

USING WORDPRESS AS A PORTFOLIO WEBSITE

What: This shows how to set up a working 'portfolio website' using wordpress.com, a popular blogging platform

Why: Because Wordpress.com is free! It has a great reputation as a blogging platform and it offers a flexibility of design and a range of functions that will give your site room to grow.

Background: Wordpress.com is designed to work as a blog, that means the bulk of the content is made up of posts; regularly updated content. But the system also allows for more static content to be placed on pages.

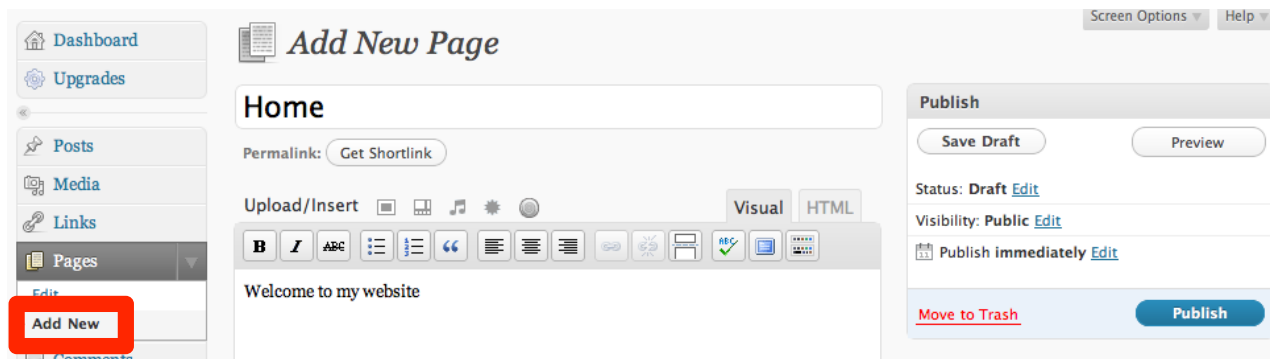
Because of the dynamic nature of a blog, the homepage is usually made up of the latest posts to your site. This is great if you want a dynamic 'news' based website but a portfolio site is often based on more static, page-based content; CV, background etc.

By changing the settings of the blog we can get wordpress to display a page as the homepage rather than a list of posts. This shifts the emphasis from the dynamic to the static. But it doesn't stop us from using the more dynamic content as the site develops.

How:

- Sign up for a wordpress.com blog at - <http://en.wordpress.com/signup/>

Think carefully about the username you chose to sign up for, it will form part of the website address for your blog. eg. Sign up as *snugglepups* and your blog address would be *snugglepups.wordpress.com*¹. This is what you will be giving people so they can find your blog, so make it as professional as you can.²



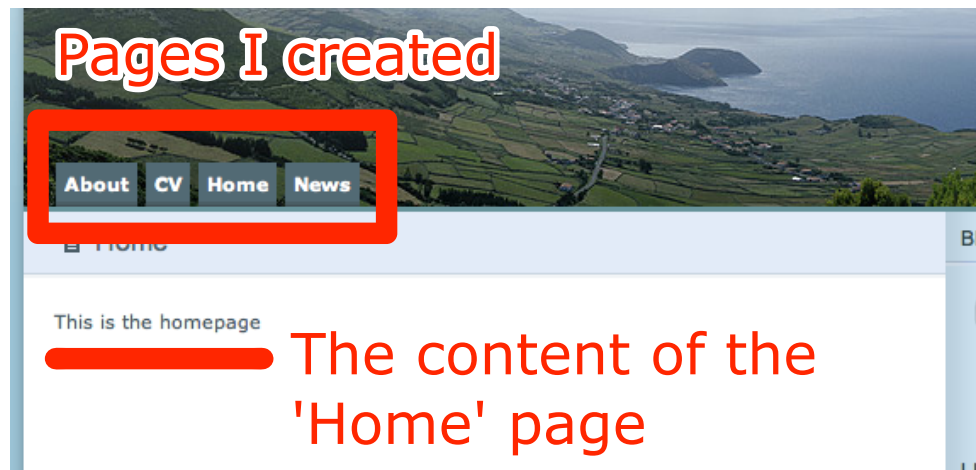
- When you have logged in go to **Pages > Add New** and create two new pages;³
 - *Home* - this will be the homepage(the first page users see) for your website.
 - *News* - this will be the page that displays the posts (dynamic part of your site) instead of them being shown on the homepage.
- Go to **Settings > Reading**
- Find the **Front page displays** section
- Check the **A static page (select below)** option
- Set the **Front page** drop down to *Home*
- Set the **Posts Page** drop down to *News*
- Scroll down and click the **Save Changes** button
- Click the **Visit Site** button to see your website

¹ It's available if you must have it. I checked!

² This is different from the title of the blog, displayed on the front page, which you can change at any time.

³ More details at <http://codex.wordpress.org/Pages>

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The way that pages are displayed will depend on the template you chose for the site (look in **Appearance > Themes**)⁴.

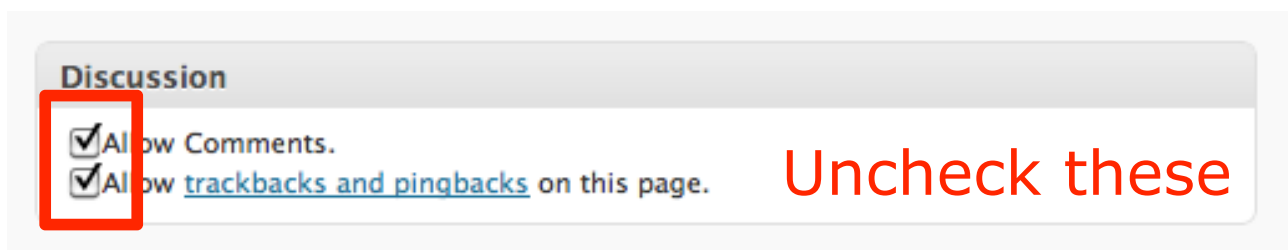
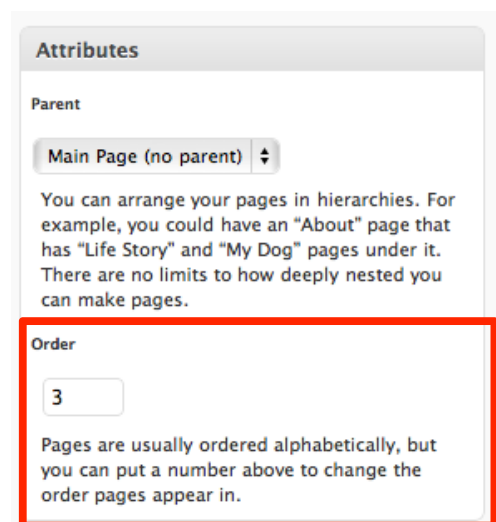
You won't have much control over the way they are displayed. Some templates have a hardwired homepage link that will appear regardless of the pages you create. But you can change the order of the pages.

- Find the **Attributes** section of the post page
- Change the **Order** value
- Click **Update** in the publish section

If you look at your website front page you will see that the order of the menu has changed.

You may also want to get rid of the comment box at the bottom of your pages. These allow your readers to interact and should always be left on the posts. Ideally we would leave them on the pages as well to encourage conversation but you may feel it spoils the design

- Find the **Discussion** section of the post page
- Uncheck **Allow comments** and **Allow trackbacks and pingbacks on this page** options
- Click **Update** in the publish section



You can still use the site as a blog (add posts) but they will appear in the news section. This could be a way of updating people to the what you are doing without distracting from the 'shop front' pages. As the site develops you may find that you can shift

⁴ or here - <http://en.support.wordpress.com/themes/>