

How many plugins are too many?

We host PagePipe on cheap GoDaddy magnetic servers with no CDN. GoDaddy hosting is the second most hated provider in the world. The first is BlueHost. (That's not possible. Is it?). We're out to prove even "bad" hosting can get fast page speed. It's deliberate. We host our store on BlueHost. We're rebels.

PagePipe now uses 70 plugins on our blog and 30 plugins on our secure store. Even with this many plugins, load time is under 2 seconds on cheap, GoDaddy hosting. It's not plugin quantity, it's the quality that makes a difference. Web designers can't be arbitrary in loading and activating heavy, popular plugins. The result is slow pages.

It's a myth using many plugins slows down your website. Being sloppy in judging plugin quality or necessity is the culprit. That's within a web designer's control. It calls for wisdom and speed testing.

The best plugins add no page weight at all – weightlessness! (OK. In reality, about 1 millisecond - or less - per discrete plugin to the initial page load.)

Find out for yourself. **Test our recommendations.**

-Steve Teare, *performance engineer*, PagePipe.com

When is a plugin too old to trust?

Lonely, rarely-found plugins still work. And often for over a decade without complaints. That isn't brokenness. Does that mean it won't work anymore with new versions of WordPress?

Nope.

Some appear stale - but they work and are as safe as any other plugin. Either paid or free.

So the question is "Outdated? By what definition?" Some think a warning like: "This plugin hasn't been tested with the latest 3 major releases of WordPress."

WordPress' motive is covering their legal risk against liability and lawsuits. If a plugin didn't work anymore or presented security hazards, it's removed fast. They call those "takedowns."

Plugins stay as long as there isn't any *noise* about them. Retired or dead author's plugins stay in the WordPress free directory.

No plugin is guaranteed safe. Not even paid (premium) plugins. Don't let silly warnings discourage you. They aren't for your protection. They're protecting WordPress.

-Steve Teare, *performance engineer*, PagePipe.com