



## West Orlando WordPress Meetup Sept. 15, 2022

There's a plugin for that!



# Who is this person talking today?

## Facts About Sue Polinsky

- Born, grew up in Amityville, NY
- Founded TechTriad in 1998, semi-retired in 2021
- Opened GetMeOnline.Today in 2021
- Moved to Greensboro in 1977
- Two grown kids and three perfect grands
- Rescue dog, Mumfie, whose only skill is looking pretty
- Married for 50 years and 12 weeks
- Two vices: WordPress and chocolate-chip ice cream



Dr. Sue Polinsky  
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# What do plugins do?

## On the front

- Add calendars, events
- Colors and layout
- Galleries and sliders
- Layout / pricing tables
- Enhance your page builder or block editor
- Enable eCommerce
- Membership sites
- A whole lot more!

## In the back

- Back up your site
- Add security (control hackers)
- Make eCommerce better
- Block spam comments
- Make custom post types
- Organize the media library
- Add custom code
- And a whole lot more!

# Building WordPress Plugins

## WordPress Plugins – how it works

- WordPress.org plugins are free
- “Freemium” plugins have a Pro version you can buy
- Anyone can build a plugin and submit it for approval
- Plugins must be approved by WP before they go into the repository
- Find free plugins at <https://wordpress.org/plugins/>

## Most Popular Plugin Authors

Yoast | Automattic (Jetpack, Akismet) | Wordfence | Contact Form 7 | Woocommerce

# Most popular plugins by download

Numbers are **millions** of downloads.

**Yoast SEO:** 176 -  
improves overall  
SEO

**Akismet:** 133 –  
blocks spam  
comments

**Jetpack:** 120 –  
marketing, design  
& security

**Wordfence  
Security:** 121-  
adds a firewall to  
your site

**Contact Form 7:**  
112 – simple  
contact forms

**WooCommerce:**  
5+ - enables  
selling



# WordPress plugin challenges

The WP repository needs a better search

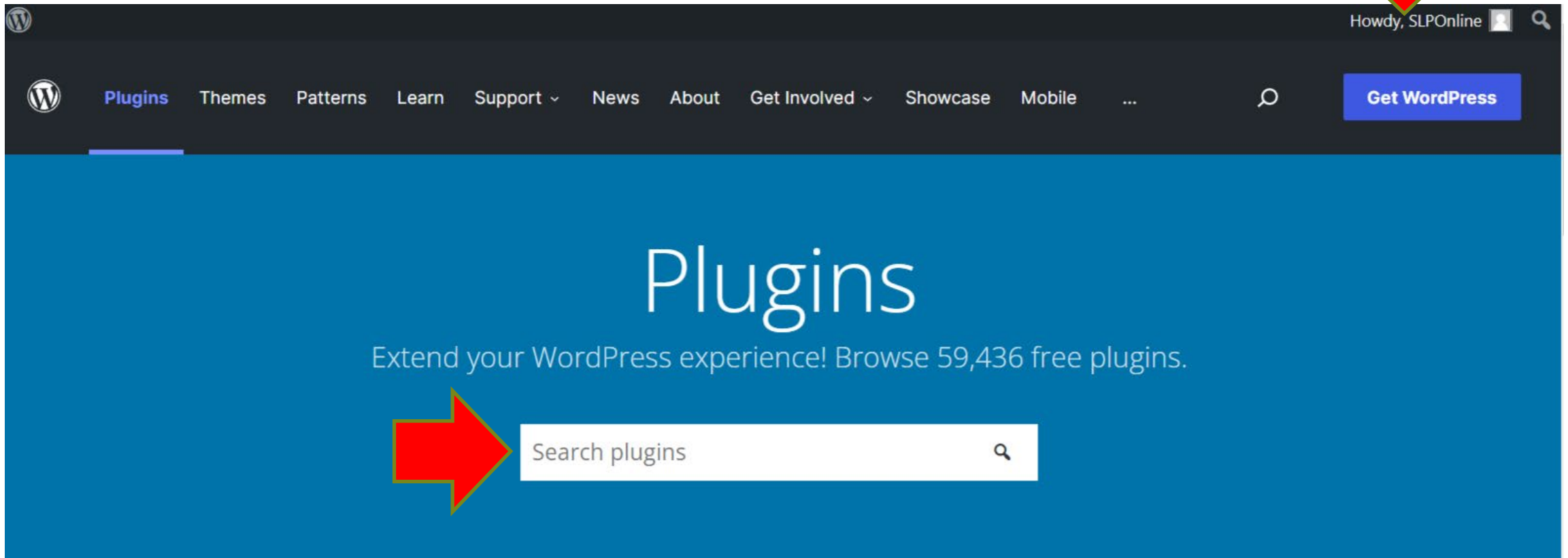


Authors give their plugins strange names



You need the right keyword to find what you want

# Meet the plugin repository



# Finding and choosing plugins

**01**

Log into the  
plugin  
repository

**02**

Enter your  
keyword in  
the search  
box

**03**

Look at the  
results and  
click one that  
fits your task

**04**

Take a VERY  
CLOSE look  
at your  
choice

- <https://wordpress.org/plugins> - This is called the “repository.”



# How to choose a worthwhile plugin



The Events Calendar

By [The Events Calendar](#)



Download

Details

Reviews

Installation

Support

Development

## Description

Easily create and manage an events calendar on your WordPress site with [The Events Calendar](#) free plugin. Whether your events are in-person or virtual events, this WordPress calendar plugin boasts professional features backed by our world-class team of developers and designers.



Version: 5.16.1.1

Last updated: 2 weeks ago

Active installations: 800,000+

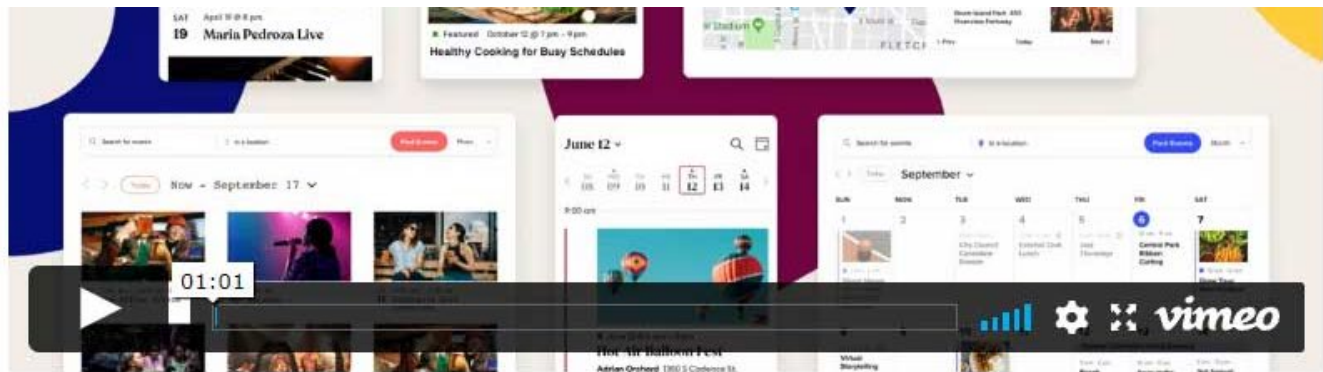
WordPress Version: 5.6 or higher

Tested up to: 6.0

PHP Version: 7.1 or higher

Languages: See all 28

# Is that plugin (I want) any good?



[See more videos on our YouTube channel](#)

Packed with loads of features, The Events Calendar is ready to go out of the box. It's also extensible, easy to use, and completely customizable.



Advanced View



# Beware of deprecated plugins

The screenshot shows the WordPress.org Plugins page. At the top, the WordPress logo and 'WORDPRESS.ORG' are visible. Below the logo, there are navigation links: Showcase, Themes, Plugins (highlighted), Mobile, Support, Get Involved, About, Blog, and Hosting. A search bar for 'Search WordPress.org' is also present. A blue button labeled 'Get WordPress' is on the right.

The main section is titled 'Plugins'. It includes links for 'My Favorites', 'Beta Testing', and 'Developers', along with a 'Search plugins' bar. A prominent yellow warning box states: 'This plugin hasn't been tested with the latest 3 major releases of WordPress. It may no longer be maintained or supported and may have compatibility issues when used with more recent versions of WordPress.' A blue arrow points to this warning box.

Below the warning box, there are two placeholder images for the plugin's icon and a 'Download' button. A blue arrow points to the 'Download' button.

Underneath the images are tabs for 'Details', 'Reviews', 'Installation', 'Support', and 'Development'. The 'Details' tab is selected.

The 'Description' section shows a placeholder image and the text: 'WordPress plugin allows you to safely test drive any'. To the right, the 'Version' is listed as '2.9.1' and 'Last updated' is '4 years ago'. A blue arrow points to the '4 years ago' text.

# Sue's suggested plugins (depends on the site)

## Useful Plugins

- [Local Google Fonts](#)
- [Site Kit by Google](#)
- [Yoast](#)
- [Disable Comments](#)
- [WP Mail SMTP](#)
- [Custom Post Type UI](#)
- [ACF \(Advanced Custom Fields\)](#)

## More Useful Plugins

- [Gravity Forms Zero Spam](#)
- [OptinMonster](#) (marketing)
- [SearchWP](#)
- [Better Search & Replace](#)
- Backup Plugin
- Forms Plugin
- Security Plugin

## Media Plugins

- [EWWW Image Optimizer](#)
- [Filebird](#) or [Real Media Library](#)
- [SVG Support](#) (maybe)

# Specialty plugins (free)

## Membership Sites

[Ultimate Member](#)

[Members – Membership & User Role Editor](#)

[Real Member](#)

Many free plugins offer pro (paid for) versions with more features, probably the one you need.

## “I’ve heard of these” Plugins

[Jetpack](#)

[Elementor](#) (page builder)

[Akismet](#)

[Google XML Sitemaps](#) (don’t need if you use Yoast)

## WooCommerce Sites

[WooCommerce PDF Invoices & Packing Slips](#)

[Mailchimp for WooCommerce](#)

[Real Member for WooCommerce](#)

[Variation Swatches for WooCommerce](#)

[YITH WooCommerce Wishlist](#)

[Custom Product Tabs for WooCommerce](#)

[Disable Bloat for WooCommerce](#)

[YITH Woo Catalog Mode](#)

# Sue's plugin policies

Five more plugins do the same thing.

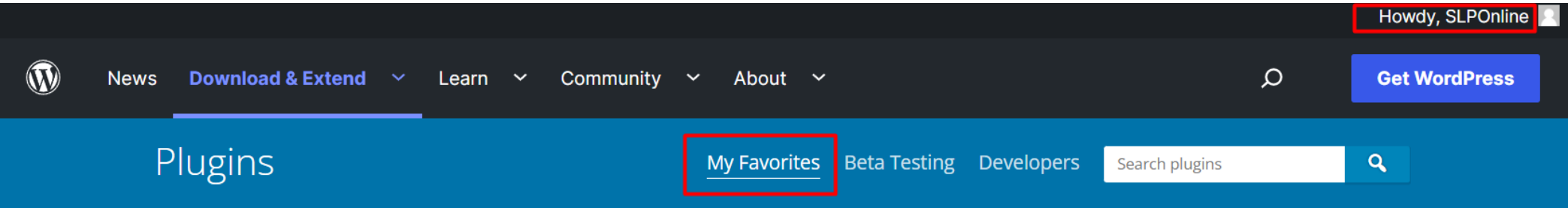
Don't install a cherry pitter.

Great plugins have helper plugins.

Check other's favorite plugins.




# Find my favorites



## Browse: My Favorites


The below plugins have been marked as favorites.






### Admin Columns

★★★★★ (1,511)

Customise columns on the administration screens for post(types), pages, media, comments, links and users with...

 AdminColumns.com


 100,000+ active installations  Tested with 5.8.5





### Advanced Access Manager

★★★★☆ (398)

All you need to manage access to WordPress websites on the frontend, backend and API...

 Vasyl Martyniuk

 100,000+ active installations  Tested with 6.0.2

# Find my favorites

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard's 'Add Plugins' page. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Forms, Pages, Presenters, TablePress, SeedProd, Appearance, and Plugins (which is highlighted with a blue bar and a red notification bubble). The main content area has a header with 'Add Plugins' (highlighted with a red box) and an 'Upload Plugin' button. Below this is a search bar and tabs for 'Featured', 'Popular', 'Recommended', and 'Favorites'. A text box prompts the user to enter their WordPress.org username, with 'slponline' entered and a 'Get Favorites' button next to it. At the bottom, there are two plugin cards. The first card shows a 5-star rating (1,085 reviews), '5+ Million Active Installations', and 'Last Updated: 1 year ago'. The second card shows a 4.5-star rating (953 reviews), '5+ Million Active Installations', and a 'Compatible' status.


- Admin Login Customize
- Advanced Custom Fields and Pro
- Clean Talk
- Code Canyon Plugins
- Custom Posts
- Events Calendar Pro Beta
- Google Analytics
- GravityForms
- iThemes
- Kadence
- Kadence Child Theme
- Link Checkers
- MEC Calendar
- Media Managers
- Menus
- Post Managers
- Restrict Content Pro
- Role Manager
- Siteground
- Snippets and Scripts
- Tablepress
- ThemeForest
- TWSC Slider Revolution
- UberMenu
- Wayfinder
- Web Directory
- WooCommerce
- WP All Export Pro



# “Helper” plugins meet needs


Woocommerce is a plugin with millions of installs. And lots of “helper” plugins.

Showing results for: woocommerce




**WooCommerce**  
★★★★☆ (3,885)  
WooCommerce is the world's most popular open-source eCommerce solution.

Automatic  
5+ million active installations Tested with 6.0




**WooCommerce Stripe Payment Gateway**  
★★★★☆ (124)  
Take credit card payments on your store using Stripe.

WooCommerce  
900,000+ active installations Tested with 5.9.3




**WooCommerce PayPal Payments**  
★★★★☆ (213)  
PayPal's latest payments processing solution. Accept PayPal, Pay Later, credit/debit cards, alternative digital wallets and bank accounts.

WooCommerce  
400,000+ active installations Tested with 6.0




**WooCommerce Shipping & Tax**  
★★★★☆ (77)  
WooCommerce Shipping & Tax offers automated tax calculation, shipping label printing, smoother payment setup, and other hosted services for WooCom ...

WooCommerce  
1+ million active installations Tested with 5.9.3




**WooCommerce Payments**  
★★★★☆ (23)  
Securely accept credit and debit cards on your site. Manage transactions without leaving your WordPress dashboard. Only with WooCommerce Payments.

Automatic  
400,000+ active installations Tested with 6.0




**Facebook for WooCommerce**  
★★★★☆ (361)  
Get the Official Facebook for WooCommerce plugin for two powerful ways to help grow your business, including an ads extension and shops tab for your p ...

Facebook  
800,000+ active installations Tested with 5.9.3



**WooCommerce PDF Invoices & Packing Slips**  
★★★★★ (1,422)  
Create, print & automatically email PDF invoices & packing slips for ...



**WooCommerce Google Analytics Integration**  
★★★★☆ (90)  
Provides integration between Google Analytics and WooCommerce.

# What are your go-to plugins?

1. WP Mail SMTP
2. RankMath
3. WordFence (security)
4. Smush
5. CleanTalk (pro)
6. Block Navigation
7. Block Visibility
8. Fluent Forms
9. Generate Blocks (free & pro)
10. MainWP Child
11. SiteKit (Google)
12. Customizer Search
13. My Private Site (login to see the site)

1. ConvertKit
2. User Menus
3. Yoast Duplicate Post
4. Short Pixel (image optimizer)
5. WordFence (security)
6. WP Maintenance Mode
7. Post Type Switcher
8. Restrict Content Pro
9. Gravity Forms (pro)
10. Gravity Forms Zero Spam
11. The Events Calendar (free & pro)
12. Bulk Move (category, tag, taxonomy)
13. WP Revisions Control

## Woocommerce

1. Maximum Products per User
2. Product Open Pricing
3. Coupon by User Role
4. Updraft Plus Backup
5. HideYT (related videos)
6. Customize My Account Page
7. Product Layouts for Woocommerce
8. Woocommerce Bloat

# Plugin security updates

WRITTEN BY [ITHemes EDITORIAL TEAM](#) ON JUNE 29, 2022

## WordPress Vulnerability Report – June 29, 2022



Vulnerable plugins and themes are the #1 reason WordPress websites get hacked. The weekly WordPress Vulnerability Report powered by WPScan covers recent WordPress plugin, theme, and core vulnerabilities, and what to do if you run one of the vulnerable plugins or themes on your website. Each vulnerability will have a severity rating of low, medium, high, or

critical. [...]

[READ MORE](#)

### Get weekly reports

<https://ithemes.com/blog/category/wordpress-security/>

# That's a wrap!



## Online

Sue's Site - [SuePolinsky.com](http://SuePolinsky.com)

Business site – [GetMeOnline.today](http://GetMeOnline.today)

Online calendar – [FindSue.com](http://FindSue.com)

## Contact

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