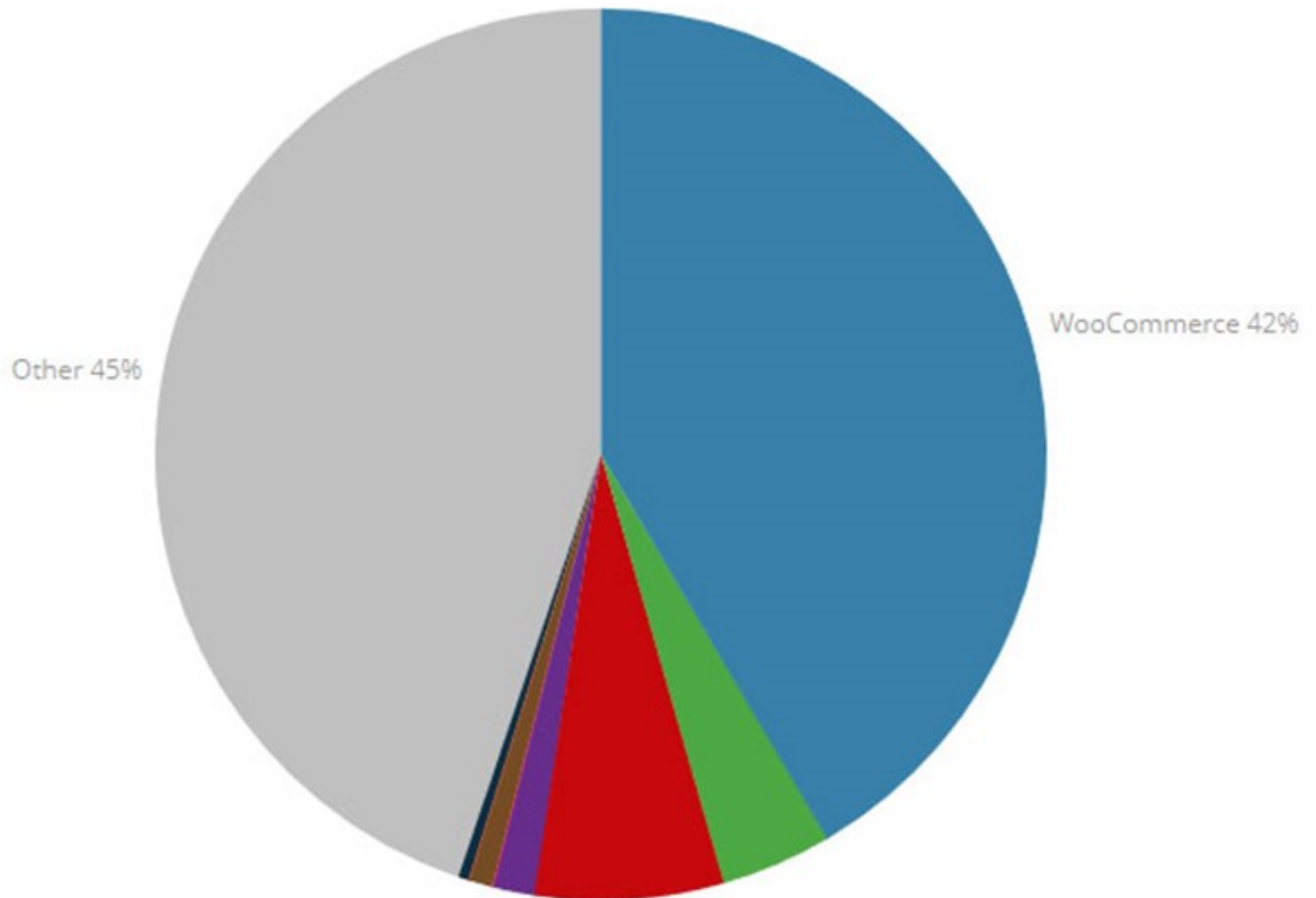
Joomla

Joomla, on the other hand, is the CMS most capable of creating social networks. It has a lot of built-in functionality for membership sites, forums and other ways to enable user-generated content. There are also extensions to further increase its capabilities in this area.

Joomla also excels in the area of e-commerce with many extensions and templates for the purpose.

CMS Comparison – Which is the Right One for You?

Open source content management systems have been a force of change on the web. They have enabled scores of people to build and maintain their own web presence. Over time, **WordPress, Joomla and Drupal** have emerged as the most popular.

As PHP-based open source projects, these three systems have a lot in common of how they approach building websites. At the same time, there are a lot of differences, making them ideal for different target groups. For that reason, this CMS comparison is less about what is the best CMS generally but more about which one is the best for you and your purposes.

To help you make that decision, let's quickly summarize the above:

- **WordPress** — Beginner friendly and allows you to get started quickly. Even without any coding experience, you can still build a highly functional website suitable for large amounts of traffic. The WordPress platform is customizable, secure, SEO and mobile friendly, easy to localize and collaborate on as well as easy to pass on to clients. It also has by far the largest community and ecosystem but can be a challenge to scale.
- **Joomla** — If you are looking for a middle ground between out-of-the-box power and user friendliness or a good option for social networking and e-commerce, Joomla might be the one for you. It has a steeper learning curve, a smaller ecosystem and is less SEO friendly. It's still a very solid option used by big brands.

< Previous

Leave a Reply

You must be logged in to post a comment.

IT Services

IT Services

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I've always had the bug for photography. Even as a teenager shooting with an old Canon Rebel Ti 35mm for my high school yearbook, I was fascinated with capturing more than just the motion of opportunity.I wanted to capture the emotion of what the person was feeling in the picture.At the

time, I could argue that it was easier back then. You waited for the right opportunity to take the

shot (and mind you, you only had 27 pictures or so to take on a roll), and you made sure that everything was just right.Then you went back to the dark room and developed that black and white picture yourself while hoping for the best.

Years later, three degrees from Northampton Community College in Computer Repair and Maintenance, Computer Networking, and Computer Security, a Bachelor of Science in Management of Information Technology from DeSales University, a Master of Science in Information Security from Norwich University, and even some courses in a Doctor of Business Administration in IT Management from Capella University – I felt I wanted some more art in my life.

In 2007 I met my now wife of eight years and have been following her passion for dance for some time.About the same time her and I met, I started shooting recital pictures for Dance Works located in Quakertown, PA and have been their primary photographer for their recitals ever since.

Over the years, I've been expanding my photography gear to be able to adapt to the needs of my clients with the hopes of allowing others to see what I have to offer in all sorts of photographic opportunities.From weddings, engagements, open air photo shoots, closed photo sessions, to anything in between, capturing special moments is what I do best.

Did I mention that I absolutely LOVE dance photography? From closed photo shoots, powder photography, open air photo sessions, to even fabric photography – I can capture your every move at a price that's more than fair.

I absolutely love sharing this gift with my clients and creating memories for them that will always tug at their hearts.

Education

D.B.A. Information Technology Management, Capella University, Minneapolis, MN   2015-Current

M.S., Information Security, Norwich University, Northfield, VT   2011-2013

B.S., Management of Information Technology, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA   2006-2011

A.A.S., Computer Networking, Computer Security, Computer Repair, Northampton   2002-2005
Community College, Bethlehem, PA

Areas of Expertise

With over 23 years of industry experience in information technology, I've become well versed in many different areas of the field. Everything from data storage, mass storage, networking, security, virtualization, to web development, information technology in general is a strong asset of mine.

Hyper-converged Architecture

Virtualization

Data Storage

Networking

Computer Security

IT Services

IT Services

Web Design

Photography