

Introduction

Years ago when I went to go from building static webpages to a using a system like WordPress I needed to find a book on the subject, and there were plenty. My problem was that all of them either showed me step by step how to get the site up and running, and then stopped there. Or started out editing the PHP code and got more advanced from there.

I could find virtually no middle ground. What I wanted and needed was a book that started out showing me how to get off the ground and then built on that enough to give me a reasonably secure and usable website. These were nowhere to be found.

To make matters worse, there were some books that discussed installing and using WordPress and others that talked about using WordPress.com. What was the difference and why wouldn't anyone talk about both?

Why a book when WordPress has an excellent help system built right in? Two reasons: I like to get a jump start on new things by reading a book from start to finish as it gives me a great overall knowledge that I can then expand on using the help system, and it gives me the ability to learn without having to be online or even on a computer when I want to read.

Being a writer this "flipped that switch" that said I should just write the book I need myself. This is fantastic since it forces me to do all the research and work to learn what I wanted to know in the first place, and then figure out how best to pass this information on to the reader. There is no better way to learn than by doing this in my opinion, so off we go.

My goal is to take you from not knowing what WordPress is and only knowing what a website is from the end user's point of view, and then educating you into being able to install, secure and maintain a fully interactive website by reading only one book.

If you are looking for customizing the code of your themes, this is not the book for you. I will be putting much more emphasis on all the things you need for the website to work on a day to day basis instead of how to shift your icon over two pixels.

The focus of my website designs are simplicity for both the user and admin. I want as little work as possible. Tools that I use need to automate processes as much as possible so my

workload is as light as possible. Heck, I am a writer and have no desire to administrate websites all day long. Most of the website admins I know don't want to do that all day long either because it is usually tedious work.

Simple, effective, fast and requiring as little interaction with the admin as possible. Those are my goals.

The book is divided into sections based on what you need to do. The first of those lays the foundation by discussing what a website is, what WordPress is and how those work together.

The second section walks you through installing WordPress from scratch using two different methods.

The third section takes you through virtually every screen and option in a default installation of WordPress and explains the functions to you.

The fourth section presents topics such as security, backups, migration, translations and more to help you actually get your website moving forward.

The fifth section gives you places to go for more information, provides both a glossary and index, and then finally shows you some other titles by the author you might like.

If there is anything you like, don't like, disagree with, etc. please do not hesitate to come by my website at www.allans-stuff.com and drop me a line. I am always pleased to hear from my readers and constructive criticism, either good or bad, is always welcome.

On with the show!

