

WORDPRESS FOR SYSADMINS



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MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

MYTHS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

- WordPress is:
 - Troublesome to install
 - Hard to maintain
 - Impossible to secure

NOPE

IN FACT,

- WordPress is:
 - ~~Troublesome~~ Trivial to install
 - ~~Hard~~ Easy to maintain
 - ~~Hard to secure~~ Can be hardened

WP-CLI

DOWNLOAD WP-CLI

```
$ curl -O https://raw.githubusercontent.com/  
wp-cli/builds/gh-pages/phar/wp-cli.phar
```

VERIFY YOUR
CHECKSUMS!

VERIFY WP-CLI

```
$ md5sum wp-cli.phar  
8c9113f5de2a892837771fdacf6f8c16 wp-cli.phar
```

INSTALL WP-CLI

```
$ chmod +x wp-cli.phar  
$ sudo mv wp-cli.phar /usr/local/bin/wp  
$ wp --info  
WP-CLI 0.18.0
```

Known commit

```
---  
- name: wordpress - install wp-cli  
  get_url: url=https://raw.githubusercontent.com/wp-cli/builds/e94cf3fd57116b84c86a2578a0c66757fa77a592/phar/wp-cli.phar  
           sha256sum=b4dd0b82df6ffd3ccbedcd9d2789dbc9f26fd21c86fc62b6f9f524d1775c9fd3  
           dest=/usr/local/bin/wp-0180  
           owner=root  
           group=root  
           mode=0755
```

Known version

Known hash

```
$ wp help
```

https://codex.wordpress.org/Installing_WordPress#Famous_5-Minute_Install

https://codex.wordpress.org/Installing_WordPress#Famous_5-Minute_Install

Famous 5-Minute Install

Here's the quick version of the instructions for those who are already comfortable with performing such installations. More [detailed instructions](#) follow.

If you are not comfortable with renaming files, step 3 is optional and you can skip it as the install program will create the `wp-config.php` file for you.

1. Download and unzip the WordPress package if you haven't already.
2. Create a database for WordPress on your web server, as well as a [MySQL](#) user who has all privileges for accessing and modifying it.
3. (Optional) Find and rename `wp-config-sample.php` to `wp-config.php`, then edit the file (see [Editing wp-config.php](#)) and add your database information.
4. Upload the WordPress files to the desired location on your web server:
 - If you want to integrate WordPress into the root of your domain (e.g. `http://example.com/`), move or upload all contents of the unzipped WordPress directory (excluding the WordPress directory itself) into the root directory of your web server.
 - If you want to have your WordPress installation in its own subdirectory on your website (e.g. `http://example.com/blog/`), create the `blog` directory on your server and upload the contents of the unzipped WordPress package to the directory via FTP.
 - **Note:** If your FTP client has an option to convert file names to lower case, make sure it's disabled.
5. Run the WordPress installation script by accessing the URL in a web browser. This should be the URL where you uploaded the WordPress files.
 - If you installed WordPress in the root directory, you should visit: `http://example.com/`
 - If you installed WordPress in its own subdirectory called `blog`, for example, you should visit: `http://example.com/blog/`

That's it! WordPress should now be installed.

30-SECOND INSTALL

INSTALL WITH WP-CLI

INSTALL WITH WP-CLI

```
$ wp core download  
$ wp core config {arguments}  
$ wp core config {arguments}  
$ wp user create {arguments}
```

OTHER WP-CLI COMMANDS

```
$ wp plugin install  
$ wp theme install
```

BACKUP

```
$ wp export  
$ wp db export
```

RESTORE

```
$ wp db import  
$ wp import
```

SECURITY

(FROM A SYSADMIN
PERSPECTIVE)

puerto:22

A BRUTE-FORCE ATTACK
IS A BRUTE-FORCE ATTACK
IS A BRUTE-FORCE ATTACK

```
Apr 21 05:40:03 myserver sshd[540]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 40036 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:05 myserver sshd[540]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 40036 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:07 myserver sshd[540]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 40036 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:10 myserver sshd[572]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 57055 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:12 myserver sshd[572]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 57055 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:13 myserver sshd[572]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.187 port 57055 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:39 myserver sshd[765]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 47241 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:41 myserver sshd[765]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 47241 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:44 myserver sshd[765]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 47241 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:47 myserver sshd[778]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 37608 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:49 myserver sshd[778]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 37608 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:51 myserver sshd[778]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 37608 ssh2
Apr 21 05:40:54 myserver sshd[859]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.126 port 54151 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:36 myserver sshd[1937]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 60212 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:36 myserver sshd[1939]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 34651 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:39 myserver sshd[1937]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 60212 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:39 myserver sshd[1939]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 34651 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:41 myserver sshd[1937]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 60212 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:41 myserver sshd[1939]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.164 port 34651 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:44 myserver sshd[1957]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 37130 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:46 myserver sshd[1957]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 37130 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:48 myserver sshd[1957]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 37130 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:51 myserver sshd[1969]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 52046 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:52 myserver sshd[1975]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 39578 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:53 myserver sshd[1969]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 52046 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:54 myserver sshd[1975]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 39578 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:56 myserver sshd[1969]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 52046 ssh2
Apr 21 05:47:57 myserver sshd[1975]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.144 port 39578 ssh2
Apr 21 05:48:19 myserver sshd[2023]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.186 port 38812 ssh2
Apr 21 05:48:21 myserver sshd[2023]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.186 port 38812 ssh2
Apr 21 05:48:22 myserver sshd[2023]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.186 port 38812 ssh2
Apr 21 05:48:25 myserver sshd[2026]: Failed password for root from 43.255.190.186 port 52811 ssh2
```

FAIL2BAN

```
$ wp plugin install --activate wp-fail2ban
```

/VAR/LOG/AUTH.LOG

```
Apr 21 19:09:07 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[9298]: Authentication failure for vubpuhttcp from 110.80.74.204
Apr 21 20:39:45 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[9562]: Authentication failure for vubpglyghg from 110.80.74.204
Apr 21 21:11:31 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[12395]: Authentication failure for mougcersdlcrh from 176.97.116.134
Apr 21 21:11:35 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[8190]: Authentication failure for mougcersdvooi from 176.97.116.134
Apr 21 21:51:34 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[12395]: Authentication failure for zeeidrwz54 from 199.168.141.171
Apr 21 22:05:35 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[9562]: Authentication failure for carteykilolye from 176.97.116.134
Apr 21 22:06:36 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[11573]: Authentication failure for dkbzhydsxlmvj from 176.97.116.134
Apr 22 02:28:46 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[12028]: Authentication failure for gerberktzksy from 176.97.116.134
Apr 22 02:28:47 blog wordpress(my.wordpress.install)[10641]: Authentication failure for carteykilojht from 176.97.116.134
```

/ETC/FAIL2BAN/JAIL.LOCAL

```
[wordpress]
enabled = true
filter = wordpress
logpath = /var/log/auth.log
port = http,https
bantime = 3600
```

```
# fail2ban-client status wordpress
Status for the jail: wordpress
|- filter
|   |- File list: /var/log/auth.log
|   |- Currently failed: 0
|   `-- Total failed: 1016
`- action
    |- Currently banned: 0
    |   `-- IP list:
    |       `-- Total banned: 53
```

TELNET?

```
$ telnet wordpress
Trying 173.194.65.104...
Connected to wordpress.
Escape character is '^]'.
Debian GNU/Linux 7
wordpress login:
```

SSH!

```
$ ssh wordpress
```

```
Host key fingerprint is
```

```
e0:84:30:20:97:36:53:f1:69:12:7a:fe:5d:32:8d:30
```

```
+-- [ RSA 2048] ----+
```

```
|o.+o+.
|. .=+ +.
|. .o+ E
|   o = + o
|   . . S o
|   . . +
|   . .
|
+-----+
```

```
javier@wordpress password:
```

`http://my.wordpress.com/wp-login.php`

ENABLE HTTPS

```
$ a2enmod ssl
```

```
$ wp plugin install --activate wordpress-https
```

TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

```
$ wp plugin install --activate google-authenticator
```

EASY. RIGHT?

SECURITY
IS NOT
AN ADD-ON

CODE INJECTION

[illegible]

upload

SEARCH

ID	Added	Title
6113	2014-08-01	TinyMCE 3.5 - swfupload Cross-Site Scripting Vulnerability
6114	2014-08-01	wp-3dflick-slideshow - Arbitrary File Upload Vulnerability
6116	2014-08-01	wp-homepage-slideshow - Arbitrary File Upload Vulnerability
6084	2014-08-01	RokBox <= 2.13 - thumb.php src Parameter Arbitrary File Upload
6085	2014-08-01	RokIntroScroller <= 1.8 - XSS,DoS,Disclosure,Upload Vulnerabilities
6086	2014-08-01	RokMicroNews <= 1.5 - XSS,DoS,Disclosure,Upload Vulnerabilities
6087	2014-08-01	RokNewsPager <= 1.17 - XSS,DoS,Disclosure,Upload Vulnerabilities
6088	2014-08-01	RokStories <= 1.25 - XSS,DoS,Disclosure,Upload Vulnerabilities
6090	2014-08-01	sintic_gallery - Arbitrary File Upload Vulnerability
6094	2014-08-01	Shopping Cart 8.1.14 - Shell Upload, SQL Injection
6098	2014-08-01	ReFlex Gallery 1.3 - Shell Upload
6099	2014-08-01	Uploader 1.0.4 - Shell Upload
6100	2014-08-01	Uploader 1.0.4 - notify.php blog Parameter XSS
6101	2014-08-01	Uploader 1.0.0 - wp-content/plugins/uploader/views/notify.php num Parame...
6102	2014-08-01	Xerte Online 0.32 - Shell Upload
6023	2014-08-01	WordPress 2.2 (wp-app.php) Arbitrary File Upload Exploit
6016	2014-08-01	WordPress <= 2.8.5 Unrestricted File Upload Arbitrary PHP Code Execution
5995	2014-08-01	WordPress <= 3.3.2 wp-admin/media-upload.php sensitive information discl...
5999	2014-08-01	WordPress 2.5 - 3.3.1 XSS in swfupload
5977	2014-08-01	WordPress 3.5.2 SWFUpload Content Spoofing
5982	2014-08-01	WordPress File Upload Unspecified Path Disclosure
5966	2014-08-01	WordPress Plupload Unspecified XSS
5969	2014-08-01	WordPress 3.6 SWF/EXE File Upload XSS Weakness
5972	2014-08-01	WordPress 3.6 HTML File Upload XSS Weakness

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FILESYSTEM PERMISSIONS

USER ACCOUNTS

Account type

Administrative

Web daemon

uid

configmgr

www-data

Permissions

Read/Write

Read-only

FILE OWNERSHIP

Directory	Owner
htdocs/	configmgr
htdocs/wp-content/uploads/	www-data

```
$ chown -R configmgr.wheel htdocs/  
$ chown -R www-data.www-data \  
  htdocs/wp-content/uploads
```

NOEXEC

```
# Prevent malicious scripts in upload dirs
<Directory ../htdocs/wp-content/uploads>
    Options -Indexes -ExecCGI
    SetHandler None
    RemoveHandler .php .php3 .php4 .phps
    php_flag engine off
</Directory>
```

BUT THIS BREAKS
AUTO-UPDATE!

```
$ wp core update
$ wp core update-db
$ wp plugin update --all
$ wp theme update --all
```

/USR/LOCAL/BIN /WP-UPDATE

```
#!/bin/sh -  
cd /var/www  
wp core update  
wp core update-db  
wp plugin update --all  
wp theme update --all
```

/ETC/CRON.D/WP

```
0 3 * * * configmgr /usr/local/bin/wp-update
```

SQL INJECTION

```
# apt-get install libapache2-modsecurity  
# a2enmod mod-security
```

BUT I GET FALSE
POSITIVES!

APACHE2.CONF

```
# Mod_security tweaks
<IfModule mod_security2.c>
    # wp-login.php should allow redirects
    <LocationMatch "^/(wp-login\.php)">
        SecRuleRemoveById 950901
    </LocationMatch>
</IfModule>
```

APACHE2.CONF

```
# Mod_security tweaks
<IfModule mod_security2.c>
    # wp-login.php should allow redirects
    <LocationMatch "^/(wp-login\.php)">
        SecRuleRemoveById 950901
    </LocationMatch>
    # Images are (mostly) harmless
    <FilesMatch "\.(gif|jpe?g|png)$">
        SecRuleEngine Off
    </FilesMatch>
</IfModule>
```

APACHE2.CONF

```
# Mod_security tweaks
<IfModule mod_security2.c>
    # wp-login.php should allow redirects
    <LocationMatch "^/(wp-login\.php)">
        SecRuleRemoveById 950901
    </LocationMatch>
    # Images are (mostly) harmless
    <FilesMatch "\.(gif|jpe?g|png)$">
        SecRuleEngine Off
    </FilesMatch>
    # wp-admin/ is a protected area
    <LocationMatch "^/(wp-admin/)">
        SecRuleEngine Off
    </LocationMatch>
</IfModule>

# Enable Basic Auth on /wp-admin/ to discourage attacks
<Location /wp-admin/>
    AuthType Basic
    AuthName "Restricted Area"
    AuthUserFile /etc/wpadmin.passwd
    Require valid-user
</Location>
```

SPAM

```
$ wp plugin install --activate akismet  
$ wp plugin install --activate google-captcha
```

SETEENVIF*

.HTACCESS

```
SetEnvIfNoCase Via evil-spam-proxy spammer=yes
SetEnvIfNoCase Referer evil-spam-domain.com spammer=yes
SetEnvIfNoCase Referer evil-spam-keyword spammer=yes
SetEnvIfNoCase Via pinappleproxy spammer=yes
SetEnvIfNoCase Referer semalt.com spammer=yes
SetEnvIfNoCase Referer poker spammer=yes
...
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Deny from env=spammer
```

CREEPY CRAWLERS

ROBOTS.TXT

ROBOTS.TXT

```
User-agent: *  
Crawl-delay: 30
```

MOD_QOS

MOD_QOS

```
# apt-get install libapache2-mod-qos  
# a2enmod qos
```

MOD_EVASIVE

SUMMARY

- wp-cli for the win
- WordPress can be managed like any other system
- WordPress security can be managed at the system level
- Automate!

Q&A



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THANK YOU!



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