

WORDPRESS SECURITY: FUNDAMENTALS FOR PROFESSIONALS



ABOUT ME



WEB DESIGN AND INFORMATION SECURITY

Committed to WordPress since 2008.

SUCURI – RESEARCHER AND ACCOUNT MANAGER

Removing malware and protecting websites.

Personally cleaned over 5,000 websites

SUCURI.NET

TWITTER: @JHERBRANDSON



JOSEPH HERBRANDSON | WWW.SUCURI.NET
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ABOUT SUCURI

Over 45 Security Professionals Making a Safer Web



SECURITY SCANNING & ANALYSIS

Checking the health over 3 Million websites every month through our free Sitecheck Scanner:

<http://sitecheck.sucuri.net>



ATTACK PROTECTION

Blocking over 33 million attacks and instances of malicious traffic every month



MALWARE CLEANUP

Cleaning and remediating 300 – 400 hacked or infected websites everyday.



EDUCATION

Providing detailed and actionable security information through our blog at

<http://blog.sucuri.net>



ATTACK TRAFFIC ORIGINS

[Map.Ipviking.com](https://map.ipviking.com)



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A QUICK DEMO

Attack in Progress:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4Xr3LrixVg&list=UUzkxqKA_bkNlj1-nX5f2LNA



Sooo... WHY?

It's Just Business...probably

- The Short Answer: Fame and Fortune
- \$BILLION Spam – Generic Pharmaceuticals, Payday Loans, Gambling, Designed Brand Knock Offs
- Hacktivism – Politics and religion at the speed of download
- Immaturity – Kids being kids





Start with the Basics

I

THE NEED FOR SECURITY

THE STATE OF THE INTERNET



2,981,011,519

Internet Users in the world



34,476

Websites hacked today



1,073,467,940

Total number of Websites

www.internetlivestats.com



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HOSTING OPTIONS

Choose wisely

CHEAP



Shared Hosting

ALL
YOURS



Dedicated
Hosting

DONE
FOR
YOU



Managed Hosting

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MANAGED-HOSTING PROVIDERS

WordPress Experts for Everyone!

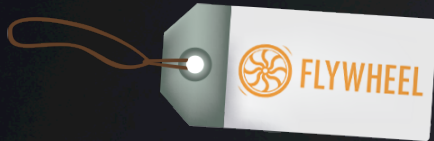
pagely



synthesis



WPengine



SiteGround



DreamHost

bluehost

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SPEAKING OF ENVIRONMENT...





No Easy Path

WORD OF WARNING

No chance of 0% risk.

The next '0-Day' attack is always around the corner...




SECURITY HEADLINES

Proof: Seen the news lately?

BloombergBusinessweek
Technology
Cybersecurity
Home Depot Hacked After Months of Security Warnings
By Ben Elgin, Michael Riley, and Dune Lawrence | September 18, 2014

TECHSPOT
Code to exploit fundamental USB flaw posted on Github

YAHOO!
FINANCE
Hackers Have Found A Flaw In Macs And Are Using It To Control 17,000 Apple Computers ... Via Reddit

 **CBS**
More than 100 celebrities hacked, nude photos leaked

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL | **MARKETS**
J.P. Morgan Says About 76 Million Households Affected By Cyber Breach

 **McAfee®**
Meet Shellshock, a New Vulnerability That Could be Worse Than Heartbleed





ALWAYS
Backup

BUT I'VE NEVER HAD A PROBLEM BEFORE...



HAVE A LOW PROFILE, NON-THREATENING SITE? YOU ARE STILL GETTING ATTENTION



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FREE WEBSITE REBRAND



HACKERS HARD AT WORK



PHARMACEUTICAL SPAM MAKES
HACKERS TWO BILLION DOLLARS/YEAR



SOLUTION: OFFSITE BACKUPS



RESULT: CLEAN SITE IMMEDIATELY



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AUTOMATED BACKUPS

Know you have a backup plan

BACKUP BUDDY



[ithemes.com/
backupbuddy/](https://ithemes.com/backupbuddy/)

VAULTPRESS



Vaultpress.com

SUCURI BACKUPS



Sucuri.net

WEBHOSTING BACKUPS



Your hosting
company



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IV

Take Password Policy Seriously

TOP 5 PASSWORDS USED IN 2013

Seriously....

PASSWORD	LAST YEAR'S RANK
'123456'	2
'PASSWORD'	1
'12345678'	3
'QWERTY'	5
'ABC123'	4

credit: SplashData.com

PASSWORD MANAGER

Remembers your passwords so you don't have to

LASTPASS



lastpass.com

1PASSWORD



agilebits.com

KEYPASS



keepass.info

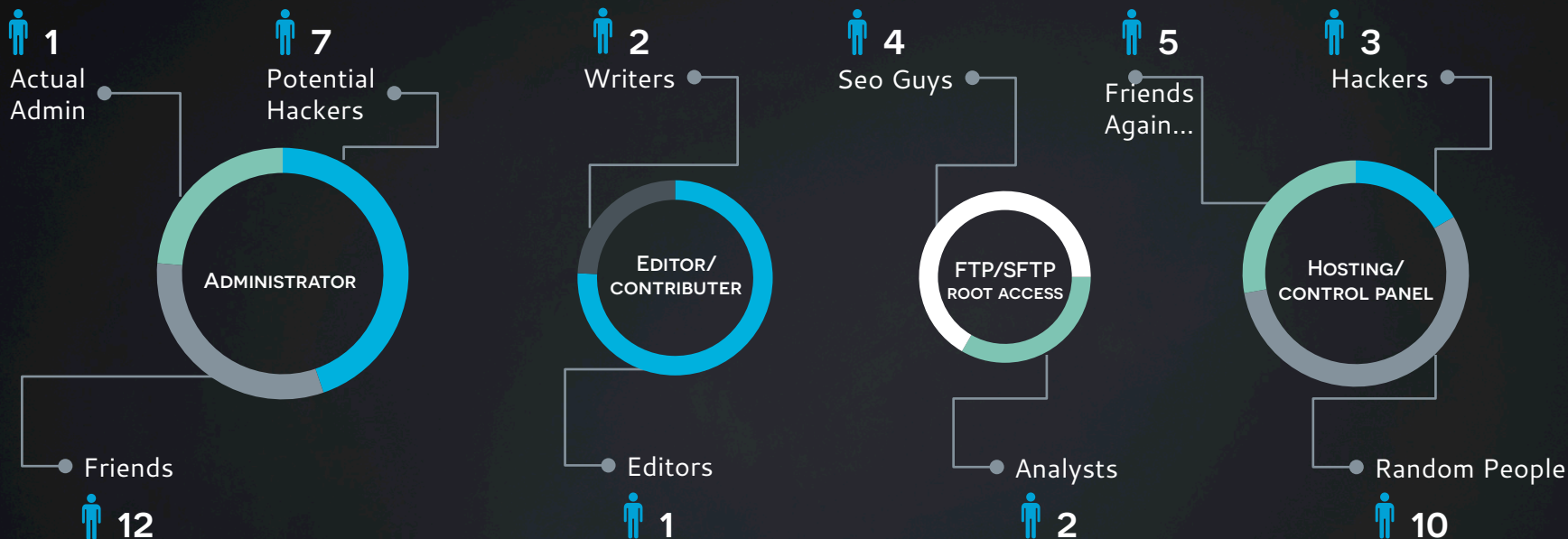
DASHLANE



dashlane.com

LEAST PRIVILEGE

Does your user setup look like this?





Steal and Be
Stolen From

V

NOT THE CODE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR...

Assisting the enemy

THIS PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE IN YOUR THEME:



```
if(isset($_GET['pwd'])) {
```

```
eval(base64_decode("CiRhdXRoX3Bhc3MgPSAiN2U5NBhY3RpdmFOZXM  
sIGNoYW5nZWQgZWxlbnVudHMgaW4gdGhIG9yaWdpbmFsIHbsdWdp  
biwgZGVzaWduZWQgdG8gYmVoYXZlIGxpa2UgY2xYW4gY29kZSwgc2ln  
bmFsIHRobzSB0YWNrZXlkdG8gbGV0IGl0IGtub3cgdGhhdCBpdOKAmXMg  
aW4uIEEgY2xYW4gYmFjayBkb29yIGhhcyBiZWVuIG9wZW5lZCwgYW5k  
IHlvdXlgc2l0ZSBpcyBub3cgb24gYW4gYXV0b21hdGVkIGF0dGFjayBsaXN  
0LCBtZWfudCB0byBxdWlldGx5IGluZmVjdCBhbmQgcmVpbmZlY3QgeW9  
1ciBzaXRlIGFnYWluIGFuZCBhZw==")); }
```


MORE THAN EXPECTED



Powered by Albanian Hackers ©

// Joomla Index Changer / Wordpress Index Changer / Cpanel Cracker / Sql Scanner / Joomla Bruter //
// Backdoor / Joomla Server Scanner / Wordpress Server Scanner / Admin Finder / Shell Finder //
// CmsDetector / MassPASSChange / Wp Mass Defacer / Uploader //

To Generate PHP.ini Click the button below [Generate PHP.ini](#)

Check The Smylink Dump Click the button below [use to Extract usernames](#)

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Have a System

VI



A SYSTEM TO LIVE BY

1. Protect! – Your computer has a firewall, why doesn't your website?
2. Detect! – The same goes for AntiVirus.
3. Respond! – Clean up the mess. You have a backup right?

Encompassing Actions:

- Know the best practices
- Mind your maintenance



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SYSTEM IN ACTION





VII

Understand the Changing Landscape

WORDPRESS CORE

Strong and Secure



DEDICATED CREATORS

Making WordPress
Solid and Secure



AUTO-UPDATES

Get important
patches right away.

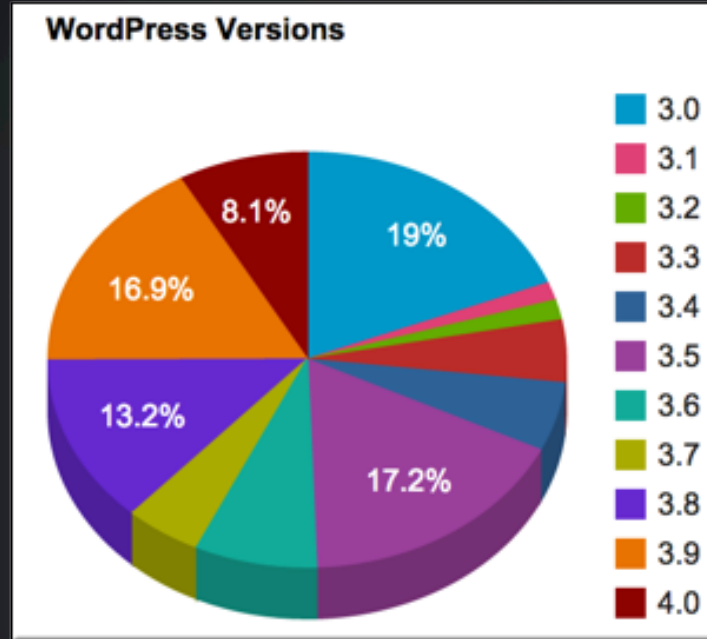


SUPPORT

Everything you need
at [WordPress.org](https://www.wordpress.org)

WORDPRESS VERSION DISTRIBUTION

3.0 – 4.0 (wordpress.org/about/stats/)



3RD PARTY VULNERABILITIES

Keep watch

Vulnerabilities disclosed at <http://blog.sucuri.net>

All-In-One SEO – 20 Million Downloads

WPtouch – 6 Million Downloads

MailPoet – 2.7 Million Downloads

Custom Contact Forms – 640k Downloads

Slider Revolution – Hundreds of Thousands (themeforest/codecanyon)



X



GOING FURTHER

Tips, Tools, and Services

WEBSITE **ANTIVIRUS** & **FIREWALL**

Protection and Detection

Don't be the mark! Understand the changes you are implementing

"AntiVirus"

WordFence
Sucuri Website Antivirus

"Firewall"

CloudFlare
Sucuri Website Firewall

"Utilities"

iThemes Security
BruteProtect
Sucuri Security Plugin



RESOURCES

Because you don't know what you don't know

General WordPress Security:

https://codex.wordpress.org/Hardening_WordPress

<https://blog.sucuri.net>

Hacking and General Security:

<http://www.securityfocus.com/>

<http://blogs.sophos.com/>

Facebook Groups:

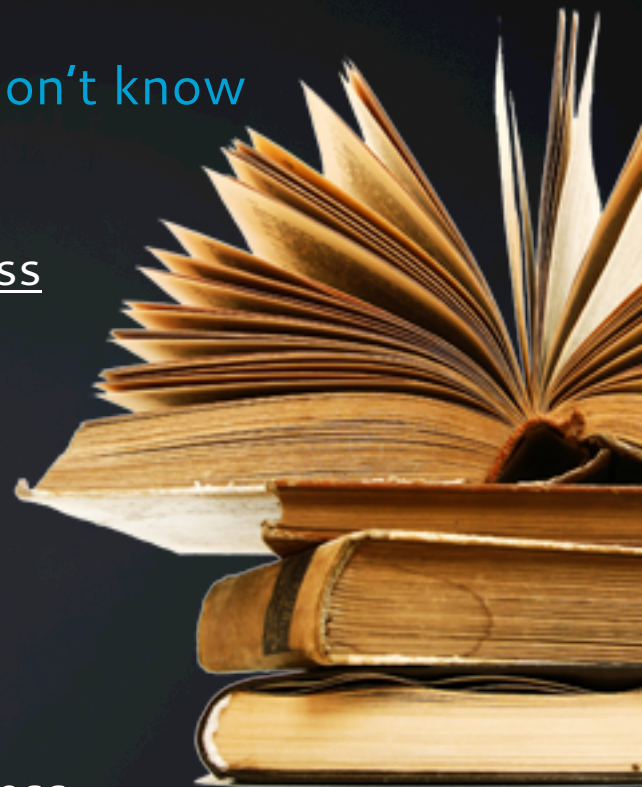
WordPress Security

Advanced WordPress

SubReddits:

Reddit.com/r/Hacking

Reddit.com/r/WordPress



EASY PATH TO CLEANUP

Response

NEED:

Releases of WordPress at:

<https://wordpress.org/download/release-archive/>

Clean backup of active theme and required plugins

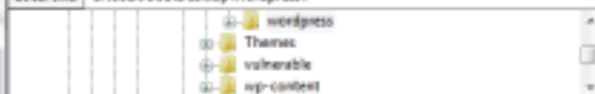
New Passwords (WordPress, FTP, Hosting Control Panel, Everything Else)

Host: ftp://65.33.229.188 Username: susanidmas Password: ***** Port: Quickconnect

Status: Retrieving directory listing...
 Command: cd "/home/jherbrandson/mombeachday.com"
 Response: New directory is "/home/jherbrandson/mombeachday.com"
 Command: ls
 Status: Listing directory /home/jherbrandson/mombeachday.com
 Status: Directory listing successful

Local site: C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\wordpress\

Remote site: /home/jherbrandson/mombeachday.com



Filename	Filesize	Filetype	Last modified
..			
wp-admin		File folder	9/3/2014 11:37:54 ...
wp-content		File folder	9/3/2014 11:37:54 ...
wp-includes		File folder	9/3/2014 11:37:54 ...
index.php	418	PHP File	9/25/2013 12:18:42...
license.txt	19,930	Text Document	4/9/2014 11:50:16 ...
readme.html	7,192	Chrome HTML...	4/21/2014 4:42:16 ...
wp-activate.php	4,951	PHP File	8/20/2014 5:30:18 ...
wp-blog-header...	271	PHP File	1/8/2012 4:01:52 PM
wp-comments...	4,946	PHP File	8/5/2014 4:38:14 AM
wp-config-sample...	2,746	PHP File	8/26/2014 7:59:18 ...
wp-cron.php	2,996	PHP File	3/12/2014 6:39:14 ...
wp-links-opml...	2,380	PHP File	10/14/2013 10:58:2...
wp-load.php	2,714	PHP File	7/7/2014 4:42:16 PM
wp-login.php	33,043	PHP File	8/27/2014 5:12:18 ...
wp-mail.php	8,252	PHP File	7/17/2014 9:12:18 ...
wp-settings.php	11,115	PHP File	7/18/2014 9:12:18 ...
wp-signup.php	26,256	PHP File	7/17/2014 9:12:18 ...
wp-trackback.php	4,826	PHP File	10/16/2013 10:58:2...
wpinc.php	2,832	PHP File	2/9/2014 7:38:42 PM

Selected 1 file. Total size: 2,996 bytes

Filename	Filesize	Filetype	Last modified	Permissions	Owner/Grp...
..					
wp-admin		File folder	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	drwxr-xr-x	jherbrand...
wp-content		File folder	9/4/2014 9:25:00 AM	drwxr-xr-x	jherbrand...
wp-includes		File folder	10/2/2014 8:06:00 PM	drwxr-xr-x	jherbrand...
favicon.gif	0	GIF image	9/9/2014 10:53:00 AM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
favicon.ico	0	Icon	9/9/2014 10:53:00 AM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
index.php	418	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
license.txt	19,930	Text Docu...	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
quickstart.html	1,285	Chrome H...	8/31/2014 4:55:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
readme.html	7,192	Chrome H...	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-activate.php	4,951	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-blog-header.php	271	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-comments-post.php	4,946	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-config-sample.php	2,746	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-config.php	3,587	PHP File	9/3/2014 3:42:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-cron.php	2,996	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-links-opml.php	2,380	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-load.php	2,714	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-login.php	33,043	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...
wp-mail.php	8,252	PHP File	10/2/2014 8:05:00 PM	-r--r--r--	jherbrand...

Selected 1 file. Total size: 4,951 bytes

Server/Local file	Direction	Remote file	Size	Priority	Time
ftp://jherbrandson@jherby...					
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	4,946	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	271	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	418	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	4,951	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	7,192	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	19,930	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM
C:\Users\Jee\Desktop\Fer...	-->	/home/jherbrandson/momb...	2,746	Normal	10/2/2014 8:05:08 PM



**THANK
YOU!**

