WebGuy IT Tech Tips

Proactive, not Reactive.

Securing WordPress | Simple steps to keep your website protected

Why does WordPress need attention? WordPress powers a huge share of the web, which makes it a constant target for automated attacks. Bots scan sites around the clock looking for old plugins and weak logins. A handful of basic habits stops nearly all of it, and you do not need to be a web developer to do any of them.

1 Log In Regularly and Update

Most WordPress hacks exploit a known flaw in an out of date plugin, one that was patched months earlier. Check Dashboard > Updates weekly. Sites that update over FTP cannot patch themselves, so logging in on a schedule is what keeps them current.

Dashboard › Updates

```
WordPress 6.8        ✓ Up to date
☑ Contact Form 7     Update Available
☑ Yoast SEO          Update Available
☑ Elementor          Update Available
  [ Update Plugins ]
⚠ FTP login required to install updates
```

2 Turn On Two-Factor Sign-In

A password alone is not enough for an account that can change your website. Turn on two-factor authentication for every administrator account. Wordfence includes it at no cost under Login Security. Save your recovery codes in case you lose your phone.

Wordfence › Login Security

1. Scan the QR code
2. Enter the 6 digits
   `4 8 2 9 1 7`

Recovery codes: a1b2-c3d4-e5f6 (save these)

3 Install and Register Wordfence

Wordfence is a firewall and malware scanner that runs inside WordPress. Run a scan monthly and read the alert emails. Register a free account so alerts reach you. Premium is worth it on a business site: free installs get new rules on a 30 day delay.

Wordfence › Scan Results

```
✓ Core files verified
✓ No malware signatures found
⚠ 1 plugin update available
```

1,284 login attempts blocked in 30 days

Free: rules delayed 30 days | Premium: real time

4 Clean Up Accounts and Plugins

Every extra account and every unused plugin is another way in. Deactivating a plugin does not help, the code still sits on the server. Delete what you are not using, and give each person the lowest role that lets them do their job.

Users · Plugins

jsmith	Administrator	✓ owner
mwilson	Editor	✓ posts only
tdavis	Administrator	✗ former

Give each person the lowest role that does the job.

Wordfence	Active	✓ keep
Slider Pro	Inactive	✗ Delete
Backup Tool	Inactive	✗ Delete

Inactive still means installed. Delete it.

Red Flags to Report

Site suddenly slow, visitors redirected somewhere else, or an admin user you do not recognize. Contact IT right away, do not try to clean it up yourself.

Backups Are Covered

WebGuy backs up every site daily, files and database. If an update goes sideways or you need something rolled back, just ask us for a restore.

Where Plugins Come From

Install only from the official WordPress.org repository or a paid vendor you know. Free "nulled" premium plugins are a common source of malware.

WebGuy manages hosting, daily backups and server level security. These steps cover what happens inside your WordPress site.

Questions? Contact WebGuy IT for support.