

Bluehost and Wordpress

Your Bluehost account allows you to install a self-hosted Wordpress installation. We will be doing this, and you will be customizing it for your final project.

Create a Subdomain for your project

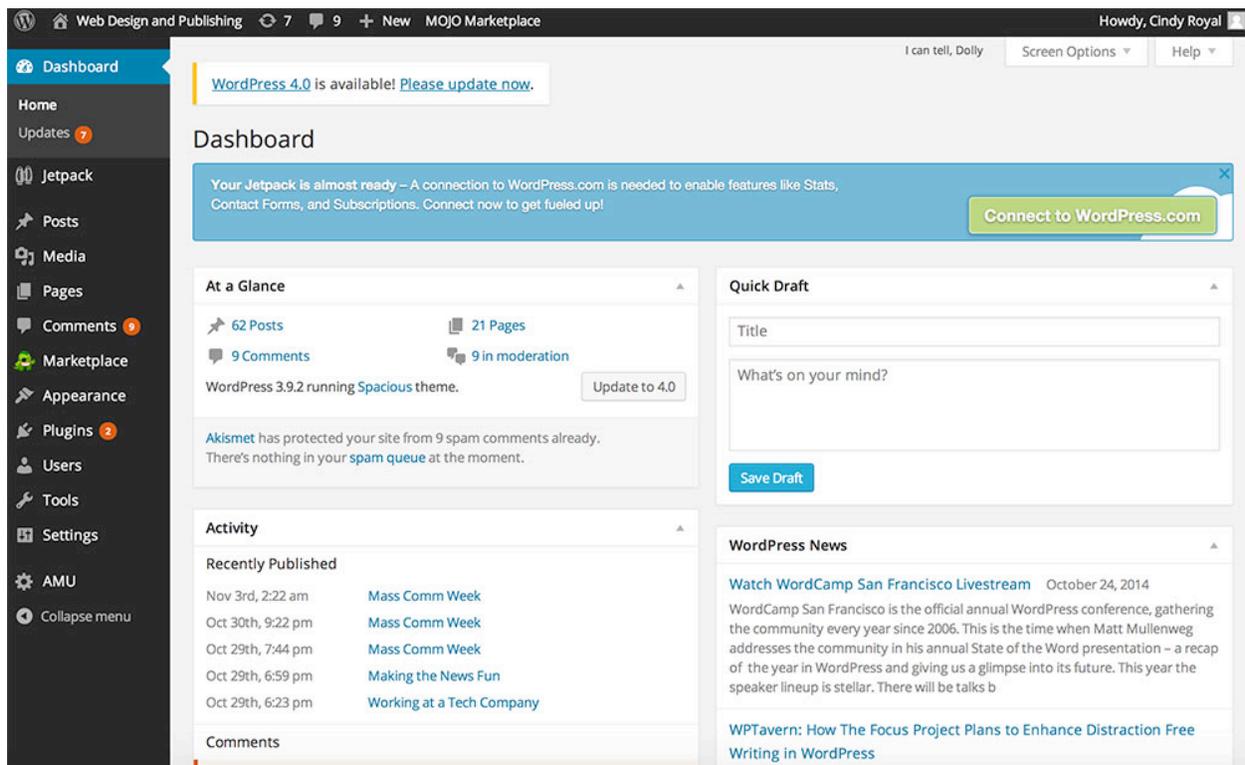
Go to Bluehost.com and login. Under Domains, click Subdomain. Here you can name a subdomain and connect it to a folder. This way, the url is subdomain.domain.com. (for example sxapp.cindyroyal.net). You can remove or manage the subdomain redirection from here.

Using Wordpress

1. Go to Bluehost.com.
2. Login with your domain name and password.
3. Choose CPanel.
4. Go to Website Builders and choose Wordpress.
5. Click Install. Choose the subdomain you created above for the location of the site.
6. Click for Advanced options, choose a pw for your admin account (better than clicking for it to choose a random pw for you). You can keep the automatic plugins to be installed. They don't cost anything, but you may not use them.
7. Click the Terms and Conditions and choose Install Now. That's it. In a few seconds, you will be directed to your WP dashboard.
8. The site is installed under the folder that you created when you made your subdomain. Go to Fetch and login, find that folder under public_html. Become familiar with the file organization.

Working with Your Custom Wordpress Site

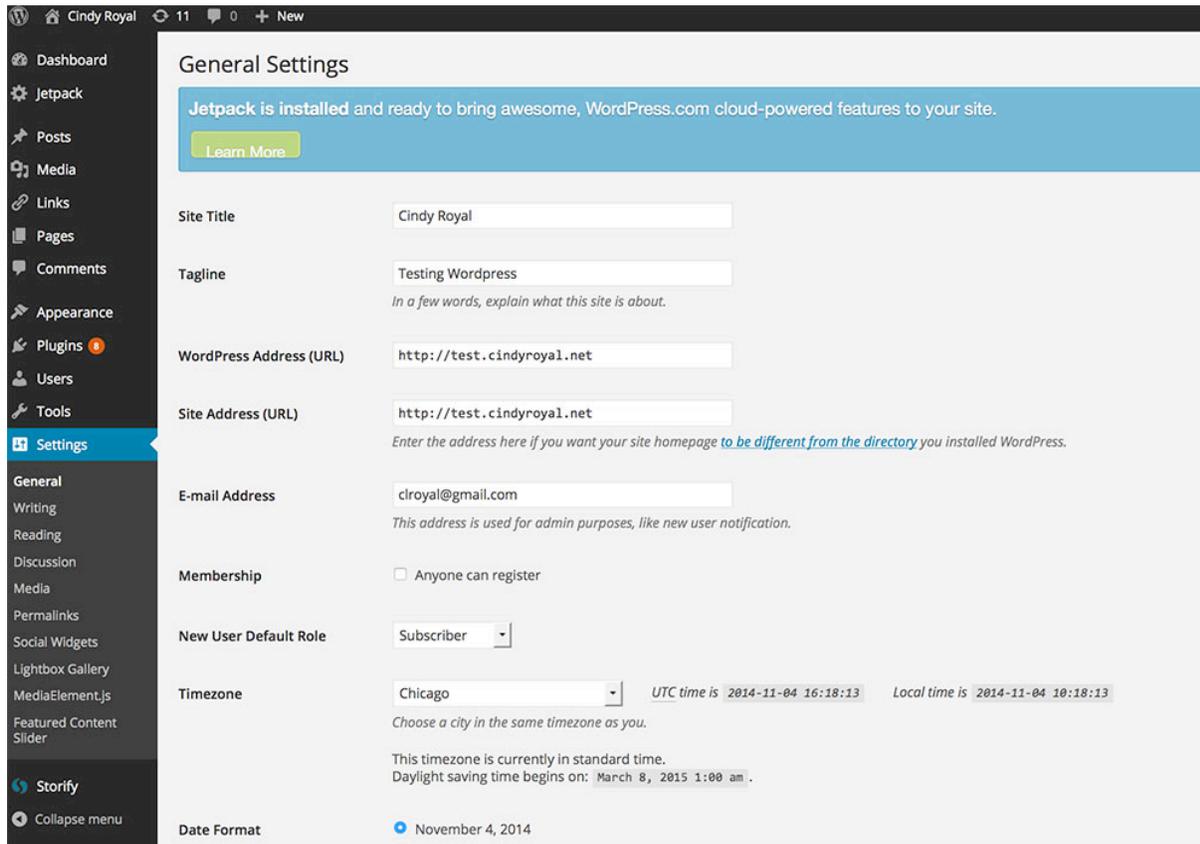
Now that you have your Wordpress installation complete, it's time to start using it. If you go to your subdomain (subdomain.yourdomain.com), you can see that the blog is ready to go and what it looks like right now. When you are ready to start customizing it, go to subdomain.yourdomain.com /wp-admin (use your domain name). You will be in the Dashboard of your site. Here you have access to all the admin options of your Wordpress site.



The screenshot shows the WordPress Dashboard interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the site name "Web Design and Publishing", a user profile "Howdy, Cindy Royal", and utility links like "Screen Options" and "Help". A notification banner at the top left says "WordPress 4.0 is available! Please update now." Below this is a blue banner for Jetpack, stating "Your Jetpack is almost ready" and offering a "Connect to WordPress.com" button. The main content area is divided into several widgets: "At a Glance" showing 62 posts, 21 pages, 9 comments, and 9 in moderation; "Quick Draft" with a title field and a "Save Draft" button; "Activity" listing recently published posts like "Mass Comm Week" and "Working at a Tech Company"; and "WordPress News" with a link to "Watch WordCamp San Francisco Livestream". A left sidebar contains navigation links for Home, Updates, Jetpack, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments, Marketplace, Appearance, Plugins, Users, Tools, Settings, AMU, and Collapse menu.

In the admin panel, go to Users, Your Profile. Make appropriate changes to the way your name displays, any contact info. You can also change your password here. You should change your Display Name Publically to your full name.

Under *Settings, General* you can change the Site Title, add a tagline and make other changes.

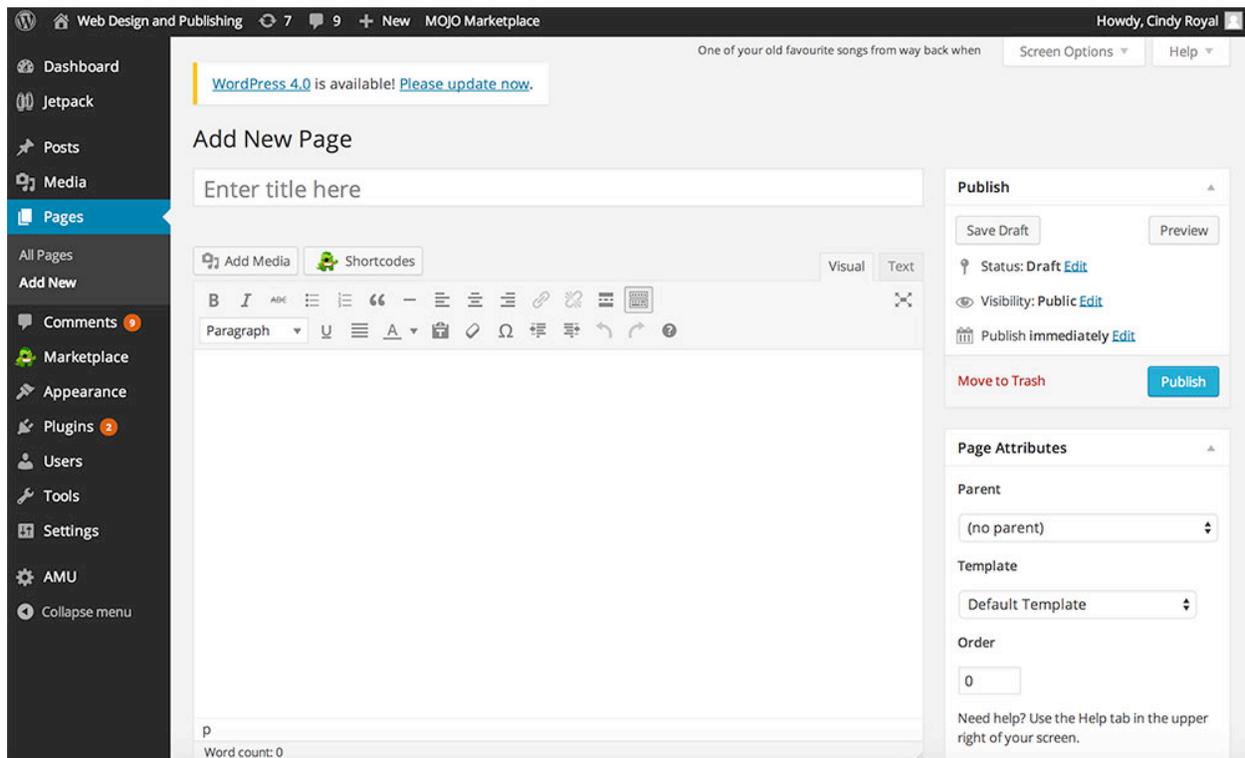


Under *Writing, Reading, Discussion and Miscellaneous* sections, you can change other settings to customize the blog. The Reading section allows you to determine how your blog posts page functions. You can choose to have one or not, and choose whether it is the home page or another page is your home page.

If you have installed any plugins that have Settings, you might find those options in this area that allow you to customize your site.

Under *Posts*, you can see the list of posts. The first thing you can do is remove the Hello World post and start adding new posts.

You can go under *Pages* and Add and Edit any pages you want on the site. Use the form to add content to the pages.



Users – you may add additional users to your blog. Use Add New User Admin Panel. Provide info, password and give them a Role. They can login and change the password later.

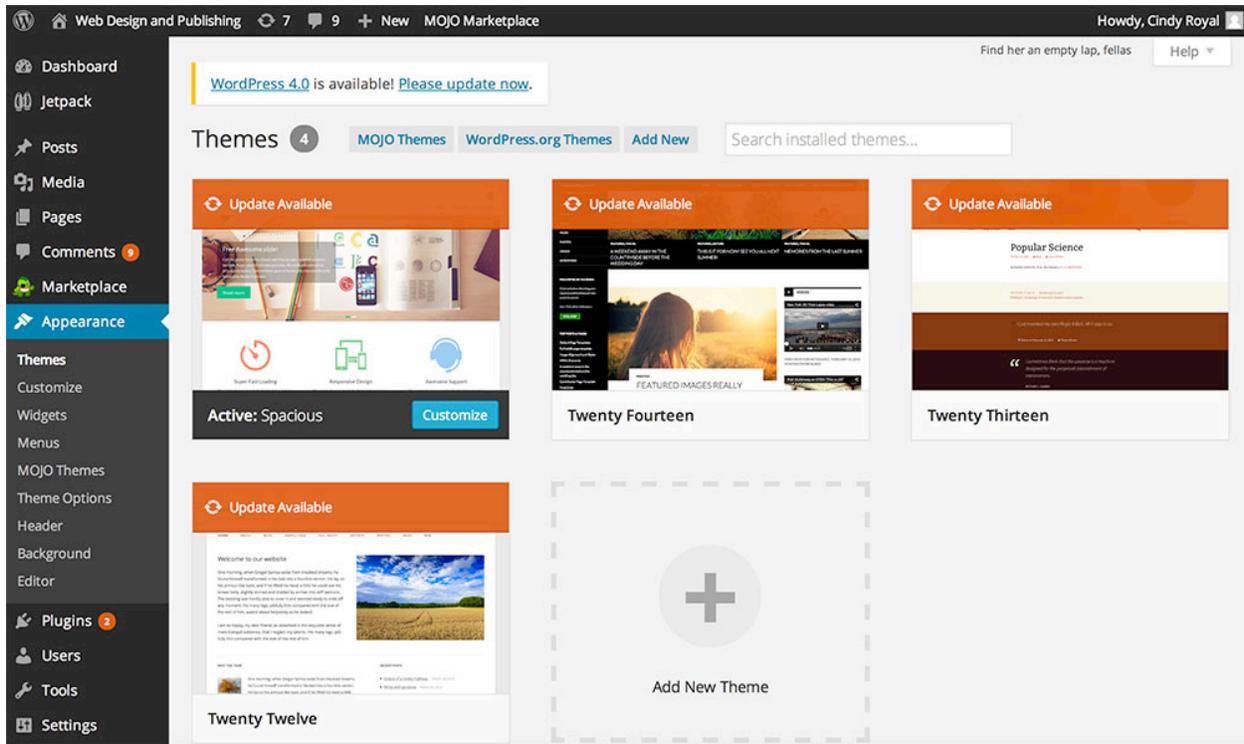
- Administrator can do everything
- Editor – can do anything related to posts, including delete
- Author – can only affect their own posts
- Contributor – can make posts, but they need to be moderated
- Subscriber – has limited access to the site

Widgets – you may include a variety of widgets on your site that can add content and/or functionality to your sidebars. Some plugins will introduce new widgets. Simply select a widget, drag it into the area you want it to be located and set the options.

Menus – you can use the Menu feature to rearrange your menu items. When you create a new page, it goes in the nav bar. But you might want that page to be part of a dropdown or to be arranged in a different order. You can also add links or categories as items in your nav here, but carefully consider how this will be used.

You can change the theme under *Appearance*. Find a very simple theme that can be modified to the desired design. We will be looking at various themes. Find a Bootstrap-based theme that you can modify. Use the search feature under Add Themes and search for Bootstrap. “Spacious” is the theme I use for the course site, but test out a range of themes.

If your theme has other options, they may be available under Appearance (theme options, menus, header background, etc)



We will discuss how to use the *Editor* and *Plugins* to customize the site. You cannot use an Editor or the Plugins on a Wordpress.com site. There is much flexibility in having a self-hosted Wordpress blog.

Themes

Themes use HTML, CSS and PHP to determine the look of the site. Since you are just modifying code, you don't need to be a coding expert, just someone who understands how to troubleshoot. You can set new themes or download new themes from the thousands that are available on the Web.

You can get more themes by installing them from the Wordpress Themes directory. You can peruse the site, see the look and features and select and install one. Choose Install Themes to automatically install a theme. Make sure you find well designed, updated themes to install on your blog. Take a look at your blog to see how it looks with the new theme.

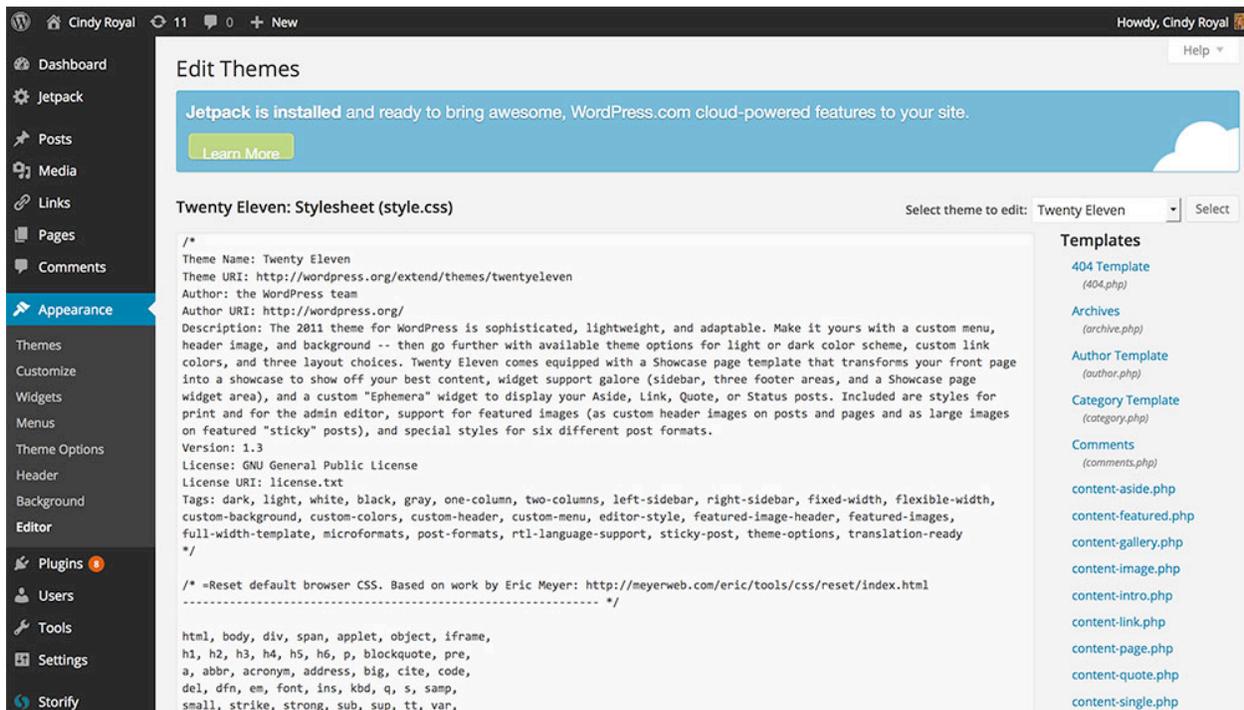
Customizing a theme

codex.wordpress.org provides all information about Wordpress templates. The Using Themes page does a good job of describing the template files and how they work together (http://codex.wordpress.org/Using_Themes) . The Template Tags page describes all the PHP tags used in a Wordpress theme (http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags).

Modifying CSS

We already know CSS. So you can go into the CSS to change the style of the blog. Under Appearance, choose Editor. You can see all the template files. And you will use the Inspect Element feature of your browser to determine which styles to change.

There may be multiple css pages, but start with style.css. Look for the sections you want to change. Feel free to experiment. Change things and see what it effects, colors, fonts, sizes, etc.



The screenshot shows the WordPress Admin Dashboard with the 'Edit Themes' page open. The 'Appearance' menu is selected, and the 'Editor' option is active. The main content area displays the 'Twenty Eleven: Stylesheet (style.css)' file. The CSS content includes theme metadata (Name, URI, Author, License) and a list of HTML tags supported by the theme. A sidebar on the right lists various template files like '404 Template', 'Archives', 'Author Template', etc.

You can change the header in the header area, if your template has that. Or you can change it in CSS by modifying the background property of the header div.

Child Themes

WordPress recommends creating a child theme anytime you make modifications to a theme. By creating a child theme, you avoid losing all your modifications when the original designer updates the theme. The original designer might be updating a theme for security reasons, or to be compliant with new standards, so being able to retain your changes and work when that happens is important.

Let's say your theme is called xyz. Be careful to change everything specifically to the name of your theme, particularly the template. Include your own url as the Author URI.

1. On your server, go to **wp-content/themes**. You should see a listing of the WordPress themes you have installed, including xyz.
2. Create a folder in that folder called **xyz-child**.
3. Create a stylesheet in that folder called **style.css**.
4. Add the following code to style.css, replacing your own themes name:

```
/*
Theme Name:      XYZ Child
Theme URI:       http://example.com/xyz-child/
Description:     XYZ Child Theme
Author:          Jane Doe
Author URI:      http://example.com
Template:        xyz
Version:         1.0.0 */
```

```
@import url("../xyz/style.css");
```

```
/* =Theme customization starts here -----
----- */
```

5. Log in to your site's dashboard, and go to **Appearance > Themes**. You will see your Child Theme listed there. Test it first with the Live Preview.
6. Click **Activate**.

Now when you go to the editor, you will see your new stylesheet. Styles you modify here will take precedence the styles in the theme's stylesheet.

If you want to modify other files in the theme, you can add the modified files to your XYZ Child Theme. These can be related PHP files or other stylesheets.

Plugins – Plugins allow you to add a range of functionality to your site, things like different types of social media widgets, social sharing features and slideshows and content sliders. Every plugin functions differently, so you must read the instructions to apply it. There are thousands of plugins. We will cover a few popular ones, but you will be expected to seek out and apply your own. More to come.

Wordpress.org/showcase – gallery of sites hosted by Wordpress as a CMS.