

WordPress Meetup Activity

# Explore, Build, and Share with WordPress Playground

60 minutes · Mixed audience · Browser only

[playground.wordpress.net](https://playground.wordpress.net)

# What is WordPress Playground?

**A complete WordPress site, running entirely in your browser.**

**No server. No account. No installation.**

Built with WebAssembly: PHP runs right inside the tab.

# Learning Objectives

- Identify Playground's core use cases: safe testing, version testing, and environment sharing.
- Test plugins, themes, and multi-plugin combinations without touching a live site.
- Load a WordPress Beta or nightly build and locate where to report findings.
- Use URL parameters to pre-configure a Playground environment.
- Save and export a Playground environment as a portable .zip file.
- Assess how Playground could support your own work or meetup.

# What You'll Need

- A device with a modern browser (Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari)
- An internet connection
- That's it.

**Note:** No WordPress account, no local install, no admin passwords. Playground runs entirely in the browser.

# Launch and Explore

1. [playground.wordpress.net](https://playground.wordpress.net) in a new tab.
2. Look around: the black top bar is the Playground control bar.
3. Top right: cogwheel icon to switch WordPress or PHP version.
4. Sidebar icon (next to cogwheel) → Settings, File browser, Blueprint, Database, Logs.
5. Four-squares icon (top right) → open or start a Playground site.
6. Address bar at the top: change the URL or use the Quick Access dropdown to jump to Posts, Pages, Plugins, Themes.
7. Go to Posts > Add New, write a short post, and click Publish.
8. Click View Post to see it on the front end.

# A Tour of the Playground Interface

**Cogwheel icon (top right):** Switch the WordPress or PHP version running in this Playground.

**Sidebar icon (top right):** Opens a panel with 5 tabs: Settings, File browser, Blueprint, Database, and Logs.

**Four-squares icon (top right):** Playground sites menu: open, start, switch, Import, or Export a Playground instance.

**Address bar / Quick Access (top bar):** Change the URL directly, or use the Quick Access dropdown to jump to Posts, Pages, Plugins, Themes.

**"Unsaved Playground" label + Save button (top bar):** Label appears once you make changes. Click Save to store in browser storage, or Export a .zip.

# Test with Plugins, Themes, and Versions

1. [playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=hello-dolly](https://playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=hello-dolly) then check Plugins > Installed Plugins.
2. [playground.wordpress.net/?theme=twentytwentyfive](https://playground.wordpress.net/?theme=twentytwentyfive) and view the front end.
3. [.../?plugin=contact-form-7&plugin=flamingo](https://playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=contact-form-7&plugin=flamingo) — test plugin compatibility: load two at once.
4. [playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=wordpress-beta-tester](https://playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=wordpress-beta-tester), go to Tools > Beta Testing, select Bleeding edge channel, then Nightlies stream, save.
5. Dashboard > Updates → click Update Now. Explore the updated build.
6. [wordpress.org/plugins/friends](https://wordpress.org/plugins/friends) and click Live Preview. A Blueprint customizes the welcome experience.

**Found a bug? Report it:** [github.com/WordPress/wordpress-playground/issues](https://github.com/WordPress/wordpress-playground/issues) · Beta testing: [make.wordpress.org/test](https://make.wordpress.org/test)

# Customize with URL Parameters

1. [playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=classic-editor](https://playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=classic-editor) loads Classic Editor pre-installed.
2. [.../?plugin=classic-editor&plugin=contact-form-7](https://.../?plugin=classic-editor&plugin=contact-form-7) — try chaining parameters.
3. Check Plugins > Installed Plugins: both should be active.
4. Go to Posts > Add New. Notice the Classic Editor interface.
5. Try adding ?theme=astra to any URL. Themes load the same way.

# From URL Parameters to Blueprints

## URL Parameters (simple)

```
playground.wordpress.net/?plugin=classic-editor
```

**?plugin=** → Install a plugin by slug

**?theme=** → Activate a theme by slug

**&plugin=** → Add another plugin

## Blueprints (powerful)

- Pre-install plugins + themes
- Import demo content
- Run WP-CLI commands
- Set WordPress version, PHP version, and more

Try the builder: [playground.wordpress.net/builder](https://playground.wordpress.net/builder)

## Save Your Work

1. Go back to your first Playground tab (the one with your published post).
2. When you've made changes, an "Unsaved Playground" label and Save button appear in the top bar.
3. Click Save to store your Playground state in the browser's local storage.
4. Click Export: this downloads a .zip of your entire WordPress install.

## Partner Exchange

1. Find a partner (or form a trio for odd groups).
2. Share your .zip via AirDrop, Slack, email, or USB.
3. [playground.wordpress.net](https://playground.wordpress.net) — while you wait, open a fresh Playground.
4. Click the four-squares icon (site manager) and choose Import — select your partner's .zip.
5. Explore what they built: you are running their site in your browser.

# Debrief + Discussion

- 1 What surprised you most about Playground? Was there anything it could do that you didn't expect?
- 2 Where could you see yourself using Playground: testing plugins, teaching, staging environments, or Beta testing?
- 3 How might you use the partner exchange workflow at a future meetup or in your own team?

**Today you:** Today you launched a full WordPress site in your browser with no setup, tested plugins and themes safely, explored a Beta WordPress build, customized environments with URL parameters, saved and exported your work, and ran a completely different WordPress environment, all without installing a thing.

# Next Steps + Resources

|                                  |                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Blueprint builder + Step Library | <a href="https://playground.wordpress.net/builder">playground.wordpress.net/builder</a>                                 |
| Blueprint library                | <a href="https://playground.wordpress.net/demos">playground.wordpress.net/demos</a>                                     |
| Playground documentation         | <a href="https://wordpress.github.io/wordpress-playground">wordpress.github.io/wordpress-playground</a>                 |
| Playground GitHub issues         | <a href="https://github.com/WordPress/wordpress-playground/issues">github.com/WordPress/wordpress-playground/issues</a> |
| Learn WordPress                  | <a href="https://learn.wordpress.org">learn.wordpress.org</a>                                                           |
| #playground in WordPress Slack   | <a href="https://make.wordpress.org/chat">make.wordpress.org/chat</a>                                                   |



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