WordPress Security

(in a non-dull way?)

Let's get going…

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Notes available at http://samhotchkiss.com/security_deck.pdf

Who am I?

A die-hard Cardinals fan

- I’m Sam (hi!)
- 4 months in the WordCamper
- PHP dev since the ‘97
- WP dev since ’06
- Founder of Parka
- Principal of Hotchkiss Consulting Group

Disclaimer: You will never be 100% secure.

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Types of Attacks

The How and The Why

- Pharma / Affiliate
- Link Injection
- Hacktivism
- Drive-by Downloads
- Redirection
- And the list goes on…

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Question: My knitting blog is safe, right?

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Know your weaknesses

Don't be a fool, protect your tools.

- Public WiFi
- FTP
- Hosting environment
- Plugins (active and inactive)
- Themes (active and inactive)
- Is core up to date?

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Basic Protections

You're already doing this stuff, right?

- Keep core up to date
- Keep plugins up to date
- Keep themes up to date

- Only use plugins you trust
- Don't give people more access than they need
- *Don't send passwords through email*

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When setting up WordPress…

Change your Prefix!

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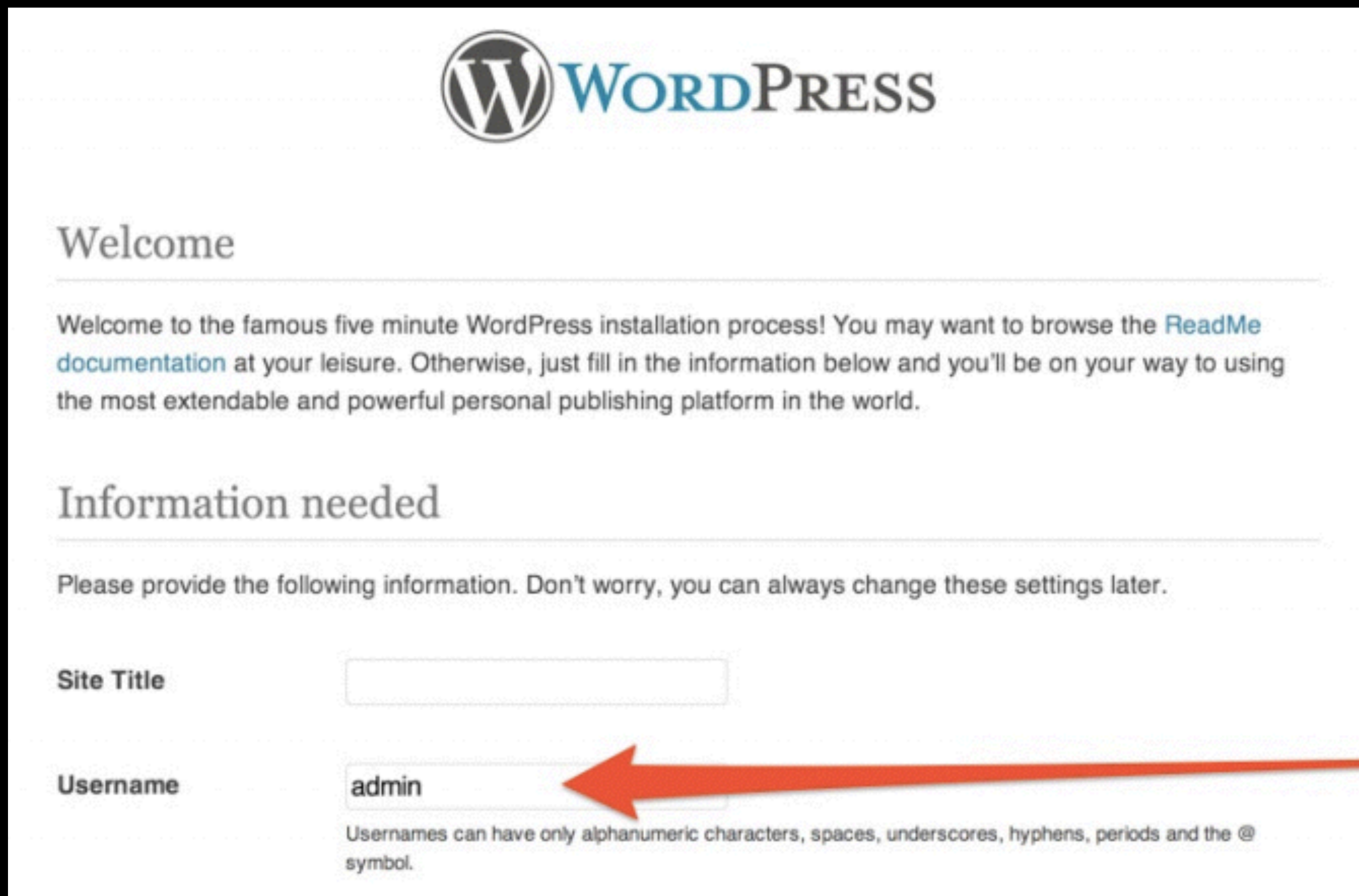
When setting up WordPress…

Change your username!



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Protect against Brute Force Attacks

- Plugins
  - BruteProtect
  - Limit Login Attempts
  - Wordfence
  - Better WP Security
- .htaccess / .htpasswd

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A little bit more about BruteProtect…

- As of this morning…
  - 47,553 sites protected
  - 50,711,851 attacks blocked
- It's free! (everything we do now will *always* be free)
- Available from Plugin directory or BruteProtect.com

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Develop a Backup Plan

It's not that hard…

- Don't trust your host
- Plugins
  - Backup Buddy
  - WordPress Backup to Dropbox
  - BackWPup
  - VaultPress

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Connect Carefully

It's a scary world out there…

- When logging into wp-admin over public WiFi
  - Install SSL or
  - Use a VPN (I use Cloak- getcloak.com)
- Don't use FTP
- Don't send passwords through email, use a tool like QuickForget.com
- Use a password manager and secure passwords (I use 1Password- agilebits.com)
- Consider Two-Factor Authentication

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Any questions?

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