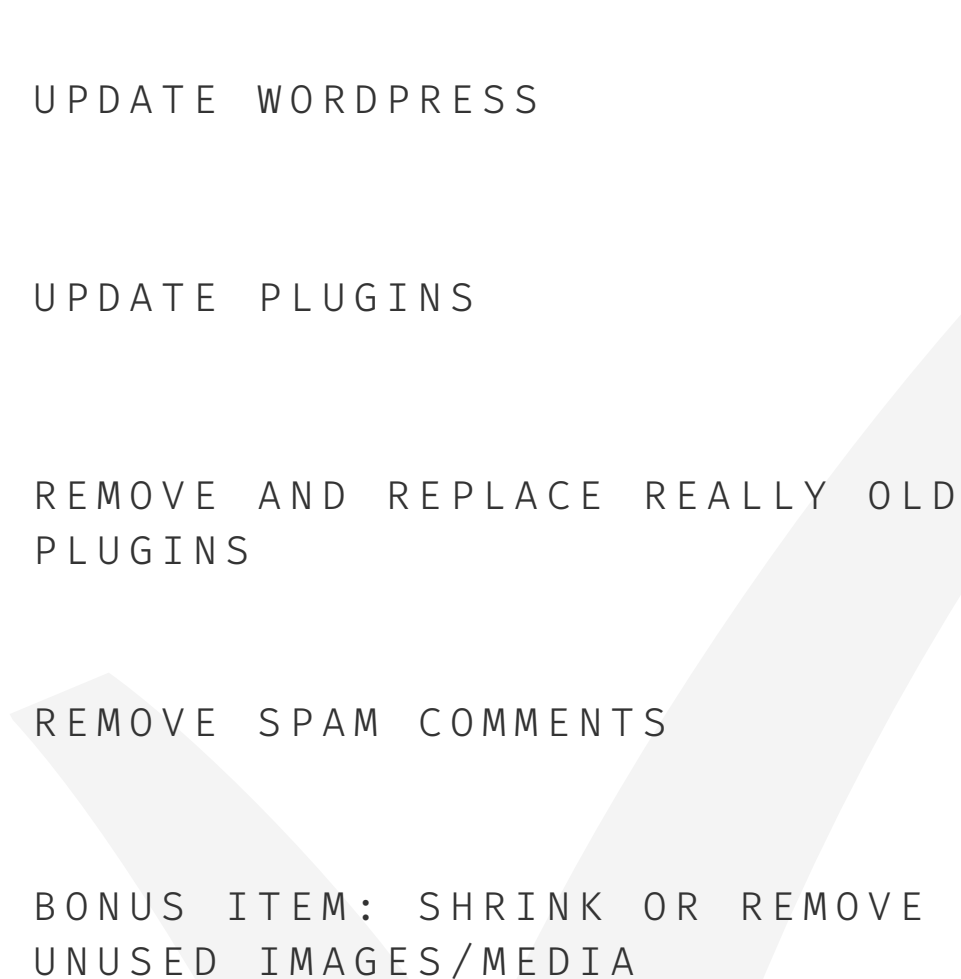# CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR WORDPRESS SITE

CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR WORDPRESS SITE

- BACK IT UP

- UPDATE WORDPRESS

- UPDATE PLUGINS

- REMOVE AND REPLACE REALLY OLD PLUGINS

- REMOVE SPAM COMMENTS

- BONUS ITEM: SHRINK OR REMOVE UNUSED IMAGES/MEDIA

✓ BACK UP THE SITE

Your best defense against a catastrophic issue is to have the site safely backed up. Sometimes your hosting may do this for you. Sometimes you need to do it yourself. Sometimes you may want both a hosting backup and your own backup. If you are doing your own backup, using something like Updraft, you need to back up several elements including the database, plugins, uploads and themes.

Next scheduled backups:

Files:	Database:	
Mon, April 3, 2023 18:55	Mon, April 3, 2023 18:55	**Backup Now**
Time now: Mon, April 3, 2023 10:54		Add changed files (incremental backup) ...

✓ UPDATE WORDPRESS

WordPress is the underlying software that runs your site. Sort of like the operating system on your phone or computer. It is a bunch of files that run in the background, and that you almost never have to touch or edit, other than to hit 'update.' Once again, some hosts will update for you, some will not. As with your phone and computer, automatically updating is not always the best idea especially on an older site.

Current version: 6.1.1

Last checked on April 3, 2023 at 9:51 am GMT-0500. Check again.

This site will not receive automatic updates for new versions of WordPress.

An updated version of WordPress is available.

Important: Before updating, please back up your database and files. For h

You can update from WordPress 6.1.1 to WordPress 6.2 manually:

Update to version 6.2

While your site is being updated, it will be in maintenance mode. As soon as

✔ UPDATE PLUGINS

Assuming your current plugins are within a version or two of newest, regular plugin updates are an easy way to keep your site safe and running smoothly. My rule of thumb is, anything that's close in version number is a safe update to make. Anything more than a few versions, I'd make an extra backup first before updating the plugin. The plugin page will show you which version is installed (Version 1.4 below), as well as the version number of the update (version 1.4.2 below). Some plugins have new updates all the time. Some have updates only when there's a security patch or a new WordPress version. Some never update, which brings us to the next item..

A small plugin for running a search/replac database.

Version 1.4 | By Delicious Brains | View de

. View version 1.4.2 details or update now.

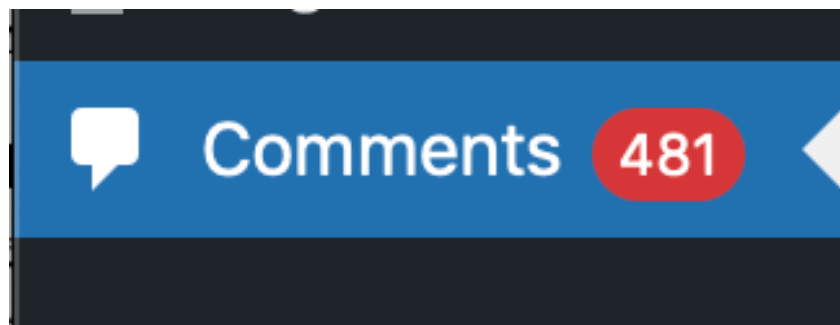## ✔ REMOVE OR REPLACE REALLY OLD PLUGINS.

Sometimes plugins get abandoned. Each plugin is made and maintained by someone, whether it's an individual or a business. And sometimes for whatever reason, they stop being supported. When that happens, you can sometimes get this message below. If you see that message, it's best to find a replacement and remove the unsupported plugin.

Changelog   Installation

Warning: This plugin **has not been tested** with your current version of WordPress.
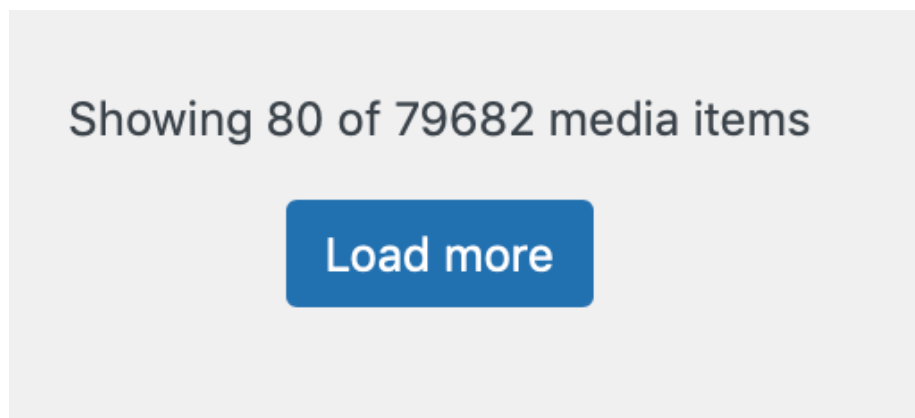
✔ REMOVE SPAM COMMENTS

iIf you allow comments on your site, you will get spam. The most I've seen on one site is I believe 47,000 or so. And sometimes, in the middle of the 47,000 comments, there are 3 that you want to keep, that are from actual people. So it can be a process getting that cleaned out. It's a lot like junk mail – if you let it pile up, you end up with a house full of credit card offers that need to get shredded, and it's a much bigger project doing that all at once vs when they arrive. So if you have a bunch of spam comments, delete them when you see them and don't let them pile up. They take up room in the database and it's a bigger problem the longer you wait. And before you get it cleaned up, install Akismet to prevent more spam going forward.

✔ BONUS ITEM: SHRINK OR REMOVE UNUSED IMAGES/MEDIA

Check your media library for giant images or extra clutter! Just like clearing off your desktop (IRL or on your computer) the more files you have in the media library,the harder it can be to find them. And if you have really big images, you can shrink those and save both disk space and page loading time.

FAQ'S

01 WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP MY WORDPRESS SITE UPDATED?

Keeping your WordPress site updated is crucial because it helps ensure smooth functioning. Regular updates improve security, fix bugs, and enhance performance, resulting in a better user experience for visitors

02 WHAT SHOULD I BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHEN UPDATING MY WORDPRESS SITE?

When updating your WordPress site, you need to be careful about technology mismatches. For example, using new versions of WordPress with outdated plugins or vice versa can lead to compatibility issues. It's similar to using the latest phone operating system on an older model phone, which can cause strange behavior or glitches.

03 SHOULD I UPDATE PLUGINS EVEN IF MY SITE IS WORKING?

If your site is functioning properly, it is generally advisable to exercise caution when updating plugins. While some plugins may issue warnings before updating, others can potentially break your site if not compatible with your current setup.

04 HOW CAN I SEEK ASSISTANCE OR ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT MY WORDPRESS SITE?

If you have any questions or concerns about the state of your WordPress site, we are here to help. Feel free to contact us today, and our team will be happy to assist you with any issues or inquiries you may have.

HOW TO REACH ME

Office Hours: M - F 9:00am - 5:00pm EST

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