

Video 4

Going Mobile by Installing a Responsive Website

If you're creating a website for the first time, the best way to make sure you can easily go mobile is to create a responsive website. A responsive website is a site that is already configured to be used on a variety of devices.

If you've ever accessed to a desktop website on your phone, you know that they can be hard to read and hard to navigate. With a responsive website, your clients and customers will be able to easily access and to navigate your site whether they are at home, on an iPad, or on their mobile devices. This is important, because, as we have already seen, smartphones have already overtaken the PC in regard to purchase and use.

When your website is responsive and mobile-ready, that means your presence will look great everywhere. And with the abundance of great looking responsible themes for use on sites like WordPress, you can create a professional looking site with ease.

If you're starting from scratch, you may as well create a site that will meet all of your needs. By following the four steps, you can have your site up and running in no time.

Step 1: Install WordPress

The first thing you will need to do in order to create a responsive website is to install WordPress. The easiest way to do this is to go to your CPanel. This is the control panel that allows you to work with your hosting. Whether you are using services like Hostgator, the CPanel will have a similar look.

Once you have logged into your CPanel, these easy steps help you to get WordPress installed.

- Scroll down the page to the Software/Services section
- Find and click on Fantastico Deluxe
- Choose WordPress
- Find and click on the New Installation link
- Select the domain you would like to use (if you have multiple domain names)

If you want to save this information and installation in the root directory, then you do not have to install to a subdirectory. However, if you would like, you can create a new directory for your mobile site by typing it into the “Install in directory” box.

- Enter your administrator username, and create a password. Be sure to write these down
- Create an administrator nickname
- Be sure the email displayed is the correct email
- Type in the name of the site and the description
- Click “Install WordPress”
- Finally click on finish installation

You can access the admin site by clicking in the link, and below that link you can send an email of the installation details if you wish.

Step 2: Look for a Responsive WordPress Template

WordPress has a variety of themes, but you do not have to limit yourself to themes on the WordPress site. Finding a template you like is as easy as doing a search using a phrase such as “free responsive WordPress themes.”

You will then be able to browse sites that offer free responsive themes. Once you choose your theme, it’s time to install it on WordPress.

Step 3: Install the Responsive WordPress Template

- Preview the theme on the free site to make sure it fits your needs.
- Download the theme. It will download as a zip file most of the time.
- Go to your WordPress dashboard, and click on “Appearance.” This is where you will be able to choose your theme. There will be a button at the top labeled “Add New.” Click this button.
- You will be directed to choose your file to upload. Simply double-click on the zip file for your theme, and then upload it
- Be sure that you save changes whenever you upload your theme or make any changes to the theme

Once your theme has been installed, you can activate it. Once you have activated it, you're ready to begin posting.

You will have the freedom to make changes to your theme as well. For example, if you like a theme that has nature photos, but your business is technology oriented, you can remove and add photos or change photos that are used in your theme. You can also change aspects of your theme, such as background colors or background pictures if you like.

If you do not feel comfortable making extensive changes to a theme, there are many generic or more industry specific themes out there. You can choose one that already fits your business, and then you're ready to go.

Step 4: Test the new Website on the Mobile Emulator

It's always good to know what your website will look like on a variety of devices. There are several free Mobile Emulator sites that you can choose from to see what your site will look like on an iPhone, Android, or Blackberry. One excellent site is: www.opera.com/developer/mobile-emulator

- Scroll down and choose the version of the mobile emulator you want to download
- An exe file will be downloaded onto your computer. Once it has downloaded, open it so that the installation process can continue
- Once the installation process is complete, you will be directed to choose the mobile device or devices you would like to emulate
- When you click "Launch," a simulated device will pop up, and you can type in the URL of the site you want to test

This is a great tool, and it will help you make sure your responsive site looks great no matter what device your customer is using.