



Web Design and Publishing

Dale Blasingame

Texas State University

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

WordPress Plugins

You add plugins on WordPress by going to 'Plugins' > 'Add New.' There, you can search by topic or name. There are thousands of plugins—you just have to try them out, figure out how they work, and see if you like them. Some plugins include widgets that you must manually add to your site. To do so, go to 'Appearance' > 'Widgets,' then click and drag the widgets to where you want them to be displayed. Here are a few plugins you can try:

Captcha – *Captcha* helps you protect your site. The plugin requires you to prove that you are a human and not a computer by having you answer a simple math problem before you can log in.

Twitter Widget – There are many Twitter plugins out there—all are easy to install and activate. One Twitter widget plugin is *Twitter Timeline*. If your theme does not support the *Twitter Timeline* plugin, you can easily insert your timeline or a keyword/hashtag widget manually by embedding your code into a Text widget. (The Text widget is found on WordPress under 'Appearance' > 'Widgets.' Click and drag the Text widget to where you want it to be displayed and paste the embed code into the box.) To create your twitter widget:

- Log on to your Twitter account and go to 'Settings' > 'Widgets' > 'Create New.'
- To create a widget for your Twitter timeline, fill out the fields in the 'User timeline' tab.
- To create a widget for a specific hashtag, fill out the fields in the 'Search' tab.

Instructions for the plugin installation can be found here:

<http://en.support.wordpress.com/widgets/twitter-timeline-widget/#twitter-timeline-widget>.

Social Bookmarks – Many themes have their own social bookmarks already built in that you can customize by simply connecting them to your social media accounts. If your theme does not include social bookmarks or if you don't like the default social bookmarks provided by your theme, you can download an external social bookmark plugin.

There are lots of options for social bookmark plugins. You can download a plugin that lets you control/share/display all of your social media accounts, or you can download individual plugins for your different social media accounts. The plugin you should choose depends on how you want your site to look and how you would like the bookmarks and/or widgets displayed. Just search around and see which plugin is right for you.

All in one Favicon – You know the symbols next to the website titles in browser tabs? Those are called favicons, and you can easily add them to your site by using *All in one Favicon* or other favicon plugins.

Favicons can be .ico, .png, or .gif files, and the standard size for a favicon is 16x16 pixels. You should save your image file to your WordPress media library and get the permalink for the image. Once you have activated the *All in one Favicon* plugin, you just need to paste the permalink into the appropriate boxes.

NextGEN Gallery – This is the most popular photo gallery plugin on WordPress, and, in my opinion, it is also the most user-friendly gallery plugin. *NextGEN Gallery* lets you easily upload and manage your images and allows you to display them in either a gallery or a slideshow—your choice. Both options allow you to customize and control the size, style, timing, and more. *NextGEN Gallery* also lets you apply lightbox effects to your gallery or slideshow.

Slider – While some themes have featured content sliders already built in, others do not. *Slider* is one of many plugins that allow you to add a featured image slider to your website. This particular plugin provides you with shortcodes that you can use to add a slider right to your theme template or to a specific page or post.

WordPress SEO by Yoast – This plugin helps you write content that will improve the SEO of your site through keywords and metadata. The *WordPress SEO by Yoast* plugin is easy to use and holds your hand as it guides you through creating optimized content for your site.

Google Analytics by Yoast – You can easily track your site with the *Google Analytics by Yoast* plugin. This plugin requires a little work from you, but it is simple to set up:

- Delete any existing `gapp` or `google-analytics-for-WordPress` folder from the `/wp-content/plugins/` directory.
- Upload `google-analytics-for-WordPress` folder to the `/wp-content/plugins/` directory.
- Activate the plugin through the 'Plugins' menu in WordPress.
- Go to the options panel under the 'Settings' menu and add your analytics account number and set the settings you want.