



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](#)