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WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

**How to Make a Website**[[1]](#footnote-1)

**STEP 1: CHOOSE THE RIGHT PLATFORM**

If you want to build a good, mobile friendly and a functional website quickly, you’ll need to choose a platform (also known as **content management system**).

### What do I mean by “content management system”?

Well, back in 2004 when I got started with web development, most sites were built using HTML (code), CSS and even Flash. These took a lot of time to learn and were tricky to master.

That’s why most people still think creating a website from scratch is difficult or requires a lot of coding and design skills. That’s no longer true. In 2018, content management systems (CMS) like WordPress have made creating a website accessible to anyone.

To put simply – content management system (or website building platform) is a user-friendly platform for building websites and managing your own online content instead of using a bunch of loose HTML pages.

### Most Popular Site Building Platforms in 2018

In recent statistics made by [W3Techs](https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/content_management/all), **WordPress is the most popular** content management system (55%) followed by Joomla (20%) and Drupal (11%).

### **Here’s why I recommend using WordPress to build your website**

**WordPress vs. HTML & CSS**: Learning HTML from scratch can take 6+ months, let alone CSS and PHP. Having a basic knowledge of HTML can help you gauge things more quickly, but if you want to create a website within a day or two, learning HTML isn’t a viable option.

**WordPress vs. Website Builders**: Website builders are expensive and often very limited. They are good for one-page websites, but not more.

**WordPress vs. Joomla/Drupal**: **Drupal** is a very powerful platform that is popular with web developers and experienced coders, but it comes with a very steep learning curve that makes it a bad choice for beginners. **Joomla** is similar to WordPress and works great for online stores, but you’ll need at least a little bit of technical coding to make it work the way you want.

### For the beginners, I strongly suggest sticking to WordPress.

It’s the easiest platform I’ve ever worked with, but it’s flexible enough to suit everyone from small business owners and freelancers to creative artists and bloggers.

#### **THINGS TO DO BEFORE NEXT STEP**

* Choose a platform to build your website. **I’m recommending WordPress** which is free to use and easy to understand. In this guide, I’ll be showing you how to create a site using WordPress, too.
* At this point, you don’t need to install/download anything. I’ll show you this in the next steps.

## STEP 2: GET A DOMAIN & WEB HOSTING

In order to set up your WordPress (or any other type of websites), you’re going to need two things:

* A domain name (a web address like yoursitename.com)
* Hosting (a service that connects your site to the internet)

The WordPress platform itself is free. However, the domain name and hosting will cost you around $3 – $5 a month which is less than a coffee, so it won’t break the bank.

Owning your own domain name looks far more professional than having your site on someone else’s domain (like yourbusiness.my-free-website.com), and it’s super affordable, too.

Having your own hosting will also make sure your website loads quickly and won’t go down for hours at a time (very important for anyone who visits your pages!)

### Where do I get a FREE domain name and hosting?

**I’ve mostly used**[**www.Bluehost.com**](https://websitesetup.org/go/bluehost)**as a web hosting and domain registrar.**

They’re really affordable, have a good customer service, and they’re currently throwing in a domain name for free – so it’s worth checking them out.

When you get a domain name, you’ll also get a personal email account(s): you@yoursite.com – way more professional than a generic Gmail or Yahoo address.

Already have a domain name and hosting? Go ahead and skip ahead to [step 3](https://websitesetup.org/#step-3), where I’ll explain how you can set up your website.

### **STEP 1: Go** [Bluehost.com](https://websitesetup.org/go/bluehost)

**Remember**: Since I’m using Bluehost myself, I’ve negotiated a special discount for WebsiteSetup.org visitors (67% OFF).

### STEP 2: Choose Website Hosting Plan

Once you click “*get started now*,” you’ll be taken to a page to select the hosting plan of your choice.

I selected their “basic” option, which is a great choice for new websites. Plus, at the moment they’re running a special discount of $2.75/mo (usually it’s $7.99/mo)

The “plus” and “prime” plans are great, but you don’t really need all the extra bells and whistles they offer unless there are millions of people flooding your site each day.

Save your hard earned cash and opt for the cheapest package to start out with.

### **STEP 3: Pick a Domain Name**

As an easy starting point:

* If you’re making a website for your business, your domain name should match your company name. For example: **YourCompanyName.com**
* If you’re planning to set up a website for yourself, then **YourName.com** can be a great option.

For this site (WebsiteSetup), I chose WebsiteSetup.org

Domain names usually end with .com, .org or .net, but in the recent months, a huge amount of domain extensions (the end part of the web address, like .com) have come out, ranging from .agency to .pizza.

**My best advice?** Avoid the weird extensions and go with .com, .net or .org unless they perfectly describe what you have to offer – and even then, see if you can find a more common name.

If you’ve already got a domain name, just enter it in and click “Next” on the “I have a domain name” form.

If you aren’t ready to [choose a domain](https://websitesetup.org/choose-domain-name/) right off the bat, you can do it at a later point in your website setup.

### STEP 4: Fill In Your Details

To create your account, just enter in your personal information on the “create your account” page.

You’ll need to add in your first name, last name, country, street address, city, zip code, phone number, and email address. Your receipt will be sent to the email address you enter here.

It’s optional to also add in your business name within this form.

### STEP 5: Check Your “Package Information” and Finish Registration

The next step in registering for a Bluehost account is to select your plan and package.

These are the last steps you’ll go through before your account creation is complete, so pay close attention to the extra options available, like Domain Privacy Protection.

* Domain Privacy Protection is only $0.99 cents more per month and keeps your personal information such as your name and address under the wraps.
* If you want to keep your website and domain information anonymous, you can spend the extra $0.99 per month. If you don’t, be sure to uncheck this box.

### STEP 6: Create Your Password

Once paid and registered, you’ll be able to create your password.

### THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE NEXT STEP:

* Do some brainstorming to come up with a unique domain name that reflects your future website, business or blog.
* Secure your domain name and web hosting. For this I recommend [Bluehost.com](https://websitesetup.org/go/bluehost/), but you can pick any other web host as long it’s reliable and simple.

## STEP 3: SET UP & CUSTOMIZE YOUR SITE

Once you’ve bought your domain name and set up your hosting, you’re well on your way!

Now it’s time to get your website up and running. The first thing you’ll need to do is install WordPress to your domain.

### Installing WordPress

There are two possible ways to install WordPress, one MUCH easier than the other.

#### 1. TO CREATE A WEBSITE WITH WORDPRESS (OR JOOMLA & DRUPAL), USE ONE-CLICK INSTALLATION:

Almost every reliable and well-established hosting company has integrated 1-click-installation for WordPress, which makes getting going a snap.

If you signed up with [Bluehost](https://websitesetup.org/go/bluehost/signup) or any other similar hosting company, you should find your “1-click-installation” in your account control panel.

Here are the steps you should follow (should be similar/same on all the major web hosting companies):

1. Log in to your hosting account.
2. Go to your control panel.
3. Look for the “WordPress” or “Website” icon.
4. Choose the domain where you want to install your website.
5. Click the “Install Now” button and you will get access to your new WordPress website.

#### 2. … OR MANUAL INSTALL (if needed)

If for some odd reason (some hosting companies don’t provide one-click-install for WordPress) you don’t have the option to install WordPress automatically, look this **manual guide** below:

[Installing WordPress Manually (Click to expand)](https://websitesetup.org/)

Pssst – if they don’t have 1-click-installation, maybe you’re dealing with a bad host!

### Choosing a Theme/Template for your site

Once you have successfully installed WordPress to your domain, you’ll see a very basic yet clean site.

But you don’t want to look like everyone else, do you?

That’s why you need a theme – a design template that tells WordPress how your website should look.

**Here’s where it gets fun**: There are thousands of awesome, professionally designed themes you can choose from and customize for your own sit.

1. Adapted from: Mening. Robert. How to make a website. In: *WebsiteSetup.org*. [online]. [cit. 19.09.2018]. Dostupné z: <https://websitesetup.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)