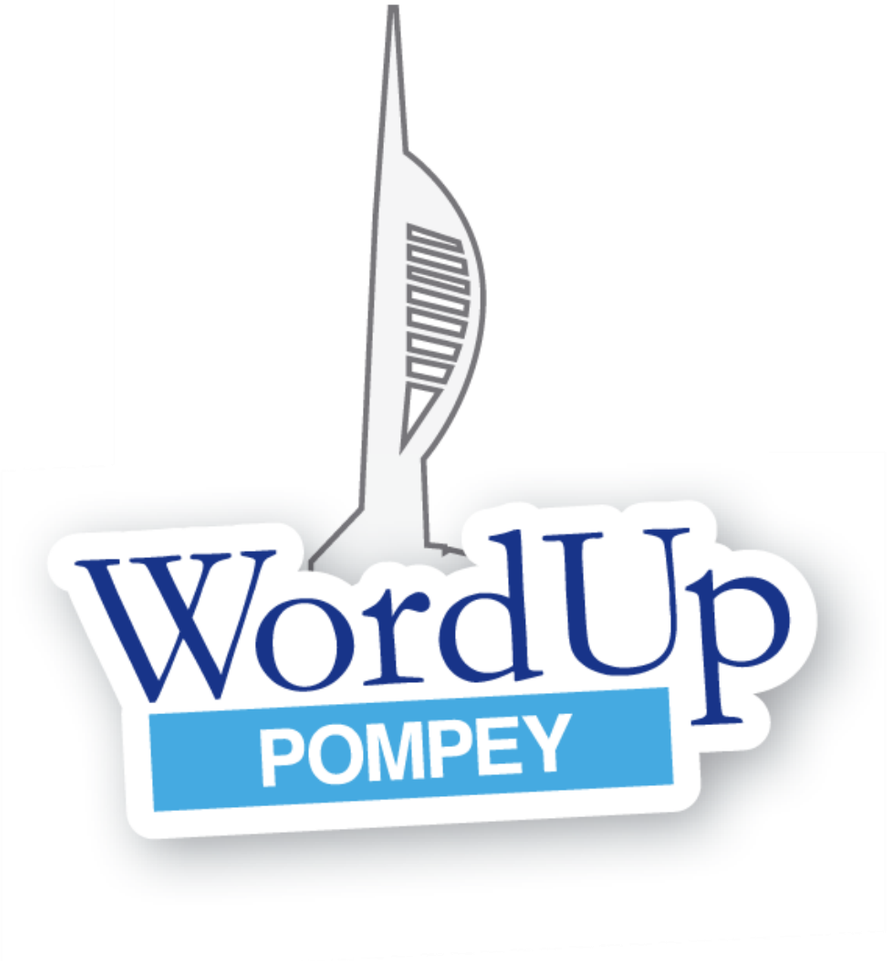


Welcome to WordUp Pompey!
20th November 2024

@wppompey

#WPPompey
#OnlineWPMeetup

UK Slack: #meetup-portsmouth

https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/

/about-wordpress-meetups/code-of-conduct/

Agenda

19:00 - Connect to Zoom.
19:10 - Organiser's introduction
19:15 - Security Best Practices
20:15 - Topic for the next meetup
20:20 - Wrap-up
20:30 - Close – can we stick to 1.5 hours?

Sponsors

Venue sponsor

redIT
@reditcouk

Scott McKeown says

I'll offer a 25% discount on Web Hosting or Virtual Servers to WordUp Pompey! members entering ‘wordup’ at checkout

(that's for life by the way, not once)

Pizza / refreshment sponsor

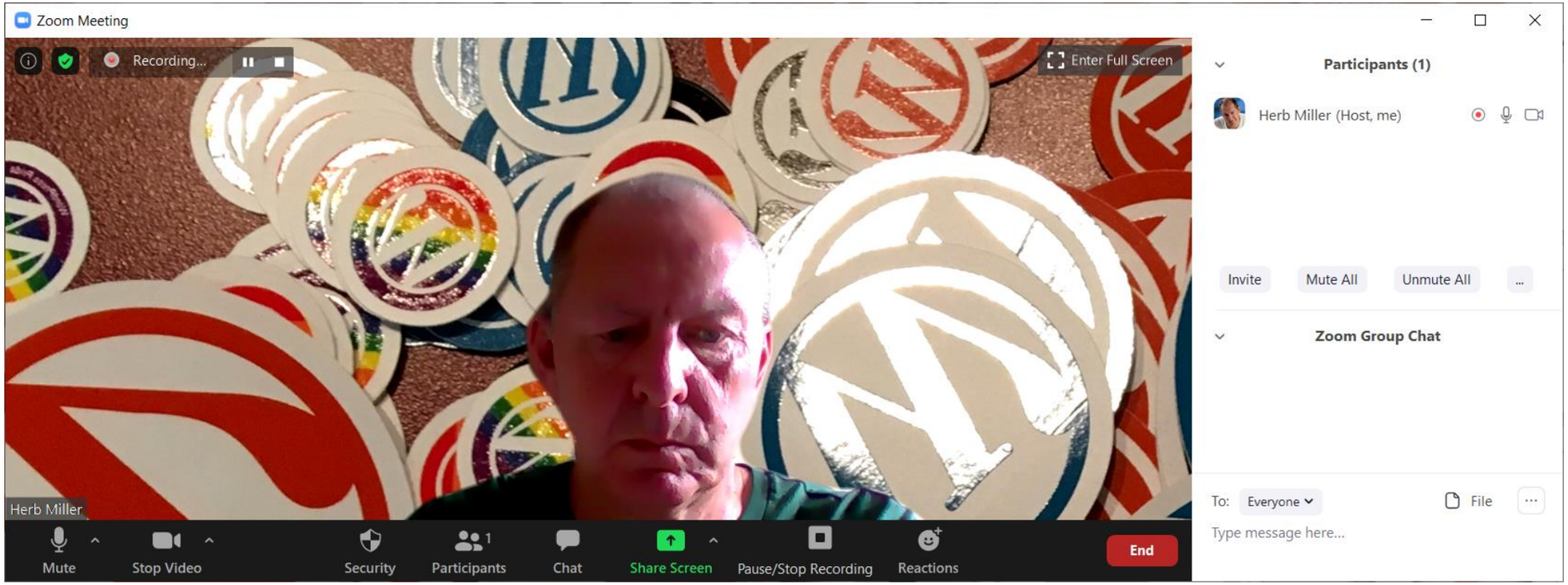
34SP
@34sp

Manchester, UK based website hosting.

Free 3 month trial of WordPress hosting.
Use code: WPPOMPEY

Zoom being recorded

If you do not want to appear in the recording you may turn off your video.
The meeting settings should *Hide non-video participants*.
Also consider muting your microphone and changing your name.



Note: Meetings which have been recorded are published, after some editing /cropping, on YouTube in the wppompey channel…
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNyGdMrd6sFkWjsSenxd8Hg
https://www.youtube.com/@wppompey

Security Best Practices

Some of the answers to this month's questions

In your opinion which of the following is the most important consideration when it comes to WordPress website security.

1.	Hosting	4
2.	Backup & Restore	2
3.	2FA	1
4.	Security plugins	6
5.	Other.	1
6.	All of the above	3

Discuss!?

They are all crucial parts of a healthy WP instance in my opinion.

All of them, but if i had to pick one then, backup and restore.. at least you can recover what you have lost unlike the other options. unless your hosting plan has backup and restore of course ☺

2) Backup & Restore as everything else can be recovered and repaired if you have backups? Could be naive view - and prevention might be #1!

I'd hope in this day and age that hosting platforms are secure using tried and tested methods. 2 factor only protects logins, not vulnerabilities. security plugins can spot vulnerabilities and modified files which is a must have but backups essential

Neither one item is the *most* important. IMHO, its the combination of each, but pressed for an answer then the hosting platform, integrated security measures which are led by best practice and innovative toolsets and integrations are attractive.

Firewall & keeping up to date

Question

Question:

- Do you have a backup of your website
- that you trust
- and that you can restore immediately
- if you find out that your site has been
  - Hacked
  - Broken by an update
  - Been compromised somehow
  - Gone missing

Answer:

YES… Good

NO… Then pay attention.

Bonus question.

And will you be able to determine how your site was compromised so that you can avoid it happening again?

My Answers to Question

Question.

- Do you have a backup of your website
- that you trust
- and that you can restore immediately
- if you find out that your site has been
  - Hacked
  - Broken by an update
  - Been compromised somehow
  - Gone missing

Answer:

YES… Good

NO… Then pay attention.

Bonus question.

And will you be able to determine how your site was compromised so that you can avoid it happening again?

- Yes – my hosting company keeps 7 days worth
- I hoped so
- Yes – I restored the backup from **1st Nov**
- My site had been
  - Compromised somehow

Note: On **2nd Nov** I was informed of a malicious file by my hosting company. They had taken steps to protect the site by removing permissions on the uploaded file.

- There had been an Unauthenticated Arbitrary File Upload.
- Which was due to a vulnerability in an out-of-date plugin
- For which the vulnerability was publicly reported on **30th Oct** in the Wordfence vulnerabilities database.
- The plugin had been fixed on **26th Oct**.
- There have been 2 updates since.

Topics

- Threats
- Hosting - what can they do for you?
- Backup / Restore
- Two Factor Authentication
- Security plugins – firewall and malware scanners
- Monitoring
- A to Z of security
- Top 20 tips from around the world

Threats

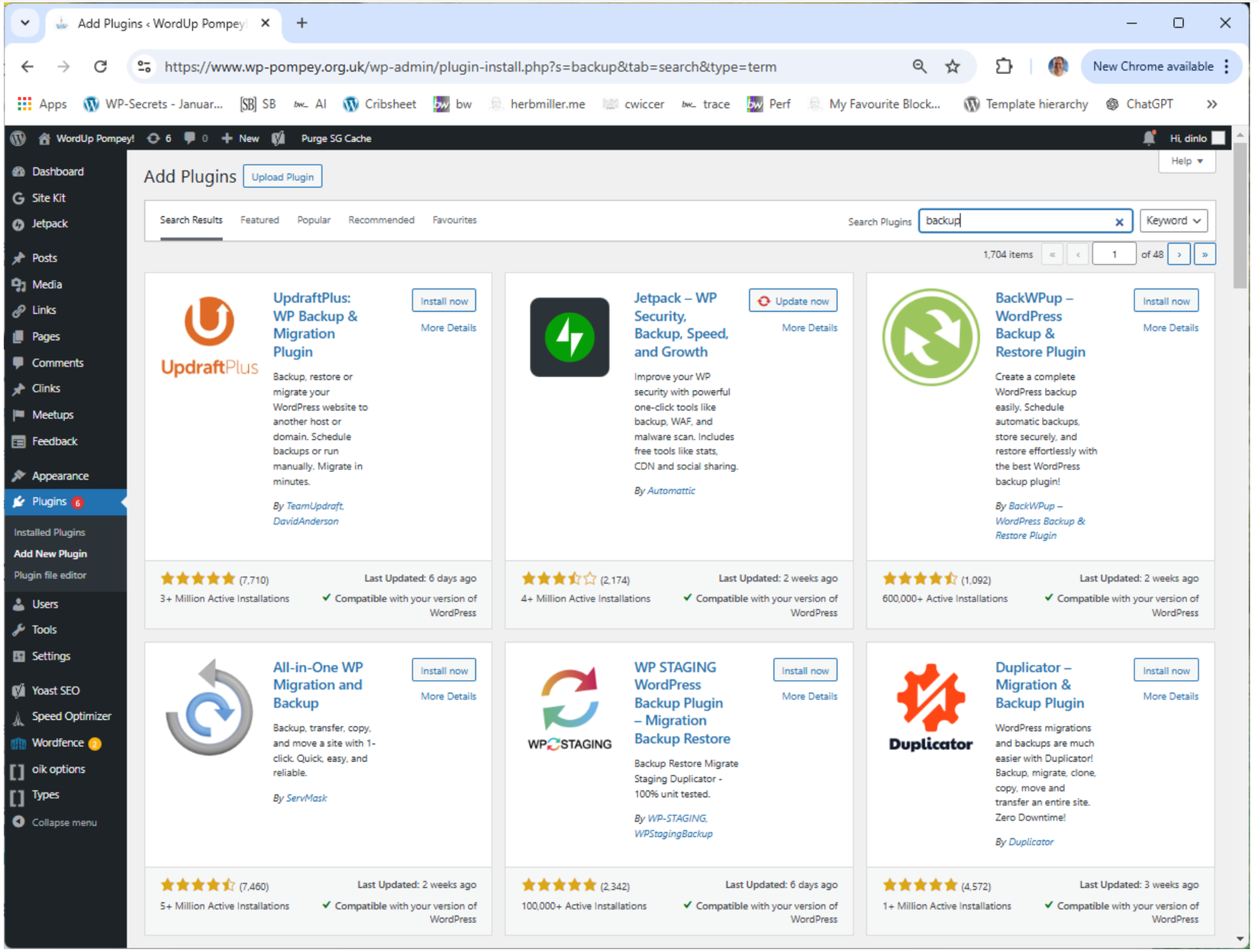
What are the biggest threats to website security?

- SQL Injection
- Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) 53%
- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) 20%
- Broken Authentication and Session Management 8%
- Insecure Direct Object References (IDOR)
- Remote Code Execution (RCE)
- File Upload Vulnerabilities
- Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks
- Misconfigured Security Headers
- Weak Password Policies: *Stolen / Easy*
- Outdated Software and Libraries: *nulled plugins*
- Social Engineering and Phishing: *Human errors*
- Other: eg *Hosting failure, Hacked websites*

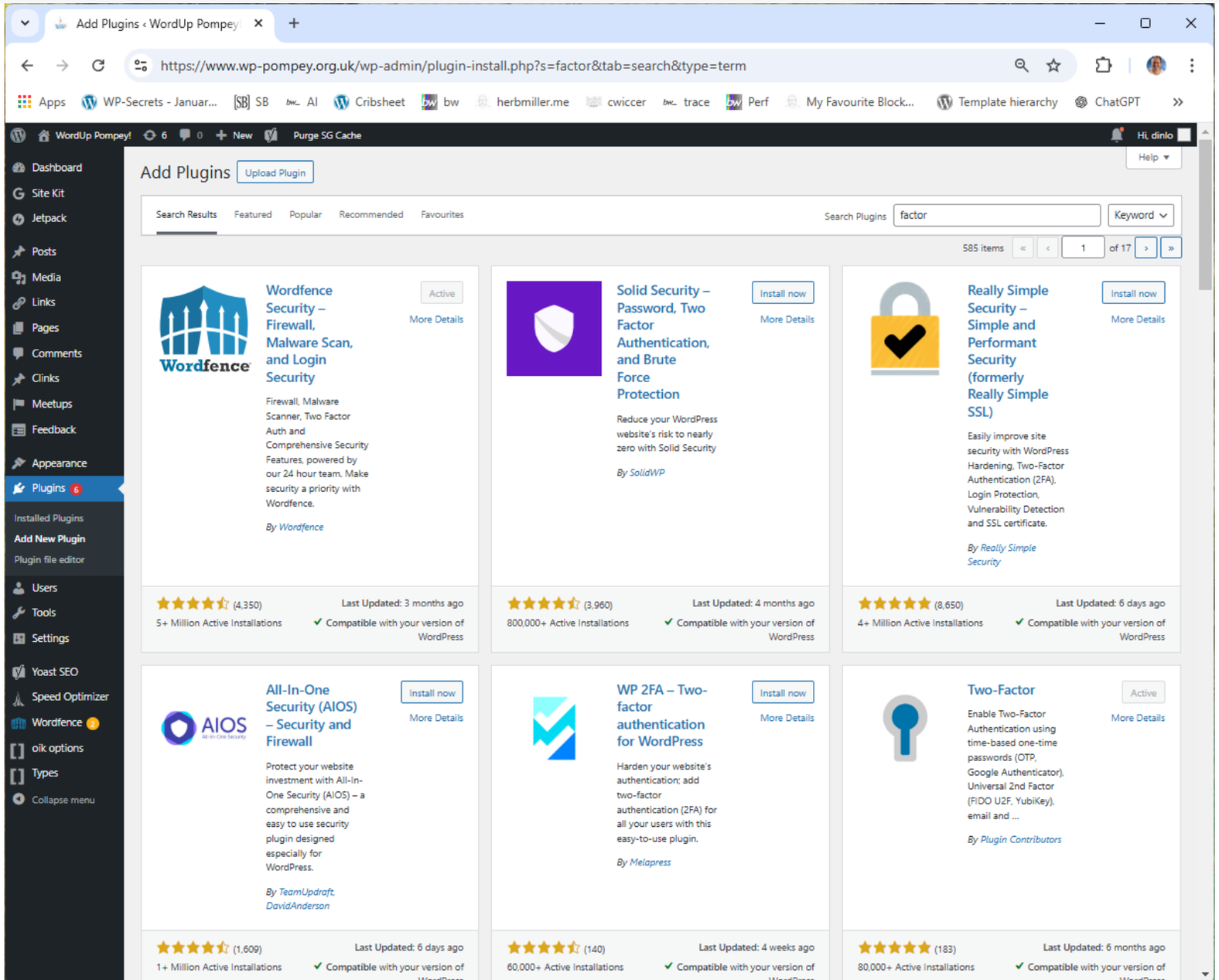
Hosting – What can they do for you?

Backup & Restore
Control Panel: cPanel, Plesk
Disk space
DNS
File permissions
Firewall: WAF
FTP
Git
GDPR policy
https
IP blocking
Let's Encrypt
Logs: access, error, PHP error
Malware scanner
Managed
Monitoring
One-Click install / update
Passwords or PassPhrases?
Performance
PHP versions
phpMyAdmin
SFTP
SSH
SSL
Softaculous
Staging
Support: 24/7 chat
Tutorials
WP-CLI

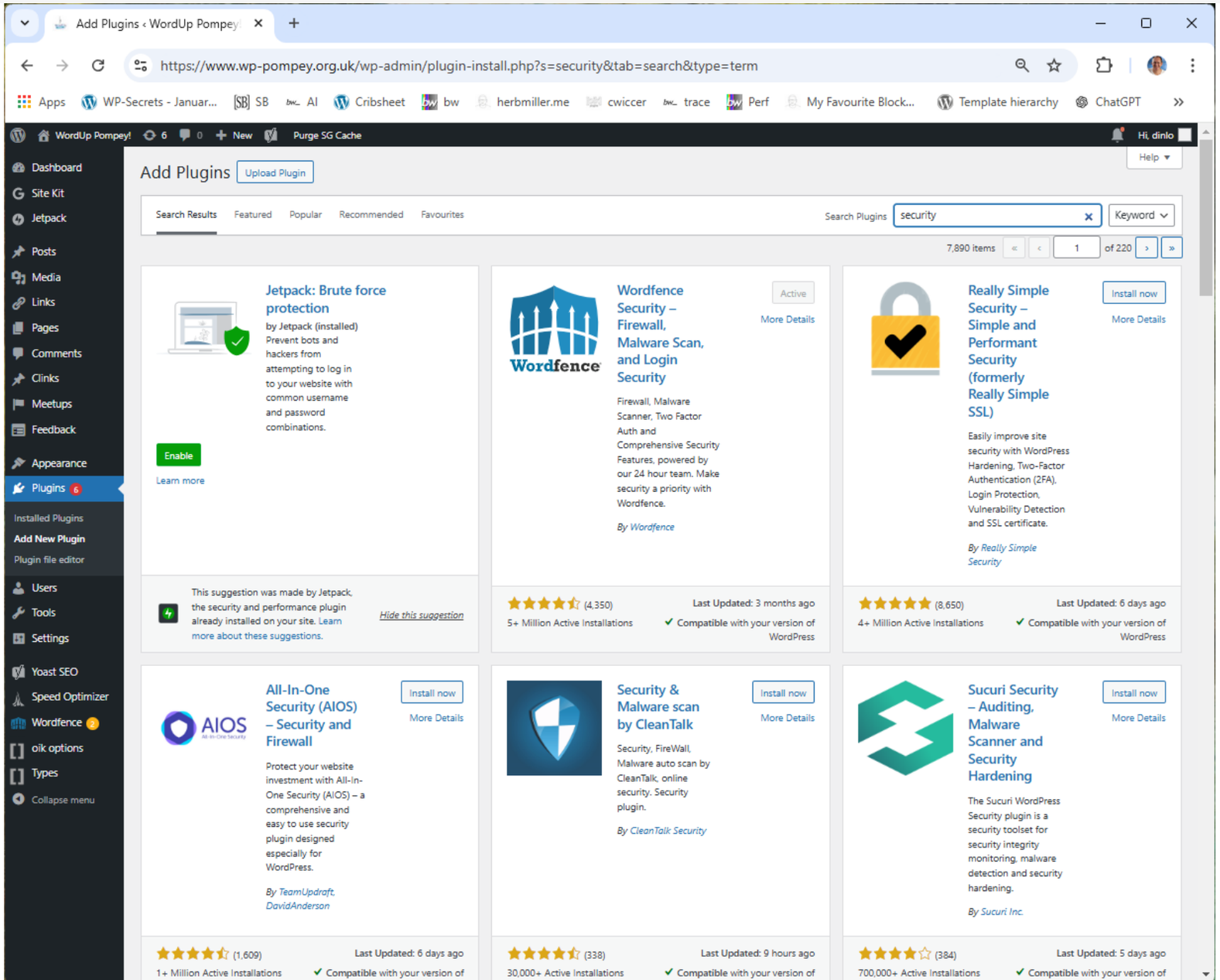
Backup / Restore



Two Factor Authentication



Security Plugins



Monitoring

Site availability

https://visualping.io	External
https://updown.io	External
https://jetpack.com/support/monitor/	External

User activity

Wordfence
https://en-gb.wordpress.org/plugins/user-activity-log/
https://www.wpbeginner.com/plugins/how-to-monitor-user-activity-in-wordpress-with-simple-history/

Top 20 tips from around the world

Topic	Tip	Importance?	WP-Pompey	Hostinger	WP-Begin	wpastra	SiteGround	Bluehost	Jetpack	Site Healtl
SSL	Install an SSL certificate for a secure data transfer	8	1	5	6	6	8	4	5	1
Backup	Create backups regularly	7	2	8	4	12	7	1	7	
Hosting	Migrate to a more secure web host	7	1	15	3	15	25	5	27	
Updates	Keep your site up to date	7		1	1	1	23	6	1	1
Users	Use secure admin login credentials	6		2	2	2	2	2	2	
Malware scan	Regularly scan your site for malware	5		13	17		24	7	9	
Unused	Remove unused WordPress themes and plugins	5		6		10		10	23	1
Obfuscation	Change the default WordPress database prefix	5		18	11		1	12	19	
Access	Manage file and folder permissions.	5		22	13		3	15	11	
Access	Use .htaccess to disable PHP file execution, protect the wp-config.php file, restrict directory b	5		17	8		4	16	12.14	
Logging	Disable the PHP error reporting feature	5		14			20	17	22	1
2FA	Enable two-factor authentication	5	3	7	10		14		4	
Users	Limit the number of failed login attempts	5		9	9	3	11		17	
Security	Install a WordPress security plugin: Web Application Firewall	5		7	5	7	12		6.8	
Themes	Use a trusted WordPress theme	4		4		8	18	8		
User capabilities	Disable file editing	4		16	7		5		13	
Users	Automatically log out idle users	4		11	15	5			18	
Nulled	Don't use nulled plugins or themes	3				9	18	9		
Users	Limit access to your site... Clean up users	3				4		13	24	
Obfuscation	Change your WordPress login page / admin URL	3		10			10		16	
XML RPC	Disable the XML-RPC feature	3		19	14		16			
Obfuscation	Hide your WordPress version	3		20			19		20	
Files	Delete unwanted files	2				11		11		
Database	Regularly clean	2				14		14		
CDN	Hide server address. Risk reduce of DDoS attack	2					6		26	
Access	Setup safelist and blocklist for the admin page - block / unblock IP addresses	2		3			13			
Headers	Use Security headers	2					15			1
CAPTCHA	Secure your webpages with CAPTCHA	2					26		10	
Users	Monitor user activity	2		12					25	
Access	Password protect wp-admin and login page	2			12				15	
Repair	Fix a hacked website	2			18		27			
Network	Connect using a secure network	1						18		
Local computer	Use Anti-virus / spyware scanner	1						19		
Emails	Conect to your email securely	1						20		
Login	Disable session suggestions	1					9			
Feeds	Disable RSS & Atom feeds	1					17			
Obfuscation	Delete readme.html	1					21			
Obfuscation	Hide Apache & PHP information	1					22			
Performance	Block hotlinking from other websites	1		21						
Users	Add security questions to login	1			16					
Files	Monitor changes	1				13				
Users	Strong passwords	1							3	
Forms	Block form and comment spam	1							10	
PHP	Keep your PHP version up to date	1							21	
Enterprise	Consider an enterprise security solution	1							28	
Auto-updates	Configure auto-updates for plugins and themes	1								1

A to Z of security

Authentication – Two Factor
Backup: 3, 2 formats, 1 there
Core
Classic Editor
CDN as DNS: CloudFlare
Debug
DISALLOW_FILE_MODS
Delete: unused plugin
Disaster Recovery Plan
Editor
Encryption
Firewall
File permissions
GDPR
Gutenberg
.htaccess

https:
http/2
Hosting
Insurance
IP Blocker
JavaScript
KeePass
LastPass
Limit logins
Lockdown uploads
Monitor
Nonce
OAuth
Privacy
Passwords / PassPhrases
Q clearance

REST
Settings
SSL: FORCE_SSL_LOGIN
Tracing / tracking
Updates – core, plugins, themes, child themes
Users
Vulnerabilities
Web Application Firewall
WP-CLI
WP_DEBUG
X-Frame-Options
XMLRPC
You're responsible!
zzz

https://www.siteground.com/wordpress-security-ebook

References / Further reading

Top 10 tips

- https://www.hostinger.com/tutorials/how-to-secure-wordpress
- https://wpastra.com/guides-and-tutorials/wordpress-security-guide/
- https://www.wpbeginner.com/wordpress-security/
- https://www.siteground.co.uk/wordpress-security-ebook
- https://my.siteground.com/support/tutorials/wordpress/security/
- https://www.bluehost.com/help/article/basic-site-security-checklist
- https://www.bluehost.com/blog/website-security-how-to-keep-your-site-safe-from-digital-threats/
- https://jetpack.com/blog/wordpress-security-tips-and-best-practices/

From Learn WordPress

- https://learn.wordpress.org/lesson/7-tips-to-improve-website-security/
- https://learn.wordpress.org/tutorial/7-tips-to-improve-website-security/
- https://learn.wordpress.org/lesson/essential-security-plugin-features-and-settings/
- https://learn.wordpress.org/tutorial/extending-wordpress-common-security-vulnerabilities/
- https://learn.wordpress.org/lesson/tools-site-health/

From WP-Pompey

- https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/meetup/wordup-pompey-15th-nov-2018/
- https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/meetup/wordpress-portsmouth-meetup-20-mar-2019-website-health-check/
- https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/meetup/wordpress-portsmouth-online-meetup-20th-may-2020-lightning-talks/

Future meetup suggestions

What shall we do for the rest of the year and 2025?

Explore WordPress Playground
https://wordpress.org/playground/
18 Dec 2024

Guided walkthrough of Justin Tadlock's tutorial on "Mixing and matching styles, colors, and typography in WordPress 6.6"

Developing an artists or portfolio site using WP.
https://www.wpbeginner.com/showcase/best-wordpress-themes-for-artists/
https://wordpress.com/go/website-building/art-portfolio-website/

In person social meetup and informal discussion event around a particular area of WP, with perhaps people getting to Portsmouth earlier and doing a trip up the Spinnaker Tower first.

Explore WordPress 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7 highlights?

Workthrough of the new block capabilities in WordPress 6.5 and WordPress 6.6.

To find out what's going on elsewhere?
https://events.wordpress.org/upcoming-events/filtered/country/GB/

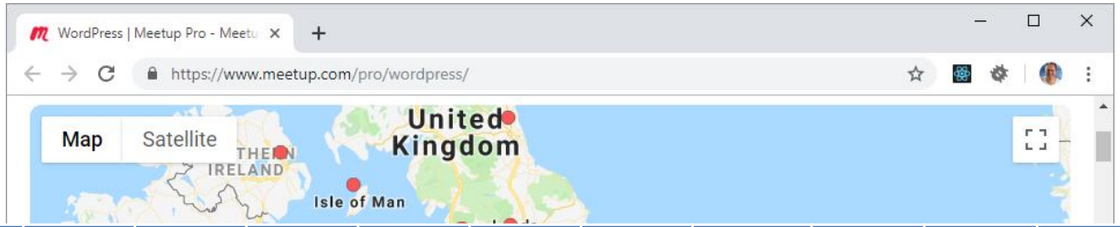
WordPress Global Community Sponsorship

A big thanks to our Global Community Sponsors:

- GoDaddy
- Bluehost
- Automattic
- Woo
- WPBeginner

https://central.wordcamp.org/global-community-sponsors/

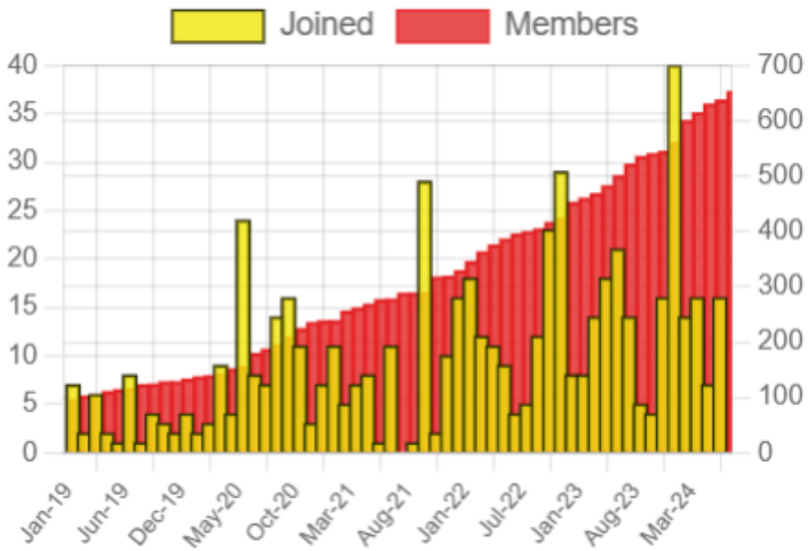
653 meetup members

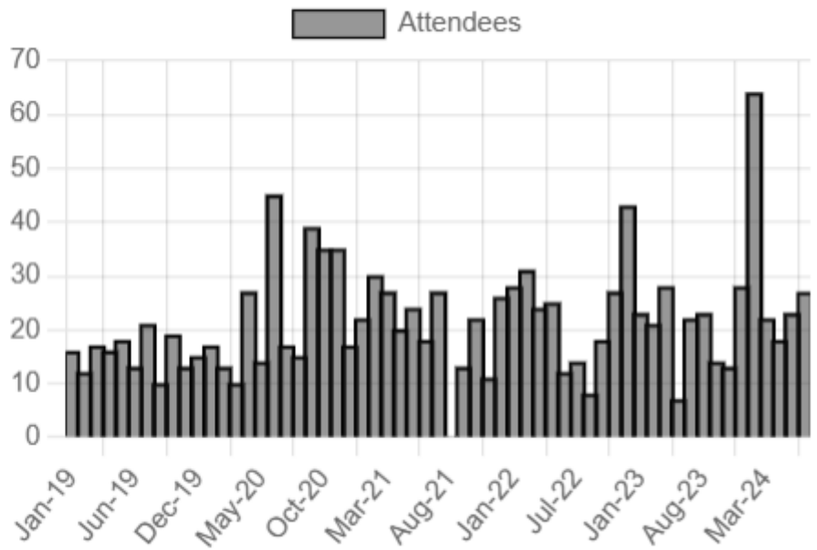


Key	Nov	Oct	Sep	Mar	Jan 24	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Mar	Feb	Jan 23	Jul	Jan 22	Jul	Jan 21	Jul	Jan 20
Countries	93	92	107	108	108	108	107	107	107	107	115	115	113	112	111	109	109	113	108
Groups	638	633	623	755	751	744	735	727	716	710	785	784	780	769	757	750	745	857	818
Members	512955	510857	504509	528878	519438	513808	510642	507643	502388	498974	509700	507525	504549	491669	479658	466725	453109	456627	424517
Portsmouth	653	637	630	613	600	560	544	540	539	521	488	468	460	399	345	288	245	187	137
Brighton	724	719	716	687	677	668	669	669	669	668	648	644	644	636	638	642	643	648	613
Bournemouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	549	549	552	558	563	563	560	558	536
Exeter	351	339	336	299	300	300	301	300	301	301	300	300	301	304	293	283	283	278	278
Bristol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1018	1021	1023	1032	1042	1046	1057	1063	1024
Tunbridge Wells	42	37	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	471	471	471	472	470	461	446	431	393
Cambridge	1843	1840	1816	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?

https://www.meetup.com/pro/wordpress/

Meetup stats since 2019





https://www.wp-pompey.org.uk/wordpress-portsmouth-meetup/meetup-stats/

WordPress plans – 2024 and beyond

12 Nov 2024	WordPress 6.7 and Twenty Twenty-Five
20 Nov 2024	Gutenberg 19.7
20 Nov 2024	WordUp Pompey! – **this meetup**
29-30 Nov 2024	WordCamp Netherlands
29 Nov 2024	**Black** Friday
2 Dec 2024	Cyber Monday
16 Dec 2024	State of the Word 2024 – Tokyo – 9am
18 Dec 2024	WordUp Pompey! - Explore WordPress Playground
Apr 2025	WordPress 6.8
June 2025	WCEU
Aug 2025	WordPress 6.9
Nov 2025	WordPress 7.0

https://make.wordpress.org/core/2024/08/15/introducing-twenty-twenty-five/

https://central.wordcamp.org/schedule/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/6-8/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/2024/11/19/proposal-major-releases-for-2025/

wppompey plans - 2023

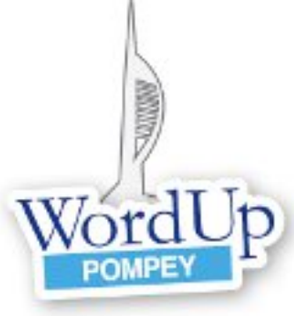
Date	Agenda	Notes
18 Jan 2023	Battle of the caches	#OnlineWPMeetup
22 ~~15~~ Feb 2023	New Year's Resolution clinic	#OnlineWPMeetup
15 Mar 2023	What's new in WordPress 6.2?	#OnlineWPMeetup
19 Apr 2023	~~Learn.WordPress.org~~	#OnlineWPMeetup
24 May 2023	WordPress 20th anniversary quiz	In Person?
21 Jun 2023	-	#OnlineWPMeetup
19 Jul 2023	Advanced Custom Fields ACF	#OnlineWPMeetup
16 Aug 2023	WordPress Multisite 101	#OnlineWPMeetup
27 Sep 2023	Show and Tell – Lightning talks	#OnlineWPMeetup
18 Oct 2023	Show & Tell again – More Lightning talks	#OnlineWPMeetup
22 Nov 2023	Learn.WordPress.org	#OnlineWPMeetup
21 Dec 2023	-	#OnlineWPMeetup

wppompey plans - 2024

Date	Agenda	Notes
31 Jan 2024	WordPress and Artificial Intelligence	#OnlineWPMeetup
30 Mar 2024	My Favourite Contact Form	#OnlineWPMeetup
~~22-29 May 2024~~	WordPress 21st anniversary quiz (Monday 27th is the actual date)	~~In Person #OnlineWPMeetup~~ Cancelled
25 Sep 2024	What have you been doing?	#OnlineWPMeetup
23 Oct 2024	Migrating to Twenty Twenty-Five	#OnlineWPMeetup
20 Nov 2024	Security, Backups and Day In The Life	#OnlineWPMeetup
18 Dec 2024	Explore Learn WordPress	#OnlineWPMeetup

Some WordPress trivia

See also : https://displaywp.com/



Thanks to our sponsors

Thanks again to our venue sponsor @reditcouk
… since January 2018

red IT

And to our pizza / refreshment sponsor @34SP
… since December 2018

34SP.com