



Information Security
Education & Awareness
Project Phase - II



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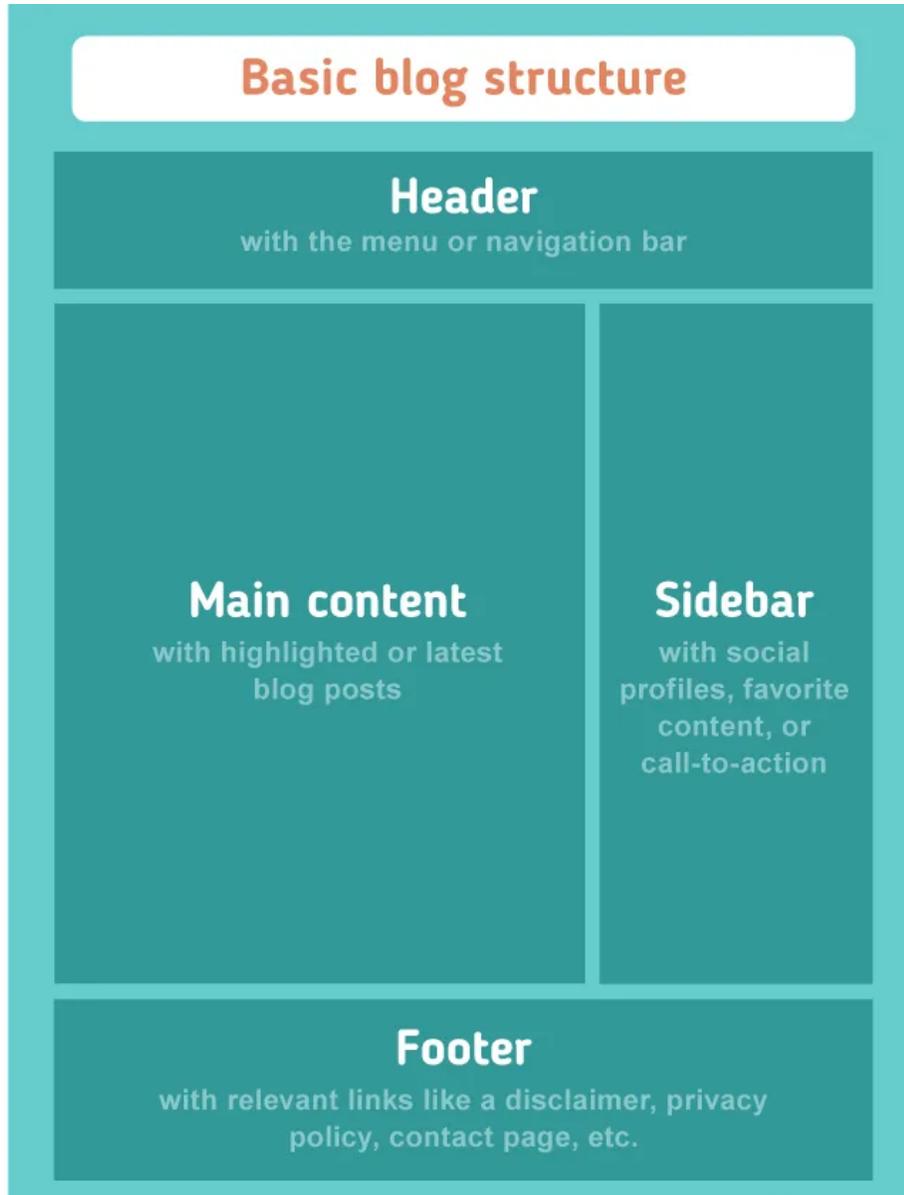
BLOGS AND BLOG SECURITY

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CDAC Hyderabad

What is a Blog?

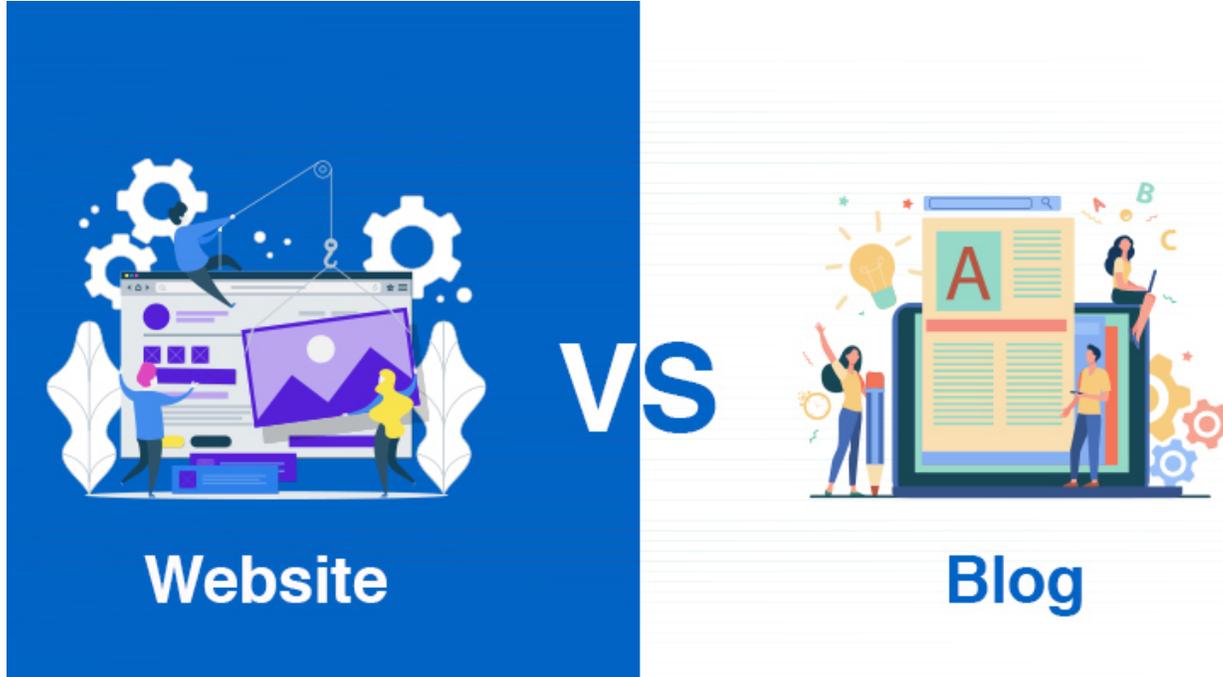
A blog (a shortened version of “weblog”) is an online journal or informational website displaying information in reverse chronological order, with the latest posts appearing first, at the top. It is a platform where a writer or a group of writers share their views on an individual subject.

Most blogs are interactive, allowing visitors to leave comments and even message each other via widgets on the blogs and it is this interactivity that distinguishes them from other static websites



Blogs need frequent updates. Good examples of this include a food blog sharing meal recipes or a company writing about their industry news. Blogs also promote reader engagement.

Readers have a chance to comment and voice their concerns and thoughts to the community. Blog owners update their site with new blog posts on a regular basis.



Key elements that identify a blog post from a static website page include a publishing date, author reference, categories, and tags within a byline.

While not all blog posts have all of those byline elements, static website pages do not have any of these items.

From a visitor's perspective, the content on a static site will not change from one visit to the next. However, depending on the blog owner's publishing schedule, the content on a blog will offer something new each day, week, or month.



What makes Blogging so popular

It became a mainstream source to share thoughts, information and ideas

Through blogging, companies or individuals keep their viewers and customers up to date

Visitors can comment and interact with you or your brand

You can earn money through blogging



Types of Blogs

- Personal blogs
- Business/corporate blogs
- Personal brand/professional blogs
- Educational blogs
- Lifestyle and Fashion blogs
- Travel blogs
- Food blogs
- Affiliate/review blogs
- Multimedia blogs
- News blogs
- Reflection
- How-to/Helpful
- Journal/Diary/Recount
- Controversial/Debate/Editorial
- Reviews/Critics
- Listicle(eg: Top 10 ways to..)
- Curation Post
- Ongoing Series



Popular blogging platforms

Though most of the blogging platforms are commercial, there are platforms that offer free or limited services.

- Blogger (www.blogger.com)
- Wix (www.wix.com)
- WordPress (www.wordpress.org)
- LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com)
- Weebly (www.weebly.com)
- Medium (www.medium.com)
- Ghost (www.ghost.org)
- Blogger (www.blogger.com)
- Tumblr (www.tumblr.com)
- Joomla (www.joomla.org)
- Jimdo (www.jimdo.com)
- Substack (www.substack.com)



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Let's get started with a blog

Demo

We will be using [blogger.com](https://www.blogger.com)



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In today's Information Age, data is the new currency.

Every action we take online is gathered, analyzed, bought, and exploited every day.

And your blog opens you up to more risk than the average internet user – which is why your online safety and privacy should be a major concern.

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Imagine these scenarios



- Hacktivism: If you blog about anything controversial (religion, politics, etc.), you may be targeted just for that.
- Vandalism: Your site could be targeted just for the fun or challenge of it.
- Extortion: Some attackers will hold your site hostage and promise to restore it for a steep fee. In fact, this type of attack, using software called “ransomware,” is on the rise.
- Competition: A competitor might decide to use underhanded tactics to level the playing field.
- Personal: Someone in your life might target you for personal reasons.

Your Info through the blogs or compromised blog accounts

Hackers who gain access to your personal information through your blog may be able to leverage that data to gain access to your bank accounts.

Or, they may have enough info on your identity to open up credit in your name, max it out, and leave you to take the hit on your credit report when the debt goes unpaid.





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Mind what you blog...! Not everything is worth a blog!

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If you blog anonymously, someone could piece together your identity and use it against you.

If you mention details about your job, you could be at risk for disciplinary action at work.

Depending on the industry you work in, you could even face hefty fines – Imagine someone working in the medical industry in the United States and are found to have violated HIPAA (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996) by sharing information on your patients or their health, you can face fines of up to \$50,000 per violation.

While HIPAA laws may not apply to you, many countries and industries have their own laws on privacy, so mentioning details about your work could land you in trouble.



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Don't give out too much of personal information

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As a blogger, your own personal security is at risk.

For one, if your name and contact info are made public through your blog, unscrupulous marketers can now inundate you with spam, junk mail, and telemarketing calls.

At the other end of the spectrum, your own personal safety – and even your life – could be at risk.

Cyberbullying doesn't just happen to kids – adult bloggers are often at risk, too.

Harassment, even if it's contained to the Internet and not “real life,” is no joke and can have serious emotional and psychological effects on the victim.

A case study: Blogger, freelance writer, and virtual assistant Sheri Levenstein Conaway

“

Believe it or not, I was the victim of harassment by my own sister. I won't go into the details of why she did it, but she had her friends from an MS board post truly awful comments on my blog because she was angry with me.



My settings required approval from me before comments were posted, but somehow these people bypassed it.

Another One:

ProBlogger's Darren Rowse, a stalker even began to threaten his physical safety

“

Negative posts written about me on another blog] were enough to trigger some extreme thought processes and obsessions in this person that led to a chain of escalating events that went from what I initially considered to be a harmless comment troll, to a cyber-nuisance, to a concerning threat maker, to what unfortunately became a situation where there was a physical attack made upon my property.





Your Blog through an attacker's eye

1. Your domain registration

If you've registered your own domain for your blog, your personal information is made public for the world to see. Your name, address, email address, and phone number are publicly listed in the Whois Public Domain Registry for all the world to see with a quick search.

2. Insecure/duplicate passwords

Depending on the software you use for your site, and how secure your passwords are, hackers could potentially use your password to gain access to your accounts on other websites. If your site is hacked, you could potentially lose access to all your online accounts, including your email or bank accounts, card details etc.





Your Blog through an attacker's eye

3. Your blog posts

The wrong person could read between the lines of your blog posts to figure out who you are, where you live, or where you work, and use that information against you.

4. The blogging platform and software

Depending on the software you use for your site, and the version of the software the attacker can use public exploits or find its vulnerabilities to compromise your account or plan malicious activities.

5. Your entire blog as an attack vector

The attacker can use the weakness in your blog's security configurations and use your blog as a vector to target others, they can plan phishing attacks or mislead your visitor and can compromise integrity of your blogs





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Demo of how we can get
information from a blog
or a website



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SSL, How important that is?



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Security Settings from common Blog Platforms





Security Headers

Name	× Headers	Preview	Response	Cookies	Timing
kinsta.com	▼ Response Headers				
style.min.css?ver=5.0.3	alt-svc: clear				
style.css?ver=5c58035c44451	content-encoding: gzip				
css?family=Roboto%3A100%2C300%2C400...	content-type: text/html; charset=UTF-8				
slick.css?ver=5c58035c44613	date: Mon, 04 Feb 2019 10:07:14 GMT				
slick-theme.css?ver=5c58035c4467c	link: <https://kinsta.com/wp-json/>; rel="https://api.w.org/"				
?ver=5c58035c44547	link: <https://kinsta.com/>; rel=shortlink				
jquery.js?ver=1.12.4	server: nginx				
jquery-migrate.min.js?ver=1.4.1	status: 200				
slick.js?ver=5c58035c445b9	strict-transport-security: max-age=31536000 ←				
stickybits.min.js?ver=5c58035c4482e	vary: Accept-Encoding				
OneSignalSDK.js	via: 1.1 google				
js?id=UA-46168441-1	x-content-type-options: nosniff ←				
jquery.form.min.js?ver=4.2.1	x-frame-options: DENY ←				



Wordpress Security

Tools

Settings

General

Writing

Reading

Discussion

Media

Permalinks

Privacy

NitroPack

Posts Table Pro

WPS Hide Login

Custom Fields

MalCare - Pro

CPT UI

Collapse menu

Usage Tracking Allow Brainstorm Force products to track non-sensitive usage tracking data. [Learn More.](#)

WPS Hide Login

Need help? Try the [support forum](#). This plugin is kindly brought to you by [WPSenseur](#) (WordPress specialized hosting)
Discover our other plugins: the plugin [WPS Bidouille](#), the plugin [WPS Cleaner](#) and [WPS Limit Login](#)

Login url /

Protect your website by changing the login URL and preventing access to the wp-login.php page and the wp-admin directory to non-connected people.

Redirection url /

Redirect URL when someone tries to access the wp-login.php page and the wp-admin directory while not logged in.

[Save Changes](#)

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#).

Version 5.8.1



Active App Local [Get advanced protection by upgrading to our Cloud App.](#)

App Settings

The app absorbs the main load caused by brute-force attacks, analyzes login attempts, and blocks unwanted visitors. It provides other service functions as well.

Local App

Lockout	<input type="text" value="4"/>	allowed retries
	<input type="text" value="20"/>	minutes lockout
	<input type="text" value="4"/>	lockouts increase lockout time to <input type="text" value="24"/> hours
	<input type="text" value="24"/>	hours until retries are reset

Trusted IP Origins

Specify the origins you trust in order of priority, separated by commas. We strongly recommend that you **do not** use anything other than REMOTE_ADDR since other origins can be easily faked. Examples: HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR, HTTP_CF_CONNECTING_IP, HTTP_X_SUCURI_CLIENTIP

Custom App

[Save Settings](#)

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#). Version 5.8.1



Dashboard

- Posts
- Media
- Pages
- Comments
- Cardiology Jobs
- Formidable
- Ninja Forms
- WooCommerce
- Products
- Analytics
- Marketing
- Elementor
- Templates
- Appearance
- Plugins
- Users
- Tools
- Settings**

Inactive User Logout Settings

Basic Management | Role Based Timeout | Support

Idle Timeout: Minute(s)

Idle Message Content

Visual | Text

B I U “ ABC ☰ ☷ ☹ ☺ ↶ ↷ 🔗 ✕

You are being timed-out out due to inactivity. Please choose to stay signed in or to logoff.

Otherwise, you will be logged off automatically.

Message to be shown when idle timeout screen shows.

Popup Background Choose a background color to hide after logout. Enabling this option will remove tranparency.

Security and Privacy in Blogger

Site feed

Allow blog feed

Full

Blog post feed

Full

Blog comment feed

Full

Per-post comment feeds

Full

Post feed redirect URL

Post feed footer

Title and enclosure links

Enable link options in post editor



General

Use Blogger draft



[User Profile](#)

Monetization

Enable custom ads.txt



Custom ads.txt

Manage Blog

Import content

Back up content

[Videos from your blog](#)

Remove your blog

Site feed

Allow blog feed

Full

Blog post feed

Full

Blog comment feed

Meta tags

Enable search description

Search description

Errors and redirects

Custom 404

Custom redirects

no items

Crawlers and indexing

Enable custom robots.txt

Custom robots.txt

Enable custom robots header tags

Home page tags

Archive and search page tags

Post and page tags

Comments

Comment location

Embedded

Who can comment?

Users with Google Accounts

Comment moderation

Never

For posts older than

14 days

Email moderation requests to

Reader comment captcha

Show word verification for readers who comment

Comment form message



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Permissions

Blog admins and authors

Ajith M

Pending author invites

No pending invites

Invite more authors

Reader access

Public

Custom readers

No custom readers

Pending custom reader invites

No pending invites

Invite more readers

draft.blogger.com

Privacy

Visible to search engines

Allow search engines to find your blog

Publishing

Blog address

Custom domain

Fallback subdomain

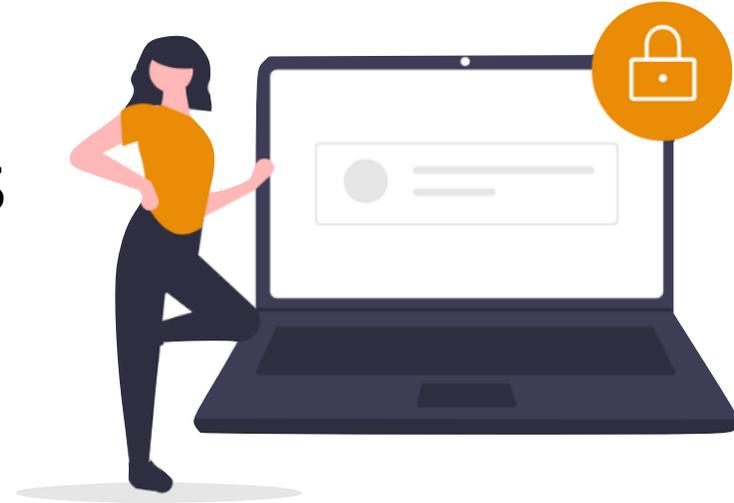
Redirect domain

HTTPS

HTTPS redirect

Ensure that visits to HTTP redirect to HTTPS

How to secure your blogs



Use domain privacy

Secure and backup your website

Use unique, secure passwords for every site

Be careful what you blog about

How to secure your blogs

Control your domain name

Control your hosting

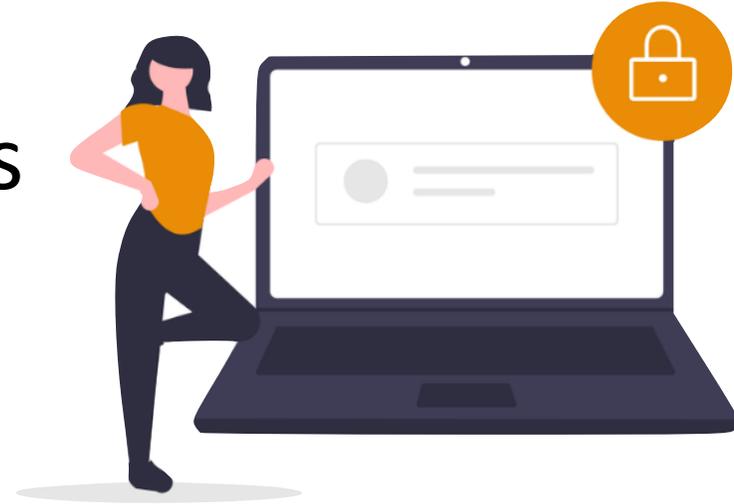
Use Secure connections, use SSL Certificate

Keep your software Up To Date

Practice Good Password Hygiene

Use a Password Safe

Backup





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THANK YOU

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