



The Pros and Cons of Blogger Versus WordPress Free Blog Platforms

Feature	Blogger.com	Wordpress.com
Themes and customization	You can edit template layouts , styles and colors, or install a third party theme.	No template editing. Style sheet editing is only available as a paid upgrade. Many of the 60+ themes let you upload a header image. Some have additional customization options.
Visitor stats	You can include third party tracker scripts — or any type of script.	No scripts allowed. The admin dashboard provides 2 days of stats and daily, weekly and monthly graphs.
Import	Not available.	Import from Blogger, Type-Pad, Live-Journal, Movable-Type or another WordPress blog.
Image storage	300 MB. There is no interface to browse through the images.	50 MB. Paid upgrades are available to add more space. You can also upload .ppt, .doc and .pdf files (more file types with an upgrade).
Static pages	Not available.	Create posts or 'pages'. Static pages are listed in separate menus.
Optional excerpts	Not available.	Some themes allow unique text. Others depend on a "more" tag.
Post by email	Submit your posts by email. You can receive new posts by email too (helpful for team blogs).	Not available.
Contact forms	Not available. You could add a third-party contact form , however.	Simply add the tag [contact-form] to any post or page.
Private blogs	You can restrict access to invited Google account holders.	You can restrict access to 35 invited Wordpress account holders (unlimited with a paid upgrade). Alternatively, individual posts can be password protected.
Team blogs	Administrators and non-administrators only.	Administrator, Editors, Authors and Contributors.
Comments	Visual confirmation and moderation options, but no editing of comments.	Moderation, comment editing and Akismet spam protection.
Widgets	Each widget has a brief description to help you decide. Removing them is easy.	No descriptions, and the admin area provides no explanation of how to remove them.

Blogger comments:

Visitors can preview comments. They can also choose to receive follow-up comments by email. However, you can't edit out any rude wording in the comment. You either allow the comment or delete it.

Wordpress comments:

The option to edit comments is a plus point for Wordpress, but there have been problems with Akismet spam protection. See this post on the WP user forum...

<http://en.forums.wordpress.com/topic.php?id=16584>

Widgets compared

The following chart lists widgets at BlogSpot and Wordpress.com. Blogger gives a brief description of each widget. Wordpress doesn't. At Wordpress.com either you know beforehand what the widgets do, or else you have to find out some other way. Some are not hard to guess, but for the rest you'd have to do online research or dive in at the deep end.

Theme choices

Although the Wordpress.com collection of 60+ themes sounds like a lot, many of them are quite disappointing. Two of the themes are specifically for the Christmas season, and of the remainder, a significant proportion are gaudy or tacky (in my opinion). A few of the themes have bugs which would be obvious to anyone who had done cross-browser testing at different screen resolutions. And if you don't like small font sizes, the number of acceptable choices shrinks even further. Considering that there are many hundreds of excellent Wordpress themes out there, it's hard to fathom the criteria that inspired this particular collection. Check out these full-size screenshots of [Wordpress.com themes](#) before you sign up (not a complete list).

If you don't like any of the BlogSpot themes you can modify them or install third party themes.

Ongoing improvements

The Wordpress.com team add new features and themes frequently, and since the new BlogSpot publishing system was rolled out in 2006, the Blogger software team have added new features too. Visit the developer blogs to find out what's new or in the pipeline:

- <http://wordpress.com/blog/>
- <http://bloggerindraft.blogspot.com/>

URLs

For the free blogs your url will be:

<http://your-username.blogger.com>

<http://your-username.wordpress.com>

Conclusion

Either platform will work for you, however depending upon what your needs are one platform may have functions the other doesn't that you may find appealing.

If you find you want to move your blog from the blogger platform to another, blogger won't allow you to export your content as wordpress will. For instance, if you wanted the robust features of a custom blog down the road, you'll want a wordpress.com blog.

Feel free to call me if you have any other questions. My personal preference would be to host your blog on your own domain where you can utilize the many widgets and plugins available to extend a blog's functionality.

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