

CA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BUILD YOUR OWN WEBSITE WITH WORDPRESS

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SESSION
TWO

WORDPRESS WIDGETS & PLUGINS

- The key difference between widgets and plugins
- How to find access and install plugins
- Recommended plugins for popular website features
- How to navigate plugin settings pages

WIDGETS & PLUGINS

- ▶ A plugin is a script that extends the functionality of WordPress
- ▶ Widgets are objects that can be dragged into a ‘widgetised’ area

FINDING A PLUGIN

- Recommended plugins can be found on the WordPress repository
- Plugins on the repository are free albeit generally have limitations
- Premium plugins can be purchased/downloaded from a developers site

CHOOSING A PLUGIN

- Choose a plugin that has good ratings and documentation
- Check compatibility and number of downloads
- Research and experiment

INSTALLING A PLUGIN

- ▶ A plugin can be installed via the WordPress dashboard either directly off the repository or by uploading a copy to your server

WORKING WITH PLUGINS

- ▶ Once installed many plugins have their own menu or otherwise have options under the settings tab inside the WordPress dashboard
- ▶ Many plugins use shortcodes whilst some may require basic coding skills

RECOMMENDED PLUGINS

- Ultimate Responsive Slider
- Royal Slider*
- Fancybox for WordPress
- WP Google Fonts
- Yoast SEO
- Akismet
- WP Rollback & WP Downgrade
- WordFence
- Backup Buddy*
- Ninja Forms
- Gravity Forms*
- WooCommerce
- Coming Soon Page
- Duplicate Posts

ACTIVITY

KEY OBJECTIVES

Install a series of plugins to extend on the capabilities of a WordPress blog running on your own server

After completing tasks experiment/install any other plugins of your choice.

TASKS

1. Fancybox for WordPress plugin
 - Insert an image gallery on a new page
 - Link the thumbnails to “Media File”
 - Publish page and preview
 - Go to plugins, search and install “Fancybox”
 - Activate the plugin and preview the page again
2. WP Google Fonts plugin
 - Insert a heading and a paragraph on a new post
 - Publish the post and preview
 - Go to plugins, search and install “Google Fonts”
 - Activate the plugin and install fonts
 - Return to post, highlight font and assign
 - Update the post and preview