

# How to Build a WordPress Blog

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<http://howtomakeblog.net>

## Introduction

Hello and welcome to your crash course in learning how to purchase a domain and hosting, and putting your [WordPress](#) Blog onto it! I hope this guide will be easy for you to understand and will be able to show you the basics of setting up your own blog for whatever needs you have.

Having a blog is a great way of being able to express yourself. With a personal blog you can put all your idea's onto your blog and have others comment and exchange idea's with you. With a business blog you can promote a product your have or even promote a service you give. There are endless possibilities with the internet and let's not set any limits on what we can with it!

You may be asking, "Why do I want a WordPress blog?". That is a very good question, and it has a very good answer. The WordPress blog is the most user friendly online website creation tool that I have ever come across. Anyone that can use a computer can figure out how to use a WordPress blog. Without a wordpress blog building a website requires a great deal of technical skills. Using this blog platform takes all the hard work away and provides you with a very simple operating dashboard that lets you control your entire site.

## Selecting a Domain

What is a domain? A domain is your websites address on the internet. The domain for my site is <http://www.howtomakeblog.net>

There are two options when selecting a domain. If you are blogging just for yourself and your number one priority is not to get lots of traffic, I would recommend naming your blog after your main theme. Your main theme could be something such as "A Mothers Advice" and you could set your domain as <http://www.amothersadvice.com> or even <http://www.amothersadvice.net>. Other idea's you blog about are perhaps some hobbies your are interested in, such as "Joey's Hobbies" at <http://www.joeyshobbies.com> where you could blog about all your favorite hobbies and all the ways in which you do them.

If you are blogging for your business you get another two options. One, you can brand yourself by using your product or companies name/brand such as <http://www.JosephAndSonsPainting.com> or you can do it in a manner that will help bring in traffic. When you set your keyword as your domain name you get an extra boost in the rankings, such as <http://www.SanJosePainting.com>.

For purchasing a domain, by far, the best name in the industry is [GoDaddy.com](http://GoDaddy.com). They are the leader when it comes to great and awesome deals for purchasing a domain. A typical .com domain is under \$10 bucks and lasts for a year and can be renewed for longer at any time

Once you have purchased your domain from [GoDaddy.com](http://GoDaddy.com) you are ready to move onto getting your hosting account set up. Also, when dealing with purchasing domains and hosting it will take some time for them to get activated and set up so be aware of this and patient with the process.

### **Purchasing Your Hosting**

This is going to be where are your files are stored, you could think of this as your 'house' while your domain is your 'address'. I've found that the very best hosting around is done through <http://www.HostGator.com>. They have very reliable servers and are great to deal with.

When purchasing your hosting you will go through steps as to what kind of server you want. At this point you may want to call the [Host Gator](http://HostGator.com) customer service and ask them what the best hosting would be for installing a WordPress blog onto it. When I first started out I made the mistake of choosing the wrong type of server and I had to call them and get it all fixed.

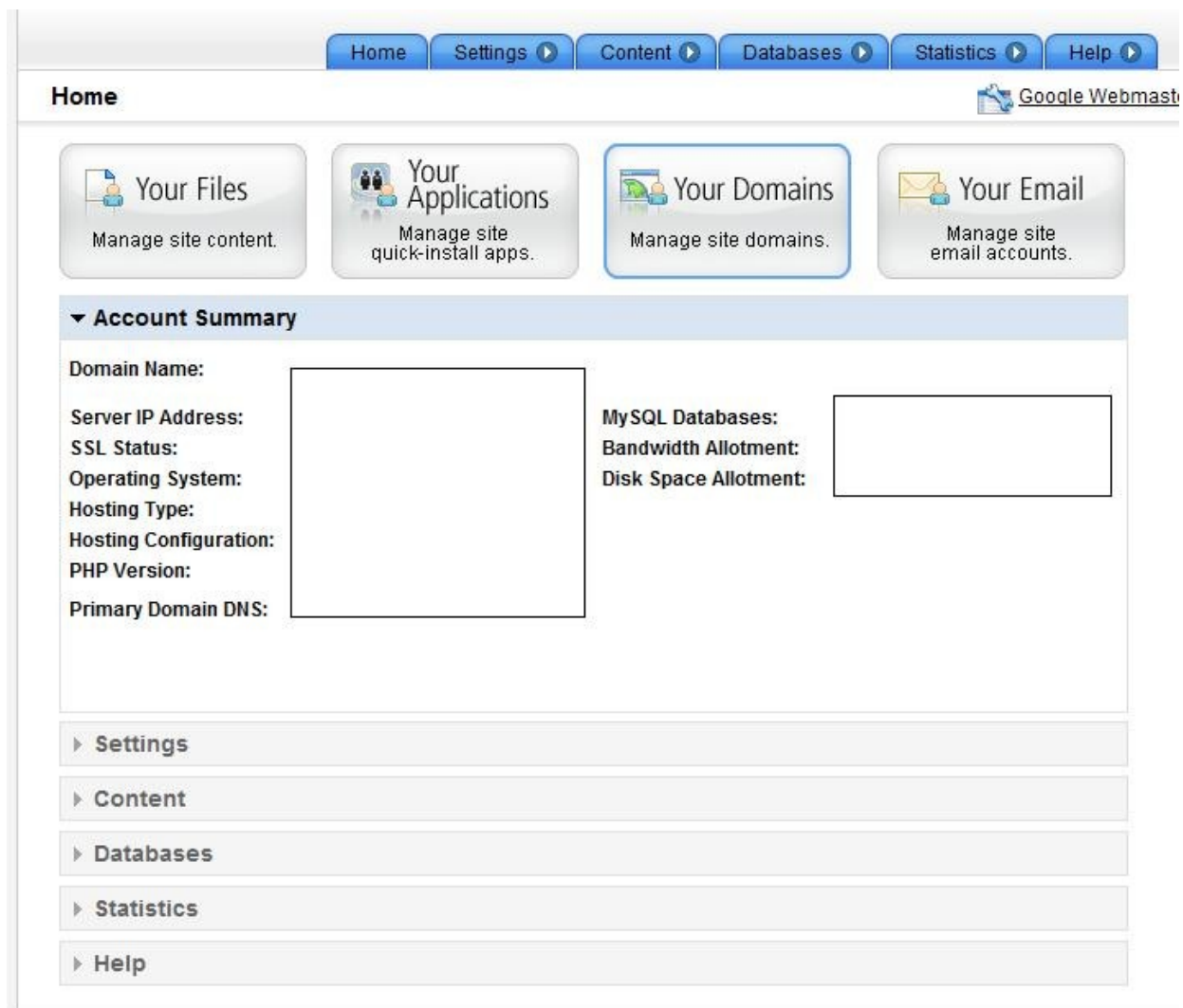
Once you have purchased the hosting you may have a waiting period so they can set everything up for you. When your hosting is ready, get familiar with all the parts of it and what you are able to do. Browse around for a good hour or so and get comfortable with it. This will make things a lot easier in the future

## Linking Your Domain and Hosting

This part is a little tricky to get at first but once you do it once it will be a breeze. I will guide you through as best as possible with pictures from the hosting that I use. When I purchased my first hosting account I was not aware of [Host Gator](#) and made the mistake of picking a different hosting, but with this information you will get the gist of it.

The basic thing we are applying here is we are going to point our domain to our host, which holds all the files, folders, images and whatever else is on our website. A good reference to this is the domain is the address and the hosting is the house.

Log into your hosting's main screen and click on the Domain Manager. It will look something like this:



The screenshot shows a hosting control panel interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for Home, Settings, Content, Databases, Statistics, and Help. Below this, the word "Home" is displayed on the left, and a "Google Webmaster" logo is on the right. The main content area features four large, rounded rectangular buttons: "Your Files" (Manage site content), "Your Applications" (Manage site quick-install apps), "Your Domains" (Manage site domains), and "Your Email" (Manage site email accounts). Below these buttons is a section titled "Account Summary" with a dropdown arrow. This section contains two columns of information. The left column lists: Domain Name, Server IP Address, SSL Status, Operating System, Hosting Type, Hosting Configuration, PHP Version, and Primary Domain DNS. The right column lists: MySQL Databases, Bandwidth Allotment, and Disk Space Allotment. Below the Account Summary section, there is a vertical sidebar with buttons for Settings, Content, Databases, Statistics, and Help, each with a right-pointing arrow.

Where the black boxes are, of course, will be your personal hosting information. Now once you have clicked on your domain manager you will be brought to something that looks similar to this:

**Domain Management** [Google Webmaster Tools](#) [Change Account](#)

Change Primary Edit Remove **Add Domain**

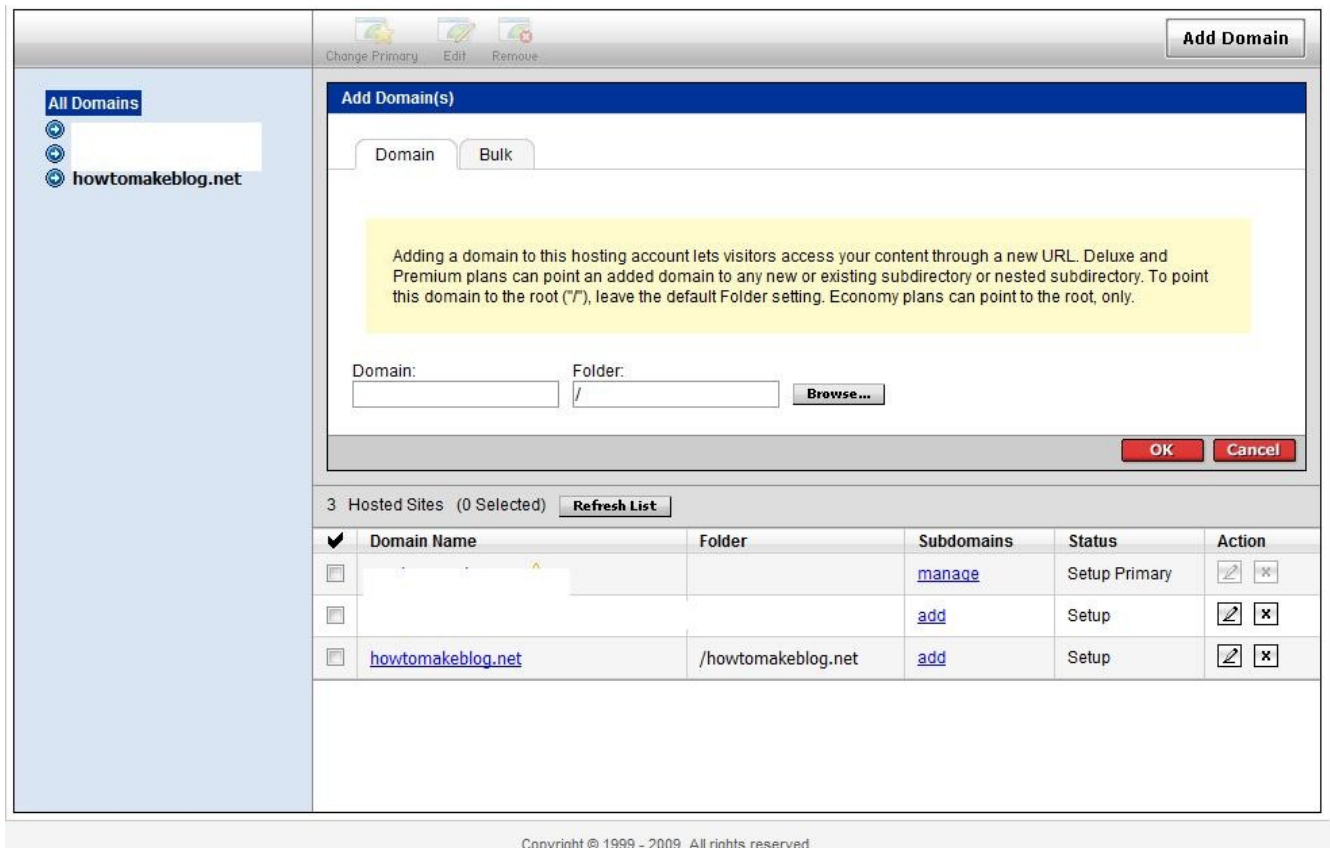
3 Hosted Sites (0 Selected) [Refresh List](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Domain Name	Folder	Subdomains	Status	Action
<input type="checkbox"/>			<a href="#">manage</a>	Setup Primary	
<input type="checkbox"/>		/laptop	<a href="#">add</a>	Setup	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">howtomakeblog.net</a>	/howtomakeblog.net	<a href="#">add</a>	Setup	

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DD');

Mine is already set up, but what you will do is click on 'Add Domain'. Once you are there you will see this screen:



In the "DOMAIN" box you are going to want to type your domainname.com. The /folder means this is the folder that all your files are going to be put in. This is where you are going to install your WordPress files. I suggest naming this the same as your domain name so if you are going to add more than one site to your hosting you will be able to find which files are on that domain.

Click 'OK' and the status will appear as pending. Wait a few minutes and it now should be Setup, just like it says above.

Once it is Setup we can now move onto the next part, which is installing your WordPress blog (application) right into the main directory of your site. What I mean by this, and this is very important, is that you going to want to put your blog at your [www.mydomain.com](http://www.mydomain.com) as opposed to something which a lot of people do is put it at [www.yourdomain.com/blog](http://www.yourdomain.com/blog). Putting this at the root domain makes it act just like a static (standard HTML) site.

## Installing WordPress

Again you're going to want to log onto your main configuration panel and click on the Your Applications image.

The screenshot shows a web hosting control panel interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with buttons for Home, Settings, Content, Databases, Statistics, and Help. Below this, the main content area is titled "Home" and includes a "Google Webma" search bar. Four main management tiles are displayed: "Your Files" (Manage site content), "Your Applications" (Manage site quick-install apps), "Your Domains" (Manage site domains), and "Your Email" (Manage site email accounts). The "Your Applications" tile is highlighted with a blue border. Below these tiles is an "Account Summary" section with a dropdown arrow, containing various system details. At the bottom, there is a vertical sidebar with expandable menu items: Settings, Content, Databases, Statistics, and Help.

Home

Google Webma

**Your Files**  
Manage site content.

**Your Applications**  
Manage site quick-install apps.

**Your Domains**  
Manage site domains.

**Your Email**  
Manage site email accounts.

▼ **Account Summary**

Domain Name:

Server IP Address:

SSL Status:

Operating System:

Hosting Type:

Hosting Configuration:

PHP Version:

Primary Domain DNS:

MySQL Databases:

Bandwidth Allotment:

Disk Space Allotment:

► Settings

► Content

► Databases

► Statistics

► Help

Once you have done this you will be brought to a new applications area where you have all kinds of different things to choose from. Feel free to explore this area and look at all the different types of applications you can apply to your site.

For the purposes of this tutorial we are going to be installing a WordPress Blog. Click on the 'Blogs' tab and click on WordPress.

The screenshot shows the Value Applications website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'Value APPLICATIONS' logo, a search box, and links for 'Feedback' and 'Log Out'. Below the navigation bar are tabs for 'Home' and 'My Applications'. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Administration Tools**: A sidebar menu with categories like Advertising, Blogs, Content Management, eCommerce Solutions, Galleries, Message Boards/Forums, Other, Project Management, Social Networking, Website Add-Ons, and Wikis.
- Blogs**: A list of blog applications including BlogEngine.NET, dasBlog, Geeklog, Lifetype, reBlog, Serendipity, and WordPress, each with a small icon indicating its operating system compatibility (Windows or Linux).
- WordPress 2.7.1**: The main feature, including a 'Technical Support' link, a description of the platform, a 'Learn More About WordPress' link, and a prominent 'INSTALL NOW!' button.
- Compatibility**: A section with a gold checkmark icon stating 'HOSTING COMPATIBLE' and 'This product is compatible with one or more of your hosting plans.'
- System Requirements**: A table listing requirements for MySQL (4.1 or 5.0), Windows or Linux, and PHP (5.1 or 4.3).
- Newest Additions**: A list of recently added applications like Tandem Server, Moodle, phpBB, phpMyFAQ, and Coppermine.
- Most Popular**: A list of popular applications like WordPress, Zen Cart, osCommerce, DotNetNuke, and Simple Machines Forum.
- My Applications**: A list of installed applications, showing 'WordPress Installed' multiple times.

Click on 'Install Now!' and you will be brought to a screen that asks you for what domain you are going to install it on. Install it on the domain you purchased and had already setup previously.

After you do this you will be asked to setup a new database. This is where the WordPress Blog will be installed on your server. I suggest naming your database after your domain name so it will again be easy to recognize.

This next step is very important! Don't miss this!

You will be asked what folder do you want to install your WordPress Blog into.

The screenshot shows the WordPress 2.7.1 installation wizard. On the left, a sidebar indicates the current step is '2. Configure installation'. The main content area shows the domain 'howtomakeblog.net' and an aliased path. The 'Choose install directory' step is active, with a text input field containing 'http://www.howtomakeblog.net/'. A help box titled 'Install Folder Help' explains that leaving the field blank is acceptable. Below the input field, the FTP path is shown as 'http://www.howtomakeblog.net/'. A warning box states: 'WARNING: Installing WordPress 2.7.1 into an existing directory can overwrite existing files.' A 'Next' button is visible at the bottom right of the main content area.

If there is anything in the prompt box delete it, and leave it blank just as the Help box suggests you may do.

You will then be asked to Configure all your user names and passwords and emails and that which is fairly easy to understand. Also make sure you write down your name and password you used for your blog configuration so you can log into it in the next step.

Once you finish that and install it will begin creating your database and installing your application. You will have to wait up to 15 minutes or so for this to happen.

## Setting up Wordpress

There you've finally done it! You have a wordpress blog installed onto your own domain. You have your very own website! It wasn't that hard was it?

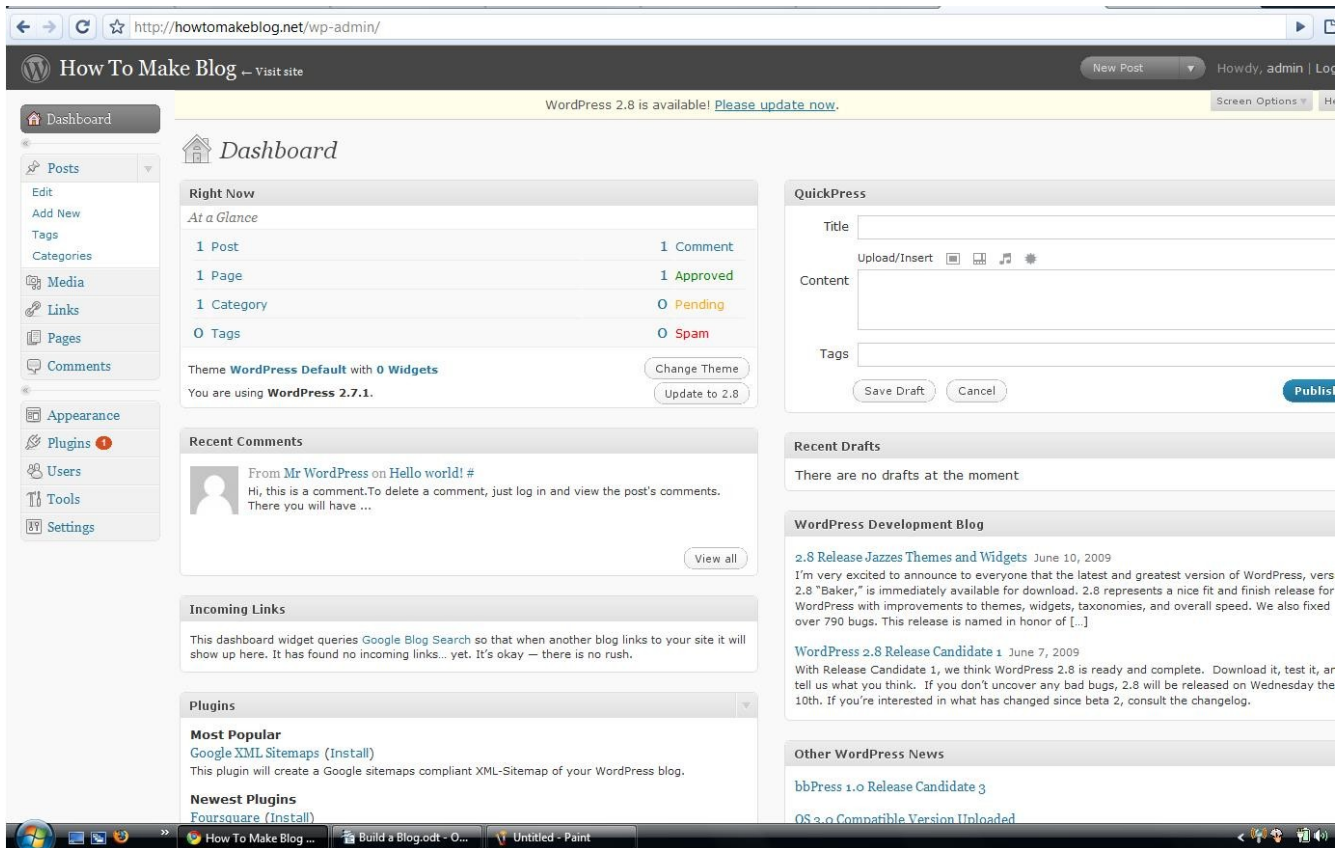
Now back to business, once your application is done installing it will take some time before it will start showing up at your domain and this is normal. The host suggest waiting up to 48 hours for it to appear but generally it takes much less time than that. Take a few hours off and come back and once you type in your domain you will see something that should look just like this:



This is the basic look of the WordPress blog. It's a site.. but it's not too pretty is it? Let's log into our WordPress blog and get us a new theme.

Start this by looking at the bottom right of the page and clicking on "Log In" under the "Meta" heading. You will be prompted for your name and password. Insert the same ones you used for the configuration and you will be brought to the WordPress Dashboard.

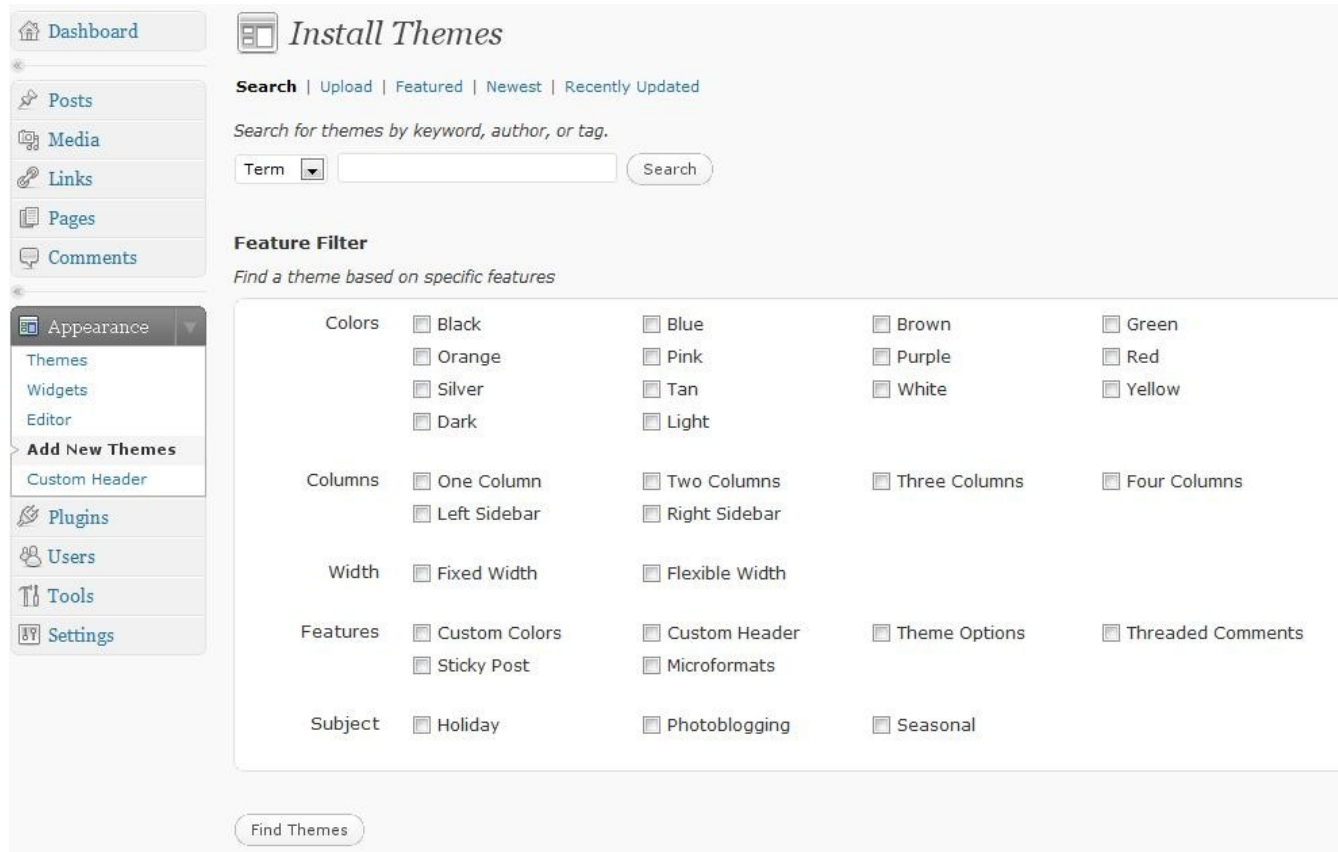
This is what your Dashboard will look like:



You're going to notice that it says Wordpress 2.8 is available! At the top. I suggest installing this and all you will have to do is click 'Please update now'. You will be brought to a second page, click on the "Upgrade Automatically" bar and it will be done for you.

## Choosing a New Theme

Now to pick out a new theme you're going to want to click on the "Appearance" tab on the left toolbar, you may be asked to login again and if you are do it. Under the 'Appearance' tab you are going to want to click 'Add New Themes'. That will bring you to this page:

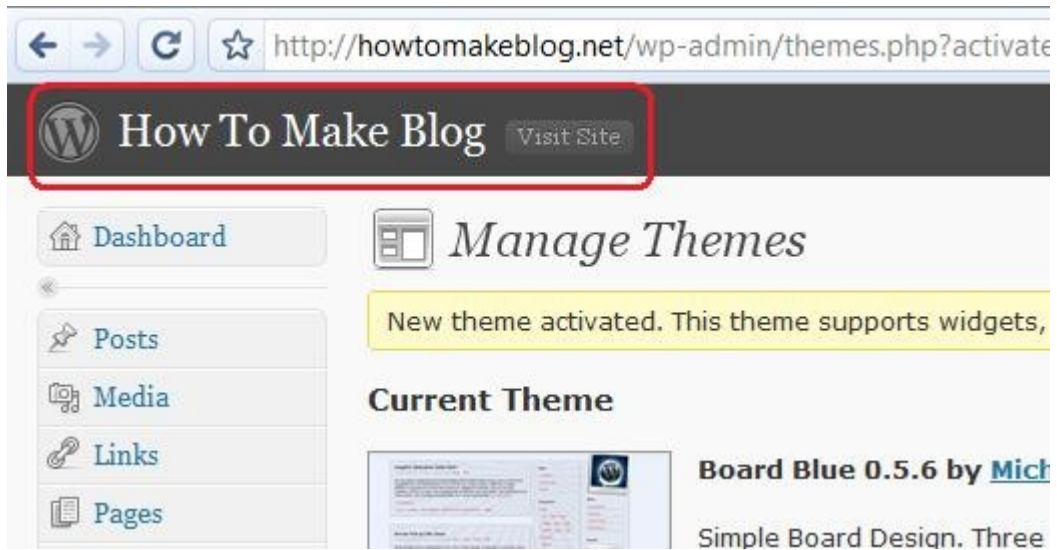


There are many many things you can do here and I suggest you play around with the options for a while so you can see all the possibilities it offers.

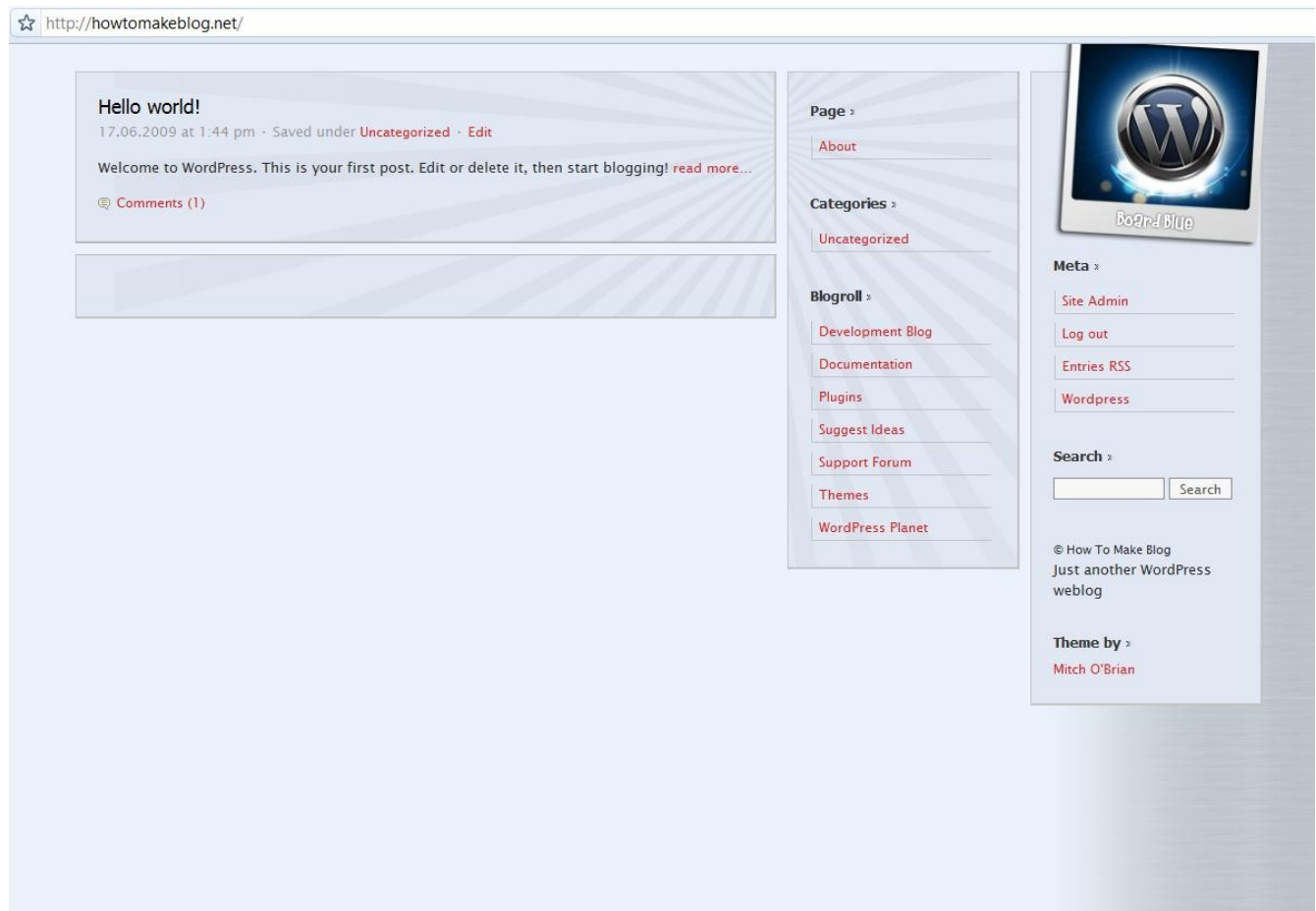
When searching around you can also click on 'Preview' under the them to get a full expanded view of what it will look like. To close it just click on the 'x' in the upper left and continue searching.

Once you find a theme that you like go ahead and click on 'Install'. A popup box will appear confirming your action. Click 'Install Now'. You will now come to a screen that says your installation was successful. There is a list of actions you can take, click on 'Activate'. Your theme will now be activated.

Now go ahead and click on Visit Site to look at your blogs new theme!



Here is the theme I chose, and what it currently will be looking like:



There you have it! You have created your own personal website that you have complete control over. This is the end of this tutorial, but it is not the end of the learning. Come back to <http://howtomakeblog.net> to check out detailed tutorials on everything WordPress, including information on widgets, installing and choosing plugins, posting and pages, permalinks, and more!

### **Suggested Products**

[GoDaddy.com](http://GoDaddy.com)

A great site for purchasing domains

[Host Gator](http://HostGator.com)

The best hosting around

[Micro Niche Finder](http://MicroNicheFinder.com)

Find new niche's to develop your blogs around to sell products and services

[Bookmarking Demon](http://BookmarkingDemon.com)

Create hundreds of backlinks to your site to get your site ranking in the search engines