Create Website Using WordPress + DIVI

Master the art of building websites from scratch

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Introduction

Around 14 years ago, when I started my development career, there were only a few components available in WordPress. The early versions of WordPress had a basic user interface, which was less user-friendly compared to today's version. Also, the older versions of WordPress were more vulnerable to security threats, as the platform was still in its early stages of development. In a nutshell, it was almost impossible to develop a WordPress website for a non-technical person who didn't have any kind of programming knowledge. Now, after 14 years, WordPress has changed drastically, and you don't need to be a developer or designer to build a WordPress website. Moreover, theme builders like DIVI come up with a good number of tools that provide the highest degree of flexibility. You just need to know a few things or have some skills to design a stunning website by using the DIVI theme builder on WordPress.

Here, my objective is to teach you those skills in the most simplistic way possible, which I'm sure you will find quick and very easy to learn.

Therefore, people with very little or absolutely no knowledge of coding can easily design functional WordPress websites. Either you are a job seeker and want to learn to be a WordPress designer, a businessman who is just curious to develop his own website, or an existing web developer who wants to learn new tricks, you can be the ideal reader.

I hope you will enjoy every phase of learning.

Best of luck!

Quick Start Guide: Built Your Own Website Using DIVI in 8 Easy Lessons

Chapter 1: In this chapter you can learn the basics of WordPress and the advantages of WordPress over other CMS.

Chapter 2: You will gain a thorough understanding of **programming languages**, **databases**, and **web servers** in this chapter. Additionally, I have provided screenshots for every step of the process for installing WordPress on both the local server and the web server.

Chapter 3: It is important to understand why you should use a **theme builder** instead of a **theme**. In this chapter, I have clarified those. I also mentioned why you should choose theme builders over themes. The last lesson of this chapter is about installing the DIVI theme builder on WordPress. You just need to follow the instructions with the appropriate screenshots.

Chapter 4: In order to design the webpage, you need to have a clear idea of the different parts of the page. The first three lessons are all about in-depth explanations about creating a **header**, **footer**, and **body**. In the remaining chapter, you will learn how to use different elements of DIVI in order to design the **header**, **footer**, and **body** with a practical example. In each stage, I have explained it with suitable screenshots.

Chapter 5: How to create pages and design them using DIVI modules is the most important aspect. In this chapter, you will learn how easily you can create home and inner pages, posts, and blogs. I have explained it with the proper screenshots.

Chapter 6: This chapter is all about the detailed discussion of positioning, adjusting, and designing objects. You will learn how to use various design tools and advanced tools. Simple screenshots are used to provide all information.

Chapter 7 The most crucial skill—**"Creating stunning design by using the various DIVI modules"**— is covered in this chapter, whether you use any DIVI templates or not. With lots of screenshots, every detail has been supplied with precision. I'm sure if you follow the instructions, at the end of this chapter you will learn all you need to create a complete website.

Chapter 8: The final chapter is all about practices. The mockup design and hints or solutions for each mockup have been provided. I believe that if you follow the previous chapters, you can design most of them without any help from the solutions I have provided.

Chapter 1

Brief introduction about WordPress

WordPress is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) based on PHP and MySQL.
You might be wondering why we refer to WordPress as the web development platform so frequently if it is a content management system. Right? The correct response is that a content management system (CMS) is a type of software program that offers a centralized platform for managing, organizing, and publishing digital information, including text, photos, videos, and audio files. As the website's content consists solely of text (simple or embedded), images, audio, and video, a content management system (CMS) is a powerful tool for managing all of these elements. Organizations, companies, and individuals all utilize CMSs to develop, maintain, and publish websites and web-based applications. The main purpose of a CMS is to simplify the process of creating, publishing, and maintaining digital content, enabling users with little or no technical expertise to manage their own websites.
Therefore, we could say, "***WordPress is the content management system which comes with the flexibility to manage the web based contents more efficiently***"

Little History of WordPress: Co-founders Matt Mullenweg and Mike Little introduced WordPress for the first time on May 27, 2003. WordPress was initially created as a blogging platform, but it has now developed into a complete content management system (CMS) that runs millions of websites of all shapes and sizes, from small-scale e-commerce sites to individual blogs. One of the most well-liked website building platforms worldwide, WordPress is renowned for its user-friendly interface, adaptability, and scalability.

Some of the other CMS beside WordPress

In addition to WordPress, there are a number of different content management systems (CMS), each with distinct advantages and disadvantages. Here are a few well-liked WordPress substitutes:

1. Joomla: A free and open-source CMS with a range of features for creating and managing websites, including e-commerce sites and online communities.
2. Drupal: A powerful and flexible CMS with a strong focus on security and scalability, used by many large organizations and government agencies.
3. Shopify: A cloud-based e-commerce platform that provides a complete solution for creating and managing online stores, including payment processing, shipping, and order management.
4. Magento: An open-source e-commerce platform used by many large online retailers for its scalability, customization options, and integration with popular payment gateways.
5. Wix: A cloud-based website builder that offers a simple and user-friendly interface for creating and managing websites, with a range of templates and design options.
6. SquareSpace: A cloud-based website builder with a focus on design, offering a range of templates and customization options for creating beautiful websites.

These are just a few of the many options available, and the best choice will depend on the specific needs and requirements of the user or the nature of business.

The advantages and disadvantages of each CMS will now be discussed. If you are not interested, you can skip this part and continue to the next one. But I wholeheartedly endorse it. After all, being aware of the benefits and drawbacks of other CMSs will raise your awareness of them and your interest in WordPress and other CMSs.

Joomla

Joomla is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) that is popular among individuals and organizations for creating and managing websites. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Joomla:

Pros:

1. User-friendly interface: Joomla has a user-friendly interface that makes it easy for non-technical users to manage and publish content on their websites.
2. Flexible and scalable: Joomla offers a range of features and extensions that make it suitable for creating and managing a wide range of websites, from personal blogs to complex e-commerce sites.
3. Strong security: Joomla places a strong emphasis on security, with regular software updates and the availability of security extensions to help protect sites from threats.
4. Large community: Joomla has a large and active community of users and developers who contribute to the platform, providing support and resources for users.

Cons:

1. Steep learning curve: Joomla can be more complex to use than some other content management systems, and may require some technical expertise to set up and manage.
2. Performance issues: Some users have reported performance issues with Joomla, particularly with larger and more complex websites.

3. Outdated design: Some of the templates and themes available for Joomla are outdated and may not provide the same level of design and user experience as more modern alternatives.
4. Limited mobile optimization: Joomla may not be as optimized for mobile devices as some other content management systems, and may require additional customization to provide a good user experience on smaller screens.

Drupal

Drupal is a free and open-source content management system (CMS) that is used by individuals and organizations to build and manage websites. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Drupal:

Pros:

1. Flexibility: Drupal offers a high degree of flexibility, with a wide range of features and modules that allow users to customize the platform to meet their specific needs.
2. Scalability: Drupal is capable of handling large and complex websites, making it suitable for use by organizations of all sizes.
3. Strong security: Drupal is known for its strong security features, and has a large community of users and developers who work to identify and resolve security issues.
4. Robust community: Drupal has a large and active community of users and developers who contribute to the platform, providing support, resources, and new features.
5. Good for SEO: Drupal has built-in support for search engine optimization (SEO) and is known for being a good choice for websites that want to rank well in search engine results.
6. Accessibility: Drupal is designed with accessibility in mind, and includes features that make it easier for users with disabilities to access and use the platform.
7. Multilingual support: Drupal provides native support for multiple languages, making it a good choice for websites that need to serve a global audience.

Cons:

1. Steep learning curve: Drupal has a complex administrative interface, which can be challenging for users without prior experience.
2. Performance issues: Drupal sites can be slow and resource-intensive, especially on shared hosting environments.
3. Limited design options: Drupal's theme system can be limiting, and customizing the appearance of a site often requires knowledge of HTML, CSS, and PHP.
4. Security vulnerabilities: Drupal has had a history of security vulnerabilities, and it is essential to keep the software up-to-date and to secure the site with modules and best practices.
5. High cost of customization: Customizing a Drupal site can be expensive, as it often requires specialized knowledge and programming skills.
6. Limited mobile support: Drupal's core mobile support is limited, and creating a mobile-friendly site can require additional work and investment.

Shopify

Shopify is another content management system (CMS) that is especially use to create online store. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Shopify:

Pros:

1. User-friendly interface: Shopify has a user-friendly interface that makes it easy for individuals and small businesses to set up an online store without prior web design experience.
2. Customizable themes: Shopify offers a range of customizable themes that can be easily modified to suit the needs of your business.

3. Secure platform: Shopify is a secure platform that provides a secure checkout process and automatically handles software updates and security patches.
4. Payment options: Shopify integrates with a wide range of payment gateways, making it easy for you to accept credit card payments and other forms of payment from customers.
5. App store: Shopify's app store provides access to a wide range of third-party apps and plugins that can be used to add new functionality to your online store.
6. Marketing tools: Shopify includes a range of built-in marketing tools that can be used to promote your products, such as email marketing and SEO optimization.

Cons:

1. Limited customization options: While Shopify's themes are customizable to an extent, they are limited compared to other e-commerce platforms, and customizing your site may require the help of a developer.
2. Transaction fees: Shopify charges transaction fees on each sale made through their platform, which can add up over time and reduce your profits.
3. Monthly subscription costs: Shopify requires a monthly subscription fee to use their platform, which can be a significant cost for small businesses.
4. App costs: Some of the third-party apps and plugins available in the Shopify app store come with a cost, which can add up over time.
5. Limited control over data: Shopify stores your data on their servers, which means that you have limited control over your customer data and order history.
6. Dependence on Shopify: Using Shopify requires that you become dependent on their platform and its features, which can be problematic if Shopify experiences downtime or changes its policies in the future.

Magento

Magento is another powerful CMS which offers features such as catalog management, search engine optimization, and a robust checkout process. It is used by small, medium, and large businesses to create and manage their online stores. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Magento:

Pros:

1. Open-source: Magento is an open-source platform, making it an affordable option for many businesses.
2. Scalability: Magento can accommodate a large amount of products and customers, making it a good choice for businesses that expect to grow.
3. Customization: Magento offers a large number of customization options, allowing businesses to create a unique online store that fits their specific needs.
4. Search Engine Optimization: Magento includes a number of built-in SEO features, making it easier for businesses to improve their visibility in search engine results.
5. Large Community: Magento has a large community of users and developers, making it easier for businesses to find help and support when needed.

Cons:

1. Complexity: Magento can be complex to set up and use, especially for businesses without technical expertise.
2. Slow performance: Magento can be slow, especially on shared hosting, which can negatively impact the user experience.
3. Resource-intensive: Magento requires a lot of system resources, including memory and processing power, which can be costly for businesses.

4. Limited integration options: Magento can be difficult to integrate with other systems, such as payment gateways and shipping carriers.
5. Poor mobile experience: Magento's default responsive design is not optimized for mobile devices, which can negatively impact the user experience.

Wix

Wix is a cloud-based web development platform that allows users to create and maintain websites without the need for coding knowledge. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Wix:

Pros:

1. User-friendly interface: Wix has a drag-and-drop interface that makes it easy for users to create and manage their websites, even without coding knowledge.
2. Wide range of templates: Wix provides a variety of templates across different industries, making it easy for users to find one that suits their needs.
3. Affordable pricing: Wix offers a range of pricing plans, including free options, making it accessible for small businesses and individuals.
4. Built-in features: Wix provides a range of built-in features, including e-commerce tools, marketing tools, and more, which saves users the time and cost of integrating separate tools and services.
5. Reliable hosting: Wix provides reliable hosting services, ensuring that users' websites are always up and running.
6. Mobile optimization: Wix sites are optimized for mobile devices, ensuring that users' websites look great on any device.

Cons:

Though Wix is cloud based development platforms, however Wix has several limitations. Those are given below:

1. Limited design customization: While Wix provides a range of templates and design tools, users may find the design options limited compared to other web development platforms.
2. Dependence on Wix servers: Wix websites are hosted on Wix servers, which means users don't have full control over the technical aspects of their site.
3. SEO limitations: While Wix has improved its SEO features, users may still face limitations when it comes to optimizing their site for search engines.
4. Limited integrations: Wix has limited options for integrating third-party apps and tools, compared to other web development platforms.
5. Scalability issues: As a website grows, users may find that Wix has limitations in terms of scalability and may need to upgrade to a more powerful platform.

These limitations are important to consider when choosing Wix as a web development platform, as they may affect a user's ability to build and grow a successful online presence.

SquareSpace

Squarespace is a website building and hosting platform that allows users to create and maintain professional-looking websites without the need for coding knowledge. It provides a range of templates, design tools, and features for building and customizing websites, including e-commerce tools, marketing tools, and more.. Here are some of the pros and cons of using Squarespace:

Pros:

1. User-friendly interface: Squarespace provides a drag-and-drop interface that makes it easy for users to create and manage their websites, even without coding knowledge.
2. Professional templates: Squarespace provides a range of high-quality, professional-looking templates that are easy to customize to suit a user's needs.
3. E-commerce tools: Squarespace includes robust e-commerce tools, making it easy for users to sell products and services directly from their website.
4. Marketing tools: Squarespace includes built-in marketing tools, such as email campaigns and analytics, to help users reach and engage with their target audience.
5. Reliable hosting: Squarespace provides reliable hosting services, ensuring that users' websites are always up and running.

Cons:

1. Limited customization: While Squarespace provides a range of templates and design tools, users may find the design options limited compared to other web development platforms.
2. Higher cost: Squarespace is more expensive than some other website builders, which may make it less accessible for small businesses and individuals on a tight budget.
3. SEO limitations: While Squarespace has improved its SEO features, users may still face limitations when it comes to optimizing their site for search engines.
4. Limited integrations: Squarespace has limited options for integrating third-party apps and tools, compared to other web development platforms.
5. Dependence on Squarespace servers: Squarespace websites are hosted on Squarespace servers, which means users don't have full control over the technical aspects of their site.

Now, as we have mentioned pros and cons of several popular CMSs, now we will go to mention why you should pick WordPress among them (later I will practically show you how to using DIVI with WordPress, which will increase your interest to skyrocket. For now let us stick to the theory part).

Advantages of WordPress over other CMS

1. Open-source and free: WordPress is a platform that is both open-source and cost-free, making it available to a variety of users.
2. Customization options: Because WordPress has a sizable and vibrant developer community, users can choose from a wide variety of themes and plugins to personalize their website.
3. SEO-friendly: WordPress was created with SEO in mind and includes tools like permalinks that can be customized, built-in tags, and the option to add meta descriptions and tags.
4. Mobile-responsive: It is said that, WordPress sites are optimized for mobile devices, ensuring that users' websites look great on any device.
5. User-friendly: Even without any coding experience, users can easily construct and manage their websites with WordPress thanks to its user-friendly interface. Although I will actually demonstrate how to use CSS to manage your front end with ease.
6. Scalability: WordPress is highly scalable, meaning that users can easily add new features and functionality as their website grows.
7. Large community support: WordPress has a large and active community of users, meaning that users have access to a wealth of knowledge and resources, including support forums and tutorials.

WordPress is a well-liked option for small businesses, bloggers, and individuals searching for a flexible, scalable, and adaptable CMS for their website because of these benefits..

Chapter 2

Setting up system (Installation & Configuration)

Now that we have a fundamental grasp of WordPress and CMS, we can go on to conducting an actual experiment. We must first be aware of three things.

Programming Language

What is programming language? A formal language with a set of instructions that can generate numerous outputs is referred to as a programming language. A computer can carry out these instructions to carry out particular activities including doing calculations, making judgments depending on circumstances, and altering data. Programming languages come in a wide variety, each having its own syntax, structure, set of functions, and libraries. Programming languages like Python, Java, C++, JavaScript, Ruby, PHP, and others are among the most popular. The choice of programming language for a particular work or project depends on a number of variables, including the assignment's requirements, the developers' skill levels, and the tools and libraries readily available.

Which programming language has been used to write WordPress? WordPress is primarily written in the PHP programming language, a server-side scripting language. Additionally, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript are also used for designing and implementing the front-end functionality of a WordPress website. As PHP is the server-side scripting language, so when a user requests a web page that contains PHP code, the code is executed on the server, and the resulting HTML is then sent to the user's web browser.

Database

The second thing is database.

What is database? A database is a collection of organized data stored and accessed electronically. It allows for storage, retrieval, and manipulation of data in a structured way.

Which database WordPress use to store it's data? WordPress use MySQL as the default database. It stores all the content, posts, pages, comments, settings, and other information used by the WordPress website. When installing WordPress, the database name, username, and password can be specified, but the default database name is usually "WordPress" or "wp_[something]".

Web Server

What is web server? A computer system that provides web pages to customers online is called a web server. Clients (often web browsers) send requests to it for web resources (such as HTML documents, photos, videos, etc.), and it responds by sending the desired materials back to the clients.

A client submits a URL-based request to the web server when requesting a web page. After obtaining the requested resources, the web server returns them to the client as an HTTP response. The web server will run the scripts and send the resultant HTML to the client if the requested resource includes dynamic content produced by a server-side scripting language, like PHP.

Web servers play a critical role in hosting and delivering web content and applications over the internet. Some of the most popular web servers include Apache HTTP Server, Microsoft IIS, and Nginx.

Which web server we use to run WordPress? WordPress can run on several different web servers, including Apache and Nginx. However,

Apache HTTP Server is the most commonly used web server for hosting WordPress websites. It is a robust and feature-rich web server that supports a wide range of features and technologies, including PHP, mod_rewrite (for creating SEO-friendly URLs), and .htaccess files (for customizing website behavior).

Apache HTTP Server is an open-source software that runs on many different operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and macOS. It is a well-liked option for hosting WordPress websites because of its stability, security, and scalability. When deploying a web server stack, such as LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP) or WAMP (Windows, Apache, MySQL, and PHP), Apache is frequently installed and configured by default, making it simple to get started with hosting WordPress.

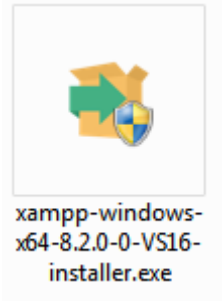
Setting up WordPress in your desktop/laptop

As we have got the idea about PHP (the scripting language which primarily use to run WordPress), Database and Web Server, the next thing is to setting up the development environment in your local system (desktop/laptop). To so this we will first install XAMPP. Without giving so much detail, I'm just going to give you the basic idea of XAMPP. Well, XAMPP is an open-source software package that provides a complete web server environment for dynamic web applications. It includes Apache HTTP Server, MariaDB database, and scripting languages like PHP and Perl. XAMPP is designed to make it easy for developers to create and test web applications on their local machines, without the need for an internet connection (means it is not necessary to have internet connection to learn or doing WordPress project in local host). Moreover, as it is cross platform server stack, therefore you can install it in your Windows or Linux or Mac system.

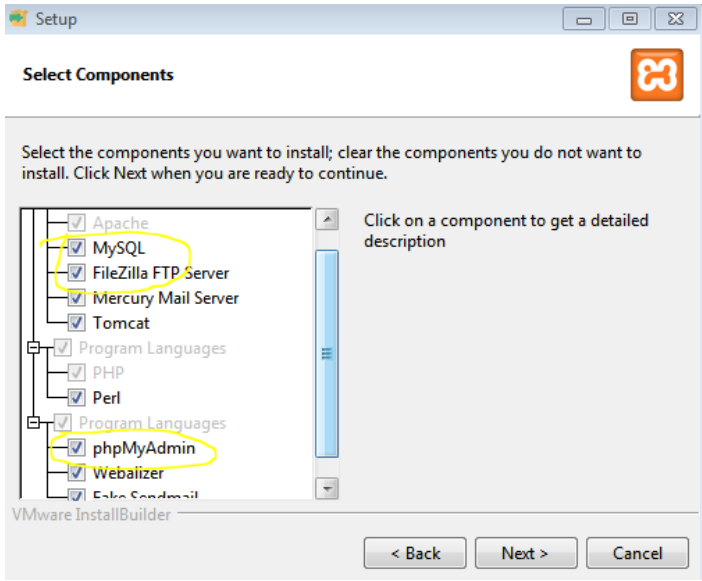
Installing and configuring XAMPP in local system

First go to the **https://www.apachefriends.org/** , in the home page you should see the following thing -

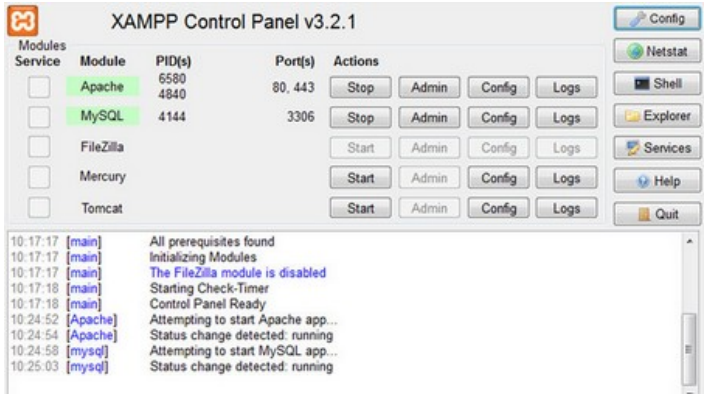
You can see there are XAMPP available for Windows, Linux and OS X.



After downloading the package you just need to click on it and it start installing.



Make sure if MySQL, FileZilla FTP Server and phpMyAdmin is selected.



Once it is installed, the XAMPP icon will be visible on the right side of the start menu. To start Apache and MySQL, just click on the "Start" button on the control panel. If you see a Windows firewall notification, then just click on the "Allow Access" button for both applications to run on your system.

Once it is done, open your browser (I prefer Mozilla Firefox over any other browser, but you can open it in Chrome too) and paste **http://localhost/index.php** or **http://localhost** in the address tab. If you are able to see the default page for XAMPP, you have successfully installed your XAMPP server.

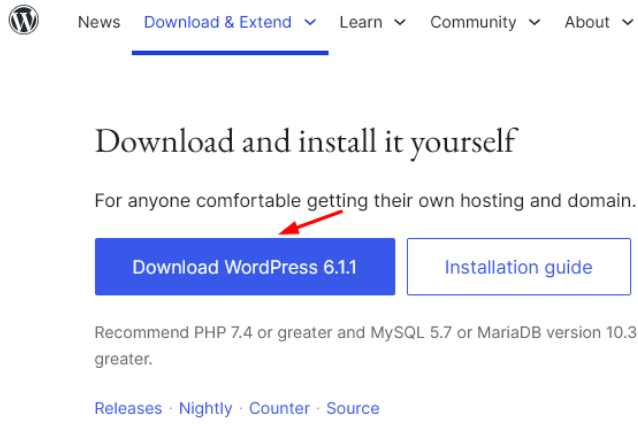
P.S: Throughout my tutorial, I will use Mozilla Firefox as the web browser.

Assume you have successfully installed XAMPP. Now, locate /xampp/htdocs/ inside your computer directory (remember where you have installed the XAMPP package). Now the question is: what is htdocs, and what is its core function? Correct?

Well, the answer is that "htdocs" is a directory within the XAMPP installation, typically located at " **C:\xampp\htdocs**" on Windows and "**/opt/lampp/htdocs**" on Linux. It is the document root directory for the Apache HTTP Server and the default location for storing web files (HTML, PHP, CSS, etc.) for serving on a local web server using XAMPP. When you access "**http://localhost**" in your web browser, the web server looks for files in the htdocs directory to serve as the response.

Now, create a folder with your name inside htdocs. Suppose your name is Anna; create a folder with the name "Anna". So, the directory location will be **C:\xampp\htdocs\anna** (on windows) or **/opt/lampp/htdocs/anna** (on linux).

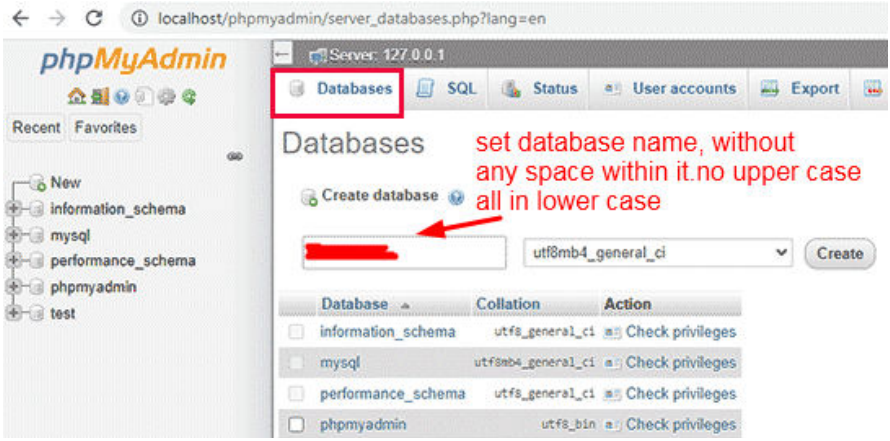
Now go to **https://WordPress.org/download/** website and click on the "**Download WordPress**" button.



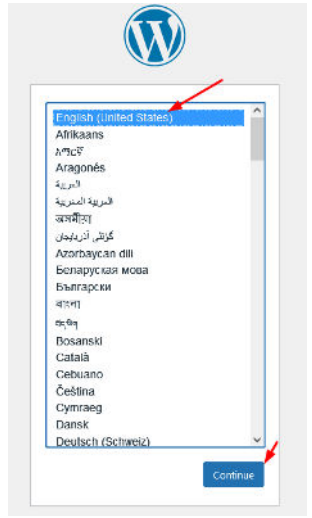
Once you have downloaded it, place it under the directory you have created under your name. You could see the WordPress files in the directory.

Now, open the MySQL admin from the XAMPP control panel and click on the admin. It will open the PhpMyAdmin dashboard, from where you should create the database (remember, the database is the storage of your content). In order to install WordPress, you must create the database. On the left-hand side, you can see the default database name and schema. Don't do anything with those. Let's create a new database, which we will use for our project.

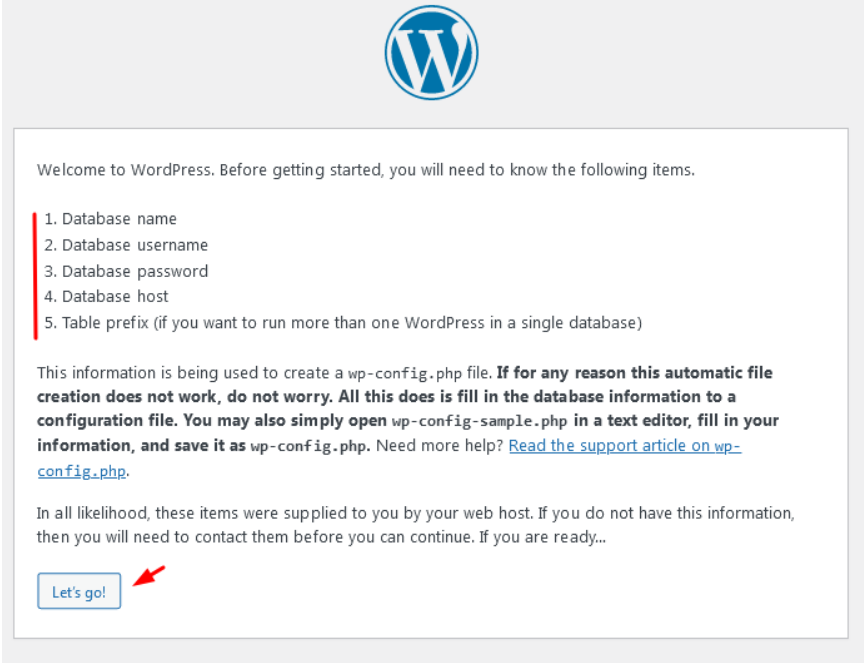
Now come to the body part of the phpMyAdmin dashboard. On the top left side, see the Database tab. Just click on it and provide a name for your new database. After that, click on the '**Create**' button to continue.



Now that you have created the database, it is time to run the WordPress installation process. Open your browser and type "**https://localhost/anna/**", which you have created. You will open the **setup-config.php** file, which will come with the number of different languages that you want to proceed with. I will choose English (United States) for ease.



Then click to continue. You should now see this page (see below).



Check. They say that in order to run WordPress, you need to have the database name, user, password, and host.

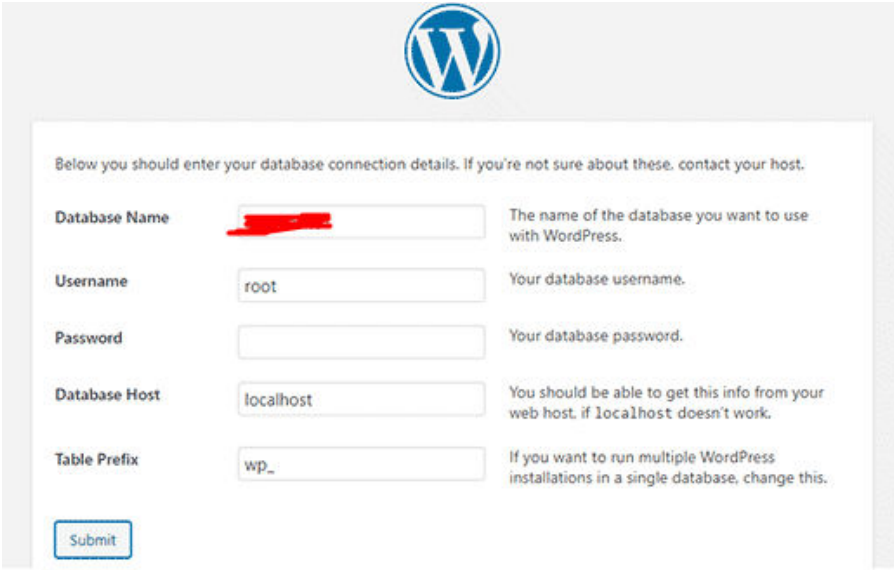
In our case, the DB name will be the name you gave at the time of creating the DB.

User name = It will be root (for desktop or standalone systems, when I show you in the web server, it will be changed with the DB name).

Password = leave this field blank

Host = "**localhost**". Keep the table prefix to default (wp_).

Now hit the "**Let's go!**" button and give the above info.



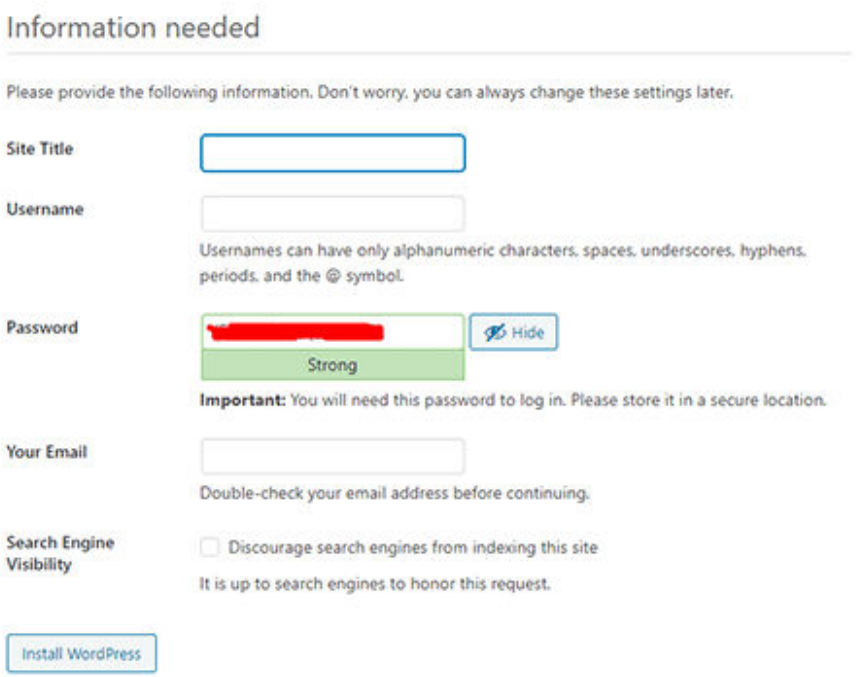
If you are on Windows or Linux, WordPress will now store these settings in your WordPress configuration file called wp-config.php.

If you are on a Mac PC, then it will show you the contents of the file and ask you to create it.

You will need to create this file in your website's root folder. After creating the file, paste the text you copied earlier inside it. Next, you need to save the file and return to the WordPress installer to continue.

In the next step, WordPress will ask you to provide information about your website. First, enter the title you want to use for this site.

After that, you need to enter a username, password, and email address for your admin account.



Admin is the crucial part of the website. From the admin dashboard, you could manage the site. Give the admin a name that is relatable to your site. You can also use "**admin**" as the admin user name. Once you're done, click on the Install WordPress button. It will immediately start installing WordPress.

You can login to the admin dashboard by using this url: **https://localhost/anna/admin** or **https://localhost/anna/wp-admin.php** for your site.

Setting up WordPress in your web host

We have now covered the installation of XAMPP and WordPress on your local PC. We will now discuss installing WordPress on the web host, which does not involve setting up XAMPP, since the server is already configured there. A website published on a web host can be viewed by regular users (public users), whereas a website maintained locally cannot be viewed or accessed by anybody. This is the main distinction between a local web server and a web host.

Prerequisite: To build a website in your web host, first select a hosting package. There are various providers of web hosting services, and they all have different packages. GoDaddy, HostGator, NameCheap, Inmotion, and Hostinger are a few of the well-known companies that offer web hosting services. Simply look for a plan that suits you and select it. I advise choosing shared hosting for testing purposes; later, you may upgrade to a VPS or a Dedicated Server.

Installing and configuring WordPress in web host

I believe you have now found a web host. Once you get the web host, go to the cPanel. Under cPanel, you can see the File Manager.