

The Steps Covered In This Blogging Guide

It's nowhere near as difficult as setting up a website from scratch (there's very little technical ability needed [here](#)). In fact, there's no coding required by you. Good news, huh?

How to Start a Blog in 5 Steps:

There's **five main steps** you need **to do** in order to start a blog. If you follow this guide exactly, you'll have your own blog set up in 30 minutes or less.

1. Choose your preferred blog platform
2. Choose web hosting for your blog
3. **Setting up** a blog on your own domain
4. Design your blog
5. **Useful** resources for blogging

So, we made it. Phew. Better late than never! So, without further ado, let's jump into step 1.

Step 1 – Choose your preferred blogging platform

Choosing where you want to **build blog** is pretty much the first thing you have to do. I'm going to take a leap and assume you've heard of WordPress, and this is the platform I advocate. It's *massive*.

It's by far one of the biggest blogging platforms in the world, with countless plugins and add-ons and almost infinite ways to design and layout your blog.

There are more than 82 million active users of WordPress = a lot, basically.

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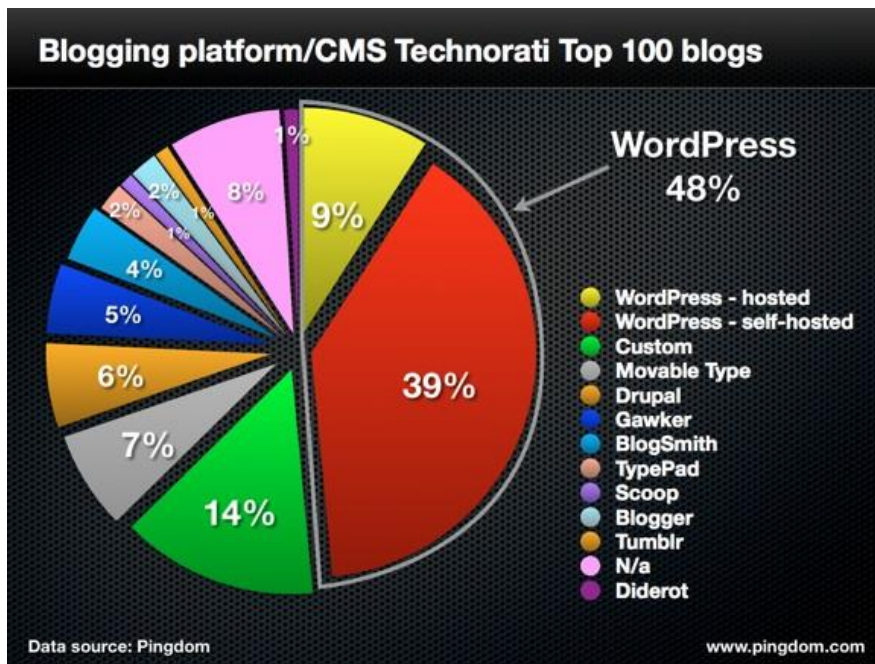
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There are other alternatives however, and they are listed below:

- [Blogger](#) – Definitely the next best thing to WordPress.
- [Tumblr](#) – Half social network, half blog. Interesting, and very simple to use.

Even though WordPress is bigger (and probably better) than those two, here are my reasons why you should still **go with WordPress**:

1. Super easy set-up and is free to use
2. Tons of free themes and layouts (I'm not kidding, there's gazillions).
3. There's a massive support forum in case you get stuck (you won't, but it's nice to have it there if you need it).
4. Your blog will be insanely fast and it'll also look **Functionality** and form – perfect!
5. People can interact with you easily. Your content can be shared, commented on, and so on.

Here's an article about different blogging platforms (including WordPress), give it a read:

[How to Choose a Blogging Platform](#) – (updated for 2017)

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Now, Step 2 (see, we're moving fast now!)

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Step 2 – Self-hosting or a free alternative?

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Whoa, slow down there! This is the biggest decision you'll have to make before we go any further. You need to decide whether to pay for your blog or grab a free one.

WordPress, Tumblr and Blogger all offer free blogs for anyone. Awesome, right? It's perfect for those of us who aren't super serious about blogging. But it **does have downsides**:

1) You won't be able to get your OWN domain name

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On a free blog, your blog's web address (your URL) will be butt-ugly. Like, really ugly. In short, create a free blog with any other the above free blog services and it'll look like this:

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- yourblog.wordpress.com
- yourblog.blogspot.com
- yourblog.tumblr.com

I know, ugly right?

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2) Limits and more limits

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There are some limits to free blogs. You can't fully monetize it, and you don't have the possibility to upload all those videos and images you want to show everyone – it's all limited. Worse still, you won't even have access to the free themes offered by WordPress.

3) You DON'T OWN your blog

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It might sound silly at first, but you don't actually own your blog. It's hosted on someone else's web property and they can delete it if they want so. They have done so in the past, and keep doing it in the future. Which means all your hard work on your blog, all those countless hours of writing blog posts might be vanished within seconds. Sad...

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On the other hand, with a **self-hosted blog on your own domain name** – you are the REAL owner of your blog. You'll be able to name your blog whatever you want, for example "YourName.com" or "YourAwesomeBlog.com. You can end it with .com, .co.uk, .net, .org, or virtually any other web suffix. Add to that unlimited bandwidth for videos, images and content plus the free themes and you have a winning combo.

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So how much is hosting and a domain name? Not as much as you're thinking, fortunately. It usually works out to about \$5 to \$10 per month, depending on your hosting provider which is less than a couple of coffees.

If you still have questions, here's some further information for you to look at:

- [Should I Choose a Hosted or Non-hosted Blogging Platform?](#)

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