

Most Essential WordPress Plugins



WordPress Plugins (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/>) allow easy modification, customization, and enhancement to a WordPress blog. Instead of changing the core programming of WordPress, you can add functionality with WordPress Plugins. Since I'm the geek behind Antoaneta Moga's blog (<http://wife.mihaimoga.com/>) I would like to share with you what seems essential to me:

The Google Analytics for WordPress plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-analytics-for-wordpress/>) automatically tracks and segments all outbound links from within posts, comment, author links, links within comments, blogroll links and downloads. It also allows you to track AdSense clicks, add extra search engines, track image search queries and it will even work together with Urchin.

The Google XML Sitemaps plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/google-sitemap-generator/>) will generate a special XML sitemap which will help search engines like Google, Bing, Yahoo and Ask.com to better index your blog. With such a sitemap, it's much easier for the crawlers to see the complete structure of your site and retrieve it more efficiently. The plugin supports all kinds of WordPress generated pages as well as custom URLs. Additionally it notifies all major search engines every time you create a post about the new content.

The WordPress -to-Twitter plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-to-twitter/>) posts a Twitter status update from your WordPress blog using either the Cli.gs or Bit.ly URL shortening services to provide a link back to your post from Twitter.

The Register Plus plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/register-plus/>) enhance your Registration Page with: custom logo, password field, invitation codes, captcha validation, email validation, user moderation.

The WordPress FollowMe plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-followme/>) allows you to add a twitter "Follow me" badge on your wordpress blog.

The reCAPTCHA WordPress plugin (<http://code.google.com/apis/recaptcha/docs/wordpress.html>) uses a CAPTCHA to prevent comment spam and also uses Mail Hide to prevent email spam.

The Contact Form 7 plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/contact-form-7/>) can manage multiple contact forms, plus you can customize the form and the mail contents flexibly with simple markup. The form supports Ajax-powered submitting, CAPTCHA, Akismet spam filtering and so on.

The WordPress-Database-Backup plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-db-backup/>) allows you easily to backup your core WordPress database tables. You may also backup other tables in the same database.

The AddToAny plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/add-to-any/>) help readers share, save, bookmark, and email your posts and pages using any service, such as Facebook, Twitter, Digg, Delicious, and over 100 more social bookmarking and sharing sites. The button comes with AddToAny's customizable Smart Menu, which places the services visitors use at the top of the menu, based on each visitor's browsing and usage history.

The Configure SMTP plugin (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/configure-smtp/>) allows you to customize the SMTP mailing system used by default by WordPress to handle *outgoing* e-mails. It offers you the ability to specify: SMTP host name, SMTP port number, if SMTPAuth (authentication) should be used, SMTP username, SMTP password, if the SMTP connection needs to occur over ssl or tls.