



Template: Blog Customization Checklist

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Based on Article: "Customizing Your Blogging Platform: Themes, Plugins, and More"

Website: <https://scaleblogger.com>

A practical checklist to guide you through customizing your blogging platform effectively.

Checklist Items:

1. Verify Hosting and CMS Credentials

Ensure that you have working SSH or cPanel access and administrator-level CMS credentials. This is crucial for installation and configuration tasks.

Reference Section: Prerequisites — What You'll Need Before You Start

2. Create Full Backup

Make a complete backup of your files and database, verifying that the restore process works on a sandbox environment to prevent data loss during customization.

Reference Section: Prerequisites — What You'll Need Before You Start

3. Set Up Staging Environment

Establish a separate staging site that mirrors your live site. This allows for testing changes without affecting the live environment.

Reference Section: Prerequisites — What You'll Need Before You Start

4. Choose a Theme

Select a theme that prioritizes readability, performance, and flexible layout options. Test for compatibility with your essential plugins.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Choosing and Installing the Right Theme

5. Run Performance Checks

Perform Lighthouse audits or run tests using WebPageTest to evaluate the theme's performance. Adjust your selection based on the results.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Choosing and Installing the Right Theme

6. Install the Theme on Staging

Activate the selected theme on your staging site and optionally import demo content to validate layouts and functionalities.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Choosing and Installing the Right Theme

7. Install Required Plugins

On the staging site, install essential plugins (SEO, caching, analytics) that support the functionality of the theme and your content strategy.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Installing and Configuring Plugins Safely

8. Customize Design and Layout

Modify the header, footer, and typography settings to match your brand identity and improve user experience.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Customizing Design & Layout (Header, Footer, Typography)

9. Optimize Performance

Ensure that the site loads efficiently by optimizing images, enabling caching, and using minimal CSS/JS as much as possible.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Optimizing Performance and Accessibility

10. Test and Launch Changes

Conduct comprehensive testing on the staging site, including functionality checks and mobile responsiveness, before rolling out changes to the live site.

Reference Section: Step-by-Step: Testing, Rollout, and Reverting Changes