

WORDPRESS MEETUP ANTWERP

Quick WordPress Tips & Tricks

21 November 2019

Een willekeurige selectie van 11 tips



General WP

You can search without a searchbox

You remember there was a post published about the roadmap on <https://2019.europe.wordcamp.org/> but there is no search box? Just add **?s=** and look for your keyword, it will work in most standard sites:

<https://2019.europe.wordcamp.org/?s=roadmap>

So even if YOU don't give a searchbox to your users, they still can search your site (unless you explicitly turn search functionality off on your WP-site).



Code

Want to test a new feature on a live site but don't want anyone to see it?

Write a function which checks the logged-in user with your email address before showing the stuff you want to test.

The infamous `is_this_tom()` function ;)

=> if the visitor ain't Tom, they won't see your test

=> if the visitor IS Tom: show it!



Code

Tips & tricks .htaccess

```
# Block WordPress xmlrpc.php requests
<Files xmlrpc.php>
order deny,allow
deny from all
allow from 123.123.123.123
</Files>

## accept encoding ##
<IfModule mod_headers.c>
<FilesMatch "\.(js|css|xml|gz)$">
Header append Vary: Accept-Encoding
</FilesMatch>
</IfModule>
## end accept encoding ##
```

```
## EXPIRES CACHING ##
<IfModule mod_expires.c>
ExpiresActive On

# Images
ExpiresByType image/jpeg "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType image/gif "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType image/png "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType image/webp "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType image/svg+xml "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType image/x-icon "access plus 1 year"

# Video
ExpiresByType video/mp4 "access plus 1 year"
ExpiresByType video/mpeg "access plus 1 year"

# CSS, JavaScript
ExpiresByType text/css "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType text/javascript "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType application/javascript "access plus 1 month"

# Others
ExpiresByType application/pdf "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType application/x-shockwave-flash "access plus 1 month"
</IfModule>
## EXPIRES CACHING ##
```

example:

<https://www.cloudways.com/blog/wordpress-htaccess-file/>



Plugin

Query Monitor

Debug database queries, PHP errors, hooks and actions, block editor blocks, enqueued scripts and stylesheets, HTTP API calls, and more.

It is the developer tools panel for WordPress.

Even if you just use (or understand) a tiny bit of it, it's already quite useful for debugging performance, errors, ...

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/query-monitor/>



Plugin

Akismet

One of the two default installed plugins on any WordPress website.

Fight spam, free for personal use.

Use the services of Automattic to sniff whether a comment is spam or not before you have to dive in.

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/akismet/>



General WP

Block generated WP pages you don't need or want! (1/2)

/2018/04/...

/author/admin/

=> WP will listen to these URL's by default: date archives, search, author archives, ... Even if you don't want or need them.

Try to see what links Google indexes on your site:
google **site:yourdomain.org** to see what's there
Or try: **yourdomain.org/2019/11/**



General WP

Block generated WP pages you don't need or want! (2/2)

Remove unwanted URL's via

- ↳ a redirect plugin, bv <https://wordpress.org/plugins/redirection/>
- ↳ `add_action('template_redirect', 'cipt_template_redirect');`
- ↳ `.htaccess`

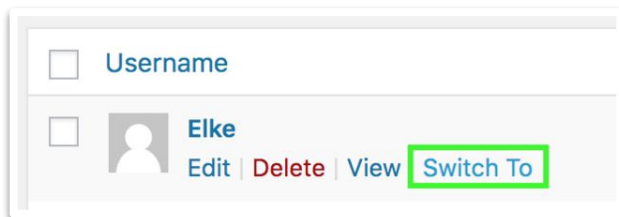
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/redirection/>

https://developer.wordpress.org/reference/hooks/template_redirect/



Plugin

User switching



Take a look at the admin as another user (without the need of credentials).

Ideal for a quick debug or to check whether a user has sufficient rights in your admin.

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/user-switching/>



Code

Use composer to manage php dependencies and class autoloading

“Composer is a tool for dependency management in PHP. It allows you to declare the dependent libraries your project needs and it will install them in your project for you.”

— getcomposer.org

<https://getcomposer.org/>



Code

WordPress Packagist

Gebruik je composer om je WordPress codebase te beheren? WordPress Packagist stelt alle WordPress plugins beschikbaar in de vorm van een composer repository. Neat!

<https://wpackagist.org/>



Security

Disable file edits

You can edit plugin and theme files directly in the admin. But why would you want to do that? (you can break everything)

If a hacker takes control of an admin user, they can access it all, even your php-files, from within the admin.

```
define( 'DISALLOW_FILE_EDIT', true );
```



Performance

Optimize your images

Use the right sizes.

Use lossless compression.

Consider using lazy loading.

Optimize your images before upload, or use one of the many services to optimize them after uploading.

<https://tinyjpg.com/>

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/shortpixel-image-optimiser/>

<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-smushit/>

...



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Thank you!

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