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WordPress 5.3 New Features

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Art Smith

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Credit

- A great deal of the information here was sourced from articles regarding changes in WordPress 5.3
- The most substantive article used was from the iThemes Blog at <https://ithemes.com/wordpress-5-3-overview/>
- Other information was found at the WordPress.org site at: <https://wordpress.org/news/2019/11/kirk/>

Rahsaan Roland Kirk

WordPress 5.3 was named after an American jazz musician Rahsaan Roland Kirk who was a multi-instrumentalist who played tenor saxophone, flute, and many other instruments. He was renowned for his onstage vitality, during which virtuoso improvisation was accompanied by comic banter, political ranting, and the ability to play several instruments simultaneously.



Agenda

Improved Block Editor (Gutenberg)

New Theme!

Improved Admin UI

Large Image Handling

Miscellaneous Changes

Developer Specific Updates

Improved Block Editor (Gutenberg) 1/3

- Faster and more intuitive
- Provides Better Previews and Explanations of Blocks
- On supported themes, a new Preview experience that gives more of a true WYSIWYG view in the Block Editor.
- Easier keyboard navigation in the Block Editor, called “Navigation Mode”. You can use the tab or arrow keys to move from block to block.

Improved Block Editor (Gutenberg) 2/3

- Group Blocks, allow you to set some styling (background color for example) for a group of blocks so you only have to change one block instead of several.
- Spacer Block makes it easier to create whitespace between blocks.
- The Column Block has been updated to be more flexible in setting column sizes.
- The Cover Block (used for images and videos) can have background color and size easily set.

Improved Block Editor (Gutenberg) 3/3

- The Button Block now has a Border Radius, which means it can now have rounded corners.
- The Table Block now has Header and Footer rows, and Table (not just text) alignment.
- There are now controls for text and background colors in the Block Editor.

New Theme!

- The new default theme for WordPress is now Twenty Twenty
- This new theme is designed and intended to help highlight the Block Editor (Gutenberg)
- The basic design is also very modern with the header and navigation designs.
- A great way to learn more about the block editor is to open the home screen (titled “The New UMoMA Opens Its Doors”) and click on different parts of the page in the Block Editor.
- Also uses the typeface “Inter”, which includes better load times for the font files.
- → Jump to browser to look at the theme

Improved Admin UI 1/2

- Buttons no longer have a box-shadow
- Darker tables and meta boxes borders have been introduced for a better hierarchy between interface elements
- Stronger color contrasts on form fields and buttons
- Focus styles on form fields and buttons
- Content behavior on text zoom

Improved Admin UI 2/2

The screenshot displays the WordPress 5.0 Admin Dashboard. The top navigation bar includes links for 'My WP Site', 'New', and 'Security', along with user information 'Login Alerts' and 'Howdy, Kristen Wright'. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'Dashboard', 'Home', 'Updates', 'Security Dashboard', 'Posts', 'Media', 'Pages', 'Content Upgrades', 'Comments', 'Appearance', 'Plugins', 'Users', 'Tools', 'Settings', 'BackupBuddy', 'Security', and 'Collapse menu'. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and features a 'Welcome to WordPress!' message with a 'Dismiss' link. Below this, the 'Get Started' section contains a prominent blue 'Customize Your Site' button, which is highlighted by a yellow arrow. To the right of this button are links for 'Write your first blog post', 'Add an About page', 'Set up your homepage', and 'View your site'. Further right, the 'More Actions' section lists 'Manage widgets or menus', 'Turn comments on or off', and 'Learn more about getting started'. At the bottom of the dashboard, the 'At a Glance' section shows 'Activity' and 'BackupBuddy v8.4.19.0'. The 'Quick Draft' section, highlighted by another yellow arrow, includes a 'Title' field, a 'Content' field with the placeholder 'What's on your mind?', and a 'Save Draft' button.

Large Image Handling 1/2


- Large, high resolution images can more easily be loaded from your smartphone camera or other digital cameras.
- WordPress will automatically resize large images to a maximum size of 2560px (px=pixels)
- If the upload fails because of a server timeout (which can happen on larger files) WordPress will automatically retry the upload.
- There is a way to disable the maximum image resizing with some custom coding, but this is not recommended. Large image files can really slow down your site's pageload time.

Large Image Handling 2/2

My WP Site 0 + New Security

Login Alerts Howdy, Kristen Wright

Attachment Details



Edit Image

File name: alberta-amazing-attraction-banff-417074-scaled.jpg
File type: image/jpeg
Uploaded on: November 11, 2019
File size: 641 KB
Dimensions: 2560 by 1725 pixels

Alternative Text
[Describe the purpose of the image.](#) Leave empty if the image is purely decorative.

Title

Caption

Description

Uploaded By Kristen Wright

Copy Link

[View attachment page](#) | [Edit more details](#) | [Delete Permanently](#)

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#). You are using a development version (5.3-RC4-46673). Cool! Please [stay updated](#).

Miscellaneous Changes

- Accessibility Improvements
- Automatic Image Rotation
- Administration Email Verification
- Site Health Improvements

Developer Specific Updates

- A number of key items that are of interest to developers were also included.
- If you are a plugin, theme, or custom WordPress website developer, you will want to review the 5.4 Field Guide as some changes could impact code you have written in the past (or may write in the future)
- <https://make.wordpress.org/core/2019/10/17/wordpress-5-3-field-guide/>

Oh Yes... WordPress 5.3.1

- Security and Maintenance Release was made available on Friday (December 13)
- Although sometimes there may be broken functionality that gets fixed in a Maintenance release, the real criticality tends to be in the Security fixes. Most of us may not understand those fixes, but they help eliminate risk of your site being vulnerable to attacks.
- <https://wordpress.org/news/2019/12/wordpress-5-3-1-security-and-maintenance-release/>

Questions?