

MY DISABILITY matters

**THE SOCIAL NETWORK FOR THE DISABILITY
COMMUNITY, BUILT ON WORDPRESS**

MYDISABILITYMATTERS.CLUB

TODAY

1. The My Disability Matters Club
2. Accessibility
3. Using WordPress to Create a Community
4. Our Hosting Experience
5. Key Plugins for a Community

MY DISABILITY MATTERS

- My Disability Matters (MDM) Club is a place for the disability community to meet new friends, discuss issues and find peer support
- Members are people with disability, their families and carers, and people working in the industry
- Overcoming loneliness and isolation is a key purpose
- We focus on tackling harassment, bullying and trolling
- Members are from Australia, UK, USA and many more countries

ACCESSIBILITY

- Even when the core is accessible, must consider the accessibility of each plugin and add-on feature
- There are often issues with contact forms, date pickers and knowledgebases
- Avoid captchas on sign up, or use invisible captchas if possible
- Accessibility is more than technical coding – it involves the design of a clear interface and UX
- Hashtag: #a11y and #accessibility

COMMUNITY: OUR SOLUTIONS



No community solution has all the features you want or need –
add plugins, custom code, integrations

Moved to PeepSo for moderation and custom features

Moving back to BuddyPress to improve performance and stability

COMMUNITY: PERFORMANCE ISSUES

- Approaching 5000 members caused serious performance and stability issues with PeepSo, despite premium hosting (Kinsta)
- Analysis showed: large number of database calls, slow PHP functions, large number of custom ajax calls on each page load
- PeepSo uses custom Ajax code instead of WP in-built, and not able to cache many components

COMMUNITY: BACK TO BUDDYPRESS

- Moving back in November
- No migration plugin... Anyone here able to develop one?!
- Moderation tools now available for BuddyPress
- RT Media now much more powerful
- Will use external SaaS chat solution
- BuddyPress has geo location search (unlike PeepSo)
- [ElasticPress](#) being developed for BuddyPress
- Planning to develop mobile/tablet apps using AppPresser

COMMUNITY: FEATURES TO CONSIDER

- Do you need forums, groups or both?
- User submitted posts to a public Members' Blog
- Hashtags in community activity (PeepSo ✓ - BuddyPress X)
- Member onboarding – need email capacity through Sendgrid or soon to be released Offload SES plugin
- Will you create an app for the community?
- Image optimisation is crucial with so much user content – we recommend WPMUDEV Smush Pro

YOUR COMMUNITY & GDPR

- Members must have access to data held and managed by third party tools and services
- Plugin to integrate many external tools with WP built in GDPR tools - <https://privacywp.com/>
- All third party data and other plugins must comply – eg. Email provider, ecommerce, membership plugin etc
- PeepSo: fully integrated GDPR compliance – members can download, inspect and erase community data
- BuddyPress: relies on in-built WP GDPR tools, less automated

OUR HOSTING EXPERIENCE

- We had experience with variety of hosting options
- Shared hosting will not work for a community website
- Must have a quality managed and secure WP host
- Managed VPS hosting with Pagely or Kinsta has worked best
- Backups are very important, and must be more frequent than daily for a community
- Kinsta offer hourly backups

OUR HOSTING EXPERIENCE

- Difficult to cache with a community due to all users being logged in
- WP places a heavy load on your server without caching
- Must utilise caching with your hosting – server caching (e.g. Varnish), object caching (e.g. Redis or Memcached) and others
- Hosting uploads with S3 using WP Offload Media
- For code editing we use WP Buffs maintenance services - <https://mydisabilitymatters.com/go/sitecare>

KEY PLUGIN CONSIDERATIONS

When choosing plugins, themes and custom work:

- Performance, stability, optimisation of code and database usage are paramount – more important than extra features
- Choose plugins from as few different developers as possible
- Use plugins which are well maintained and supported
- A theme with visual page design may slow site performance as caching will be compromised

KEY PLUGINS

MDM Club is a private community for members only

- Membership plugin increases the server load
- Currently Paid Membership Pro, moving to Restrict Content Pro

Advertising

- Advanced Ads Pro - <https://wpadvancedads.com/>
- Integrates with PeepSo and BuddyPress, including ads in the activity stream

KEY PLUGINS

- **WP Fusion**
<https://wpfusion.com/>
Integrates WordPress users with your email marketing platform (ours is currently ConvertKit)
- **Uncanny Automator**
<https://automatorplugin.com/>
Promising new plugin to automate tasks & works with WP Fusion
- **Strong Testimonials**
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/strong-testimonials/>
Collect, moderate and display testimonials from members
- **Gravity Forms**
<https://www.gravityforms.com/>
Highly accessible forms, plus addon to use Google invisible captcha
- **Fatal Error Notify**
<https://fatalerrornotify.com/>
Both free and premium versions
- **Easy Theme and Plugin Upgrades**
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/easy-theme-and-plugin-upgrades/>
Simplifies upgrade process

KEY PLUGINS

- Passwords Evolved
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/passwords-evolved/>
- Username Changer
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/username-changer/>
- Restrict Usernames
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/restrict-usernames/>
- WP Persistent Login
<https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-persistent-login/>
- User Role Editor
<https://en-au.wordpress.org/plugins/user-role-editor/>
- PerfMatters
<https://perfmatters.io/>

Prevent members using passwords involved in hacking / strengthens security

Restrict/add ability to change usernames which members will request

Important to ensure limit use of usernames that give impression of being an official user or site admin

Eases support issue by ensuring users stay logged in as long as possible

Control/edit/manage your WP user roles, permissions and security

Adds many performance tweaks

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