What is WordPress Jetpack?

*by*ALISON MOORE SMITH*on MARCH 25, 2011*

[](http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/jetpack/)Upgrading to WordPress 3.1 brings a new feature set to your WordPress blog. Now self-hosted WordPress users will have “the awesome cloud power of WordPress.com.”

In English, Jetpack is a plugin that bundles a number of great features that WordPress.com sites already have. These are particularly good for those just starting out in blogging and those who haven’t already tweaked their blogs extensively. The features include:

* **WordPress.com Stats** – simple site stats with no additional server load
* **Twitter Widget** – display the latest twitter updates from a selected user into your theme
* **WP.me Shortlinks** – if you don’t use [Pretty Link Pro](http://win-with-1.com/pretty-link-pro-favorite-wordpress-plugin/) (my recommendation), you can still get a bit of its functionality with post/page shortlinks to make sharing easier
* **Gravatar Hovercards** – shows a pop-up business card or your users’ gravatar profiles in comments
* **Sharedaddy** – this allows readers to easily share you content on FaceBook, Twitter, and more social sites
* **After the Deadline** – adds spell, style, and grammar checking to your blog (this might particularly come in handy for my many non-native-English blogger friends!)
* **Shortcode Embeds** – allows easier (was this hard?) embedding of YouTube, Vimeo, SlideShare, etc., videos
* **LaTeX** – mark up your posts with the LaTex markup language, which will mean something to you if, like me, you have über-geeks in your family who need complex equations and such (LaTex has been around forever, but I’ve never seen it referenced in the general blog population before.)

If you want to employ Jetpack on your site, it’s simple.

1. On top of virtually every page in your admin area, there is a long blue banner giving a shout out to Jetpack. Click on the “Learn More” button.
2. Click on the Connect to WordPress.com button.
3. From that point, follow the onscreen directions. Either you’ll be sent directly to the “Authorize Jetpack” button page, or you’ll be given the option to either login to your WordPress.com account or set up a new one.
4. When the installation is complete, you’ll be sent back tot the Jetpack configuration page where you can configure some of the features.

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