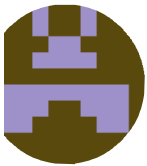


Support



[Support](#) » [Everything else WordPress](#) » [WordPress censorship](#)

WordPress censorship



[judgedredd20](#) (@judgedredd20)

2 days, 19 hours ago

✓ Resolved

There are at least two websites that I know of that have been taken offline by WordPress for 'violating WP terms and conditions'. These are:

[links removed, this is about "censorship" and not links]

My question is if one downloads the WP CMS system from WordPress.org where are the terms and conditions for how to use it? On one of the pages there itvstates that one can use it for anything. Really? So why we're the above sites censored?

One can look up on archive.org what these sites were – they provided alternative information (NOT disinformation as some would strive to have you believe), and nothing else.

So what would happen to a site that downloaded WP from WordPress.org and had similar alternative info?

At the moment I am telling all my clients not to use WordPress or get off WordPress (I have numerous clients whom I have done this with). So clarity on this censorship point is required.

-
- This topic was modified 2 days, 19 hours ago by [judgedredd20](#).
 - This topic was modified 2 days, 19 hours ago by [judgedredd20](#).
 - This topic was modified 2 days, 19 hours ago by [Jan Dembowski](#).

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Moderator



[Steven Stern \(sterndata\)](#) (@sterndata)

Forum Moderator & Support Team Rep

2 days, 19 hours ago

WordPress.org does not providing hosting for sites, it provides the software for other people

people to use WordPress software for any reason they want, without any enforcement over legality or illegality. We leave that up to the webhosts. In cases of theft, abuse, harassment, or other such behavior, your best recourse is to contact their web host directly. You can use WHOIS to determine where they're hosted, as well as resources like <https://www.whoishostingthis.com> to find relevant information.

Also note that your site was hosted at wordpress.com. That's a separate company – a *hosting* company — not wordpress.org.

-
- This reply was modified 2 days, 19 hours ago by [Steven Stern \(sterndata\)](#).

Thread Starter



[judgedredd20](#) (@judgedredd20)
2 days, 19 hours ago

I understand that WordPress.org doesn't provide hosting but the two, WordPress.org and WordPress.com are related, are they not?

You still haven't really answered the censorship question though.

On sites that are private (independent of WordPress.com, in that sites are not hosted there) but use the WordPress software (downloaded from WordPress.org) there is absolutely NO censorship of content?

Whereas using WordPress on the WordPress.com platform there is because one is using the platform and therefore it's a service being provided by WordPress.com and WordPress.com can therefore limit what content is shown?

-
- This reply was modified 2 days, 19 hours ago by [judgedredd20](#).
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Moderator



[Steven Stern \(sterndata\)](#) (@sterndata)
Forum Moderator & Support Team Rep
2 days, 19 hours ago

See <https://wordpress.org/support/article/wordpress-vs-wordpress-com/> and <https://learn.wordpress.org/lesson/what-is-the-difference-between-wordpress-org-and-com/>

No one here is censoring you. Period. WordPress.org doesn't care what you build with the software nor does it have any means of censoring your use of it.

Moderator



Samuel Wood (Otto) (@otto42)

WordPress.org Admin

2 days, 18 hours ago

Whereas using WordPress on the WordPress.com platform there is because one is using the platform and therefore it's a service being provided by WordPress.com and WordPress.com can therefore limit what content is shown?

Yes, of course, they can and do. One of the most obvious examples is it doesn't allow porn. You'll find that is the case for a lot of hosting services, they limit content on their systems. I wouldn't call it "censorship", but yes, they do that.

On sites that are private (independent of WordPress.com, in that sites are not hosted there) but use the WordPress software (downloaded from Wordpress.org) there is absolutely NO censorship of content?

Nope. The WordPress software is free for any use whatsoever. We don't have the ability to "censor" or otherwise block content. But you don't have to take our word for it. The WordPress software is open source, and free to read, use, even modify. You can read the source code and see for yourself that we don't have that ability.

Thread Starter



judgedredd20 (@judgedredd20)

2 days, 15 hours ago

Dear Steven and Samuel,


Thank you very much for the thorough response. I had no idea that WordPress.org and WordPress.com were two separate and individual entities. Thanks for clarifying that and for confirming that there is no censorship on a private site when using WP.

These answers have initiated a complete change in my thinking about WordPress (when downloaded from wordpress.org).


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