



# Using WordPress In Education

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## I My WordPress Blogs

[www.edhs.org](http://www.edhs.org)

[www.edhsonline.org](http://www.edhsonline.org)

[www.lifelonglearner.us](http://www.lifelonglearner.us)

[www.u2source.com](http://www.u2source.com)

[deliot.edublogs.com \(demo\)](http://deliot.edublogs.com)

[deliot.wordpress.com \(demo\)](http://deliot.wordpress.com)



## II This Presentation

- You can get additional copies of this presentation in PDF format by visiting my tech blog:

[LifeLongLearner.us](http://LifeLongLearner.us)

## III Topic Outline

- Why WordPress?
- WordPress.org vs. WordPress.com
- WordPress vs. WordPress MU
- Educational Usage Examples
- Issues, Tips and Tricks
- Questions, Comments, Extension
  - Frontend / Backend Tour (?)
  - Guided install of a blog (?)

## IV Why WordPress?

- Tried Drupal, PHP Website, Mambo, and Blogger.com
- Small simple install (863KB)
- Clean code, easy to tweak
- Simple plugin system
- Can "brand" for your company
- Elegant, powerful, straightforward

## V .ORG vs .COM

- WordPress.org is for download, support, plugins, and themes. Must be a geek!

Download  
.ZIP

- WordPress.com is for unlimited free "turnkey" blogs. Can be a normal person!

Sign Up Now!

## VI Regular or MU?

- WordPress MU is the “Multi User” version of WordPress. It can potentially support thousands of Blogs with a single install.
- “Regular” WordPress is installed one blog at a time generally.

## VI Regular or MU?

### WORDPRESS<sup>μ</sup>

- **README.TXT:** "If you're not comfortable editing PHP code, taking care of a complex webserver and database system and being pro-active about following developments of this project then run, don't walk, to <http://wordpress.com/> and sign yourself and your friends up to free blogs."

## VII Usage Examples

- (1) Visit WordPress.com or EduBlogs.com and set up as many blogs as you want:
  - (+) quick, easy, train and go, no geeks required
  - (-) Less control, no "branding", their downtime = yours

## VII Usage Examples

- (2) Install blogs from scratch at your own hosted website:
  - (+) control, themes, branding, consistency, multimedia, plugin selection, etc.
  - (-) Costs, time, effort, research

## VII Usage Examples

(3) Install a school website using WordPress MU:

(+) control, themes, branding, unlimited blogs

(-) Lots of work, customization, CMS theme, need a geek

## VII Usage Examples

(4) Students install and/or use blogs:

(+) hands on, relevant, interesting, large audience

(-) user agreements, privacy, abuse, monitoring

## VII Usage Examples

- As a school website (edhs.org)
- As a teacher blog (edhsweb.org)
- As a student blog (Sarah's blog, via learnerblogs.com)

## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

(1) The commenting / discussion options are critical in an educational setting. Make sure comments must be approved!

### **Before a comment appears:**

- An administrator must always approve the comment
- Comment author must fill out name and e-mail
- Comment author must have a previously approved comment

## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

- (2) Make sure you install some sort of plugin to deal with "comment spam". Two good choices are **Akismet** and **Spam Karma 2**.

Akismet checks your comments against the Akismet web service to see if they look like spam or not. You need a WordPress.com API key to use it. You can review the spam it catches under "Comments." To show off your Akismet stats just put `<?php akismet_counter (); ?>` in your template. *By Matt Mullenweg.*

## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

- (3) **WordPress Mu** has two kinds of plugins and two different plugin folders:
- **Plugins:** all blogs can enable/disable
  - **Mu Plugins:** once installed, work on all blogs, must be "preset".



## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

- (4) **WordPress Mu** requires something called "WildCard DNS". This allows <http://whatever.yoursite.com/> URLs to be created as blogs are created. This is very important.



## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

- (5) **The WordPress Semiologic CMS Theme** is great for school websites. It converts Wordpress from a simple blog to more of a "Content Management System". It requires tweaking for full effect...

**Semiologic**

[Blog](#) | [Forum](#) | [Members](#) | [Resources](#) | [Software](#)

## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

**(6) Need hosting? Many low cost hosting providers have "one click" installs of "regular" WordPress. For example, Dreamhost, HostGator, and BlueHost.**

Check <http://wordpress.org/hosting/>



## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

**(7) Need different WordPress themes. A good source is Farms Really Big Theme Pack which has many clean WordPress MU ready themes.**

<http://wpmudev.org/project/Farms-Really-Big-Theme-Pack>

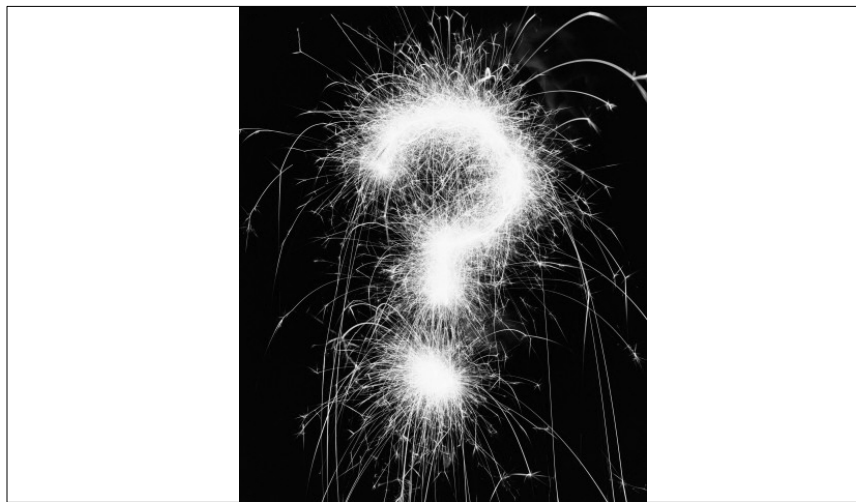
[Farms Really Big Theme Pack](#)

## VIII Issues, Tips and Tricks

**(8) Great article, "Must-have WordPress plugins". A nice starting point for the hundreds of WordPress plugins.**

**<http://www.linux.com/articles/51733>**

## IX Questions, Comments?



## X Extension?

- CHOICE 01: Frontend and backend tour of a WordPress install.
- CHOICE 02: Do a quick WordPress install

## XI Thanks



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