

# WordPress Backups and Updates

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## TOPIC SELECTION

**Topic:** WordPress Backups and Updates

**Goal of Instruction:** Keep WordPress websites more secure by regularly performing backups and updates.

**Rationale:** Hackers target WordPress websites regularly, and updating the software is the best way to prevent that from happening. Backups provide regular checkpoints if a website gets hacked or if software updates go awry. The underlying skills for creating backups and running software updates are relatively easy, but those updates can sometimes “break” a website many website owners are afraid to do them. In addition to teaching the skills to create backups and run updates, this unit will also help students learn how to troubleshoot some basic issues during an update.

## TASK ANALYSIS

### Tasks:

1. Create backups.
  - a. Discuss the purpose and importance of regular backups.
  - b. Determine if regular and on-demand backups are supported by the hosting provider, or if the student will need to use a plugin to create them. Students will need to know how to contact their hosting provider.
  - c. Setup daily backups on a server (WP Engine)
  - d. Create an on-demand backup on a server (WP Engine)
  - e. Install and configure a backup plugin. Students will need to know how to find a plugin, evaluate it for suitability, install the plugin, and activate the plugin for use.
  - f. Setup daily backups for backup plugin
  - g. Create an on-demand backup for backup plugin.
2. Run automatic software updates.
  - a. Discuss the purpose and importance of regular backups.
  - b. Update themes. Students will need to know how to run automatic theme updates. We will cover manual updates during troubleshooting.
  - c. Update plugins. Students will need to know how to run automatic plugin updates. We will cover manual updates during troubleshooting.
  - d. Update core software.
3. Troubleshoot issues.
  - a. Restore a site from a backup.
  - b. Pinpoint the source of the issue.
  - c. Contact the plugin/theme developer (if necessary).

- d. Run a manual update. Students will need to know the FTP login information for their website to do this.

Questions related to the tasks for the SME:

1. Why are backups and regular updates important?
2. What are the steps required to perform a backup?
3. What is the best backup plugin?
4. What are the steps required to perform an update?
5. How can a student pinpoint the source of an issue?

## **PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND MEASUREMENTS**

Objectives

1. Demonstrate a working knowledge of backing up a WordPress website.
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of updating a WordPress website.
3. Describe the process for troubleshooting issues encountered during a WordPress update.

Measurements/Evaluation

1. Successfully create daily and on-demand backups.
2. Successfully update the website.
3. Use the process to troubleshoot hypothetical issues.