

WordPress Plugin Installation

Install

WordPress Plugin

Like a Pro



WordPress Plugin Installation

INTRODUCTION

The installation of plugin on WordPress powered website/blog is important and crucial for effective audience engagement and the smooth running of site. So, it is important to install it effectively like a Pro. Plugins are add-on or features that guarantee intense functionality of website. One of the primary reasons why I endorse WordPress software is because of the availability of hundreds of plugin to choose from, most of which are incredibly free. For instance, W3 Total Cache and Google Analytics among several others are plugins that still left me in surprise. All you need to do is to search for the plugin, install them properly and then flow through the setting required for optimum performance.

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Installing plugin on WordPress is similar to theme installation. There are three major ways by which it can be installed.

1. **Automatic installation through Admin dashboard**
2. **Manual uploading and installation**
3. **Installation from FTP program**

Let's now dig into how plugin can be installed on WordPress powered website in three different ways mentioned above.

Automatic Installation of Plugin through Admin Dashboard

The beauty of Wordpress is the ability to install plugins automatically within the back-end of WordPress admin panel.

Log in to admin dashboard- From the admin panel, go to plugin tab.



Figure 1

WordPress Plugin Installation

Click on add new from the three drop down menu.



Figure 2

You'll see a search box where you can look for the plugin you want by keyword.

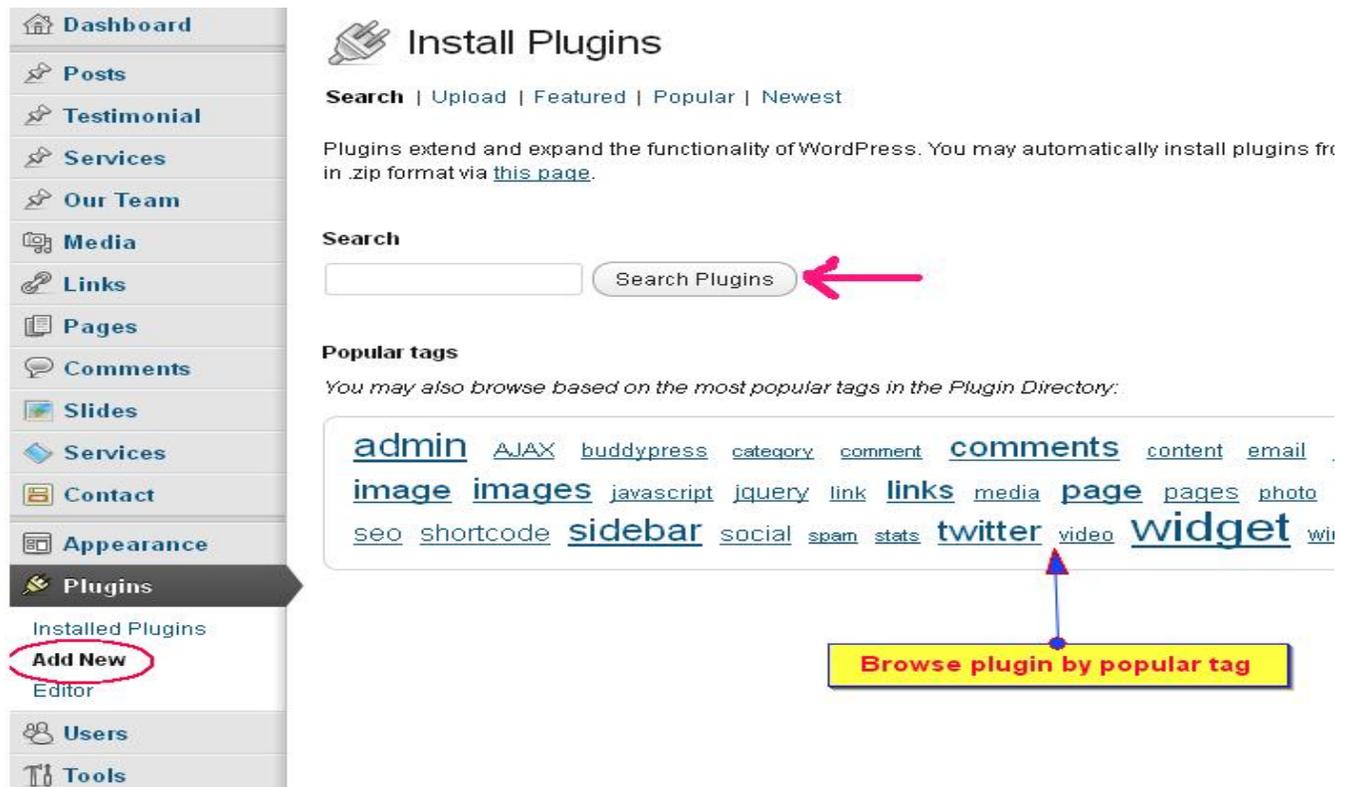


Figure 3

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The result will present varied possibilities that best match search query.



Figure 4

Look for the plugin you want and click install. Sometimes, I use the rating result in the form of stars to gauge a plugin performance and relevance among users if I don't have a specific one in mind.



Figure 5

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So, I tend to go for the plugin with the highest vote. Nevertheless, it is better to read the details of plugin prior installation to know about its compatibility with WordPress current version, updates, installation guidelines, etc. After clicking the install button, a pop up message will appear almost abruptly wanting you to confirm if indeed you want to install the chosen plugin. Click OK to proceed. At this point, WordPress will then commence automatic installation. After the completion of installation, you will be required to activate or deactivate the plugin. Click on activate plugin. That's all about installing plugin on WordPress.



Figure 6a

However, most plugins require certain settings peculiar to their individual functionality before they are operational. For example, W3 Total Cache needs to be set properly to achieve the best result. So, ensure the settings are properly done,

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otherwise leave the settings at default and hit the save setting button at the bottom of setting page.

To access the setting page of a plugin, go to plugin on admin panel and click on installed plugin. Search for the plugin you want to update and click setting among the three menu options.

<input type="checkbox"/> W3 Total Cache Settings Deactivate Edit	The highest rated and most complete WordPress plugin to improve the speed and user experience of your site. Add browser caching as well as minify and content delivery network (CDN) support. Version 0.9.2.4 By Frederick Townes Visit plugin
<input type="checkbox"/> WP-PageNavi Deactivate Edit Settings	Adds a more advanced paging navigation to your WordPress site. Version 2.83 By Lester 'GaMerZ' Chan & scribu Visit plugin
<input type="checkbox"/> WP Twitter Button Settings Deactivate Edit	This plugin adds the new Twitter button to each post. Version 1.4 By Ruud Kok Visit plugin site 

Figure 7

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Sometimes, installed plugin could be accessed from the dashboard directly either as a tab among the dashboard menu or within the menus in the setting tab on the dashboard.



Figure 8

Here is the setting page for the installed plugin.

WP Twitter Button settings

When to show your Twitter Button?

Both posts & pages

Button layout:

Horizontal count

Button placement:

Bottom left

Margins:

Top: px

Bottom: px

Left: px

Right: px

Your twitter account:

Figure 9

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Set it to suit how you want the plugin to function.

To **deactivate plugin**, just go to installed plugin and search for the plugin you want to deactivate. Click on deactivate.

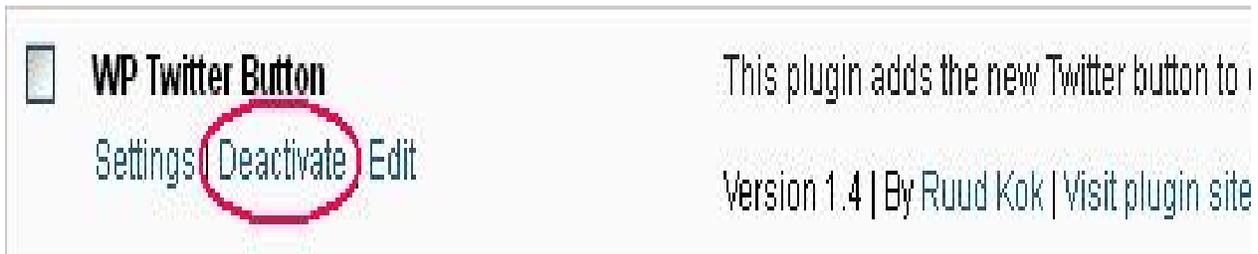


Figure 10

This result will show that the plugin has been deactivated

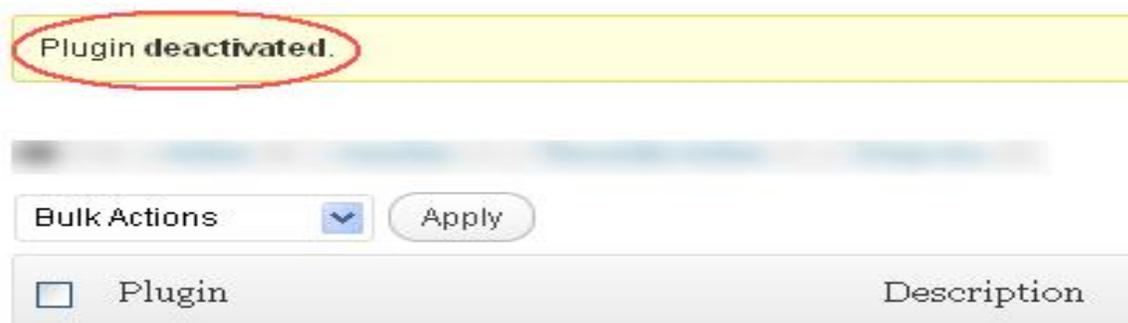


Figure 11

To **delete plugin**, it has to be deactivated first. After deactivation, go back to the plugin and click delete.

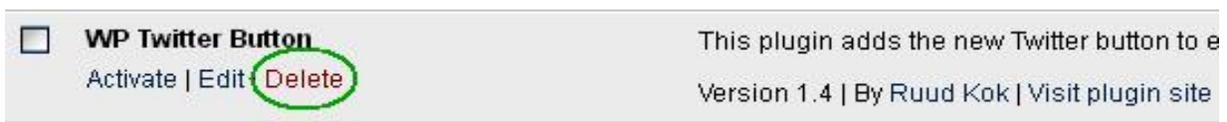


Figure 12

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This result will show telling you to confirm the delete process.



Figure 13

Click on yes, delete these files

The selected plugin will then be deleted.

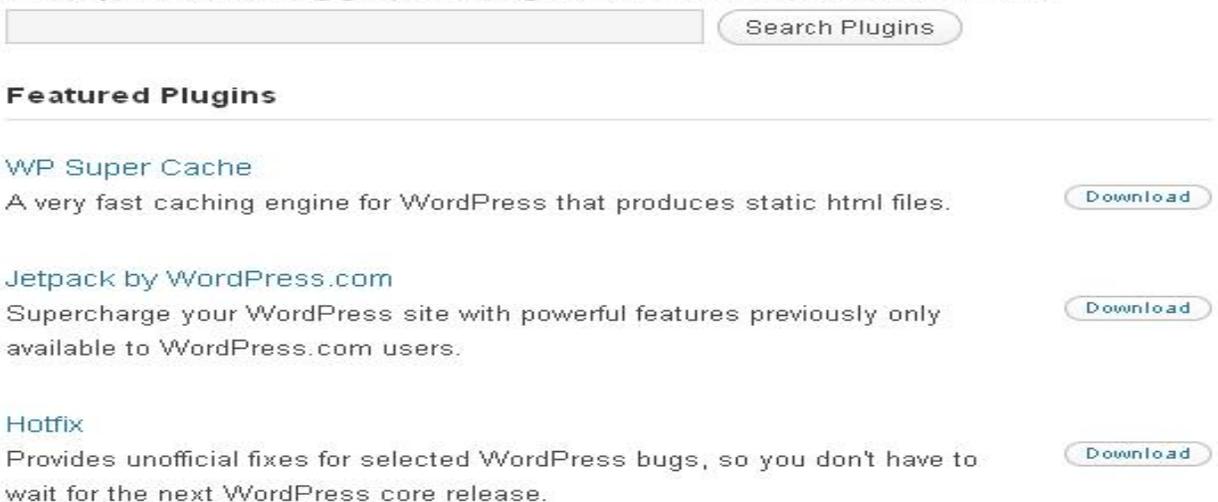
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Manually Upload and Install Plugin on WordPress

Plugin could be downloaded either from WordPress plugin directory or directly from plugin developer's website. Also, there are some plugin that are not listed on the WordPress directory. So, such plugin need to be accessed from the developer's site. Care must be taken though when installing such plugin. I would want to talk about the plugins that have been endorsed by WordPress.

Search for plugin. The first step is to search for the plugin you wish to install either on WordPress directory or through search engine. It is advisable to have a specific plugin in mind or better still, you may use the keyword function of the plugin.

21,747 PLUGINS, 358,082,636 DOWNLOADS, AND COUNTING



Search Plugins

Featured Plugins

- WP Super Cache**
A very fast caching engine for WordPress that produces static html files. [Download](#)
- Jetpack by WordPress.com**
Supercharge your WordPress site with powerful features previously only available to WordPress.com users. [Download](#)
- Hotfix**
Provides unofficial fixes for selected WordPress bugs, so you don't have to wait for the next WordPress core release. [Download](#)

Figure 14

Forum and WordPress support may be places to get insight about the best plugins and the functions they offer.

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Understudy the plugin. It is imperative to read through the details of a plugin before installing. Seek to know whether its being updated regularly. The number of download and voting it get across user would reveal how efficient it is.

Download plugin. Haven't satisfied with the plugin, it's time to download it either on WordPress directory or on the developer website. Ensure the version you want to download is compatible with WordPress current software.

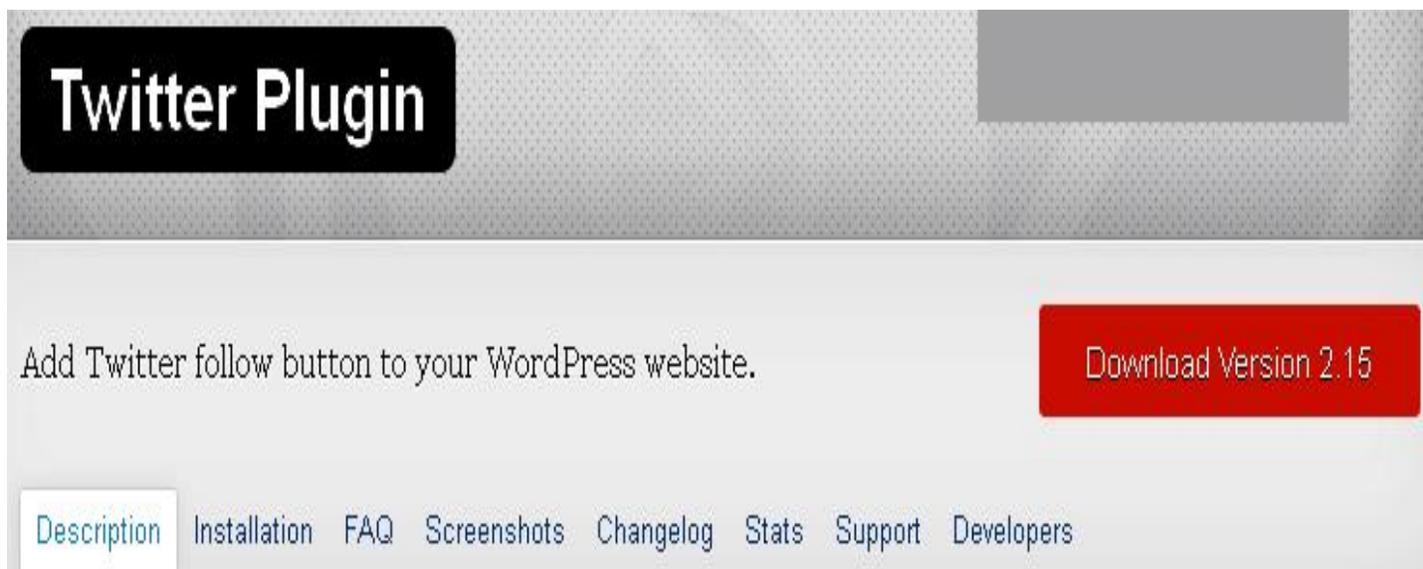


Figure 15

Click on the download button. A dialog box appears then, click save and the file would be saved on the hard drive of your computer in .zip format.

Log in to WordPress Admin panel. From the admin panel, go to plugin, click on add new from the drop down menu. Click on

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upload at the top of the page.



Install Plugins

Search **Upload** | Featured | Popular | Newest

Plugins extend and expand the functionality of WordPress. You can upload a plugin in .zip format via [this page](#).

Search

Search Plugins

Figure 16

The new page that appears would allow you browse the file on your computer in order to upload downloaded file.



Install Plugins

Search | **Upload** | Featured | Popular | Newest

Install a plugin in .zip format

If you have a plugin in a .zip format you may install it by uploading it here.

Browse...

Install Now

Figure 17

Upload plugin. Click browse and you will see a pop up box that contain the files on your computer. Locate the downloaded

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plugin and click on it. (Do not unpack or unzip the file before uploading. Upload it in .zip format). Click on save and the pop up box will disappear. On WordPress, click upload and thereafter, you'll be prompted to activate plugin.



Installing Plugin: WP Twitter Button 1.4

Downloading install package from <http://downloads.wordpress.org/plugin/wp-twitter-button.1.4.zip...>

Unpacking the package...

Installing the plugin...

Successfully installed the plugin **WP Twitter Button 1.4**.

[Activate Plugin](#) | [Return to Plugin Installer](#)

Figure 6b

Once activated, the plugin become live on your site. The next task is to set it for optimum delivery just the way you want it to function.

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Plugin Installation Through FTP Program

File transfer protocol is an application responsible for total management of files within a website when connected to the host server. It can be used in this case to upload, unpack, edit, delete and manage plugins. FTP like File Manager has to be setup within the admin host panel of your website package before it can function. Other FTP clients like FileZilla, Smart, and Cute could be setup as standalone on your computer. You can learn [how to setup FileZilla on windows](#)

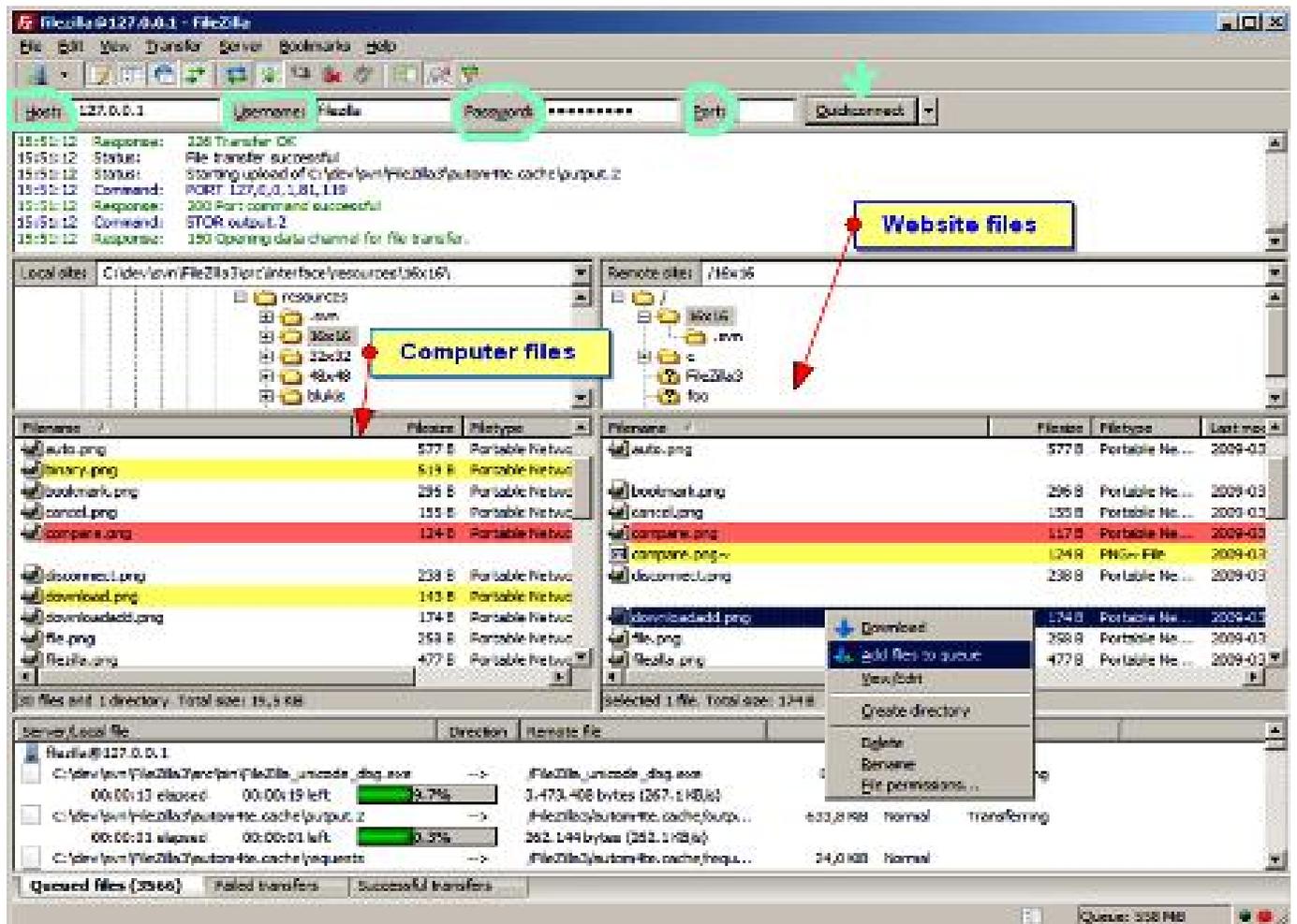


Figure 18

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Ok, let's get down to plugin installation.

1. Search and download the plugin of your choice.
2. **Unpack the plugin file.** Plugin are in .zip file format as said earlier. So, you need to use WinZip or other application to unzip it before uploading via FTP. Alternatively, you may upload in .zip format and then use FTP to unzip within the program. (Please, note the difference. You upload manually to WordPress in .zip format in the previous method, but here you must unzip the file either before or after uploading at least, before activating plugin within WordPress) I would rather have it unpack before uploading.
3. **Log in to FTP client.** You either log in to file manager within your host panel or to other FTP client directly from your computer.
4. **Upload file.** Click on upload or you may drag and drop in the case of FileZilla and other FTP clients. The plugin file should be uploaded into wp-content/plugin directory.
5. **Log in to WordPress admin panel.** On the dashboard, go to installed plugins. Look for the plugin you just uploaded via FTP. You must see it there if the file is uploaded to the right folder. There are two menu options at the base of the plugin. Click on activate, after which you can commence the process of setting the plugin to function the way you want. And that's all about

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WordPress installation. [Contact us](#) should you need any assistance in this regard. We shall be glad to push you through. Don't forget we can [setup WordPress powered website](#) for you absolutely free.

It is our hope that you're fully guided on how to install WordPress plugin.

Thank you for granting us the privilege to serve you.

