



WHITE PAPER

WORDPRESS VS TYPO3

TORQUE[®]

BY  **WPengine**[®]

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When you're planning to start an online business or website, picking the right CMS is crucial in that early stage. It won't do to spend hours setting up and learning to use a CMS, only to learn that it doesn't suit your needs at all.

A content management system is exactly what it sounds like: a platform that allows you to easily create and organize content, such as blog posts, alongside other functions like site and design creation.

You might think that WordPress covers everything you could possibly need, but there's actually a wide variety of platforms tailored to business owners, bloggers, individuals, and more.

Typo3 is a CMS made just for large companies, and in that regard it's a competitor for the more blog-centric WordPress. You have a serious choice to make between these two very different platforms.

Read on, and we'll cover the major differences between WordPress and Typo3, including cost effectiveness, features, and community support. The best thing you can do at this stage is research, so we'll help you make an informed decision about which CMS to choose.

Statistics Breakdown

To start off, here's a quick list of interesting facts about these two wildly different platforms.

- WordPress was released in 2003; Typo3 has been around since 1998.
- Both are open source and licensed under GPLv2.
- WordPress has **60.8%** of the CMS market share and Typo3 has 1.2%.
- Web crawlers detect **24.8 million WordPress sites** and **1.1 million Typo3 sites**.
- WordPress is most popular in America; Typo3 is the most popular in Germany.
- The **most popular niche industry** for Typo3 is Heavy Industry and Engineering, while for **WordPress** it's Computers, Electronics, and Technology.

WordPress has a steady hold on the internet, but Typo3 has managed to carve out its own niche. It's the 10th most popular CMS, with far more users than the majority of the more obscure ones ever see.

Technical Requirements

Whatever CMS you choose, it won't matter if you can't get it running. Here's a list of requirements for the two platforms.



Typo3

- Available on Windows, Mac, and Linux, plus all cloud infrastructure.
- Built on PHP and requires PHP 5.5+ (Typo3 9 requires PHP 7.2+).
- Works with MySQL (5.5 through 5.7), SQLite, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, or Microsoft SQL Server.
- Supports Apache, NGINX, Microsoft IIS, and Caddy Server among others, as long as they run PHP.

Typo3 has more in-depth [system requirements](#) listed as well.



WordPress

- Will run on Windows, Mac, and Linux.
- Built on PHP and requires PHP 5.6.2+ (recommended 7.3+).
- Requires MySQL 5.0.15+ (recommended 5.6+) or MariaDB 10.0+.
- Works best with servers using Apache or NGINX but will work with any server software that supports PHP and MySQL.
- Your web host should support HTTPS.

WordPress requirements can be found [here](#).

Both CMSes have similar requirements, though Typo3 supports a few more databases and only needs server software that can run PHP (WordPress needs PHP and MySQL support). Unless you're using outdated or less popular software, either platform should work with your setup.

Cost Effectiveness

Both WordPress and Typo3 are totally free and open source. So where does cost effectiveness come in? Though you can install either program with no strings attached, there are other areas where you may need to spend money.

The first thing to consider is hosting. In this regard the two are almost identical -- they will work on almost any type of web hosting and various operating systems.

There do exist special WordPress hosting packages tailored towards optimizing for that platform, or even offering a free WordPress install. As Typo3 is much less popular, it's unlikely that you'll find a plan like this available. For either CMS, setting up everything yourself will inevitably be cheaper.

Speaking of plugins and themes, WordPress comes with a lot of them, and many of the best ones aren't free. \$20 - \$100 is a modest estimate for a premium theme and a handful of paid plugins. It can easily go higher. Typo3 also has templates and extensions, but a majority are free.

[Typo3.com](#) also offers a variety of services like paid extended support, project reviews, and partnered developers. Businesses might want to make an investment into these useful services, but it's going to cost a lot.

Overall the two stack up similarly in terms of price, but you should keep an eye on extra expenses like plugins, themes, and other expensive add-ons.

Functionality

While WordPress has a lot of potential, it's actually a relatively simple CMS. When you first start it up, you'll get all the features you'd expect: the ability to create posts and pages and the publishing tools you'll need for them, an image and media upload manager, and ways to choose and customize a theme.

This keeps WordPress clutter-free and easy to navigate, so you can add plugins as you're ready to deal with extra functionality. And this is all many people will need.

But Typo3 is an enterprise CMS, and that means it comes with many more out-of-the-box [features](#). Features like these would needlessly complicate things for the first-time blogger and startup company, like marketing tools or a built-in form creator.

But for the businesses Typo3 is made for, they'll make your life much easier -- no having to dig through a number of different plugins for the same functionality or pay costly premium fees.

WordPress offers simplicity, but Typo3 has more advanced features for those ready to handle them.

Ease of Use

Even beginners who've never made a website before can pick up WordPress in minutes. It's one of the easiest CMSes to learn and use, and it'd be hard for any other platform to steal that position.

There are advanced features that can be much harder to grasp for non-developers, but most people can navigate WordPress with ease. Many installation guides, including [WordPress' official guide](#), condense the process into five or less steps.

Typo3, while still easier to understand than making your own website from scratch, has a much longer and more complicated [setup guide](#).

The reason for this is pretty straightforward: Typo3 is a CMS designed solely for larger websites, while WordPress is made easy for beginners to pick up. It can support a business for a long time, if not forever, but WordPress is the go-to for brand new bloggers and [startups](#).

Typo3 is harder to set up because it's inherently made for those who already have a firm grasp on web development, and know how to use the complicated tools they provide.

Security

Security issues with WordPress are a big problem. The platform powers nearly a third of all websites, and one exploit in the code can potentially affect millions of sites. Hackers are constantly trying to find a way in.

If you have a public website of any kind, there's always a threat of [getting hacked](#). To counteract that, WordPress constantly releases security updates and patches. As a consequence, the core product is now very safe and there hasn't been a core vulnerability in years.

The other problem is with third-party themes and plugins. Downloading dozens of plugins and an insecure theme is

a surefire way to open holes for attackers to slip through. As a consequence, you have to be careful when installing third-party content that isn't well-known.

Overall, the biggest risk for the security of a WordPress site is the user. For that reason, it's important that you educate yourself how to **keep it safe** and stay vigilant.

Typo3 certainly isn't exempt from security issues, being an open source program, but at the very least its relative obscurity (at least compared to WordPress) means it's not a huge target.

It also comes with various security features that WordPress doesn't include by default, like audit logs, an access manager, and even a paid security review.

Multisite

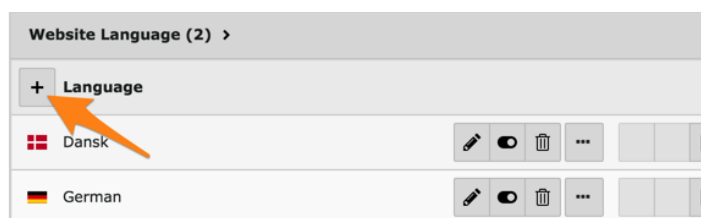
While WordPress has **multisite** built in, it isn't always the most comfortable to use. All sites on a network use the same installation and code, which can cause problems when you want to migrate a single site later.

That's not to say that it doesn't do a good job. **WordPress.com** alone is a great example of a multisite network successfully powering millions of websites. However, it is not necessarily a standout feature of the platform.

On the other hand, Typo3 is built with enterprises in mind, and comes with many **multisite features** designed to make hosting many sites as painless as possible.

Typo3 also has better support for multi-language websites. WordPress doesn't even support multiple languages out of the box, much less across networks. Most **multilingual plugins** work by creating an entire separate WordPress installation for each language. That can get complicated quickly.

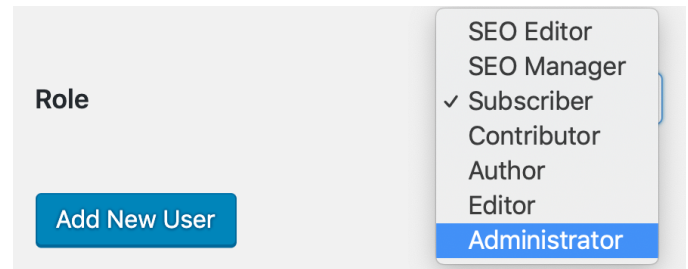
Typo3 has multi-lingual support **built in**, and it's a much smoother process. If you have a large amount of multilingual websites, using WordPress is going to be hard on you.



Collaboration

Collaboration is a big part of any large project, and your CMS needs to make it easy to work with others and let them into the system.

WordPress comes with a default set of **user roles** that allow you to invite people to write articles or work on your website, without having to fear that they might break something or get somewhere they're not supposed to.



You can also edit articles with others, but any edits done at the same time as another user won't save properly. You have to work on them one at a time.

But that's about it as far as collaboration goes. If you need any other functionality, you'll have to find a plugin.

While WordPress is built for individuals primarily, Typo3 is all about teams and collaboration. It also offers user roles, but it's a much more complex system that includes groups and sub-groups. You can even edit their permissions, without having to install a plugin.

Audit logs let you see what everyone is up to, and you can work in multiple spaces with an intuitive design that's easy for editors to learn.

Overall, Typo3 comes with more collaboration tools out of the box, saving you from having to install several plugins in WordPress. However, the WordPress community is actively working to address these shortcomings.

SEO and Mobile-Friendliness

In the mobile-first online world, you need a website that's fast, looks great on any device, and ranks high in search engines. How do these two stack up?

By default, **WordPress is very SEO friendly**. Even without any plugins or changes, with a properly coded theme, it produces markup that is well understood by search engines. In addition, there are plenty of **SEO plugins** to take the ranking abilities to the next level.

When choosing a theme, you need to check that the theme is responsive and works well on mobile. This is the case for the default themes like **Twenty Nineteen**, but branch out and you'll have to be careful not to accidentally install a **non-responsive theme**.

WordPress is perfectly capable of becoming SEO-friendly and mobile-friendly, but it takes some work to get everything coordinated on more complex sites.

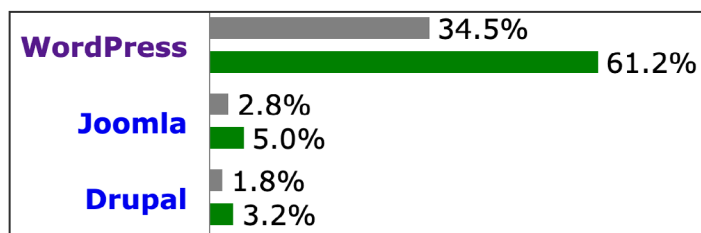
Typo3 implements by default many of the features you'd need to install a plugin to do with WordPress. It's built with mobile devices in mind, including a responsive multi-screen-size preview and AMP support.

There's also plenty of SEO features like optimized URLs, automatically generated sitemaps, and the ability to easily edit metadata. To top it off, **Yoast SEO** is available for Typo3 as well as WordPress.

Whatever CMS you choose, getting perfect SEO and mobile-friendly design is going to take work. But with Typo3, the tools to get it done are within your reach the moment you install the program. On the other hand, in WordPress, you can pick and choose what tools you would like to work with.

Community

While Typo3 does have a substantial community of users and developers, this comparison is no contest. WordPress is the largest CMS on the internet, **powering 34% of all websites**.



If you ever have a question or problem, you will never be the first one to have asked. There are hundreds of **community forums**, thousands of blogs, an explosion of

themes and plugins and premium services. Typo3 just can't compare.

That's why WordPress is great for beginners. Getting help is as simple as typing your query into Google, where you'll likely see an excess of blog posts and threads answering your question.

If you use something like Typo3, you'll have to dig deeper and work harder to find an answer. It might take weeks to resolve a problem that WordPress users can help you fix in minutes.

While Typo3's community isn't as strong, it does exist. There are various ways to get in **touch with the community**, including through the official forum. If you like Typo3's features, don't give it up just because the community isn't as massive as WordPress'. There are still plenty of ways to learn more and get help.

The smaller community does, however, mean less extensions and templates available. You should keep that in mind, and make sure Typo3 isn't missing anything you'll need before you commit.

Plugins and Themes

When it comes to plugins and themes, WordPress again wins in many ways. The popular CMS has hundreds of thousands of plugins and themes housed in the **official repository**, and more in other parts of the Internet.



If you can think of something you need your website to do, there's probably a plugin for it. In fact, there's probably twelve plugins for it.

Typo3 does have a substantial list of 7000+ extensions just hosted on **their website**. You can get premium ones elsewhere as well.

Typo3's repository of extensions seems to be more made for developers who need to add advanced functions to a site, as opposed to WordPress' more simple and user-friendly plugins. If that's your cup of tea, then you'll love Typo3's extensions.

There are also themes and templates to consider. As a whole, WordPress is geared more towards design and customization than Typo3. It's a lot easier to create a beautiful website with WordPress, especially if you have no experience.

Typo3 does have some [templates](#) on its site, but you'll probably have to venture further into the web to find the perfect theme. And even then, you have nowhere near the plethora of choice you would with WordPress.

There's another downside as well. If you're interested in creating your own extensions, some developers have complained that Typoscript can be hard to work with. Meanwhile, there are very few complaints from developers writing WordPress plugins.

These are certainly not reasons to give up on Typo3 if you're leaning more towards it, but it's something to keep in mind.

Support

As most open source programs go, official support is quite limited. Both WordPress.org and Typo3 lack official support channels, simply because it'd be impossible to help all the people who have problems on a large open source platform.

Typo3 has [Extended Support](#) which grants you a large suite of support, security, and even legal help for those running versions 6.2 and 7.6. This is something WordPress doesn't offer.

You can purchase third-party WordPress or Typo3 support. Typo3 even has a list of trusted [partners](#) and [freelancers](#) who can help you set things up or fix problems. This is one way to get help if you're not too tech-savvy.

Barring those options, whether you pick WordPress or Typo3, you'll have to rely on the documentation and large community forums to figure out any problems you might encounter.

You'll likely have a better time doing this with WordPress. It has a constantly-updated [Codex](#) that can answer almost any question that arises. And if you can't find an answer, the [Support Forums](#) are there to help.

Typo3 also has [Documentation](#) and a [Forum](#), but a smaller community of course means fewer people to see your topic and less lightning-fast responses from the forum members. There's also little in the way of extra online resources like blogs or third-party forums, unlike WordPress.

Typo3 does have a very large following in German-speaking countries, however. While there are few English resources from the community, German speakers will be able to find more forums, blogs, and tutorials.

Whether you use WordPress or Typo3, you should be prepared to research your problems and fix them on your own, but the larger CMS is going to make this much easier on you.

Conclusion

So, knowing all this, which CMS is best for you?

In many ways, WordPress does top Typo3. It's way more popular and thus easier to work with when you find an issue. It's also easier to learn, has a larger community, and enough themes and plugins that its potential might as well be limitless.

If you're a blogger, startup, or business who wants a very simple, easy-to-set up program that can be extended nearly infinitely with plugins, WordPress is almost certainly the choice.

But that doesn't mean Typo3 is completely out of the picture. The enterprise-class CMS comes with more content geared towards larger businesses, community plugins that can help extend it, and a large enough following that choosing it isn't a huge risk.

In short, WordPress may be the "default" CMS of choice, and a safer choice to make. But if you're seriously considering Typo3, the features it offers may well make it worth it for you. In terms of functionality, it has a lot to offer.

Once you've made your decision, it's time to get out there and start learning more about your CMS of choice. Install it on a test site to see what it's like, read WordPress or Typo3's extensive documentation, or hunt around community forums for a more in-depth perspective.

With enough experience and research, you're sure to become a master of the CMS you've chosen.



About Torque.

Torque is a news site featuring all things WordPress. We are dedicated to informing new and advanced WordPress professionals, users, and enthusiasts about the industry. Torque focuses primarily on WordPress News, Business, and Development, but also covers topics relating to open source and breakthrough technology. Torque made its debut in July 2013, at WordCamp San Francisco, and has since produced valuable content that reflects the evolution of WordPress, both as a platform and a community. Torque is a WP Engine publication, though maintains complete editorial independence. torquemag.io



About WP Engine.

WP Engine powers amazing digital experiences for websites and applications built on WordPress. The company's premium managed hosting platform provides the performance, reliability and security required by the biggest brands in the world, while remaining affordable and intuitive enough for smaller businesses and individuals. Companies of all sizes rely on WP Engine's award-winning customer service team to quickly solve technical problems and create a world-class customer experience. Founded in 2010, WP Engine is headquartered in Austin, Texas and has offices in Limerick, Ireland, San Francisco, California, San Antonio, Texas, and London, England. wpengine.com

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