Must Have Plugins
for your WordPress Blog

Blog Security

1. iThemes Security - Allows you to properly secure your blog to ward off any hackers or malicious attacks. Super duper important! Start with the free version and decide if you require more protection in the future.

2. Block Bad Queries (BBQ) - Automatically protects WordPress against malicious URL requests. Think about it as added security protecting your asset - your blog!

3. Loginizer - Blocks users with too many bad login attempts. Peace of mind if you ask me!

Privacy/Disclosure

1. FMTC Affiliate Disclosure - This adds an affiliate disclosure to the top of your posts. You need this hands down if you plan to pursue affiliate marketing on your blog. It's free so I would add it pronto!

2. Auto Terms of Service and Privacy Policy - this plugin takes care of your terms and privacy policy. It's easy - just fill in your blog info and it will create it. Then insert the shortcode provided into a page and publish. Done!

Blog Traffic

1. Google Analytics - install Google analytics on your blog to track all traffic coming in. I use the plugin created by ShareThis. You will need to Google analytics for numerous things such as traffic proof for some ad networks and if you ever want to sell your blog.

2. Official StatCounter Plugin - it's always good to have more than one traffic plugin. Go ahead and install StatCounter - the free version will get you started, but as your blog traffic grows you will need to upgrade.

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Must Have Plugins
for Your WordPress Blog Cont'd...

SEO

1. Yoast SEO - this plugin is useful for your on page SEO. It greenlights when you have good SEO. It's my go to plugin.

Social Sharing

1. Social Warfare - Adds attractive social buttons to your posts. You can choose which social sites to have your content shared on. You can create and upload pictures that will default when someone pins or shares your post on Facebook or Twitter. I have the paid version and highly recommend it.

Search Engine Ping Plugins

1. PubSubHubBub - an intersting name and a great plugin to have on your site to help the search engines find your content faster.

2. PuSHPress - another great plugin to help your blog content get found faster by the search engines.

General Really Cool Plugins

1. Pretty Link - If you want to make an ugly or long link clean and more presentable, Pretty Link is an awesome pluging that allows you to create your own link and then set the target URL. A nice way to make the links you link to look better.

2. Republish Old Posts - As your blog grows, some of your content will get pushed down because of it's age. Happens to all of us. This plugin is great for taking old content and republishing it with a new date. You can change the settings to your needs. I LOVE this plugin!

3. EWWW Image Optmizer - This handy little plugin reduces the size of your images. Super important for your page load!

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Must Have Plugins

General Really Cool Plugins Cont'd...

4. Table of Contents Plus - If you're writing long posts, it's good to break them up with headings. You'll keep your reader intersted. This plugin takes you H tags and makes them into a link, allowing the reader to get to the section that's most important to them. You've likely seen these tables of content all over my blog!

5. Instagram Feed - I love this plugin because it allows you to display your Instagram feed right on your blog. This adds more visual appeal for your reader and might mean more follows on Instagram!

6. Easy Google Fonts - Your theme will come with great fonts, but this plugin will give you access to Google fonts. This is a great thing if you're planning to brand and have things clean and cohesive on all platforms.

7. Category to Pages WUD - If you want to organize any pages with categories, this plugin is handy. Normally, categories are only available for posts.

These plugins will get your blog started. Word of advice - don't overload your site with plugins. They're known to slow your blog down, which is not good for your SEO. Be choosey with your plugins. Only use what helps your site. Note: I have every single plugin mentioned in this printable and my site speed is just fine :)