

How to migrate blogs from WordPress.com to WordPress.org

Today's article will show you how to migrate your existing WordPress.com blog to WordPress.org, how to keep search engine rankings for the site and how to redirect existing users.

In the article comparing the previous WordPress.com and WordPress.org platforms, the reader had the answer to the question: Which of the two is better between these two platforms? With WordPress.com, everything is pretty good until you want to go further with it. You want to install the plugin and customize your theme. You really want to start making money from your website and have full control over it.

Today's article will show you how to migrate your existing WordPress.com blog to WordPress.org (including images). The article will also show you how to keep search engine rankings for your site, along with how to redirect your current users to the new site. Are you ready? Start moving your WordPress.com blog to WordPress.org now!

How to migrate blogs from WordPress.com to WordPress.org

1. Things you need before you start
2. Steps to proceed
 1. Step 1: Export data from WordPress.com
 2. Step 2: Set up WordPress
 3. Step 3: Enter content into the self-hosted WordPress page
 4. Step 4: Enter your Blogroll Links
 5. Step 5: Put your WordPress.com blog into private mode
 6. Step 6: Redirect visitors and maintain SEO
3. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
 1. What happens to people who have subscribed to my WordPress.com site?
 2. How much does it cost to convert to WordPress.org?
 3. If I have already paid for WordPress.com, can I get a refund?
 4. Is my image broken?
 5. I registered my domain through WordPress.com, can I still move my site?
 6. Is my site broken when I convert?

Things you need before you start

You will need to have a good domain name and a good web hosting (web hosting) company about WordPress. As mentioned before, you should use Bluehost because Bluehost is the official hosting provider proposed by

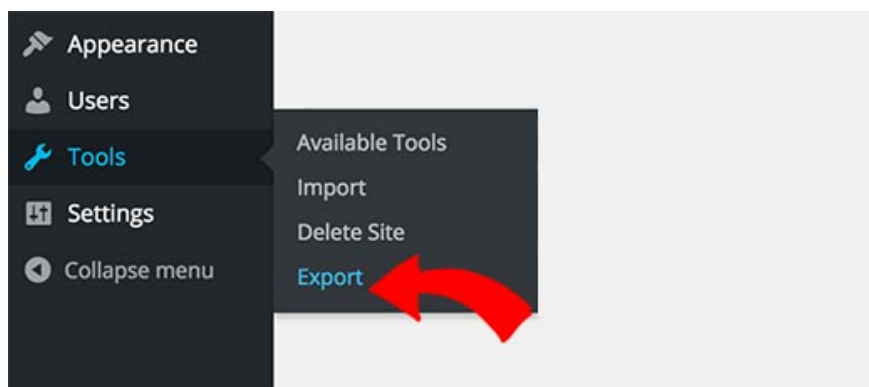
WordPress.

If your WordPress site already has a custom domain name, don't worry. This guide will also include that. Finally, you will need access to your WordPress.com account, so you can easily move all your posts, pages, images, comments and other data to your self-hosted WordPress website.

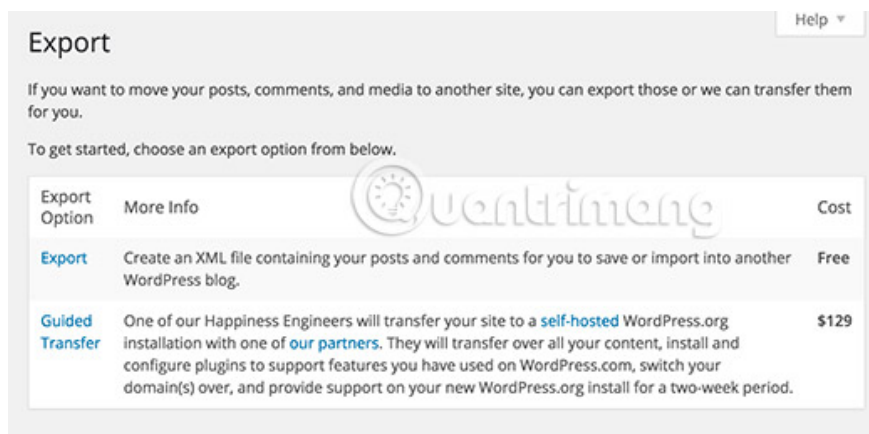
Steps to proceed

Step 1: Export data from WordPress.com

Log in to your **WordPress.com** account and access the blog's **Dashboard** page. Click **Export** in the **Tools** menu



Clicking on the **Export** tool will take you to the new page where you will be asked to choose between **Free** or **Guided Transfer** .

A screenshot of the 'Export' page on WordPress.com. The page title is 'Export' and there is a 'Help' link in the top right. The main text says: 'If you want to move your posts, comments, and media to another site, you can export those or we can transfer them for you. To get started, choose an export option from below.' Below this is a table with two rows. The first row is for 'Export' (Free) and the second row is for 'Guided Transfer' (\$129). A watermark for 'Quantimeng' is visible in the background of the table.

Export Option	More Info	Cost
Export	Create an XML file containing your posts and comments for you to save or import into another WordPress blog.	Free
Guided Transfer	One of our Happiness Engineers will transfer your site to a self-hosted WordPress.org installation with one of our partners . They will transfer over all your content, install and configure plugins to support features you have used on WordPress.com, switch your domain(s) over, and provide support on your new WordPress.org install for a two-week period.	\$129

Select the **Free** option by clicking **Export**. On the next screen, you will be asked which data you want to export. Select ' **All Content** ' and click the **Download Export File** button. An XML file will be downloaded to your computer, containing all your posts, pages, images, comments, custom fields, categories, tags, navigation menus and other information.

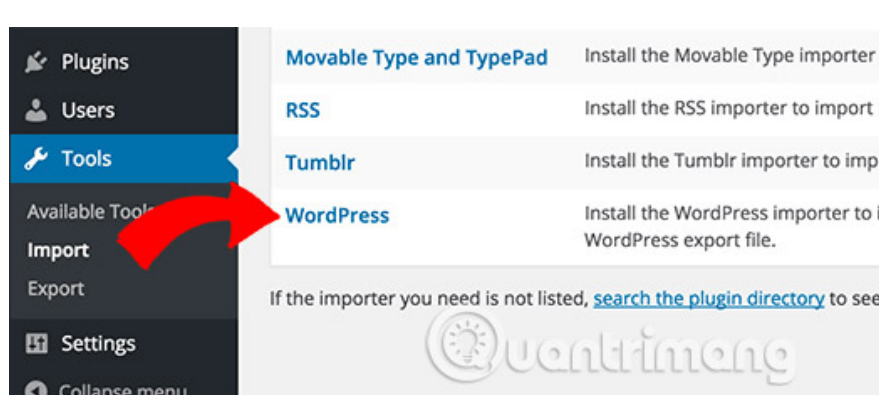


Step 2: Set up WordPress

Now that you have exported your WordPress.com data, the next step is to set up a new WordPress installation on your web hosting. WordPress is easy to install and requires only a few clicks. After you've installed WordPress, it's time to enter your content into the new self-hosted WordPress website.

Step 3: Enter content into the self-hosted WordPress page

To import your old content from WordPress.com into your new website, you need to click the **Tools > Import** option in the WordPress.org dashboard.



Next, click on **WordPress**. You will be asked to install the WordPress Importer plugin. After you install, activate and run this plugin. It will take you to a screen where you will be asked to upload the WordPress.com XML file that you downloaded in step 1 of this tutorial.



Note : If your file size is larger than 2MB, then you have two options. One is to ask your web hosting company to increase that temporary limit, so you can continue with this process. The second option will be splitting your file using the WXR file splitting tool.

(WXR download link: <http://rangerpretzel.com/content/view/20/1/>)

When you start importing data, you will have the option to assign the old content to the current user or create a new user. You will also have the option to import your old attachments (to make sure your images are imported with other data as well).

Step 4: Enter your Blogroll Links

If you used the **Links** feature on your WordPress.com blog to host blogroll or other links, then you need to follow these instructions to export and import them into the new website. Users who do not use this feature can always switch to step 5.

Blogroll Link is exported in OPML format. This is an XML format that allows you to export and import your links and link catalogs. Your WordPress.com link has an OPML file located at the following address:

```
http://example.wordpress.com/wp-links-opml.php
```

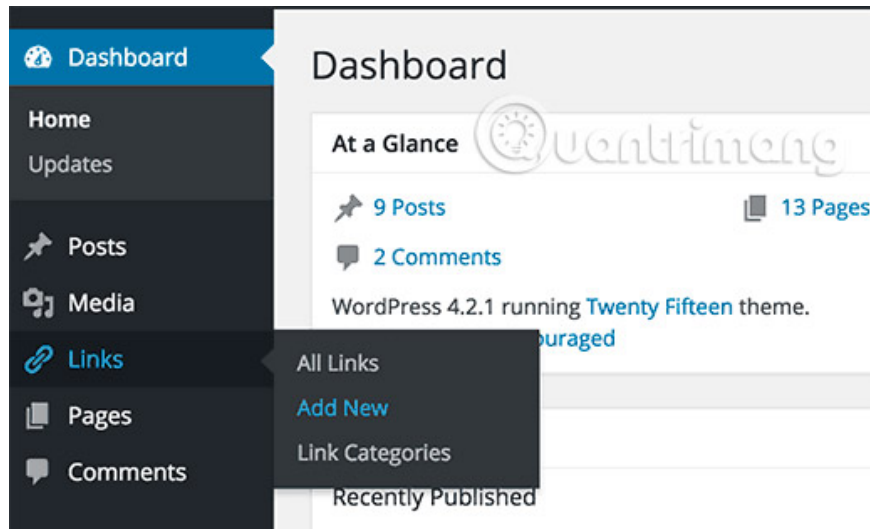
Replace '**example**' with the subdomain of the WordPress.com blog you own. If you are using a custom domain for your WordPress.com blog, your OPML file can be accessed with a URL as follows:

```
http://www.example.com/wp-links-opml.php
```

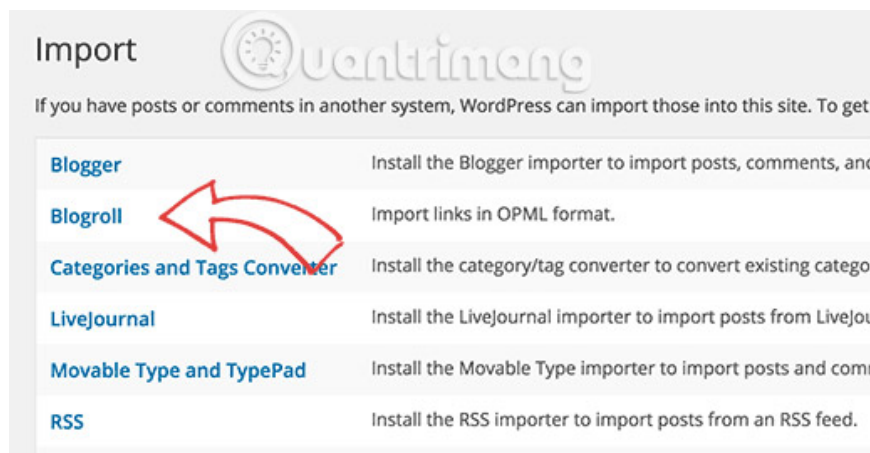
Your OPML file will open in the browser window and you need to save it to your desktop. Press **CTRL + S** (**Command + S** on Mac) to save the file on your computer.

Now that you have a backup of your WordPress.com links, the next step is to import them into WordPress.org. However, WordPress self-hosting does not have link managers enabled by default.

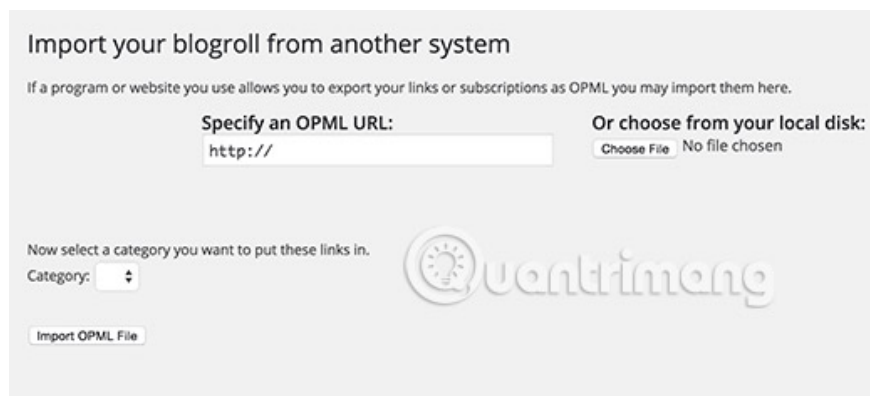
The first thing you need to do is install and activate the Link Manager plugin. After activation, the plugin will add a new entry in your WordPress admin bar named '**Links**'.



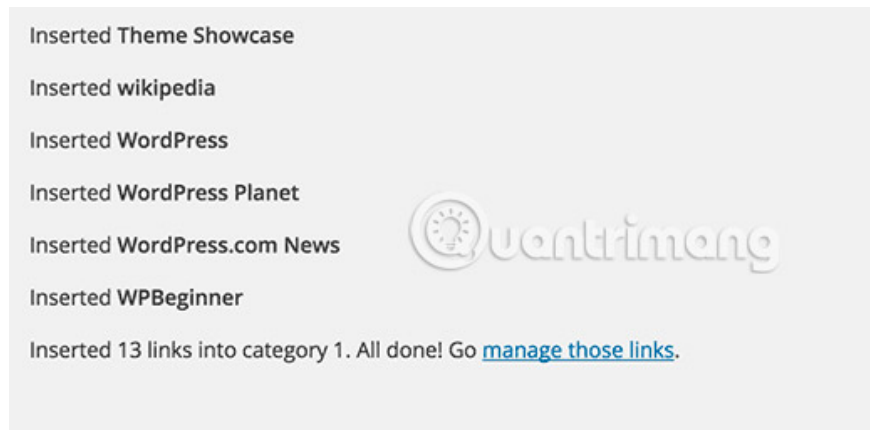
Your WordPress website currently has the ability to manage links and blog lists, of course, you can import them safely. Go to **Tools> Import** and click **Blogroll** to install OPML importer.



After installation, you will be redirected to importer. Where you need to upload the OPML file you saved earlier and click the **Import OPML file** button.

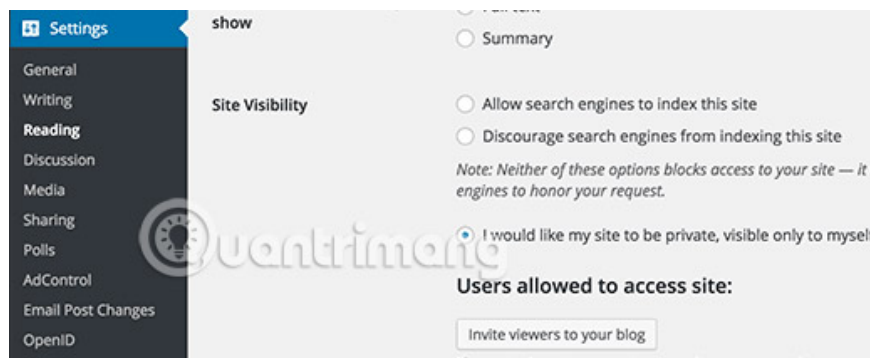


Now, WordPress will import your links and link catalogs from the OPML file. You can see the progress and when completed, you will see a success message.



Step 5: Put your WordPress.com blog into private mode

The final step is to put your WordPress.com blog into private mode. If you don't want to redirect old users to your new site, continue to follow this step. Go to the **Reading** page in the **Settings** tab, from the WordPress.com **Dashboard** page and select the last option, ' **I would like to blog me to be private, visible only to users I choose** '.

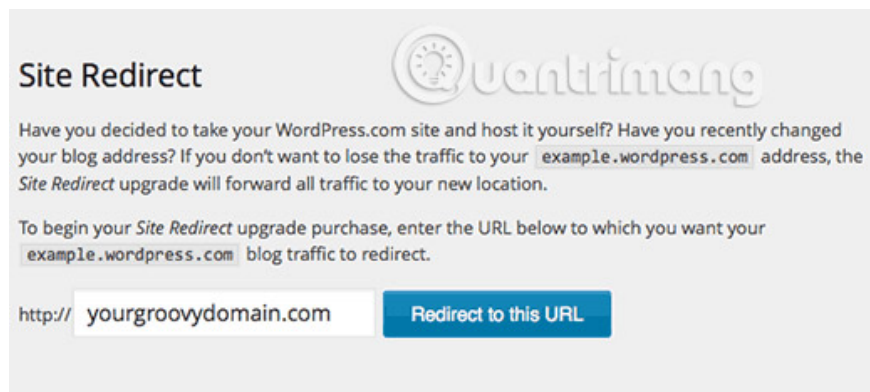


Note : If you have blogged for a while and you have a certain amount of loyal readers, then you should not waste this resource. Moreover, if your blog has been released for a while, chances are it has been indexed in Google and other search engines. You should keep all these factors and redirect your old users to the new blog.

Step 6: Redirect visitors and maintain SEO

Redirecting users to the new web with title 301 is the standard solution to keep search rankings, while moving a site from one location to another. Since you do not have access to **.htaccess** on WordPress.com, you cannot make any changes yourself to retain the search engine rankings. However, WordPress.com released a premium upgrade, called **Site Redirect**, to provide this functionality.

Access the dashboard of WordPress.com blog and click on the **Store menu** item. The upgrade you are looking for is called Site Redirect. At the time of writing this guide, this update has a fair price of 13 USD / year. This upgrade provides 301 redirects, allowing site visitors and search engines to automatically be redirected to your new site.



Some of you will wonder how long you should continue to pay for this Offsite redirect feature? The answer is as you like. However, there are many opinions that 2 years will be enough time for old users to remember your new domain name.

If you are changing the domain, another thing you want to do is update all in the post URL. If you've ever linked your posts, those links must also be updated.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Here are the common questions when moving blogs from WordPress.com to WordPress.org.

What happens to people who have subscribed to my WordPress.com site?

Thankfully, WordPress.com allows you to move the number of people who have subscribed to your site with one condition. You must use the Jetpack plugin to add the same registration function you have at WordPress.com. When you install and activate the Jetpack plugin, you need to contact the WordPress.com team and ask them to move the subscriber to you. Hopefully in later versions of Jetpack, this will become easier and users will be able to do it themselves.

How much does it cost to convert to WordPress.org?

WordPress.org for free. However, there are some minimal web hosting costs.

If I have already paid for WordPress.com, can I get a refund?

Yes you can. If you recently purchased a custom domain or paid package from WordPress.com, you can ask them for a full refund.

Note: Domain registration can be canceled within 48 hours of registration. Packages and other purchases can be canceled within 30 days of purchase.

Is my image broken?

No, they will be fine. When you switch using the import file, all attached images will be downloaded and the link will be updated. However, one note is that if your image URL starts with **files.wordpress.com**, they will not be converted. If you find that the image URL has not changed and still points to WordPress.com, you should use

the plugin to import the external image and it will take care of it.

I registered my domain through WordPress.com, can I still move my site?

Yes you can. WordPress believes in empowering users and giving them full control over their content. If you already have a domain name through WordPress.com, all you need is a web hosting account. You should set up with Bluehost or any other WordPress hosting provider. During the registration period, you will be asked if you have a domain or want to register a new domain name. Simply select the option ' **I have a domain name** ', and insert the domain you registered at WordPress.com. The next thing you will have to do is change the name for the server, to point to the hosting service provider. You can ask your web hosting provider to support this.

Is my site broken when I convert?

If you do it right, NO. The method suggested above will ensure that your site is never corrupted.

Hopefully, you find this guide useful for moving web pages from WordPress.com to WordPress.org. If you have any questions, please let us know by leaving comments in the comments section below!

Wish you a successful conversion!

See more:

1. 10 most popular WordPress errors and how to fix them
2. 11 security tips for WordPress blogs
3. Manage WordPress from Android device

You finished reading the article "**How to migrate blogs from WordPress.com to WordPress.org**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.