Plugins

Quick recap

How did you find your session yesterday?

Give me one thing you took from yesterday's session

Today's to-do list

Today we are going to look at **Plugins**

We are going to look at whats available to you
to help you back up, connect up and secure your site.

Learning objectives

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Learn how to install security and performance plugins
- Understand the various plugins
- Identify what maintenance needs to be done each month.

Show of hands

Show of hands, who has used any **plugins** other than the site builders?

Updates?

In WordPress, unlike the hosted sites - Wix, and Squarespace etc, you are responsible for keeping all your software up to date.

Why bother?

Security, new features, bug fixes. All software has glitches and demons. Little loopholes here and there can be exploited by hackers.

Plus, if you don't you can miss out on some really cool features that get introduced in each update.

Updates

Plugins all need updating too. Just like your WordPress version, they are regularly updated for security and added features and to make sure they work properly with each WordPress update.

Do it yourself

If you are going to do a lot of plugin updates at once it's always best to do them manually, and one at a time. Update a plugin then go check your site. That way you will be able to identify where any problem lies.

Can I have as many as I like?

Yes and no. There is no limit as to how many you can install, Plugins are great and they let us do so many things, it is worth remembering though that every plug-in you add has to be loaded at some point.

Included as standard

Before you choose your hosting, it's often worth looking at what is included in your set-up as standard.

Which ones do I *need*?

You will want to add some just to help you get a better user experience, but there are some that you will need to make sure you include for better security and performance

Essentials are

- Security

- Performance/Caching
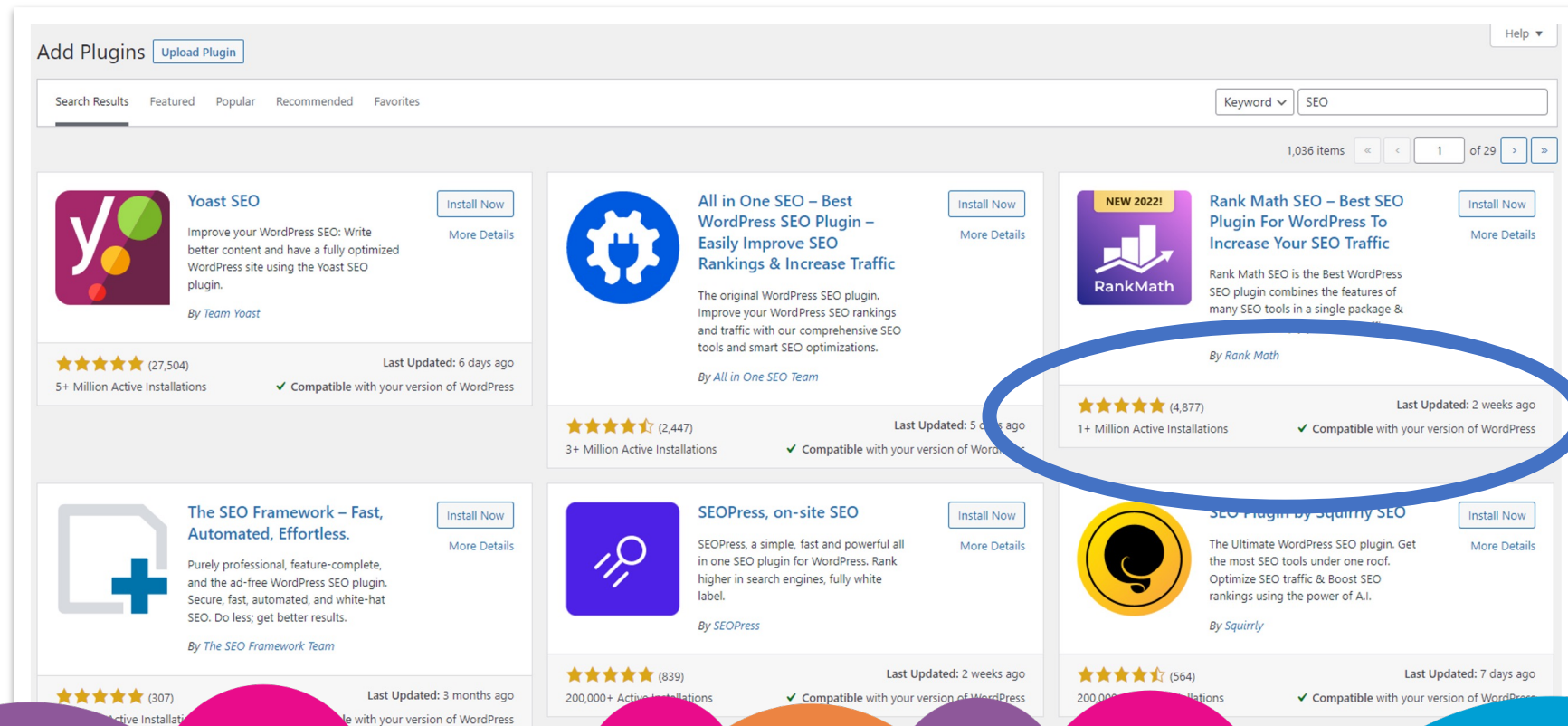
- Backups

- GDPR/Cookies

- SEO

- Analytics

Which is best?

How do you choose between them?
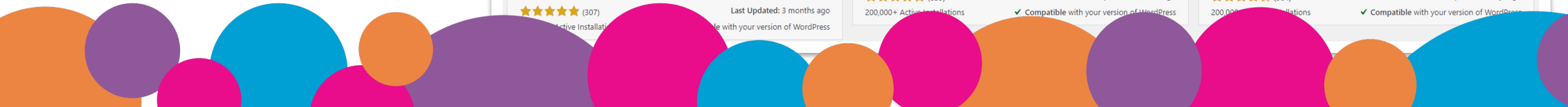
Number of active installs

Last update date

Stars out of 5

Backups

Backups are one of those things, you don't think you need them, till you do. Just imagine, you build a lovely website, you break it, not hard to be honest, and then what? Argghh, white screen of doom!

Backups

Plugins like **Updraft** and **Duplicator** can be set to do routine backups for you and save them to various different places including Google Drive and Dropbox so they are kept externally but can be restored at the click of a button.

Backups

All-in-one Migration is great for manual backups before you do updates and is perfect if you want to take a copy of your site to move it somewhere.

Security

Plugins like **Wordfence**, **Sucuri** and **Jetpack** all have good solid free features and premium paid-for options too. They are nice and easy to set up and configure.
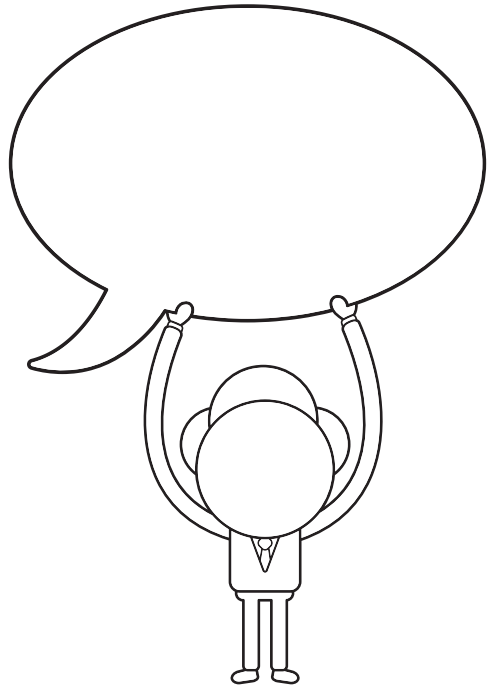
Activity time!

Let's get logged in and install some plugins

GDPR

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Show and tell

Does anyone want to share their ideas with us?

Any Questions?

Coming up soon to extend these skills

Tomorrow we will look at some of the other plugins available that allow you to do all kinds of cool stuff.

Quiz

Quiz books out
10 quick questions to test your knowledge

Final thoughts

Any comments on today?
What one thing do you feel you have taken from or improved upon from today?

Extra help

If you need any help with anything from today's session feel free to message me in the WhatsApp group.

If you have any other issues or problems related to the course or the tools speak to Andrew and Irfana, they are here to help you.

Up next…

See you tomorrow for more plugins!