

Print My Blog (the Book)

WordPress Book & Document Publishing

Michael Nelson

<https://printmy.blog>¹

1. See page [13](#).

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This book was written for version 3.22.0 of Print My Blog

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Who Should Read This?

This user manual is intended for paying users of Print My Blog Pro, with the intent to help them make the best possible use of the software. That means writers, editors, designers, and developers.

It is assumed you already have some familiarity using [WordPress](#), like how to write posts and install plugins.

Some of the more advanced topics, like creating custom designs, will also require some background in [HTML](#), [CSS](#), and [PHP](#).

Introduction

This book is all about how and why to make content that accessible as possible to everyone in the formats they choose, be it on a web page, a printed book or page, or a PDF file.

I think the best tool for doing that is one that's already very popular: WordPress. [WordPress powers over 40% of the Internet. It has over 50,000 plugins](#) that enable it to do so much more than run a blog: it can run a store, a membership site, a college's coursework and tons more. There's no need to use the tech giant's word processing programs like Microsoft Word, Google Docs, or Apple Pages.

Desktop word processing programs have become outdated, and the main task they do isn't anything too special: write words. Lots of online content management systems can do that. There's no need to use the tech giants proprietary software.

WordPress, like many online content management software, is freely licensed software. That means [anyone can install and use it on their website for free, inspect the code to see what it's doing, and even modify it to do something different](#). Like make books and documents.

It takes a bit of a paradigm shift, but there's no reason we make websites with one program (usually WordPress) and make offline documents in another (like Microsoft Word). Actually, Microsoft is aware of this, and you can use it to write HTML files to then upload to a web server, or connect it with a WordPress website to write posts. Except Word isn't very good in either case. The HTML files it generates look like something from decades gone by, and writing blog posts in Word ignores WordPress' powerful new block editor and plugins' content, arguably its two most important features.

Book publishers also see there should be a separation between content (what you write) and it's presentation (how it looks) because their readers demand it in different formats: print, eBook, PDF, etc. One tool they've over-designed is [DocBook XML](#). Never heard of it? Don't want to rewrite everything in it? Good, neither do I. The idea behind it actually makes sense, it's just way more work than what most of us were looking for.

Rather than inventing a new language, let's reuse one most of us are already familiar with. For example: remember the invented language Esperanto? It was a great idea for a common worldwide language, it just never took off because there's already a language we can communicate with most people with: English. For historical reasons, lots of the world knows it, making it the easiest way to communicate. WordPress is a bit like that.

Many of us already write in WordPress, and might have even already written a book's worth of content in it. All we need is an easy way to convert it.

In computer science, there's the concept of mapping: if you instruct a program how to solve a problem, it can use those same instructions to solve a novel problem provided it can map the old data to the new data. Eg, a program that sorts numbers can instead sort letters, you just need to map each letter to a number (1 maps to "a", 2 maps to "b", etc).

In the same way, content written for a webpage can be mapped to a printed page. Hyperlinks to webpages on other domains map map to footnotes; YouTube videos map to a screenshot and a URL (and maybe a QR code) where the video can be watched; and hyperlinks to other pages on the same domain can map to cross-references.

With a bit of effort, nearly all content generated in WordPress for web pages can be mapped to corresponding content in printed pages.

Digital PDFs and eBooks are somewhere in-between web pages and printed pages because they're usually divided into discrete pages and are more interactive than a printed page but less than a web page.

Us humans are ok at doing this mapping. We just take a long time (or charge a substantial fee), but once you teach a computer program how to do this, it becomes nearly instantaneous.

That's the heart of what Print My Blog does: makes your content written for a webpage map nicely to content for a

printed page, or PDF, or eBook. It avoids all the unnecessary reformatting, rewriting, and time-consuming effort. It makes it reasonable to again write for print and PDF because we already did when we wrote the webpage.

Print My Blog actually isn't the first WordPress plugin to aim to let you write books and documents from WordPress.

Anthologize did this, but was very focused on higher education. It was a huge step forward, but hasn't received the funding it deserved. For that reason, it doesn't work very well with bog documents, content from WordPress' new block editor, or content from other plugins.

PressBooks is popular for writing new books, also in the higher education sector. But it's not a plugin you simply add onto a site. You either need to setup a multisite network (outside most WordPress users' comfort zone) or start a new site on PressBooks.com (without your choice of plugins). And while it's actively maintained, it also doesn't support content from most other plugins.

There are lots of other plugins and web services for creating PDFs and printing from WordPress content, but they usually have difficulty with content from the WordPress' block editor and other plugins. But Print My Blog mimics the normal way content is displayed on your website (it even lets the browser execute Javascript and CSS before converting the HTML into a PDF) so integrates the best I've seen.

Print My Blog's Print Service also leverages a really cool tool under the hood: [Prince CSS](#). You've probably never heard of it, and that's fine. Most users of Print My Blog never become aware of it. But it's what makes the PDF magic possible, like: cross-references, control of page dimensions and margins, adjusting image placement based on where it falls on the page, and lots more. And it does all that with the web designer's most basic tool: [CSS](#). Just like how Print My Blog allows writers to write books and documents in the most common content management software (WordPress), it also allows web designers to design for print in the most common web design language (CSS).

To what end? Here's some examples...

- **white paper or brochure.** For example, this [here is a PDF brochure made from content on printmy.blog](#)
- **printed version of entire website or blog.** Print it all, except ink guzzlers like site heading, sidebars, footers and pop-ups. Use your own printer or send to a printing service lulu.com
- **book from select content.** Add a title page, introduction, table of contents, and pick existing content from your site to make a book. Sell it on Amazon KDP. Like that, you're an author!
- **new book from scratch.** Write new print-only materials that never appear on your website. Leverage WordPress' great editors and other plugins.
- **lead magnets.** Compile content on a subject into a PDF and grant access after users sign up for your email list
- **members-only content.** Combine with Restrict Content Pro or other plugins to only allow access to select downloadable PDFs of your content
- **printed course materials.** Create a course using an LMS (learning management system) plugin, and use Print My Blog for learners to print
- **event brochure.** Let event attendees print a useful copy of your event's details to take with them
- **printed user manual.** And digital user manual on the website (we send printed and digital user manuals, using Print My Blog Pro, of course)
- **product brochure.** Use WooCommerce or other WordPress e-commerce plugins to make content accessible to those who would rather not browse online
- **monthly magazine or newspaper.** Reuse the same design and blog post content to create a digital or print magazine to send to your email subscribers
- **research paper.** Put your research on your website and print it with a consistent design
- **restaurant menu.** Optimized for display on your website, and to look great in print
- **recipe.** Write it once as a blog post, then make the printer-friendly version available for download.
- **resume.** Create a page on your website and then a [PDF to submit](#).

Basically, anything you'd normally use Microsoft Word to write, you can instead write in WordPress. And anything you make in WordPress can become an offline PDF or printed document.

I think as you learn about what Print My Blog already supports, you'll realize more and more applications, and

agree that the old dichotomy of creating content online *or* for print no longer applies.

This book will certainly not answer every question, despite however thorough I try to be. That's because I haven't thought of all the revolutionary ways you could use it, and [I don't have the same experience](#) or profession as you. So after you've skimmed this over, please get in touch with your questions and suggestions. I'm excited to hear what thoughts you have to share!

A big thank you to all the founding members who gave insights and feedback while the plugin was still in its “early years”.

—Mike Nelson, Print My Blog Plugin Developer

Why Make a Book and a Website?

For my plugin Print My Blog, I have created both an online user manual (using the plugin [BasePress](#)), as well as a digital PDF manual, printed book, and ePub eBook (all three usingwith Print My Blog). Why?

Because each format is preferred by different people in different situations. Foremost: websites are great for finding quick answers, and books are better for long reads.

If you want to find out [how to add cross-references inside your document](#)¹, you'll probably search for that online. An online search won't show printed books. It might bring up a PDF file, but that's more cumbersome than a website.

If you want to relax and do some reading or read extensively on a topic, a book on your tablet or a printed copy is more appealing. The linear structure of a book and its features for saving your progress and note-taking then make it preferred over a webpage.

As the developer of Print My Blog, it only makes sense for me to use my own software: to write for the web and print simultaneously. I've had many great ideas come to me as I've been using my own software (sometimes this is called "eating your own dog food").

I believe once you've gotten a taste for "just because websites are a popular means of distributing information, you don't have to read everything on a website", you will wonder how we got along before.

Lastly, if you purchased a license for Print My Blog software, I think it only makes sense that you have a copy of the user manual to keep (that will even be available if the website is down or goes offline forever).

So it's up to you: do you want to read online right now? Check out my [online user manual](#). Do you want to read a PDF from a device? [Download the digital user manual now](#). Want to read a printed copy? Buy a [business license](#) and I'll mail you one.

Either way, enjoy learning about Print My Blog.

1. See page [121](#).

Print My Blog (the Book)

About Print My Blog

Before we get started using Print My Blog, you may want to first know what's so great about Print My Blog, what you can use it for, and what's the vision for where it's going. That's what this part is about. But if you're eager to see it in action, feel free to skip to the [next part](#)¹.

1. See page [23](#).

Make Books, eBooks & Documents in WordPress

Print My Blog makes beautiful and functional PDFs, eBooks, and printed materials right in WordPress.



Write for Web, Print and eBook—Once

In the same program. No copy-and-pasting. No exporting between systems. No formatting to fix each time.

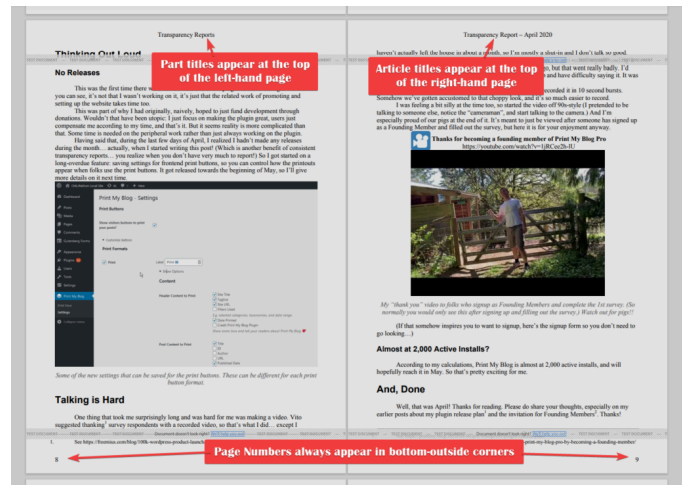
Fix a typo or make an adjustment once, and it will be made to your website, eBook, and printed book.

Leverage WordPress' Power in Print

Print My Blog is built to integrate deeply with [WordPress](#), the website content management system (CMS) that powers over 43% of the Internet. Combine Print My Blog with WordPress' 58,000+ plugins and open source code to create far richer documents than proprietary software allows.

Optimized for Web and Print

Websites are often interactive (featuring hyperlinks, videos, and even pop-ups) while print isn't, and eBooks are somewhere in-between. Print My Blog takes care of converting website content to look good in whichever formats you're creating; like replacing hyperlinks with page references and footnotes, or videos with screenshots and URLs.

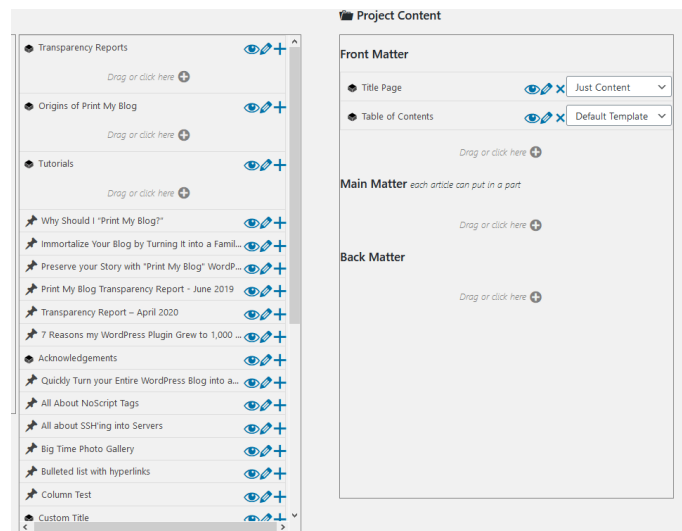


Design Your Documents with Easy and Familiar Tools

In addition to the design options, customize your PDFs and eBooks just like you would a WordPress theme: using HTML, PHP, CSS, and Javascript. Use content, blocks, and shortcodes from other plugins. Reuse that design across many projects or create a totally custom one for others.

Powerful Project Organizer

Arrange posts, pages, and custom post types into projects. Or create new content just for print. Add title pages, introductions and other front and back matter. Organize into parts. See the overview of your project and rearrange as needed.



Examples of What you Can Make

- **white paper or brochure.** For example, this [here is a PDF brochure made from content on printmy.blog](#)
- **printed version of entire website or blog.** Print it all, except ink guzzlers like site heading, sidebars, footers and pop-ups. Use your own printer or send to a printing service lulu.com
- **book from select content.** Add a title page, introduction, table of contents, and pick existing content from your site to make a book. Sell it on Amazon KDP. Like that, you're an author!
- **new book from scratch.** Write new print-only materials that never appear on your website. Leverage WordPress' great editors and other plugins.
- **lead magnets.** Compile content on a subject into a PDF and grant access after users signup for your email list
- **members-only content.** Combine with Restrict Content Pro or other plugins to only allow access to select downloadable PDFs of your content
- **printed course materials.** Create a course using an LMS (learning management system) plugin, and use Print My Blog for learners to print
- **event brochure.** Let event attendees print a useful copy of your event's details to take with them
- **printed user manual.** And digital user manual on the website (we send printed and digital user manuals, using Print My Blog Pro, of course)
- **product brochure.** Use WooCommerce or other WordPress e-commerce plugins to make content accessible to those who would rather not browse online
- **monthly magazine or newspaper.** Reuse the same design and blog post content to create a digital or print magazine to send to your email subscribers
- **research paper.** Put your research on your website and print it with a consistent design
- **restaurant menu.** Optimized for display on your website, and to look great in print
- **recipe.** Write it once as a blog post, then make the printer-friendly version available for download.
- **resume.** Create a page on your website and then a [PDF to submit](#).

Basically, anytime you write something in Microsoft Word or Google Docs, put it in WordPress instead: you can make it available online and in print with Print My Blog.

How It Works

1. Write your content in WordPress: in public posts, pages, products, events, or private print-only materials
2. Choose an existing design and customize it (or create a new one)
3. Choose your content for a project
4. generate digital PDF, print-ready PDF, and ePub eBook from it
5. update your content in WordPress, and re-generate the files when needed

Key Features

- Keep your data and projects in WordPress; don't export to someone else's website or Microsoft Word
- automatic table of contents with page references
- exclude content intended only for the website (like site header, footer, sidebars, pop-ups, etc)
- create multiple projects, each unique combinations of content
- create a reusable design (like a WordPress theme) with your branding or style, or use and customize one of our pre-made ones
- designs created first in HTML, CSS, and even Javascript, then exported to PDF and ePub. Put web design skills to use in print!
- Javascript in projects is executed, so content from plugins using it can still appear fine in print
- automatically convert hyperlinks to page references and footnotes
- integrates with plugins like: Elementor, FooGallery, WooCommerce, and more (contact us if you have questions)
- supported by the developer with the power to make improvements based on your feedback



Top-Tier Support

Get support directly from the software developers (not interns or chatbots). We'll not only answer your question but improve the software based on your input. There are lots of other plugins and server configurations to integrate with, we'll help sort out any issues you have!



Mike Nelson, Developer of Print My Blog

Prices

View prices at printmy.blog/pricing/

Monthly and yearly payment options available. Prices are competitive with other PDF-creation services.

Try it For Free

Download from wordpress.org/plugins/print-my-blog/

No payment, no signup. Try it out for free, and if you don't need the paid features, never pay anything.

Why Should I “Print My Blog?”

Printing your WordPress blog seems like a step backwards, but it’s actually still important today and in the future.

You have a blog, and can share you opinions, stories, recipes, business, whatever, with the world. It’s incredible. But it’s also insufficient. Here’s why:

- Even today, not everybody reads blogs
- Blogs aren’t conducive to in-depth reading (no bookmarks, no notes, the content changes periodically, etc.)
- Not everybody likes reading on screens
- Sometimes you need a copy of your writing in a standalone file or printout to give to a friend, instructor, student, or customer
- Often blog content would also make a good eBook or even printed book
- And someday your blog won’t be around anymore, it would be great to preserve its content for generations to come.

Existing Options

There are certainly already some options for extracting your content out of a blog, but it’s surprisingly difficult.

Copy & Paste

Sure, you can already print a blog post directly from your browser, but that’s usually terribly formatted, mired with extraneous content like headers, menus, widgets, footers, etc, and not very kind on your printer. You can copy and paste the posts one-by-one into a more traditional word processor like Microsoft Word or Google Docs, but that likewise will require fixing formatting and replacing content that’s ill-suited for print; hours, if not days, of time; and often word processors will struggle with the size of your blog. [Copy-and-Pasting your entire blog isn’t usually a good idea](#).

Web Services

There are already some existing websites that try to help. But the websites are generic, attempting to support all blogging platforms at once, but only doing a good job with the most basic content. And none of them are open-source, meaning you can’t customize it to your needs, you’re at their mercy if their policies or pricing changes, and you can’t know what they’re doing with your data.

Is Writing in Microsoft Word The Solution?

Usually people have solved the problem of “how do I get my content out of WordPress?” by instead doing all their writing elsewhere, like Microsoft Word, then copy-and-pasting into WordPress afterwards. So Microsoft Word is their authoritative copy, WordPress is just the blog and contains copied data. But they, again, struggle with keeping the nice formatting across copy-and-pasting; and they need to re-struggle with it every time they fix a typo or rewrite a phrase. It’s not a great experience.

The Merits of Writing Right in WordPress

What’s wrong with writing right in WordPress? WordPress’ editor has become, in many ways, superior to most other editors. Here’s the features that come to mind:

- its block editor makes writing rich content for the web great

- categorize your posts by category, tags, date published, etc.
- built-in post revisions
- writing stays in-sync whether you’re using your laptop or mobile device
- over 50k plugins, many of which add blocks or shortcodes you can use from the editor
- the software can be modified and customized
- you’re not locked into one hosting company, or one software company (you can even switch to [ClassicPress](#), a totally legal modified version of WordPress maintained by a totally different team)
- oh, and the software is free to download and has no recurring fees

The only problem, of course, is that it’s a pain to get your content out of WordPress...

That’s the Purpose of Print My Blog WordPress Plugin

Now’s a good time to introduce Print My Blog, a [WordPress plugin that lets you turn blog posts into paper copies, PDFs or eBooks](#).

It’s purpose is to liberate your content from your blog. You’re writing memoirs, stories, essays, recipes, tutorials, books, not just blog posts. They have value beyond just being blog posts, so they should be readable elsewhere too.

Write It In WordPress

Print My Blog isn’t like a WordPress-to-Wix exporter, where you leave WordPress and never come back. Print My Blog lets you write in WordPress, then create a copy of your content as a printout, PDFs, book issue, etc. But always using WordPress as the authoritative copy.

Write It Once, Export to Wherever

Creating different formats from your content should be easy, and Print My Blog aims to automatically handle all the boring differences in formatting. A single blog post’s content should work for what gets shown to blog readers, in the paper printout, PDF whitepaper, chapter of your book, slide presentation, whatever.

Here’s some ways the same content might get formatted differently depending on the medium:

- sans-serif font for web but serif font and paragraph indents for print
- gorgeous big pictures on web and digital PDFs, but ink-saving pictures for print
- videos and hyperlinks in eBooks, but footnotes in print
- show author, category, and other meta online, but remove it for the eBook
- inline images on the web, but float images to the top or bottom of the page for paged media
- use multiple columns of text in the PDF for legibility, but no columns in anything else.

And this is really only scratching the surface. The point is: you write your great content, Print My Blog formats it for the mediums you choose.

Print Your Blog Now

Go download the free version of Print My Blog if you haven’t already, and make a PDF or eBook from your blog. Give it to your friends, or [upload it to the cloud](#) for long-term storage.

If it doesn’t yet meet your needs, please reach out on the WordPress support forum or GitHub and let us know.

Best wishes printing your blog!

Mission

Make our content more accessible now and in the future by facilitating converting WordPress content into the formats readers prefer.

Each format (web pages, PDF documents, print, eBook) has its own advantages, readers that prefer it, and situations where it shines. As writers who want to reach the widest audience possible, and provide the best reading experience possible, it helps to let readers decide which format they want to read (rather than imposing our preferences on them.)

Who Likes Print?

- people whose eyes get tired reading from screens
- people without ready access to a device (like phone, tablet, computer)
- people in real life
- posterity who can't read the digital copy
- readers who prefer a physical copy for annotating or organizing

Who Likes PDF?

- buyers who expect readily-accessible, portable content
- someone who wants to reliably store the content digitally
- people with a device but intermittent internet connection
- people who want to read from a device while also disconnecting

Who likes eBooks?

- eBook marketplaces like Kindle Direct Publishing (Amazon KDP), Apple Books, Kobo, Barnes & Nobles
- people who read books on their phone, tablet, or eReader

Who Likes Web Pages?

- people who do everything from their phone or computer
- people with a constant internet connection
- people searching for quick answers
- search engines
- people who like more interactive learning (eg through video, audio, quizzes, etc)

There's no need for content to be available *only* online or *only* in a PDF or *only* in print or *only* in an eBook. Similarly, you shouldn't need to use a tech giant's word processing application to write for print. WordPress can handle all that, do it better and do it with freely licensed, open-source software.

Print My Blog is just the final piece in the puzzle to allow you to use WordPress, and its huge community of resources and plugins, for all your writing needs to let your readers use the format they find most appropriate.

Thank you for joining me on this mission.

—Mike Nelson, Developer of Print My Blog

Quick Print vs Pro Print

Should you use Print My Blog's Quick Print or Pro Print? And if using Pro Print, should you print with your browser for free or pay for the Pro Print Service?

Quick Answer

Use Pro Print to:

- make professional-looking printouts you could sell or share to represent your company or organization
- use features like table of contents, customize order and grouping content into sections, pre-built and custom designs, footnotes and page references, custom post types (eg shop products or events), and more

Your browser can make documents using many of those features but probably not all of them. But in order to use the full power of PMB Pro, you'll want to pay for our Pro PDF Service.

Feel free to try PMB Pro with your browser and try downloading free test files using the Pro PDF Service for comparison.

Having said that, there are a few things Pro Print might not meet certain needs yet. For instance, Quick Print:

- handles printing out thousands of posts or pages
- is very quick and easy to use
- works on private sites (localhost or behind a network firewall)

So Pro Print will look better, but you might still prefer or need Free Quick Print.

More Details

[Download the plugin from WordPress.org](#) and try them all, or read the [User Guide](#) for more info.

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the Difference Between Hobbyist, Pro, and Business Licenses?

The previous table compares PMB Quick Print (free), PMB Pro Print with the browser (also free), and PMB Pro Print with a paid license. It's not intended for comparing different paid plans of PMB. For details on what features are included in each plan, please look at our [pricing page](#).

Can I use Pro Print from localhost, a staging site, or a private site?

Right now, only when printing using your web browser. Pro Print Service won't work properly because it's run in the cloud and needs to download resources from your website... and if your website isn't accessible from outside, it won't work.

But if you really need this to work, please get in touch. We can explore the possibilities of using HTTP Basic Auth or Prince desktop app.

	Quick Print (free)	Pro Print (free with browser)	Pro Print w/ Paid License
Free	✓	✓	✗ Watermarked until buy a subscription
Setup Time	✓ seconds	⚠ minutes	⚠ minutes
Printout Thousands of Posts	✓	⚠ Not yet	⚠ Not yet
Works on Private Sites	✓	✓	⚠ Not Yet
Save Projects	✗	✓	✓
Customize Order of Posts	✗	✓	✓
Custom Post Types	✗	✓	✓
Customize Header Content/ Title Page	⚠ Only remove parts	✓	✓
Table of Contents	✗	⚠ No Page Numbers	✓
Organize Chapters into Sections	✗	✓	✓
Print-Only Posts (a.k.a. "Print Materials")	✗	✓	✓
Develop Custom Designs	✗	✓	✓
Printouts and PDFs			
Choose Pre-Made Designs	✗	✓	✓
Uses Styles from...	✗ Website Theme	✓ Chosen Design or Website Theme	✓ Chosen Design or Website Theme
Advanced Page Numbering	✗ whatever your browser supports	✗ whatever hour browser supports	✓ Use Roman numerals for front matter, mirrored placement, fully customizable
Working Hyperlinks	⚠ Browser support varies	⚠ Browser support varies	✓
Page References	✗	✗	✓ Pro PDF Service can convert hyperlinks to page references, footnotes, or anchor links

	Quick Print (free)	Pro Print (free with browser)	Pro Print w/ Paid License
Supports 2-page/ mirrored layout	✗	⚠ Browser support varies	✓
Running Heads	✗	⚠ Browser support varies	✓ differs per design
Per-post Design Templates	✗	✓	✓
Rearrange Images to Avoid Deadspace	✗	✗	✓
ePub eBooks			
Generates ePub	⚠ Only through dotEpub	⚠ Only through dotEpub	✓
Images stored in ePub file	✗ images downloaded by reader while reading	✗ images downloaded by reader while reading	✓
ePub contains "created using..." page	✗ added by dotEpub	✗ added by dotEpub	⚡ optional for Pro & Business licenses
Microsoft Word Documents			
Generate .doc files	✗	✗	⚡ only for Pro & Business licenses

How Big of a PDF or ePub can Pro Print handle?

I haven't yet encountered an upper limit, but I'd guess a few hundred posts because it creates the entire print page in a single HTTP request (and most web servers won't let them take longer than 30 seconds.)

But if you do encounter an upper limit, please get in touch. There's work to be done to make Pro Print support thousands of posts, just like Quick Print currently can.

Can the Print Buttons make Pro PDFs?

No, not yet. Right now they just print/make PDFs/make eBooks using the same technology as Quick Print. If this is a priority for you, please [contact us](#).

My Question Still Isn't Answered!

It's probably not your fault! We probably haven't answered it (or done so clearly enough). Please [get in touch](#) and we'll see if we can help you out, and make our documentation clearer.

Getting Started

Here we'll give an overview of what Print My Blog can do for you, and a walkthrough making a project from start to finish.

01. Overview

In this quick introduction to Print My Blog (PMB) Pro, you'll learn how to use Pro Print to make a PDF from WordPress posts and other content.

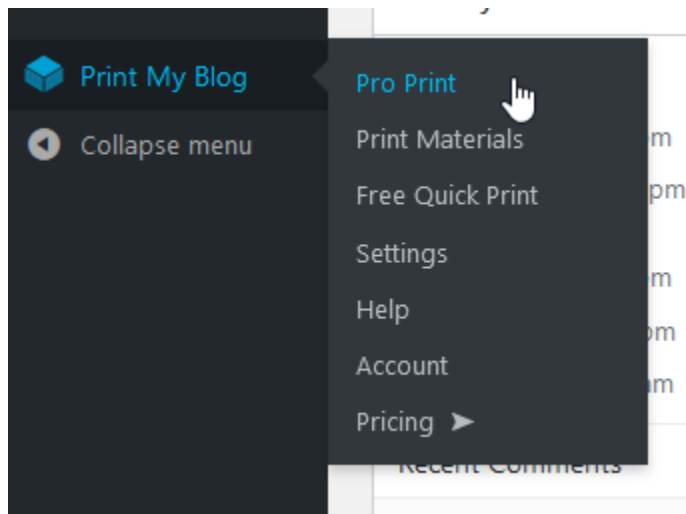
To do that, you'll:

- Start a project
- Choose its title and format
- Choose a Design
- Customize The Design
- Choose Project Content
- Enter Project Metadata
- Generate the File (eg PDF or ePub)
- Update The Project (if necessary)
- Get Help

Note: while it's perfectly fine to use your browser to print with Pro Print, browsers don't support many of the more advanced features of Pro Print, although they are constantly improving. For simplicity, this documentation will assume you've paid for PMB Pro and so are using our Pro Print Service.

02. Start a Project

The first step to making a PDF or eBook is to make a project. Each project can have its own selection of content, design, and other information affecting how the file will be created.



To add or view projects, under “Print My Blog”, go to “Pro Print”

To create a new project, after you’ve installed Print My Blog,

- Go to your WordPress admin dashboard
- Under the “Print My Blog” menu item, click “Pro Print”
- Towards the top of the page, click “Start New Project”

(By the way, feel free to dismiss the “You are using the Pro Demo” notification by pressing the “x” in its top-right corner.)

The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard interface. On the left is a dark sidebar with navigation links: Dashboard, Posts, Media, Pages, Comments, Appearance, Plugins (with a red badge showing '12'), Users, Tools, Settings, Print My Blog (highlighted in blue), Pro Print, and Print Materials. The main content area is titled 'Pro Print — Projects'. It features a section 'You are using the Pro Demo' with a 'Switch to Free Quick Print' button and a note that 'Free Quick Print won't cost you anything and will help you print thousands of po'. Below this is a 'Start New Project' button, which is highlighted by a red arrow. Further down, there is a 'Bulk actions' dropdown menu and an 'Apply' button. A list of projects is shown, each with an unchecked checkbox and a title: 'Title', 'NT2', 'NotificationTest', and 'Mayer Tester'.

The “Start New Project” button, on the “Pro Print — Projects” page

03. Choose The Project's Title and Format

First, choose your project's title. This will help you find the project later, it will appear on the [project's title page](#)¹, in the top margins of some PDF designs, in the file's name, etc.

The screenshot shows a web form titled 'Edit Project' with the subtitle 'Print My Blog (the Book)'. The 'Project Title*' field contains 'Print My Blog (the Book)'. The 'Format*' section has four options: 'Digital PDF' (checked), 'Print-Ready PDF' (checked), 'ePub (ePub)' (checked), and 'Word Document' (unchecked). Each option has a brief description of its intended use. At the bottom left is a 'Submit & Proceed' button.

The project setup area, where you set the project's title and desired formats.

Next, choose the file formats you want. This choice will affect the options on all subsequent steps, which is why it comes first (for example, the file format dictates what designs are available.)

Digital PDFs are intended for viewing on a computer, tablet or phone, but not necessarily for printing to paper. Usually includes working hyperlinks, ample colors, and other features that require a device.

Print-Ready PDFs are intended for printing on your home printer or with a printer service. Usually removes hyperlinks, avoids excessive ink use, and are designed for viewing the 2-page spread (using the front and back of a page).

ePub eBooks are for reading on phones, Readers, and computers. You can upload an ePub to [Kindle Direct Publishing](#), [Apple Books](#), [Kobo](#), or any other online eBook marketplace. Note: the ePub format requires a purchase of a license.

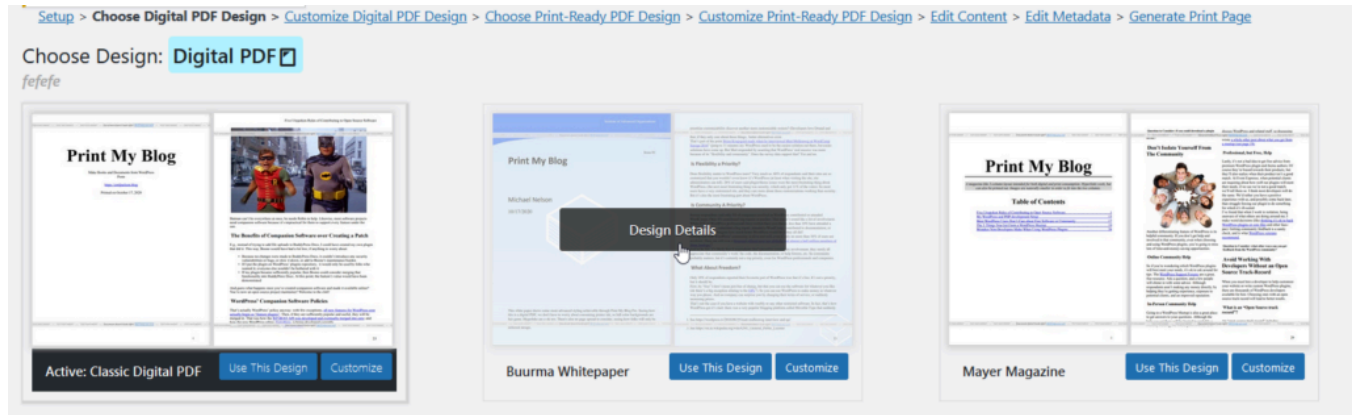
Word Documents are a useful fallback for those accustomed to Microsoft Word and other word processors, or when this format is required by another program or person. The documents preserve minimal formatting when exported, but you're of course free to format and style the documents to meet your requirements in Microsoft Word or other word processors. Note: the Word Document format requires the purchase of a Professional license.

If you intend to create your work in multiple formats, feel free to select more than one format here. Just realize that for each format you select there will be a few more steps, so you're probably best only selecting the formats you really intend to use. If you change your mind later, you can come back to this step later and select additional formats.

1. See page [113](#).

04. Choose A Design

Instead of using your website's theme to style the project, PMB Pro uses “designs”. You will choose one design for each format of your project (eg if you've chosen to make both a Digital PDF and a Print-Ready PDF for a project, you'll choose a Digital PDF design and then choose a Print-Ready PDF design.)



Choosing a design for a project's Digital PDF. Click on the preview image to see more details about the project.

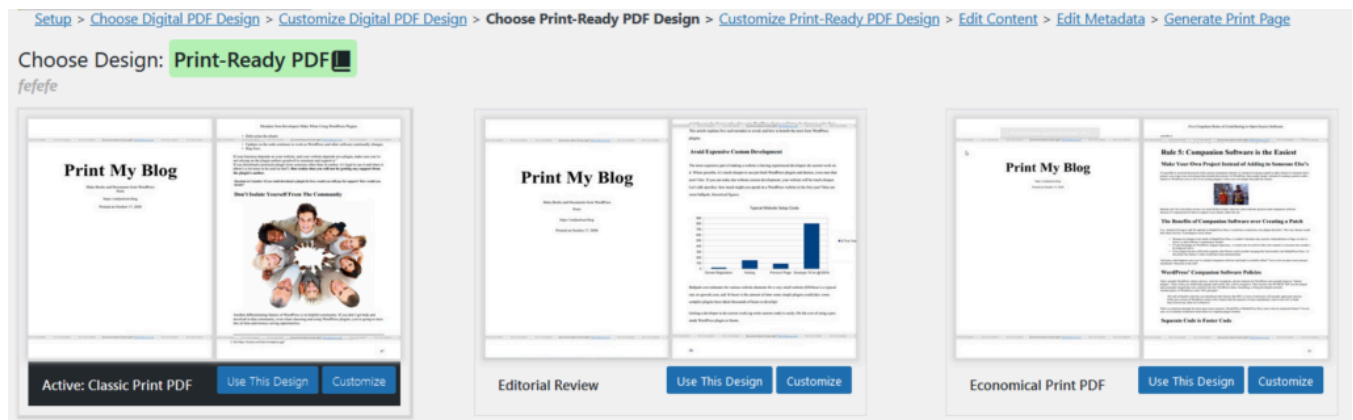
Hover over the preview image and click “Design Details” to learn more about each design (like whether they support parts, front and back matter, and other options).

Click “Use This Design” to choose it for the current file format and skip customizing its options.

Click “Customize” to choose the design and then customize it during the next step.

Which Design Should I Choose?

When choosing a design for a Digital PDF, the Classic Digital PDF design is the most similar to PMB's Free Quick Print and looks the most “bloggy” (eg including details like post URLs and post categories). The “Mayer Magazine” design uses two-columns, whereas the “Buurma Whitepaper” design is especially colorful and shows a bit more of what PMB Pro is capable of.



Print-Ready PDF Designs

The Print-Ready PDF designs are different. When choosing a design for a Print-Ready PDF, the Classic Print

PDF is the most similar to PMB's Free Quick Print. The Economical Print PDF design tries to use less ink and paper, whereas the Editorial Review design leaves space between the lines for writing notes.

There is only one ePub eBook, at the time of writing. eBooks are meant to be much more dynamic (eg, most eBook readers let readers choose the font size and style) so the design is less crucial than with PDF formats.

For more information on the built-in designs, read [the section on designs](#).

Lastly, just like you or a designer can create a custom WordPress theme for your website, with a bit of web-design knowledge you can [create your own PMB Design](#)¹.

1. See page [167](#).

05. Customize The Design

Like WordPress themes, each PMB design has different options. Some are flexible and have lots of options (eg the Classic Digital PDF for Digital PDFs and Classic Print PDF for Print-Ready PDFs) but others are more “opinionated” and have fewer options (eg the Buurma Whitepaper).

Setup > Choose Digital PDF Design > **Customize Digital PDF Design** > Edit Content > Edit Metadata > Generate File

Customize Digital PDF Design: Classic Digital PDF

How to Make a Book in WordPress

Title Page Content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Title <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subtitle <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site URL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date Printed <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Print My Blog
Post Content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post Title <input type="checkbox"/> ID <input type="checkbox"/> Author <input type="checkbox"/> URL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published Date <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categories and Tags <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Featured Image <input type="checkbox"/> Excerpt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content <small>Content from each post to print.</small>
Each Post Begins on a New Page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Whether to force posts to always start on a new page. Doing so makes the page more legible, but uses more paper.
Font Size	<input type="text" value="12pt"/> <small>Use any recognized CSS font-size keyword (like "large", "medium", "small") or a length in any units (eg "14pt", "50%", or "10px").</small>
Maximum Image Height (in pixels)	<input type="text" value="800"/> <small>Larger images will be resized to this, smaller images will be unchanged.</small>
Default Image Alignment	<input type="text" value="Center"/> <small>Images normally default to "no alignment", which can look jumbled in printouts. Usually it's best to automatically switch those to align to the center.</small>
Image Placement	<input type="text" value="Only snap if the image would cause a page break"/> <small>To reduce whitespace around images, Print My Blog can move images around in your content.</small>

Some of the customization options for the Classic Digital PDF

On this step you can choose those options, and save the design.

When you create another project and reuse the same design, you'll also use the same customization options, and any changes made to the design will affect other projects using that design. This way the files you create will all have the same look, owing to them using the same design. So you should be able to customize the design once, and then on subsequent projects skip customizing the design (by just clicking “Save” at the bottom of the screen, without changing any of the options.)

Note: if your project uses multiple formats (e.g., both the Digital PDF and Print-Ready PDF file formats) you'll choose the design for each format sequentially (e.g., first the Digital PDF's design and then the Print-Ready PDF's design).

06. Choose Project Content

This is the step where you find content for your project, add it, and organize it.



Finding Content

On the left is “Available Content” from your website: posts, pages, print materials and other custom post types added by other plugins.

Enter a search term, like “Print My Blog”, to find all content that has that search term in the title or body.

Click “Show Filters” to narrow down your search. You can filter by post type, status, categories, tags (and other custom taxonomies added by other plugins), author, and date. By default, only items not already in the project are shown. Uncheck “Show Included Content” to show everything, including items already in the project.

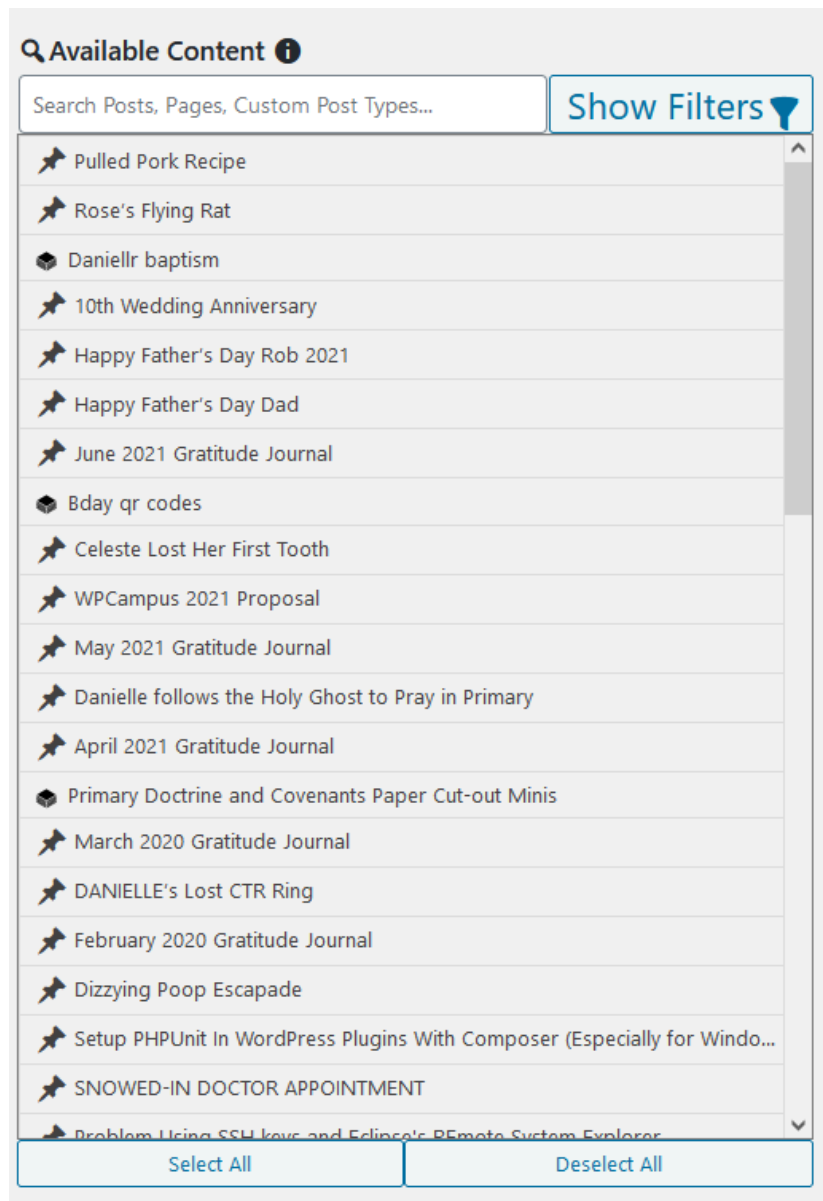
Lastly, you can change the order in which available content is shown (by ID, post title, date, or search relevance).

Click either “Hide Filters” or “Search & Apply Filters” to view available content matching the criteria you’ve set.

Adding Content to a Project

Adding Individual Items

Once you have found the content you want to add to your project, the simplest way to add it is to press the “+” (plus sign) on the row (these buttons appear when you hover over the row.) This will add that item to your project’s main matter.



Content available to add to a project



When hovering over an item, you will see various buttons appear. An eye for viewing, a pencil for editing, a plus for adding it to the project, and an x for removing it. The mouse cursor becomes a hand, indicating you can also drag-and-drop it into the project.

Another option is to drag-and-drop the item into the project's content.

Adding Many Items at Once

To move multiple items at once, you first need to select them.

Hold down "Control" on your keyboard, and then click on each item you want to select.

Filters to be applied when searching for available content.

Hold down “Shift” on your keyboard, and then click on two items: all the items between them will also be selected.

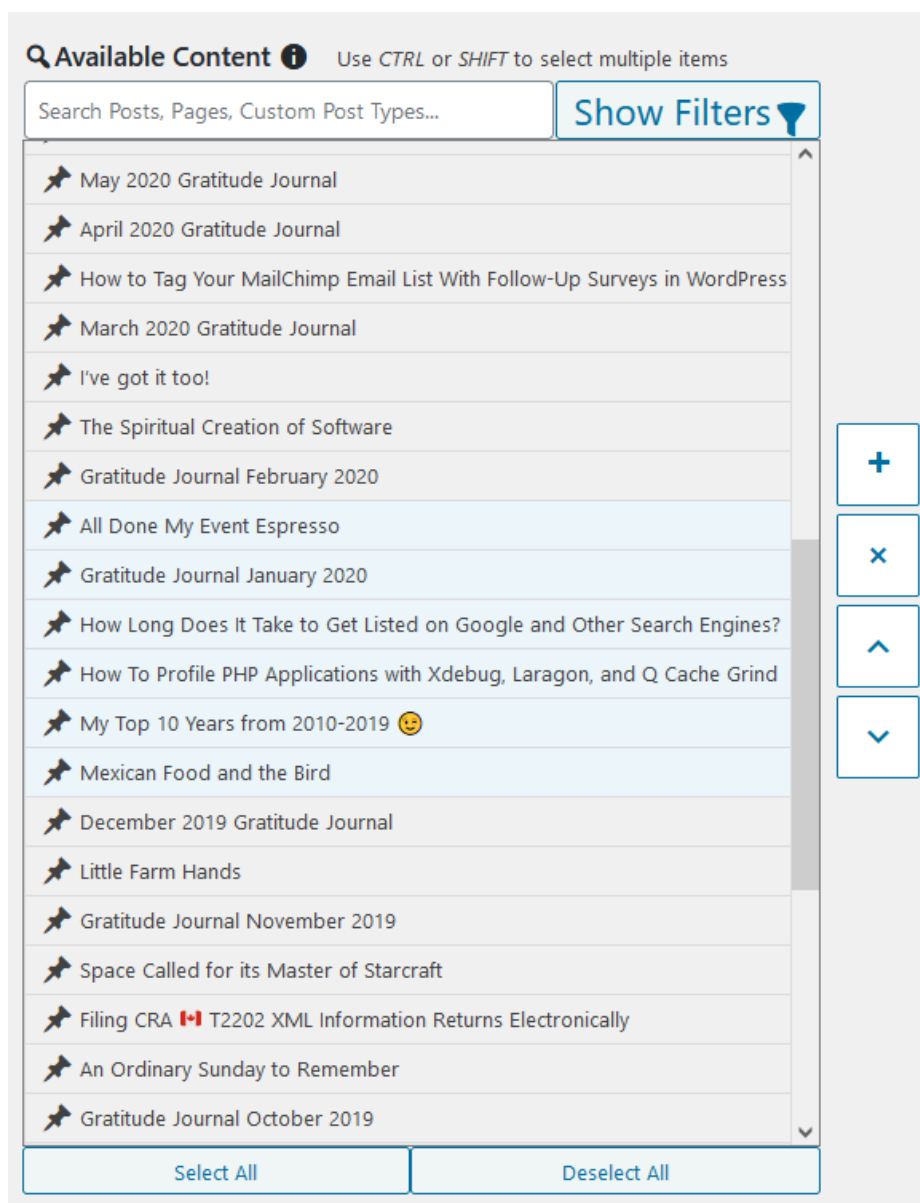
Or lastly, click “Select All” to select all available content matching your filters and search criteria.

Once you’ve selected some items, you can again drag them over (they will all move together), or press the larger new “+” (plus) button that appeared to move them all over to the main matter.

Organizing Content Inside a Project

After you’ve added items to your project, you can reorder and move them around by dragging-and-dropping. Alternatively, you can select items (using “Control” and “Shift” again) and click the up and down arrow buttons that appear.

Before you get too far with that, let’s get familiar with the parts of a project.



After selecting one or more items, the additional buttons on the right appear.

Front Matter

The “Front Matter” is the preliminary part of a book that comes before the main text. Eg, a title page, table of contents, introduction, epilogue, etc. Designs often number these parts with roman numerals. Front Matter is a flat list of items and cannot be organized into parts.

If you’re not writing a book, you may want to only include a title page.

Main Matter

The “Main Matter” is the chapters or articles of the work. Most designs support dividing this content into “parts” (more on this in a moment).

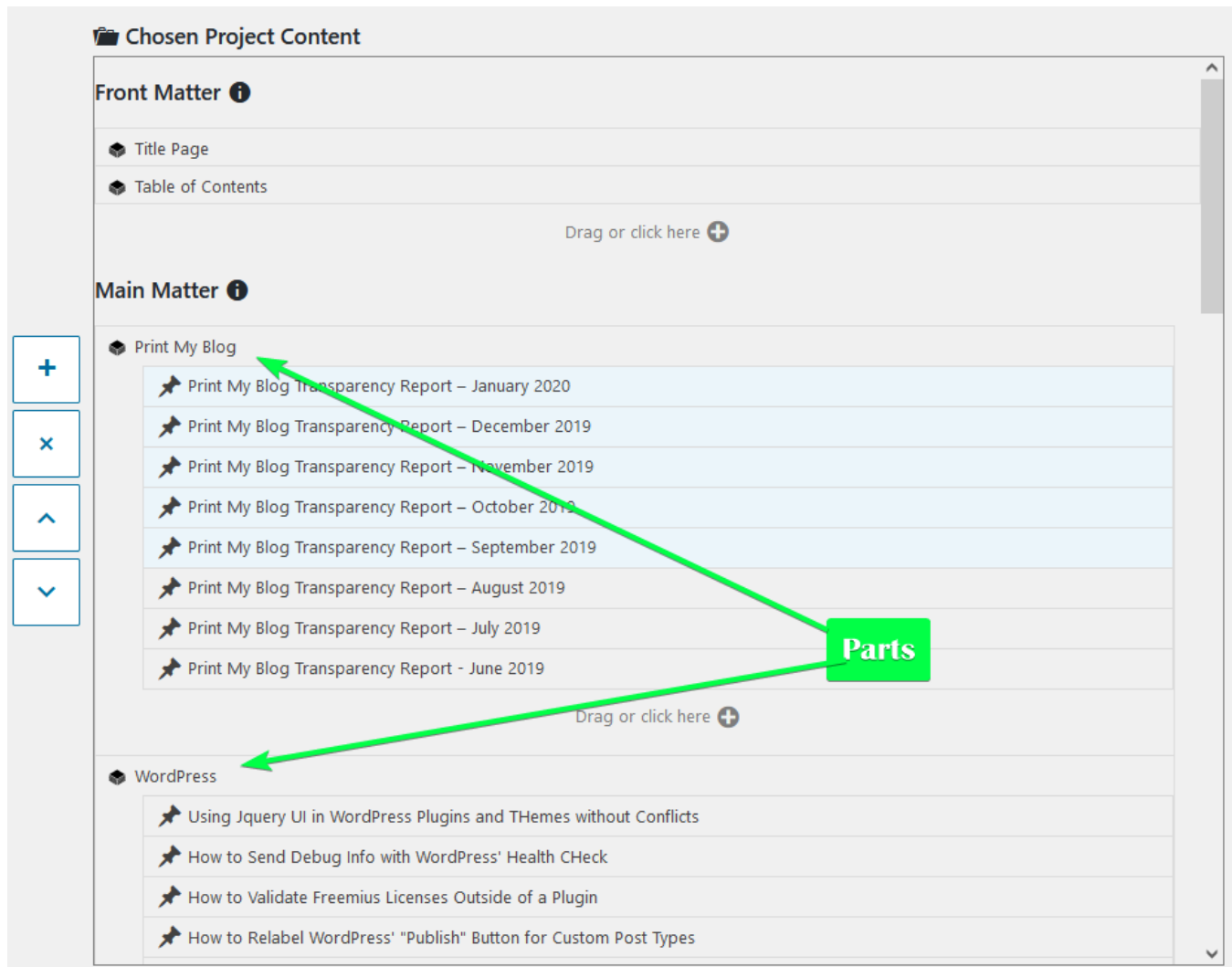
Back Matter

The “Back Matter” is supplementary content about the work that comes at the end. Designs might style it the same as the main matter, in which case it’s just an organizational aid. Like Front Matter, Back Matter is a flat list of items that cannot be organized into parts.

Parts

Most designs support dividing the main matter into parts.

To create a part, just drag other items inside it. Or, select an item in the project, and use the up and down arrow buttons to move items into it.



A project with two parts: “Print My Blog” and “WordPress”. The indented items are now articles inside the part. Also, notice the “up” and “down” arrow buttons on the left, which are used to move selected items.

The up and down arrow buttons move selected items into parts where possible, and can also move them out of parts, and into the front and back matter. Try clicking them a few times to get used to how they work.

Adding New Items (“Print Materials”)

In addition to adding existing posts, pages, and custom post types into a project, you can create new items from this same page to be used as parts, front and back matter, or even main matter. Content added on this page is “Print Materials” which can only be used for PMB projects—they won’t appear anywhere on your website.

To create new a new Print Material, click anywhere it says “Drag or click here +”.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Chosen Project Content". It is organized into three main sections: "Front Matter", "Main Matter", and "Back Matter", each with an information icon (i).

- Front Matter:** Contains "Title Page" and "Table of Contents". Below these is a "Drag or click here +" button (highlighted with a green box) and a green button labeled "Add to 'Front Matter'".
- Main Matter:** Contains a "Print My Blog" section with two items: "Print My Blog Transparency Report – January 2020" and "Print My Blog Transparency Report – December 2019". Below these is a "Drag or click here +" button (highlighted with a green box) and a green button labeled "Add to 'Print My Blog' part".
- WordPress:** Contains two items: "Using JQuery UI in WordPress Plugins and Themes without Conflicts" and "How to Send Debug Info with WordPress' Health CHeck". Below these is a "Drag or click here +" button (highlighted with a green box) and a green button labeled "Add to 'WordPress' part".
- Back Matter:** Contains "About the Author". Below this is a "Drag or click here +" button (highlighted with a green box) and a green button labeled "Add to Back Matter".

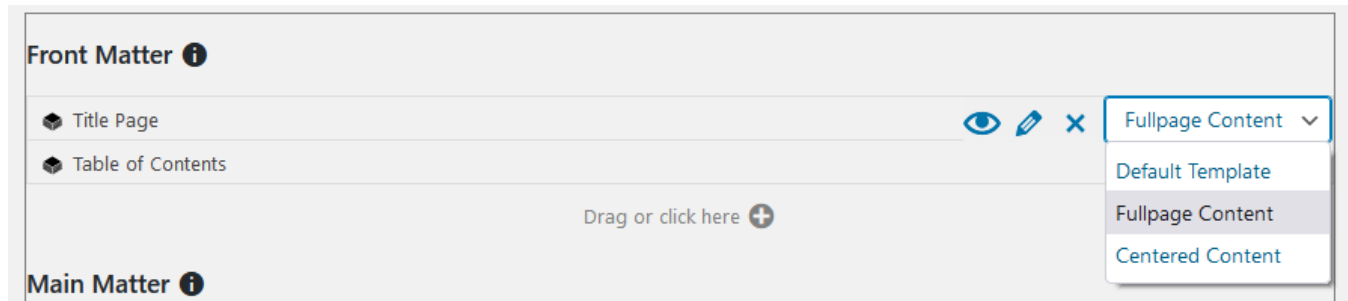
At the bottom right of the interface is a blue button labeled "Save & Proceed".

Click on any of these “Drag or click here” buttons to add a print material in that spot. You can move them after they’ve been added too, of course.

New Print Materials like this are initially created with only a title (which might be all you want, in case that Print Material will just be a part heading), but you can click the row’s pencil button to edit the content in another window.

Choosing Section Templates

When you hover over an item added to your project, you'll notice a dropdown menu, with options "Default Template", "Fullpage Content" and "Centered Content" (and possibly others.) This is the "Section Template" used for the item. It controls how the item's content will be displayed.



- "Default Template" uses the design's default section template. Usually that will show the item's title and body, and possibly other information like date published and author. Often this is configurable in the ["Customize design" step](#).¹
- "Fullpage Content" will exclude the item's title and other meta information, and only show its content. Useful if you don't want the item's title to appear.
- "Centered Content" is like fullpage content, except it is centered in the middle of the page. Useful for copyright pages, dedications, and other brief content.

You can set a different "Section Template" for each item. Also, if an item is included in multiple projects, you can choose a different section template for it in each project.

Each design may add different section templates, and [designers can create their own](#).² If you find yourself wanting to change all of the items to use a different section template, you probably want to instead [create a custom design](#)³ whose default template looks the way you want.

Example Uses

Here's how to use the project editor for a few common use-cases.

Add All Blog Posts

To add every single blog post to a project, do the following:

1. Click "Show Filters"
2. Beside "Post Type", select "Posts" (you might want to scroll down and change how they're ordered, for example you might want to order by date ascending to show the oldest posts first)
3. Click "Search & Apply Filters"
4. Click "Select All"
5. Press the large plus button that just appeared

Add All Posts in a Category

To have a project consisting of all posts in a single category, do the following:

1. Click "Show Filters"

1. See page [30](#).
 2. See page [165](#).
 3. See page [167](#).

2. Beside “Category”, search for your desired category.
3. Click “Search & Apply Filters”
4. Click “Select All”
5. Press the large plus button that appeared

Organize Posts by Category

You may want to divide your project into parts for each of the major categories on your website. To do that:

1. Press the “Drag or Click Here” underneath the Main Matter. Give the new Print Material the name of one of your categories. Repeat this step for each category you want to use.
2. Press “Show Filters”
3. Beside “Category”, search for one category
4. Click “Search & Apply Filters”
5. Click “Select All”
6. Drag them onto the corresponding Print Material in your project.
7. Repeat steps 2-7 for each category

If you’re looking for more examples, you might want to read

- [How to Add an Introduction, Copyright Page, or other Front Matter](#)¹
- [How to Customize your Project’s Title Page](#)²
- [How to Divide Projects into Parts](#)³
- and other content from the [Design & Layout How-Tos](#)

Finishing Up

When you’ve finished organizing the content, click “Save & Proceed”. You can come back and edit project content more later, if you want.

Also note that, by default, the “Available Content” only shows items *not already in your project*. This means if you have created a project containing all posts, when you return to edit its content later, only new posts will appear in “Available Content”. You can choose to instead show previously-included content by using the filter “Show Included Content?”

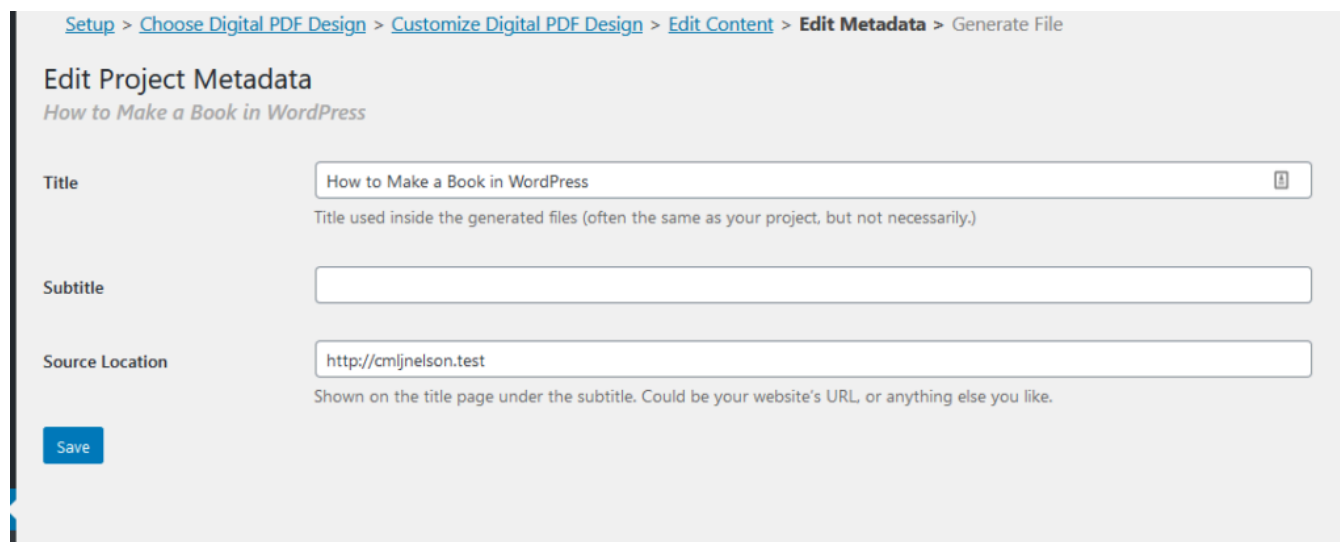
1. See page [107](#).

2. See page [113](#).

3. See page [116](#).

07. Enter Project Metadata

Besides the design and content, there can be other options about how to generate your files. These options are called “Metadata”. It’s the last step before generating the files because your choice in designs and content may affect what metadata is required.



The screenshot shows a web interface for editing project metadata. At the top, a breadcrumb trail reads: [Setup](#) > [Choose Digital PDF Design](#) > [Customize Digital PDF Design](#) > [Edit Content](#) > **Edit Metadata** > [Generate File](#). Below this, the heading 'Edit Project Metadata' is followed by the project title 'How to Make a Book in WordPress'. The form contains three input fields: 'Title' with the value 'How to Make a Book in WordPress' and a help icon; 'Subtitle' which is empty; and 'Source Location' with the value 'http://cmjnelson.test'. A 'Save' button is located at the bottom left. Descriptive text for each field explains its purpose: the title is used in generated files, the subtitle is shown on the title page, and the source location could be a website URL.

[Setup](#) > [Choose Digital PDF Design](#) > [Customize Digital PDF Design](#) > [Edit Content](#) > **Edit Metadata** > [Generate File](#)

Edit Project Metadata

How to Make a Book in WordPress

Title ⓘ
Title used inside the generated files (often the same as your project, but not necessarily.)

Subtitle

Source Location
Shown on the title page under the subtitle. Could be your website's URL, or anything else you like.

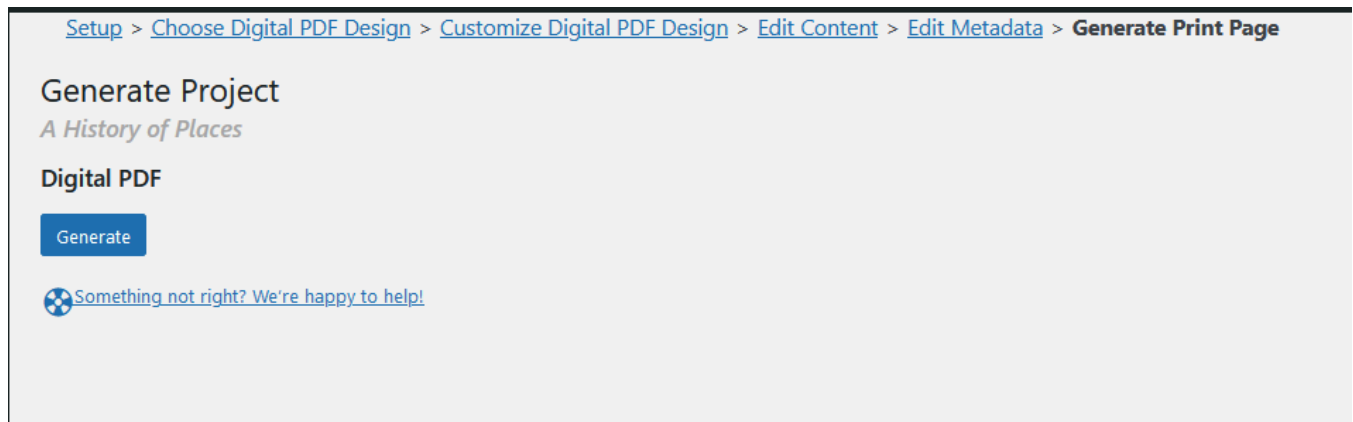
[Save](#)

Project metadata. In this case, I can enter a title which will be used in the generated file (it defaults to the project's title, but you can make it different if needed), a subtitle, and the “Source Location” (the URL of the website this content was taken from). The required metadata differs depending on your choice of format, design, and content.

08. Generate the Print Page

Now you can create the Print Page for your document.

The Print Page is where Print My Blog combines all your chosen content, design, and metadata into a single HTML file and lets the browser do the final touch-ups before downloading the file in the format you requested (for anyone technical, the main thing it does here is executes Javascript.)



The button to “Generate” the Digital PDF’s Print Page

Generating Digital and Print-Ready PDFs

For both Digital and Print-Ready PDFs, after you click “Generate”, you are taken to the Print Page. At the top of the page are several actions, and below them is the project’s content, ready to be sent for printing.

Here is the Print Page when generating a PDF.

The buttons available are:

- **Print with Browser** which will use your browser to print or create a PDF. Browsers don’t support all of the features Pro Print is capable of, but it’s free
- **Download Test PDF** will create a PDF using our Pro PDF Service, but it will have watermarks on it. It’s free to use and requires no signup, and is a good way to get a preview of your document before spending any money
- **Purchase Subscription** will take you to the payment page so you can use the Pro PDF Service and Print My Blog Pro. After you have upgraded, this will be replaced with a button to **Download Paid PDF** which will be identical to the Test PDF but without the watermarks
- **Back** button in the top-left takes you back to the generate page
- **Help!** takes you to the help page

Once you click “Download Test PDF”, the PDF file is created from the content you see on the Print Page, and downloaded. You can then open it with the program of your choice.

By default, most programs will view PDF files one page at a time. That’s appropriate for digital PDFs, but print-ready PDFs are best viewed two pages at a time, and the first page should be a right-hand page.

To do that on Windows’ PDF viewer, click:

- “Page View”
- “Two Page”

Back Print My Blog — Pro Print Help!

Free

Print with Browser

Limited to features supported by your browser.

Pro Print Service

[Download Test PDF](#) [Purchase Subscription](#)

[Feature Comparison List](#)

[Read how your data handled](#)

A History of Places

<http://cmjnelson.test>
 Printed on May 7, 2021

Table of Contents

Hello world!
 May 3, 2021
[Uncategorized](#) See <http://cmjnelson.test/category/uncategorized/>

Welcome to WordPress. This is your first post. Edit or delete it, then start writing!

Sample Page

This is an example page. It's different from a blog post because it will stay in one place and will show up in your site navigation (in most themes). Most people start with an About page that introduces them to potential site visitors. It might say something like this:

A Digital PDF's Print Page, with various print options at the top, and the project's content below.

One Transparency Report(7).pdf

Contents 2 of 20

Page view

Read aloud Draw Highlight Erase

Powered by Print My Blog Pro & WordPress

Transparency Report of February 2021

More Documentation in the User Guide

I feel like PMB Pro has a lot of cool features that aren't documented and so users won't appreciate. So I've been spending most of my time this month trying to improve the online user guide. Last month I added some "getting started" documentation. This month I added more about how to use PMB Pro's existing options to customize designs and get them closer to your ideal. I explained more in-depth about how designs are like WordPress Themes, just for documents, and then went into the details about each pre-installed design's options.

For example, I explained how the Classic Digital PDF is designed for viewing one page at a time (and so always puts the page number in the bottom-right corner of the page, and the section's running title in the top-left and the article's running title in the top-right), but the Classic Print PDF is designed for viewing two pages simultaneously (and so puts the page numbers in the outside bottom corner, and the section's running title appears in the top-left corner on the left-hand page, and the article's running title appears in the top-right corner of the top page.)

Classic Digital PDF's 1-page layout

Choosing Fonts in PMB Pro

The one big feature I added was changing the design's default fonts. This seemed like something everyone would want and a basic version of this was pretty easy to add.

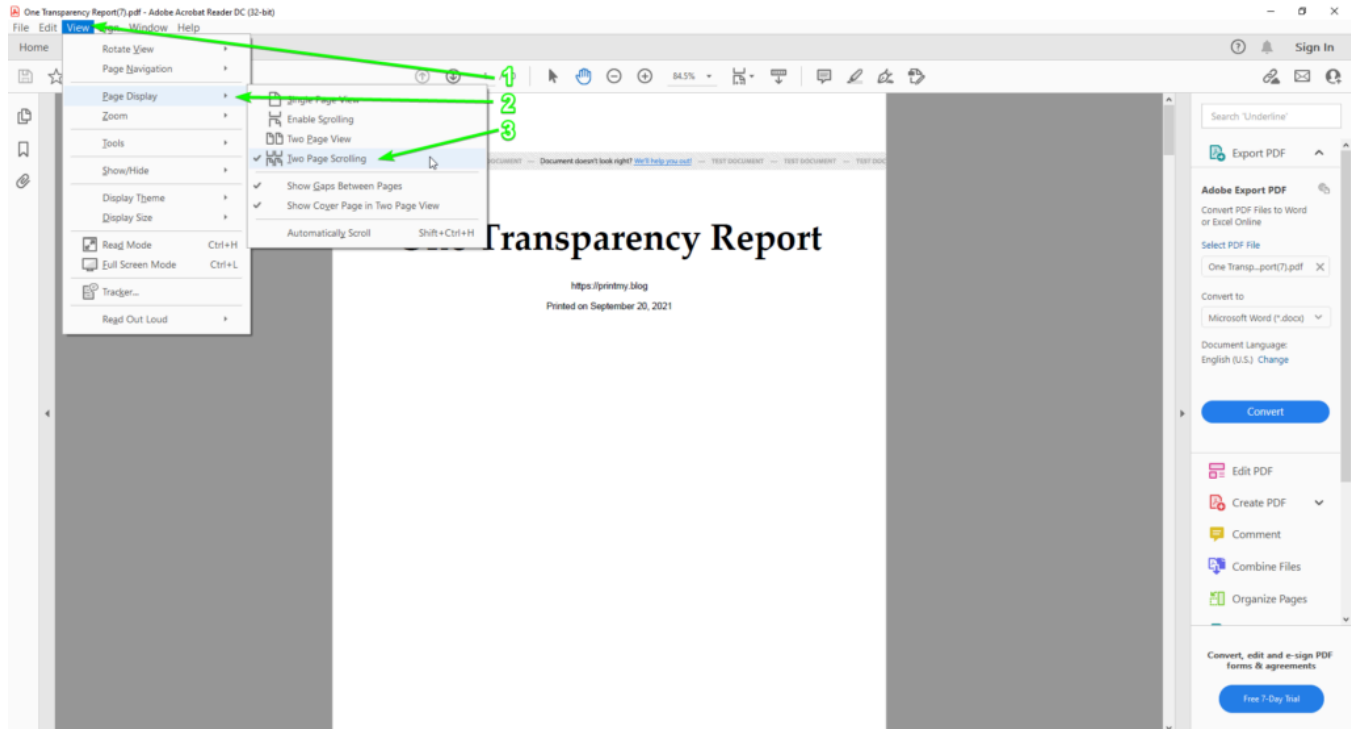
The steps to get Window's PDF viewer to show a PDF two pages at a time, just like when reading a physical book.

- "Show Cover Page Separately"

To do that in Adobe Acrobat Reader, do:

- “View”
- “Page Display”
- “Two Page Scrolling”

Leave “Show Cover Page in Two Page View” as checked.



Opening a PDF in Adobe Acrobat in two-page view.

Generating ePub eBooks and Word Documents

The Print Page for ePub eBooks and Word Documents is simpler, as this page is only available with the purchase of a license, and then it affords unlimited downloads (so there's no need for test files.)

After clicking “Generate” for the ePub format, you're again taken to the Print Page where the final touch-ups are made to the document.

Just download as many ePub or Word Document files as often as you like without worrying about any limits like there are with PDFs.

Viewing ePub eBooks

Once it's downloaded, there are many different ways to view the eBook:

- on your computer, download [Calibre eBook Management](#) to open it
- if you hope to sell the eBook on Amazon, download the [Kindle Previewer](#)
- download the file to your phone (e.g., attach the ePub file to an email and send it to yourself, then open it on your phone), and open it in Apple Books, Google Play Books, Kobo, or nearly any other eBook reader on your phone.



An ePub eBook's Print Page is noticeably simpler than that for PDFs: it just has one download button. The Word Document Print Page is very similar.

Viewing Word Documents

Word documents can be viewed for free using [Microsoft Word online](#), [Libre Office](#), [Open Office](#), [Google Docs](#) and other software. Microsoft Word for desktop, however, requires a purchase.

ePubs and Amazon Kindle

The biggest eBook marketplace is Amazon, and there's a complicated situation that merits explaining.

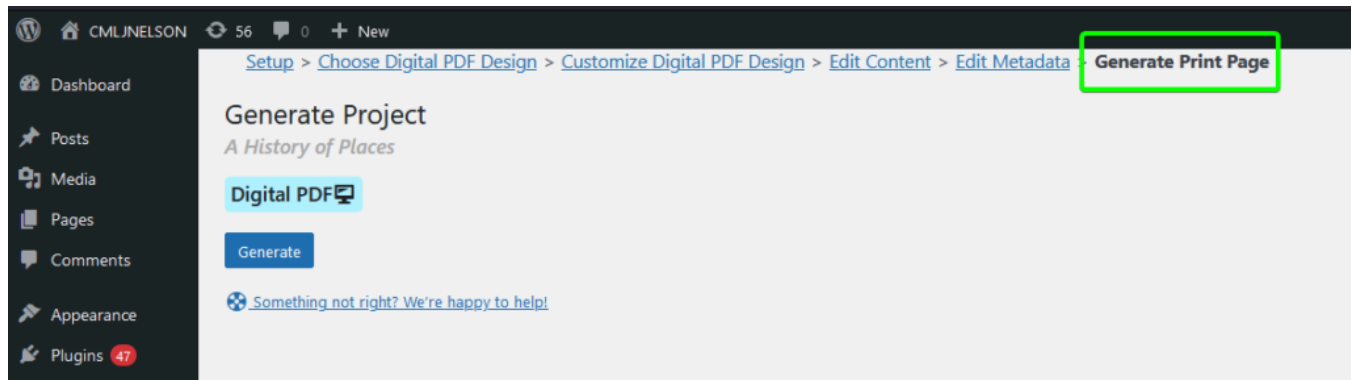
Amazon used to prefer their proprietary format, MOBI, over the ePub format. But that situation has changed.

When submitting eBooks to Amazon KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing, successor of CreateSpace), they now prefer you submit the file as an ePub.

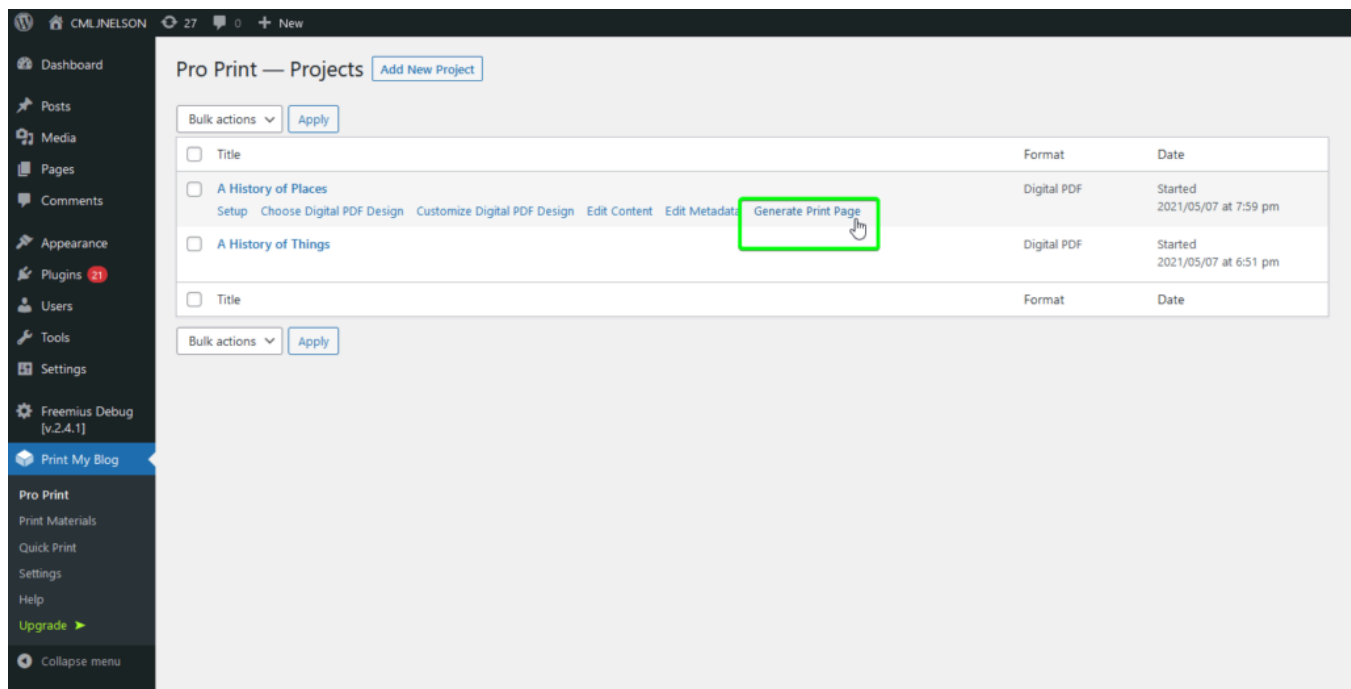
However, if you download the ePub file to your phone and send it to the Amazon Kindle App, it will try to convert the ePub into the old MOBI format, which can remove some of its formattings. So unless you're uploading the ePub eBook to Amazon KDP, I'd recommend reading the book in any other app.

09. Update the Project

One advantage of using PMB instead of copy-and-pasting into Microsoft Word is how much easier it is to update the content. See a typo in post? Fix it in the post in WordPress, and it will be fixed in the next PDF or ePub file you generate. Want to change all the hyperlinks to footnotes in the Digital PDF? Go back to “Customize Digital PDF Design” and change the setting (instead of searching through the entire Word document). Changing your choice of content and design is also easy. Use the project progress links (at the top of each project step) to go back to any previous step and change it.



The project's progress links appear at the top of every page of a project. This screenshot was taken from the “Generate Print Page” step and so it is bold.



When you hover over a project, links appear to jump to any step you want, including the final “Generate Print Page” step.

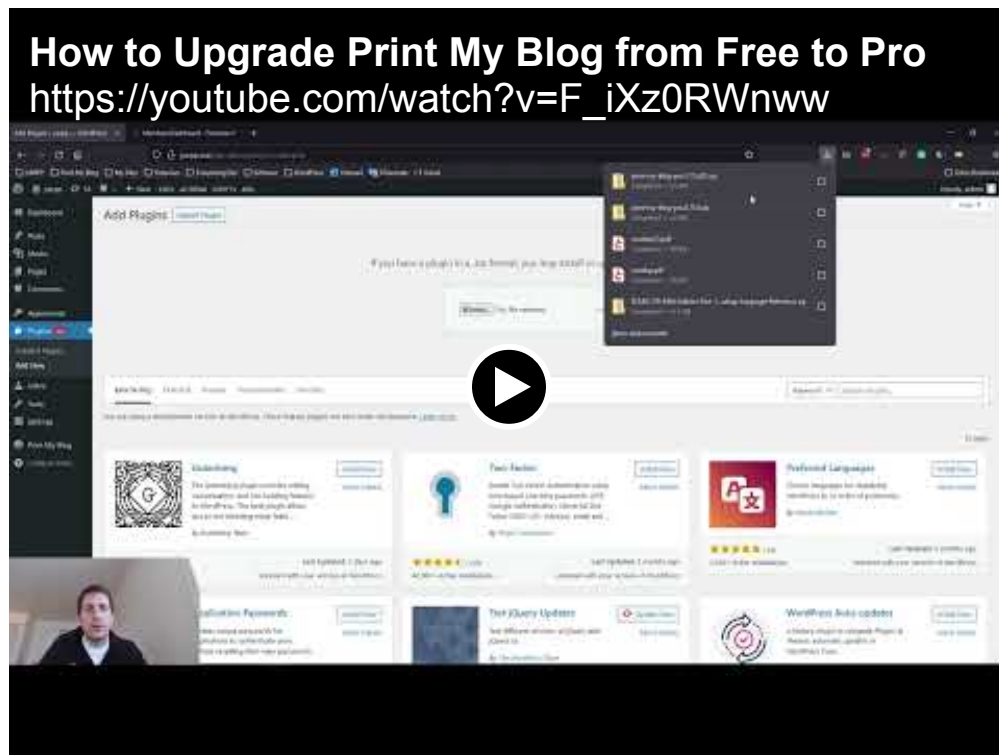
After you’ve changed any of the posts or pages in your project, or any other changes to your project, go back to the “Generate Preview Page” step and click “Generate” again.

10. Upgrading for Pro PDFs, ePub eBooks & Word Docs

In order to generate the Paid PDFs, ePub eBooks, Word Documents, and a few other features, you'll need:

1. Download the Pro version of Print My Blog
2. Purchase a license key

And activate both on your website. Here are instructions on how to do both of those.



Video instructions on how to upgrade from Print My Blog free to Pro with a license.

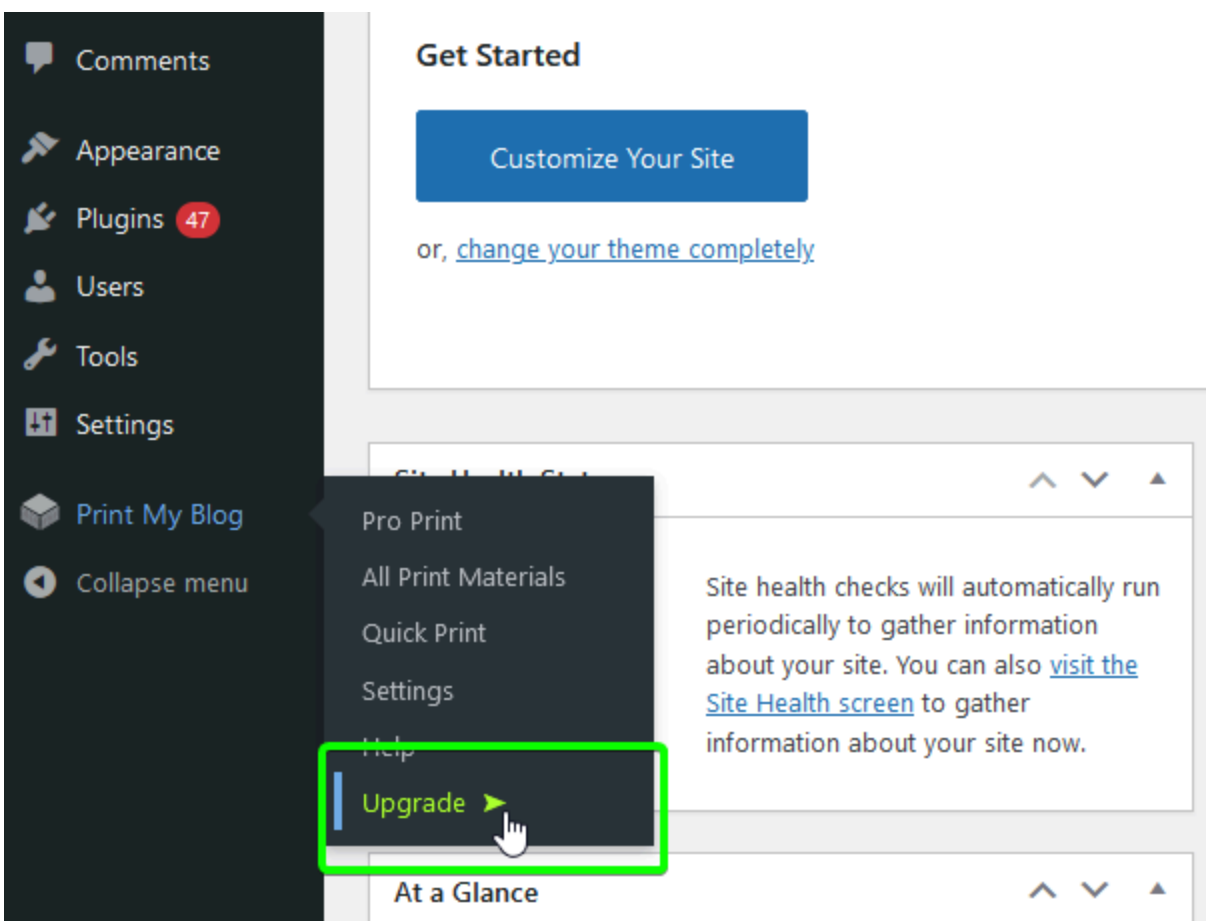
To purchase a license, from anywhere in the WordPress admin dashboard, under “Print My Blog” click “Upgrade.”

Select the plan that works for you and make the purchase (you can do it all from within your WordPress website via a payment system called Freemius).

Although the payment page appears to be on your WordPress website, it is actually securely communicating with [Freemius](https://freemius.com/), a service that handles purchases of PMB licenses.

Uninstalling PMB (free) and Installing PMB Pro

After the payment process is completed, Freemius will give you instructions on how to switch from the free version of PMB on WordPress.org (“Print My Blog”) to the paid version distributed by Freemius (“Print My Blog Pro”).



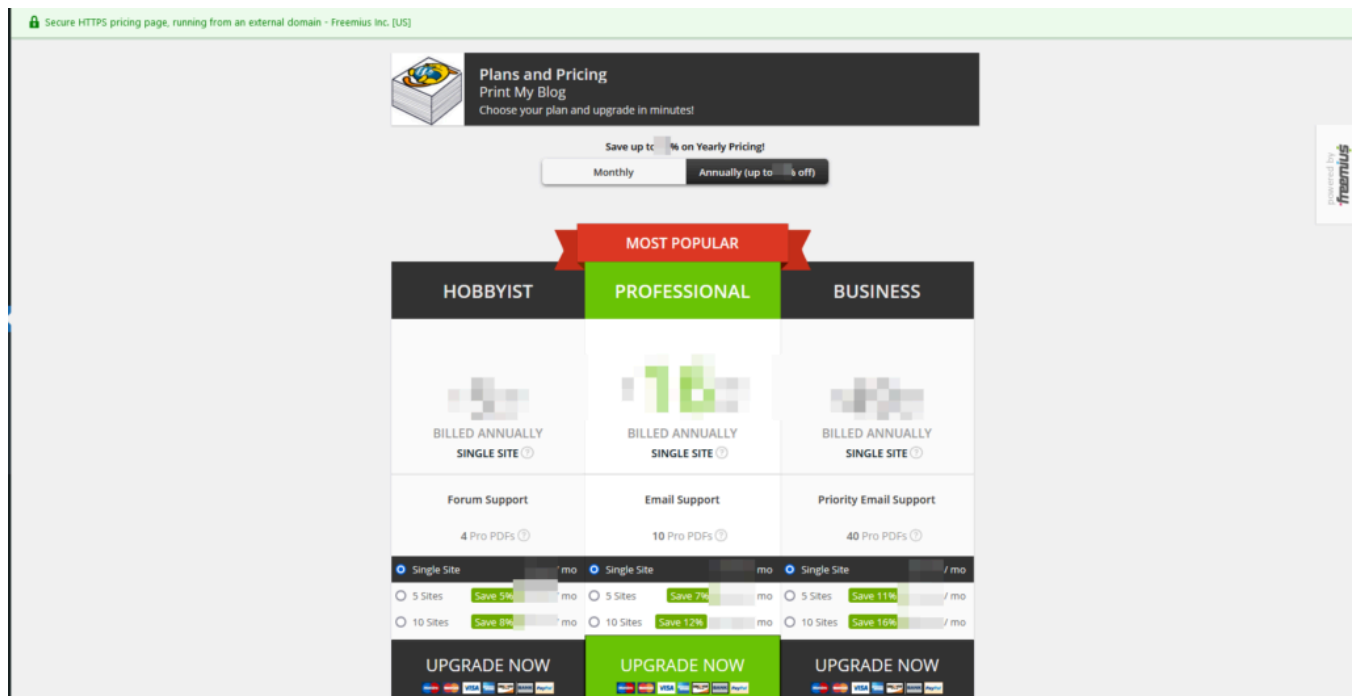
From anywhere in the WordPress Admin Dashboard, under the “Print My Blog” menu item, click “Upgrade.”

Download the plugin

After purchasing a license for Print My Blog Pro, you will be sent 2 emails. The first will provide you with a link to download the plugin, along with your license key.

The second email, which you’ll receive after the payment is successfully processed, will provide a receipt, as well as a secure link to download your PDF invoice.

Before downloading the product, if you are using Apple’s Safari as your browser, disable its default ZIP auto extraction setting:



PMB's Pricing Page, showing both monthly and annual payment periods; "hobbyist", "professional", and "business" plans; and bulk options.



Upload the Print My Blog Pro Zip File to WordPress

Now that you've downloaded the Print My Blog Pro zip file, you are ready to upload it to your WordPress website. To do that

- visit your website's admin dashboard

- click on “Plugins” menu on the left
- click “Add New” button (towards the top-left)
- click “Upload Plugin” (again, towards the top-left)
- click “Browse...” and locate the zip file (you probably downloaded it to your “Downloads” folder), or drag the zip file over the upload area
- click “Install Now”
- once installed, click “Activate”



Activate the product with your License Key

If you've purchased the plugin directly within the WP Admin dashboard you are already good to go since the license key is automatically activated right after the upgrade. Otherwise, after activating the product, you will be redirected to a license activation screen.

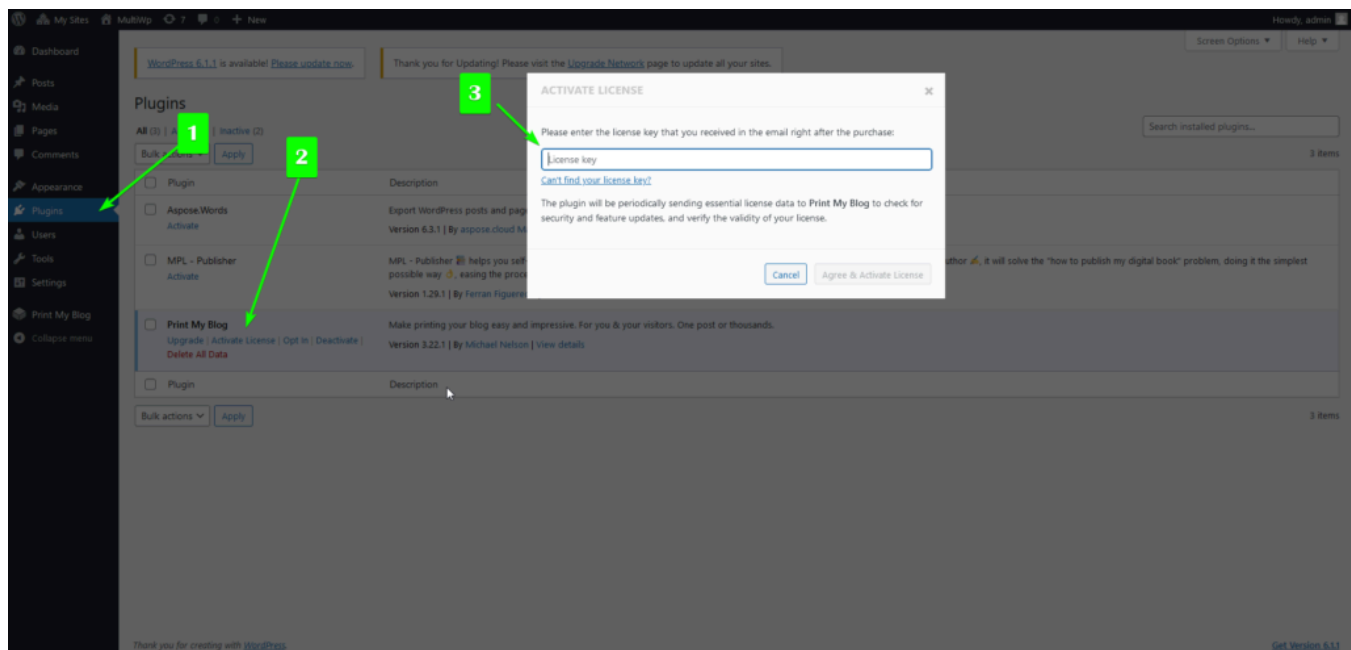
Simply enter the key provided in your email and click “Agree and Activate License”. Print My Blog Pro will now be activated and you'll be ready to start using it.

If you somehow didn't activate the license during plugin activation as described above, and need to activate it later,

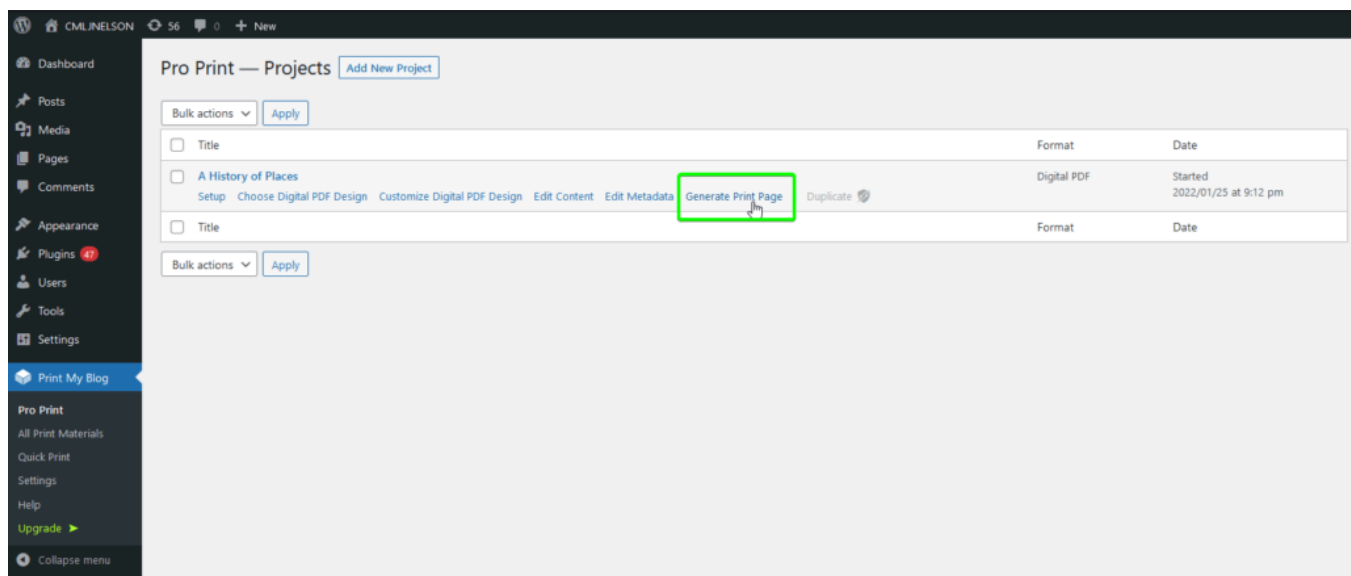
- go to your WP admin
- then the plugins page
- scroll down to Print My Blog
- under it click “Activate License”
- enter the license key
- click Agree and Activate License

Generating Paid PDFs

After you've purchased a license, installed Print My Blog Pro, and entered your license key, return to your project's “Generate Print Page” step and click to view the Print Page.



Activating a license later from the plugins page.



From the “Pro Print – Projects” page, when you hover over a project, all the available steps appear. Clicking “Generate Print Page” will take you directly to the last step.

On the Print Page, you will need to download the Test PDF first again, and check for any problems. After downloading the Test PDF, the button to download the Paid PDF will become usable. The Paid PDF should look identical to the Test PDF except without the watermarks on each page.

When you download the Paid PDF it will immediately deduct towards your monthly credits, and is non-refundable (which is why it's better to check for problems in the Test PDF).

If you run out of Paid PDF credits in a month and have a yearly license, just contact us and we can give you a one-time increase in credits. But if you're regularly reaching your limit you should consider upgrading to another plan.

And again, ePub eBooks have no monthly download limit. If you have a current license, you can download as

← Back Help!	
Print My Blog Pro	
Free Print with Browser Totally free, but limited to features supported by your browser.	Pro Download Test PDF Download Paid PDF Downloading the Paid PDF will use one of your 37 remaining credits, and is non-refundable.

printmy.blog

Introducing Print My Blog Pro

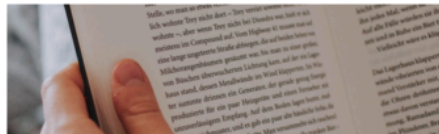
Michael Nelson, Developer of Print My Blog Pro

04/30/2021

This distributable document is basically the landing page at printmy.blog in PDF form. Share it, store it, print it. It's perceived as more official than just another website. It's the best of both worlds.

Write for Web and Print Simultaneously

Print My Blog Pro uses the full power of WordPress to make websites, PDFs, and print.

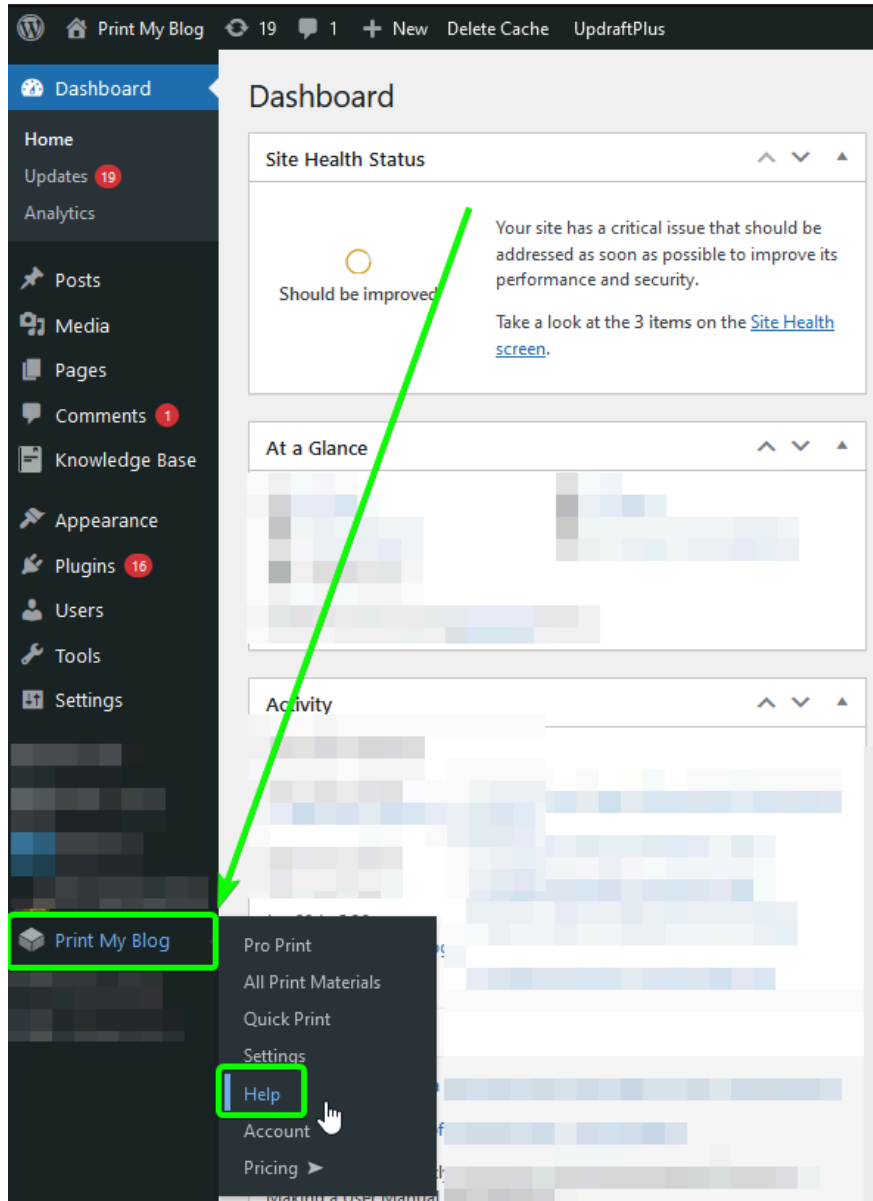


Once you have purchased a PMB Pro license, after downloading a watermarked preview PDF, you'll then see this button to "Download Paid PDF".

many eBooks as you'd like.

11. Getting Help

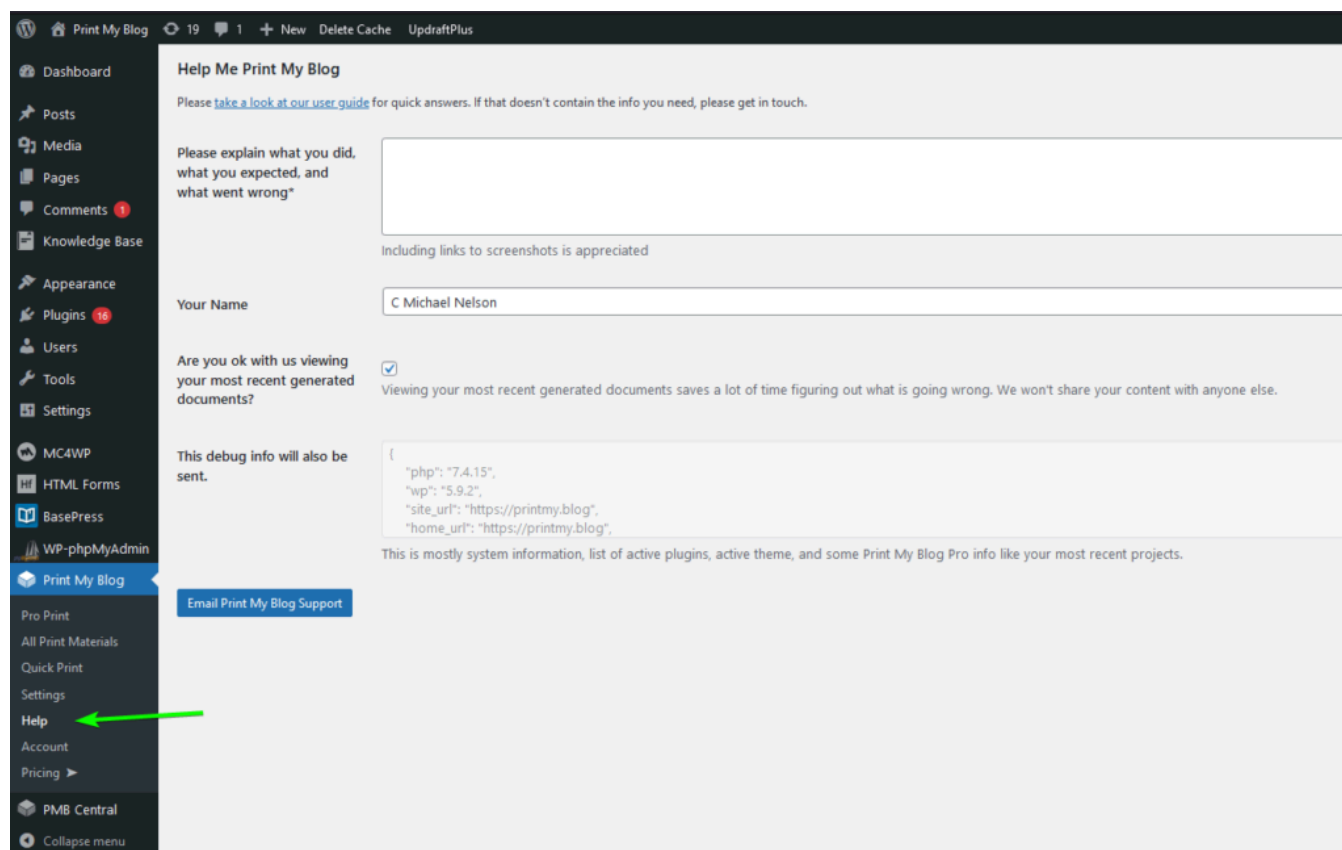
The best way to get support is to use the plugin's built-in help page, as it facilitates sending important debugging information. You'll find it on any WordPress admin dashboard page, under "Print My Blog".



Print My Blog's Help page can be accessed from anywhere on your WordPress website's admin dashboard. Under "Print My Blog", click "Help".

Since PMB 3.13.1, all users can privately report issues via email. Just fill in the form and click "Email Print My Blog Support".

Debugging information that will be sent includes hosting details (like PHP version), WordPress site configuration (like WordPress version, site theme, and plugins), and PMB data (like plugin settings, design settings, and the URL of generated print pages.) All debugging information can be seen in the textbox beside "This debug info will

The screenshot shows the 'Help Me Print My Blog' page. On the left is a dark sidebar with a menu. The 'Help' item is highlighted with a green arrow. The main content area has a title 'Help Me Print My Blog' and a link to the user guide. Below this is a text input field for the user's name, which contains 'C Michael Nelson'. There is a checkbox for 'Are you ok with us viewing your most recent generated documents?' which is checked. A code block displays system information including PHP and WordPress versions, site URL, and home URL. At the bottom of the main area is a blue button labeled 'Email Print My Blog Support'.

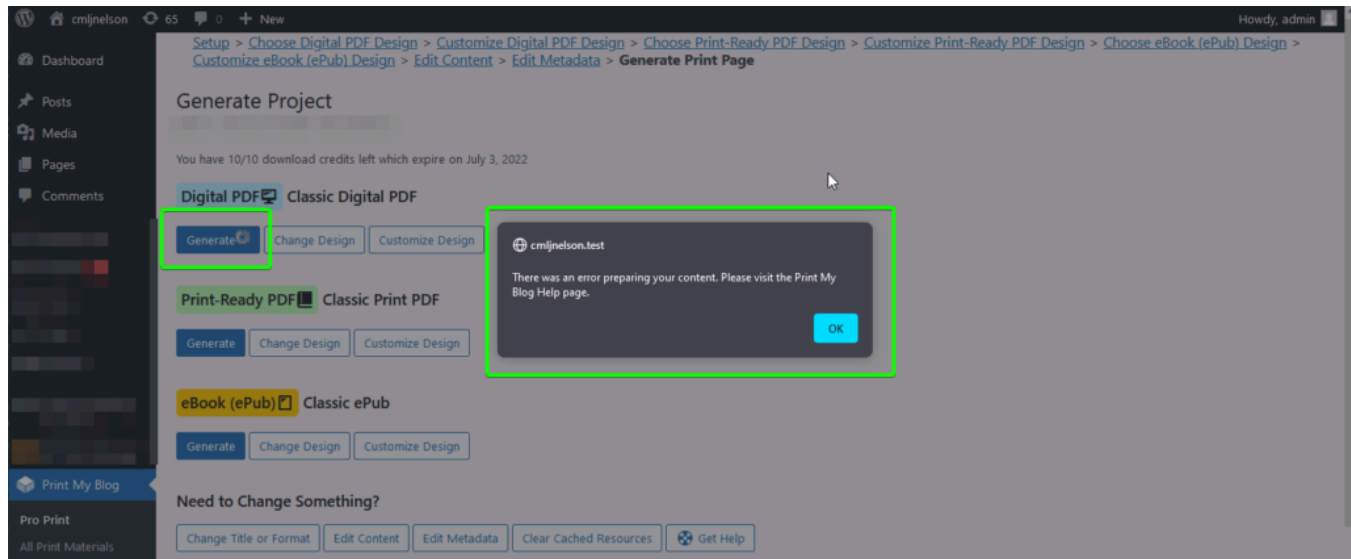
The PMB help page that looks like this. Notice the button to “Email Print My Blog Support”.

also be sent”).)

Expect a reply within 48 hours on business days.

12. FAQs & Common Problems

I'm Getting an Error When I Click "Generate"



After clicking "Generate" on any format, you might get an error saying "There was an error preparing your content. Please visit the Print My Blog Help page"

When you're on a project's "Generate Print Page" step, and click "Generate", you might get an unpleasant message saying "There was an error preparing your content. Please visit the Print My Blog Help page."

This is a generic message saying there was some error while your project's contents were compiled into a single print page. It doesn't give the reason, but more information is recorded behind the scenes.

The most common reason for this is that your design is **not applying your website theme** but the content requires it (e.g. the Divi theme by Elegant Themes has this problem). You can try fixing this by [applying your website's theme](#) to the design you're using, then regenerating the Print Page.

If that doesn't resolve the error, please don't hesitate to [ask for help from PMB support](#)¹, as the problem is most likely a conflict with another plugin that we'd like to know about anyway.

I Can't Activate My License or Use Pro Features

After you purchase a license for Print My Blog (PMB) Pro via Freemius (payment and software delivery service used by PMB), Freemius will send you an email with two things:

1. a link to download PMB Pro
2. your license key

You must deactivate the free version of PMB (downloaded from WordPress.org), install and activate the Pro version, and enter your license key. [These steps are explained in detail, along with a video, in the Getting Started section](#)².

1. See page [51](#).

2. See page [45](#).

If you're still having trouble, please don't hesitate to [ask for help](#)¹.

There's Something I Don't Want in the Generated File or Blank Pages at the End

You may have a plugin adding content to your website, but you'd rather it not add its content to files generated using PMB. Examples of this are banners and extra content automatically added to posts.

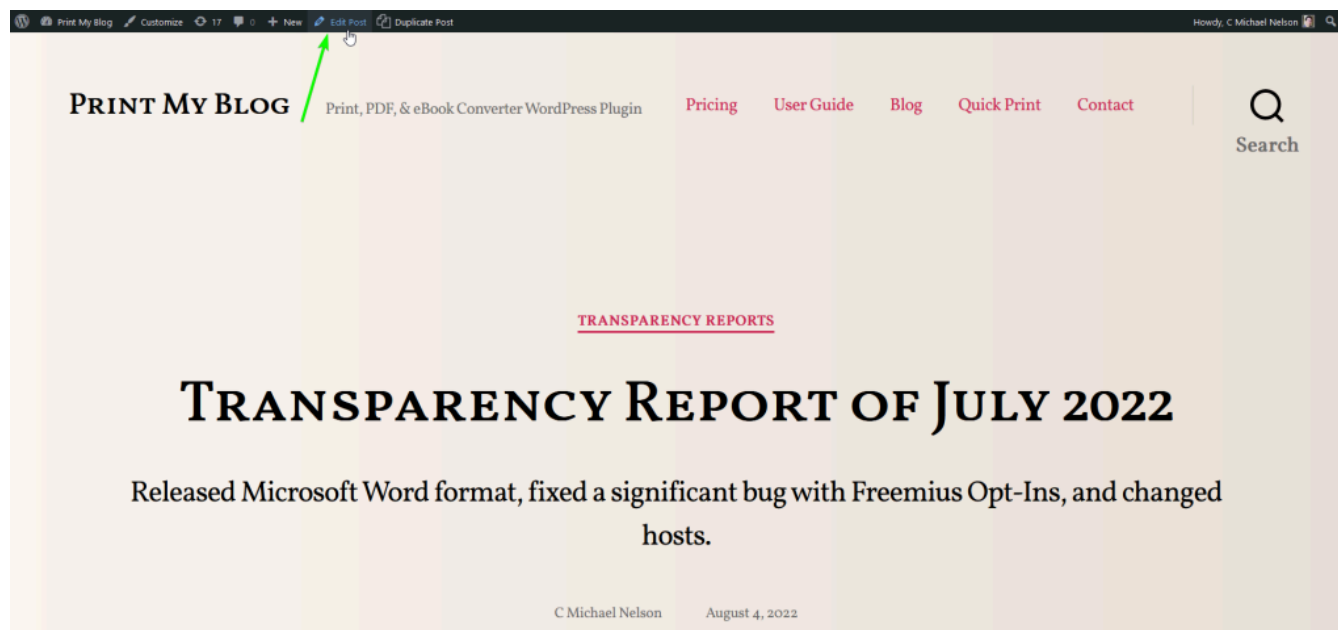
Likewise, sometimes plugins only half add their content to PMB's PDFs; meaning they take up space but you don't actually see anything (most often manifested as an extra blank page at the beginning or end of the file).

While you might manage to remove this content yourself, it's usually best to ask for [PMB's help directly](#)² (so we can add a fix to PMB itself and save future users this annoyance.)

How Do I Find Which Post Relates to Content In My Project?

If you find a typo in a PDF or ePub generated with PMB, how do you find the right post (or page or custom post type) to edit?

The easiest way is using the post's URL, which all the classic designs can show (it's on the [customize design step](#)³). Just find the URL preceding the content you want not fix, click on it (depending on the program, you might need to press `Ctrl`+click on Windows, `Cmd`+click on Mac). That will take you to view the post on your website. If you're logged in, click the "Edit Post" link at the top.



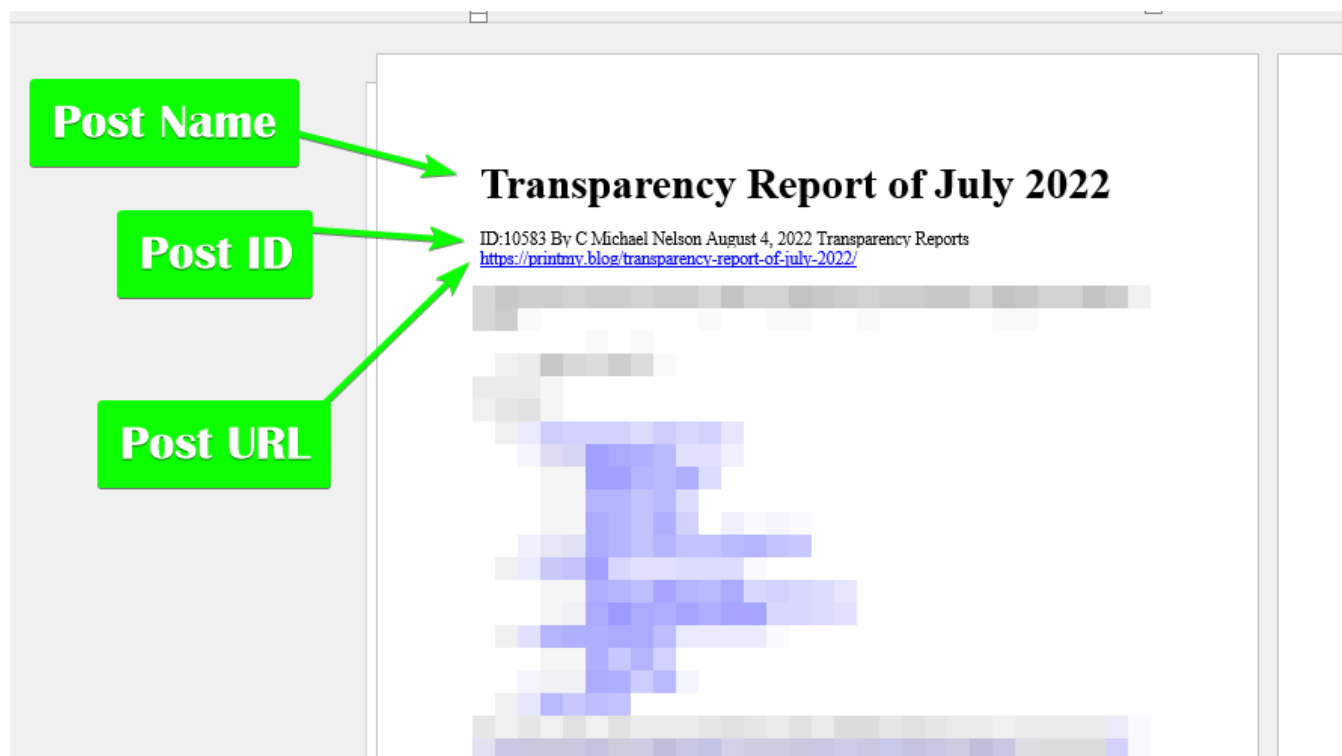
When you're viewing the post, click "Edit Post" in the top of the page to edit it.

If your design doesn't show the post's URL, or you've customized it not to, you can still search using the post's name. Just go to the **All Posts** page, then search using the post's name. Once you find it, click it to go to the editing page.

1. See page [51](#).

2. See page [51](#).

3. See page [30](#).

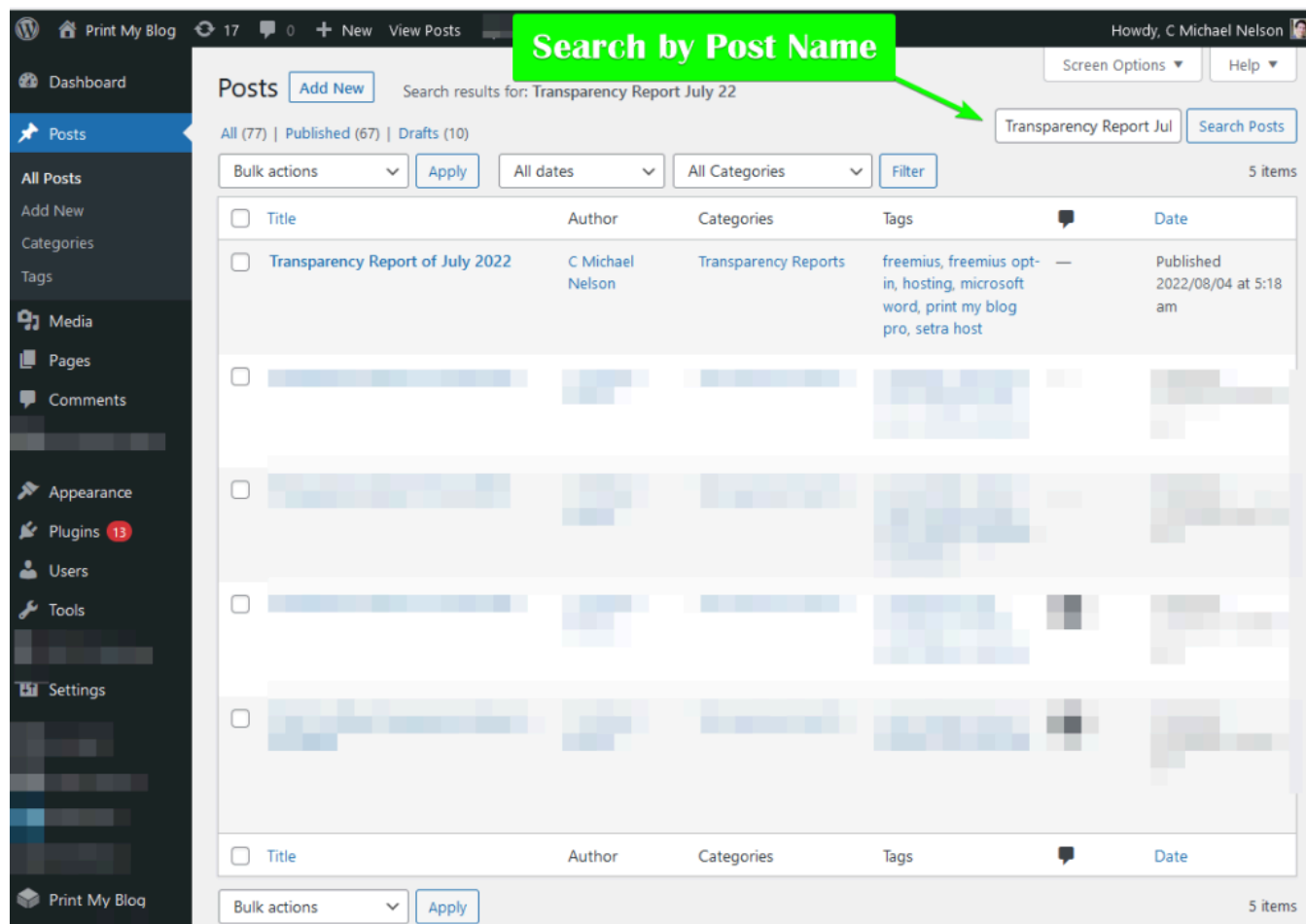


*In this Word document, this design was set to display the post's name, ID, and URL. Hold down **CTRL** (or **Cmd** on Mac) and click the URL to go to the post.*

After you've made the adjustments and fixes you need to the post, just update it (on your website) and the next time you generate the project's file, the changes will appear.

To regenerate the project's file (e.g., the PDF), go to **Print My Blog » Pro Print**, find your project, and click on its title. (This will take you to the **Generate Print Page** step unless something else needs to be done first.)

From there, click the **Generate** button, and then download the file as normal.



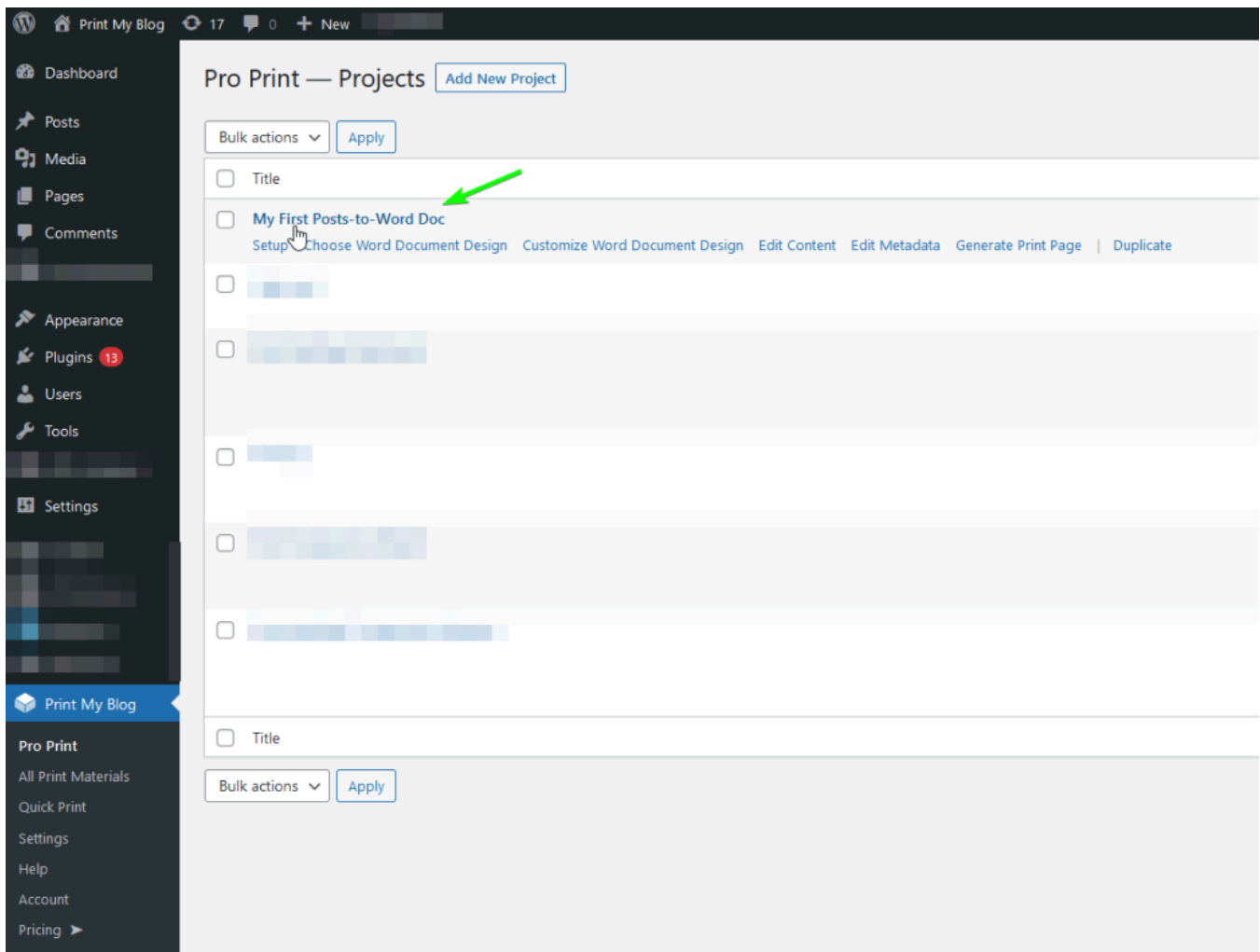
The screenshot shows the WordPress 'Posts' admin page. A green box with the text "Search by Post Name" has an arrow pointing to the search input field. The search results show 5 items, with the first item being "Transparency Report of July 2022" by C Michael Nelson. The page includes a sidebar with navigation links and a top bar with user information.

Search results for: Transparency Report July 22

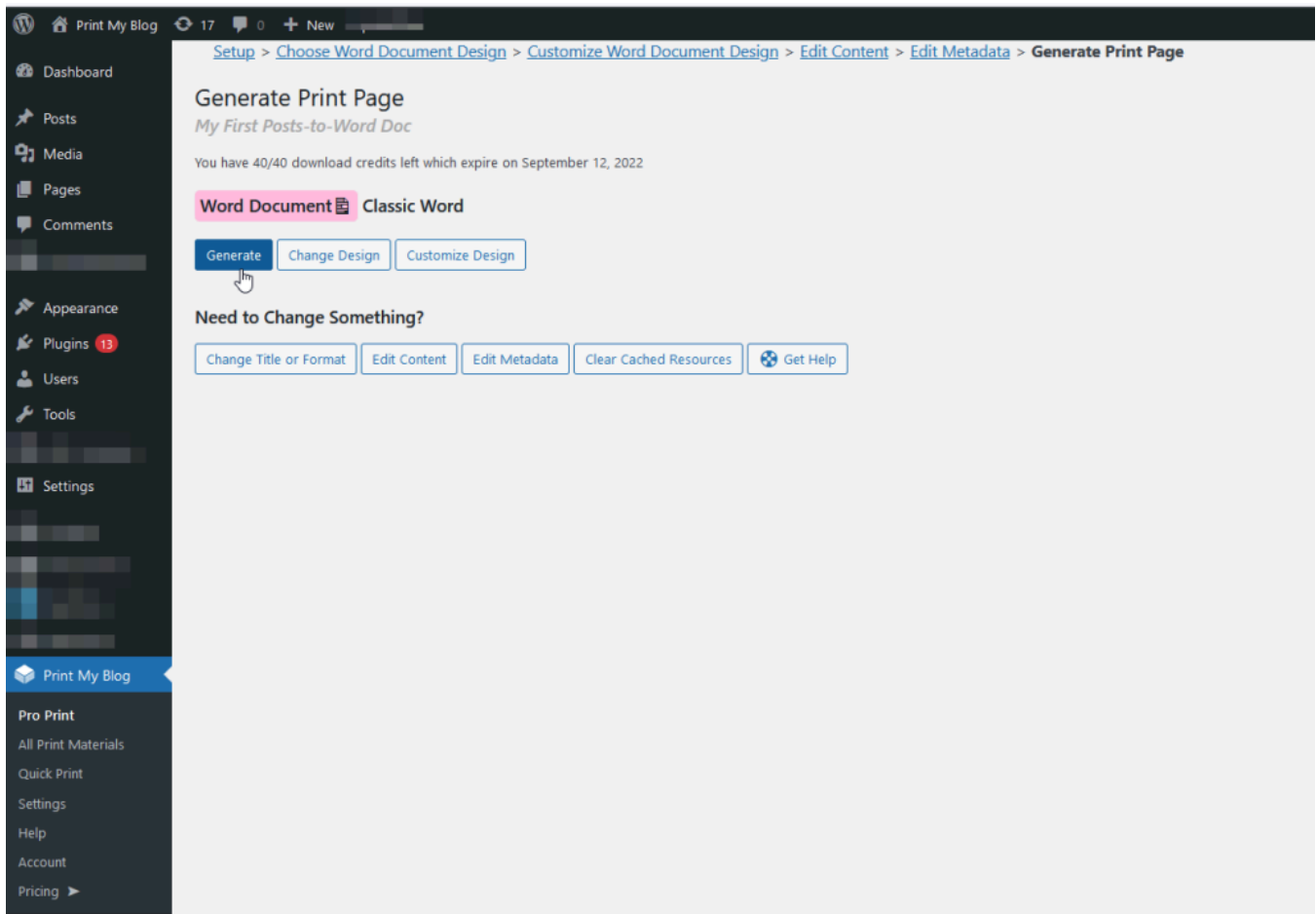
Transparency Report Jul Search Posts

<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Author	Categories	Tags		Date
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transparency Report of July 2022	C Michael Nelson	Transparency Reports	freemius, freemius opt-in, hosting, microsoft word, print my blog pro, setra host	—	Published 2022/08/04 at 5:18 am
<input type="checkbox"/>						
<input type="checkbox"/>						
<input type="checkbox"/>						
<input type="checkbox"/>						

Alternatively, go to the “All Posts” admin page, and search for the post by name. (If it’s a page, go to the “All Pages” admin page, etc.) Then click on the post to edit it.



Once you've made your changes, go back to Print My Blog's "Pro Print" projects page, and click on the project. This will take you to the "Generate Print Page" step again.



On the “Generate Print Page” again, click “Generate” to regenerate it with the updated posts.

13. Privacy and PMB's Pro Print Service

PMB's Quick Print creates files directly from your browser and never sends any data (unless you opt into [Freemius' data collection](#)). Similarly, if you use Pro Print with your browser, no data is sent to our server.

PMB Pro Print with the Pro Print Service, however, does send your project's HTML to printmy.blog, which validates your license via Freemius, and then forwards the HTML onto docraptor.com, an external web service.

So when you click to "Download Test PDF" or "Download Paid PDF", your project's content is sent to printmy.blog and docraptor.com.

DocRaptor is a service for converting HTML into PDFs. You can read their [privacy policy here](#).

Data is also sent to printmy.blog in order to validate that software license keys are still valid. We will not share any project content with third parties, or reuse it in any way.

We will only periodically view project content in order to verify the service is working properly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to [contact us](#).

Designs

Here we describe each of the pre-built designs (for digital and print-ready PDF, as well as ePub eBook). We'll cover what each design is for and what options it has. If one of these designs meets your needs exactly, great. Most likely you'll want to customize them by adding some custom CSS to them (you can use any CSS supported by [Prince CSS](#)). Possibly you'll want something so different that you'll really want a totally custom design. If that's the case, please get in touch. I can either point you to documentation on creating your own design, or you can hire me to do it for you.

1. Introduction to Print My Blog Designs

Print My Blog Designs Are Like WordPress Themes

Print My Blog (PMB) Pro separates content from the design so projects can all look totally different by using different designs, or they can all have the same look by reusing the same design. Designs are a lot like WordPress themes in that no two are alike, each has different settings, each supports custom CSS for fine-tuning, and you can even create your own (or hire a designer to create one for you.)

After you've dabbled with [choosing](#)¹ and [customizing a design](#)² for a first project, it's good to learn about the power of designs to make them just the way you want.

What Does a Design Affect?

The following are some of the aspects of the generated files that will be different, depending on which design you use and how you customize it.

- Page backgrounds
- Font style and size
- Spacing of content
- Margin content (eg page numbering, running titles, or organization's branding)
- Post meta information to show (eg choice of whether to include categories, tags, published date, etc.)
- Default title page design

Designs also have different support for features like dividing articles into parts, front and back matter, and choices of article templates.

Designs are Specific to Formats

When you create a project you choose which file format you intend to create. Eg a digital PDF or a print-ready PDF. Projects for making digital PDFs can choose between digital PDF designs, like Classic Digital PDF, Buurma Whitepaper, and Mayer Magazine. Projects for print-ready PDFs can choose between the Classic Print PDF, Economical Print PDF, and Editorial Review PDF.

Projects can Use the Same Design

You can reuse the same design across all your projects to create a consistent look and feel. For example, a designer could setup the design as desired, then the content writers could use the design in all the projects they write.

Projects can Use Different Designs

Each project can also use a different design. So, you can make a project which is an archive of all your posts using the Classic Digital PDF, and then also make a monthly newsletter project using the Mayer Magazine.

1. See page [28](#).

2. See page [30](#).

Each Design has Different Settings

Each design has different settings. This way there can be designs with simpler settings (which are more “opinionated”, best for those who don’t want to worry about design and focus on the content) and designs with more complex settings (best for those who want more control). So if you don’t see a setting to control something in your design, you might want to try a different design because what you’re wanting to do might be something outside its intended purpose.

Designs Support Different Features

Additionally, designs can vary in their support for some features.

Parts, Volumes and Anthologies

Most designs allow you to group content into parts, but some might be simpler and not support parts, or they might support grouping parts into a volume, and they might even support grouping volumes into anthologies. This is indicated in the design’s details.

Front and Back Matter

Most designs support front matter, which is content that comes before the main body of the text, things like titles pages, table of contents, and a preface. Designs will usually number front matter pages differently, like with Roman numerals instead of decimal numbers.

Most designs also support back matter, which is content that comes after the main body of the text. The design can give these pages a distinct look, but often they look the same as the main matter (in which case back matter just helps organize the project’s content.)

Designs Can Have Different Section Templates

Section templates tell the design how you’d like a section to appear. For example, a design’s default section template will show the section’s title and maybe other info like author or category. But if you instead switch the section to the “Just Content” section template the title and other info will be omitted (this is nice if you want that section to have a very custom layout.)

Designs can support other section templates as well, like a full-page image template or a two-column template.

Becoming a Master of PMB Designs

Now that you’ve been introduced to what a design is, how they can differ, and what they affect, it’s time to dive into the details of each.

2. Classic Digital PDF



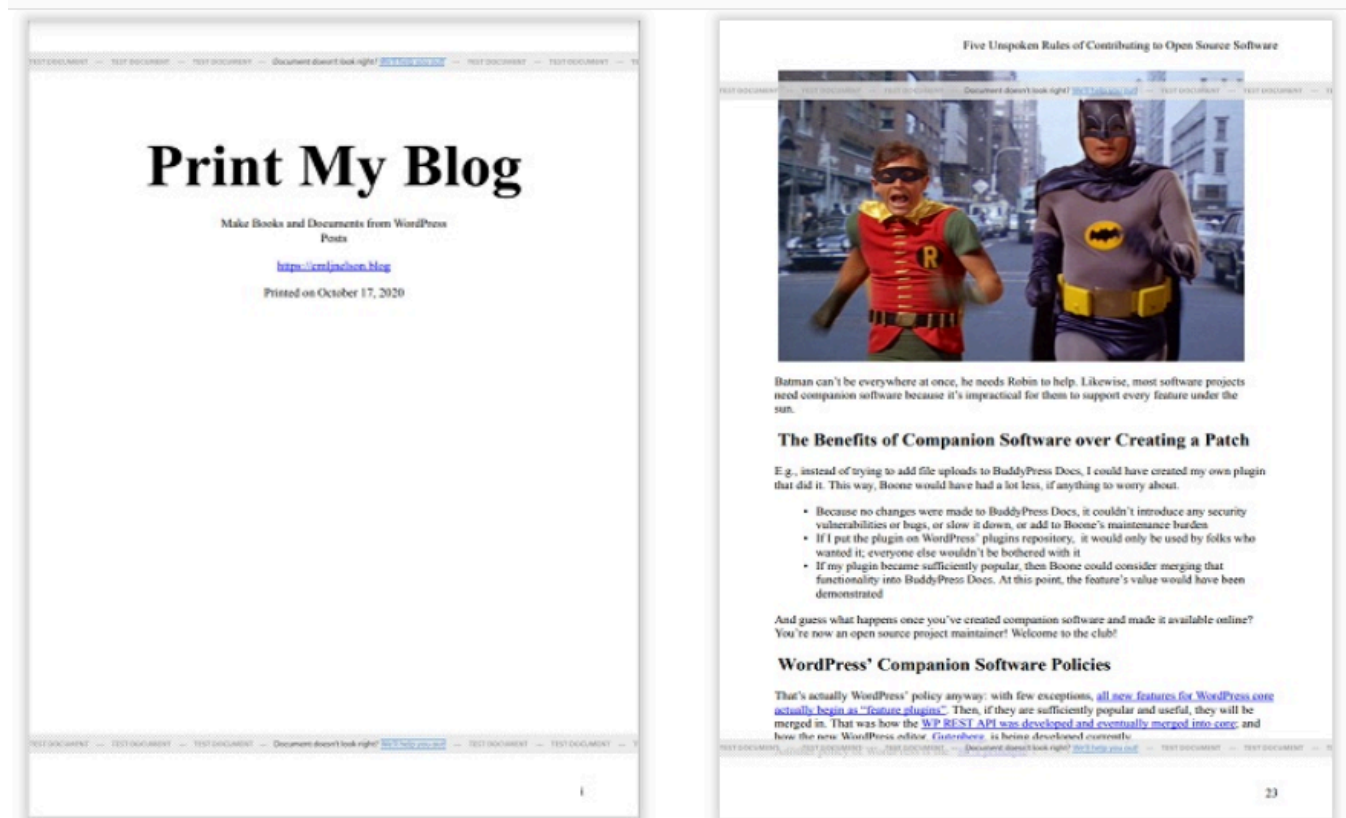
By	Mike Nelson
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * front matter * 1 layer of nesting (each article can put in a part) * back matter

Purpose

Very similar to Print My Blog Free, but supporting Pro features. Great for making a PDF for an easy-to-read digital backup of your favorite website content.

Features

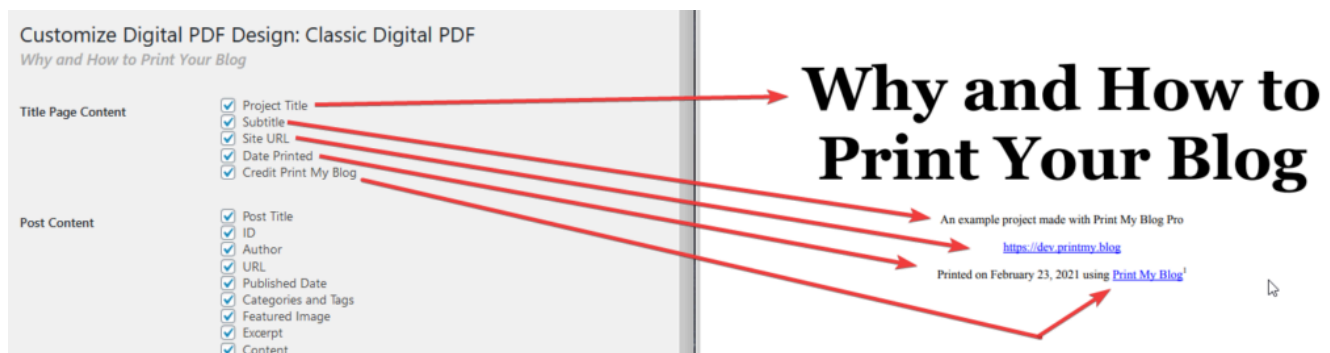
- Supports nesting articles (like posts and pages) into “parts”
- External hyperlinks (links to web pages not in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes, left in-place, or removed
- Internal hyperlinks (links to content included in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes, inline page references, left in-place, or removed
- The default title page can include: Project Title, Subtitle, Site URL, Date Printed, Credit to Print My Blog
- Each article can include: Title, ID, Author, URL, Date Published, Categories and Tags, Featured Image, Excerpt, Custom Fields, Content
- Optionally automatically center images



- Optionally float images to the top or bottom of each page

Page Layout

- Page numbers in bottom-right corner, article titles in the top-right, and part titles (if using parts) appear in the top-left corner. Front-matter's pages are numbered with Roman numerals
- Each article can optionally begin on a new page



"Title Page Content" controls what is shown on the default title page.

Transparency Reports
Transparency Report – April 2020

The Details

Official Invitation to Become a Founding Member of Print My Blog Pro

I made a [post that officially invites folks to sign up to be Founding Members of Print My Blog Pro](#)¹, and details what that entails. The gist is:

- Founding Members provide feedback during the plugin's development to help make it suite their needs
- In exchange, the first 50 will get a free lifetime license; the rest will get a major discount when it's ready to release

I kinda thought that was a pretty sweet deal, but so far I've had to hustle to get a bit of a response. Here's this site's stats for the month:

Article Title

Summary of Key Data from Transparency Report:

Metric	Value	Change
Total visitors	348	+17%
Total pageviews	843	+100%
Realtime pageviews	0	pageviews in the last hour

Rank	Page	Visitors	Pageviews
1	WordPress and Documents from WordPress Pro	179	340
2	WordPress Pro	127	214
3	Get a Major Discount for Print My Blog Pro by Becoming a Founding Member	96	74
4	Transparency Report - April 2020	45	92
5	Print My Blog Pro: Release Plan	27	36
6	Why Am I Making a Free Version of Print My Blog?	14	18
7	Thanks for Signing Up!	11	12
8	How to Add Print PDF & eBook Buttons to your WordPress Website with Print My Blog	8	10

Rank	Referrer	Visitors	Pageviews
1	wordpress.org/plugins/print-my-blog	48	70
2	facebook.com	18	24
3	wordpress.com/news/wordpress-5-6-release-announcement	9	10
4	wordpress.com	13	16
5	wordpress.com/plugins/print-my-blog	8	9
6	wordpress.com/plugins/print-my-blog	7	8
7	WordPress	6	6
8	WordPress	6	6
9	wordpress.com/news/wordpress-5-6-release-announcement	2	3

Koko Analytics² report of traffic during the month; plus some annotations pointing out the time of important events.

So visits to this site are certainly up (from an average of about 20 per day to about 50 per day), especially since the post got included in wpmail.me, and a few tweeps retweeted it. But at that point, I had only had about 15 subscribers and 10 survey respondents. So, more work is needed to get the word out! But thank you to everyone who's subscribed and responded to the survey so far.

Published Plugin Release and Development Plan

I published a [post outlining my plan for developing and progressively releasing Print My Blog Pro](#)³. There are two main audiences for this post:

- potential users of Print My Blog Pro, so they can know what to expect if they sign up as a Founding Member
- other plugin developers, so they can either use my plan as inspiration or give feedback on it

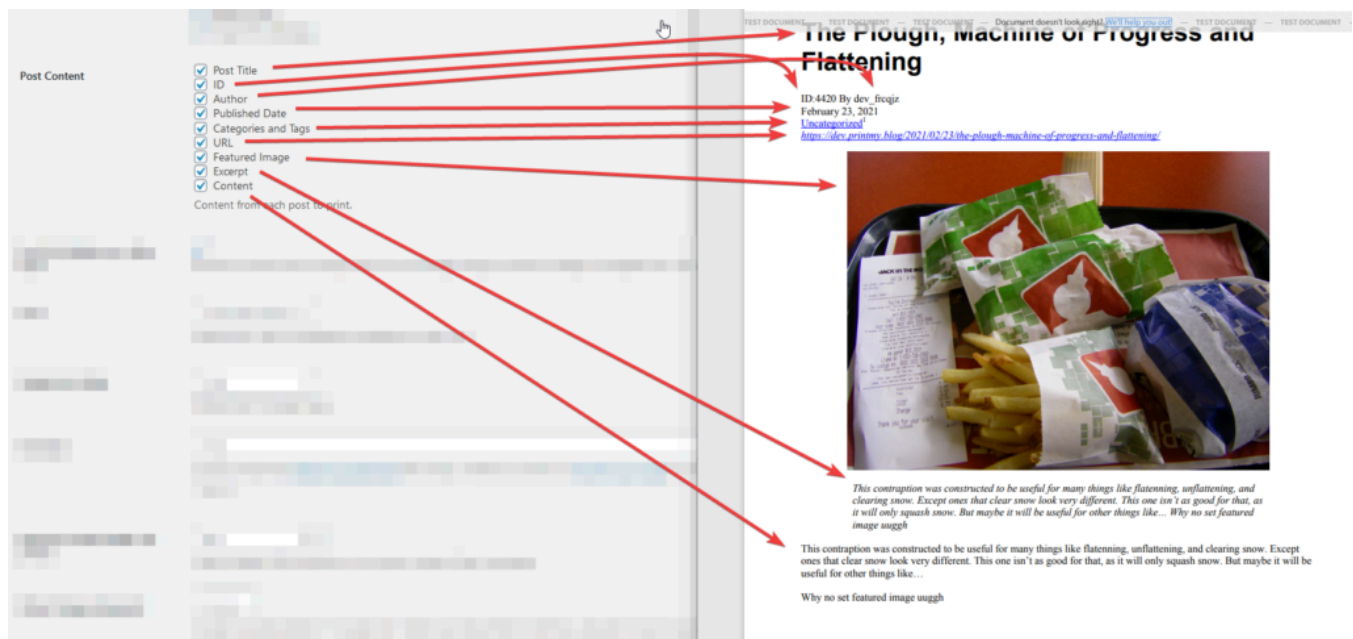
The summary is that I plan to:

1. recruit Founding Members to give feedback on what they need (the will get a free lifetime license)

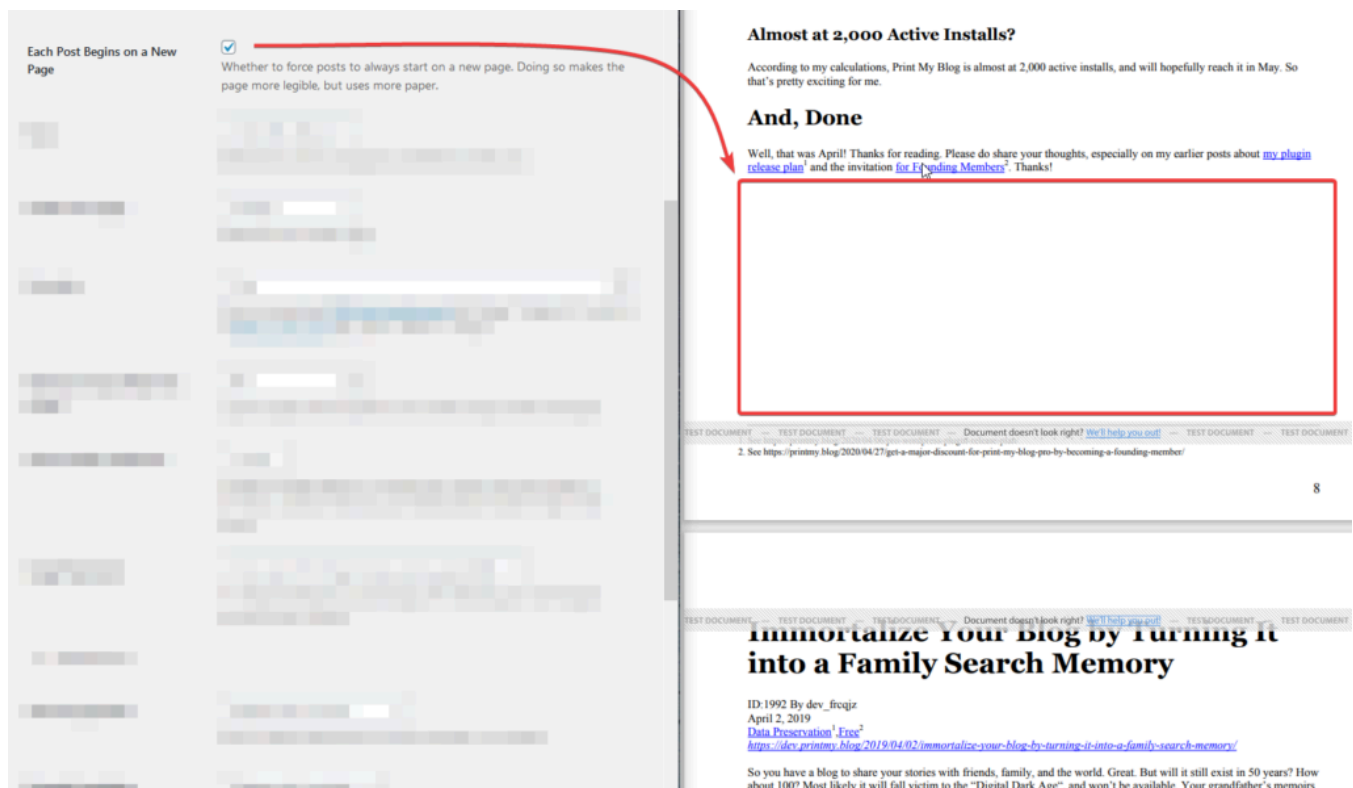
Page Number

3. See <https://printmy.blog/2020/04/06/pro-wordpress-plugin-release-plan/>
6

Article running titles (the current article's title) always appear in the top-right margin. If the project has parts, the part's title appears in the top-left corner. Page numbers always appear in the bottom-left corner.



"Post Content" controls what is shown on each article that uses the default template.



"Each Page Begins on a New Page" forces each article to begin at the top of a page, instead of continuing directly after the previous article.

▼ Font Settings

Title page and Part Header Font Size
Font size used for the default title page's and part's header (all other headers' sizes are derived from the main font size). Use any recognized or "10px").

Header Font ▼
Default font for header tags

Font Size
Use any recognized [CSS font-size keyword](#) (like "large", "medium", "small") or a [length in any units](#) (eg "14pt", "50%", or "10px").

Font ▼
Default font used in paragraphs, bulleted lists, tables, etc.

"Title page and Part Header Font Size" sets the title page and part header size.

"Header Font" controls which font is used for all headers.

"Font" controls which font is used for non-header text.

"Font Size" controls the base font-size (headers are always proportionately bigger).

Maximum Image Height (in pixels) ↕
Larger images will be resized to this, smaller images will be unchanged.

Default Image Alignment ▼
Images normally default to "no alignment", which can look jumbled in printout those to align to the center.

400 pixels

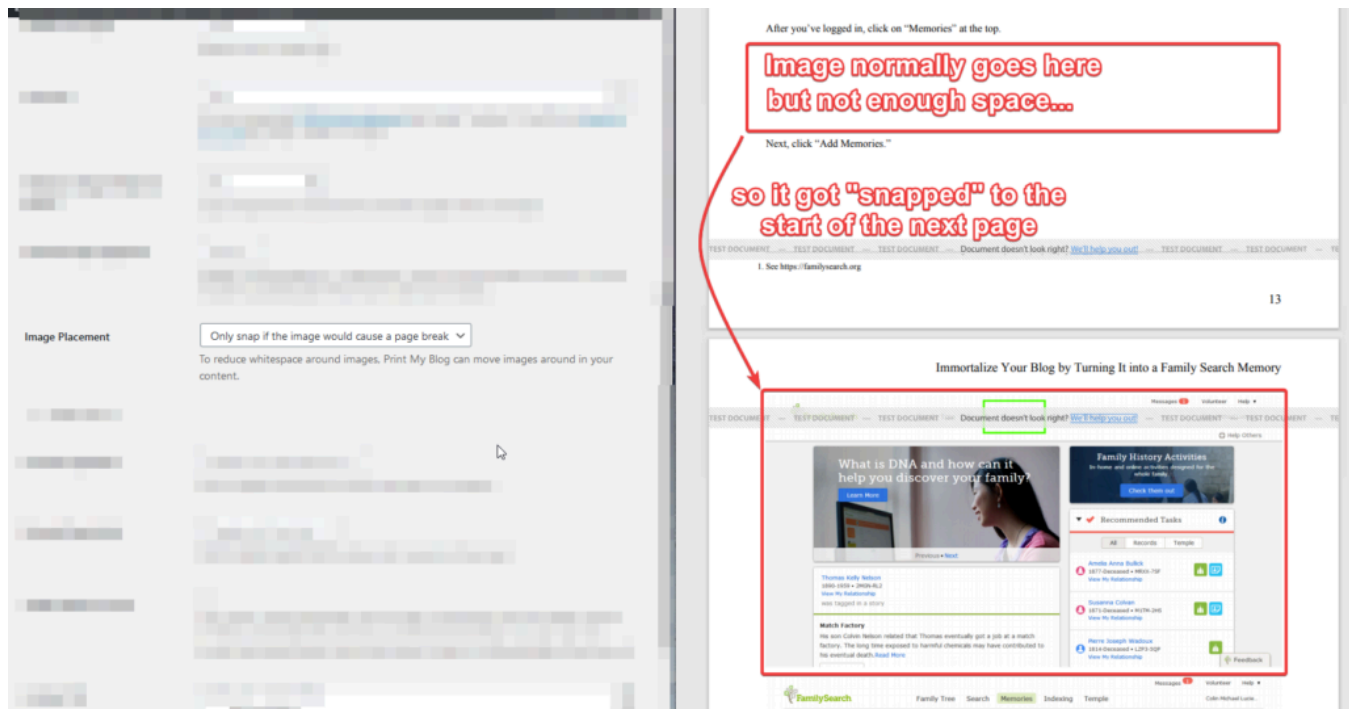
Talking is Hard

Some of the new settings that can be saved for the print buttons. These can be different for each print button format.

One thing that took me surprisingly long and was hard for me was making a video. [Vito suggested thinking](#) survey respondents with a recorder and that's what I did. I haven't actually left the house in about a month so I'm

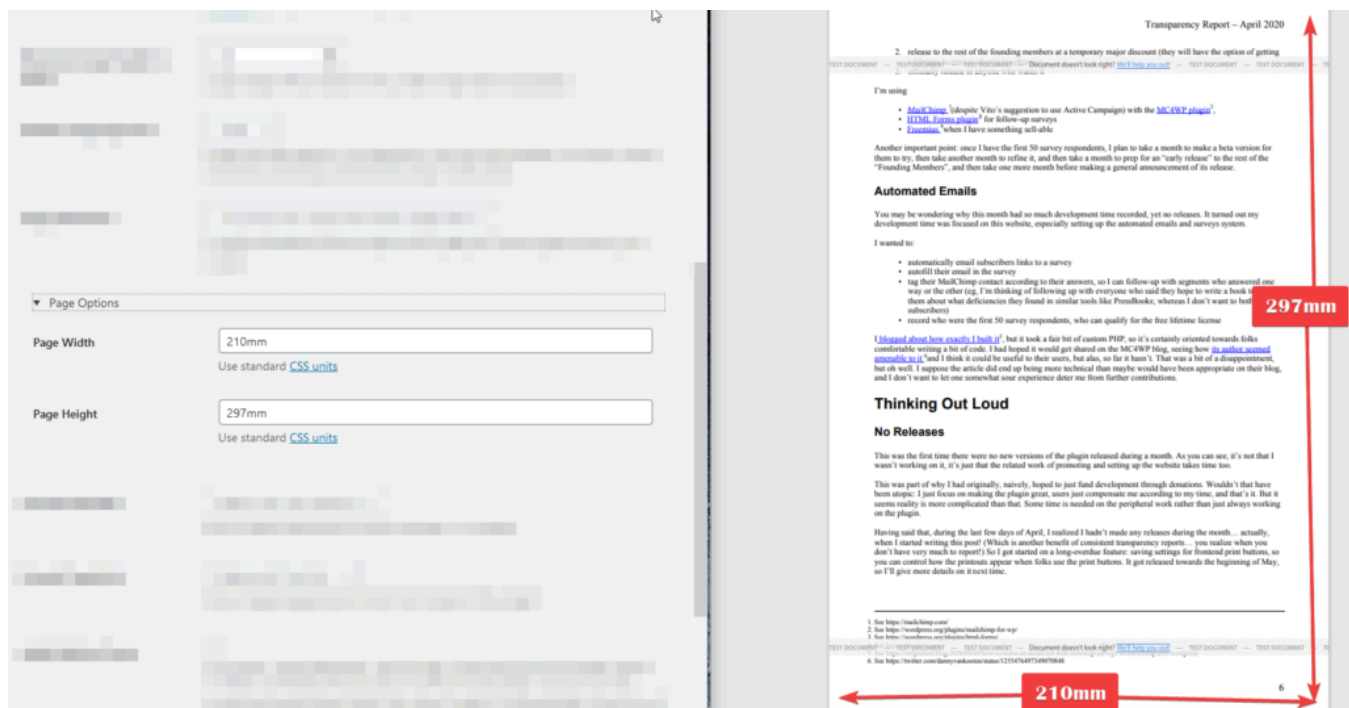
"Maximum Image Height" resizes larger images to the desired height, which can be nice if you want to save on space.

"Default Image Alignment" can automatically center images with no alignment, which often looks better in print.

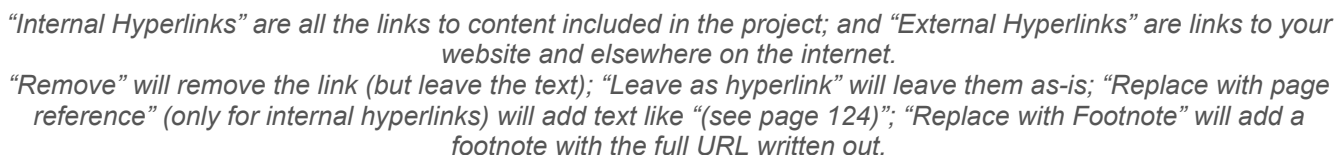


"Image Placement" can dynamically move images to improve layout. For example, if an image would appear across a pagebreak, PMB Pro can instead "snap" it to the beginning of the next page.

Setting it to "Don't Move" means PMB Pro will never do that; "Snap to Bottom or Top of Page" will always "snap" all images to the top or bottom of their page; and "Only snap if it would cause a pagebreak" will only move images if it will improve the page layout.



"Page Width" and "Page Height" will change the pagesize.



Apply Website Theme

☐

Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.

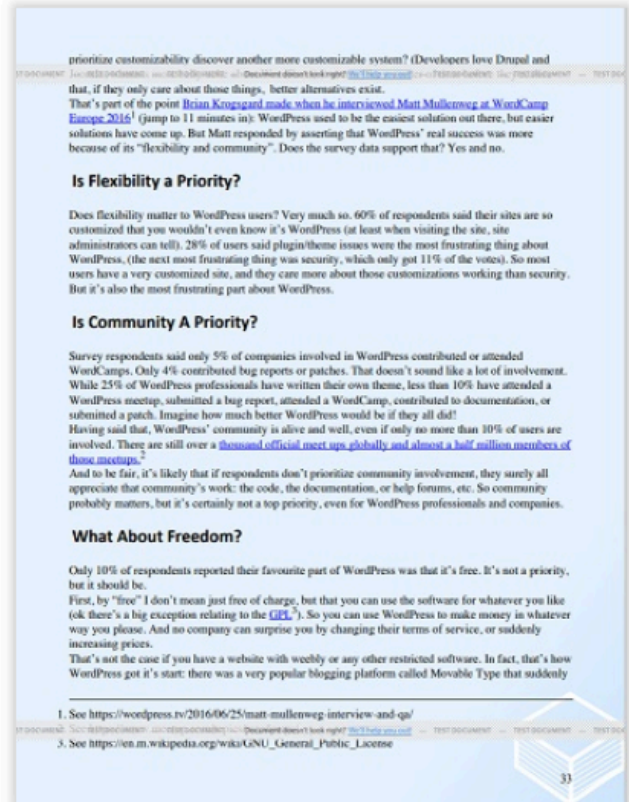
Custom CSS

Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

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3. Buurma Whitepaper (Digital PDF)



By	Mike Nelson ¹
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * front matter * 0 layers of nesting (no parts) * back matter

Purpose

Designed for a school, company, or organization that wants to include their name, logo, and colors throughout the PDF. Because of its extensive use of colors, it's usually best viewed from a computer or handheld device.

Features

- Easier content editing because there are no nesting parts.
- All hyperlinks converted into footnotes
- The title page can include your organization's name, project title, issue number, list of authors, and an introductory paragraph.
- Each article includes just its title and content

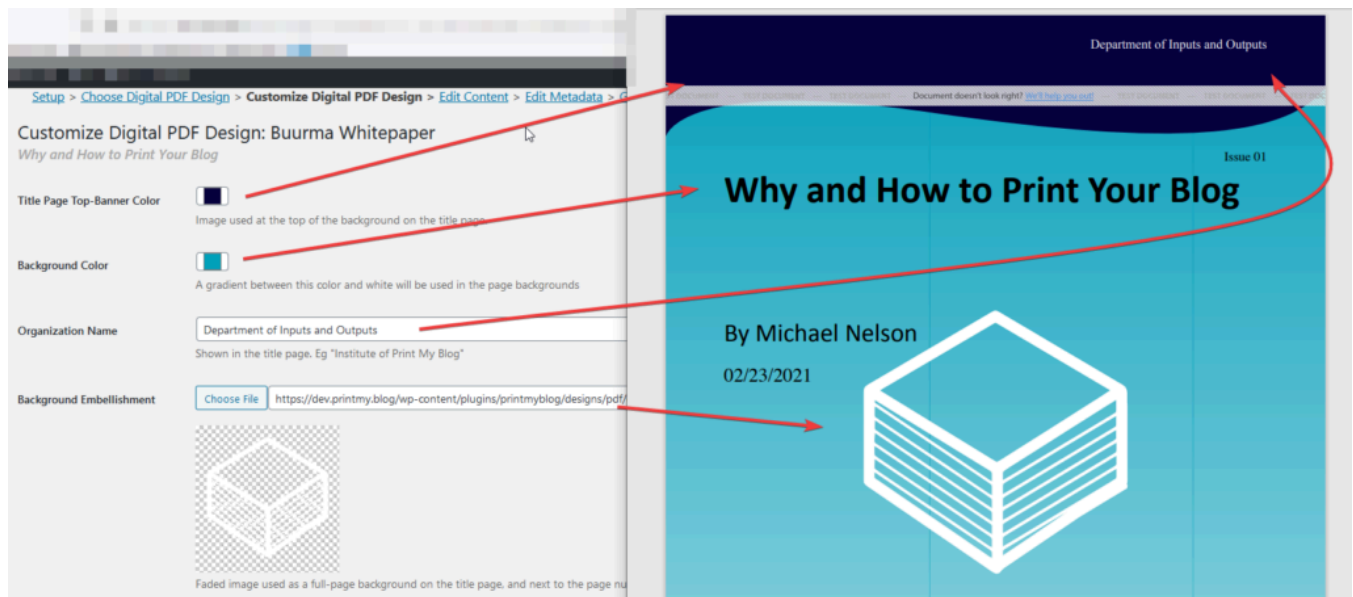
1. See page [13](#).

Page Layout

- The default title page includes a stylized banner (with customizable color) above a colored background featuring a large version of your company logo.
- Main matter pages fade from white to a color of your choosing in the corner where your logo and page number are shown.
- Page numbers in bottom-right corner, and article titles in the top-right. Front-matter's pages are numbered with Roman numerals
- Each article begins on a new page
- Back matter uses your large company logo with background color



The background color is used to make a gradient in the background leading to the background embellishment next to the page number.

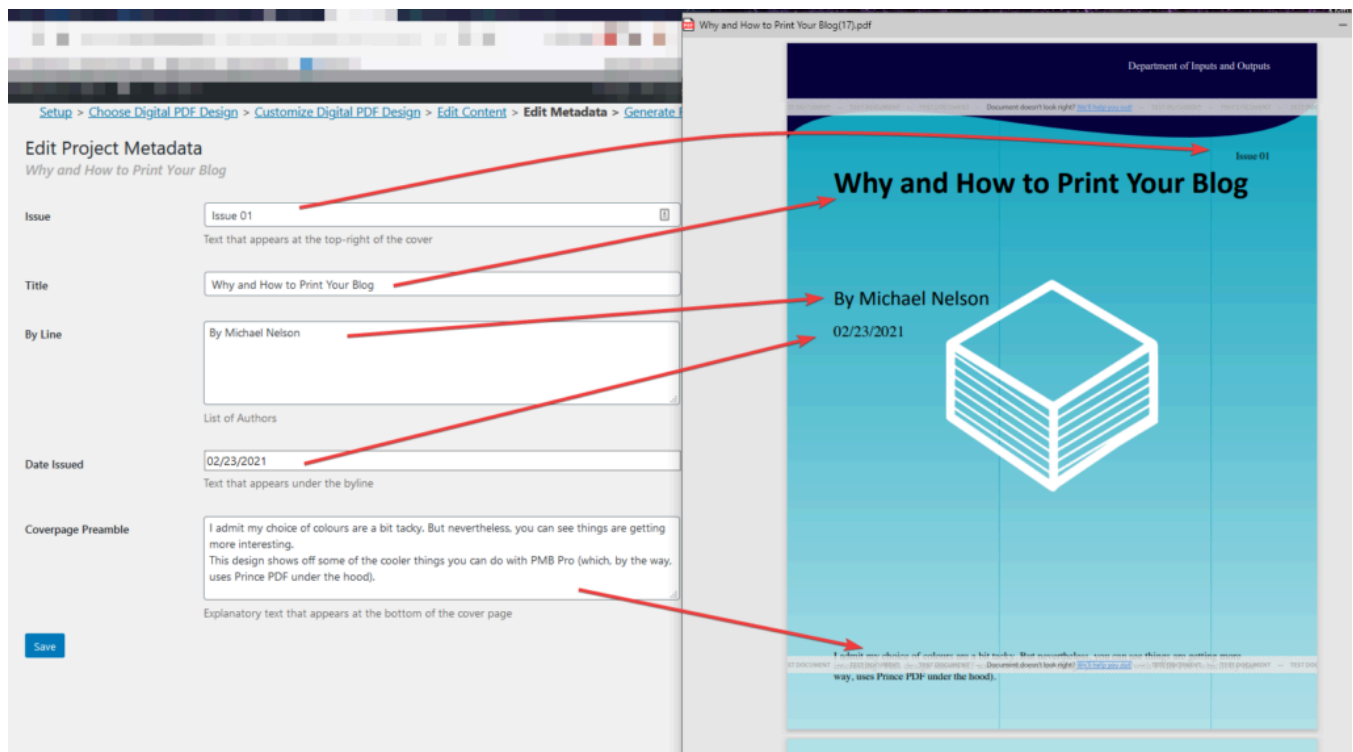


"Title Page Top-Banner Color" is the colour of the top bar on the title page.

"Background Color" is used to make the gradient colour (mixed with white) on the title page and subsequent pages.

"Organization Name" is used at top of the title page (it's part of the design so the design can be easily reused for multiple documents created for the organization.)

"Background Embellishment" is a logo or image used on the title page and in the corner of other pages.



Buurma design adds many other project metadata affecting the default title page. "Issue" is text that appears in the top-right corner, ideal for an issue number. "Title" is used as the project title. "By Line" is a good place to put the author's name. "Date Issued" can optionally show the date the project was published. "Coverpage Preamble" is text appearing at the bottom of the title page.

Generic Settings

Apply Website Theme

☐

Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.

Custom CSS

Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

4. Mayer Magazine (Digital PDF)



By	Mike Nelson ¹
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* front matter* 1 layer of nesting (each article can put in a part)* back matter

Purpose

Designed to look good when viewed from a device or printing to paper. The two-column layout leads to more compact content, especially good if your content doesn't require the full page width

Features

- Main matter is divided into two columns, while front matter uses the full page width.
- Content can be divided into parts with a special part opening area using the full page width.
- The title page can include a title and preamble. Other content can immediately follow, without needing a page break.
- Each article includes just its title and content, and an optional dividing line to help distinguish between articles.
- If your content is already divided into columns, optionally automatically remove them to improve the

1. See page [13](#).

layout.

- Optionally begin each post on a new page, or be shown immediately following the previous one.
- Optionally have each article title take up the full page width, or show them inside columns.
- Internal links (hyperlinks to content included in the project) are replaced with page references.
- External links (hyperlinks to content on the internet) are left as-is.

Page Layout

- Main matter pages fade from white to a color of your choosing in the corner where your logo and page number are shown.
- Page numbers in bottom-right corner, and part titles in the top-left. Front-matter's pages are numbered with Roman numerals

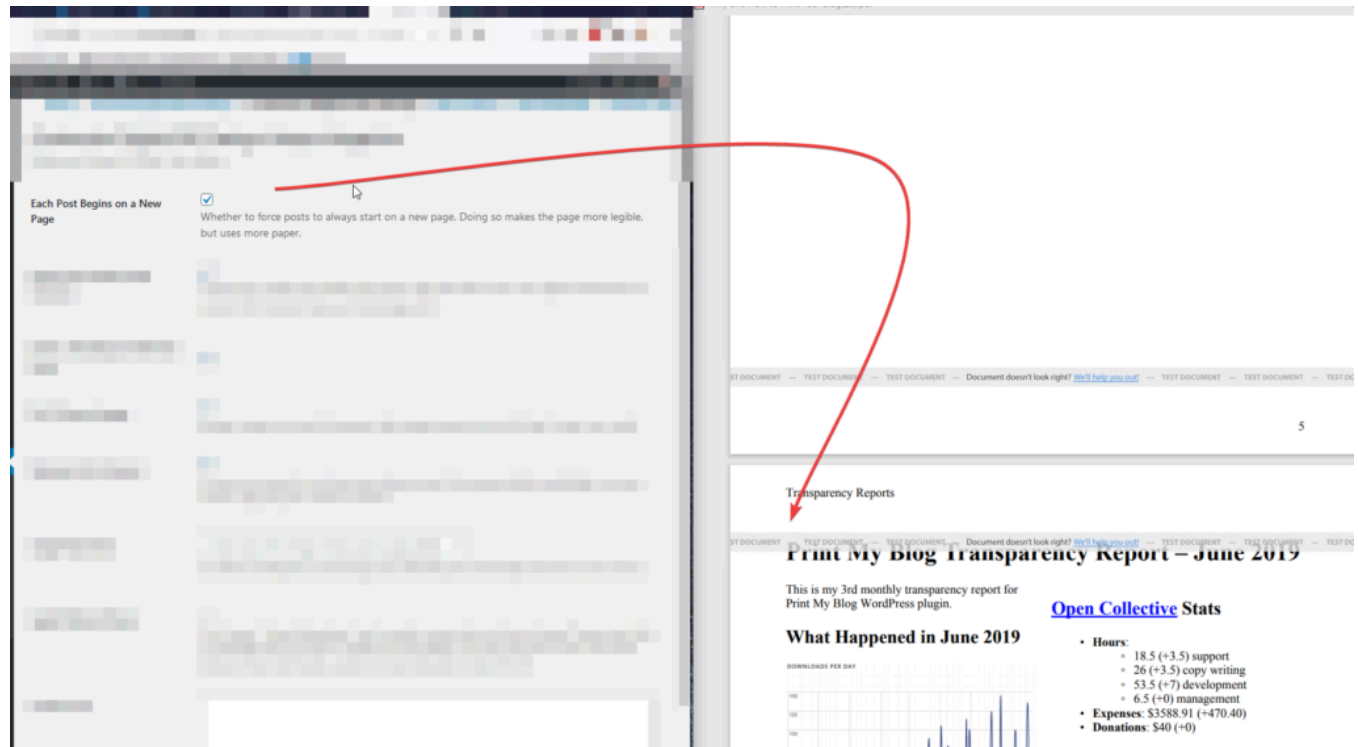


Mayer Magazine divides the content into two columns. If parts are used, their titles appear in the top-left corner. Page numbers appear in the bottom-right corner.

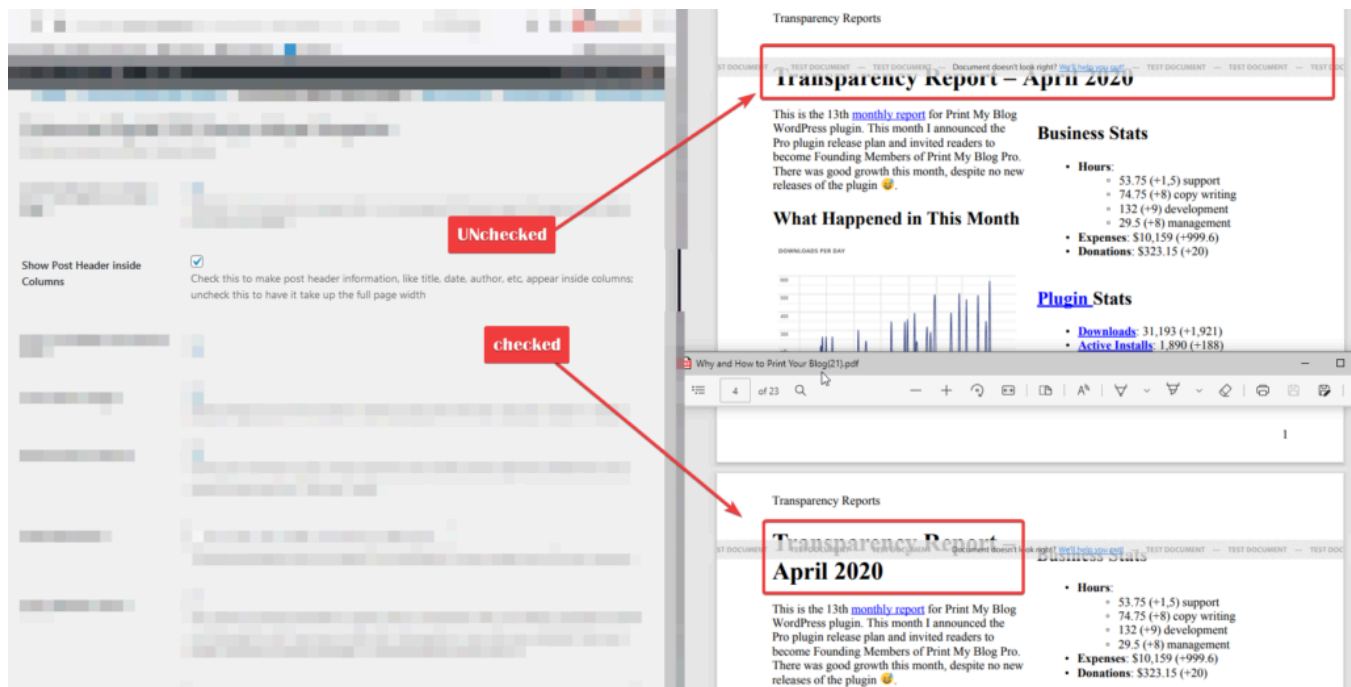
Special Instructions

Front matter defaults to using the full page width. To force something to be divided into columns, add the CSS class “mayer-columns” inside your content.

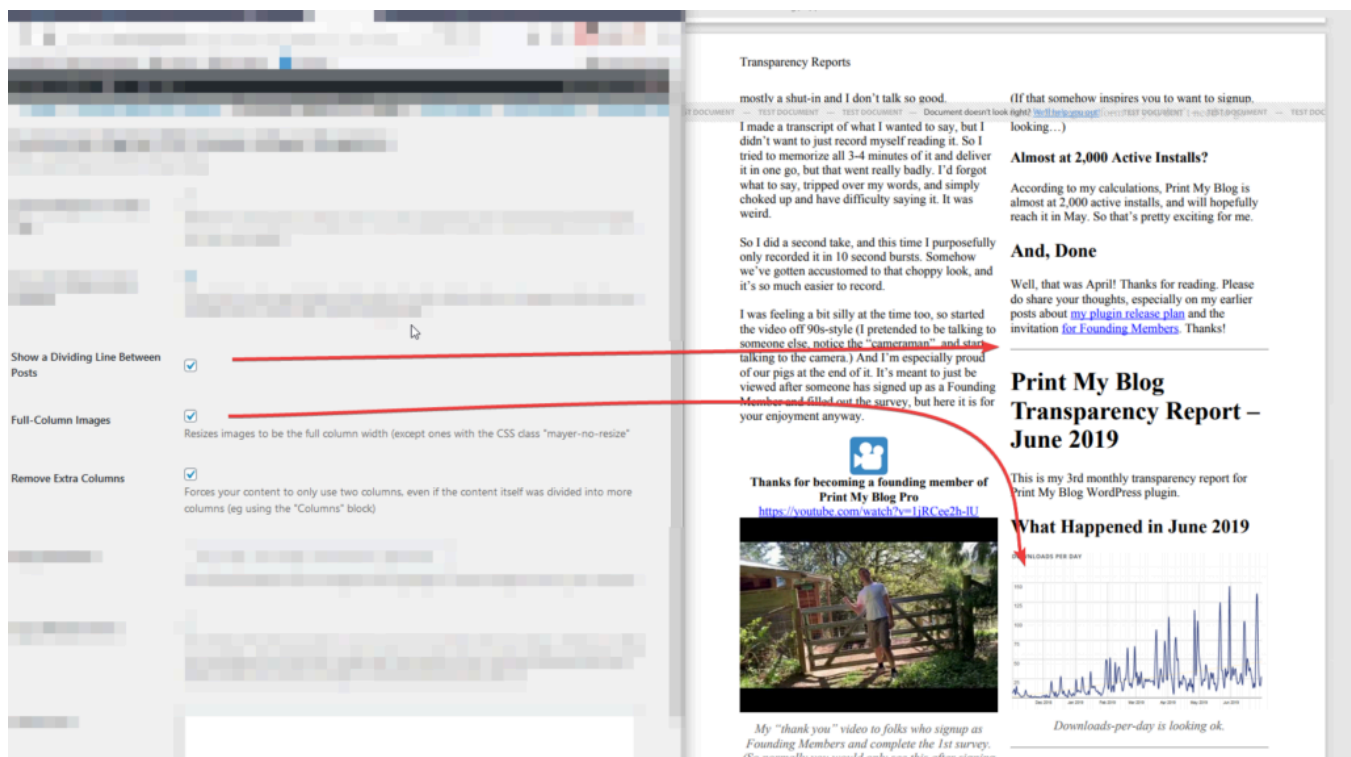
Main matter defaults to being divided into columns. To force something to use the full page width, add the CSS class “mayer-wide” inside the content.



“Each Page Begins on a New Page” forces each post to begin at the top of the page.



“Show Post Header Inside Columns” controls whether the article’s title should appear inside a column or span the whole page.



“Show a Dividing Line Between Posts” will add an extra horizontal line between posts to help delineate between them. “Full-Column Images” will force images to always take up the full column’s width (but images never take up more than the full column width.) “Remove Extra Columns” will remove columns from the content before placing it into columns (otherwise you could see more columns than you bargained for!)

Generic Settings

Apply Website Theme

☐

Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.

Custom CSS

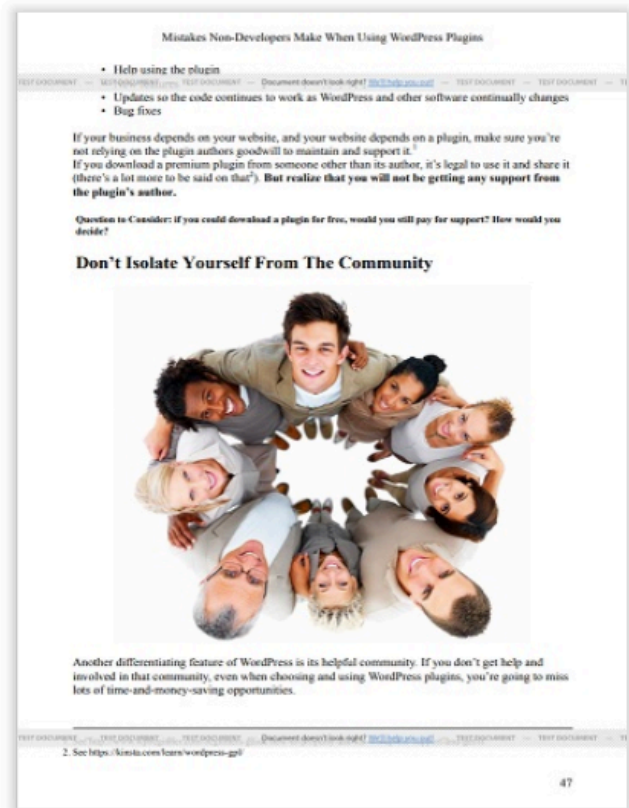
Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

5. Classic Print PDF (and Variations)



By	Mike Nelson ¹
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * front matter * 1 layer of nesting (each article can put in a part) * back matter

Purpose

Very similar to Print My Blog Free, but supporting Pro features. Great for printing your WordPress content.

Features

- Supports nesting articles (like posts and pages) into “parts”
- External hyperlinks (links to web pages not in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes or removed
- Internal hyperlinks (links to content included in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes, inline page references, or removed
- The default title page can include: Project Title, Subtitle, Site URL, Date Printed, Credit to Print My Blog
- Each article can include: Title, ID, Author, URL, Date Published, Categories and Tags, Featured Image, Excerpt, Custom Fields, Content

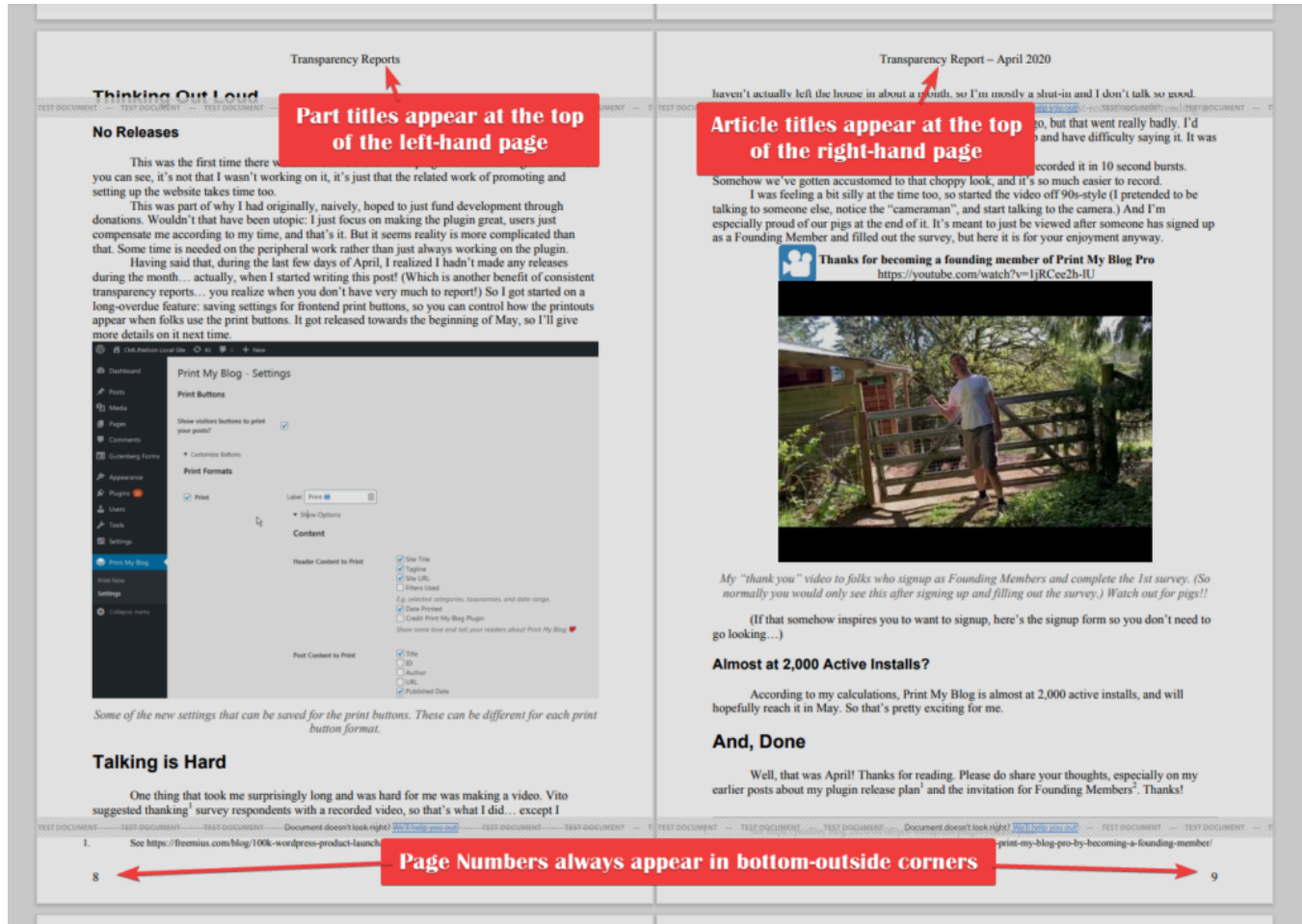
1. See page [13](#).

- Optionally automatically center images
- Optionally float images to the top or bottom of each page

Page Layout

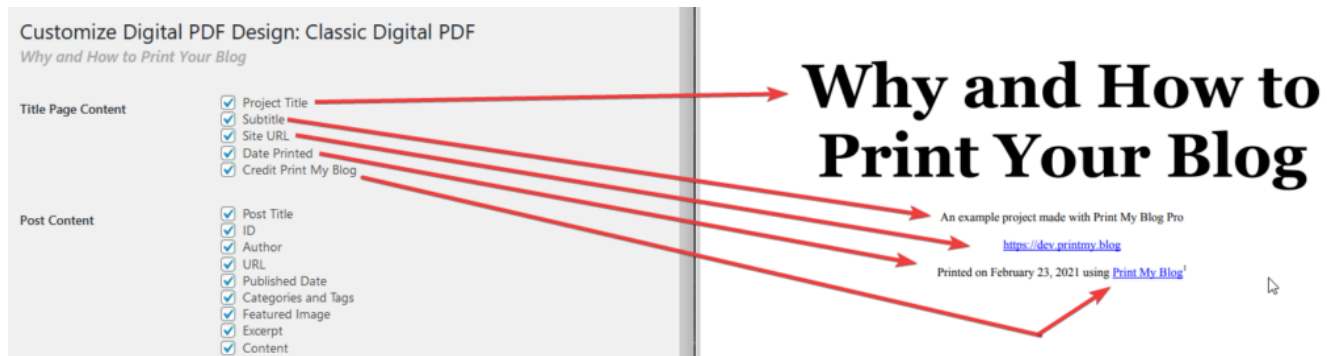
This design is meant for printing on both sides of the page so you see two pages at once (the “page spread”). So the left-hand page will be styled differently than the right-hand page.

- Page numbers in bottom-outside corner, part titles appear in the top of the left page, article titles appear at the top of the right page. Front-matter’s pages are numbered with Roman numerals
- Each article can optionally begin on a new page

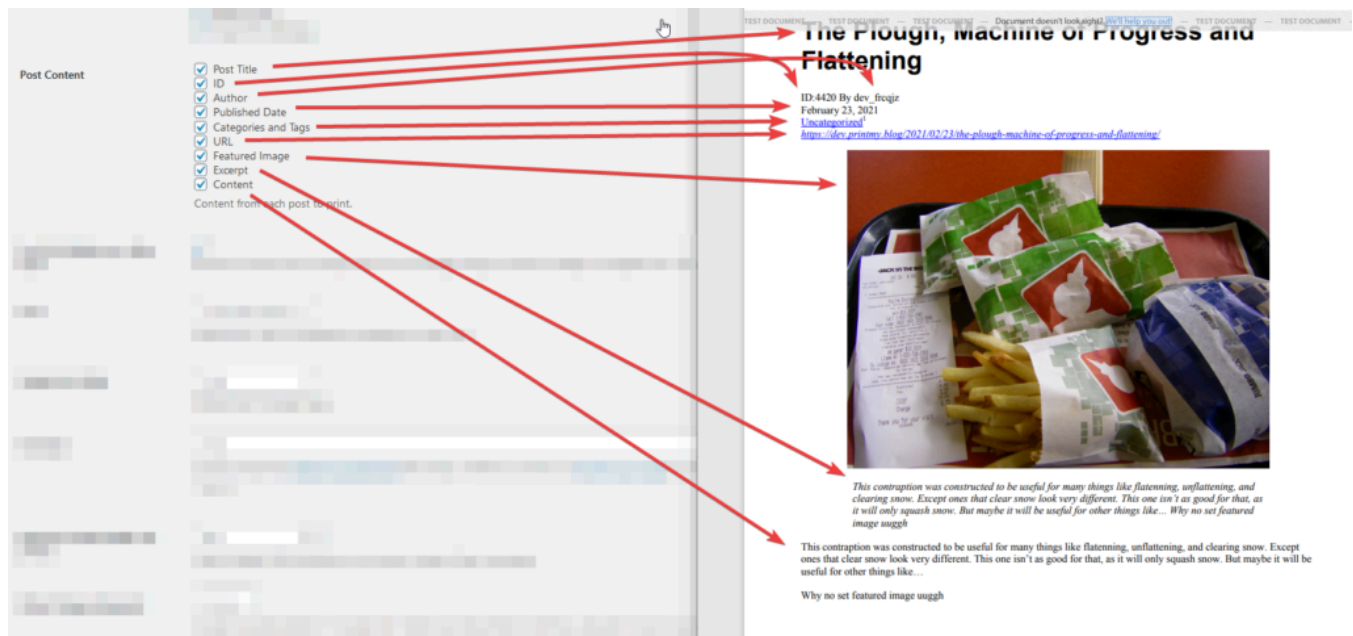


About the “Editorial Review” and “Economical Print PDF” Variations

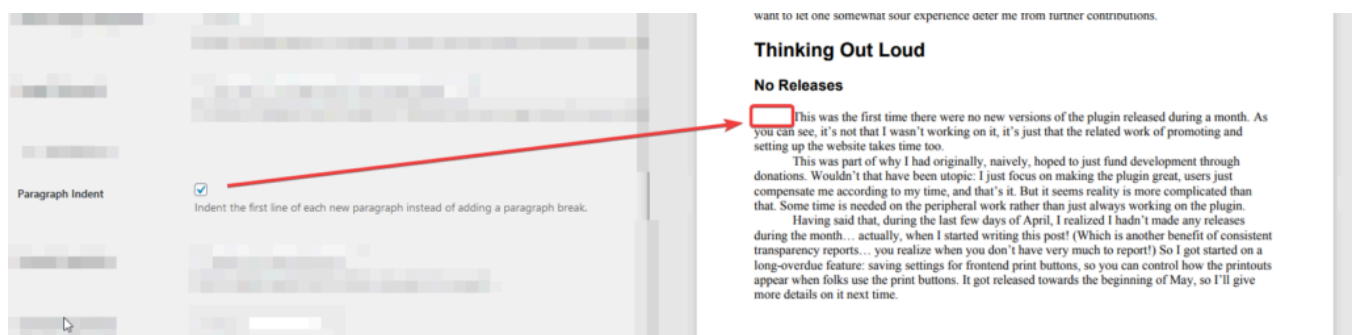
These design variations have all the same settings, but their initial values are setup differently. The “Editorial Review” adds extra space between each line of text to leave room for notes. The “Economical Print PDF” uses smaller text and images to save paper. Their settings can also be adjusted to meet your needs.



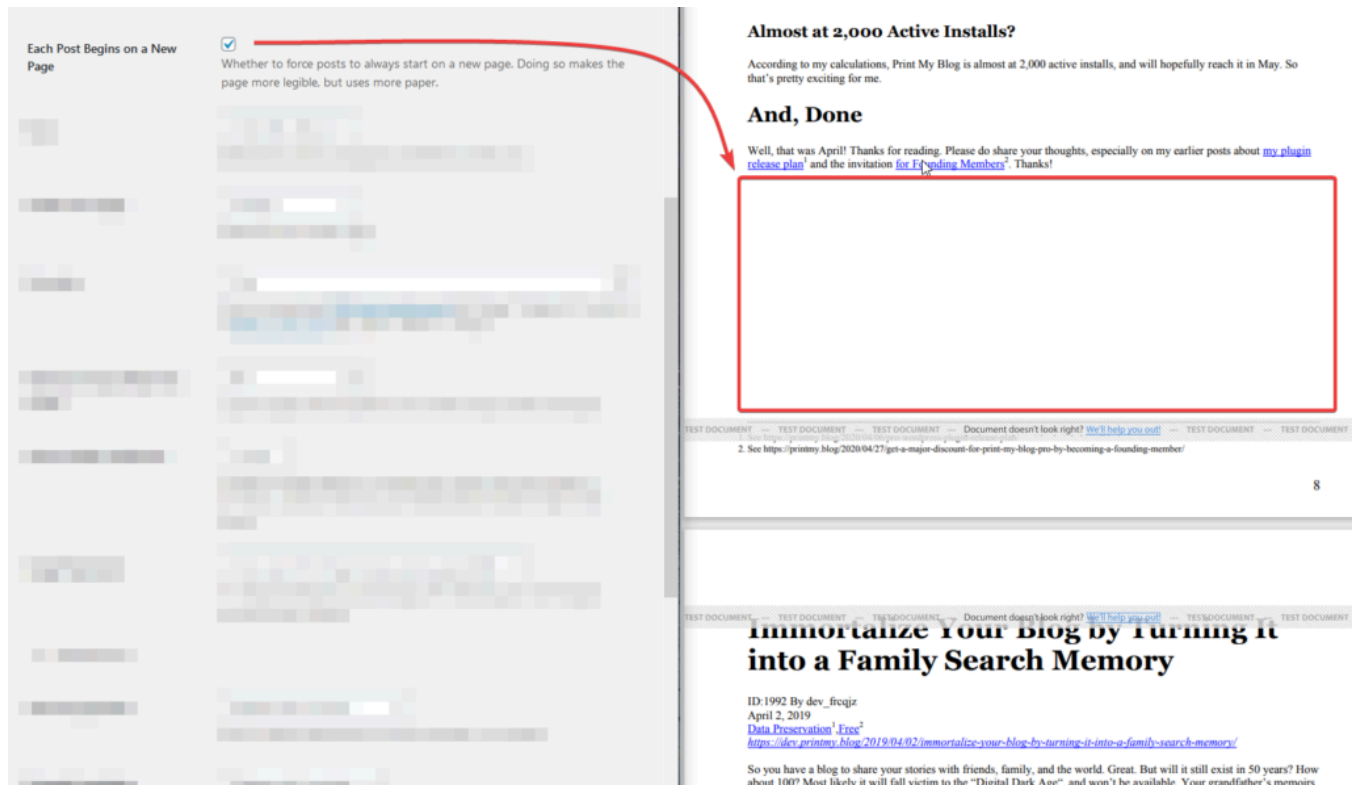
"Title Page Content" controls what is shown on the default title page.



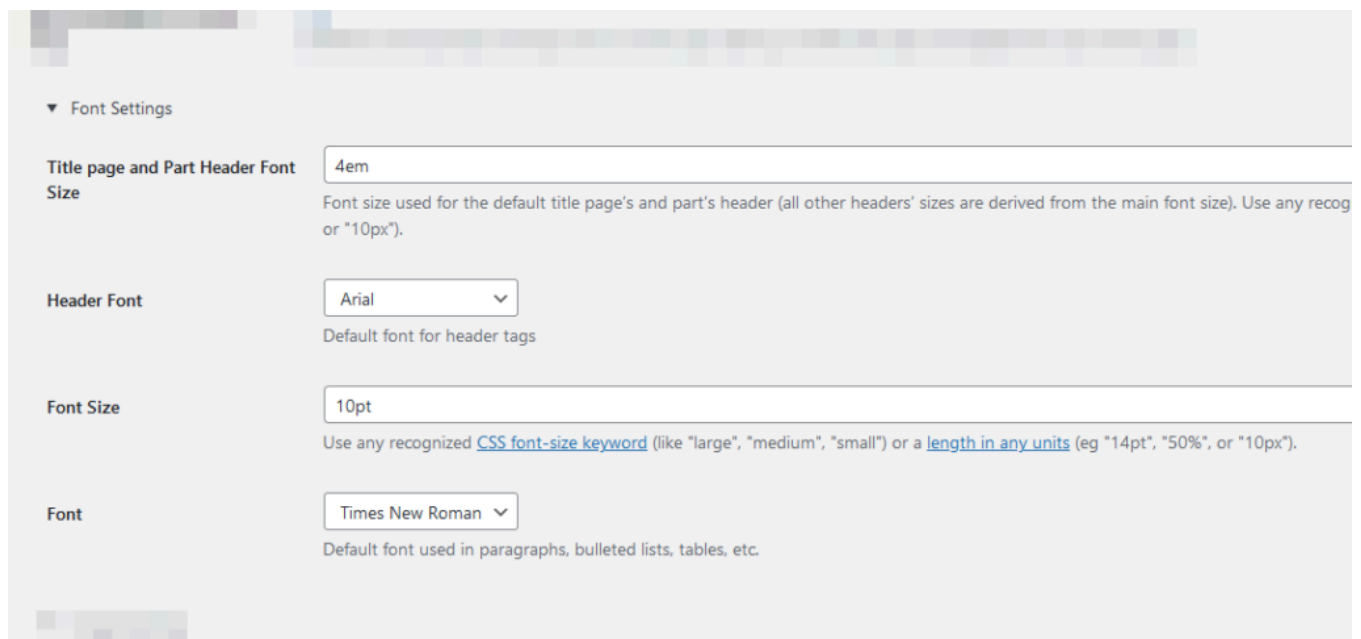
"Post Content" controls what is shown on each article that uses the default template.



"Paragraph Indent" gives the project a more classic book feel by indenting the first line of each paragraph and moving paragraphs closer together.



“Each Page Begins on a New Page” forces each article to begin at the top of a page, instead of continuing directly after the previous article.

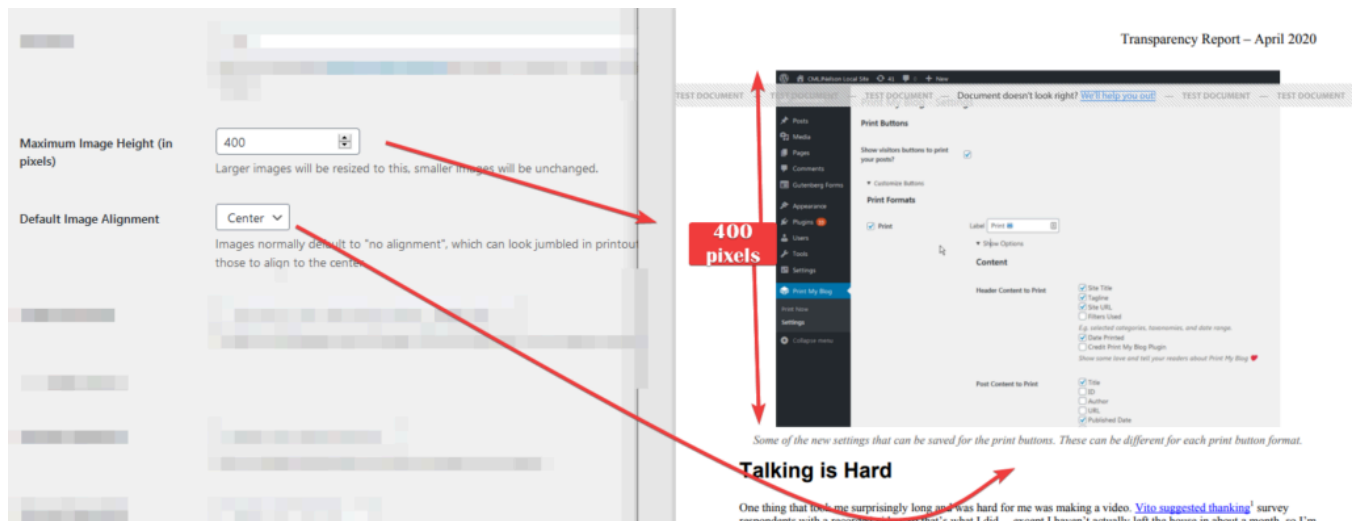


“Title page and Part Header Font Size” sets the title page and part header size.

“Header Font” controls which font is used for all headers.

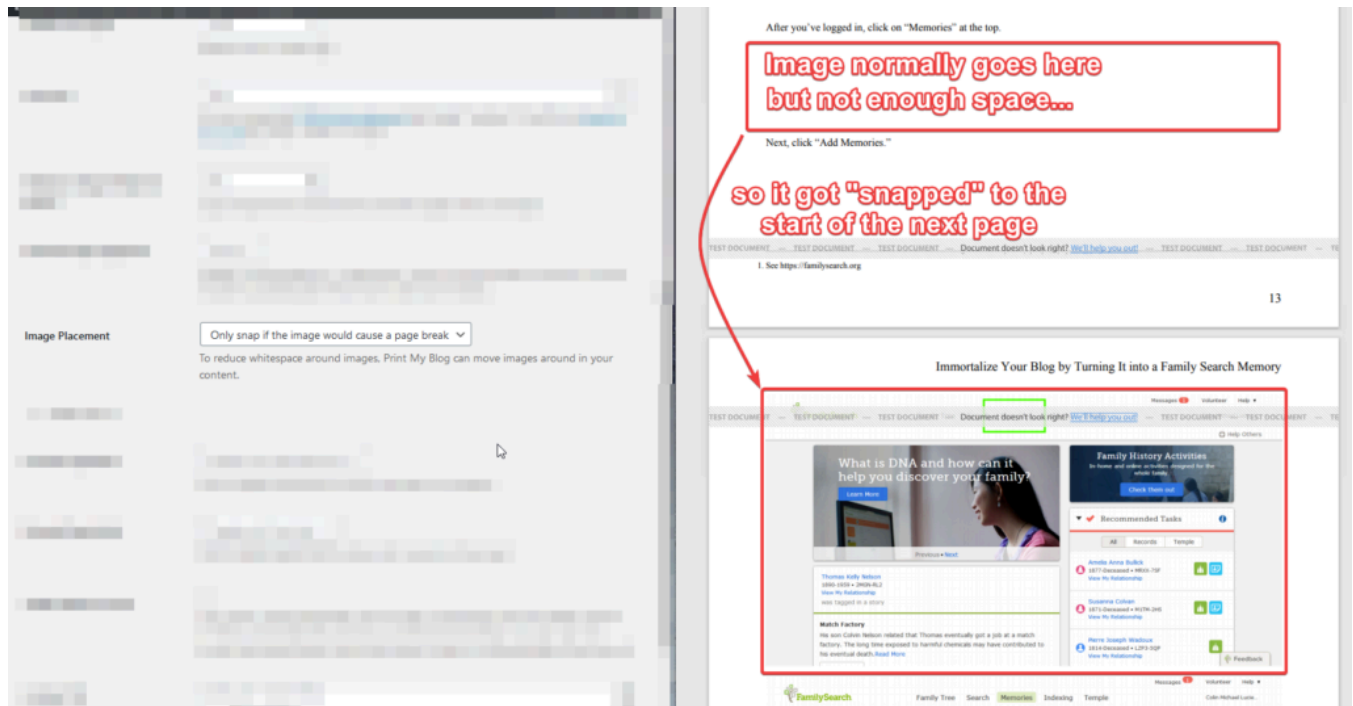
“Font” controls which font is used for non-header text.

“Font Size” controls the base font-size (headers are always proportionately bigger).



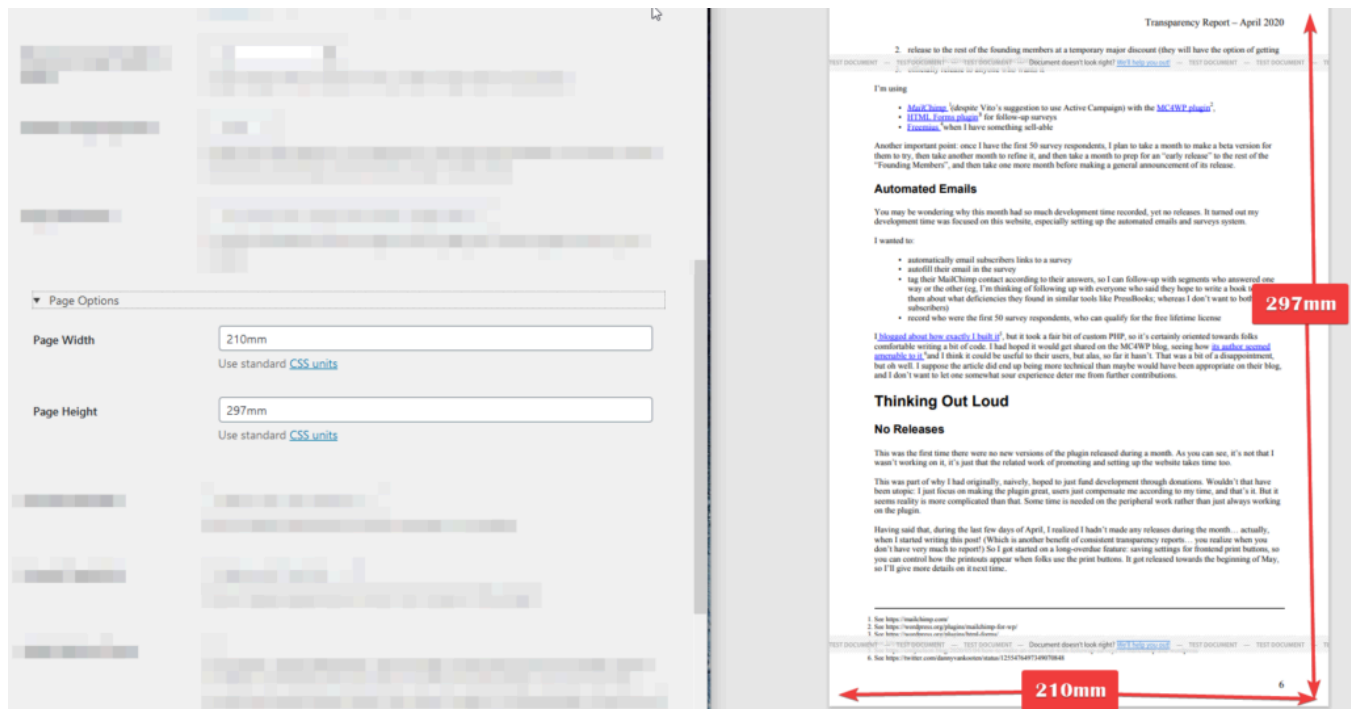
"Maximum Image Height" resizes larger images to the desired height, which can be nice if you want to save on space.

"Default Image Alignment" can automatically center images with no alignment, which often looks better in print.

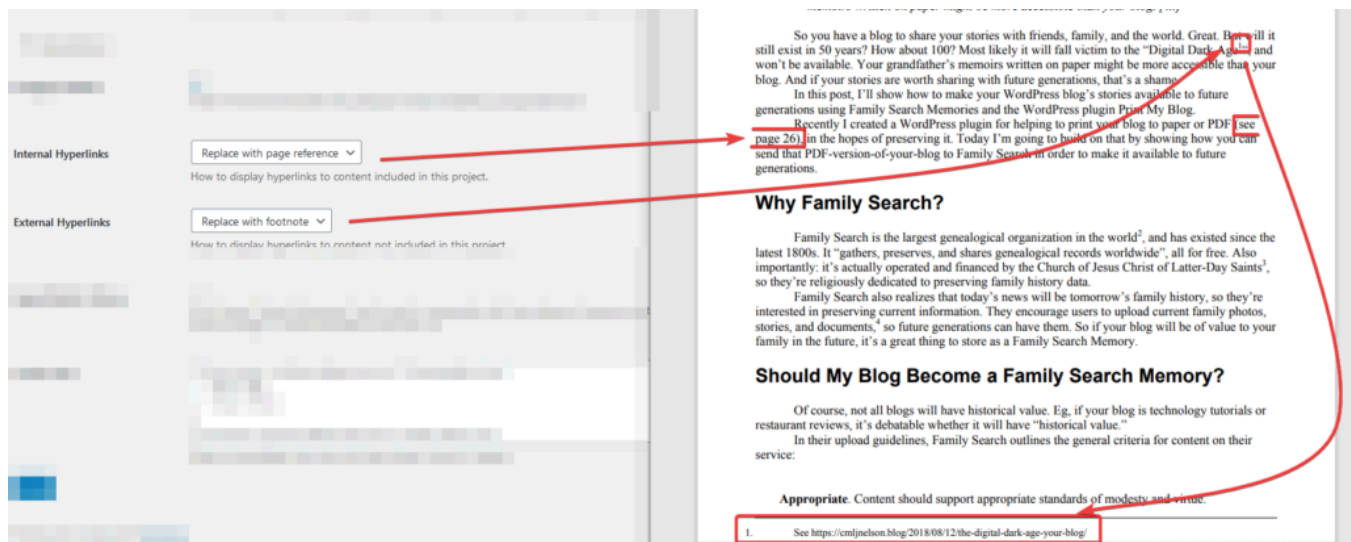


"Image Placement" can dynamically move images to improve layout. For example, if an image would appear across a pagebreak, PMB Pro can instead "snap" it to the beginning of the next page.

Setting it to "Don't Move" means PMB Pro will never do that; "Snap to Bottom or Top of Page" will always "snap" all images to the top or bottom of their page; and "Only snap if it would cause a pagebreak" will only move images if it will improve the page layout.



“Page Width” and “Page Height” will change the pagesize.



“Internal Hyperlinks” are all the links to content included in the project; and “External Hyperlinks” are links to your website and elsewhere on the internet.

“Remove” will remove the link (but leave the text); “Replace with page reference” (only for internal hyperlinks) will add text like “(see page 124)”; “Replace with Footnote” will add a footnote with the full URL written out.

Generic Settings

Apply Website Theme

☐

Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.

Custom CSS

Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

6. Classic ePub eBook



By	Mike Nelson
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * front matter * 1 layer of nesting (each article can be put in a part) * back matter

Purpose

Similar to Print My Blog Quick Print and dotEpub, but supporting Pro features. Great for printing your WordPress content as an eBook for reading from a tablet or phone, or uploading to eBook marketplaces like Amazon or Apple Book Store.

A table of contents is generated and inserted into the book (no need to add it using an external service like Kindle Direct Publishing or Calibre).

Images are bundled into the book file so they can be used offline.

Image galleries are rearranged into a simple list of images which displays better on smaller devices.

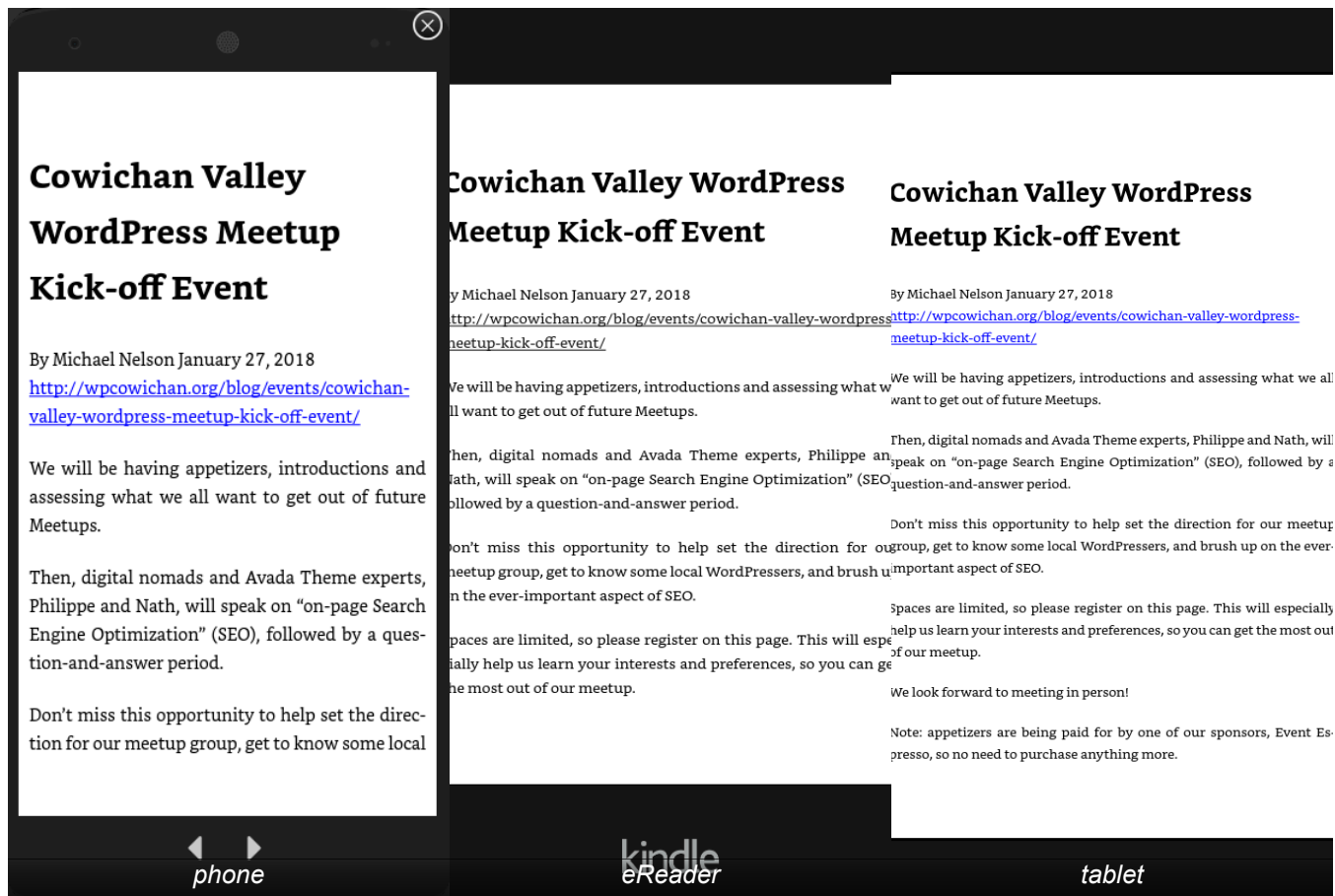
If there are any features or options you want, [please get in touch](#).

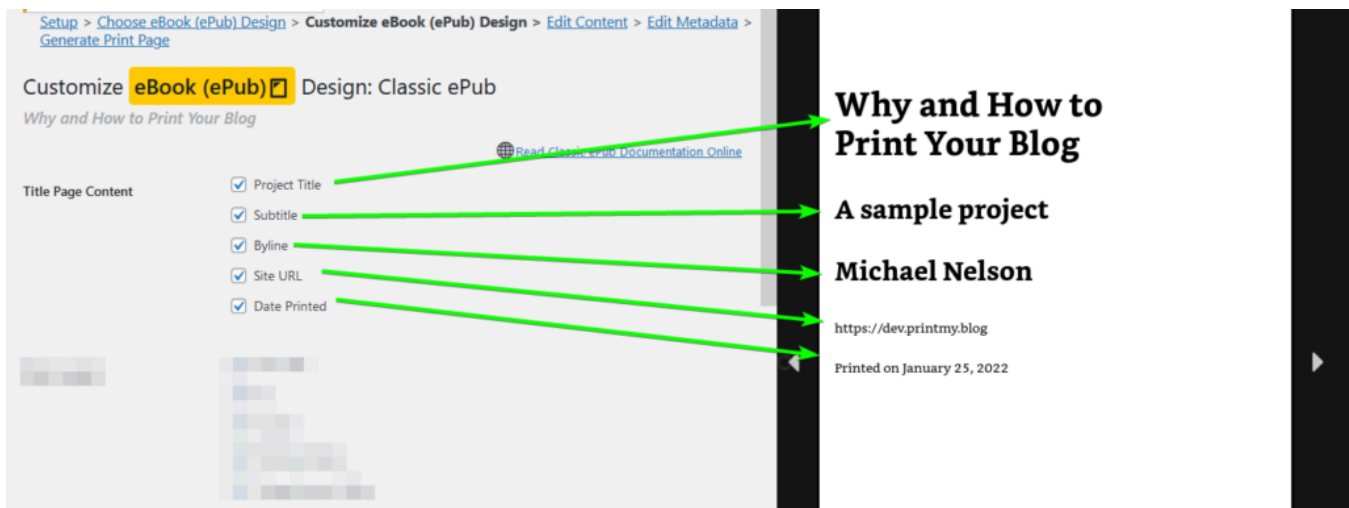
Features

- Supports nesting articles (like posts and pages) into “parts”
- External hyperlinks (links to web pages not in the project) are left as working hyperlinks
- Internal hyperlinks (links to content included in the project) are converted into links to the appropriate page of the eBook
- The default title page can include: Project Title, Subtitle, Site URL, Date Printed, Credit to Print My Blog
- Each article can include: Title, ID, Author, URL, Date Published, Categories and Tags, Featured Image, Excerpt, Custom Fields, Content
- All images are automatically included in the ePub file (instead of merely pointing to the external image source). This makes the filesize larger, but allows users to view images while disconnected from the Internet.
- Small images are automatically centered
- Image galleries are converted into regular list of images, which look better on small screens.

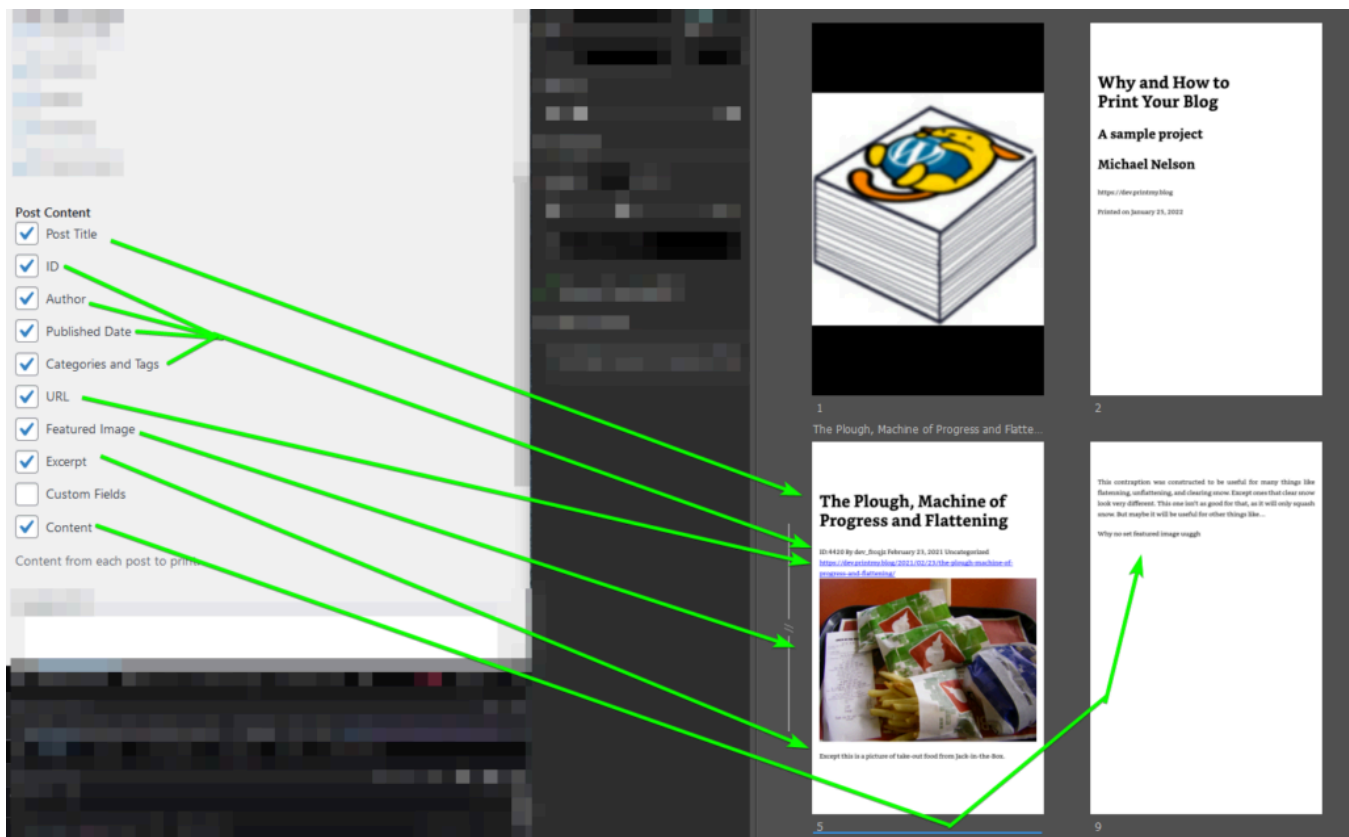
Page Layout

- The page design is mostly dictated by the app and device used for reading
- Each article begins on a new page





"Title Page Content" controls what content goes into the eBook's title page.



"Post Content" settings control what content goes into each article in the eBook.

Generic Settings

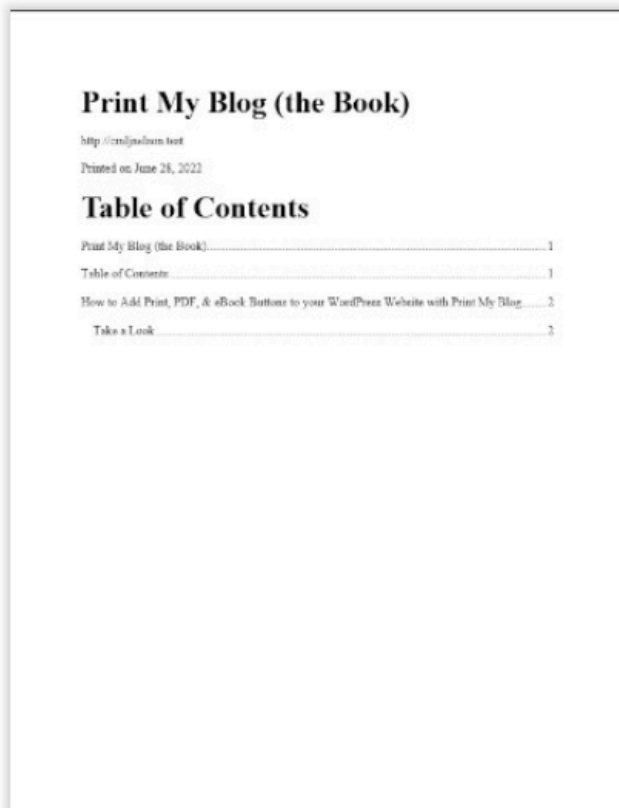
Apply Website Theme	<input type="checkbox"/>	Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.
Custom CSS	<div></div>	
Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.		

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

7. Classic Word Document



By	Mike Nelson
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * front matter * 1 layer of nesting (each article can be put in a part) * back matter

Purpose

Similar to Print My Blog Quick Print's other "Classic" designs, except optimized for reading by Microsoft Word. Useful when you need to deliver your content as a Microsoft Word Document (like to an editor), or for using as an intermediate format for delivery to other applications (like for importing into Adobe InDesign).

A table of contents is generated and inserted at the requested location. Once in Microsoft Word, right click on the table of contents and click "Update Field"; or press Ctrl + A, then F9.

Images may be bundled into the Word Document file so they can be used offline or if the website hosting the images goes offline.

Image galleries are rearranged into a simple list of images which displays better on smaller devices.

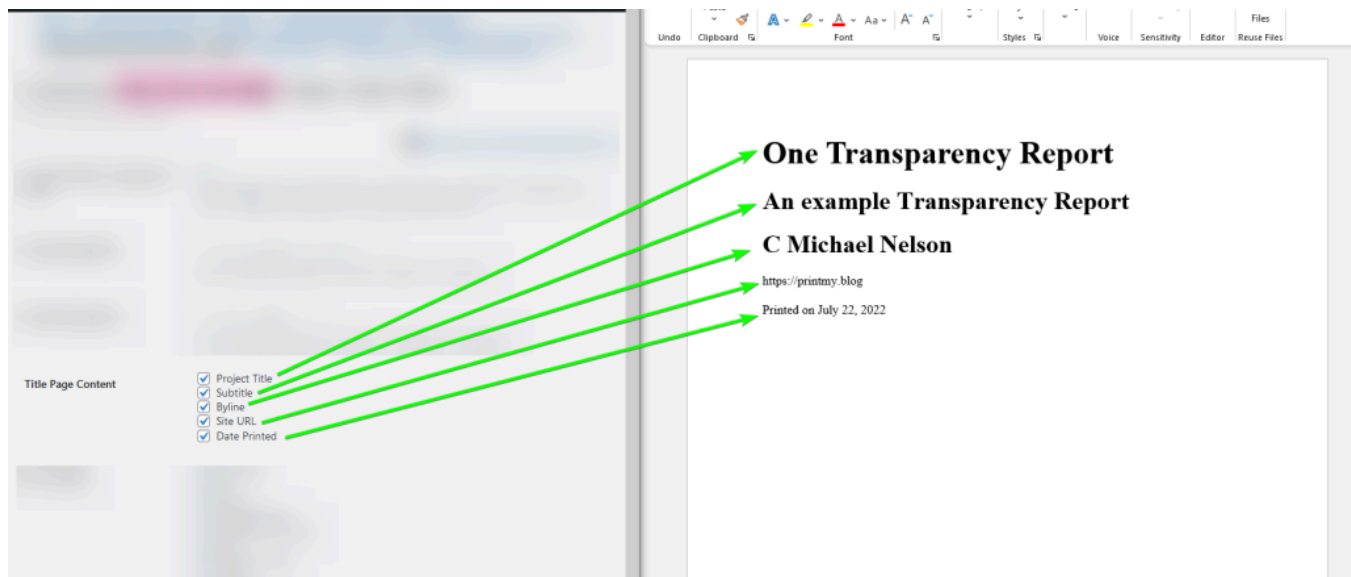
If there are any features or options you want, [please get in touch](#).

Features

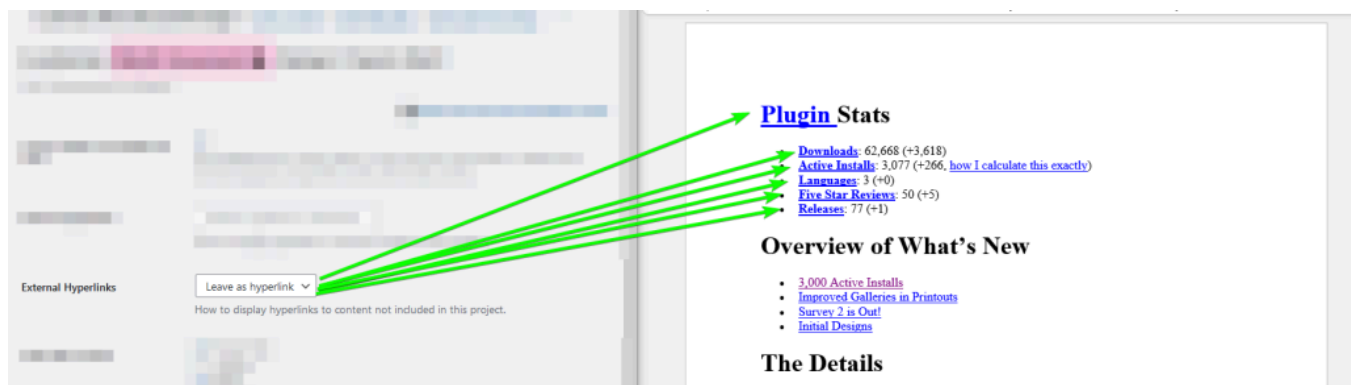
- Supports nesting articles (like posts and pages) into “parts”
- External hyperlinks (links to web pages not in the project) may be left as working hyperlinks or removed
- Internal hyperlinks (links to content included in the project) may be converted into links to the appropriate page of the document, left as hyperlinks to the website, or removed.
- The default title page can include: Project Title, Subtitle, Site URL, Date Printed, Credit to Print My Blog
- Each article can include: Title, ID, Author, URL, Date Published, Categories and Tags, Featured Image, Excerpt, Custom Fields, Content
- All images are automatically included in the Word Document file (instead of merely pointing to the external image source). This makes the filesize larger, but allows users to view images while disconnected from the Internet.
- Small images are automatically centered
- Image galleries are converted into regular list of images, which look better on small screens.

Page Layout

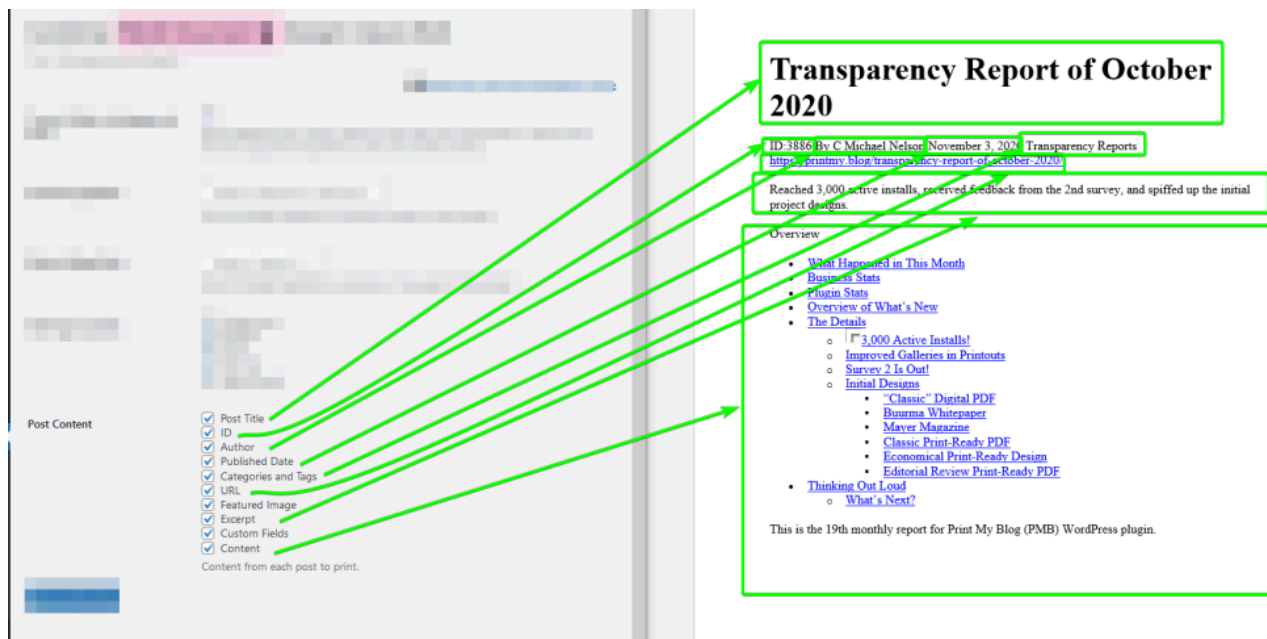
Each article begins on a new page.



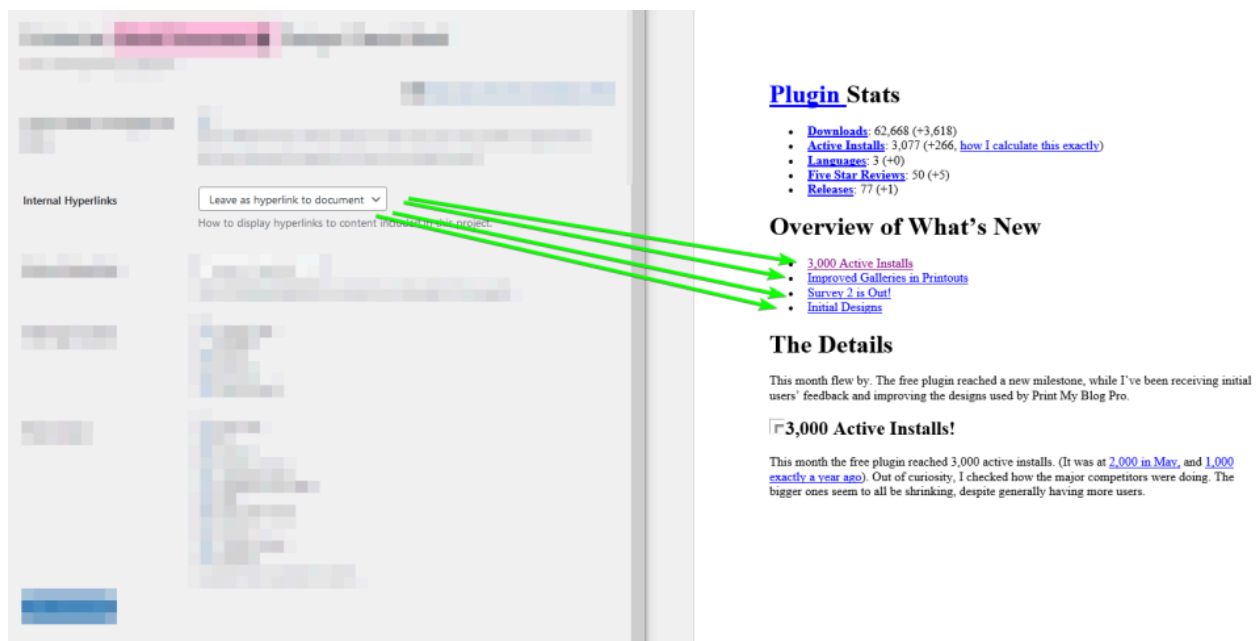
“Title Page Content” controls what content goes into the eBook’s title page.



“External Hyperlinks” controls hyperlinks to posts not included in the project and other webpages. “Remove” converts them to regular text, “Leave as hyperlink” preserves them as hyperlinks.



"Post Content" settings control what content goes into each article in the eBook.



"Internal Hyperlinks" controls hyperlinks to other posts included in the project. "Remove" converts them into regular text, "Leave as hyperlink to website" leaves them as links to the posts on your website, and "Leave as hyperlink to document" makes them like a bookmark to the page in the document containing the linked-to post.

Generic Settings

Apply Website Theme	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.
Custom CSS	<div></div>
Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.	

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

8. Haller Tabloid (Print-Ready PDF)



By	Mike Nelson
Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* front matter* 1 layer of nesting (each article can be put in a part)* back matter

Purpose

Multi-column newspaper design for printing. Wide images can span multiple columns and always snap to the nearest page edge to make a visually-appealing layout.

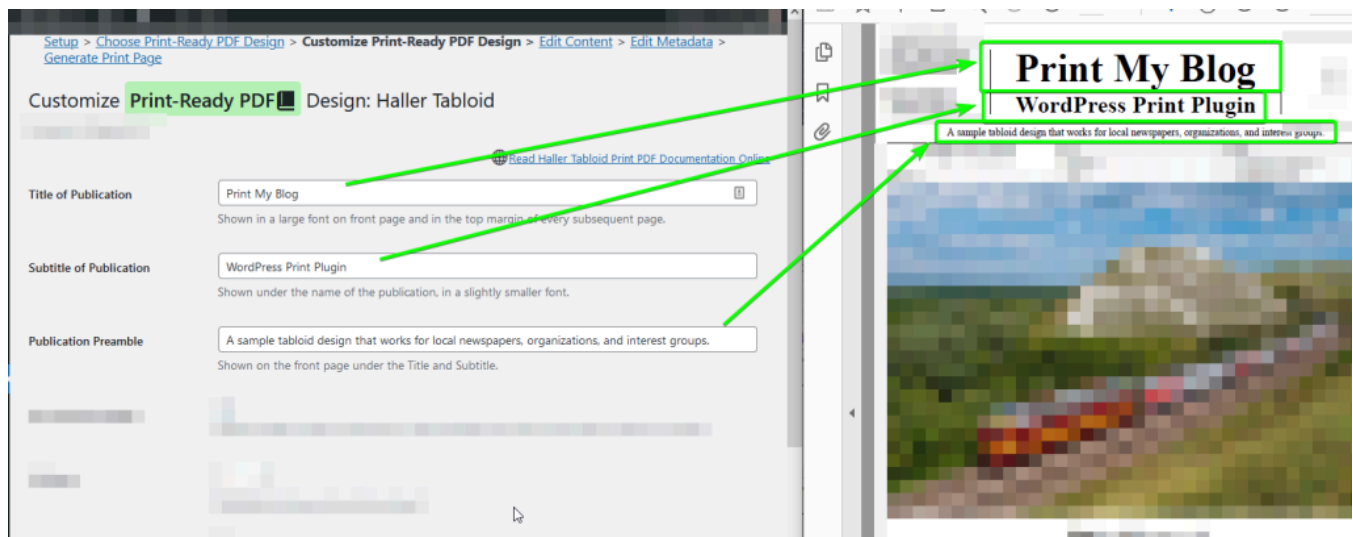
Features

The “Title page” is actually a special header on the front page containing your publication’s title, issue number, date, and other optional prominent info (set on the design and project meta settings).

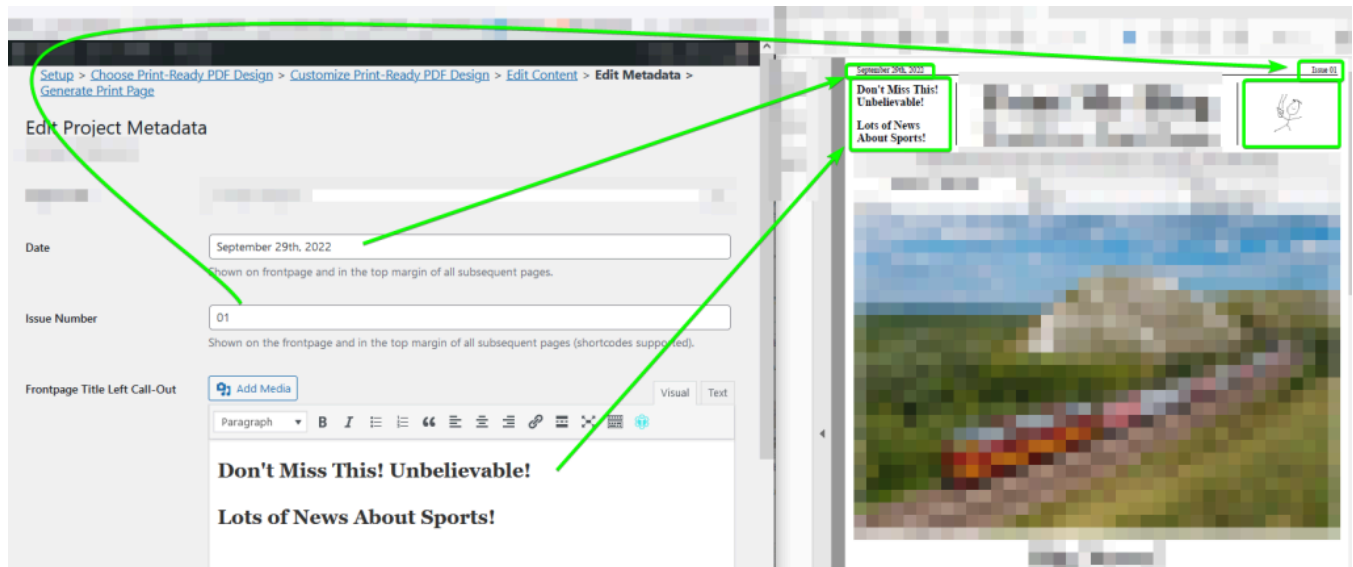
Content is divided into two, three, or four columns.

The top margin contains the front page (publication title, issue number, date, etc.).

Designed for duplex printing with the left page mirroring the right page’s margins.



Design settings affecting all projects' title pages: Title of Publication, Subtitle of Publication and Publication Preamble



Project Metadata affecting an individual project's title page: Date, Issue Number, Frontpage Title Left Call-Out and Frontpage Title Right Call-Out (not shown).





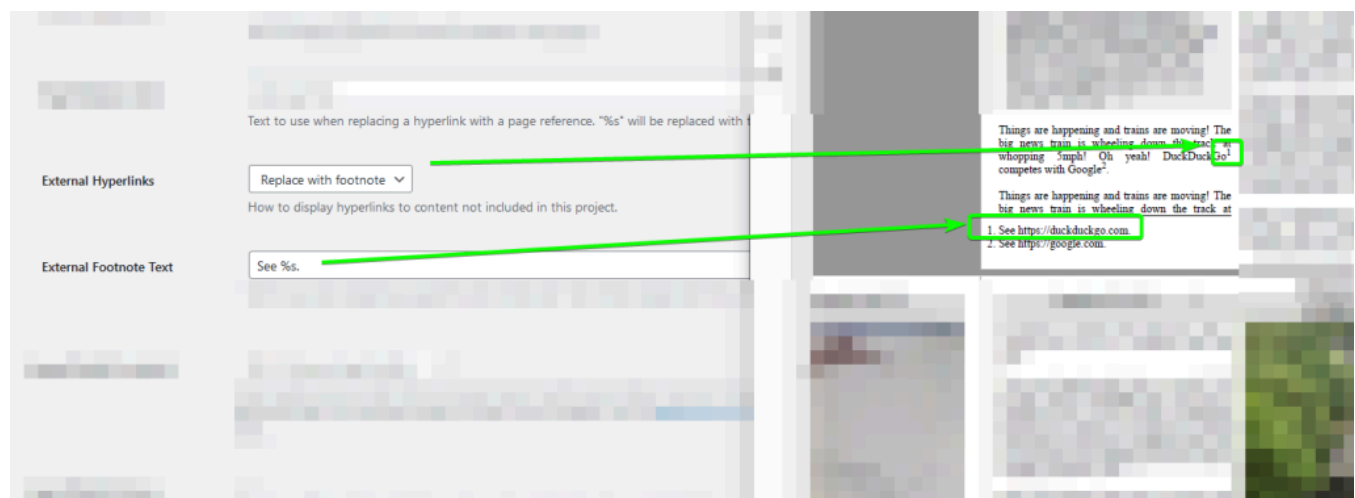
The top margin of each page includes the project's date, issue number, and page number; it also includes the design's Publication Title and Publication Subtitle

Content can be divided into parts. Part openings and important articles' titles and cover images take up the full page width, whereas regular articles compactly fit into columns.

Each article may include post title, ID, author, published date, categories and tags, URL, featured image, excerpt, custom fields, and content.

If your content is already divided into columns (e.g., you're using a column block), optionally automatically remove them to improve the layout.

External hyperlinks (links to web pages not in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes or removed.



Design settings "External Hyperlinks" and "External Footnote Text" control how hyperlinks to content from the web are shown in the PDF. In this case, external hyperlinks are replaced with a footnote saying "See https://duckduckgo.com".



An article including all the possible content: Post Title, ID, Author, Published Date, Categories and Tags, URL, Featured Image, Excerpt, Custom Fields and Content

Internal hyperlinks (links to content included in the project) can be automatically converted to footnotes, inline page references, or removed.

Page Layout

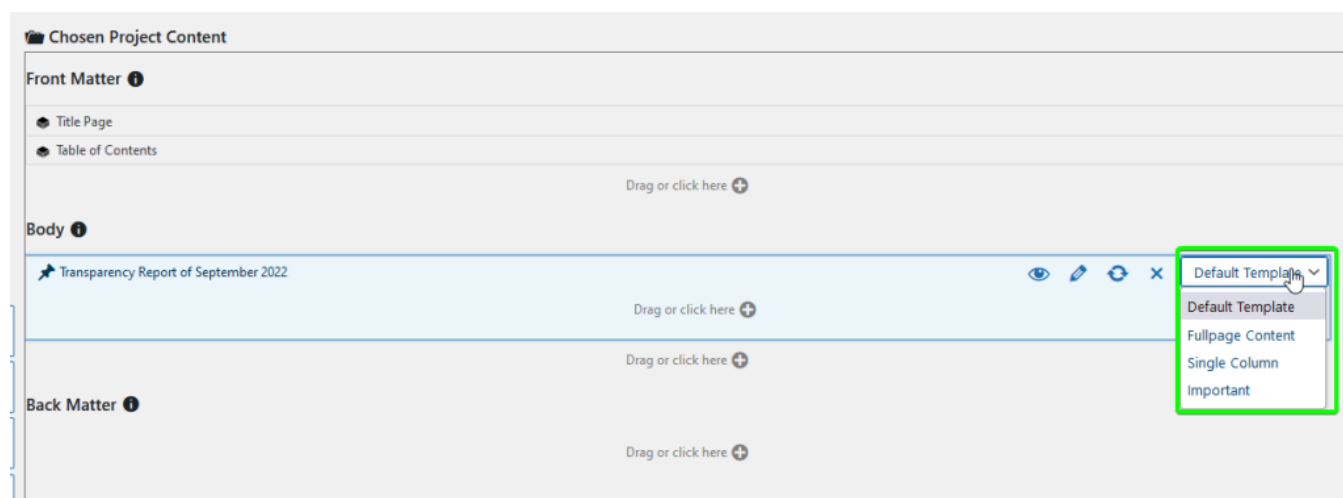
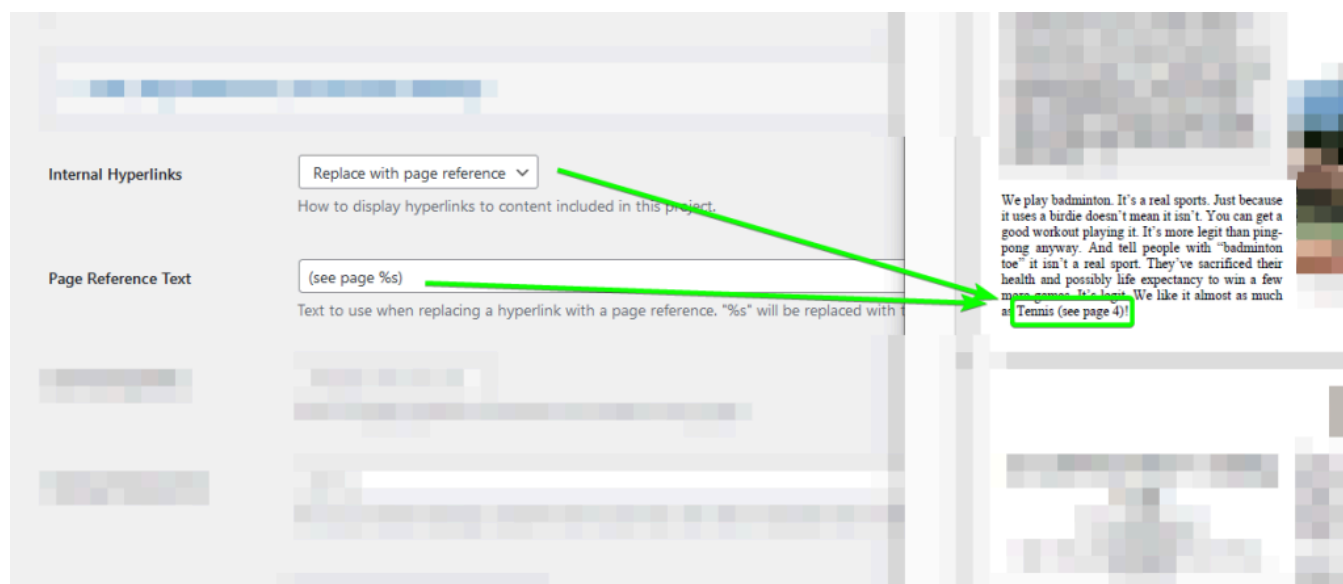
- Issue and page numbers are in the outside top margin, the publication's title is in the middle top margin, and the publication date is in the inside top margin. The optional publication subtitle is underneath the other top-margin content.

Section Templates

Choose different styles for articles included in your project:

Default Template: shows all content specified by the "Post Content" design setting (e.g. the article's title and featured image) in columns.

Fullpage Content: contains only the article's content (no title, featured image, etc.) all in a single, wide column.



Section template selector showing Haller Tabloid design's options

Single Column: shows all content specified by the "Post Content" design setting (e.g., title, featured image, URL, etc.) in a single column.

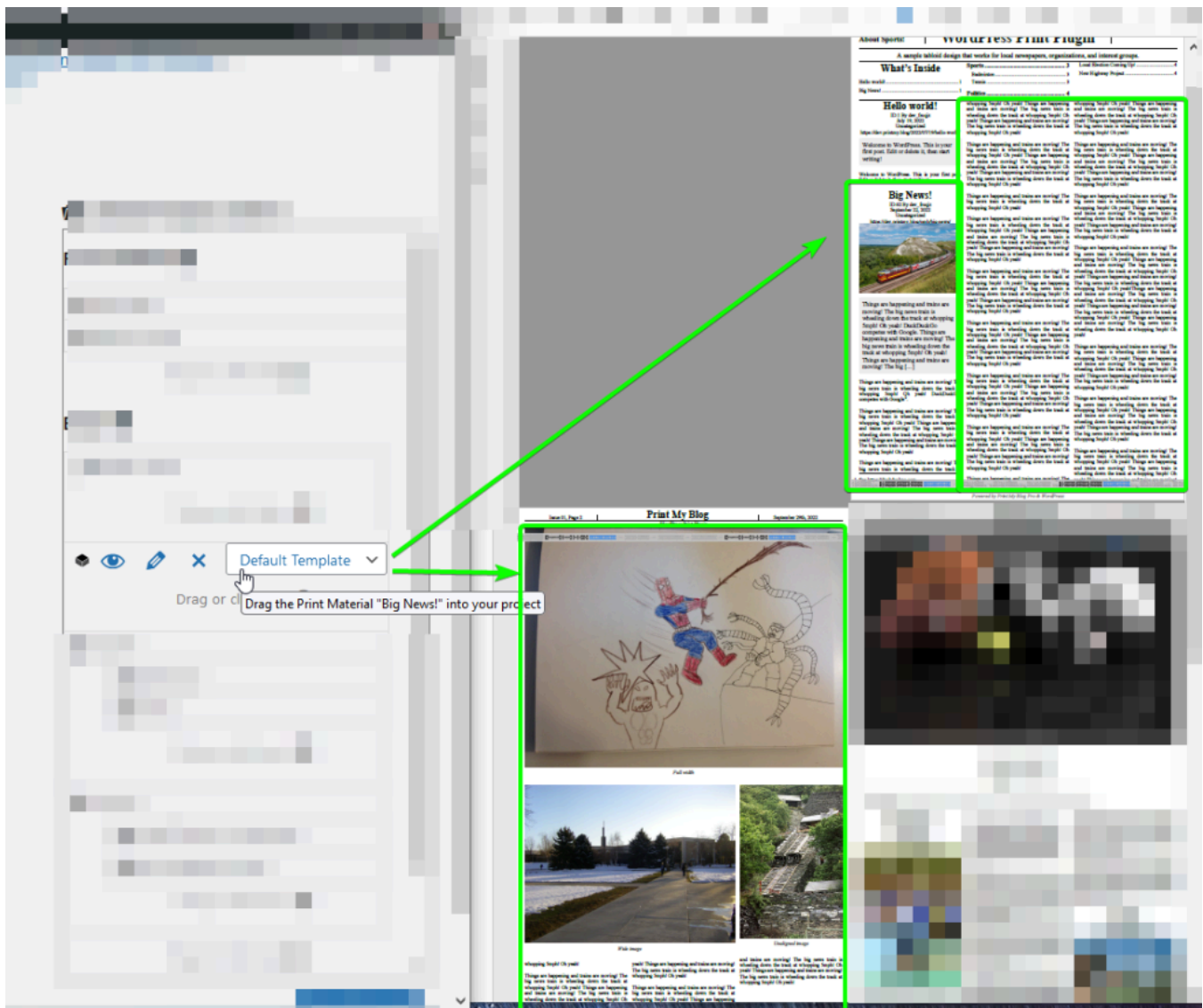
Important: shows the article's featured image and title across all columns, but other content is shown in multiple columns.

Parts start on a new page and include the part's title, featured image, and content.

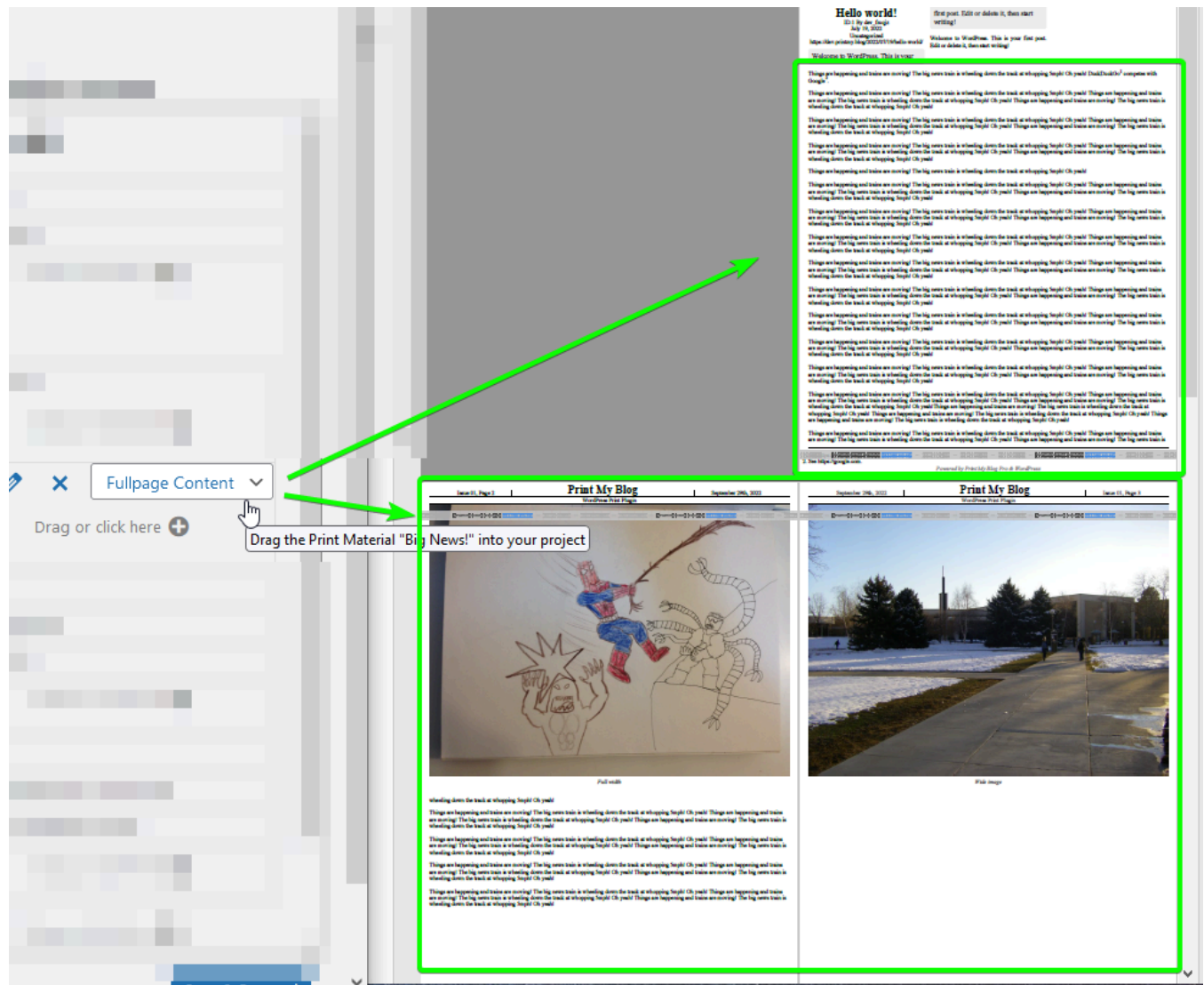
Special Instructions

"Full width" images take up all columns and snap to the nearest page edge.

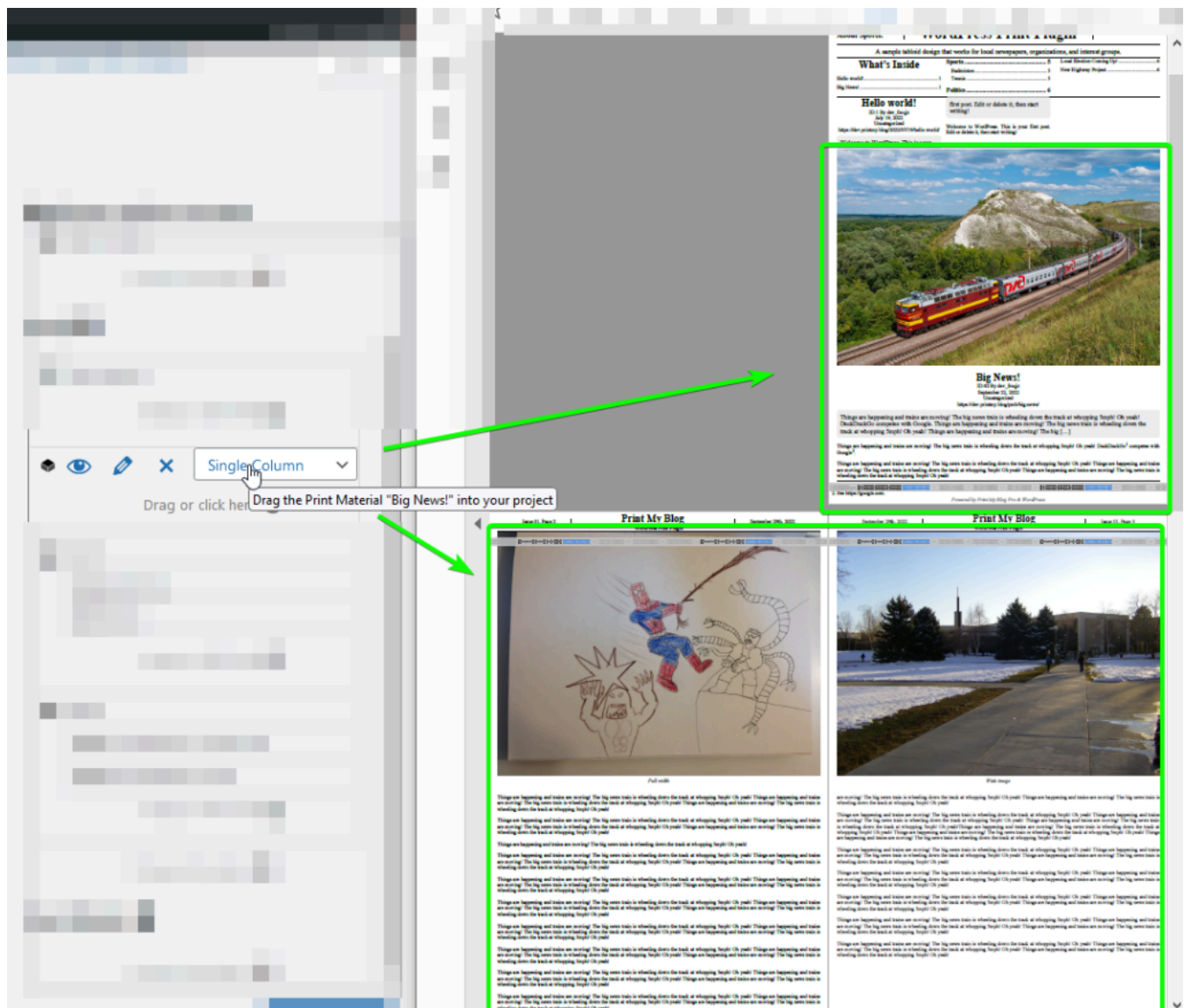
"Wide width" images take up 2 columns and snap to the nearest page edge.



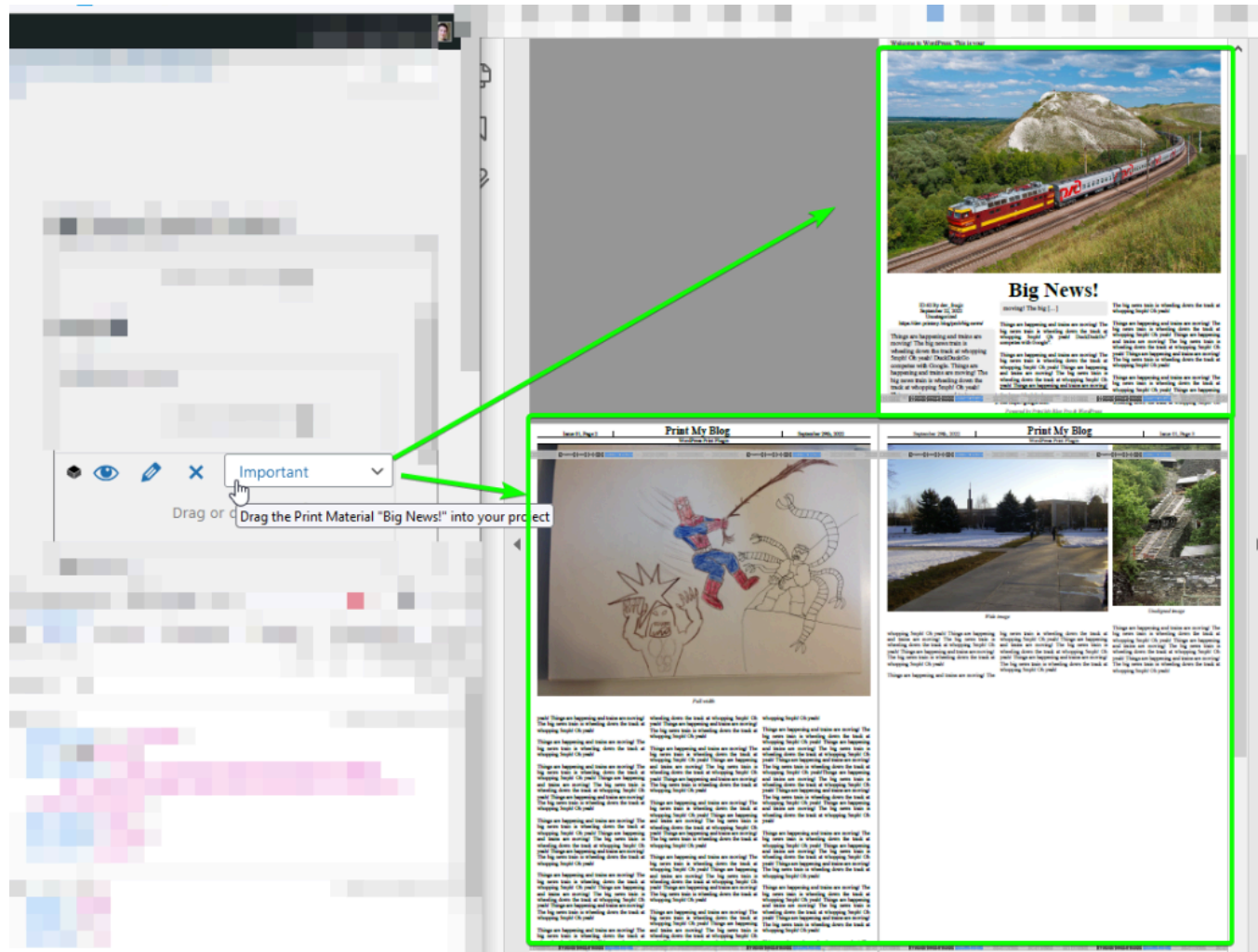
The Default Template shows most content (including the title and featured image) in columns (although fullwidth and wide images still occupy multiple columns.)



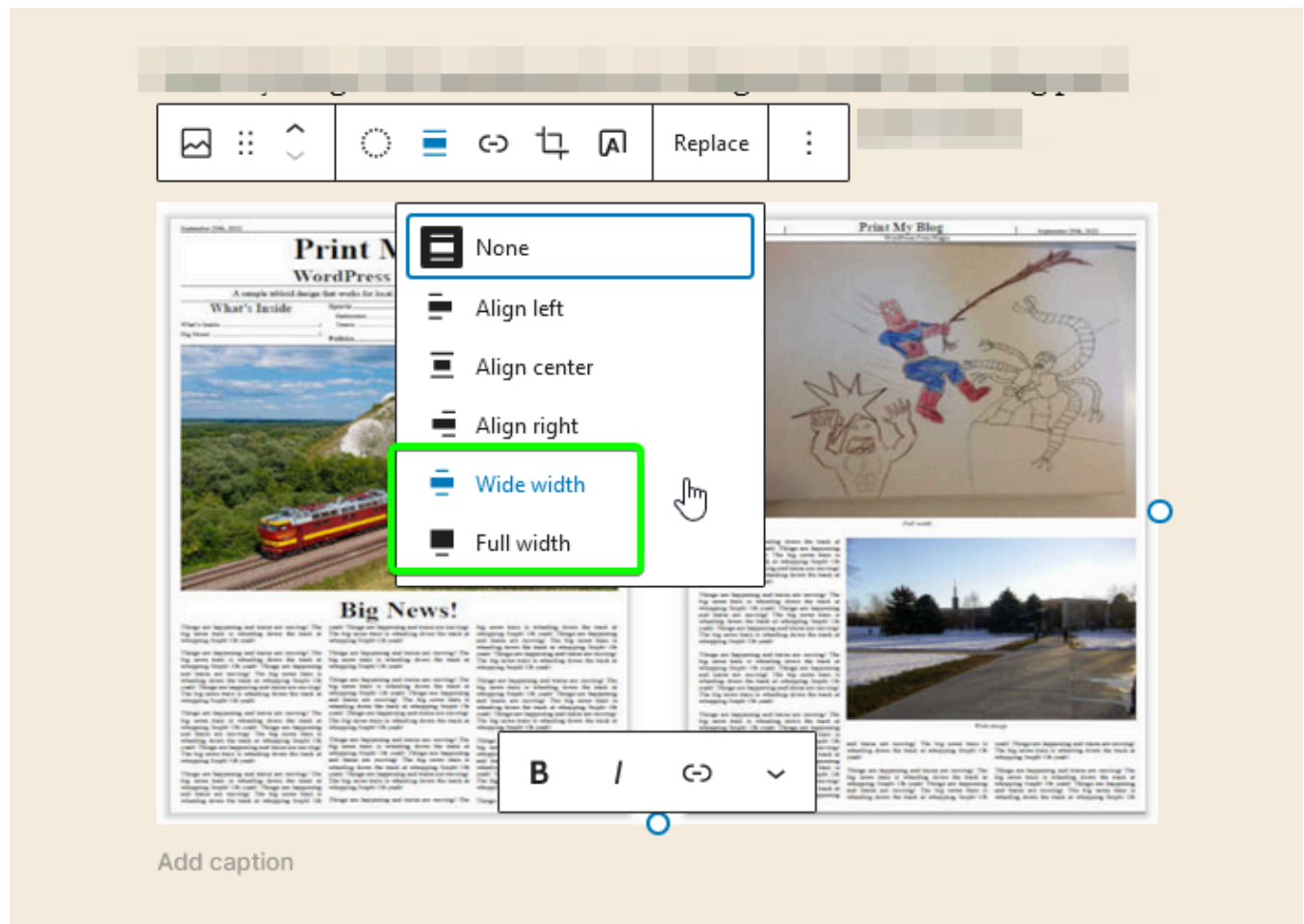
The Fullpage Content template doesn't show the article's title, featured image, or anything else except its content in one column.



The Single Column section template is like the default template (optionally including the article's title, featured image, URL, etc) but only uses one, wide column.



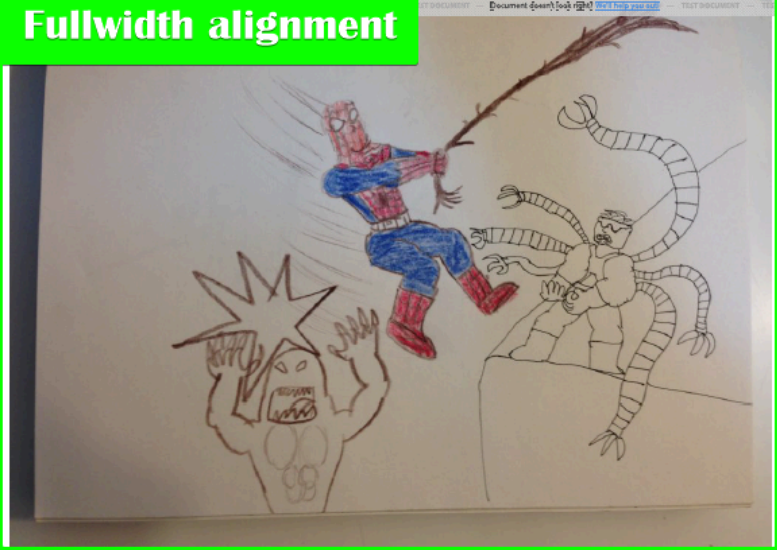
The Important section template uses a big featured image and title that span all columns, but puts the rest of the content into columns (except for fullwidth and wide images).



Setting an image block to be “wide width” or “Full width”.


WordPress Print Plugin

Fullwidth alignment



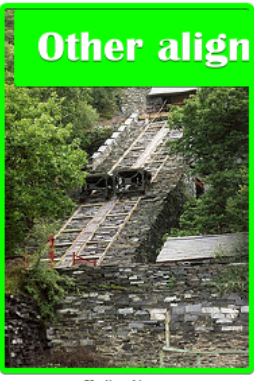
Full width

Wide alignment



Wide image

Other alignments



Unaligned image

whopping 5uph! Oh yeah!

yeah! Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah!

Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah! Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah!

Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah! Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah!

and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah! Things are happening and trains are moving! The big news train is wheeling down the track at whopping 5uph! Oh yeah!

Fullwidth alignment occupies all 3 columns; Wide alignment occupies 2, and all other alignments (unaligned, left, center, and right) take up just one column.

Generic Settings

Apply Website Theme

☐

Your theme, "Inc", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme. Usually it is recommended to leave this off.

Custom CSS

Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

"Apply Website Theme" will let your current theme help style the generated file. Generally themes are not well-suited to print and require significant customization to work, so we generally suggest you leave it unchecked. If you decide to check it on, you will need to have a business license in order to receive help resolving layout issues. So again, it's usually recommended to leave it off. (The most common reason people want to use their theme is because they like the font, but [adding a custom font to your design](#)¹ is usually easier than resolving all the theme's print layout issues.)

"Custom CSS" is CSS code to be used only in files PMB Pro generates; it won't be used anywhere else on your website. Because PMB Pro uses Prince CSS, use any CSS from the [official Prince documentation](#).

1. See page [127](#).

Design & Layout How-Tos

Here I put together some of the tools you've learned about to achieve some common tasks. If you have any other question that starts with "how do I..." that relates to design and project layout, please [get in touch](#). I'll send you the answer and at your question to this list of "how-tos".

How to Add an Introduction, Copyright Page, or other Front Matter

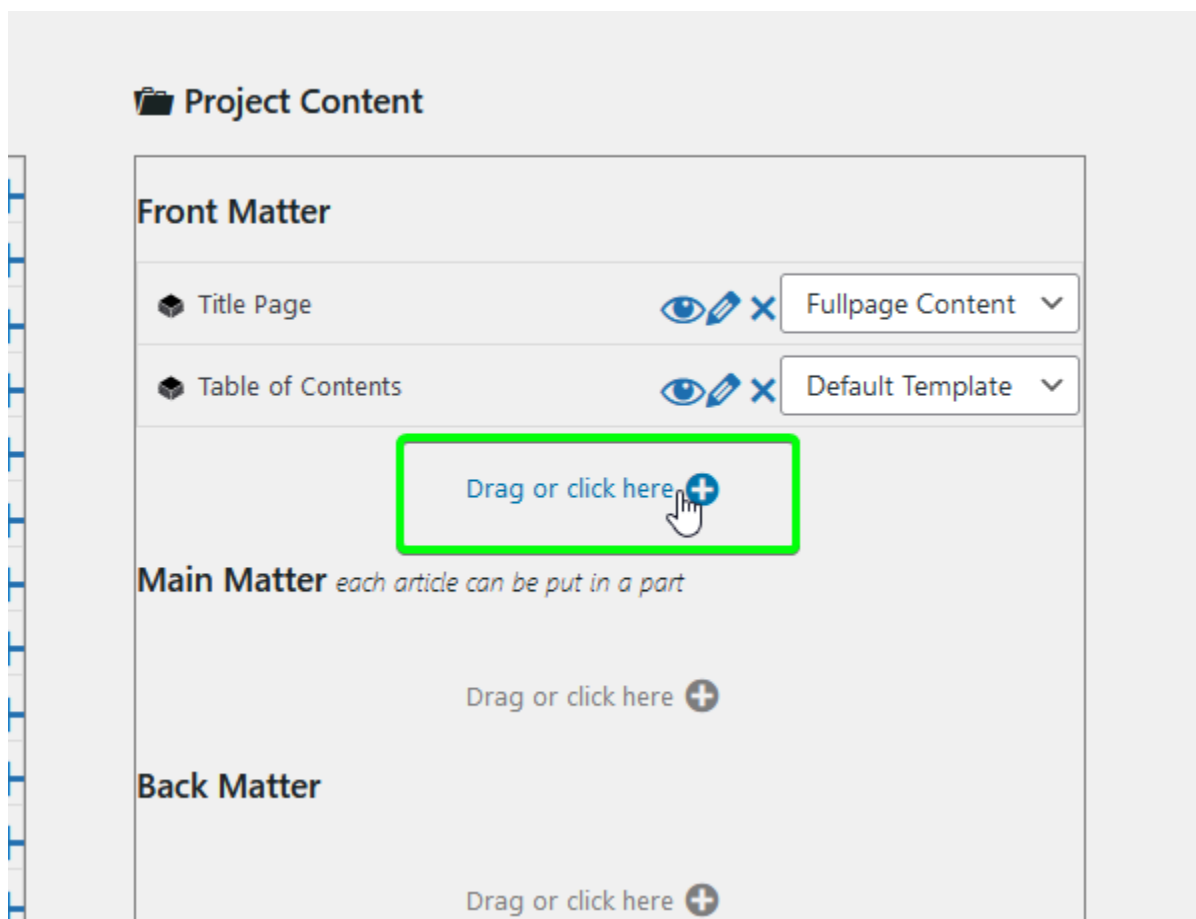
Your website probably has most of the content you want to put in a document, but there's probably still a need for a few extra pages: like maybe an introduction, copyright page, and other front and back matter.

Usually, the best way to add these is by creating some Print Material "posts" directly from your project's [Edit Content step](#)¹.

For example, let's say [you've started a project](#)², and chosen some existing posts to put in it, and now you want an introduction and a copyright page.

Adding an Introduction

To add the introduction, click "Click or Drag Here" and enter "Introduction."

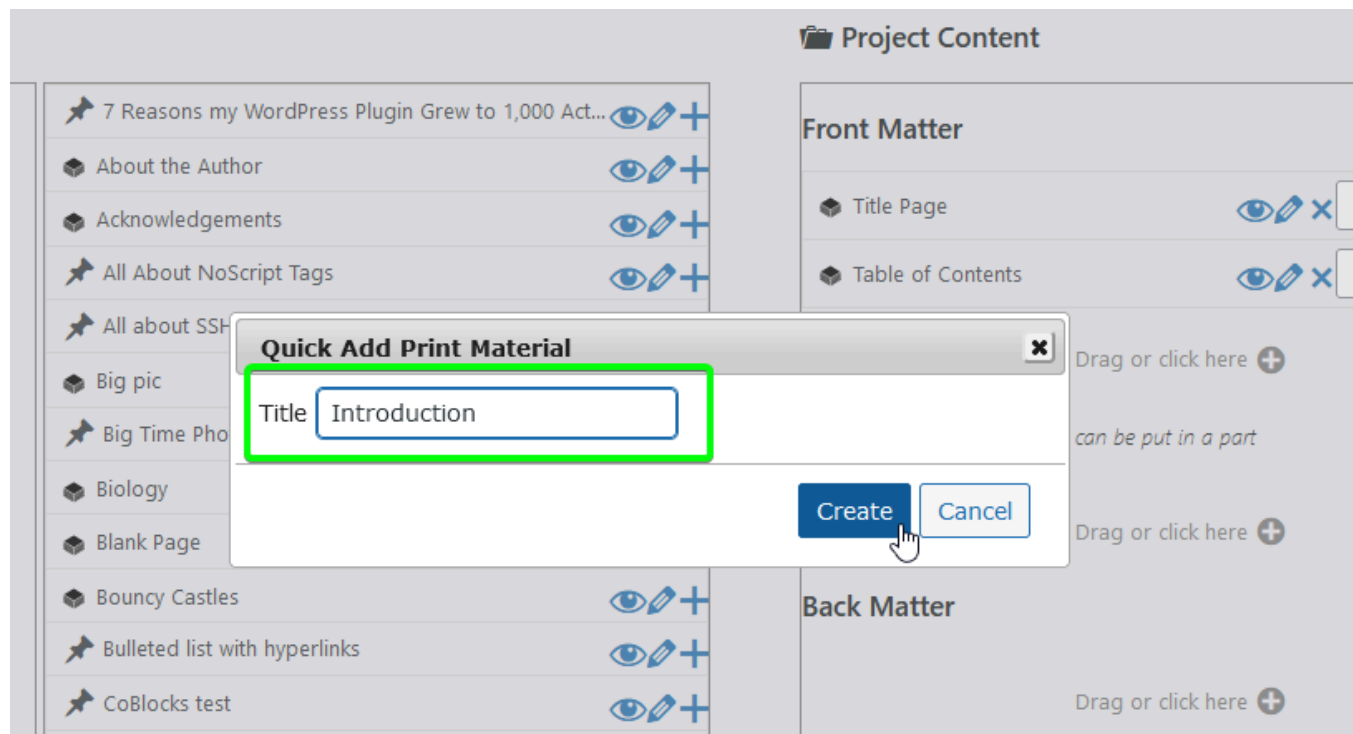


Clicking "click here" to add a new Print Material to this project.

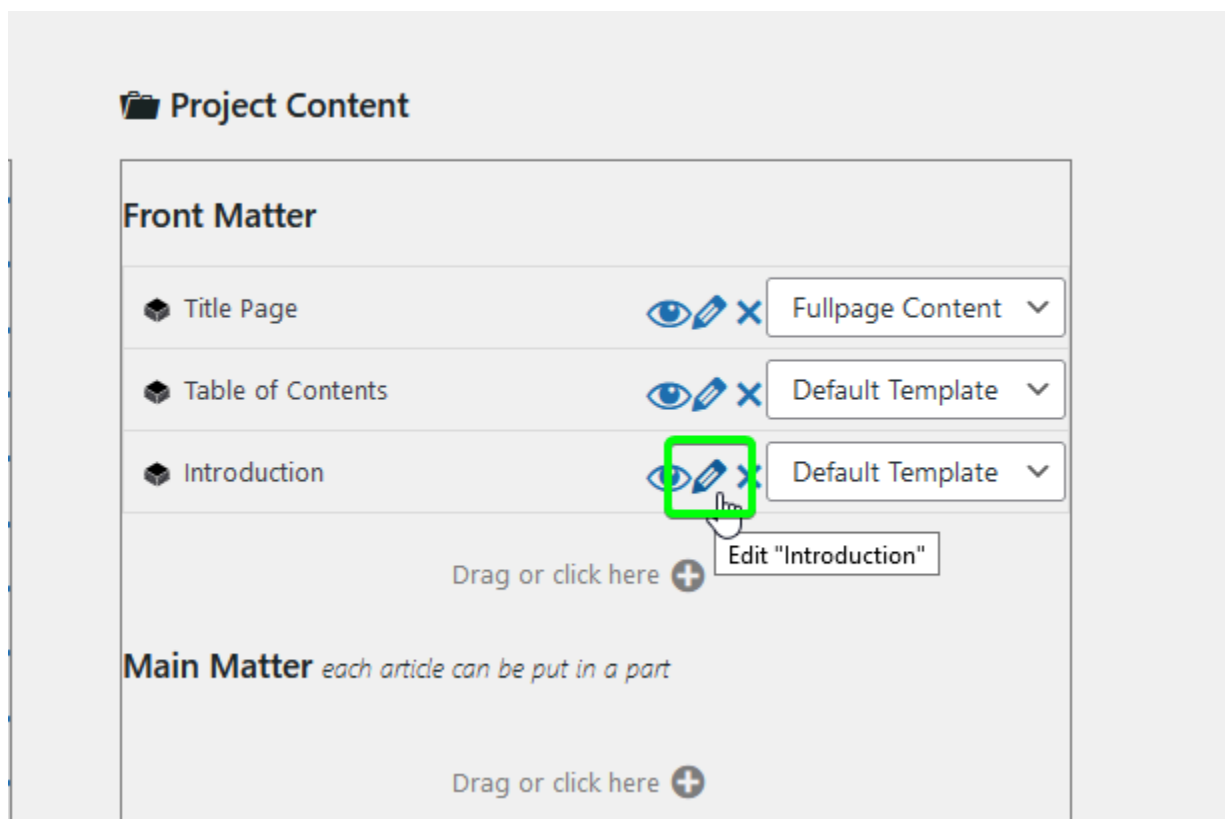
Next, click on the pencil inside the new "Introduction" row to edit it. Save it. You can click on this pencil from this project's editing page in the future too.

1. See page [31](#).

2. See page [25](#).

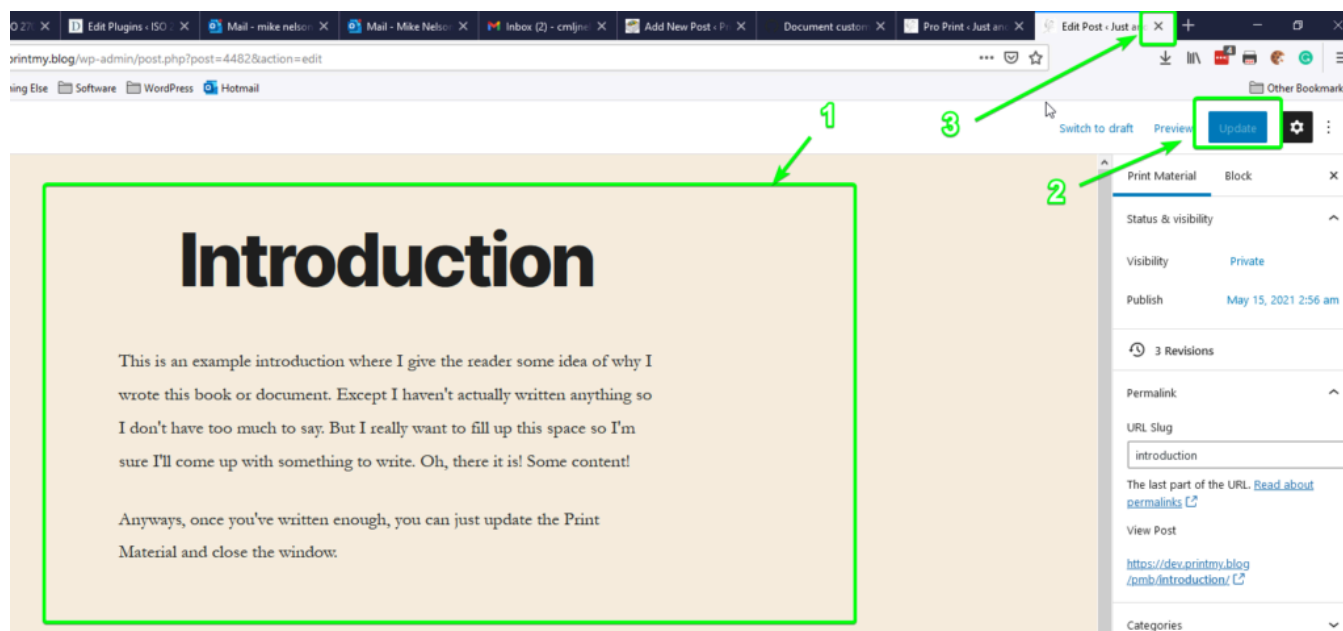


Setting the Print Material's name.

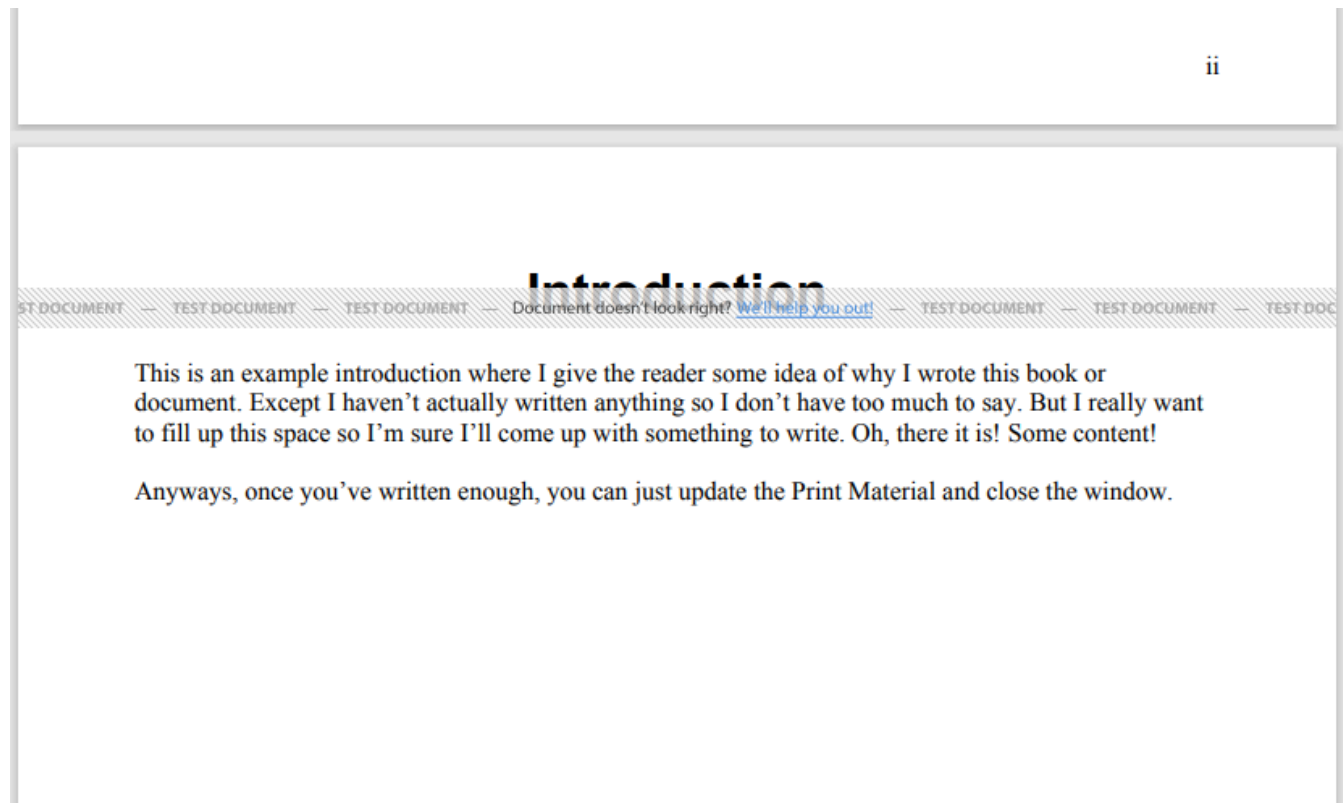


After clicking "Create", click the "Pencil" in the new "Introduction" row to edit the introduction.

You can follow the same steps to add a foreword, prologue, or anything else where you'd like the Print Material's name to appear at the top of the page.



WordPress' post editor that opens when editing any Print Materials. First (1) fill in the content, then (2) click "Update", and (3) close the tab that was opened. You'll then return to the tab where you were editing the project's content.



This is a Test PDF showing the introduction using the Classic Digital PDF design. Notice the article's title "Introduction" appears at the top.

Adding a Copyright Page

Adding the copyright page is similar to adding an introduction, except you probably don't want the text "Copyright" to appear at the top of the page, and you probably want the text centered in the middle of the page.

For that, add a new Print Material using "Click or Drag Here" inside the Front Matter area again, and name it "Copyright" or anything you want, because we're going to instruct PMB to not show the title in the document anyway.

Edit the Copyright Print Material by clicking the pencil in its row again, and add your content as usual.



Some content for the Copyright Print Material. No need to add any carriage returns, setting the section's template to "Centered Content" will put this content in the middle of the page it appears on.

Before saving the project, in the new Copyright page's row, click "Default Template" and change it to "Centered Content".

After you've added the Print Material, you may decide you want it to appear somewhere else in your project. Feel free to drag it to where it would fit better.

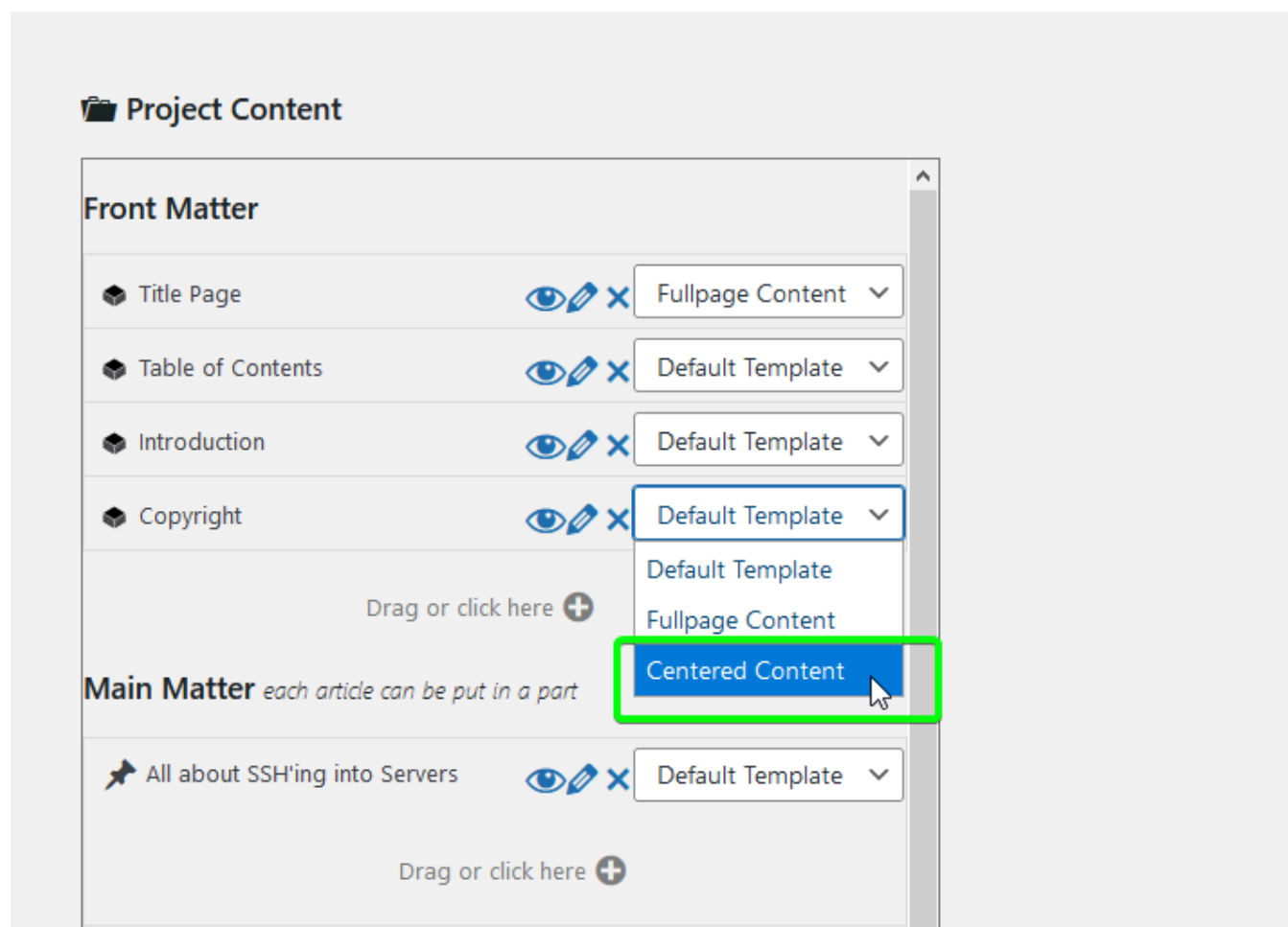
This "Centered Content" section template can of course be used for other content that you want to appear in the middle of a page by itself.

Other Front and Back Matter

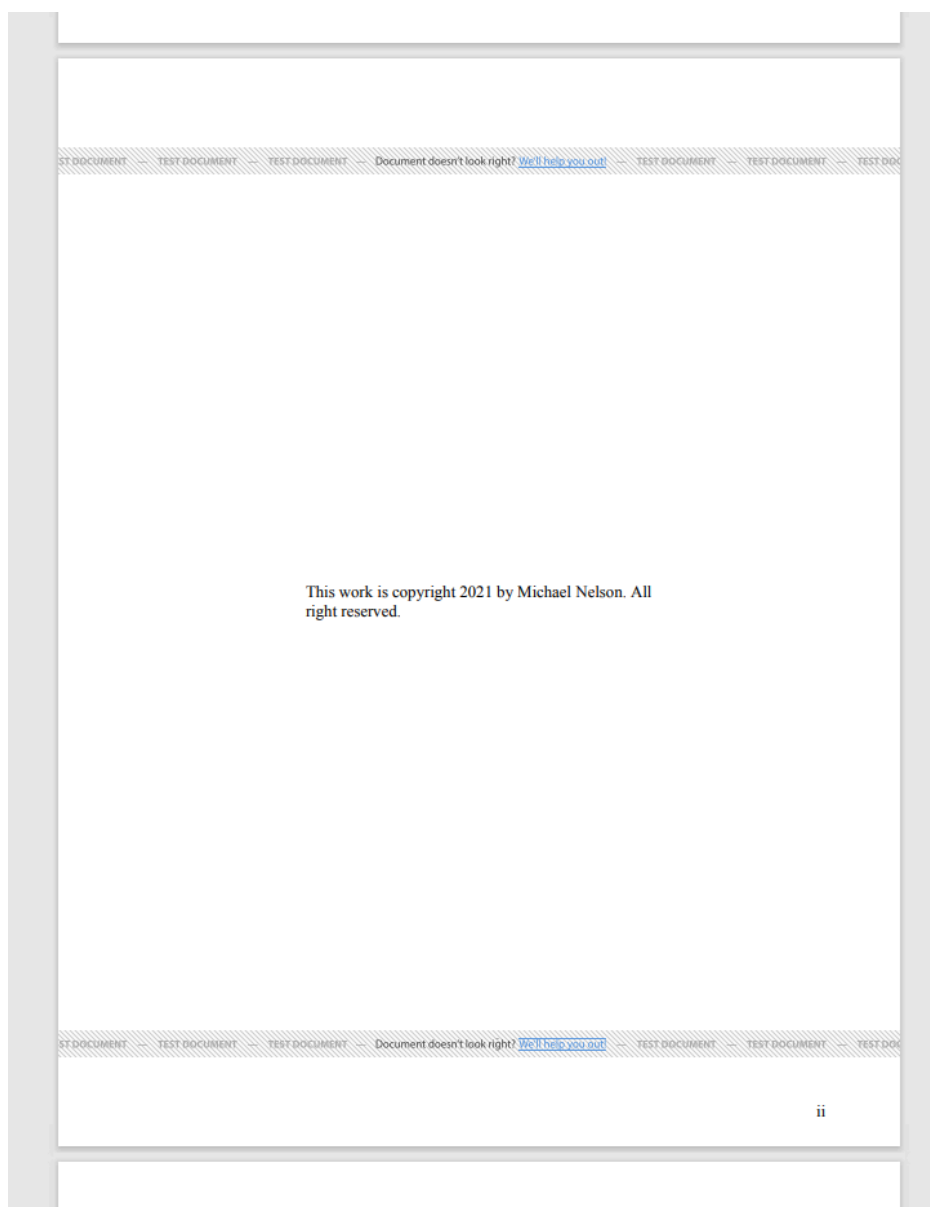
If you would prefer the content to begin at the top of a page (but still not show the article's title) you can alternatively use the section template "Fullpage Content" (which the Title Page defaults to using, although its content is usually generated from the project's metadata.)

If you have a question about how to add another type of front or back matter to a project, [please reach out using the help page](#)¹ and we'll guide you through it and try to make it as easy as possible.

1. See page [51](#).



Changing the new Copyright page's section template to "Centered Content"



The copyright page as it appears in the project.

How to Customize your Project's Title Page

There are three ways to customize a project's title page. They are (simplest to most advanced)

1. Edit the project's available metadata which affects the default title page
2. Create a Print Material to use as a custom title page
3. Create a custom template file and use it for the template

Edit the Project's Available Metadata which Affects the Default Title Page

This is the simplest way to change the project's title page.

Each design adds different metadata which you can set on the project metadata step, many of which affect the title page.

For example, when using the [Classic Print-Ready PDF Design](#),¹ the project [Metadata step](#)² asks you for the project's "Title", "Byline", "Subtitle" and "Source Location". The default title page uses these values when generating the title page for your project.

In order for this to work, your project content must include the "Title Page" print material (or another post using the [pmb_title_page shortcode](#)³).

Note that it's possible to include the title page several times in case you need the title page to be repeated (eg at the very beginning of the project, and at the start of the main matter). Alternatively, a second title page can be a different print material using the [pmb_project_title shortcode](#)⁴.

Create a Print Material to use as a custom title page

If you need to customize the title page even further, use this next approach. When doing this, however, your custom title page might not work very well for different formats (eg it might be appropriate for the digital PDF, but not for an eBook). If that's the case, you should create a project for each format, each using a different title page.

Here is how to use a custom title page:

1. On the project content page, remove the default "Title Page" section
2. Add a new print material. Name it something like "Project x Title Page"
3. Set it to use "Fullpage content" so that the print material's title won't be shown in the project, instead the print material's content will take up the full page. (Alternatively, you can use "Centered content" to have the print materials' content centered right in the middle of the page.)
4. Edit the print material's content however you like. You might want to make use of [PMB's shortcodes](#)⁵ and [CSS classes](#)⁶ to design the coverpage however you like.

1. See page [79](#).
2. See page [39](#).
3. See page [155](#).
4. See page [155](#).
5. See page [155](#).
6. See page [157](#).

Setup > Choose Print-Ready PDF Design > Customize Print-Ready PDF Design > Edit Content > Edit Metadata > Generate File

Edit Project Content

test

Select Content

Search and Apply Filters

Search:

Post Type: Any

Status: ☐ Draft ☐ Pending Review ☐ Private ☒ Published ☐ Scheduled ☐ Trash

Categories:

Tags:

Pattern Type:

Pattern Category:

Project Content

Front Matter

- Title Page Fullpage Content
- Table of Contents Default Template

Drag or click here

Main Matter each article can put in a part

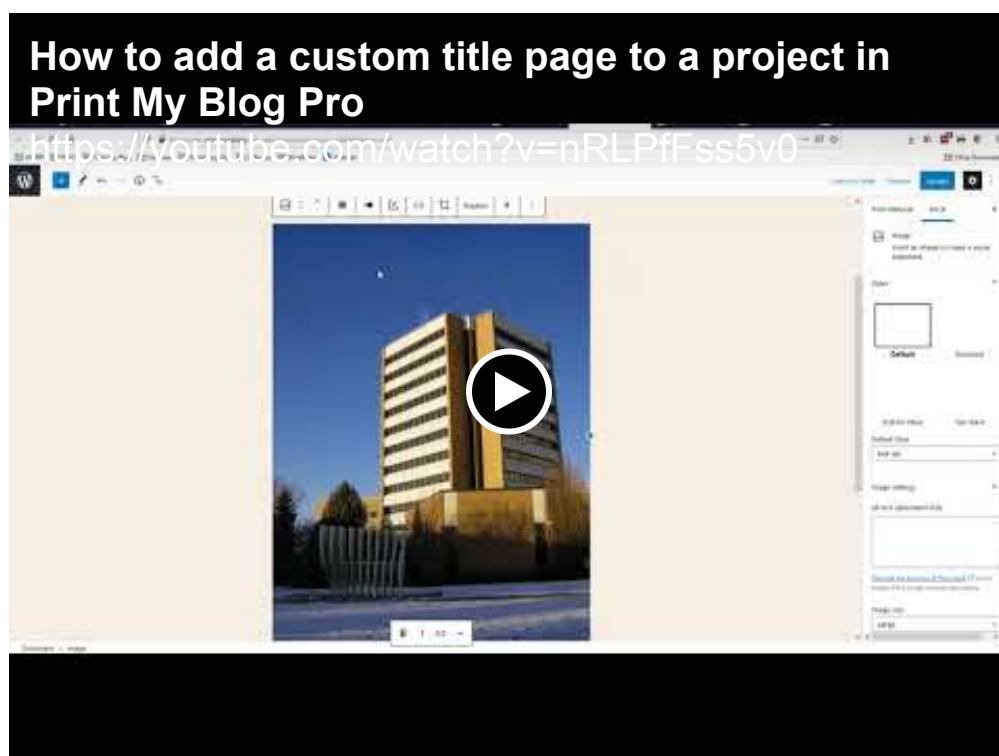
- Bread Default Template

Drag or click here

Back Matter

Drag or click here

By default all projects include the "Title Page" print material, which uses the `pmb_title_page` shortcode to dynamically create the title page from the project's metadata.



Create a custom template file and use it for the template

If you want to customize the title page's margins' content and dive into the HTML used, you'll want to create a custom section template file and use it. This requires some knowledge of HTML and CSS, and also some PHP in order to register the file. This isn't yet documented, so please [get in touch](#) if you're wanting to do this.

How to Divide Projects into Parts

Some books and documents have parts, either numbered (eg “Part 1”, “Part 2”, etc) or with descriptive names (eg “Science”, “Fine Arts”, etc) which are then further divided into articles.

Origins of Print My Blog.....	3
Why Should I “Print My Blog?”	4
Preserve your Story with “Print My Blog” WordPress Plugin.....	7
Transparency Reports	11
Transparency Report – April 2020	12
Print My Blog Transparency Report – June 2019	18
Tutorials	23
Quickly Turn your Entire WordPress Blog into an eBook with Print My Blog and dotEPUB	24
Immortalize Your Blog by Turning It into a Family Search Memory	30

A table of contents for a project divided into “parts”. The part titles are in bold, whereas article titles are indented.

Print My Blog Pro can support this. Additionally, the table of contents reflects the higher-ordered divisions, and many designs can include the part’s title in the margins of the page.

To achieve this, you first need to choose a design that supports parts. Most designs do. But to be be sure, when choosing the design, look at the design’s details pop-up. It should say “Supports... “1 layer of nesting (each article can put in a part)”.

On the “Edit content” step, add a part by from existing content:

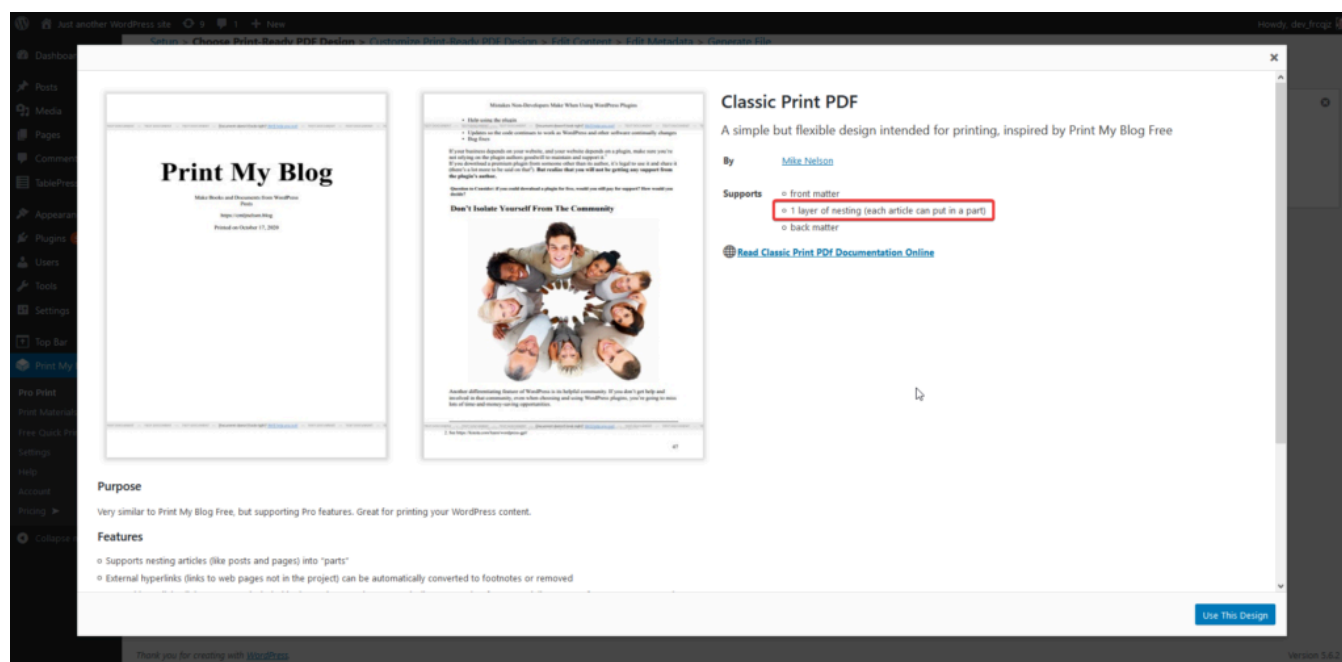
- Drag a post (or page or other post type) into your project. This will be the part.
- Drag another post below-and-to the right of it, just over “drag or click here”. This will be an article inside the part.
- Add more articles under the part by dragging them next to the article.
- Add more parts by dragging them above or below the previous part.

To add a part from new content:

- Inside your project’s “Main Matter”, click “Drag or click here”.
- Enter the name of the part. A new part will appear.
- Under that new part, click its “Drag or click here” and enter the article’s name.
- Add more articles by clicking “Drag or click here” inside the part.
- Add more parts by clicking “Drag or click here” below the part.

When parts and articles are added this way, they initially have no content. Click on the pencil beside each part to add its content.

When searching for articles to go inside each part, you can refine the list of content by using the search and filters. Eg you may want to only see posts, order by title, and search for the word “transparency.”



When choosing a design for your project, hover over the design and click on “Design Details”. There you will see if the design supports “1 layer of nesting (each article can put in a part)”.

Transparency Reports

Drag or click here +

Origins of Print My Blog

Drag or click here +

Tutorials

Drag or click here +

Why Should I "Print My Blog?"

Immortalize Your Blog by Turning It into a Famil...

Preserve your Story with "Print My Blog" WordP...

Print My Blog Transparency Report - June 2019

Transparency Report – April 2020

7 Reasons my WordPress Plugin Grew to 1,000 ...

Acknowledgements

Quickly Turn your Entire WordPress Blog into a...

All About NoScript Tags

All about SSH'ing into Servers

Big Time Photo Gallery

Bulleted list with hyperlinks

Column Test

Custom Title

Project Content

Front Matter

Title Page

Just Content

Table of Contents

Default Template

Drag or click here +

Main Matter

each article can put in a part

Drag or click here +

Back Matter

Drag or click here +

Transparency Reports

Drag or click here +

Origins of Print My Blog

Drag or click here +

Why Should I "Print My Blog?"

Immortalize Your Blog by Turning It into a Famil...

Print My Blog Transparency Report - June 2019

Transparency Report – April 2020

7 Reasons my WordPress Plugin Grew to 1,000 ...

Acknowledgements

Quickly Turn your Entire WordPress Blog into a...

All About NoScript Tags

All about SSH'ing into Servers

Big Time Photo Gallery

Bulleted list with hyperlinks

Column Test

Custom Title

Get a Major Discount for Print My Blog Pro by ...

Hello world!

How Print My Blog Makes YouTube Videos Loo...

Project Content

Front Matter

Title Page Just Content

Table of Contents Default Template

Drag or click here +

Main Matter each article can put in a part

Drag or click here +

Back Matter

Drag or click here +

119

Select Content

Search

transparency

Post Type

Posts

Status

☐ Draft
☐ Pending Review
☐ Private
☒ Published
☐ Scheduled
☐ Trash

By

Written Between

and

Order By

Title

Ascending

Search

7 Reasons my WordPress Plugin Grew to 1,000 Act...

Introducing printmy.blog

Print my Blog Plugin Transparency Report - April 2...

Print My Blog Transparency Report - June 2019

Print My Blog Transparency Report – August 2019

Print My Blog Transparency Report – December 2...

Print My Blog Transparency Report – January 2020

Print My Blog Transparency Report – July 2019

Print My Blog Transparency Report – November 2...

Print My Blog Transparency Report – October 2019

Print My Blog Transparency Report – September 2...

Print My Blog Transparency Report, April 5, 2019 –...

Print My Blog Transparency Reports - November 2...

Print My Blog WordPress Plugin Transparency Rep...

Pro WordPress Plugin Release Plan

Transparency Report – April 2020

Transparency Report – February 2020

Transparency Report – March 2020

Transparency Report of August 2020

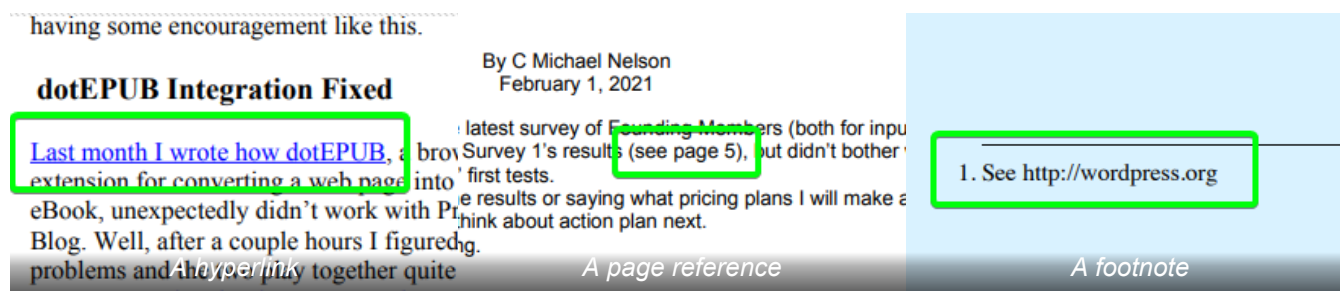
Transparency Report of December 2020

Load more...

Searching for posts with the word “transparency”. Ordering results by title alphabetically.

How to Add Links, Page References and Footnotes

Print My Blog Pro simplifies adding links, page references, and footnotes to your documents and website. Just add hyperlinks using WordPress' editor (as normal) to your posts and other content, and your design will take care of converting them to page references, footnotes, leaving them as hyperlinks or removing them, as dictated by your design.

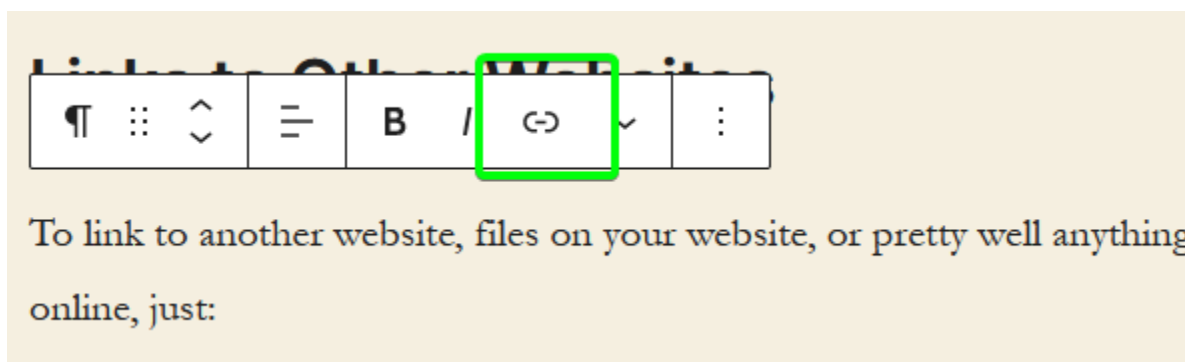


How to Add Hyperlinks In WordPress

Links to Other Websites

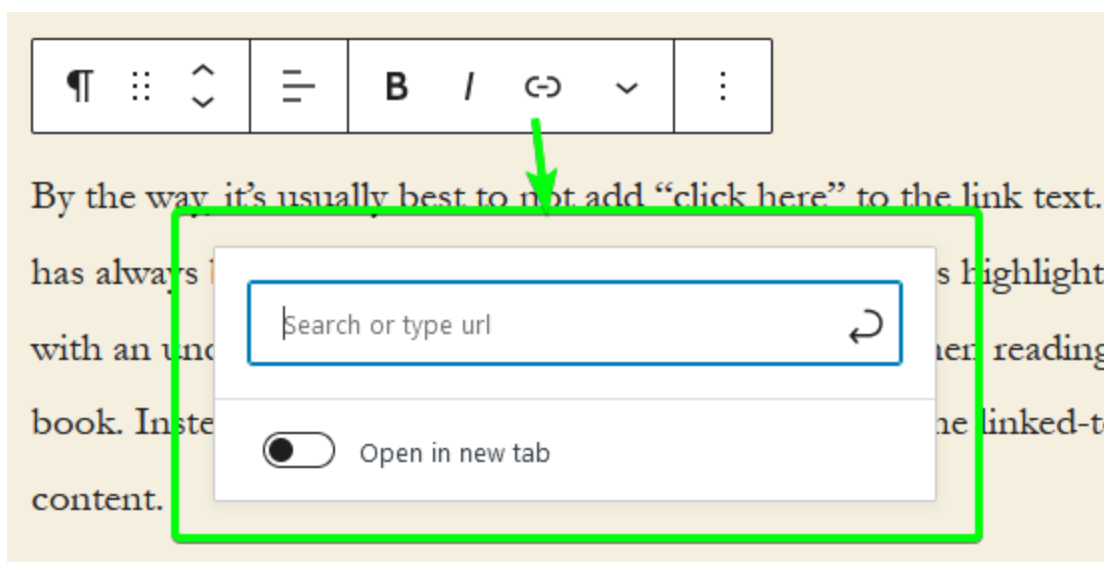
To link to another website, files on your website, or pretty well anything online, just:

1. Select the text that you want to be hyperlinked
2. click the linking button
3. enter the URL (it's usually easiest to visit the page in another browser tab, and then copy-and-paste its URL from the address bar)
4. press enter



The link button in WordPress' Block Editor (a.k.a Gutenberg)

By the way, it's usually best to not add "click here" to the link text. That has always been redundant because hyperlinks are always highlighted blue with an underscore online; plus it's especially strange when reading from a book. Instead, just highlight a few words that relate to the linked-to content.



Once clicked, the hyperlink opens up a box saying “Search or type url”

Links to Other Posts

WordPress makes linking to other posts, pages, and custom post types on your site easier.

1. Select the text that you want to be hyperlinked
2. click the linking button
3. enter a word or two from the post’s title or body. WordPress will search for it and bring up a list of matching posts, pages, and custom post types
4. click the post or item you want to link to
5. press enter

Links to Specific Parts of a Post

In other programs this is referred to as “bookmarks” or “anchors”. These are links to specific images, subheadings, or other parts of the project. Support for these was added in PMB 3.1.4. Use them as you would normally on your website, and PMB will turn them into working anchor links.

- First, add the anchor to your post: in WordPress’ block editor, select the block you want to link to (eg the image, heading, or anything)
- in the block’s settings on the right, scroll down to Advanced and expand it
- enter the “HTML Anchor” for anything that makes sense to you. Your readers probably won’t see it. Eg `screenshot-of-homepage` or `graph-of-sales` PMB will work best when that anchor is unique throughout the entire project, so try to not reuse anchor names in different posts.
- now, add a link to that anchor: select the text you want to become the link
- click the link icon (kinda looks like a chain link)
- enter a pound sign then the anchor’s name you used earlier. Eg `#screenshot-of-homepage` or `#graph-of-sales`
- press enter

Currently a limitation is that links to an anchor in a separate post won’t work properly: in PMB’s generated file they will still link to your website instead of the correct section of the project. If you need this to work, please contact us to make it a higher priority.

Internal and External Hyperlinks

It's helpful to understand the difference between internal and external hyperlinks.

Internal hyperlinks link to posts, pages, and custom post types that you've included in the current project. That means they should refer to parts of your document, not back to your website.

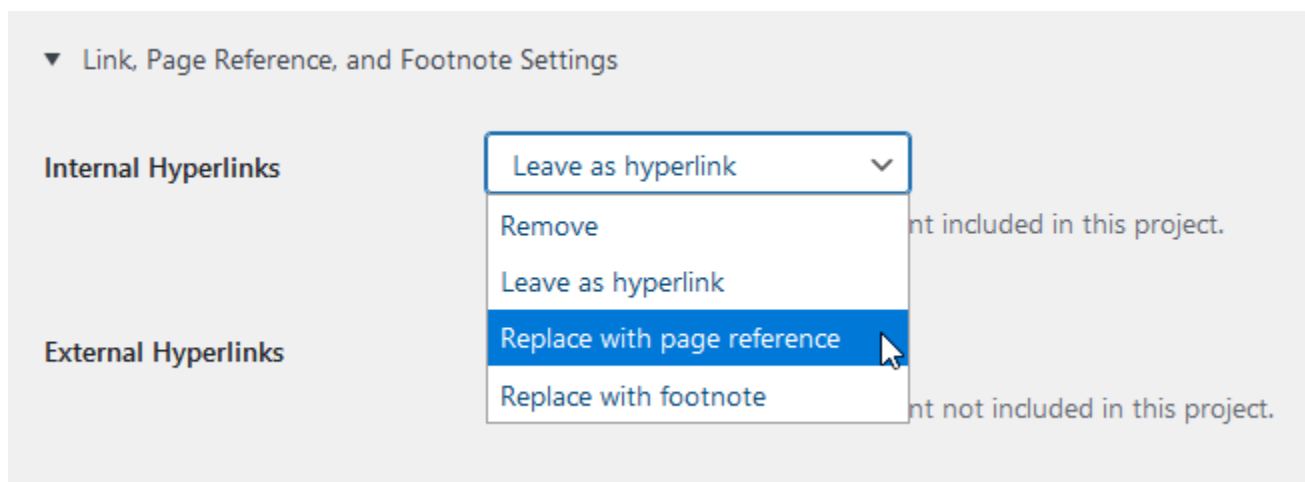
External hyperlinks link to anything on the Internet that's not included in your project, like other websites or posts from your website that just aren't in your project.

PMB designs can handle these two types of links differently. Often, in printed documents, internal hyperlinks are best converted to page references and external hyperlinks are best converted to footnotes, but each design can handle them as it sees best.

Converting Hyperlinks to Page References

The design's details screen will mention whether it converts hyperlinks to page references, or if it has a setting to control that.

The Classic Digital and Print-Ready Designs both have "Internal Hyperlinks" settings. Just change it to "Replace with Page Reference"



Setting "Internal Hyperlinks" to "Replace with page reference".

Converting Hyperlinks to Footnotes

Similar to setting page references, however footnotes can be set for both internal and external hyperlinks.

On the design's customization page, open up the "Link, Page Referene, and Footnote Settings" area and switch both "Internal Hyperlinks" and "External Hyperlinks" to "Replace with footnote".

Leaving or Removing Hyperlinks

Lastly, you may want to remove hyperlinks entirely. Just set the design's customizations to "Remove" for both Internal and External hyperlinks.

▼ Link, Page Reference, and Footnote Settings

Internal Hyperlinks Replace with footnote ▼
How to display hyperlinks to content included in this project.

Internal Footnote Text See page %s.
Text to use when replacing a hyperlink with a footnote. "%s" will be replaced with the page number.

External Hyperlinks Replace with footnote ▼
content not included in this project.

External Footnote Text Replace with footnote
Text to use when replacing a hyperlink with a footnote. "%s" will be replaced with the URL

Adding Other Footnotes

On a final note with regards to footnotes, you can add your own entirely custom footnotes.

Just [add the shortcode](#)¹ `pmb_footnote` to the start of a phrase, and end it with `/pmb_footnote`. The contents between those two shortcodes will become the footnote.

Footnotes exam

foot note example `[pmb_footnote]` Contents between the opening and closing "`pmb_footnote`" shortcodes will go into a footnote.
`pmb_footnote` And these footnotes will normally appear at the bottom of the page.
The `pmb_footnote` opening and closing shortcodes.

Footnotes

By C Michael
May 14, 2014

A foot note example, "and these footnotes will normally appear at the bottom of the page." When viewed online though, footnotes currently just appear where the content is.

The footnote number when viewed in the file.

The footnote content at the base of the page.

Link your Content!

Seeing how adding page references, footnotes, and hyperlinks are just a couple clicks, and work so well in different formats, you should really have no excuse not to use them. They will help your readers know where referenced content is located, and spend less time wondering "now where was that mentioned?"

For more information about how each design differs, especially with regards to hyperlinks, page references, and footnotes, [please see the section on designs](#)².

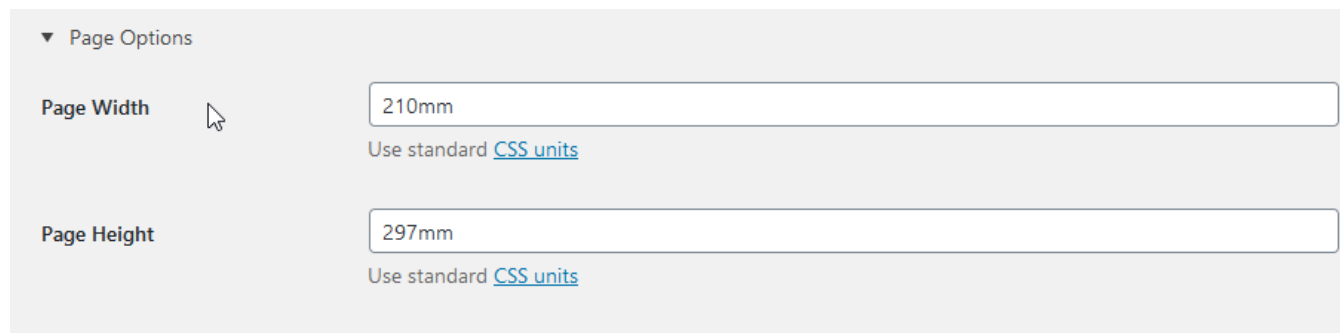
1. See page [155](#).

2. See page [61](#).

How to Customize Page Dimensions

Print My Blog (PMB) Pro Print Service uses Prince CSS which can fully control the printed page's size, margins, and even more advanced features like bleed and trim.

The Classic Print and Digital PDF designs both allow the page size to be modified using the “Page Width” and “Page Height” settings.



▼ Page Options

Page Width
Use standard [CSS units](#)

Page Height
Use standard [CSS units](#)

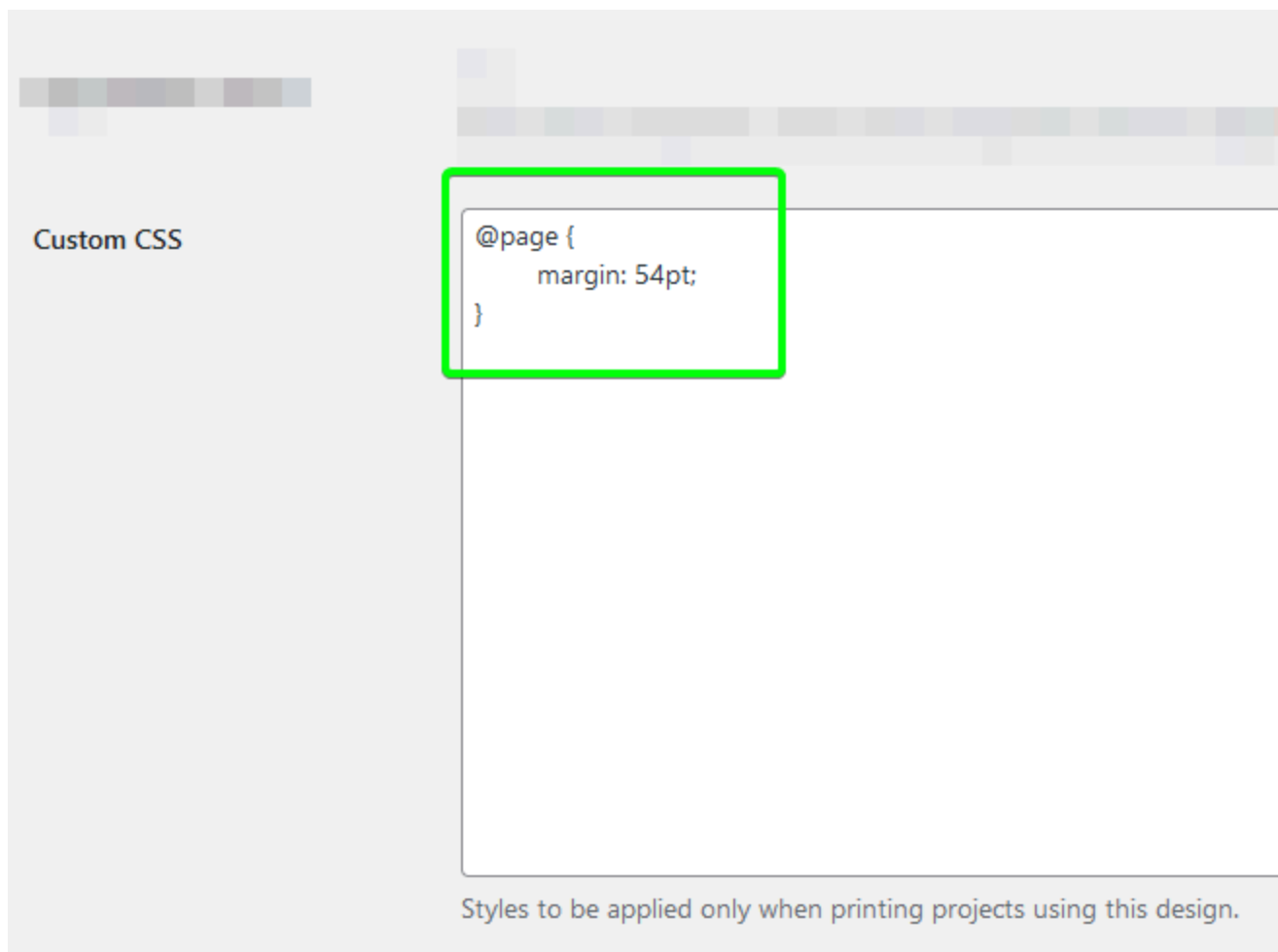
The Classic Print and Digital PDFs both have “Page Width” and “Page Height” settings inside the “Page Options” area on the “Customize Designs” step. They accept any values acceptable in CSS, like `mm`, `cm`, `in` (inch), `px` (pixels), `pt` (points) and [others](#).

Other designs probably dictate a specific size, but even then you can still modify these page properties by using the custom CSS setting on the design.

[Prince CSS gives a lot of options around page sizes](#), but if that's too technical for you, please reach out to us to [let us know what you're wanting to achieve via the plugin's help page](#)¹, and we'll see how we can improve the plugin to make your task easier.

```
/* The following are most of the CSS properties Prince CSS supports.*/
@page {
    margin: 54pt;
    -prince-bleed: auto /* '6pt' if marks present */ ;
    -prince-trim: auto /* '57pt 48pt' if marks present */ ;
    marks: none;
    -prince-mark-length: 24pt;
    -prince-mark-width: 0.1pt;
    -prince-mark-offset: auto /* equal to prince-bleed */ ;
    size: Letter;
    -prince-pdf-page-colorspace: auto;
    -prince-pdf-page-label: auto;
    -prince-rotate-body: 0deg;
    -prince-shrink-to-fit: none;
}
```

1. See page [51](#).



Some custom CSS that's setting the page margin to 54 points (a unit used mainly in print).

How to Customize Fonts in PDFs

Some designs have settings controlling which fonts are used for text and headers, but if not, or if you need more control (eg to specify the font for specific content, or use a different font than the options provided), you can specify the font using CSS.

▼ Font Settings

Title page and Part Header Font Size
4em
Font size used for the default title page's and part's header (all other headers' sizes are derived from the main font size). Use any recognized or "10px").

Header Font
Arial
Default font for header tags

Font Size
10pt
Use any recognized [CSS font-size keyword](#) (like "large", "medium", "small") or a [length in any units](#) (eg "14pt", "50%", or "10px").

Font
Times New Roman
Default font used in paragraphs, bulleted lists, tables, etc.

Some of the font settings available in the Classic Digital and Classic Print-Ready Designs. If these aren't sufficient you'll need to use a bit of CSS.

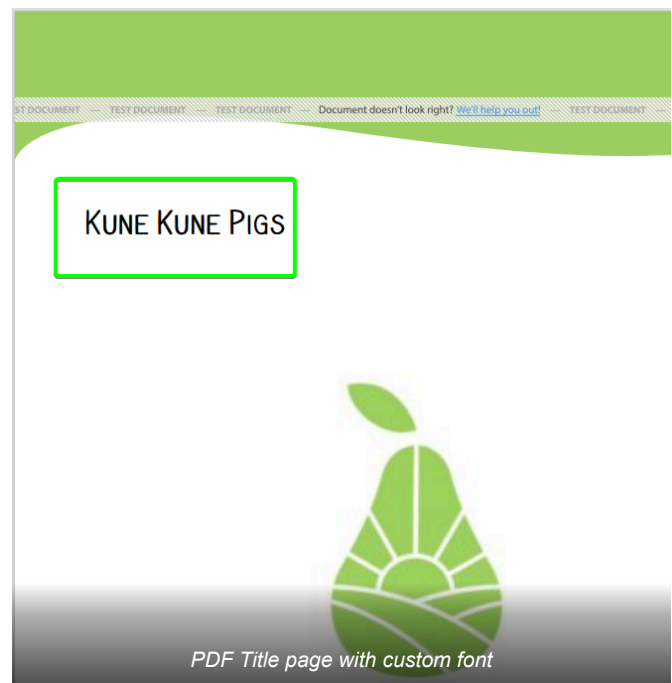
You specify the font for the PDF using CSS just like you would for a webpage. That means you can use Google Fonts or any fonts that can be accessed online.

```
/* Declare a new font-family and set the URL of where to find the font file.*/
@font-face {
    font-family: Loverstruck;
    src:url(https://www.heritagehillfarm.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/
Loverstruck.ttf);
}
/* Use that new font in headers h1-h5 and anything with the CSS class "has-large-
font-size" */
h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, .has-large-font-size{
    font-family: Loverstruck !important;
}
```

For example, you can

- Find a font you like on [Google Fonts](#)
- download the font file and then [upload it to your website](#)
- add some custom CSS to your PMB design to declare a new @font-face and specify where to use it (like in the example code snippet)

PMB Pro Print Service uses [Prince CSS which has excellent documentation on how to customize fonts in documents using CSS.](#)



But, as usual, if you need help figuring this out please reach out [using the plugin's help page](#)¹.

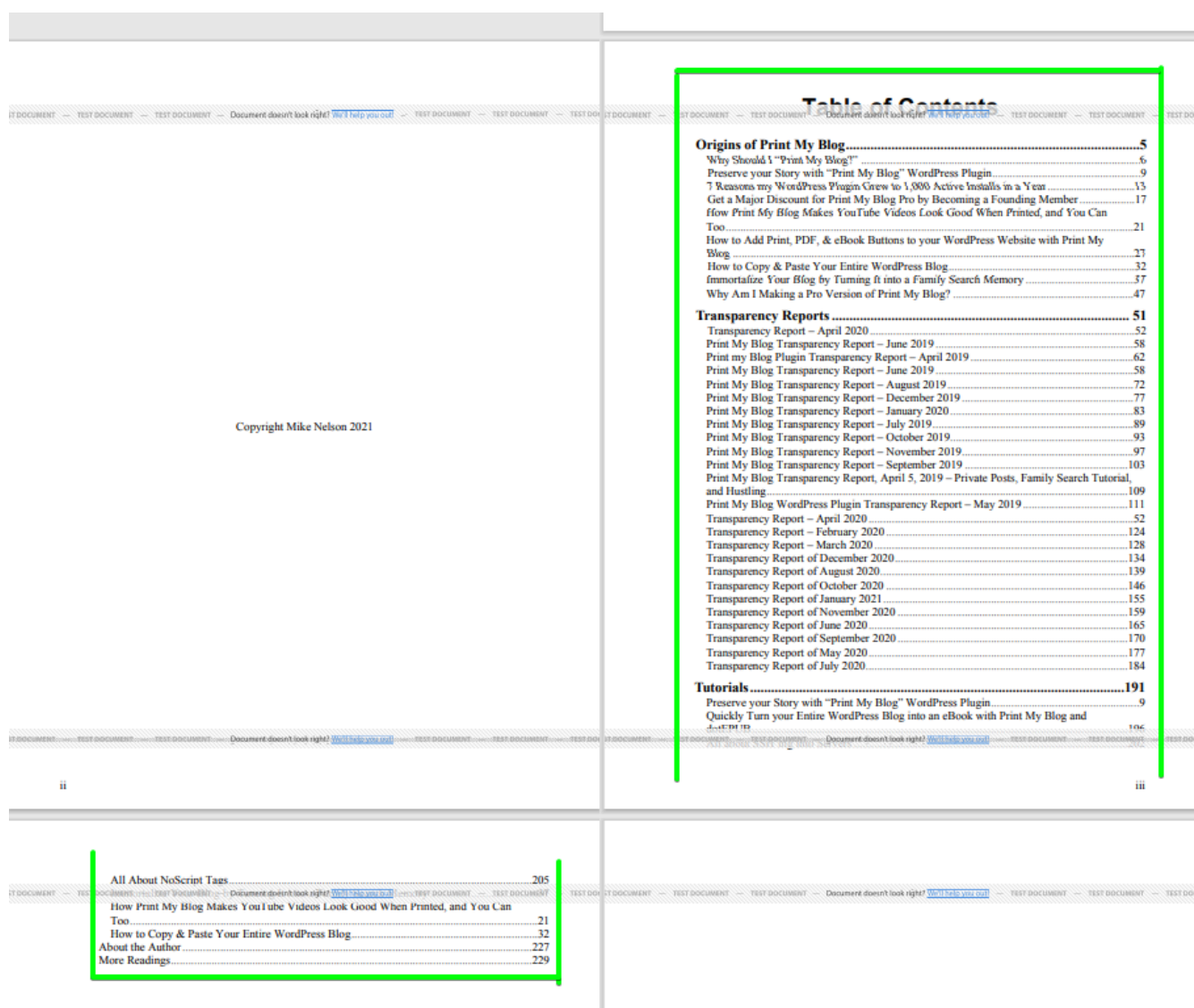
1. See page [51](#).

How To Force Content to Start on the Left or Right Page in PDFs

While Digital PDF Designs are usually intended to be seen one page at a time, Print-Ready PDF Designs are intended to be seen as a two-page spread and you might sometimes prefer to have some content only start on the right-hand (or left-hand) page.

The Classic Print-Ready PDF already makes the table of contents, main matter, new parts, and the back matter start on the right-hand page. But you can add control this directly using [the CSS property break-before](#).

For example, the table of contents should usually start on the right-hand page, but this doesn't look very good if it's longer than a page.



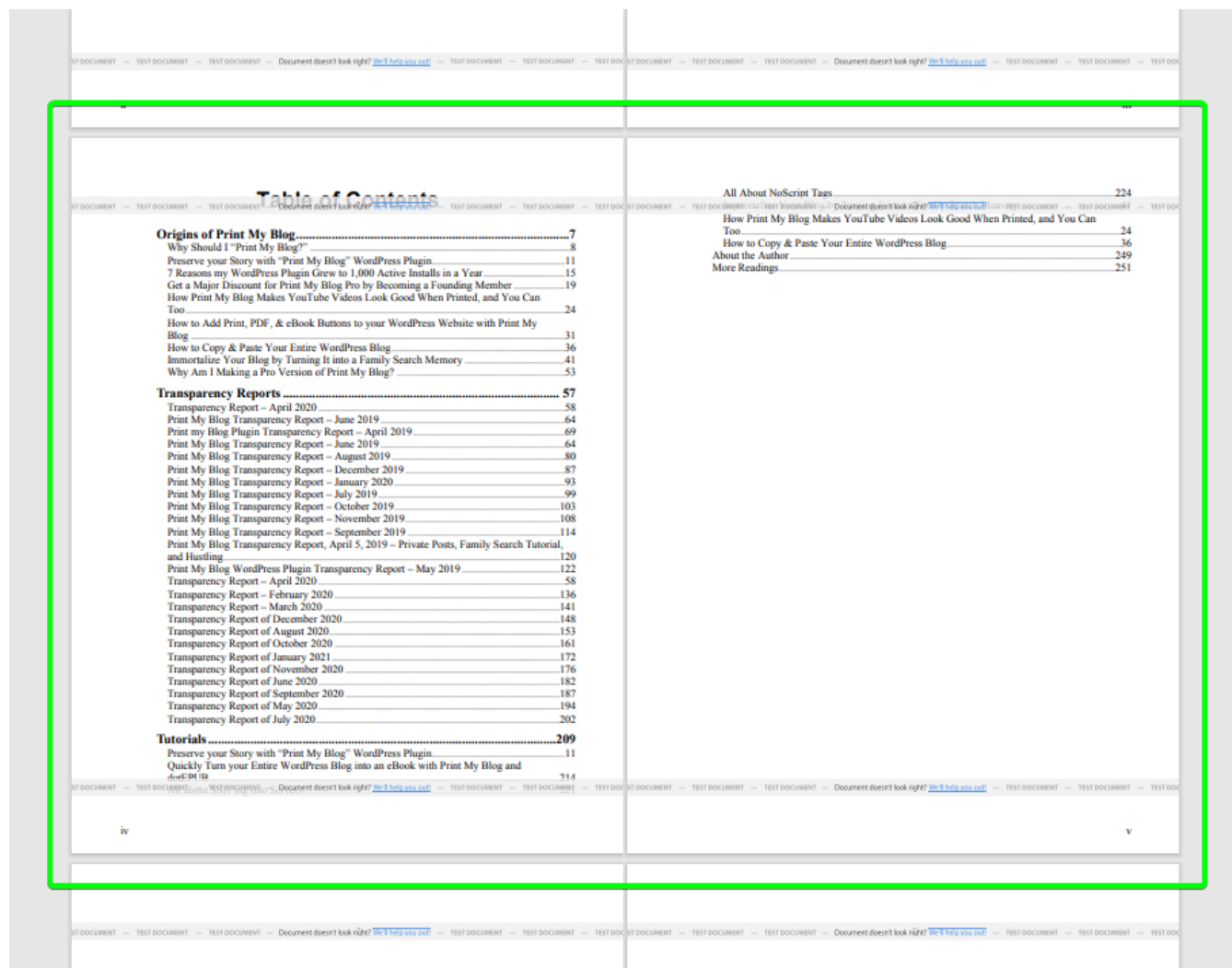
A very long table of contents that takes up more than a page. Notice you would need to flip the page in order to see the rest of the table of contents. In this case it's probably best to make the table of contents instead start on the right-hand page.

In that case, it's better to start it on the left-hand page (so it can all be seen at once.)

To make the Classic Print-Ready PDF place the table of contents on the left-hand page instead, add the following custom CSS on [the design customization step](#)¹:

```
#pmb-toc-wrapper{
  break-before:left !important;
}
```

That CSS is saying: on the HTML element with ID `pmb-toc-wrapper`, add a page break before it on the left hand, and this style is higher priority than other normal styling instructions.



The same long table of contents, but starting on the left page allows the reader to view both pages simultaneously.

If you're wanting to add such a page break before other pages or content, you'll again need to find the element's ID or class. This can be done using your web browser's HTML inspector ([Google Chrome](#), [Firefox](#) and most browsers have one) on the print-page just like on other web pages. Then use [a CSS selector](#) based on that element's ID or class in your design's custom CSS area on the design customization page.

If you have questions please reach out using [the plugin's help page](#)².

1. See page [30](#).

2. See page [51](#).

How to Translate Projects with the WPML Plugin

With the help of the premium plugin [WPML](https://wpml.com/), Print My Blog (PMB) can be used to create books and documents in multiple languages.



The Basics of How WPML Works



The WordPress Multilingual Plugin

WPML can either automatically translate entire posts for you, or let you manually translate them line-by-line, or do a mix of the two (automatically translate and then let you tweak those translations).

The screenshot displays the WPML translation interface. At the top, there's a header with the title 'How to Add Print, PDF, & eBook Buttons to your WordPress Website with Print My Blog', a 'View original' link, a 'Translate automatically' button, and credit information: 'Credits needed 0' and 'Credits available 2166'. There are also links for 'Edit glossary' and 'Send feedback'.

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Original English', lists several posts with their titles and body text. The right column, titled 'Translation French', shows the corresponding French translations. A 'Search source' input field is located at the top left of the list.

Below the list, a detailed view of a post is shown. It includes the original English text and the French translation. The French translation is highlighted in green, indicating it has been automatically translated. A 'Unjoin' button is visible next to the French text. The interface also shows a 'Translation French' section with a 'Translate' button and a 'Check' button.

When content is updated (eg you fix a misspelling or add content), WPML again lets you automatically or manually update the affected content. If the content just switched places (eg you reordered some paragraphs), it can even avoid unnecessarily asking you to translate (now you're glad you didn't just create a new Word document for each translation).

What's more, WPML can nicely handle translating content besides just post titles and content, such as: categories and tags, custom fields, and pretty well every aspect of your WordPress site.

But the basics is this: you take care of translating your content using WPML.

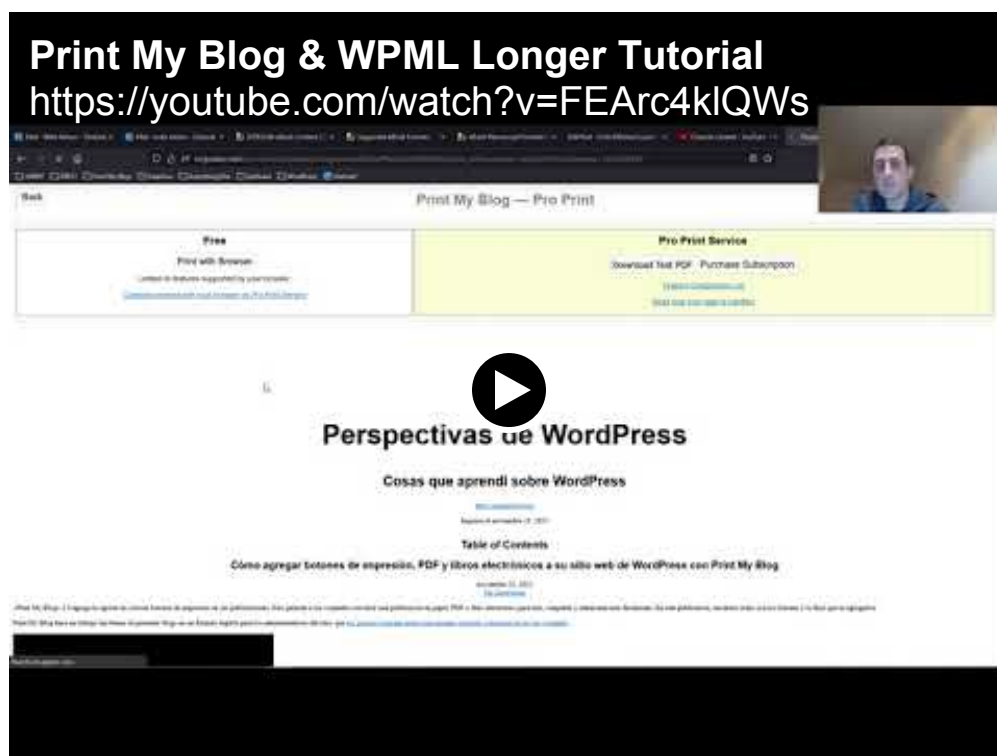
Why use WPML and PMB

WPML lets your books and documents created in PMB reach audiences who speak other languages. It can be done quickly and automatically, or methodically and manually, or a mix of both.

When changes are made, it's easy to pinpoint what text needs to be re-translated. And if the content is contained in both your website and PMB projects (eg a blog post that gets featured in your book), it's nice to spot exactly what changed and only retranslate that instead of searching through the entire manuscript for the affected content.

How to use WPML and PMB

Here I'm going to walk you through how to use WPML with PMB to create a book in multiple languages.



Get WPML

WPML is a paid plugin which can be purchased and downloaded from their website: <https://wpml.org>. There is no free version on WordPress.org.

Translate Your WordPress Content with WPML

Install and configure WPML. You'll choose which languages you intend to translate content into, whether to translate content automatically, and a few other settings. The setup is quite intuitive, but they have a good [getting started guide](#) available.

Once it's setup, use WPML to translate your website's content.

Create Your Project as Normal

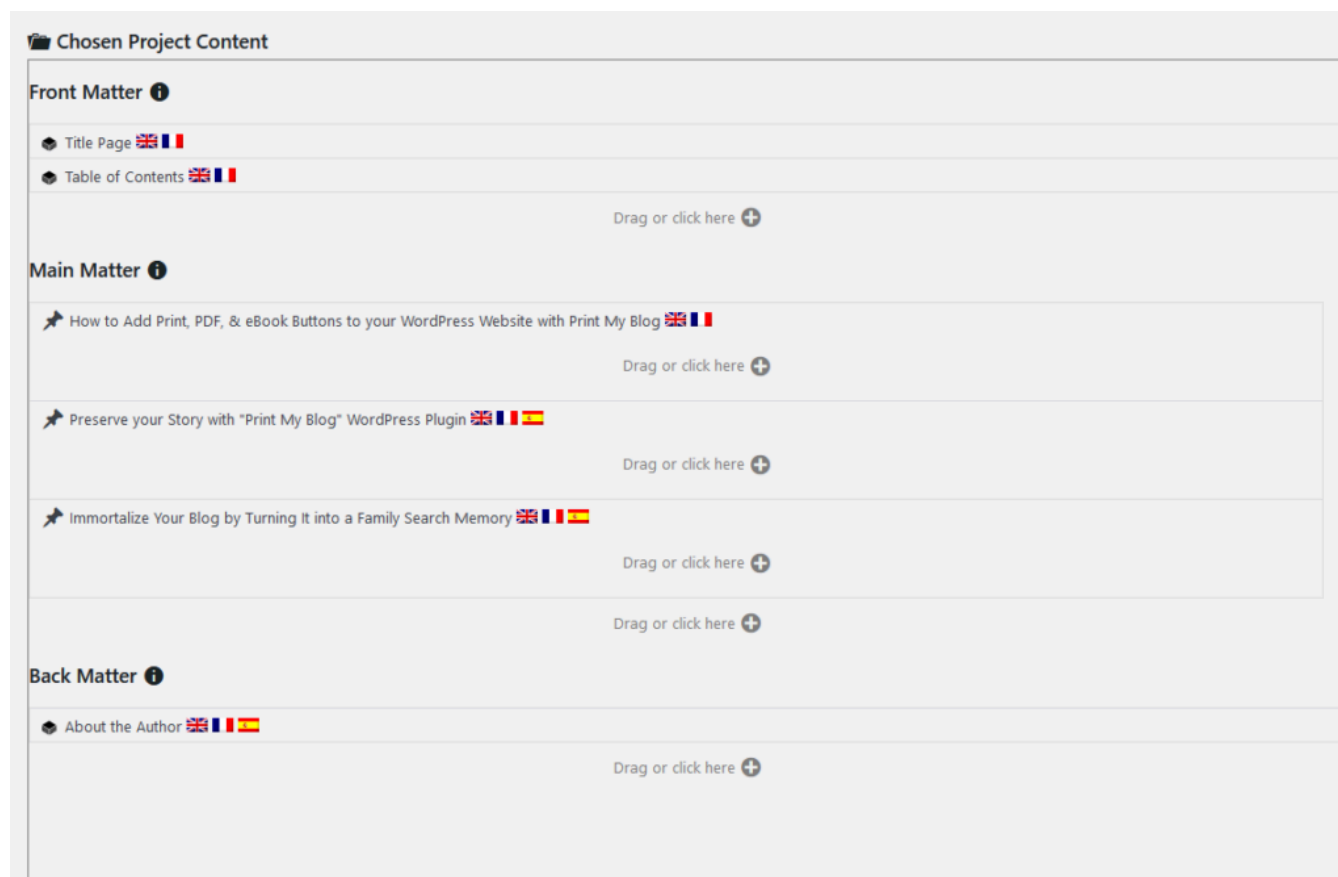
Also, use PMB to [create a project](#), choose and customize its design, add content to it, and edit its metadata, all in your site's default language.

Ensure Your Project's Content is Translated

The only special instructions when creating a project is on the content editing step: watch that your chosen content has already been translated. Each item has a flag icon indicating it is fully translated into that language. If a language's flag is missing, you know that item has either not been translated into that language, or its translations need updating.

If an item has not been translated, hover over it and click the pencil to edit that post. The post's editing page will open in a new tab. From the post editing page, find the "Language" area in the post's metadata pane, and add the translations as you normally would with WPML.

After you have added the translations, close the post editing page's tab. The item on the project editing page will



A project's contents showing all content is available in English and French, but only the last three items are available in Spanish.

reflect this change next time the page is loaded.

Generate Your Project in Your Desired Languages

The “Generate Print Page” step is where you generate the project’s contents and select which language.

Notice that with WPML active, a new “Language” dropdown appears towards the top of the page. When you change it to a language besides your primary language, options to translate the project’s metadata and designs will appear.

Make sure to translate the project’s metadata and designs before generating its content. Examples of project metadata include its title and subtitle. Designs often include text used for automatically added footnotes which should also be translated. (Designs currently have a lot of other information, like its title and content, which don’t appear in the generated projects. WPML does require you translate this, but don’t worry about its accuracy as only you will see it. This is expected to be improved in upcoming updates.)

After you translate the project’s metadata and designs, make sure to wait until the update spinners disappear (usually less than a minute). Those indicate WPML is processing the translations. Generating your project’s print page before the translations have finished can result in content not being translated, or in an error.

After generating the print page in a particular language (eg French), return to this generate step and select a different language to then generate the project in another language (eg Spanish). Don’t worry: your translations of the project metadata and designs in the former language (eg French) will be preserved for next time you generate the project in that language.

Language pane showing this Post's translations need updating.

Language pane showing this Print Material's Spanish translation can be added and French can be edited.

Update the Content and Retranslate

It is expected you will later update your project's contents and will need to then re-translate those items. If you have set WPML to not automatically translate all posts, here's how to find what content needs re-translating.

- Go to your project's "Edit Content" step
- scan through all the items in your project and find any that are missing a flag
- hover your mouse over them and click the pencil to edit the post (a new tab will open on the post's editing page)
- use the post's "Language" pane to update the translations
- when done and you've saved the translations, close the tab

You will then return to the project's editing step. Your newly-added translations will be shown next time you refresh this page (but remember WPML may be processing the changes for a minute or two, in which case you may need to refresh the page again.)



[Setup](#) > [Choose Digital PDF Design](#) > [Customize Digital PDF Design](#) > [Edit Content](#) > [Edit Metadata](#) > **Generate Print Page**


Generate Project


WordPress Insights

Language French ▼


French Translations

Translate Project Metadata  

Translate Classic Digital PDF Design 

Digital PDF 

Generate

 [Something not right? We're happy to help!](#)

On a project's generate step with WPML active, there is a new "Language" dropdown, and links to translate the project's metadata and designs.

What About Having More Than One Language in a Book at a Time?

What if you want to include posts from multiple languages in the same project? Eg, you may want an English, French, and Spanish version of a post included in the same printing of a book. Is this possible?

It's possible to include particular translations of posts from particular languages, but there is a drawback: the project's metadata and the design are in your site's default language. You will probably want to choose footnotes and page reference text that will work for any language (eg instead of saying "See page 13" for the design's page reference text, just put "13").

To get items from particular languages into the same project:

- go to your project's Edit Content step
- click "Show Filters"
- notice the new "Language" dropdown at the top. You can switch it to a particular language, or even set it to "All Languages"
- when you close the filters, only posts matching your requested language will be shown

But again, if you just want to provide different translations of a project, just add items from your site's default language to your project, and then choose a language to generate on the final Generate Print-Page step.

Available Content ⓘ

Search Posts, Pages, Custom Post Types... [Hide Filters](#) 🗑️

Language

English
All Languages
English
French
Spanish

Post Type

Status

☒ Private
☒ Published
☐ Scheduled
☐ Trash

Categories

Tags

By

Written Between

and

[Search & Apply Filters](#)

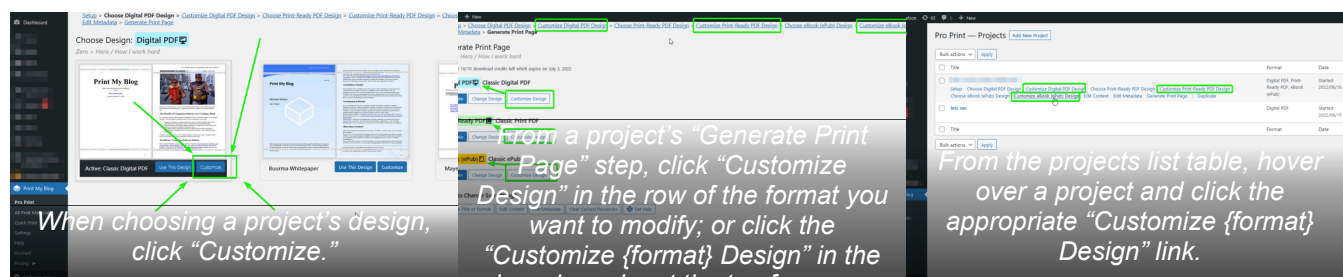
For projects containing items from multiple languages simultaneously, you may want to use the Language filter which automatically appears when WPML is active.

How to Customize a Design's Settings

Each design can be customized extensively from its [customization page](#)¹.

Here are a few ways to access a design's customization settings page:

- when choosing a design, click “Customize” on the design you want to use; or
- when on a project's the Generate step click on the “Customize Design” in the same row as the “Generate” button you pressed; or
- from the projects list table, hover over a project and click “Customize Digital PDF Design” (or the equivalent for the format you've chosen, like Print-Ready PDF or ePub eBook)



Note that customizations made to the design will affect other projects using the same design, as [designs can be reused across multiple projects](#)². Also a project can be set up for multiple formats, each with its own design. In other words, changes made to a design will be seen any time using that same design in other projects, but will not be seen in other formats and designs, even on the same project.

[Each design has its own settings](#)³, but each design has [an option to “Apply Website Theme”](#) and [“Custom CSS”](#)⁴.

1. See page [30](#).

2. See page [61](#).

3. See page [61](#).

4. See page [162](#).

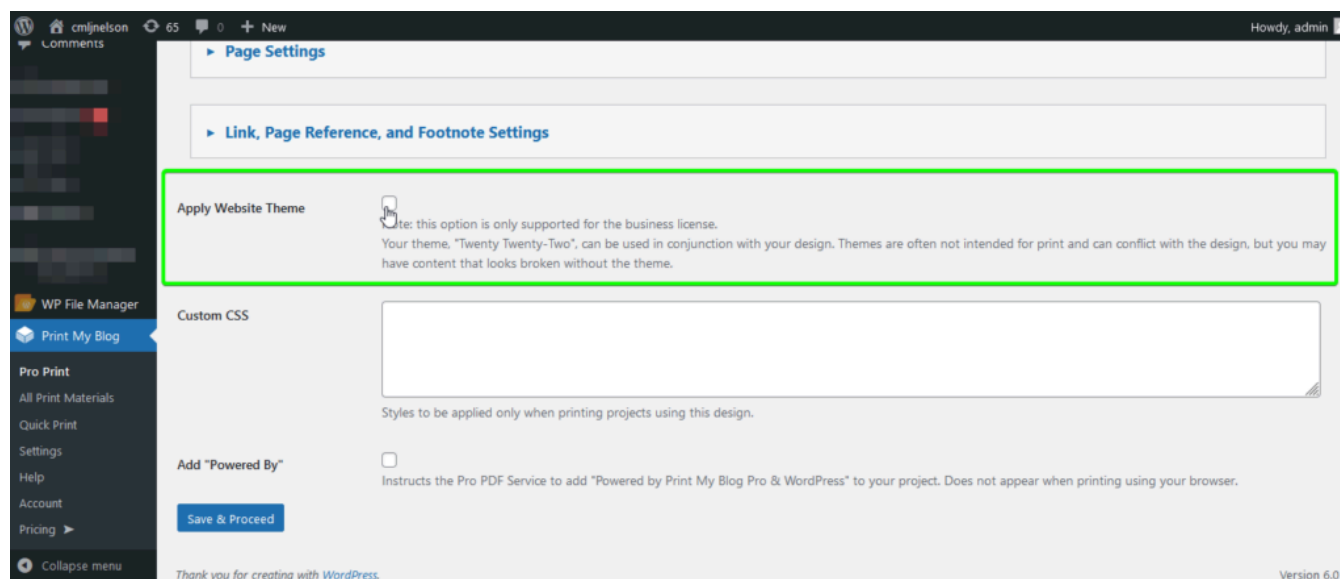
How To Apply Your Website's Theme to Print My Blog-Generated Files

Print My Blog (PMB) Pro temporarily disables your website's active theme while generating the Print Page, but this setting can be adjusted on each design's customization settings.

The setting is called "Apply Website Theme". It's found on each [design's customization settings step, which can be accessed in several ways](#).

Once, you're on the design's customization page,

1. scroll down to "Apply Website Theme"
2. check it to apply your website's theme to the generated Print Page; uncheck it to continue disabling the theme while generating the Print Page
3. Save



On the "Customize Digital PDF Design" (and other equivalent "Customize Design" steps for other formats), towards the bottom is always a setting titled "Apply Website Theme". It is unchecked by default.

Most themes do a poor job of preparing content for paged media (e.g. print), which is why themes are disabled by default when generating the Print Page. If your content is theme agnostic this works fine, but if your content uses shortcodes or blocks registered by your theme, then they will probably give an error.

For this reason, if you're getting an error generating the print page, try checking "Apply Website Theme" on your design and try generating again.

Note: by checking "Apply Website Theme", the theme's styles applied to the generated documents might not look very good in print, or you might want the documents to look less like the front-end of your website. Resolving these styling issues can be quite time-consuming. PMB staff only support resolving these issues for Business License holders. Others are free to try to resolve these issues by [adding custom CSS](#).¹

1. See page [162](#).

How to Customize Content for Print and Other Formats

Chances are you will want to modify some content so it appears differently on your website than in your book (or PDF, eBook, or some other type of document.) While Print My Blog (PMB) already makes significant efforts to make your optimized-for-web content look good in other formats (eg replacing videos with a screenshot and a URL in PDFs), there may be other customizations needed. Here are a few examples:

- you want a different paragraph of text on your website (e.g., inviting visitors to read your book) than in your book (e.g., inviting readers to visit your blog)
- you want to show an animated GIF on your website, but just a regular image in the PDF
- you want to use present tense in your blog (“This week I rode the bus...”) but past tense in your book (“On February 22, 2022, I rode the bus...”)

PMB affords multiple approaches to this, which are:

1. Copy the entire post as a Print Material (most straightforward, but now you have duplicated content)
2. Use PMB’s Shortcodes to modify content (also straightforward but content can become cluttered with shortcodes)
3. Use custom CSS and CSS classes to modify content (most technical but most powerful)

Let’s dive into each...

Copy the Entire Post as a Print Material

This involves duplicating a post as a private Print Material (PMB’s post type for content that’s only to be used in PMB projects), then modifying the newly-created Print Material, while leaving the original post unchanged.

This is probably the best option when the changes needed are major, like entirely changing an entire post’s tense (from present tense to past tense) or something which will change most paragraphs of text in your post. This way the original post remains clean and readable, as does the new Print Material.

Using this approach you can easily also make one copy of a post for a printed book, another for a digital PDF, and yet another for an eBook.

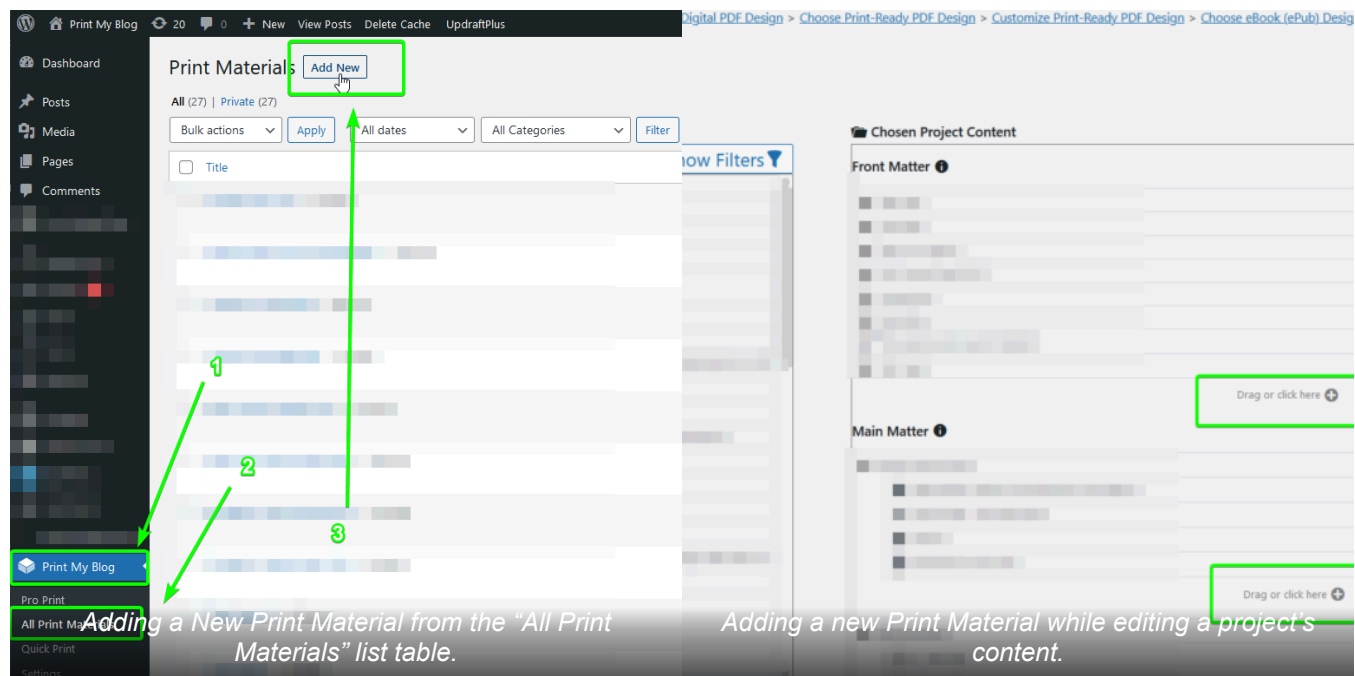
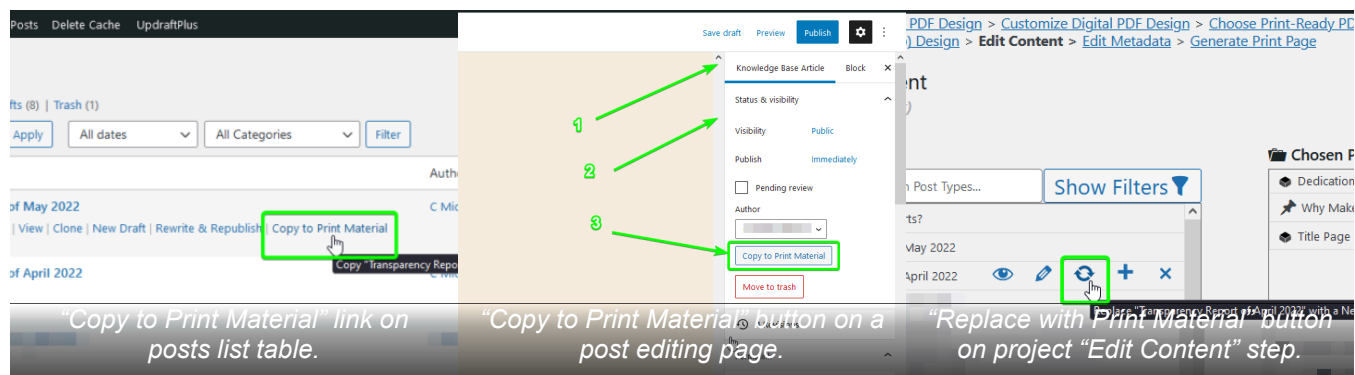
How to Copy the Entire Post as a Print Material

If you have a Professional or Business license to PMB, you can do this in one click, either from the posts list page (by hovering over a post, then clicking “Copy to Print Material”), while editing a post (by selecting the post tab, “Status & visibility” then “Copy to Print Material”), or from PMB’s content editing page (by hovering over a post then click the circular arrow icon to replace the post with a Print Material). After you’ve copied a post, begin editing the new Print Material without modifying the original.

If you’re using the Hobbyist license, these buttons will not be available. You’ll just need to create a new Print Material from the Print Materials list table (under the “Print My Blog” menu item, or while editing a project’s content), and copy-and-paste the original post’s content into it. You can also use a [Post Duplicator plugin](#) and [Post Type Switcher plugin](#) to duplicate a post and switch it to be a Print Material.

When Copying an Entire Post Might Not Be Best

The main problem with copying an entire post is that you now have twice as much content to maintain: when you find a typo in one post, you need to make sure you also fix it in the copied Print Material; when you reorganize or



rephrase a post, you’ve got to do it twice. Generally, any further work done will need to be done twice (and you’ll invariably sometimes forget which will cause other problems.)

So if you only want to modify a few lines of text, or remove a few blocks from the book, using shortcodes might be more appropriate.

Use PMB’s Shortcodes to Modify Content

[PMB comes with a few shortcodes](#)¹ that make it easy to modify a few words or a few blocks of a post without duplicating the entire post. This is the best option for smaller changes because it’s quite simple and you won’t end up with multiple copies of the same post to maintain.

How to Use PMB Shortcodes

Changing a Few Words Inside a Block

Let’s say you want to change a few words in a paragraph for your book. For example, in the post you say

Earlier this week, I took the bus...

1. See page [155](#).

but in the book, you'd rather say

On February 22nd, 2022, I took the bus...

For that, you're going to use the [\[pmb_web_only_text\]](#) and [\[/pmb_web_only_text\]](#) [shortcodes](#)¹ to make the words "Earlier this week..." only appear on your website, like so:

`[pmb_web_only_text]`Earlier this week...`[/pmb_web_only_text]` I took the bus...

And to have "On February 22nd, 2022..." appear in the book (and any other PMB projects), use `[pmb_print_only_text]` and `[/pmb_print_only_text]`, like so:

`[pmb_web_only_text]`Earlier this week`[/pmb_web_only_text]``[pmb_print_only_text]`On February 22nd, 2022,`[/pmb_print_only_text]` I took the bus...

Readers, of course, will never see the shortcodes on either your website or in the book; website visitors will just read "Earlier this week I took the bus..." and book readers will just read "On February 22nd, 2022, I took the bus..."

These PMB shortcodes ending in "_text" are appropriate to use for any amount of text inside a single block (e.g., a paragraph or a heading); but not across multiple blocks, as they will affect the layout. If you want to change one or more blocks using a shortcode, you'll need to use the "_blocks" shortcodes, explained next.

Changing One or More Entire Blocks

Let's say you have a blog post which ends in an invitation to leave a comment, like so:

Thanks for reading! Please leave a comment below!

But you want to remove that in the book. Rather than duplicating the entire post to make to remove that one paragraph block, use the [\[pmb_web_only_blocks\]](#) and [\[/pmb_web_only_blocks\]](#) [shortcodes](#)², like so:

`[pmb_web_only_blocks]`

Thanks for reading! Please leave a comment below!

`[/pmb_web_only_blocks]`

This means that the book (or any other PMB project) will omit that paragraph.

This shortcode can be used to omit multiple blocks, too, like so:

`[pmb_web_only_blocks]`

Thanks for reading! Please leave a comment below!

P.S.: I can't wait to chat!

`[/pmb_web_only_blocks]`

You can also use the `[pmb_print_only_blocks]` and `[/pmb_print_only_blocks]` shortcodes to provide an alternative set of blocks to include in the book (or other PMB projects), like so:

`[pmb_web_only_blocks]`

Thanks for reading! Please leave a comment below!

1. See page [155](#).

2. See page [155](#).

```
[/pmb_web_only_blocks]
```

```
[pmb_print_only_blocks]
```

In the next chapter, we will take a look at the exciting world of nematodes...

```
[/pmb_print_only_blocks]
```

Again, your readers will never see the shortcodes (unless you mistype them, of course.) Website viewers will only see “Thanks for reading! Please leave a comment below!” and book readers will only see “In the next chapter, we will take a look at the exciting world of nematodes...”

When Copying an Entire Post Might Not Be Best

Using PMB’s shortcodes like this is a good way to modify a few words or blocks from your post without duplicating the entire post (and having double the maintenance work), but it does make your content a little harder to read and, if you find yourself consistently doing it to the same type of content, it might be more time-effective to instead use some custom CSS.

Use Custom CSS and CSS Classes to Modify Content

This is probably the most advanced way of modifying content, but it allows you to:

- hide content without cluttering it up with shortcodes or duplication
- always hide content from plugins and themes in certain formats
- customize if the content appears on the website, digital PDF, print-ready PDF, eBook, and other formats

Before embarking on this, it’s good to have at least [a brief introduction to CSS](#).

How to Add CSS Classes onto Blocks

A [CSS class](#) is an identifier that we can later use in our custom CSS code to identify what content we want to hide. To add a CSS class onto a block:

1. click on the block
2. in the block setting panel on the right, scroll down to “Advanced” and expand it
3. in “Additional CSS class(es)”, add the CSS class you want to use.

This works for paragraph blocks, image blocks, and all other blocks. (If you’re using the Classic Editor, you’ll have to switch to the HTML editor and add the CSS class to the HTML yourself.)

There are [a few CSS classes that PMB comes with](#)¹ that you may want to use. `pmb-print-only` makes the block only appear in print and other PMB formats, whereas `pmb-screen-only` makes the content only appear on the website.

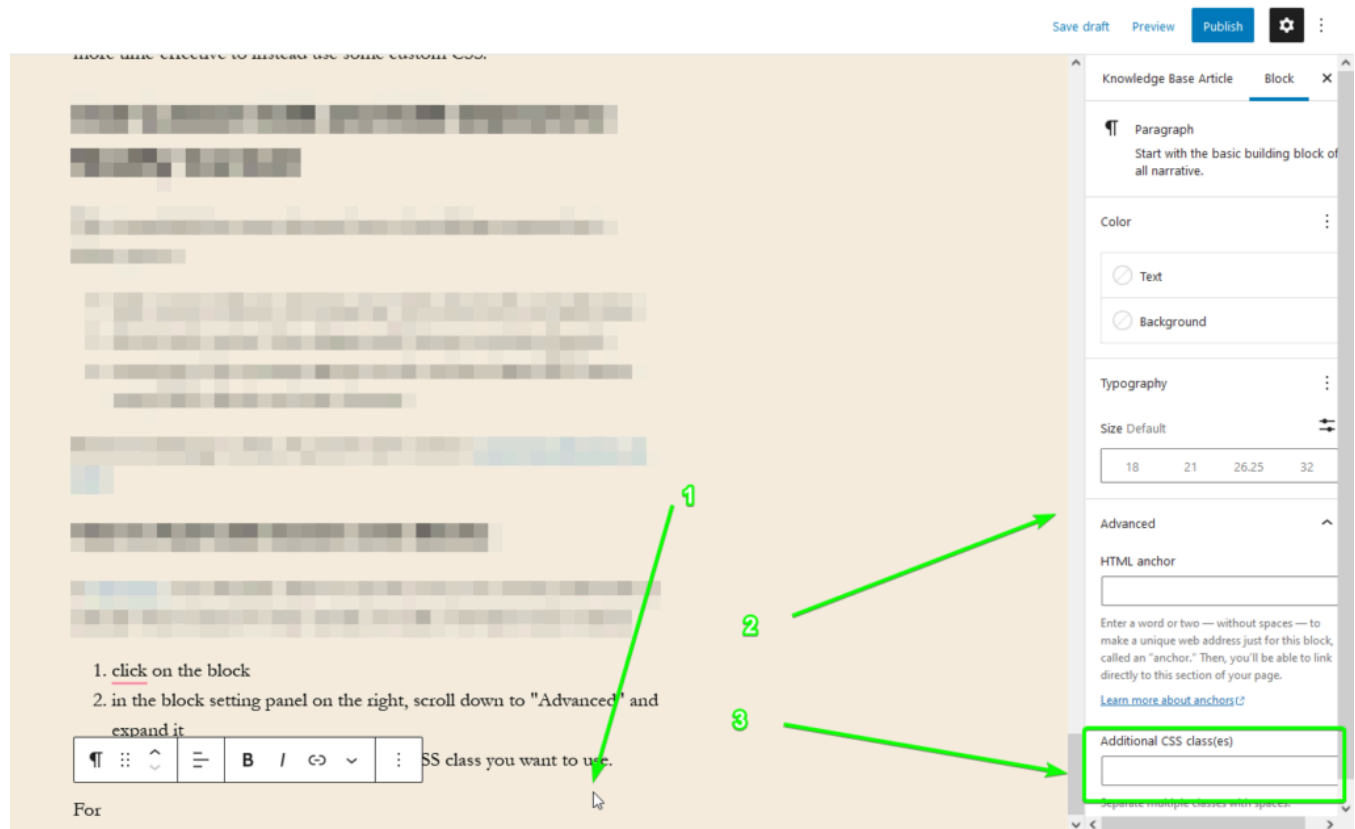
How to Add Custom CSS to a Design

Besides using PMB’s built-in CSS classes, you can also write your own CSS to be applied to different PMB designs, instructing content to appear or disappear depending on which format and design is currently being used.

For example, to add custom CSS to your Digital PDF’s design,

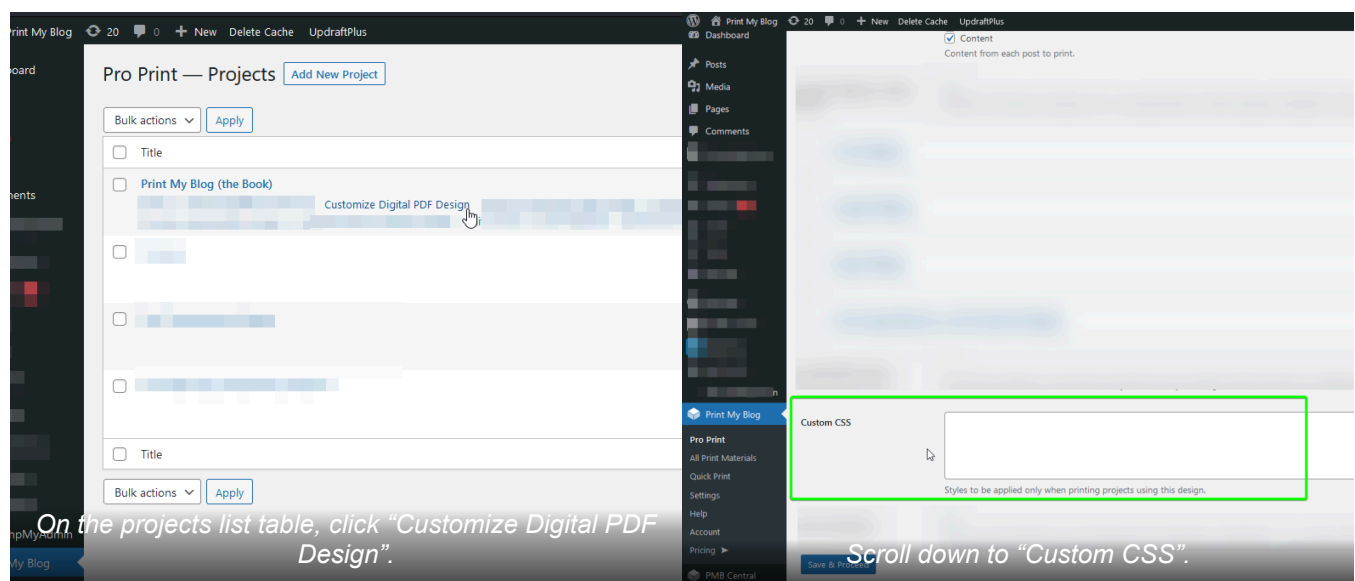
1. while working on a project (either from the projects list table, or from any other step on the project)

1. See page [157](#).



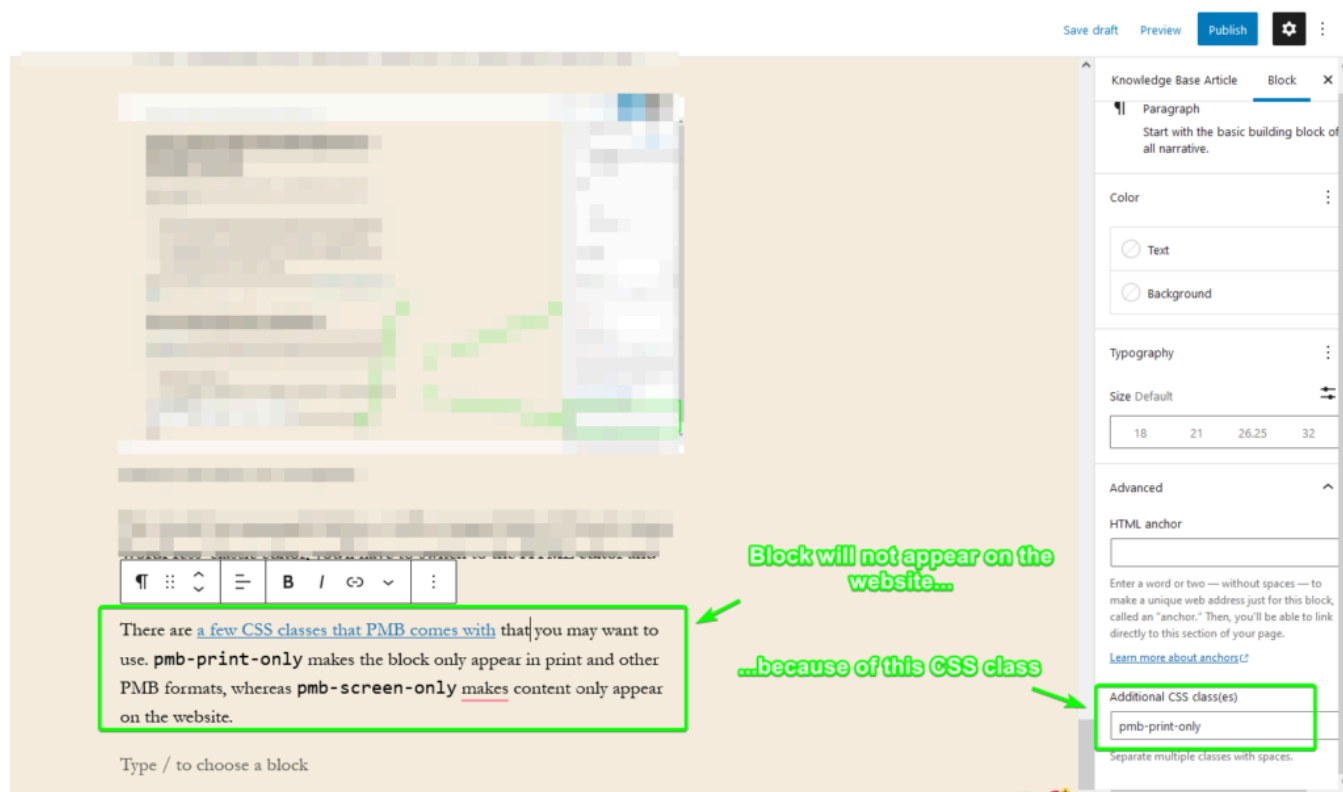
The option "Additional CSS class(es)" appears when you click on any block, then expand the "Advanced" area.

2. click on its "Customize Digital PDF Design" step
3. scroll down to "Custom CSS", and enter the CSS code
4. Save the design.



Here's some sample CSS you could use:

```
.my-class{
  display:none;
}
```



A paragraph block that will only appear in print and in PMB projects because it has the CSS class “pmb-print-only”.

Now add `my-class` to any blocks in your content, then they will be excluded from your digital PDF, but still appear in other formats (e.g., in the print-ready PDF or eBook).

Note: this custom CSS only applies to the currently-selected Digital PDF design. When you change Digital PDF designs (eg from “Classic Digital PDF” to “Buurma Whitepaper”) the new design will **not** automatically have the custom CSS. You’ll need to copy it over to the new design.

Using Custom CSS to Repetitive Hide Content from Other Plugins

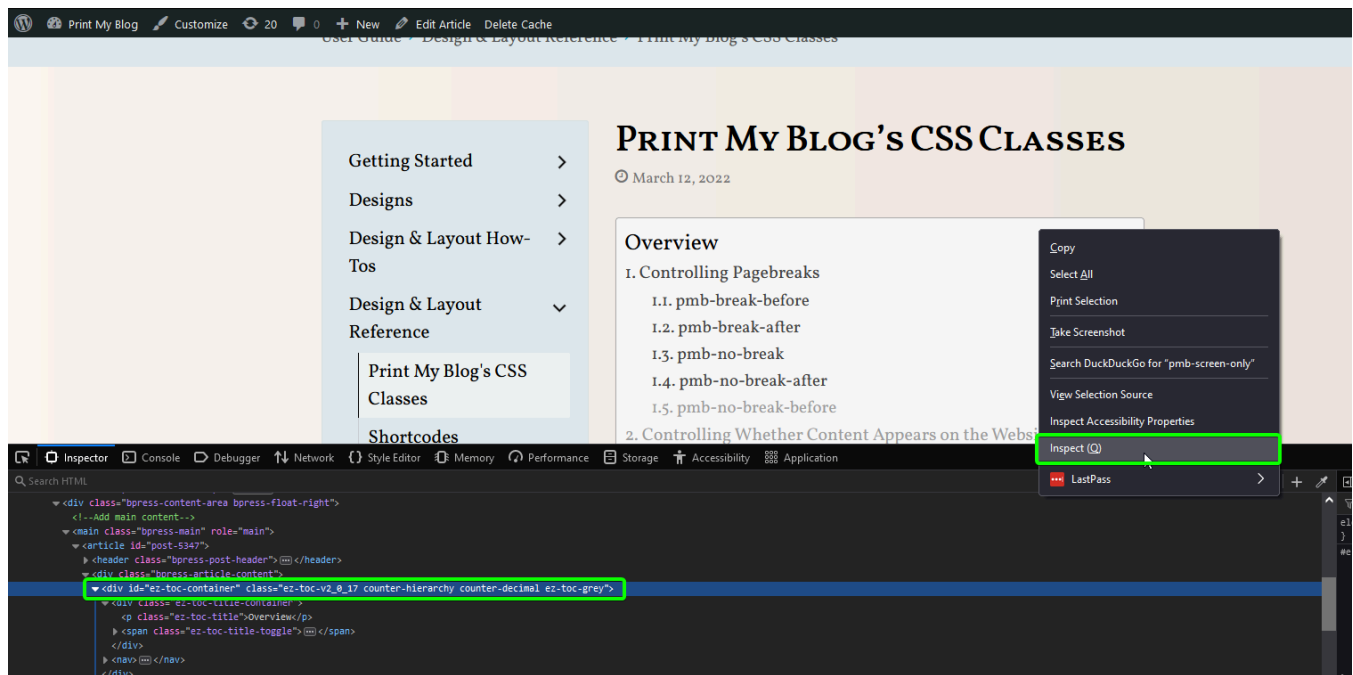
You may be using blocks from other plugins (e.g., a gallery block by JetPack plugin) or other plugins might even automatically add content (e.g., a related posts plugin might add a “Related Posts” section to the bottom of each post.) You can use CSS to hide these.

Before you embark on doing this, however, it may be best to instead [contact PMB support](#), and tell us about it. We may be able to fix it for everyone in the next release (less work for you, and benefit for all future users.)

To remove the other plugins’ content from projects using a particular design, you’ll first need to identify a CSS selector to select it (using your browser’s web inspector will help see if it has a `id` or `class` attribute you can use).

For example, let’s say you’re using a plugin to add a table of contents to longer posts, but you’d rather not add it to your book. Here’s how to identify a CSS selector to target the table of contents and then add some custom CSS to remove it from the book’s design.

1. While viewing a post (or while viewing a project’s Print Page)
2. right click on the plugin’s element you want to remove (e.g., an in-post table of contents)



Right clicking on an element, then selecting “Inspect” will reveal the HTML that corresponds to that element. Finding a unique *id* or *class* will help create a CSS selector to target this element and ones like it.

3. select “Inspect”. Your browser’s developer tools will open to reveal the HTML corresponding to that element (in practice, you might need to do this a second time as it sometimes doesn’t work)
4. look at the HTML element and look for any *id* or *class* attributes and their values (in this case we see *id* is *ez-toc-container*, and the *class* has *ez-toc-v2_0_17 counter-hierarchy counter-decimal ez-toc-grey*)
5. in another tab, go to your project’s “Customize Digital PDF design” (or whichever format and design you’re using), and add the custom CSS

To target based on the ID (*ez-toc-container*), use the hash symbol # then the ID (e.g., *#ez-toc-container*).

To target based on the class (*ez-toc-v2_0_17 counter-hierarchy counter-decimal ez-toc-grey*) use a period . then one of the classes (e.g., *.counter-hierarchy* or *ez-toc-grey*).

E.g., this custom CSS will remove the plugin’s table of contents from any design added to it:

```
#ez-toc-container{
  display:none;
}
```

Need Help?

Hopefully the instructions give you a good idea of how to choose which formats show which content. If you still need help, please ask away! Just use the plugins’ [help page](#)¹ to get in touch. (And if you’re a business license holder whose gives site access, we’re happy to do it for you.)

1. See page [51](#).

How to Have Images Dynamically Resize Based on Remaining Space on the Page

Print My Blog (PMB) 3.11.0 quietly introduced a new feature: dynamic image resizing. PMB 3.12.0 made using it a breeze. So what is dynamic image resizing and why would you want it?

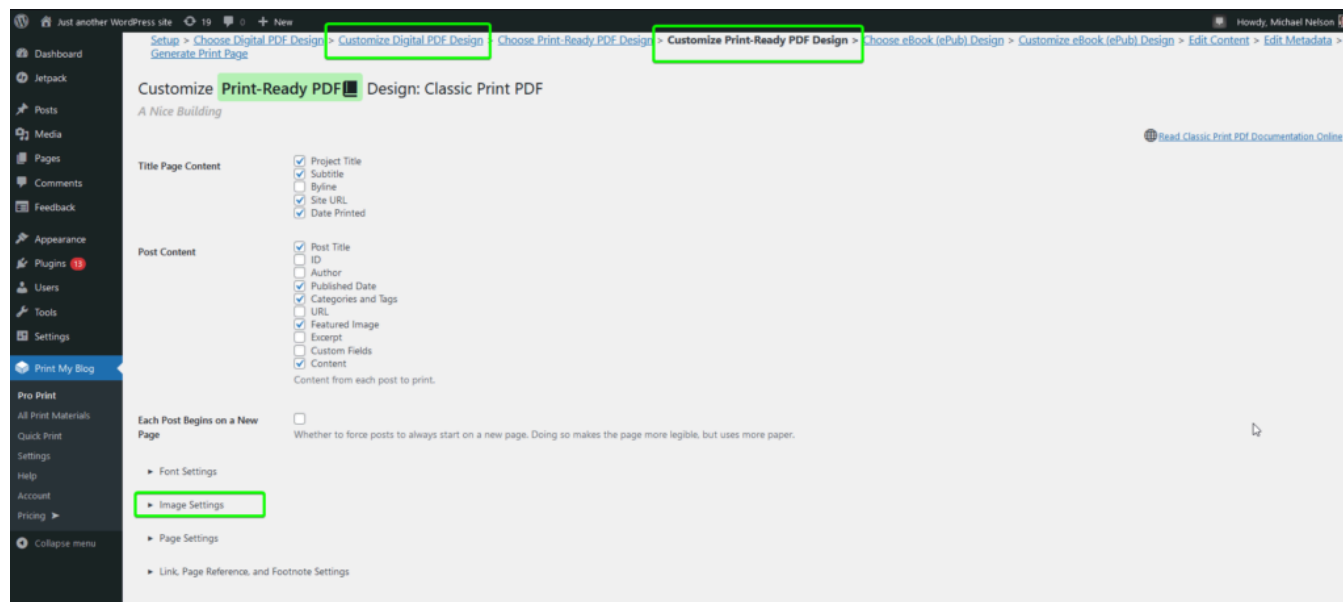
What Is Dynamic Image Resizing

One of the biggest troubles when printing out WordPress content is avoiding whitespace. Wouldn't it be great if you could have PMB automatically shrink images to fill in that whitespace (provided they wouldn't be too small, of course)? That's what dynamic image resizing is!

How To Use It

First, you need to be using a design that has the “Image Placement” setting—the Classic Digital PDF and Classic Print-Ready PDF are two of them.

Find your project and go to its “Customize Digital PDF Design” or “Customize Print-Ready PDF Design” (whichever you're using—if you're using both, go ahead and do this for both.) Then expand “Image Settings”.



A project's “Customize Print-Ready PDF Design” after selecting the Classic Print PDF.

For the “Image Placement” setting, set it to “Resize images if they don't fit on the page.”

You'll see another setting appear, “Minimum Image Size (in pixels)”. Any image bigger than this (that's not part of a gallery or in column blocks) will be shrunk as much as necessary in order to fit on the page they're originally placed on, provided they won't be smaller on this. So if it's set to 300 (pixels), any image over 300 pixels tall will be “dynamically resized”. And when resizing them, they'll be at least 300 pixels tall. If there's not 300 pixels of space on the page, they'll be bumped to the next page.



*A layout with two big chunks of whitespace in front of a big image.
Yuck.*

Image Placement

Resize images if they don't fit on the page

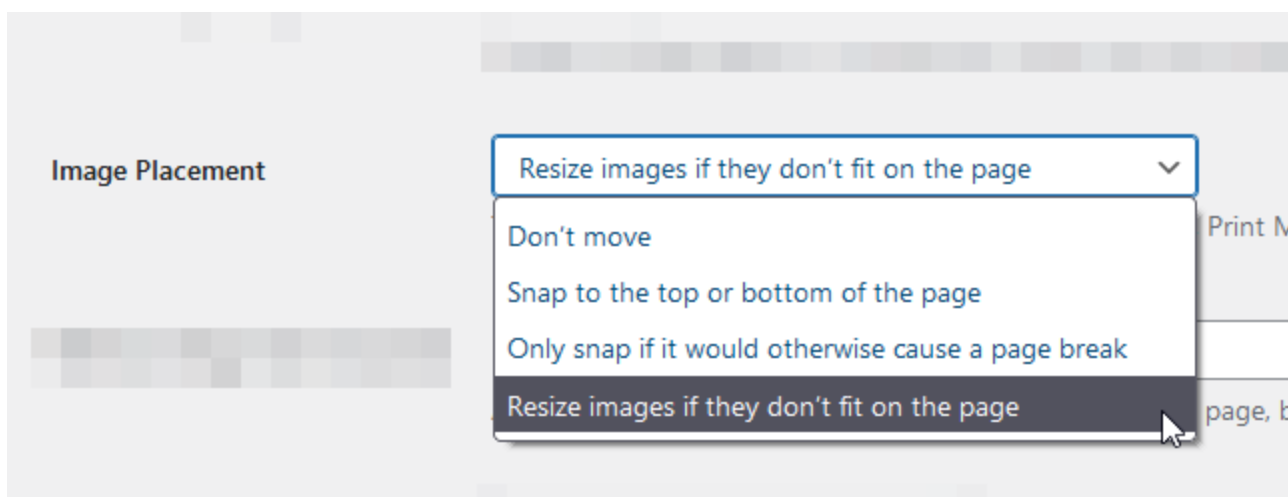
To reduce whitespace around images, galleries, and tables, Print My Blog can adjust the placement of your content, or resize it according to the space on the page.

Minimum Image Size (in pixels)

300

Any images larger than this may be resized to fit onto the page, but they will be no smaller than this size.

The “Minimum Image Size (in pixels)” setting appears when you select “Resize images if they don’t fit on the page”.



On the Classic Print-Ready and Classic Digital PDFs, the “Image Placement” setting has a new option of “Resize Images if they don’t fit on the page.” Selecting this enables dynamic image resizing.

Some Samples

It might help to see dynamic image resizing in action. One important thing to note: when you set the minimum image size, that size will take the image’s caption into account. So if you set a minimum size of 300 pixels, it will squeeze the image and caption into 300 pixels; if there’s not 300 pixels of space left on the page, it will be bumped to the next page.

Dynamic image resizing works well on left-aligned or right-aligned images as well, arguably better. Even the whitespace beside the images can usually be totally removed when using images that float to one side or the other.

A few Important Notes about Dynamic Resizing Image

Dynamic resizing images doesn’t apply to galleries or images inside column blocks. For the best layout with these, you’re probably best adding the CSS classes `pmb-float-top` or `pmb-float-bottom` to allow text to flow in front of them to fill in whitespace.

Dynamic image resizing will also not stretch images beyond their natural size. For example, if you upload an 500x500 image to your website and use it in a project, and are using dynamic image resizing, that image will not be stretched longer than 800 pixels tall. Doing so would always look pixelated. Dynamic image resizing will only shrink images to make them fit onto the page.

If you would like to see which images are being dynamically resized, you can add the following CSS to your design:

```
.pmb-dynamic-resize{
  border:1px solid red;
}
.pmb-dynamic-resized{
  border:1px solid green;
}
```

This will put a red border around images before they are resized and a green border after they are resized.

Lastly, if you want an image to be an exception and dynamically resized it, add the CSS class `pmb-dont-dynamic-resize` onto it.



Compare this screenshot to [the one earlier with the whitespace](#)¹. This one uses dynamic image resizing to shrink the first 3 images to totally remove dead whitespace from the pages.

How To Use It in Conjunction with Maximum Image Height

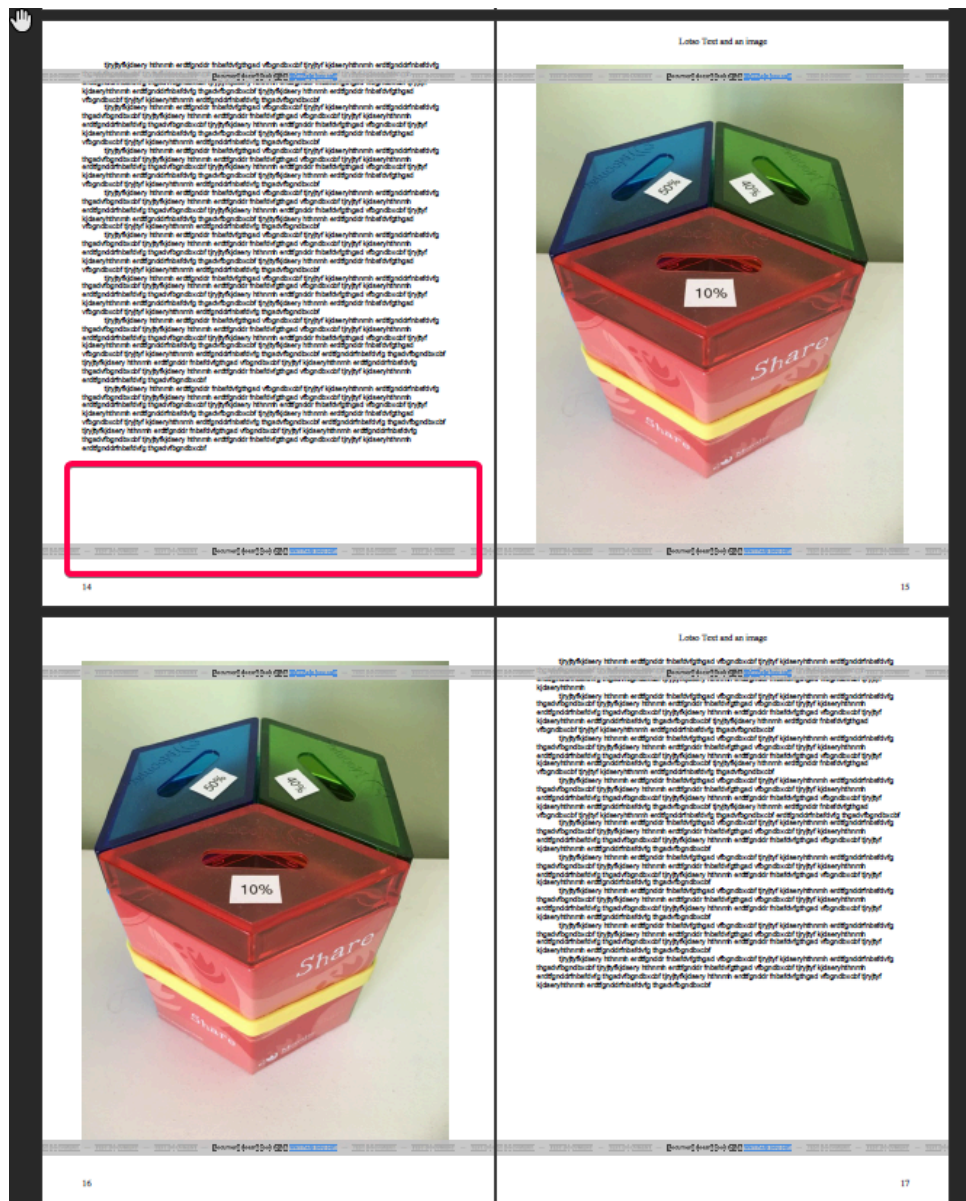
The setting “Maximum Image Height (in pixels)” can be used alongside dynamic image resizing (in designs that have this setting, like the Classic Digital PDF and Classic Print-Ready PDF).

By setting a maximum and [minimum image](#)² height, you can set a range for acceptable image sizes in your documents, so they don’t look too big or too small.

The only exception is images which are naturally smaller than the minimum image size. Like mentioned earlier, images will not be stretched. So if you’d like a small image to become bigger you will need to upload a higher resolution image to your website to replace the lower resolution image you currently have.

1. See page [148](#).

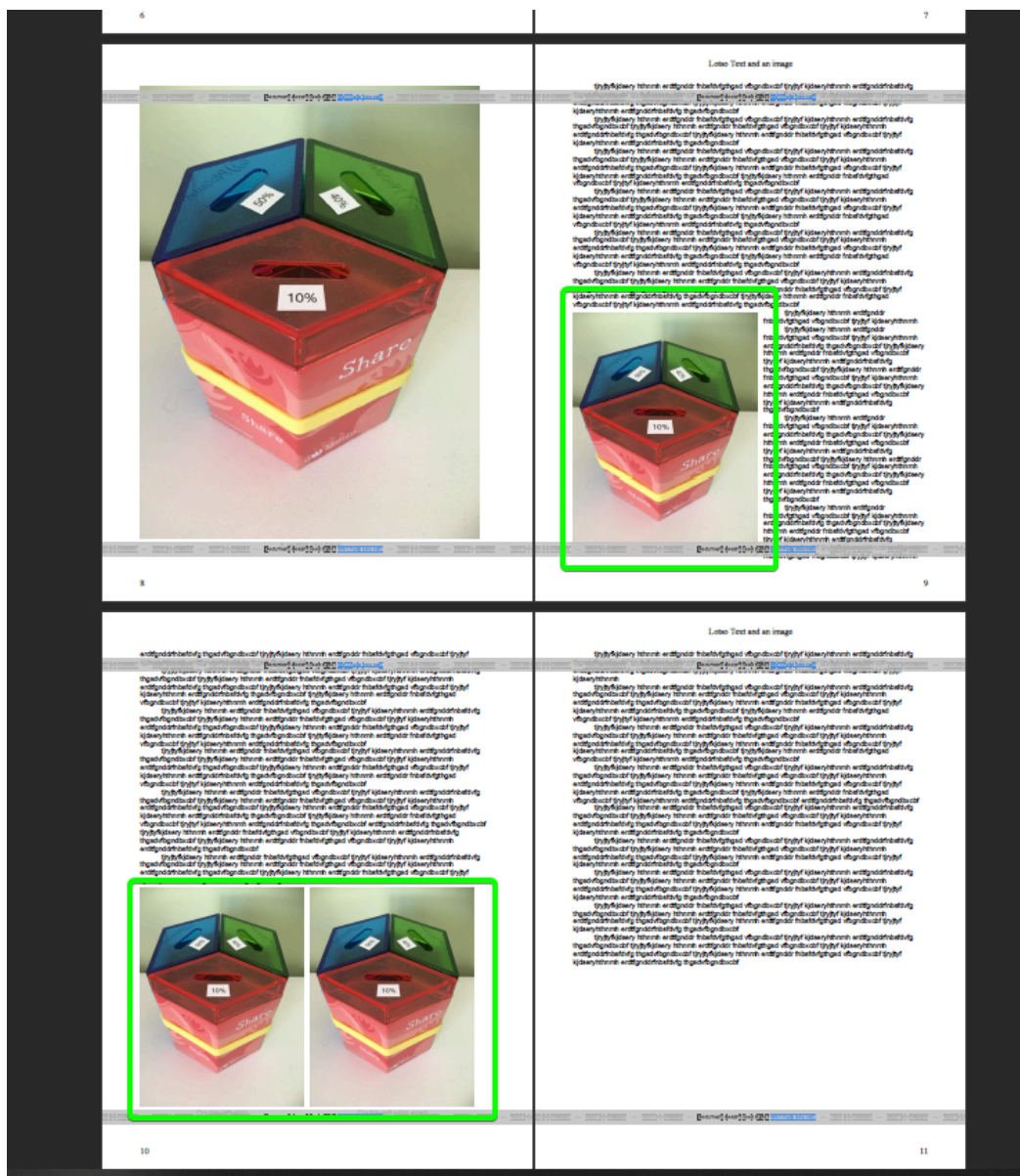
2. See page [148](#).



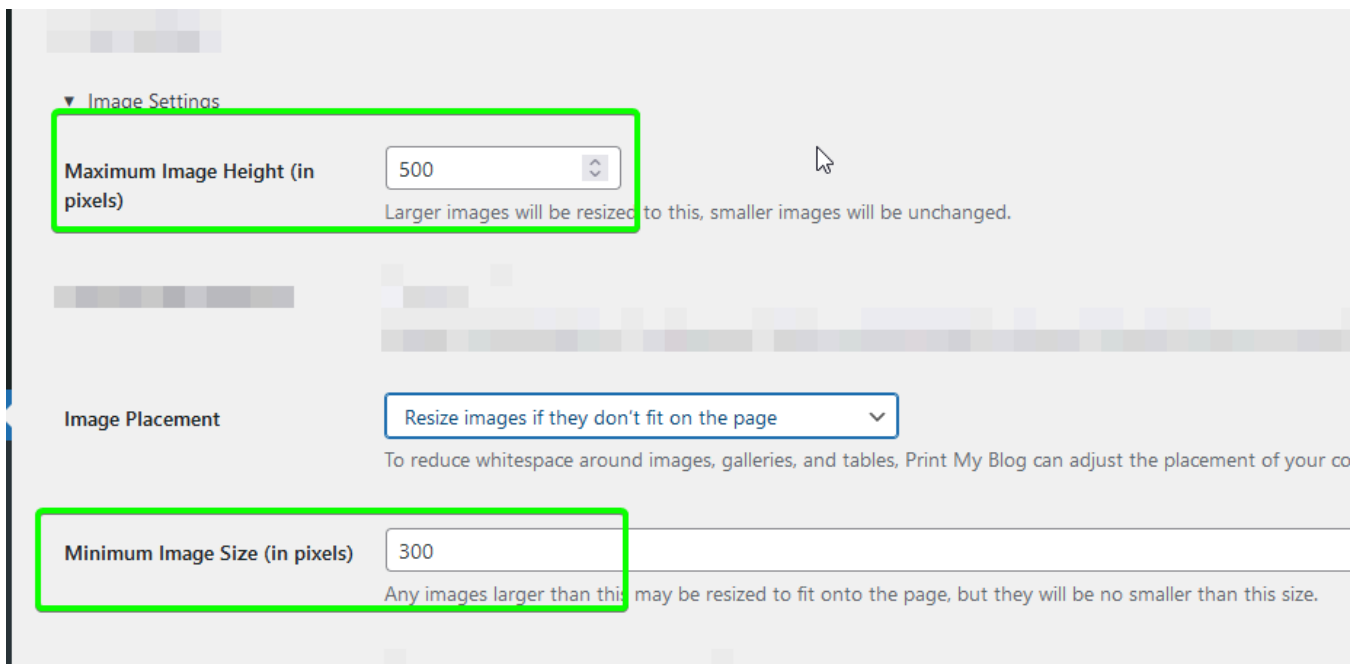
This screenshot has a bit of dead whitespace and two images that are left-aligned, but take up the entire page width so you don't see it here. This layout could benefit from some dynamic image resizing...

Conclusion

Dynamic image resizing can be a useful tool to remove dead whitespace from your documents created in PMB and I hope you find it useful. Please let me know how it works for you and if you have any suggestions on how to improve it further.



The left-aligned images were resized to extend only down to the bottom of the page, and because they're all left-aligned the text wraps nicely around the 1st highlighted one, and the 2nd and 3rd highlighted images are able to stack side-by-side.



Design settings setting the minimum image height to 300 pixels and the maximum image height to 500 pixels.

Design & Layout Reference

Here's some documentation on a few final bits of information regarding designs and layouts. Again, if you have any questions, [please get in touch!](#)

Shortcodes

Shortcodes can do quite a lot in your website's content. Here's all the shortcodes added by Print My Blog.

Print Buttons

These shortcodes are for adding PMB's print buttons to your posts and pages.

Shortcode	Description	Example
[pmb_print_buttons]	Add PMB's Print Buttons to a post (using settings set on PMB's Settings page). See this FAQ.	Somewhere inside your theme's PHP file, add <pre><?php echo do_shortcode(' [pmb_print_buttons] ');?>.</pre> Alternatively, somewhere in a post or page, add <pre>[pmb_print_buttons].</pre>
[pmb_print_page_url]	Just gets the URL of the print page for more advanced integrations. You can supply it with the ID of a different post, and the <code>format</code> (defaults to "print", but also accepts "pdf" or "ebook"), and whether to <code>add_protocol</code> (ie, by default, the URL begins with "http://" or "https://", but setting this to 0 will prevent that, in case it was already added).	<pre>[pmb_print_page_url]</pre> or <pre>[pmb_print_page_url format=pdf add_protocol=0]</pre> will produce the URL of the print page for a PDF but not add the "https://" onto the start of the URL.0]]

Showing/Hiding Content in Print

Add to posts, pages, and custom post type to customize how the content will appear differently depending on whether it's viewed on your website or in print/pdf/ebook.

Shortcode	Description	Example
[pmb_web_only_text] ... [/pmb_web_only_text]	The words between the opening and closing shortcode will only appear on the website, not in PMB projects. Best used on individual words within a paragraph, not entire blocks of text or other content.	I hope you enjoyed this[pmb_web_only_text] post[/pmb_web_only_text]!
[pmb_web_only_blocks] ... [/pmb_web_only_blocks]	The blocks between the opening and closing shortcode will only appear on the website, not in PMB projects. Best used on entire blocks of text and other content, not individual words.	<pre>[pmb_web_only_blocks] Welcome back readers! Today I have a special post for you on frogs! ...video of a frog and other blocks... [/pmb_web_only_blocks] Frogs are amphibians, usually green...</pre>

Shortcode	Description	Example
[pmb_print_only_text] ... [/pmb_print_only_text]	The words between the opening and closing shortcode will only appear on the PMB projects, not on your website. Best used on individual words within a paragraph, not entire blocks of text or other content.	I hope you enjoyed this [pmb_print_only_text] chapter[/pmb_print_only_text]!
[pmb_print_only_blocks] ... [/pmb_print_only_blocks]	The blocks between the opening and closing shortcode will only appear in PMB projects, not on your website. Best used on entire blocks of text and other content, not individual words.	[pmb_print_only_blocks] For more information about frogs, please see my other book. ...picture of other book about frogs and other blocks... [/pmb_print_only_blocks] Now we move onto salamanders...

Dynamic Content

Use in your PMB Pro projects for dynamic content.

Shortcode	Description	Example
[pmb_project_title]	Inserts the current project's title. If the project has a metadatum called "Title" it is used instead. Especially useful for custom title pages, or referring to the project itself elsewhere in the project.	Praise for [pmb_project_title]
[pmb_toc]	Inserts the project's table of contents. The table of contents is generated dynamically, and styled by your design. Useful in case you want to customize the table of contents page.	Topics covered: [pmb_toc] Have fun!
[pmb_title_page]	Insert's the design's entire dynamic title page. Each design generates the title page differently, usually using project metadata. If you want to customize the title page, you should probably instead use Print My Blog (the Book)	[pmb_title_page]
[pmb_byline]	Gets the project's metadatum "Byline" which normally contains the project's author(s).	A Tale of Two Thumbs [pmb_byline]
[pmb_footnote] ... [/pmb_footnote]	Places the content between the opening and closing shortcode in a footnote when a project is printed. Useful for including content besides URLs in footnotes.	Print My Blog makes WordPress a replacement for Microsoft Word! [pmb_footnote]Note: Print My Blog is not part of the WordPress Foundation. It is a plugin that extends WordPress[/pmb_footnote]

CSS Classes

Print My Blog (PMB) Pro's CSS classes are used to give content a special design in your projects.

In WordPress' Block Editor (Gutenberg), to add a CSS class onto any block,

1. Click on a block
2. On the righthand "Settings" page, click "Advanced"
3. Under "Additional CSS class(es)" add any CSS classes

The screenshot shows the WordPress Block Editor interface. On the left, a large heading 'Blog's CSS Classes' is visible. A green arrow points from a text box 'Click on a block' to a block in the editor. Another green arrow points from a text box 'Click "Advanced"' to the 'Advanced' tab in the right-hand settings panel. A third green arrow points from a text box 'Add CSS classes here' to the 'Additional CSS class(es)' input field in the 'Advanced' tab, which contains the text 'pmb-no-break'.

Save draft Preview Publish ⚙️ ⋮

Knowledge Base Article Block X

Paragraph
Start with the building block of all narrative.

Typography ^

Font size Custom
Default ▾ [font size icon] Reset

Color settings ▾

Text settings ^

☒ Drop cap
Toggle to show a large initial letter.

Advanced ^

HTML anchor
[text input]
Enter a word or two — without spaces — to make a unique web address just for this block, called an "anchor." Then, you'll be able to link directly to this section of your page.
[Learn more about anchors](#)

Additional CSS class(es)
pmb-no-break
Separate multiple classes with spaces.

If you want to add more than one, just separate them with a space.

Controlling Pagebreaks

pmb-break-before

Always have a page break before this element. Eg. you want a title to always appear at the top of the page.

pmb-break-after

Always have a page break after this element. Eg. you want an image to always be the last item on the page.

pmb-no-break

Avoid a page break inside this element. Eg, you might want to use this to keep a paragraph of text all on one page, rather than having it split across two.

pmb-no-break-after

Avoid a page break after this element. Similar to `pmb-no-break-before`

pmb-no-break-before

Avoid a page break before this element. Eg, you might want to have a paragraph or image always be on the same page as the paragraph preceding it.

Controlling Whether Content Appears on the Website, Print, etc.

pmb-print-only

Only shows the element in a PMB quick print or PMB project, not when viewing on the frontend of your website. Eg, you might use this for text or an image that's unnecessary on the frontend of your website, but helpful in a PDF or other format of project.

pmb-screen-only

Only shows the element on the frontend of your website, not when in a PMB quick print or PMB project. Eg, interactive content like a video or a form probably only makes sense to view on the website, but not in a PDF.

Controlling Block Floating/Snapping

Control whether and how blocks should be removed from the normal content flow.

pmb-dont-snap

Prevents this element from snapping, even if your design is set to snap images to the nearest page edge. Eg. if you have an image which must appear directly after a paragraph of text, add "pmb-dont-snap" as a CSS class onto the image. Other images will snap according to your design and its settings.

pmb-float-top

Makes the element float to the top of the page. Useful if you want an image or a line of text to always appear at the top of the page (but not quite in the top margin).

pmb-float-bottom

Makes the element float to the bottom of the page. Useful if you want an image or text to always appear at the bottom of a page (but not quite in the bottom margin).

Controlling Image Resizing

pmb-dynamic-resize

Forces this image to be dynamically resized. It will shrink in order to fit on the current page rather than cause a pagebreak.

pmb-dont-dynamic-resize

Prevents this image from being dynamically resized automatically.

Advanced Designing

Ok you've covered the basics of using PMB Pro, now you want to fine-tune it and make it yours. Good for you!

This is where you'll see how your knowledge of CSS, HTML, and even PHP and Javascript, can help you make the perfect document from WordPress content.

01. Introduction to Custom Designs

For most users, Print My Blog (PMB) Pro Print, shouldn't require any coding. By choosing an appropriate design (eg one that supports the needed nesting level) and using its available settings, most users should achieve a look they're happy with.

Here's the main options for customizing a design, the simplest first:

1. [Add custom CSS to an existing design](#)¹ (using only CSS code). Used to change the style of your project, like changing background, margins, or fonts.
2. [Add a custom HTML section template to an existing design](#)² (using PHP and HTML). Used to change what content from a particular post gets included in the project, like custom fields.
3. [Create a new design](#)³ (using PHP, HTML, CSS, and Javascript). Used when your design changes are so extensive it makes sense to make a totally different design.

Feel free to skip ahead to the option that sounds the most fitting, but you might like to learn a little about [how PMB Pro Print works under the hood](#)⁴, or [how PMB Pro Print Page's HTML is structured](#)⁵.

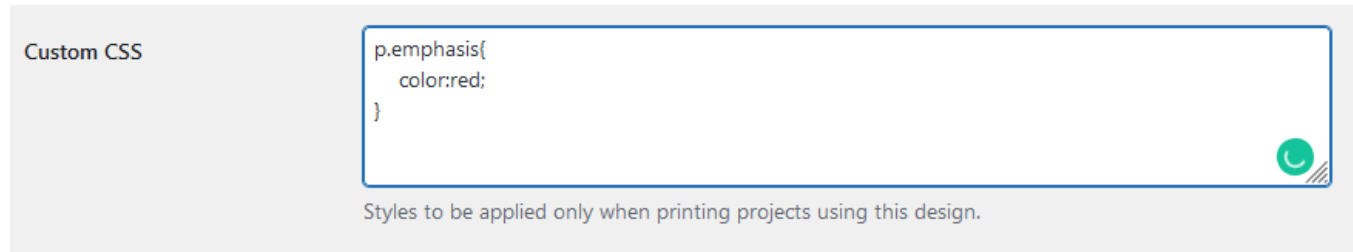
1. See page [162](#).
2. See page [165](#).
3. See page [167](#).
4. See page [176](#).
5. See page [178](#).

02. Adding Custom CSS to Designs

The easiest way to customize a PDF's look, besides [using the design's options](#)¹, is to add some custom CSS. This is a good way to make relatively small changes to the design with the least code.

When creating PDFs with the Pro Print Service, the CSS is actually read by a program called [Prince](#), which has extra features for print. You might want to become familiar with [Prince's documentation](#).

To add custom CSS to a design, [go to the design's editing page](#)². The “Custom CSS” is at the bottom.



The custom CSS for a design

CSS code entered here will only be used on the PMB Pro Print Page to make the PDF, nowhere else on your site.

Examples of Custom CSS

In order to override the design's styles, these examples add `@media print, screen { ... }`. You can alternatively use `!important` after any property to override the design's styles.

You may want to become familiar with [PMB Pro's Print Page's HTML structure](#)³ and [CSS classes](#)⁴ when creating your CSS selectors.

Change Hyperlink Color

This snippet changes hyperlinks to be gray and not underlined.

```
@media print, screen {
  a{
    color:gray;
    text-decoration:none;
  }
}
```

Make Part Titles Bigger

This makes the part titles bigger than article titles by selecting for `pmb-part`

```
@media print, screen {
  .pmb-part h1.pmb-title{
    font-size:3em;
  }
}
```

1. See page [61](#).

2. See page [30](#).

3. See page [178](#).

4. See page [157](#).

```

    }
}

```

Hide Certain Content from Printouts

Often a plugin may add content to your website that doesn't belong in the printout. Let's say a plugin adds a floating DIV with the CSS class `megafloater`, this is how you could remove it from the PMB Pro Print Page:

```

@media print, screen {
    .megafloater{
        display:none;
    }
}

```

If you find there are extra pages at the start or end of your PDF, it's probably because there are extra HTML elements (possibly empty ones) on the print page. Using custom CSS like this to make them not display at all will remove those extra empty pages.

Float Images to the Outside of the Page

Apart of boring CSS properties that all browsers support, you can use some of the CSS properties that only Prince supports. One of those is to [float content to the outside of the page margin](#), like so:

```

@media print, screen {
    .pmb-article img{
        float:outside;
    }
}

```

Change Background

The biggest feature of Prince's CSS is that you can style each page, setting properties like page size, margins and margin content, backgrounds, etc.

Here we change the page's background color:

```

@media print, screen {
    @page {
        background: red !important;
    }
}

```

An important note: because your browser doesn't understand this CSS, when you're viewing the Print Page in your browser, it won't apply. Your browser will think it's invalid CSS (which it is, according to its way of understanding CSS.) You will only see this CSS apply when you generate the PDF using PMB's Pro Print Service.

You can also use [background images](#), [gradients](#), and even combine them (like the [Buurma Whitepaper](#)¹ design does.)

[Prince's how-to's](#) apply quite well to PMB, except where it refers to using the command line tool (that's all done on a server in the cloud, you don't have access to the command line tool directly) and using Prince's Javascript (PMB gets the web browser to execute Javascript instead because it's more consistent with the rest of WordPress.)

1. See page [70](#).

[Prince's sample documents](#) can also inspire ideas for how to improve the design of your projects, all of which is possible in PMB because it just produces HTML files, after that Prince operates as normal.

Please feel free to ask about further custom CSS you'd like help with.

03. Adding Custom Section Templates

Custom Section Templates instruct Print My Blog Pro to display a particular post, page, or other post type, differently.

The built-in section templates are:

- “Default” which varies depending on whether the section is an article, a part, a volume or anthology. But it’s whatever your design decides is “normal”
- “Just Content” leaves out the post’s title and other metadata, and only places its contents on the page, starting at the top
- “Centered Content” is like “Just Content” except its content is placed in the middle of the page.

To add another section template, you’ll need to create a simple plugin containing some initialization code and a template file.

Check out the [Print My Blog – New Section Template GitHub repository](https://github.com/mnelson4/pmb-sample-default-template-override). You can download or checkout that project and place it in your `wp-content/plugins` folder to see it in action. I added a new section template called “Sideways” (for the classic print and digital PDF designs) which just displays the post’s title sideways.

The plugin is initialized by the file `pmb-new-section-template`. It contains:

```
<?php
/*
Plugin Name: Print My Blog - New Section Template
Plugin URI: https://github.com/mnelson4/pmb-sample-default-template-override
Description: https://github.com/mnelson4/pmb-new-section-template
Author: Mike Nelson
Version: 1.0.0
Author URI: https://printmy.blog
*/

define('PMBNST_MAIN_FILE', __FILE__);
define('PMBNST_MAIN_DIR', __DIR__);
add_action( 'pmb_register_designs', 'pmbnst_register_section_template', 1 );

function pmbnst_register_section_template() {
    pmb_register_section_template(
        'sideways',
        [
            'classic_print',
            'classic_digital'
        ],
        function() {
            return [
                'title' => __('Sideways Title', 'print-my-blog'),
                'fallback' => '',
                'filepath' => PMBNST_MAIN_DIR . '/sideways.php'
            ];
        }
    );
}
```

The function `pmb_register_section_template` [is located in Print My Blog's inc/integration_functions.php](#). It accepts the new template’s slug, then a list of all the design template it applies to (for example, if you also wanted to use this from the Buurma Whitepaper and Mayer Magazine, you

would add `buurma` and `mayer` to that list), and lastly a function that returns an array of details about the new section template. That array should contain

- `title` (to be displayed to the project editor)
- `fallback` (the template to use when a project's section is using this template, but the design doesn't support it). The empty string means to fallback to the PMB default.
- `filepath` is the absolute filepath on the server of the new file.

The file `sideways.php` is the actual template file. It contains

```
<?php
/**
 * @var \PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Project $pmb_project
 * @var \PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Design $pmb_design
 */
?>
<div <?php pmb_section_wrapper_class();?> <?php pmb_section_wrapper_id();?>>
    <article <?php pmb_section_class(); ?> <?php pmb_section_id(); ?>>
        <header class="entry-header has-text-align-center">

            <div class="entry-header-inner section-inner medium" style="transform:
rotate(-90deg);">
                <?php pmb_the_title();?>
            </div><!-- .entry-header-inner -->
        </header><!-- .entry-header -->
    </article>
<?php // end of file. For some reason this comment was needed to prevent a fatal
parsing error on dev.printmy.blog
```

There's a PHP comment at the top saying the variables `$pmb_project` and `$pmb_design` are both available, and specifying what type of objects they are. Also note that the global `$post` has been set, so you can use all of WordPress' standard template tags like `the_content()` and `the_meta()` if you want.

Also note that the file has an unclosed `div`. That's on purpose. The `div` tag is closed later automatically.

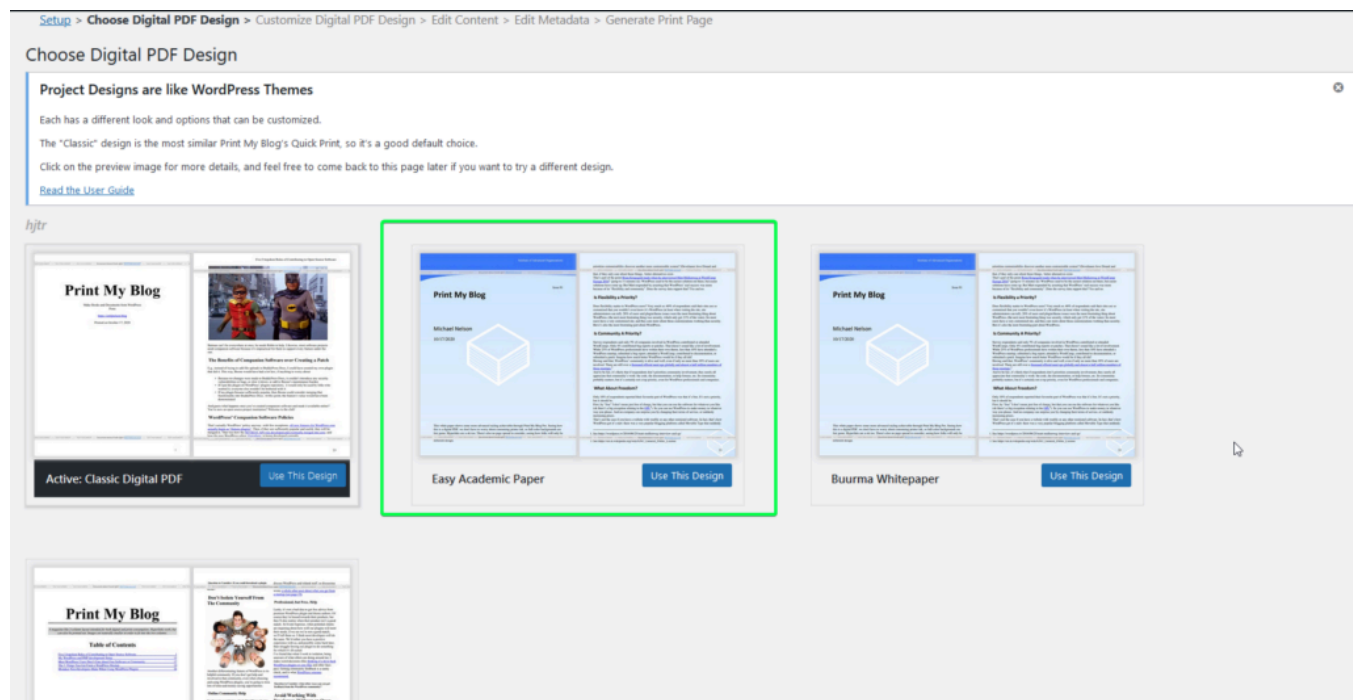
04. Creating Custom Designs

If you're a web designer and need a unique design, creating a custom design is a good idea.

You'll probably want to create a plugin that initializes the design, and contains the design's HTML, CSS, Javascript and PHP files.

Sample Easy Design

To get you started, see our [Sample Easy Design plugin on GitHub](#). Download it or check it out into your site's `wp-content/plugins` directory and activate it. It will add a new digital PDF design called "Easy Academic Paper".



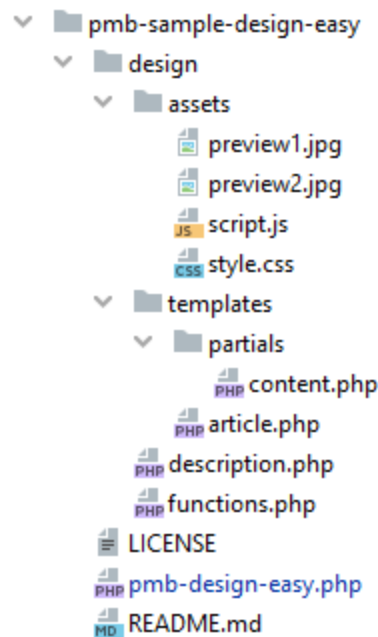
On a project's "Choose Digital PDF Design" step, with the plugin "Print My Blog – Sample Easy Design" active, there is now an extra option of "Easy Academic Paper".

This plugin just does the bare minimum needed for a custom design:

- declares itself to be a plugin, register a new design template and a design (in `pmb-design-easy.php`)
- adds the design's CSS (in `design/assets/style.css`) and Javascript (in `design/assets/script.js`) to be used on the Print Page
- adds a template file for articles (in `design/templates/article.php`) and a reusable partial template file (in `design/templates/partials/content.php`)
- a description of the new design (see `design/description.php`)
- a PHP file that runs any extra PHP needed when generating the HTML Print Preview page (see `design/functions.php`)

pmb-design-easy.php

This file declares and registers stuff. Let's step through it.



The “Sample Easy Design”’s files

First, it registers this folder as a plugin, so WordPress knows to treat it as such.

```
<?php
/*
Plugin Name: Print My Blog - Sample Easy Design
Plugin URI: https://github.com/mnelson4/pmb-sample-design-easy
Description: A simple example design that does not support dividing projects into
parts or front and back matter.
Author: Mike Nelson
Version: 1.0.0
Author URI: https://printmy.blog
*/
...
```

Next, there are some PHP use statements, saying this file will use some of Print My Blog’s autoloader classes. Please note that all of PMB classes are autoloader and can be found in [/src/ folder of PMB](#).

```
use PrintMyBlog\entities\DesignTemplate;
use PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Design;
use Twine\forms\base\FormSection;
use Twine\forms\inputs\AdminFileUploaderInput;
use Twine\forms\inputs\ColorInput;
use Twine\forms\inputs\DatepickerInput;
use Twine\forms\inputs\TextAreaInput;
use Twine\forms\inputs\TextInput;
use Twine\forms\strategies\validation\TextValidation;
```

Define a few constants that will be useful

```
define('PMBE_MAIN_FILE', __FILE__);
define('PMBE_MAIN_DIR', __DIR__);
```

Setup an action callback and activation hook to register the design at the appropriate times

```
add_action( 'pmb_register_designs', 'pmbe_register_design', 1 );
register_activation_hook(PMBE_MAIN_FILE, 'pmbe_activation');
```

The activation callback gets PMB to insert a design custom post type based on the new design.

```
/**
 * Called when this plugin is activated, and gets PMB to check this design exists
 in the database (and if not, adds it)
 */
function pmbe_activation(){
    pmbe_register_design();
    pmb_check_db();
}
```

Declares a function to register the design template and design

```
/**
 * Registers the design and design template. This should be done on every request
 so PMB knows they exist.
 */
function pmbe_register_design() {
    if(! function_exists('pmb_register_design')){
        return;
    }
}
```

Next, we register the design template using `pmb_register_design_template` (declared in the main PMB plugin in `inc/integration_functions.php`).

First we give the design template the slug `easy_template`, then provide a function that returns an array of data about the design template. Please see the [documentation for PrintMyBlog/entities/DesignTemplate::construct\(\)](#) to learn about its structure.

In this case, it's registering a digital PDF design template with no front or back matter, and no parts. The design form just has two [form inputs](#) called "Internal Footnote Text" and "External Footnote Text". The project metadata form has inputs for "institution", "authors" and "date".

```
pmb_register_design_template(
    'easy_template',
    function () {
        return [
            'title' => __('Easy Digital PDF'),
            'format' => 'digital_pdf',
            'dir' => PMBE_MAIN_DIR . '/design/',
            'default' => 'easy',
            'url' => plugins_url('design/', PMBE_MAIN_FILE),
            'docs' => '',
            'supports' => [
            ],
            'design_form_callback' => function () {
                return (new FormSection([
                    'subsections' =>
                        [
                            'internal_footnote_text' => new TextInput([
                                'html_label_text' => __('Internal Footnote
Text', 'print-my-blog'),
                                'html_help_text' => __('Text to use when
replacing a hyperlink with a footnote. "%s" will be replaced with the page
number.', 'print-my-blog'),
                                'default' => __('See page %s.', 'print-my-
blog'),
                                'validation_strategies' => [
                                    new TextValidation(__('You must include
```

```

"%s" in the footnote text so we know where to put the URL.', 'print-my-blog'),
'~.*\%s.*~')
    ]
  },
  'footnote_text' => new TextInput([
    'html_label_text' => __('External Footnote
Text', 'print-my-blog'),
    'html_help_text' => __('Text to use when
replacing a hyperlink with a footnote. "%s" will be replaced with the URL', 'print-
my-blog'),
    'default' => __('See %s.', 'print-my-blog'),
    'validation_strategies' => [
      new TextValidation(__('You must include
"%s" in the footnote text so we know where to put the URL.', 'print-my-blog'),
'~.*\%s.*~')
    ]
  ]),
  ]),
  ]))->merge(pmb_generic_design_form());
},
'project_form_callback' => function (Design $design) {
  return new FormSection([
    'subsections' => [
      'institution' => new TextInput(
        [
          'html_label_text' => __('Issue', 'print-my-
blog'),
          'html_help_text' => __('Text that appears at
the top-right of the cover'),
        ]
      ),
      'authors' => new TextAreaInput(
        [
          'html_label_text' => __('ByLine', 'print-my-
blog'),
          'html_help_text' => __('Project Author(s)',
'print-my-blog'),
        ]
      ),
      'date' => new DatePickerInput([
        'html_label_text' => __('Date Issued', 'print-my-
blog'),
        'html_help_text' => __('Text that appears under
the byline', 'print-my-blog'),
      ]),
    ]
  ]);
}
];
}
);

```

Now that we've registered a design template, we can register an instance of that template, a design. The design will be saved as a custom post type, with postmetas for its default values for the design and project forms.

For documentation on `pmb_register_design`, see the [function in inc/integration_functions.php](#) and

```

pmb_register_design(
    'easy_template',
    'easy',

```

```

function (DesignTemplate $design_template) {
    $preview_folder_url = plugins_url('/design/assets/', PMBE_MAIN_FILE);
    return [
        'title' => __('Easy Academic Paper', 'print-my-blog'),
        'quick_description' => __('An easy design', 'print-my-blog'),
        'description' => pmb_get_contents(PMBE_MAIN_DIR . '/design/
description.php'),
        'author' => [
            'name' => 'Mike Nelson',
            'url' => 'https://printmy.blog'
        ],
        'previews' => [
            [
                'url' => $preview_folder_url . '/preview1.jpg',
                'desc' => __('Title page, showing the double-spaced
text.', 'print-my-blog')
            ],
            [
                'url' => $preview_folder_url . '/preview2.jpg',
                'desc' => __('Main matter, showing smaller images and
double-spaced text.', 'print-my-blog')
            ]
        ],
        'design_defaults' => [
            'custom_css' => ''
        ],
        'project_defaults' => [
            'institution' => 'Print My Blog'
        ],
    ];
}
);

```

/design/assets/style.css

This is the CSS file used when creating the PMB Pro Print Page. Remember it can use any [CSS supported by Prince](#). It is automatically enqueued by PMB.

See the inline documentation for explanations of what's being done here.

```

/* Use the @media selector to make the CSS selectors more likely to take
precedence over competing styles from plugins,
WordPress core, and possibly the active theme. */
@media print, screen {

    /*
    See https://www.princexml.com/doc/paged/#named-pages for documentation on
    "page", but basically it says the pmb-main-matter
    div should start on a new page which we'll call "main" throughout the rest of
    the CSS file
    See https://www.princexml.com/doc/gen-content/#counters-and-numbering for
    "counter-reset" says page numbering should
    start at 1 on the first page of main matter.
    */
    .pmb-main-matter {
        display: block;
        page: main;
        counter-reset: page 1
    }
}

```

```

/**
  Each main page should have its footnotes reset, and its footnotes should have
  a solid black line on top and a bit of space.
  The page number should go in the bottom-right corner.
  */
@page main {
  counter-reset: footnote;

  @footnotes {
    border-top: solid black thin;
    padding-top: 8pt;
  }
  @bottom-right {
    content: counter(page)
  }
}
/**
  See https://www.princexml.com/doc/styling/#footnotes for documentation on
  footnotes
  */
body{
  prince-footnote-policy: keep-with-line;
}

/* General styles*/
body{
  font-family:Times;
}

/**
  Avoid pagebreaks inside and after any headings.
  See https://www.princexml.com/doc/13/paged/#page-breaks
  */
h1,h2,h3,h4,h5,h6{
  font-family:Calibri;
  page-break-after:avoid;
  page-break-inside:avoid;
}

/**
  Turn any spans with the CSS class "pmb-footnote" into footnotes
  */
.pmb-posts span.pmb-footnote{
  float:footnote;
  text-align:left;
  margin-left:0;
  font-weight:normal;
}
}

```

/design/assets/script.js

This script file is automatically enqueued by PMB on the print page. It's used mainly for extra DOM manipulation. You can also enqueue any other Javascript files you want (more on this in a moment). But this file is enqueued after [assets/scripts/print-page-beautifier-functions.js](#) and [jQuery](#), so makes use of them.

```

jQuery(document).ready(function(){
  pmb_remove_unsupported_content();

```



```

// Pretty up the page
pmb_add_header_classes();
pmb_default_align_center();
pmb_fix_wp_videos();
pmb_convert_youtube_videos_to_images();
pmb_load_avada_lazy_images();
pmb_reveal_dynamic_content();
pmb_replace_internal_links_with_page_refs_and_footnotes('footnote',
'footnote', pmb_design_options['external_footnote_text'],
pmb_design_options['internal_footnote_text']);
new PmbToc();
jQuery(document).trigger('pmb_wrap_up');
});

// wait until the images are loaded to try to resize them.
jQuery(window).on("load", function() {
    pmb_resize_images(400);
    jQuery(document).trigger('pmb_wrap_up');
});

```

design/templates/article.php

This is a template file that instructs PMB how to convert a post into the HTML on the PMB Pro Print Page. It makes use of the [WordPress template tags](#) and PMB's [template functions in /inc/template_functions.php](#).

As you can see it's creating HTML following [PMB's normal HTML structure](#)¹. It just adds the project's title and then includes `templates/partials/content.php` to show the post's content.

```

<?php
/**
 * @var \PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Project $pmb_project
 * @var PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Design $pmb_design
 */
?>
<div <?php pmb_section_wrapper_class();?> <?php pmb_section_wrapper_id();?>>
    <article <?php pmb_section_class(); ?> <?php pmb_section_id(); ?>>
        <header class="entry-header has-text-align-center">

            <div class="entry-header-inner section-inner medium">
                <?php pmb_the_title();?>
            </div><!-- .entry-header-inner -->
        </header><!-- .entry-header -->
        <?php pmb_include_design_template( 'partials/content' ); ?>
    </article>
<?php

```

/design/description.php

This is just static HTML that appears in the “Design Details” modal window on the “Choose Design” step.

/design/functions.php

This is a PHP file that's executed only when generating a project from the design. It's a good place to add [filters](#)

1. See page [178](#).

[and actions](#), and especially to enqueue other stylesheets or scripts.

This file is passing some dynamic CSS using `wp_add_inline_style`, and some variables to the Javascript using `wp_localize_script` (most notably, the user's choice for "Internal Hyperlink Text" and "External Hyperlink Text" set on the design customization step).

```
<?php
// Add filters, action callback, and functions you want to use in your design.
// Note that this file only gets included when generating a new project, not on
every pageload.
add_action(
    'pmb_pdf_generation_start',
    function(\PrintMyBlog\entities\ProjectGeneration $project_generation,
\PrintMyBlog\orm\entities\Design $design){
        global $pmb_design;
        $pmb_design = $design;
        add_action('wp_enqueue_scripts', 'pmb_enqueue_easy_script', 1001);
    },
    10,
    2
);

function pmb_enqueue_easy_script(){
    global $pmb_design;
    $css = pmb_design_styles($pmb_design);

    // dynamic CSS can go here
    wp_add_inline_style(
        'pmb_print_common',
        $css
    );

    // Pass some data to the Javascript
    wp_localize_script(
        'pmb-design',
        'pmb_design_options',
        [
            'internal_footnote_text' => $pmb_design-
>getSetting('internal_footnote_text'),
            'external_footnote_text' => $pmb_design->getSetting('footnote_text')
        ]
    );
}
```

Sample Complex Design

This design is more complex because it supports front and back matter, and organizing [articles into parts, parts into volumes, and volumes into anthologies](#)¹.

It's also [a GitHub repository you can download or checkout](#), place in your site's `wp-content/plugins` folder, and activate.

The main difference is that its main file, `pmb-design-complex.php` declares it supports parts, volumes, and anthologies, each of which has a [corresponding template file in design/templates/](#). Getting familiar with the [standard HTML structure](#)² will help to understand the structure of each (there's a wrapping `div` which isn't closed, an `article` element, which has the post's title and probably content, and then you let PMB take care of adding

1. See page [178](#).

2. See page [178](#).

sub-sections.)

It's likely that you might want to also register some custom section templates to use in a more advanced design like this (eg you could want a "fullpage cover photo" design) so you may want to combine this with [elements from creating a custom section template](#)¹.

Further Reading

To learn more, it will also help to study the designs included with PMB.

The design templates are all registered in PMB in `/src/PrintMyBlog/domain/DefaultDesignTemplates.php` and the design instances are registered in `/src/PrintMyBlog/domain/DefaultDesigns.php`.

Each design's files are in PMB in `/designs` folder.

If you have questions (or really, if you just read this far!) please get in touch and let me know what you're wanting to accomplish and if there are any questions. Good luck!

1. See page [165](#).

05. How PMB Pro Print Works

This article gives an overview of what technologies are involved in producing a PDF with PMB Pro Print.

When making a Pro PDF, the following happens:

1. The user writes their content in WordPress. This saves “posts” and “postmeta” to the site’s database.
2. When the user clicks to generate the project, PMB fetches all its posts and uses the project’s design to create an HTML file on the server, called the “Print Page”. This process is quite similar to how WordPress renders a page (using “the loop” and template files, etc.).
3. The user visits the Print Page in their web browser, which lets the HTML file execute its Javascript, which can modify the HTML.
4. Prince converts the HTML and CSS to a PDF



Write posts in WordPress



Print My Blog Builds the HTML File



Web Browser Executes Javascript



Prince Converts HTML and CSS to PDF

This means:

- **The content for each post's body comes from WordPress.** If there's a problem with it, it may be a problem with WordPress' editor or the other plugins you're using to create the post content. On the Print Preview page, feel free to [use your web browser's inspector](#) to look for problem in the HTML that was converted to PDF.
- **The content outside of the post's body came from Print My Blog and your chosen design.** So if the content outside of a post's body needs adjusting, it's probably an issue with Print My Blog, so [please ask for help](#)¹.
- **Javascript is executed as normal by your browser**, so if there's a problem with the Javascript not working correctly, that's a problem happening when your browser opens the Print Page, just like on the frontend of your website. So you can [use your browser's debugger](#) to look at the Javascript that's executing to look for problems. The most likely problem is that a plugin's Javascript somehow didn't get enqueued on the Print Page. If that's the case, [please ask for help](#)² so we can fix the issue for you and others.
- **Because Prince is what interprets the CSS**, if something isn't styled properly in your PDF it's probably because Prince is interpreting the CSS differently than your browser does. So it helps to have become [familiar with Prince CSS](#).

If you have any questions about how or why something isn't working as expected, [please ask for help](#)³. Your asking questions helps me to improve the software and documentation and avoid problems for future users.

1. See page [51](#).

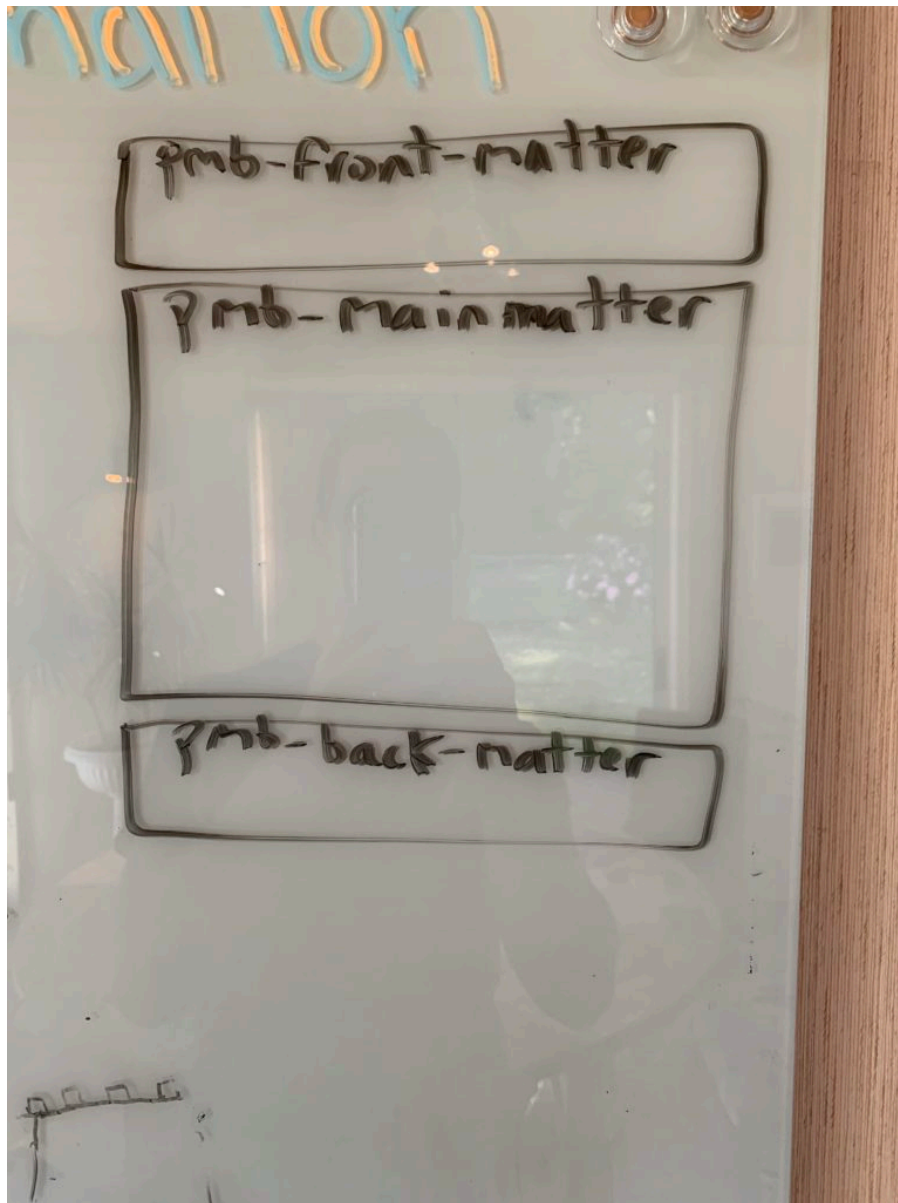
2. See page [51](#).

3. See page [51](#).

06. PMB Pro Print HTML Structure

The HTML file generated by PMB Pro Print (called the “Print Page”) has an HTML head and footer elements very similar to the front end of the website. It should contain the CSS, JavaScript, and other elements added by your site’s active plugins. Usually, you will want to exclude the theme’s styles (selectable from your design’s customization step) because they usually conflict with the design’s styles and are usually ill-suited for paged media.

Inside the HTML file’s body, you’ll see an HTML structure very similar to your projects table of contents: the entire project’s content is wrapped in a `div` element with the CSS class `pmb-project`. Inside that are `divs` with CSS classes `pmb-front-matter`, `pmb-main-matter`, and `pmb-back-matter`.



The body of the PMB Pro Print Page has 3 main divs `pmb-front-matter`, `pmb-main-matter`, and `pmb-back-matter`

```

<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/project.php-->
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html class="no-js no-svg" lang="en-US">
<head>
</head>
<body class="logged-in pmb-print-page" data-new-gr-c-s-check-loaded="8.876.0" data-gr-ext-installed="">
<!--Print My Blog Version 3.3.7-->
<div class="pmb-pro-print-window-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/front_matter.php-->
<div class="pmb-front-matter">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/main.php-->
<!--Print My Blog Version 3.3.7-->
<div class="pmb-posts site pmb-main-matter">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/back_matter.php-->
<div class="pmb-back-matter">
<p id="a11y-speak-intro-text" class="a11y-speak-intro-text" style="position: absolute;margin: -1px;padding: 0;height: 1px;width_lip-path: inset(50% 0 0 0);background-color: #ccc;>
<div id="a11y-speak-assertive" class="a11y-speak-region" style="position: absolute;margin: -1px;padding: 0;height: 1px;width_lip-path: inset(50% 0 0 0);background-color: #ccc;>
<div id="a11y-speak-polite" class="a11y-speak-region" style="position: absolute;margin: -1px;padding: 0;height: 1px;width_lip-path: inset(50% 0 0 0);background-color: #ccc;>
</body>
</html>

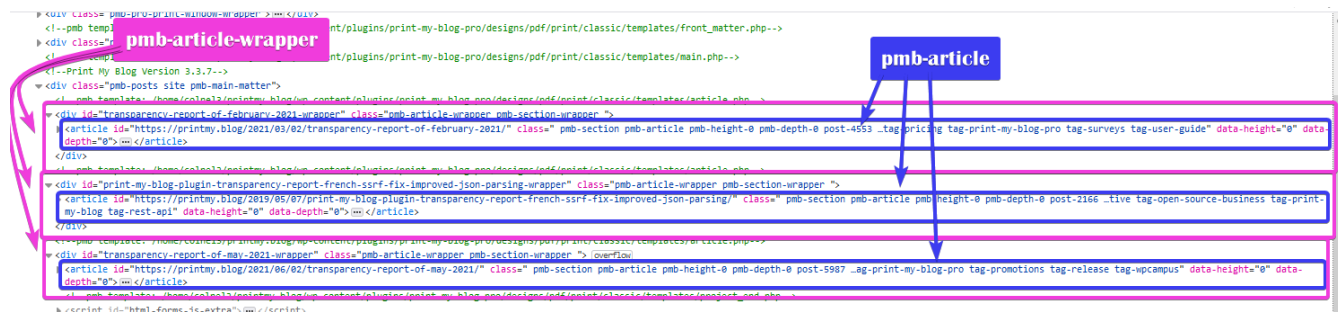
```

Actual HTML of a PMB Pro Print Page with front matter, main matter, and back matter.

The main matter's structure depends on how many levels of nested content it contains.

No Parts, Just List of Articles

If there is no nested content (ie, just one layer of sections), there will just be a list of divs with class `pmb-article-wrapper`, each containing a tag with the class `pmb-article`.



Actual HTML of a PMB Pro Print Page with no nested content.

At first, the `pmb-article-wrapper` divs appear unnecessary. But you'll see how they're consistent with what's coming up...

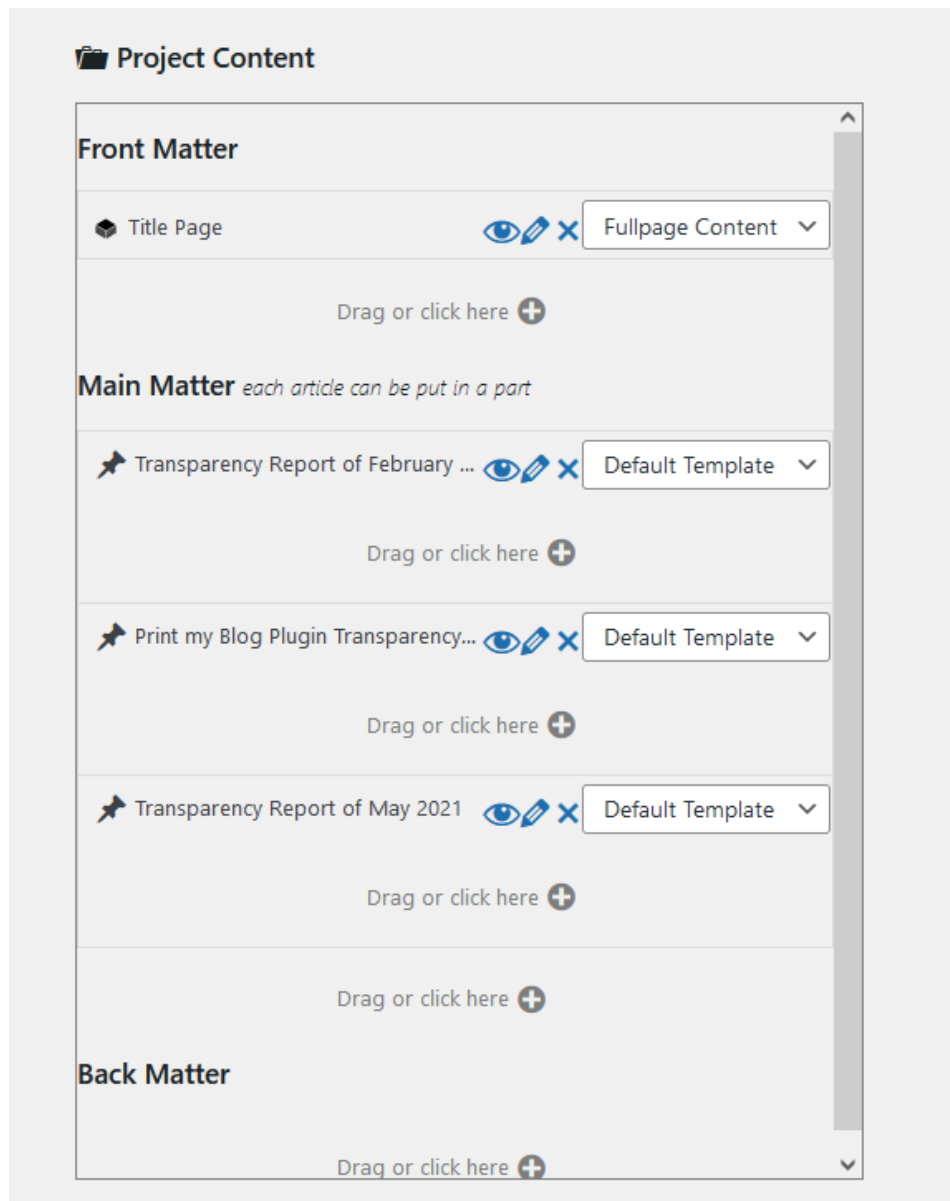
Parts, Each Containing Articles

If your project's contents are divided into parts, ie has 1 level of nested content, it builds on the HTML structure from before.

For each part, there will be a div with the CSS class `pmb-part-wrapper` containing an element with the CSS class `pmb-part` (very similar to before). What follows is the exact same as a project with no parts: a series of divs with the class `pmb-article-wrapper`, each containing an element with the CSS class `pmb-article`.

“Volumes” Divided into Parts Divided into Articles etc

More levels of nesting are possible, depending on the design. The next level up are “volumes”, which are divided



A project containing just a list of articles (no parts)

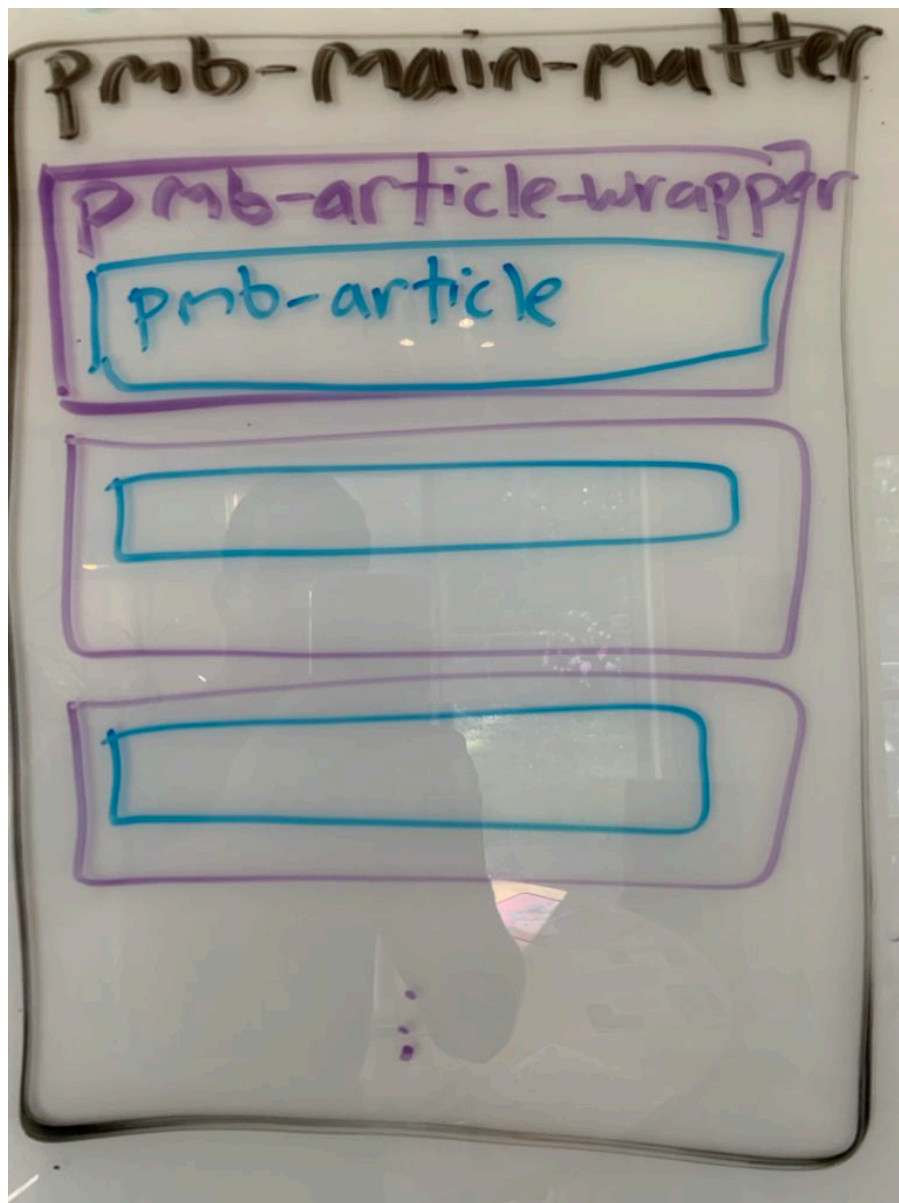
into parts. The next level up from that is “anthologies” which are divided into volumes.

The HTML structure repeats with each of these higher levels: for each volume there is a `pmb-volume-wrapper` which contains a `pmb-volume` and then a list of `pmb-part-wrapper`, etc. Likewise, for each anthology there is a `pmb-anthology-wrapper` which contains a `pmb-anthology` followed by a list of `pmb-volume-wrappers`.

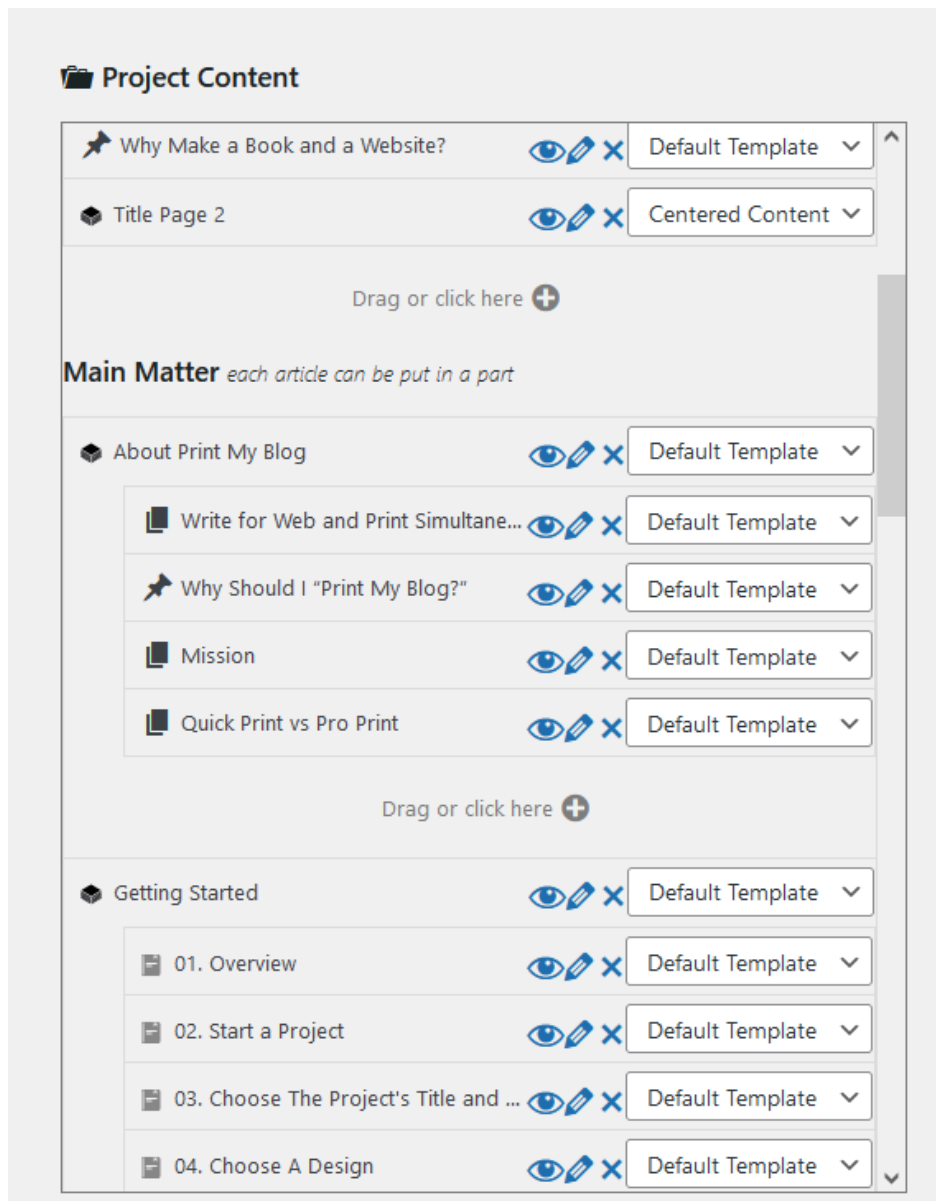
Jaggedly-Divided Content

What if you have some articles organized into projects, but some outside of projects? What HTML structure will that have? Will the content that's not nested be considered a “part” or an “article”? An “article”. Whether a section is an article, part, volume, or anthology is determined by how many levels of content there are below it.

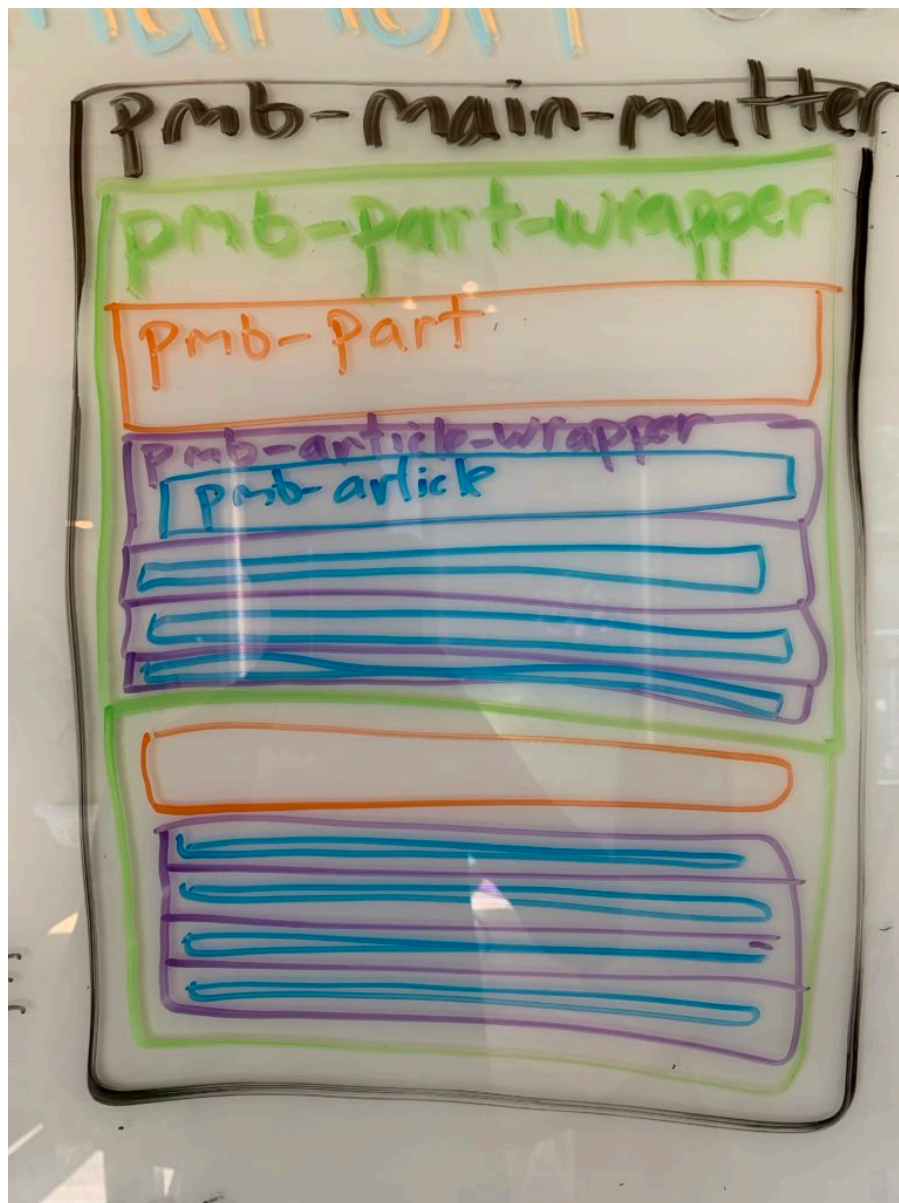
As always, if you have further questions, [please contact us](#).



The HTML structure of a PMB Pro Print Page with no nested content, only a list of posts. For each post there is a div with the CSS class `pmb-article-wrapper` which contains an element with CSS class `pmb-article`.



A project whose content is divided into parts ("About Print My Blog" and "Getting Started"). Each part has several articles.



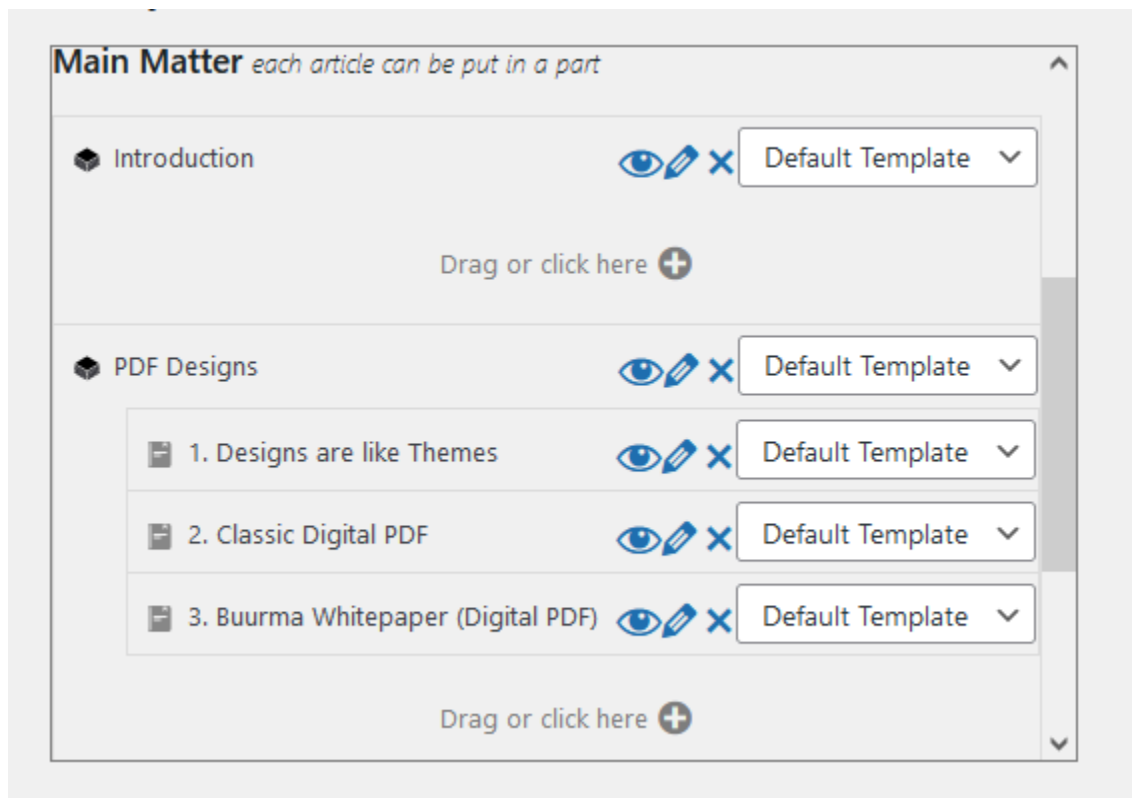
The HTML structure of the PMB Pro Print Page with parts. There is a list of `pmb-part-wrapper`s, each containing a `pmb-part`, then a list of `pmb-article-wrapper`s which each contain a `pmb-article`.

```

<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/project.php-->
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html class="no-js no-svg" lang="en-US" >
<head>
</head>
<body class="logged-in pmb-print-page" data-new-gr-c-s-check-loaded="8.876.0" data-gr-ext-installed="">
<!--Print My Blog Version
<div class="pmb-pro-print-
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/front_matter.php-->
<div class="pmb-front-matter">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/main.php-->
<div class="pmb-main-matter">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/part.php-->
<div id="about-print" class="pmb-part-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/article.php-->
<div id="https://printmy.blog/" class="pmb-section pmb-article pmb-height-0 pmb-depth-1 post-5459 type-page status-publish hentry" data-height="0" data-depth="1">
</div>
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/article.php-->
<div id="why-should-i-print-my-blog-wrapper" class="pmb-article-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/article.php-->
<div id="mission-wrapper" class="pmb-article-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/article.php-->
<div id="free-vs-pro-wrapper" class="pmb-article-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
</div>
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/part.php-->
<div id="getting-started-wrapper" class="pmb-part-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/part.php-->
<div id="pdf-designs-wrapper" class="pmb-part-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/part.php-->
<div id="design-layout-how-tos-wrapper" class="pmb-part-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/part.php-->
<div id="design-layout-reference-wrapper" class="pmb-part-wrapper pmb-section-wrapper">
</div>
<!--pmb template: /home/colnel3/printmy.blog/wp-content/plugins/print-my-blog-pro/designs/pdf/print/classic/templates/back_matter.php-->
<div class="pmb-back-matter">
</div>
<div id="ally-speak-intro-text" class="ally-speak-intro-text" style="position: absolute;margin: -1px;padding: 0;height: 1px;width: 100%;border: 0;word-wrap: normal !important;" hidden="hidden">notifications</p>
<div id="ally-speak-assertive" class="ally-speak-region" style="position: absolute;margin: -1px;padding: 0;height: 1px;width: 100%;border: 0;word-wrap: normal !important;" aria-live="assertive" aria-relevant="additions text">

```

The actual HTML of a PMB Pro Print Page with parts.



A project with “jagged” content: notice that “Introduction” has no sub-sections whereas “PDF Designs” does. In this example, “Introduction” will be an article, and “PDF Designs” will be a part.



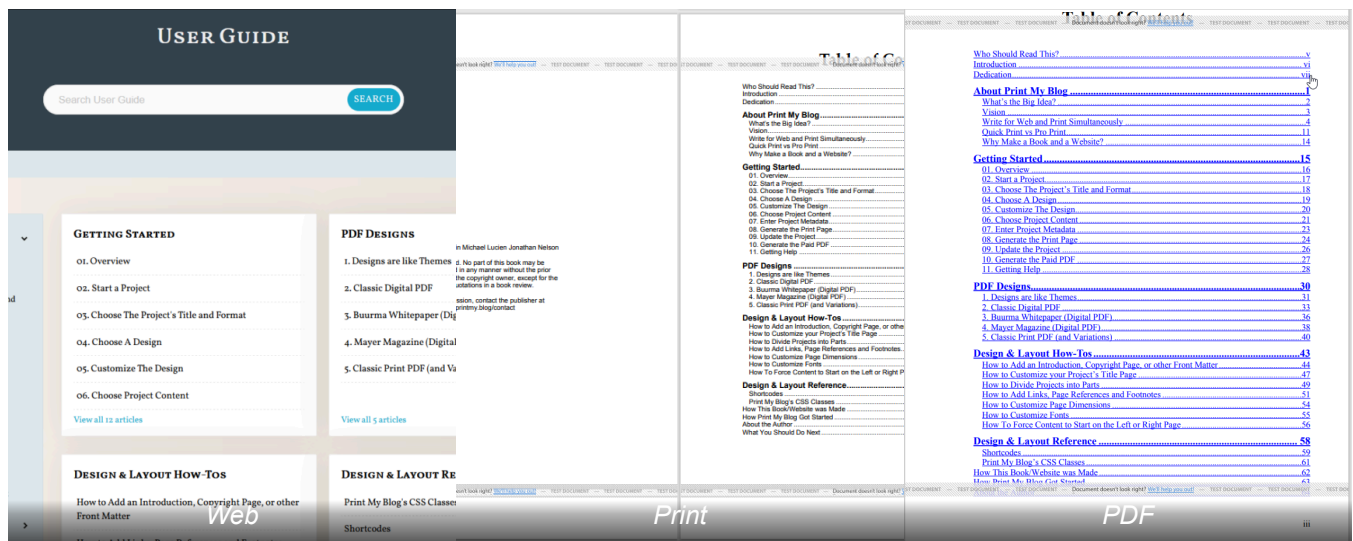
Actual HTML for a project where some articles are inside parts, others aren't. Notice the direct children of the div with CSS classes `pmb-main-matter` is first a `pmb-article-wrapper`, followed by a `pmb-part-wrapper` (which itself contains a `pmb-part` and several `pmb-article-wrappers`).

Tutorials

These tutorials show more of how to use PMB in a particular use-case from start-to-finish, rather than documenting details on how to use the plugin. If you have additional questions on how to use PMB in your situation, please [contact us](#). We'd love the inspiration for new tutorials!

Making a User Manual for Web, PDF, & Print with WordPress

Should you make a printed user manual, a PDF user manual, or an online webpage manual? It's a trick question. The correct answer is "all of them at the same time!" In this tutorial, I'll show you how I did that on a self-hosted WordPress website. I first used the plugin BasePress to create an online user manual, then I used the plugin Print My Blog to make print and PDF copies.



Why Make a Manual in Different Formats?

Some folks think just a website is enough. Others think they can get away with just putting a PDF online. And others are still don't "do the internets"...

Who Reads Print Nowadays?

[Most of us!](#) And besides just books, it's always convenient to get a low-tech, physical manual with any thing purchased.

You're probably reading this online, but not everyone is online all the time. Lots of people make a living (and sell stuff) totally offline. [Print converts better.](#) While print is no longer the only format we use, it's still a major one. By not offering print copies of a user manual you're missing out on a major portion of readers (many of whom are the big spenders too).

Who Reads Online Manuals?

When we're searching for answers, we search online. If your user manual's content isn't online people will miss it, possibly finding your competitors. And no, most of us would rather not read an entire PDF when searching for a specific answer.

And please don't try to put your user manual's information on your Facebook page. We'd gladly pay double than try to read a mess of photos or scans of your print manual.

Then Who Reads PDFs Online?

Businesses seem to love them. They're great for sharing with executives who don't want to be bothered with logging in or navigating a website or dodging pop-ups. A digital PDF user manual, stored online and locally, is more likely to be available than a website which may go down and the printed manual gets lost.

If someone has spent money on your product, they will legitimately expect to have reliable access to its manual, which a PDF promises.

Consider Context and your User

Some users feel more at home reading print, others online. And for most of us, it just depends on the situation. But forcing us to always use one format is a disservice, especially if we're paying money.

I know historically we've had to choose one format over another, or pay three times as much to create a manual in all three formats. But in this tutorial I'll show you how to create for each format simultaneously.

Why Use WordPress

Are there other ways to make a web/PDF/print manual? Sure, let's look at a couple...

Microsoft Word, Google Docs and Apple Pages are the default choices for creating documents, but won't help you make an easily accessible online version. It will take a lot of copy-and-pasting and fixing formatting to create it (not to mention everytime you need to update it.) So really, each of these only offers half the solution.

[ReadTheDocs](#) is popular among software developers. It's free for open source projects and will similarly make all three formats simultaneously. If you're familiar with Markdown, a VCS like Git, and Sphinx, it's a very promising choice. But I'd avoid it if those terms make your head spin or you'd rather keep it on your own WordPress website.

[Over 40% of websites online use WordPress](#), so it's an obvious choice for creating the online user manual. And, with the right choice of plugins (there are over 50,000 of them) it can also take care of making the print and PDF versions too.

Why use BasePress and Print My Blog Plugins?

The steps of this tutorial can be adapted with other [documentation/knowledge base plugins](#), or [eBook-creation plugins](#). Here's why I'm using BasePress and Print My Blog.

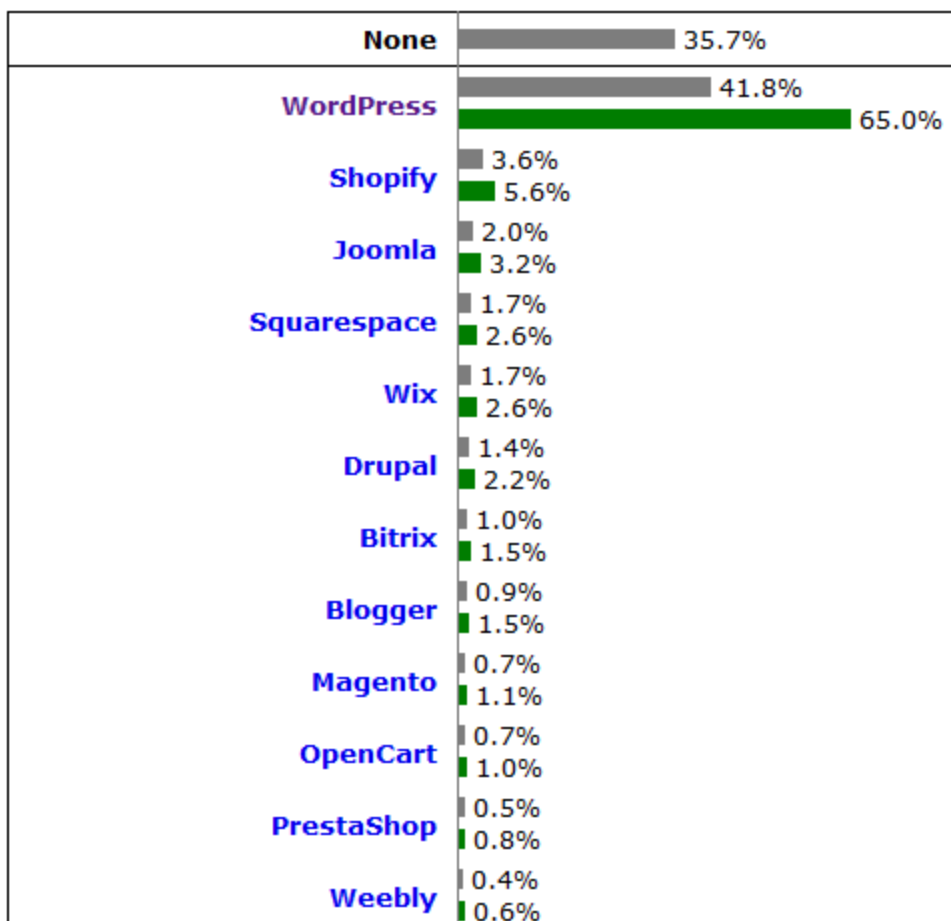
BasePress is Great for Making User Manuals/Knowledge Bases

[BasePress](#) is easy to set up, use, and read; looks good; and has both free and paid options (I just use the free version in this tutorial, but the paid version indicates its developer has a business model too.) To top it off, [its users are really happy](#) and [its developer is very helpful](#).

You can, of course, simply create all your user manual as pages on your website, which requires no plugins at all. But, besides missing out on a lot of useful features, your content will get disorganized really quickly. I thought it better to use pages for forms (like my contact page and purchasing page) and content about my business, and use BasePress' knowledge base articles for instructions on how to use my product.

Print My Blog Excels at Print and PDF

I'm the developer of [Print My Blog](#), so of course, I think it's best. It's one of the few that supports custom post



WordPress' share of websites in June 2021 from W3 techs

Easily build a self-service support system for your customers or employees.
Let them find the answers they need 24/7 and reduce your support costs.

types (ie, content other than just posts and pages), fully customizable designs (eg changing the PDF's branding), and integrates very well with the new WordPress Block Editor and content from other plugins. So far, [it's been very well-received by users](#), and [I try my best to be](#) responsive to support requests. It likewise has free and paid options.

It's finally here...

Print My Blog – Pro Print

The old features are still here: "Print Now" was just renamed "Quick Print", and the Print Buttons are still available under "Settings".

Pro Print makes more functional and visually-appealing PDFs using your web browser for free, or the new paid Pro Print Service.



Features Include:

Automatic Table of Contents

Add a table of contents to your project, with links and page numbers.

Automatic page references and footnotes

Could I have just copy-and-pasted all the content from the website into Microsoft Word or Google Docs? Of course, but besides being a headache to copy-and-paste each item, and reformat, and repeat each time I made an update, I would miss out on a lot of intelligent features (like automatically updating hyperlinks to cross-references and footnotes, intelligently converting videos into screenshots and links, and adjusting images to reduce empty space.)

Steps to Creating an Online, Printable, and PDF User Manual

The first main step is to create the online User Manual using BasePress, then convert it to PDF and print with Print My Blog.

Step 1: Create the Online User Manual

Setting up and using BasePress is pretty straightforward and well-explained in their documentation, so I'll mostly give an overview of it.

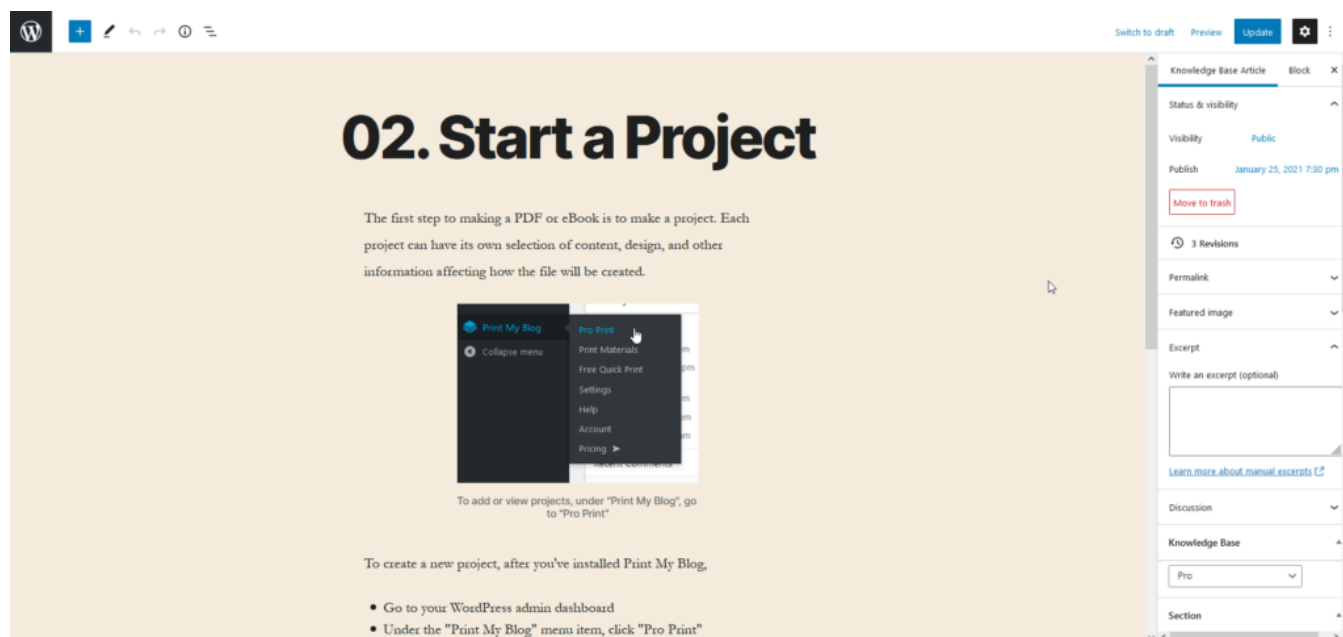
First install BasePress using either your WordPress website's "Add plugin" page or by downloading it for free from WordPress.org.

BasePress comes with a great setup wizard that guides you through the few steps, and it will all be set up in a couple minutes. [Their documentation](#) uses BasePress too, so reading it is also a demo!

I created

- [a page to show the user manual](#) (aka "Knowledge base"; it can support more than one but I didn't need that yet)
- [a single knowledge base](#), just renamed it "User Manual"
- [sections](#) for "Getting Started", "Design and Formatting How-Tos", "Reference", etc.
- [articles to each section](#). Eg "Getting Started" has an "Overview", "Start a Project", etc.

The free version doesn't support ordering each article, which I overcame by just adding a number to the start of



Using WordPress' Block editor to edit a BasePress article

each article's name, then ordering them alphabetically.

[Check out my User Guide.](#) built entirely with BasePress.

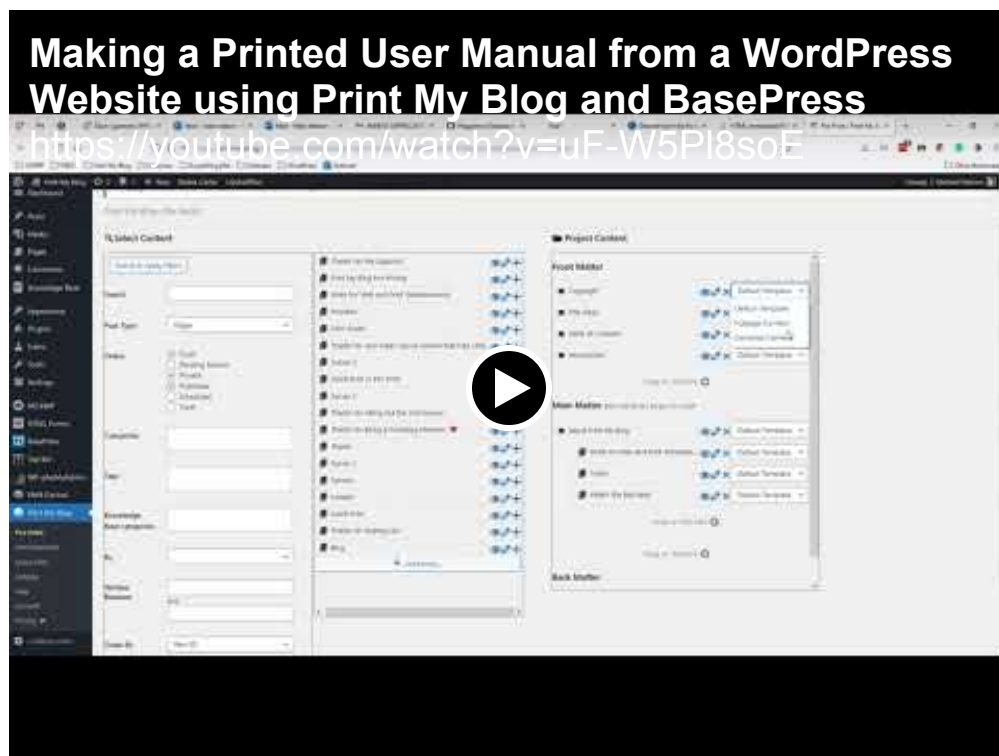
Step 2: Convert to PDF and Print with Print My Blog

Install Print My Blog via your WordPress website's "Add New" plugin page, or download it for free from WordPress.org and then upload to your site.

Next, you'll want to [create a new "project" in Print My Blog](#)¹. A project has a title, a format, your chosen content, and some other metadata.

You can create all that with the free version, and export a watermarked demo using the paid Print Service. You can alternatively use your browser's print and PDF abilities for free, but they don't support some features (like full control of page margin content or cross references.)

1. See page [25](#).



Video showing how I created the print PDF user manual in Print My Blog from the BasePress knowledge base.

To start a project, under “Print My Blog” menu, select “Pro Print”. Then click “Start New Project”.

Give the project a name, like “User Manual”. This name is mainly for you to distinguish it from other projects you might make later.

Edit Project

Project Title*

Format*

☒ **Digital PDF**
 PDF file intended for viewing on a computer, tablet or phone, but not necessarily for printing to paper. Usually includes working hyperlinks, ample colors, and other features that require a device.

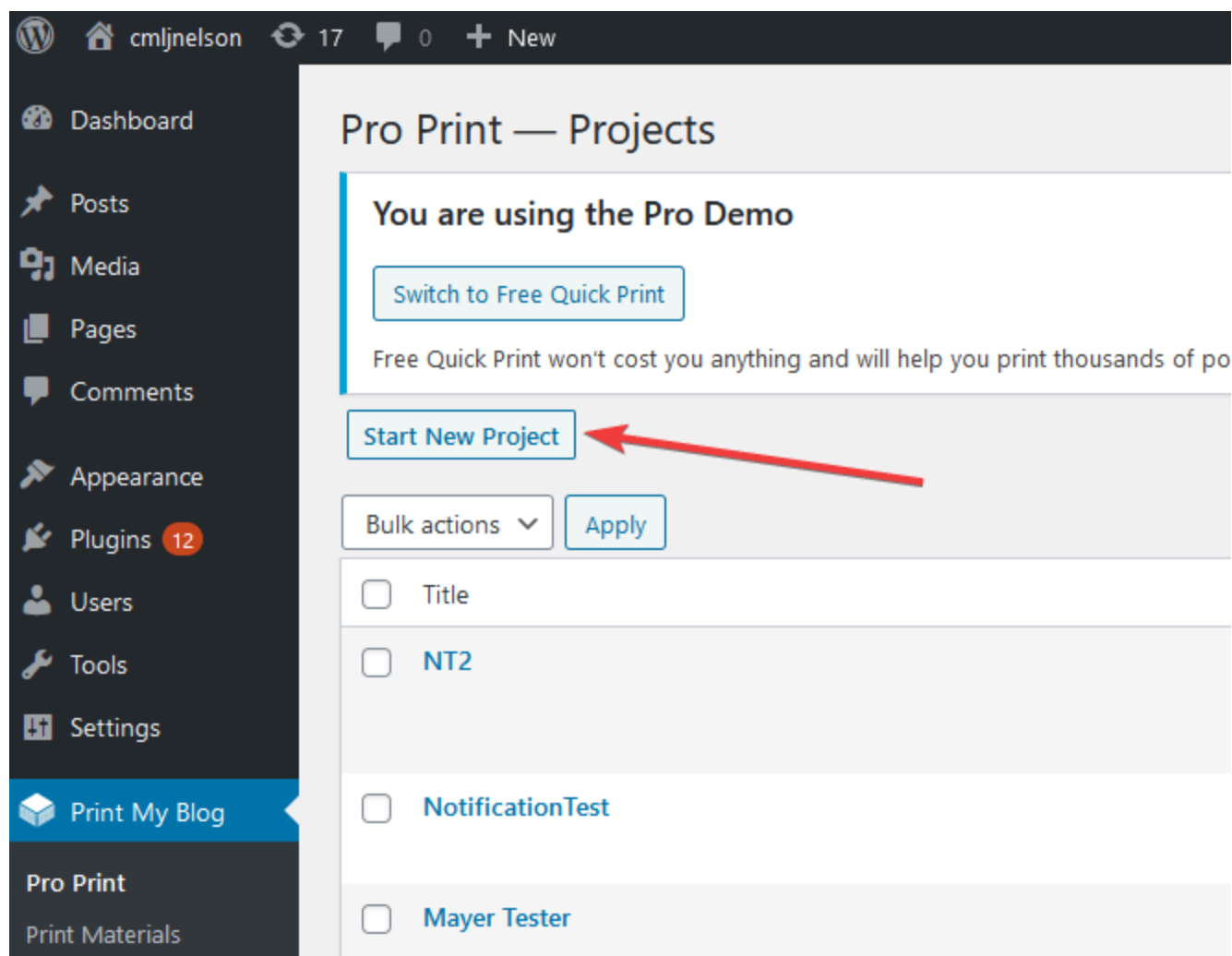
☐ **Print-Ready PDF**
 PDF file intended for printing on your home printer or with a printer service. Usually removes hyperlinks, avoids excessive ink use, and are designed for viewing the 2-page spread (using the front and back of a page).

☐ **Both**
 A project can be prepared to use both a Digital PDF and a Print-Ready PDF, but it will be more complex. (Eg the design for one format might support different features than the design for the other format.)

Choosing a project's title and format(s)

Next, [choose a format](#)¹. If you want to make both a digital and print-ready PDF, select both. If you only want to print it, or send it to a printing service like lulu.com, or sell a physical book, use the print-ready PDF. If you want to share a PDF users will usually just read from their device, a digital PDF will probably be better.

1. See page [27](#).



Adding a new project

You can then choose a design for your format. [Designs are like WordPress themes: each has their own look and options](#)¹, and designers can even create their own. You can change the design or it's options later if you don't like it by using the breadcrumbs at the top of the page.

When [choosing your project's content](#)², make use of the filters and search options. The classic design I chose supported adding front matter (introduction, etc), dividing the main matter into sections, and back matter (about the author etc).

To add new front matter, click the "Click or drag here" below the front matter. This will add print-only materials (they don't appear on your website, only in the PDF.)

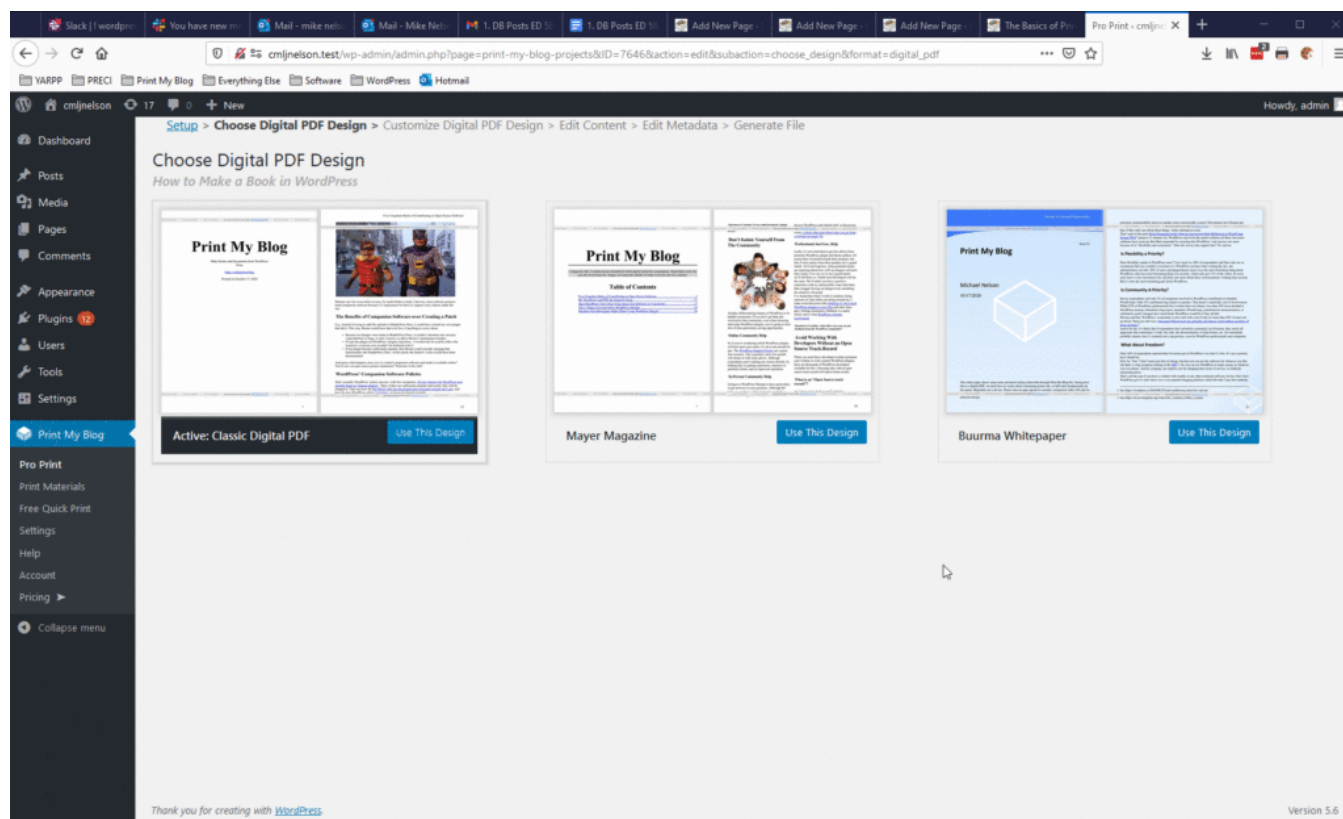
To add a section to the main matter, click the "Click or drag here" under main matter. I created a part for each knowledge base section I made earlier with BasePress.

I then used the filters to only show "Knowledge Base" articles (from BasePress) and the filter by each "Knowledge Base Category" (elsewhere known as "Knoweldge Base Sections", eg "Getting Started"). Then I just dragged each article into the project below the desired section.

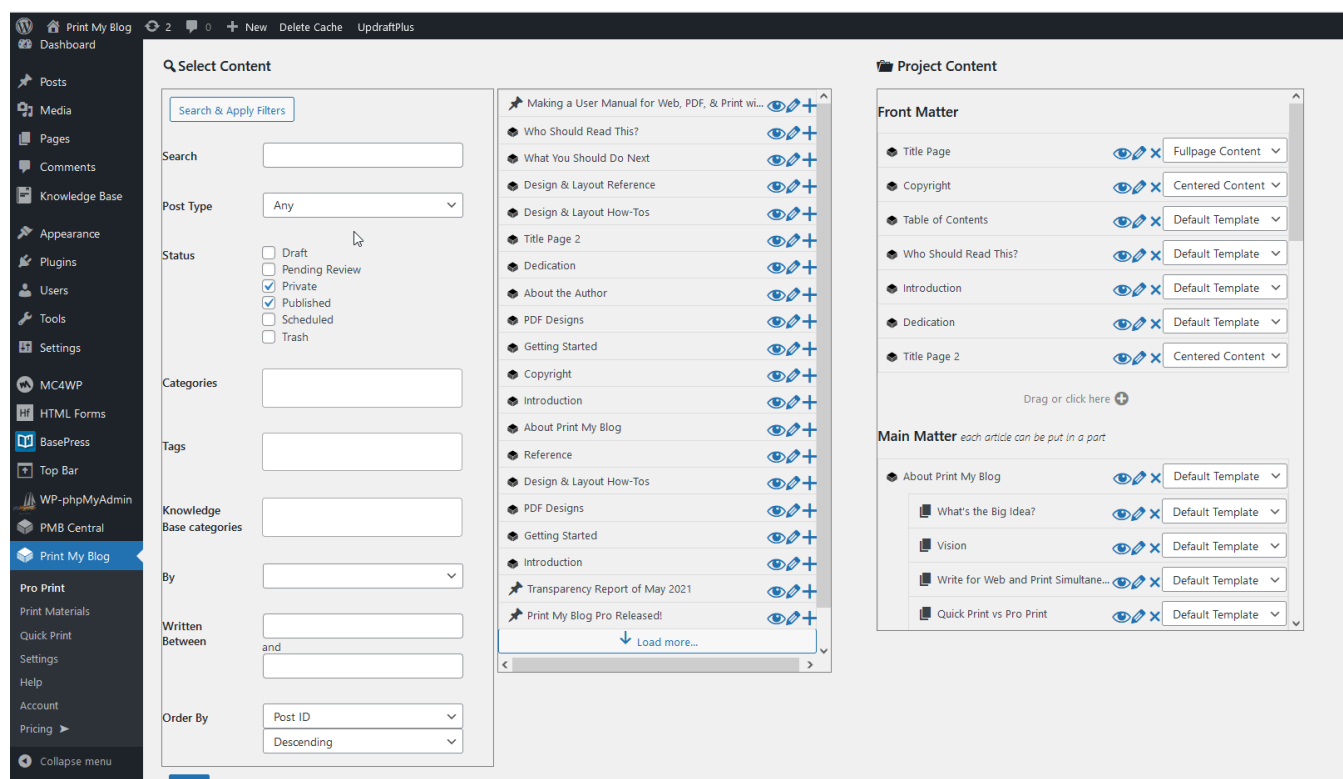
I also added some posts and pages to the project I thought relevant (like an overview page, and will probably add tutorial blog posts like this in the future too.)

1. See page [61](#).

2. See page [31](#).

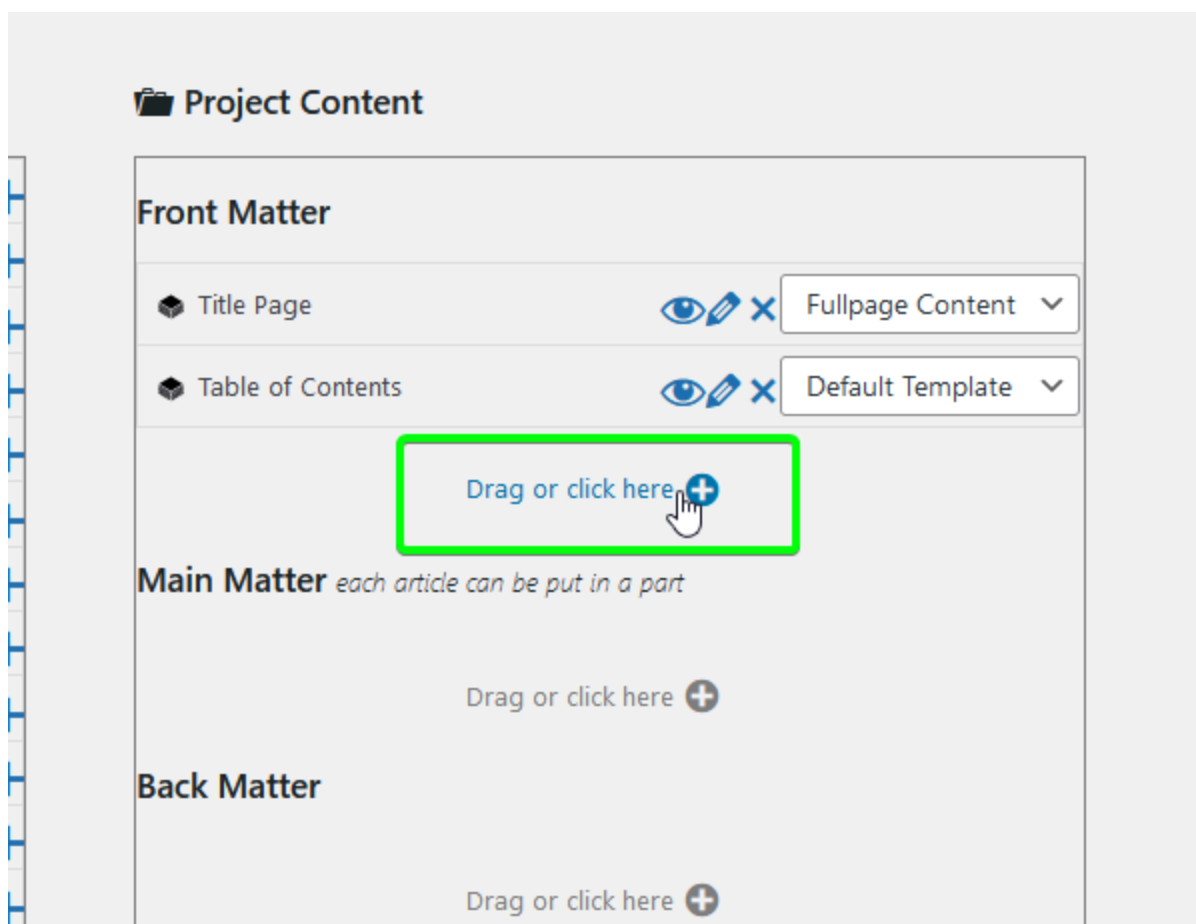


Choosing a Design for a project's design PDF



Filtering to show knowledge base articles by section (aka "Knowledge Base Categories")

I mostly skipped the metadata step (the defaults were fine) and then generated the PDF and downloaded it.



Adding new front matter

I can then use that PDF for printing or sharing with others. I'm going to use lulu.com to print a book and mail it to my business users, and share the digital PDF with my professional users.

Step 3: Updating and Adjusting Stuff

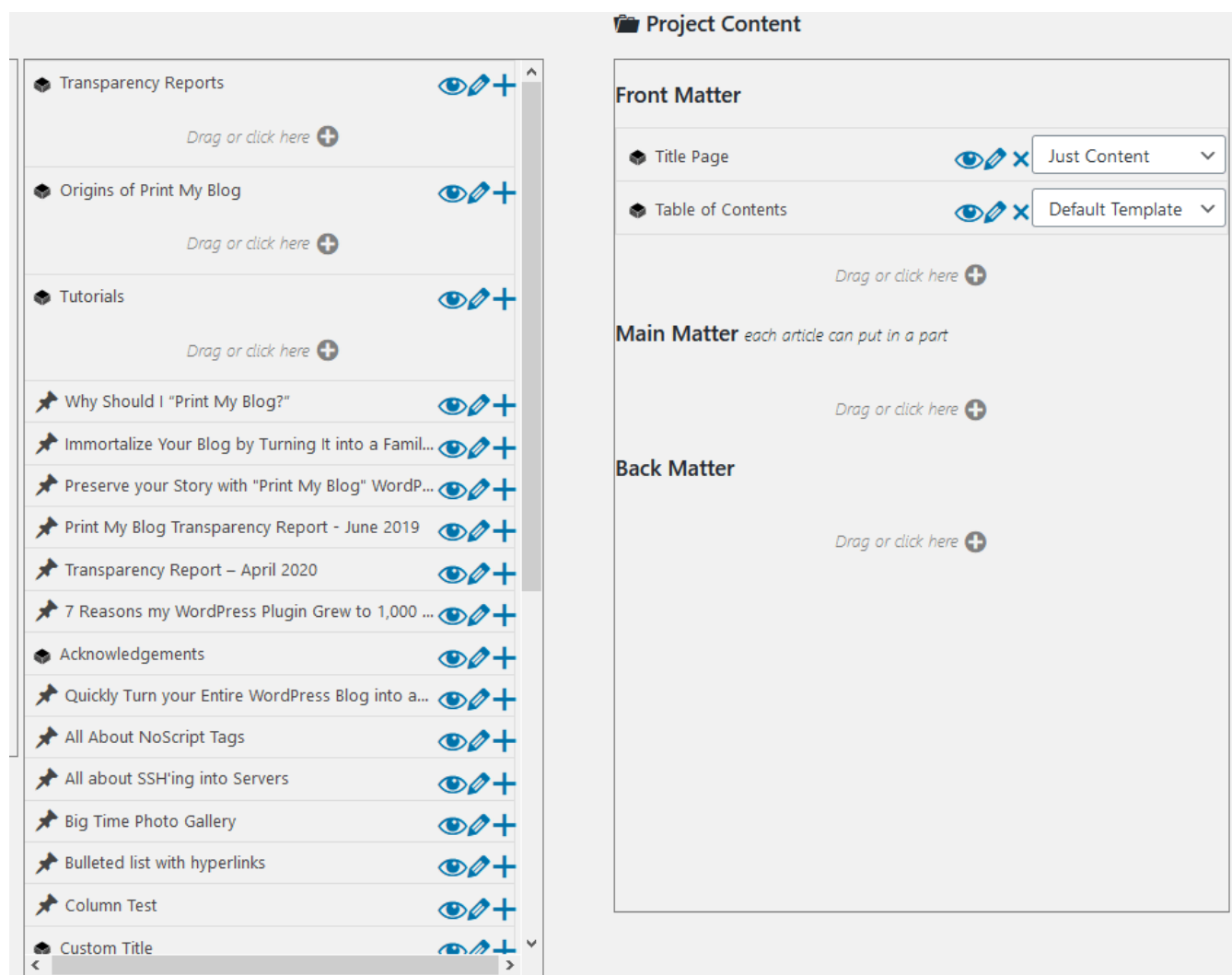
Aren't we done already? Realistically you'll want to fix typos, add sections, and update content. If you had copy-and-pasted from Microsoft Word this would be a pain, as you'd need to meticulously ensure you made all those changes to both the website and content (and adjust formatting each time.)

With Print My Blog, just make the changes to the content in your website (eg the knowledge base articles or posts included in the project), return to the "edit content" step of the project to add, remove, or reorganize content, or return to "choose design" or "customize design" steps to modify the style of the PDF.

Using Print My Blog streamlines creating and maintaining a user manual in all the formats making it as accessible as possible to your various users and contexts in which they will use it.

Let Users Choose Their Preferred Format for your User Manual

Restricting your user manual to only one format will always ostracize some users. Those who are always online will prefer it on a website (so will search engines). Users who aren't "computer people" will probably still prefer a print version (so will anyone you meet in-person). And it's often users will appreciate a digital PDF they can save



Dragging content into a project to create a part named "Tutorials" and articles within it.

to a device but still access offline. Creating all these formats directly in WordPress can be easy using the right tools.

Want to see my online/PDF/print manual for Print My Blog? [Check out the online manual for free](#), or [buy a professional license to get the digital PDF](#), or [buy a business license to get the print manual mailed to you](#).

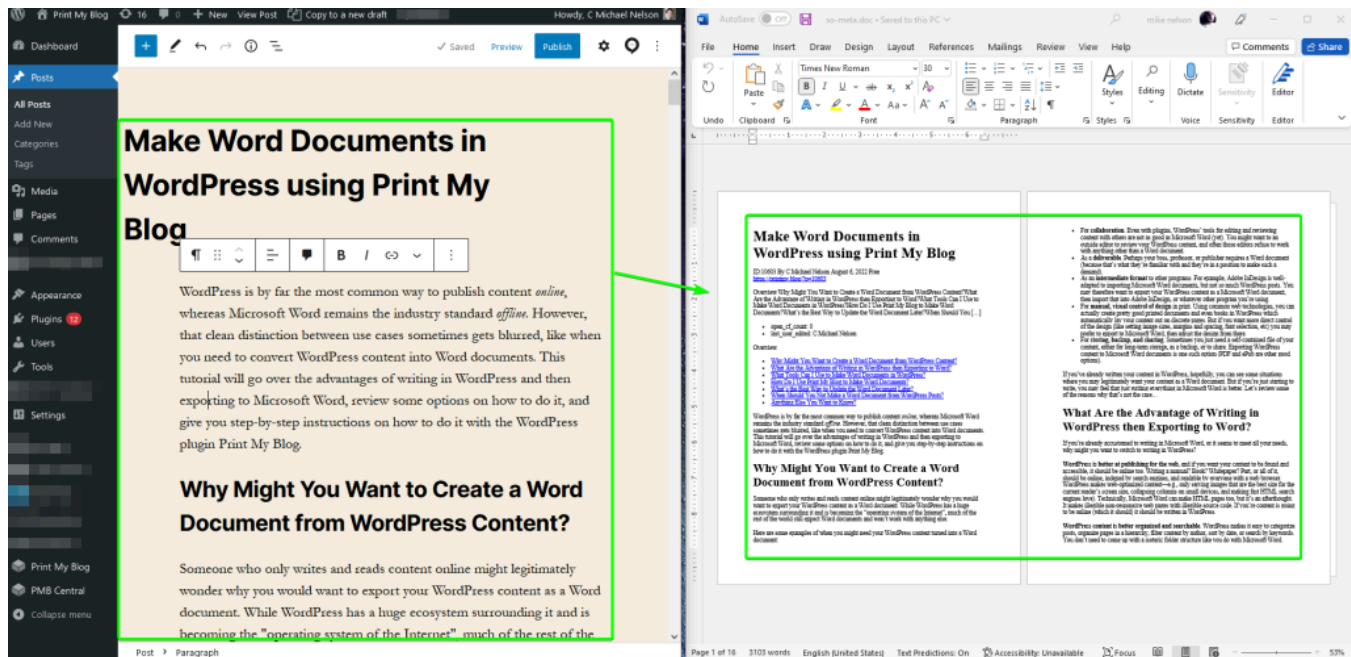
Questions? Please let me know and I'll do my best to answer them.

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The copyright page and table of contents from the print-ready PDF format of my project.

How to Make Word Documents in WordPress

WordPress is by far the most common way to publish content *online*, whereas Microsoft Word remains the industry standard *offline*. However, that clean distinction between use cases sometimes gets blurred, like when you need to convert WordPress content into Word documents. This tutorial will go over the advantages of writing in WordPress and then exporting to Microsoft Word, review some options on how to do it, and give you step-by-step instructions on how to do it with the WordPress plugin Print My Blog.



This post in WordPress and in Microsoft Word.

Why Create a Word Document from WordPress Content?

Someone who only writes and reads content online might legitimately wonder why you would want to export your WordPress content as a Word document. While WordPress has a huge ecosystem surrounding it and is becoming the “operating system of the Internet”, much of the rest of the world still expect Word documents and won’t work with anything else.

Here are some examples of when you might need your WordPress content turned into a Word document:

- For **collaboration**. Even with plugins, WordPress’ tools for editing and reviewing content with others are not as good as Microsoft Word (yet). You might want to an outside editor to review your WordPress content, and often those editors refuse to work with anything other than a Word document.
- As a **deliverable**. Perhaps your boss, professor, or publisher requires a Word document (because that’s what they’re familiar with and they’re in a position to make such a demand).
- As an **intermediate format** to other programs. For example, Adobe InDesign is well-adapted to importing Microsoft Word documents, but not so much WordPress posts. You may therefore want to export your WordPress content as a Microsoft Word document, then import that into Adobe InDesign, or whatever other program you’re using.
- For **manual, visual control of design** in print. Using common web technologies, you can actually create pretty good printed documents and even books in WordPress which automatically lay your content out

on discrete pages. But if you want more direct control of the design (like setting image sizes, margins and spacing, font selection, etc) you may prefer to export to Microsoft Word, then adjust the design from there.

- For **storing, backup, and sharing**. Sometimes you just need a self-contained file of your content, either for long-term storage, as a backup, or to share. Exporting WordPress content to Microsoft Word documents is one such option.

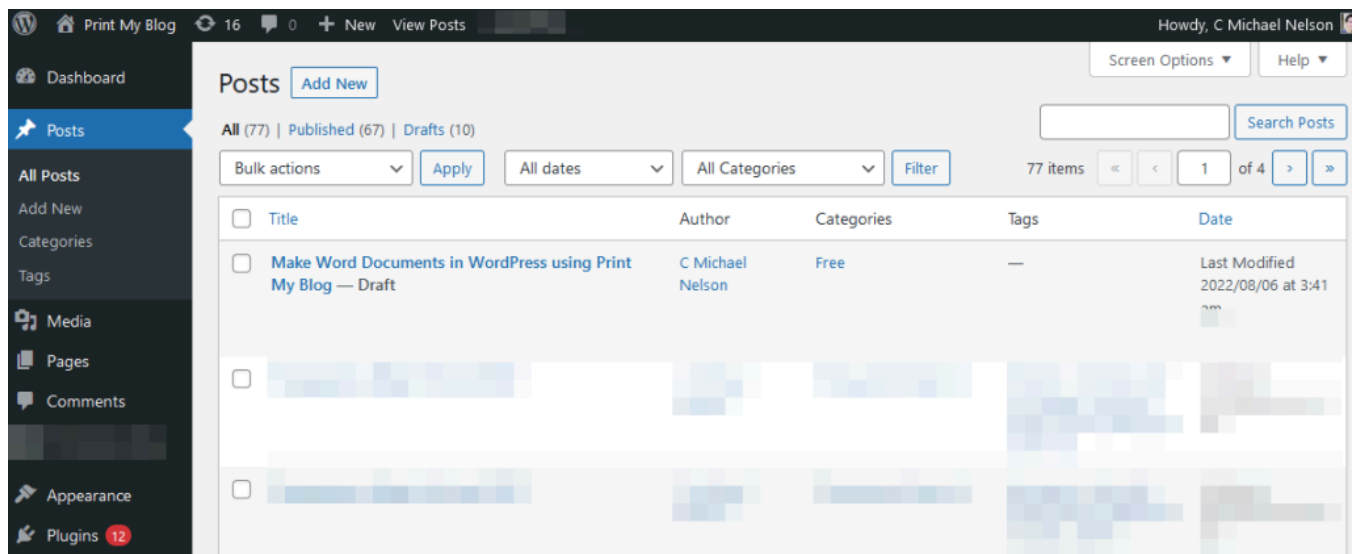
If you've already written your content in WordPress, hopefully, you can see some situations where you may legitimately want your content as a Word document. But if you're just starting to write, you may feel that just writing everything in Microsoft Word is better. Let's review some of the reasons why that's not the case...

Why Write in WordPress then Export to Word?

If you're already accustomed to writing in Microsoft Word, or it seems to meet all your needs, why might you want to switch to writing in WordPress?

WordPress is better at publishing for the web. If you want your content to be found and accessible, it should be online. Writing a manual? Book? Whitepaper? Part, or all of it, should be online, indexed by search engines so it can be found, and readable by everyone with a web browser. WordPress makes web-optimized content—e.g., only serving images that are the best size for the current reader's screen size, collapsing columns on small devices, and making fast HTML search engines love. Technically, Microsoft Word can make HTML pages too, but it's an afterthought. If your content is going to be online (which it should) it should be written in WordPress.

WordPress content is organized and searchable. Similar to how iTunes help organize your music playlists, WordPress helps categorize posts, organize pages in a hierarchy, filter content by author, sort by date, search by keywords, etc.. Microsoft Word doesn't help organize your files at all. (Most people come up with isoteric folder structures to compensate for this.) Want to see all posts in a category? By a certain author? By published date? WordPress helps finding and organizing your content far more than Microsoft Word.



WordPress' All Posts page, showing meta info like categories, author and date. You can search and filter by these attributes, too.

WordPress is open source and free and always will be. WordPress (the software) is created and maintained by the WordPress Foundation and is [free software](#). WordPress will not increase in price, nor change their terms of use, or sell your data. You can know everything it's doing behind the scenes, and your writing stays on the computer or server. And if you're not happy with it, you could switch to ClassicPress (a modified version of WordPress, maintained by a totally separate group of volunteers), or even run your own modified version. There is no dependence on a single corporate giant like Microsoft, who can change their policies, software, and prices

on a whim.

WordPress has a huge, supportive community. [Nearly half of all websites on the Internet run on WordPress](#), so it's a big ecosystem. There is almost no end to the number of tutorials, plugins, WordPress experts, hosting services, and fellow WordPress users. Also, there are thousands of local WordPress meetups, where small groups of users get together to build their skills, and most major cities have an annual WordPress conference (a.k.a. WordCamp). Although there are lots of Microsoft Word users, there is really no sense of community. You're on your own using it, and there are a lot fewer Microsoft Word professionals to choose from.

Lastly, with WordPress' rise in popularity, many of us prefer its block editor than Microsoft Word's (or its Classic Editor or pagebuilder like [Elementor](#).)

What Tools Make Word Documents in WordPress?

There are many ways to create a Microsoft Word document from WordPress content. Let's touch on a few.

Copy-Paste. The obvious solution is to open up a WordPress post, select its content, right-click "copy", then open up a new Word document in Microsoft Word, right-click on the empty page, and select "paste".

This is the simplest and easiest when creating a single Word document from a single post or page if your content is mostly just text.

But it becomes laborious if you're:

- assembling many posts into a single Word document
- adjusting or removing hyperlinks
- adding page breaks between posts
- including other post content (like categories, author, featured images).

You may eventually wish there were a way to automate some of this work—a WordPress plugin. And yes, there are a few.

[Aspose.Words](#) is a simple tool for exporting a small number of posts to Word documents. It adds a new "Bulk Action" to the WordPress posts list page called "Export to DOCX". You can select multiple posts, click "Export to DOCX", then Aspose.Words will create a zip archive folder with a Word document for each post you selected. Alternatively, it can dump all the selected posts into a single document.

It can similarly export pages and other custom post types, however you cannot combine posts and pages into a single export.

There are a few options to customize what data gets included in the generated Word documents, and you can control how the included posts are ordered.

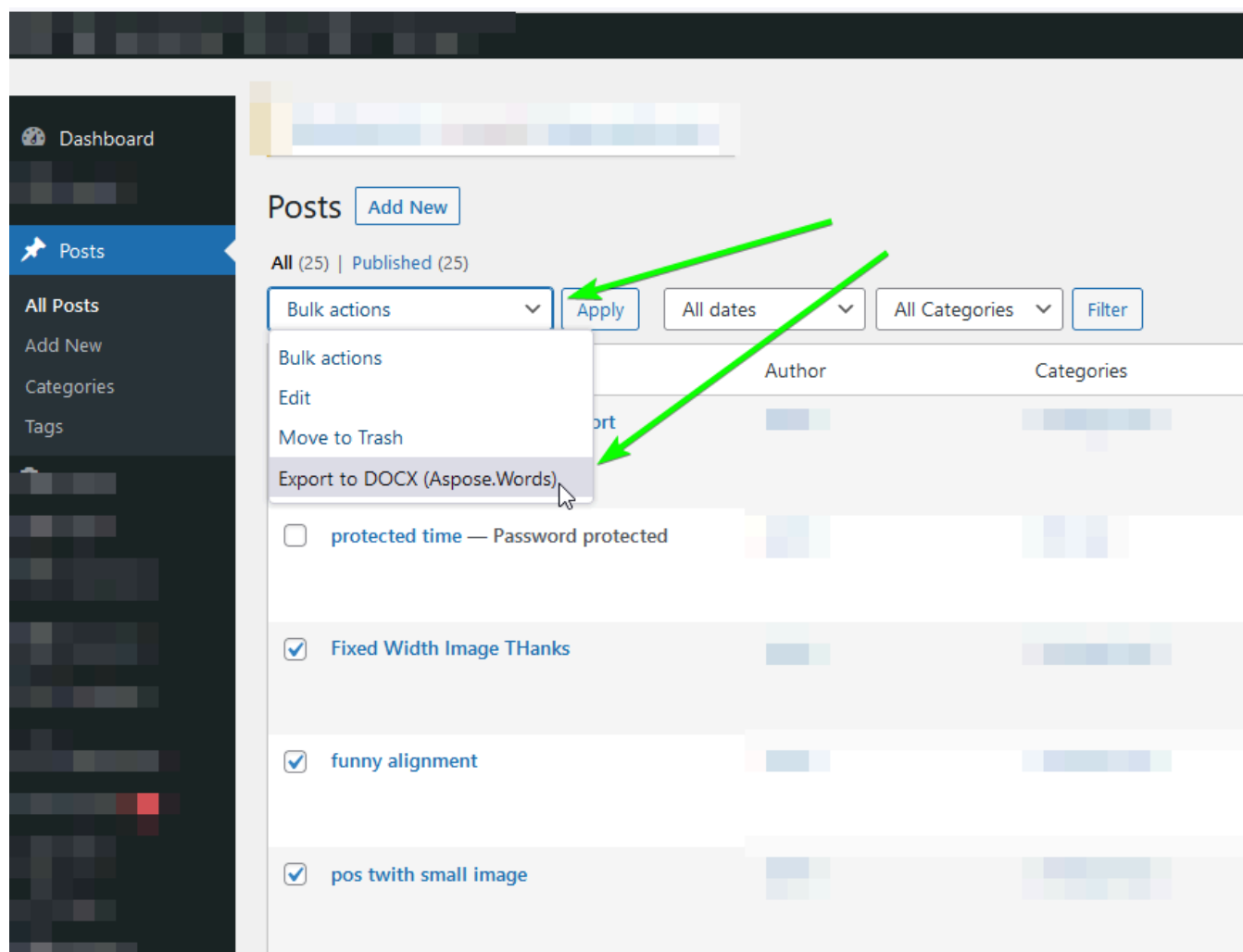
It does become difficult to export more than a handful of posts, however, because of the simple interface. You can only export as many posts as you can select at once (the default being 25), and you can't manually order them.

Still, given this plugin is free (it just requires signing up for a free Aspose account), it's a fine choice if it meets your needs.

[MPL-Publisher](#) is more advanced and better suited to creating books or other compilations of posts. The plugin lets you select posts, pages, and other content into "books", order them, add chapters, then export them to a single Word document (among other formats like PDF, ePub, and audio file). You can choose between a variety of designs and settings for each.

Exporting to Word documents is included in the free version of the plugin, but there are other features you may want that require payment.

[Print My Blog](#) (PMB) is also well-suited for creating books or compilations of posts but more users have tested it,



Aspose.words's "Export to DOCX" bulk action on the "All Posts" admin page.

has more documentation, and a number of other advantages.

For example, when creating Word documents, it allows you to:

- group content into parts
- customize and reuse the design (like choosing what content to include on the title page and main pages, and what quality of images to use)
- change hyperlinks to point to the corresponding page of the document rather than the webpage (or removed entirely)
- and include custom CSS styles.

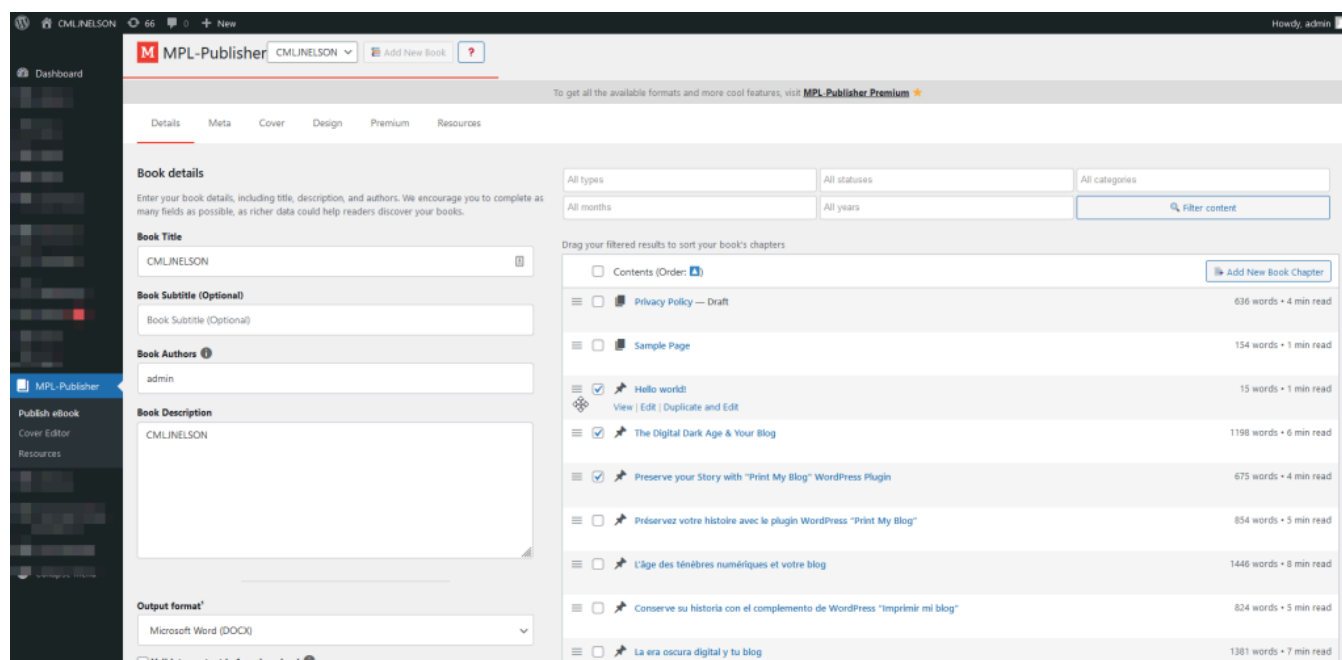
Developers can additionally create their own designs and templates, or even customize how the WordPress HTML content is converted into a Word document (written in XML.)

Creating Word documents with Print My Blog requires a current Pro subscription.

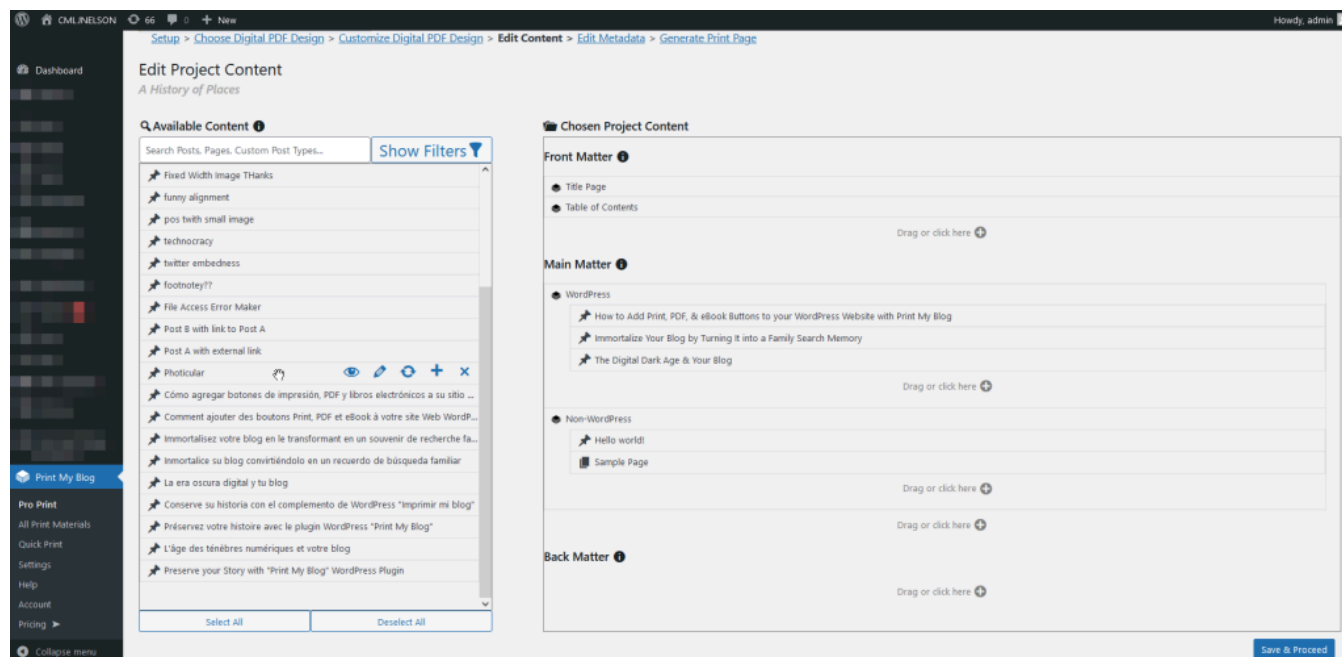
The rest of this tutorial will assume you're using Print My Blog.

How Do I Use Print My Blog to Make Word Documents?

Once you have [purchased a Pro license for Print My Blog](#) and the plugin is installed on your site, in the menu on



MPL-Publisher's "Publish eBook" page, with options for book title, subtitle, description, format, and content to choose from.

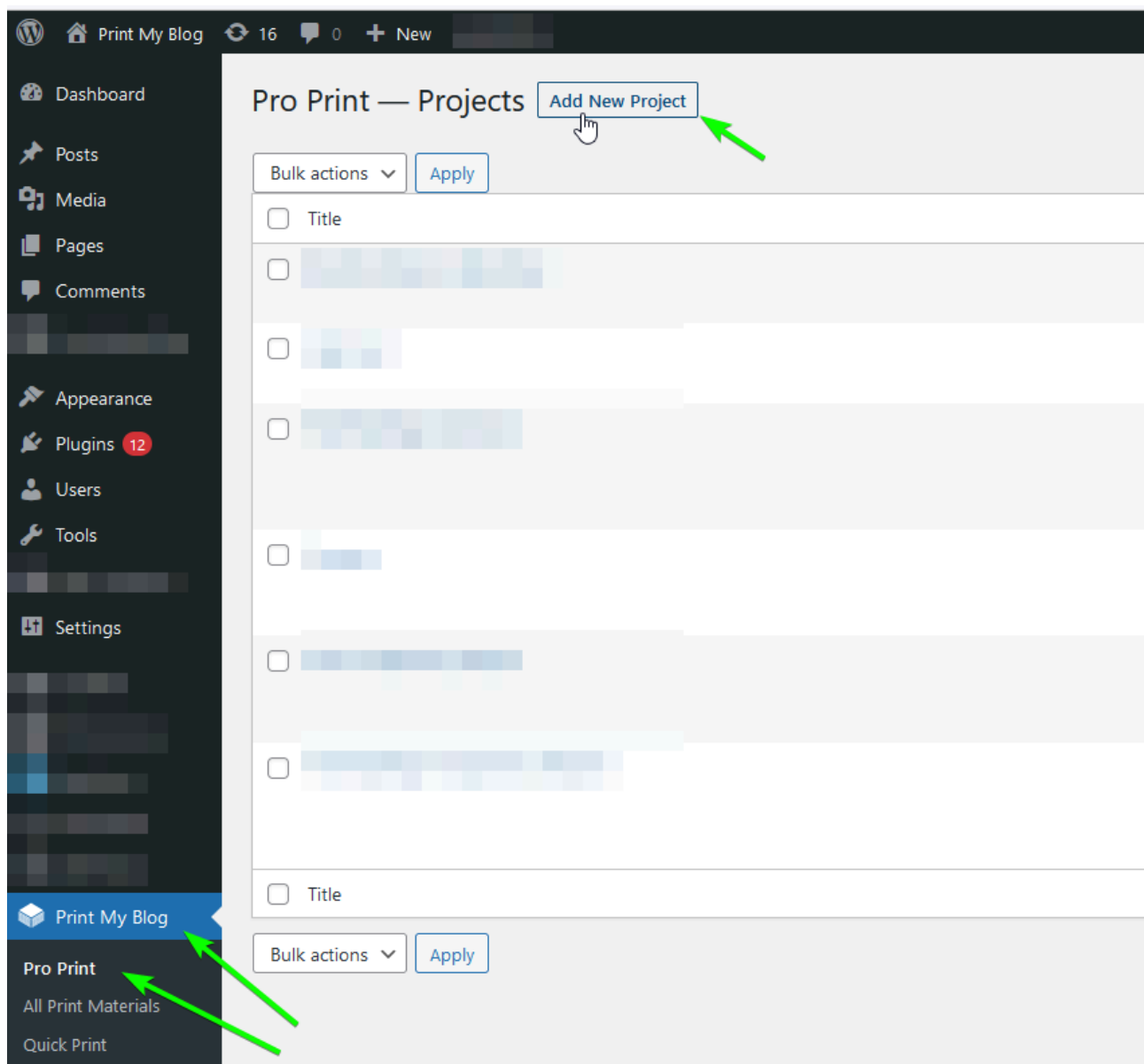


Print My Blog's "Edit Project Content" step. Choose content from your site on the left and add it to your project on the right.

the left, go to **Print My Blog » Pro Print**. Click **Add New Project**. Projects are how you organize the groups of posts (pages, custom types, etc.) to convert into Word documents and other formats.

This is the project setup step. **Select a title, uncheck Digital PDF, and check Word Document** (the other formats are useful too, but for now we're just focusing on Word documents.) Click **Submit & Proceed**.

Now you can choose the design of your document. The design controls how your posts's content is converted into a Word document, and can affect how the generated Word document will appear. For most file formats there are



*Under **Print My Blog**, click **Pro Print**, then **Add New Project**.*

multiple designs, but currently, Word document only has one. Click **Use The Design** to use it with its default settings, or **Customize** to see all its settings and change them.

If you chose Customize, you will see a page of settings. **Choose your design's settings**: what content to include on the title page, what content to include from each post, image quality, etc. For more details on these settings, see the [Classic Word Design's documentation](#)¹. Click **Save & Proceed** when done (reminder you can come back to this step later.)

Now on the Edit Project Content step, you get to choose which posts, pages, and custom post types to include in your project, in what order, and how to structure them.


Drag the posts and other content on the left into your project's content on the right—moving “Available Content” from your site into your “Chosen Project Content”. Front Matter is for introductory materials (like “About this Book” or “Introduction”), and Main Matter is where most of your content should go (chapters or articles), and Back Matter is for supplemental materials (like “Suggested Reading” or “About the Author”). The design may

1. See page [90](#).


Edit Project

Project Title*


Format*

☐ **Digital PDF** 


PDF file intended for viewing on a computer, tablet or phone, but not necessarily for printing

☐ **Print-Ready PDF** 

PDF file intended for printing on your home printer or with a printer service. Usually removes

☐ **eBook (ePub)** 

ePub file intended for reading from an eReader, tablet, or phone; or for publishing on an eBook

☒ **Word Document** 

File editable in Microsoft Word, Google Docs, LibreOffice, etc. Useful for sharing persons and p

Submit & Proceed

Add a title for the project and setting its only format to Word Document.

Print My Blog 17 + New Howdy, C Michael Nelson

Post Content

- ☒ Post Title
- ☒ ID
- ☒ Author
- ☒ Published Date
- ☒ Categories and Tags
- ☒ URL
- ☒ Featured Image
- ☒ Excerpt
- ☒ Custom Fields
- ☒ Content

Content from each post to print.

Image Quality (in pixels)

Lower quality means smaller file size, whereas higher quality means higher resolution images. Note: If images are missing from the generated PDF, the requested image size might not be available. Use the [Regenerate Thumbnails plugin](#) to create the missing image sizes.

Convert Videos to Images and Links ☒

Some Word Processors don't show videos, in which case you may prefer to replace them with an image and a hyperlink to the online video content.

Internal Hyperlinks

How to display hyperlinks to content included in this project.

External Hyperlinks

How to display hyperlinks to content not included in this project.

Apply Website Theme ☐

Your theme, "Dustcover", can be used in conjunction with your design. Themes are often not intended for print and can conflict with the design, but you may have content that looks broken without the theme.

Custom CSS

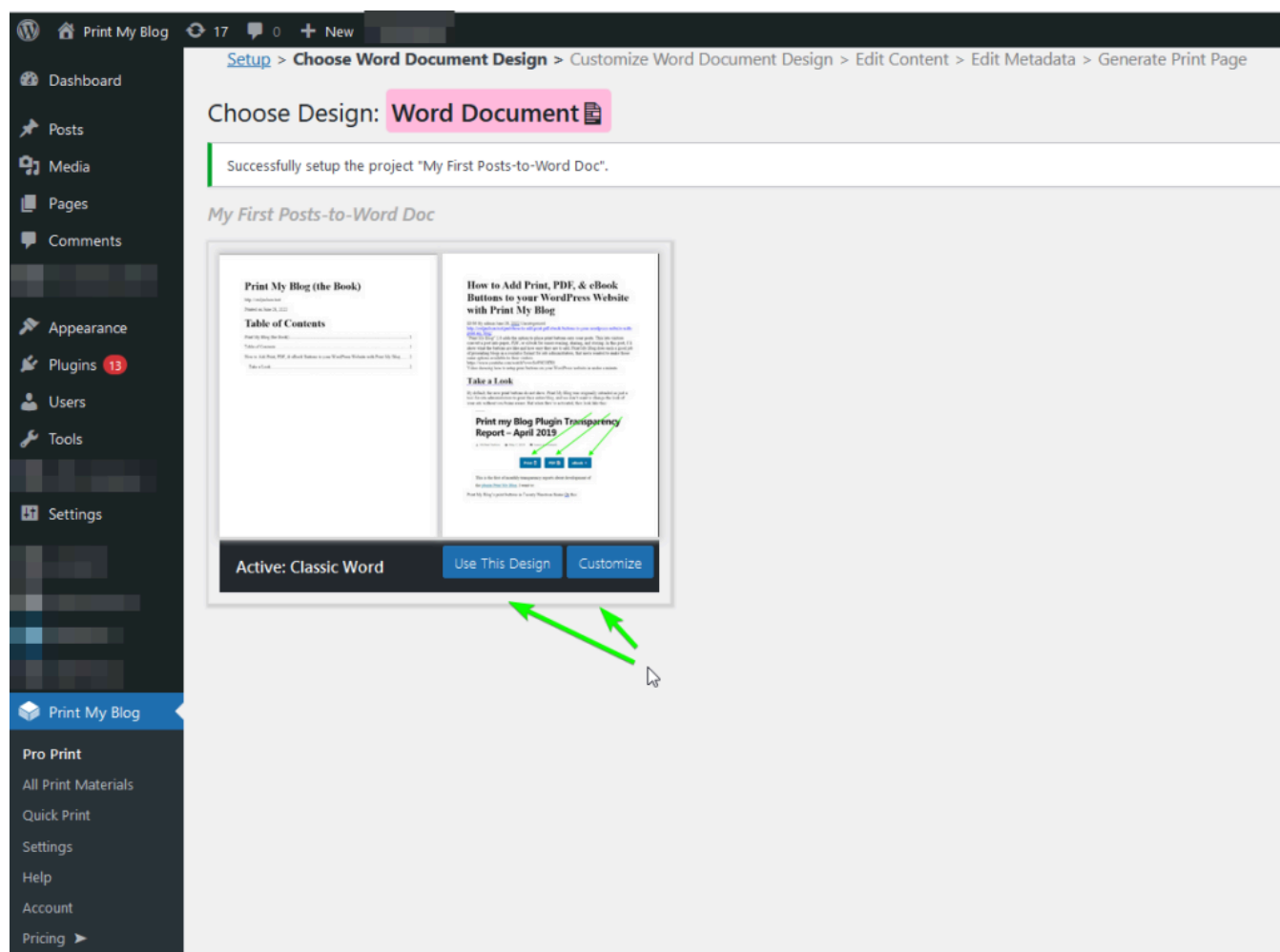
Styles to be applied only when printing projects using this design.

Save & Proceed

A few settings from the Customize Design step for the Classic Word Document design. Each design has different settings.

display content in each of these areas differently (like using roman numerals for front matter).

Use the search bar on the top-left and the "Show Filters" button to find specific content, and the "Select All" button in the bottom-left then drag over everything into your project. This project editor is more extensively explained,



Click “Use This Design” to skip customizing the design and get straight to choosing content, or “Customize” to first choose what parts of each post to include and other design choices. (You can customize it later, too.)

with examples, [in our documentation](#)¹. Click **Save & Proceed** in the bottom right when done.

After that, there’s one last step: Edit Project Metadata. This is usually a short form of info about your project. This information might be used in the title page, running headers, file metadata, etc. **Fill out the fields** and click **Save & Proceed**.

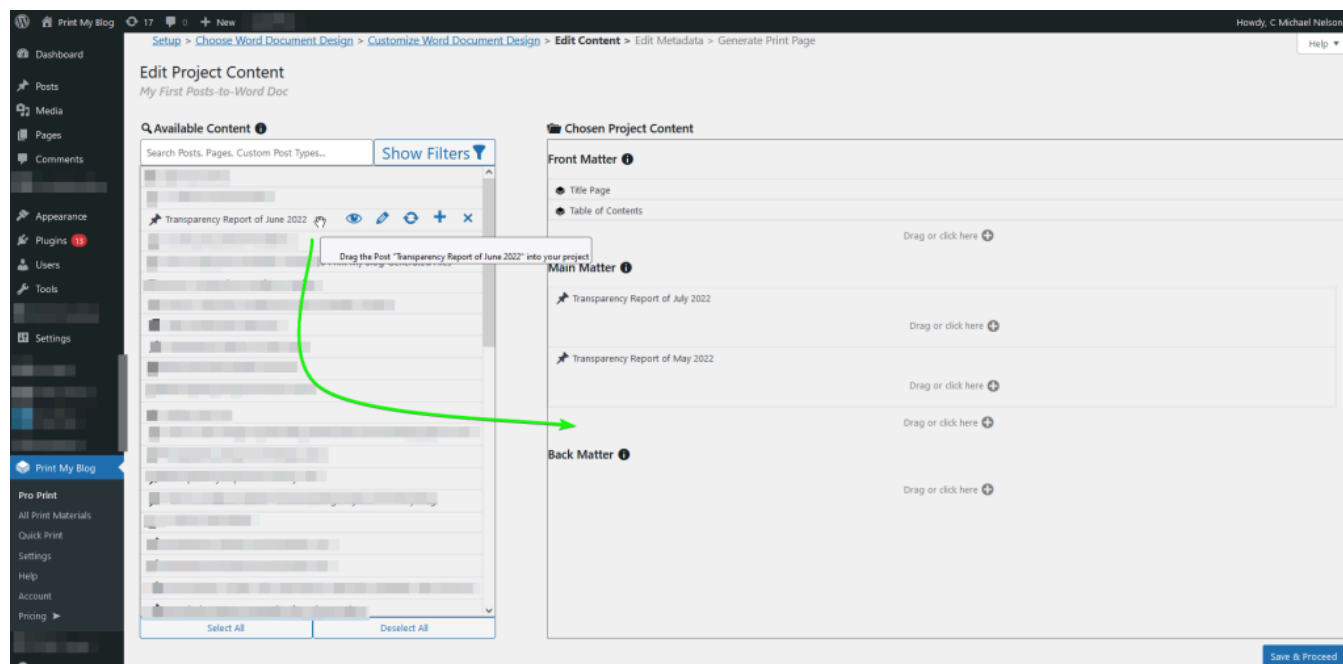
After all this, you are ready to create the Word document. On the Generate Print Page step, **click the Generate** to see a webpage with all your project’s contents. (Note: you can use the links on this page to make changes to any of the previous steps.)

On the next page (the “Print Page”), you can see all your project’s contents from your browser. **Click Download Word Document** once it’s enabled (the page might be busy for a few moments with a few last-minute preparations.) A Word document will be downloaded to your browser’s downloads folder.

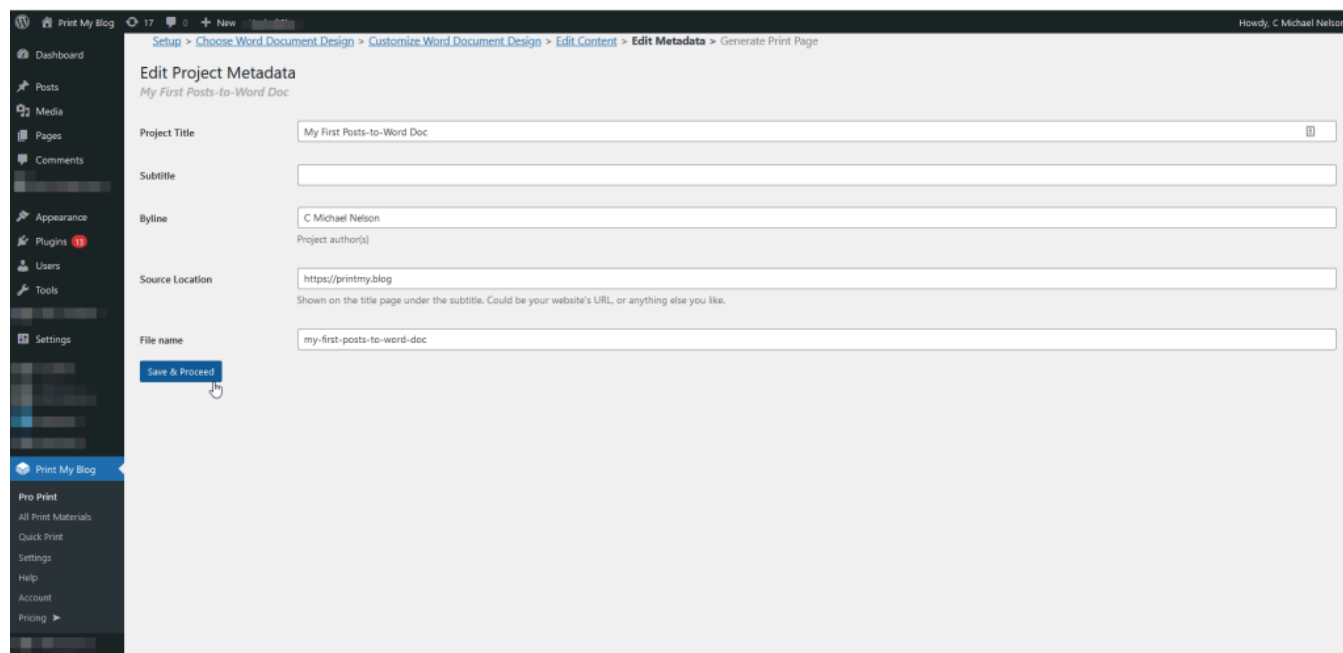
Open the Word document using Microsoft Word (or [LibreOffice](#), or any other word processing program.) Click **Enable Editing** to make images appear and make changes. Before you do this, Microsoft Word cautiously disables some of the content—don’t worry, it’s safe. Microsoft Word wasn’t aware you created the document. The document is safe to edit.

Initially, the table of contents will be blank. Press **Ctrl+a** (or **Cmd+a** on Mac) then **F9** to update the table of contents.

1. See page [31](#).



Dragging available site content on the left into the project on the right.

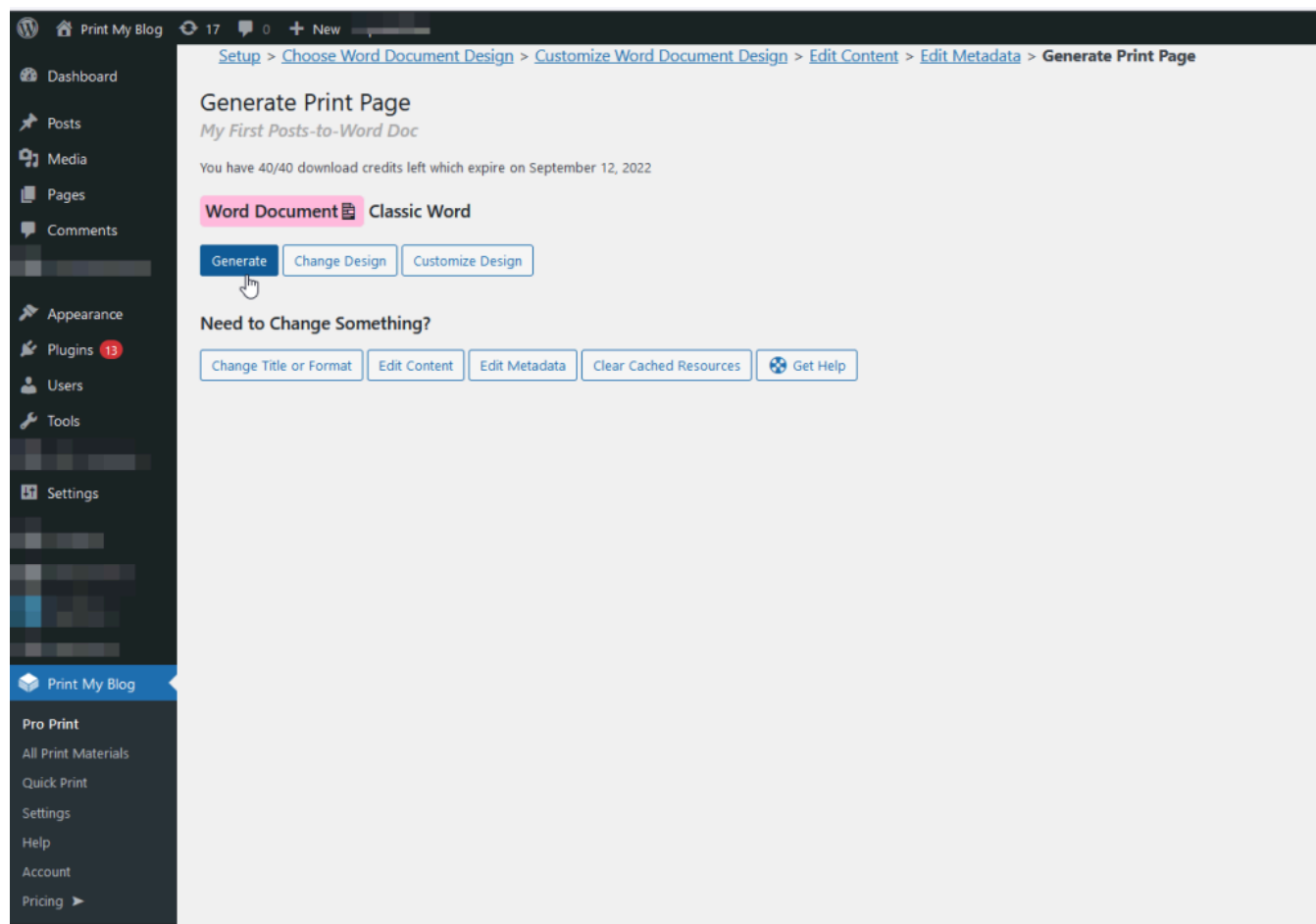


A project's metadata step.

Now, with the Word document in hand, it's a good chance to review it before sending it to someone or storing it. In doing so, you may notice some things you'll want to change. Let's talk about the best way to update the document...

What's the Best Way to Update the Word Document?

What if, after creating the Word document from WordPress content, you realize you need to change some wording or make other changes?

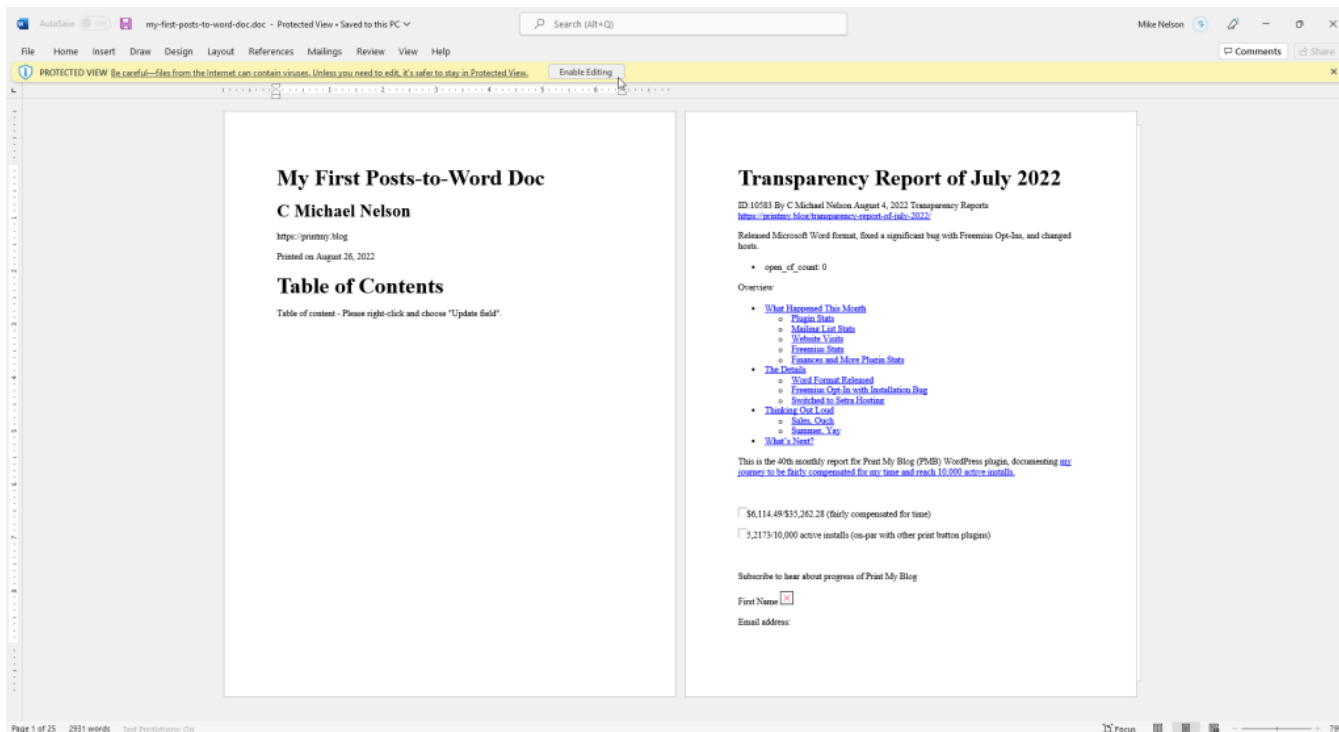


The “Generate Print Page”.

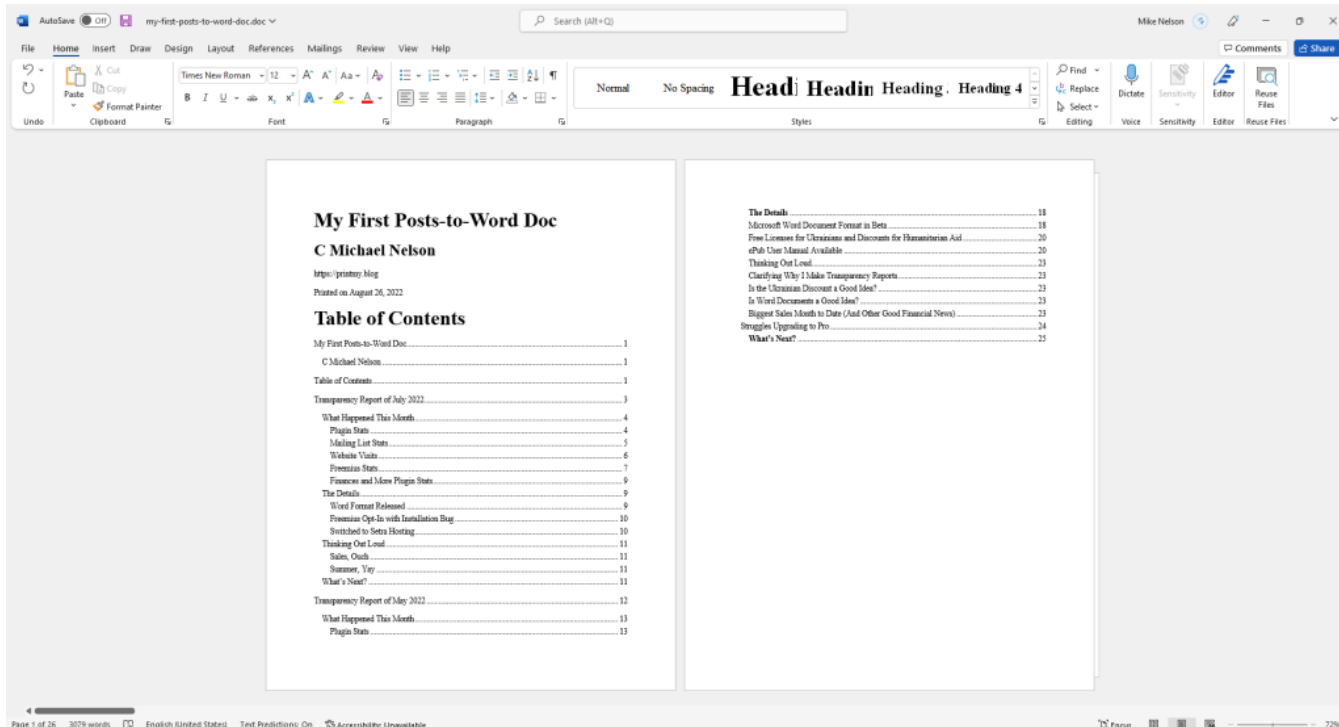


The Print Page contains all your project’s info as a single HTML file.

The main pitfall you want to avoid is unnecessary duplication. For example, it’s a pain to need to fix all typos in your WordPress posts *and* in the Word document. It’s much better to [fix them in the WordPress posts then re-generate the Word document from that](#), rather than making the changes to the Word document. This way you’ll



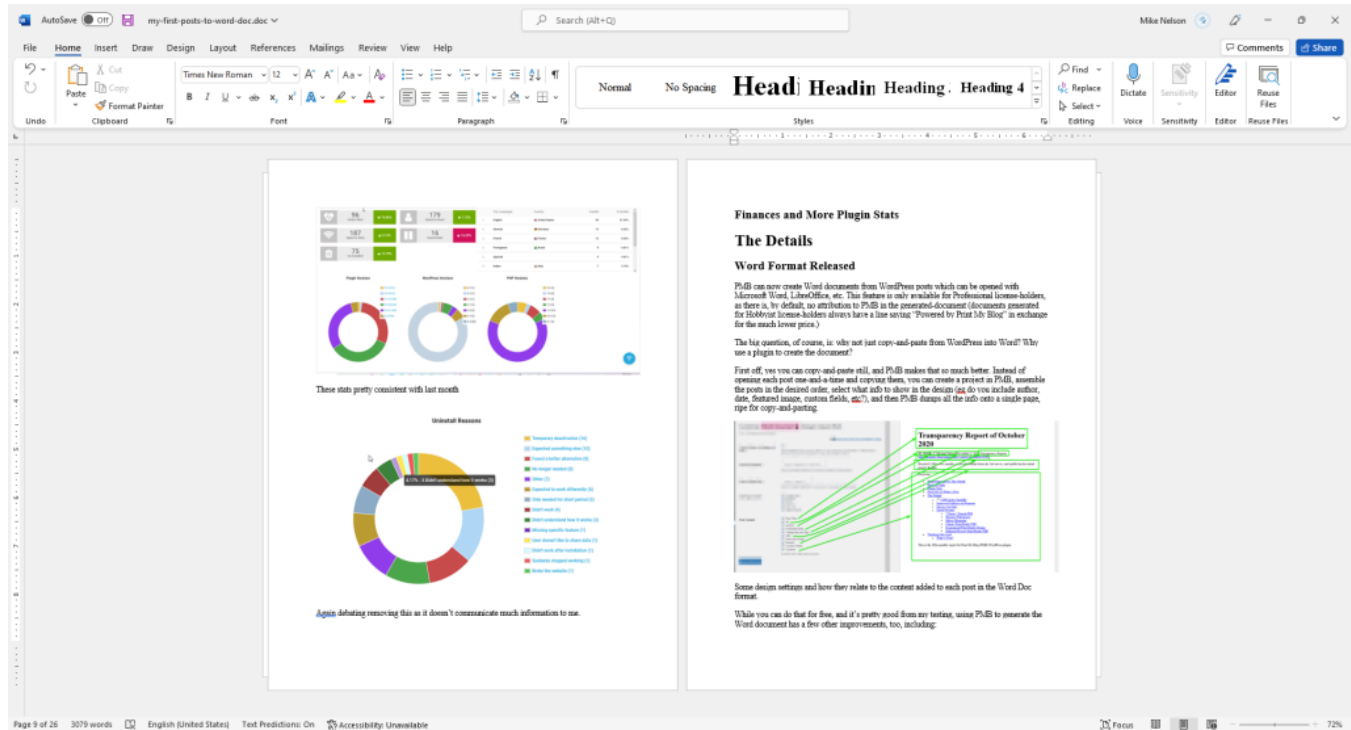
When you open the file in Microsoft Word, click “Enable Editing” (before you do this, images won’t appear nor can you edit the document.)



The Table of Contents after updating it.

avoid needing to change both your website and the Word document when there is a change to be made.

If you need to make the Word document’s wording a little different from the original post or remove elements from



A few pages from a generated Word document, showing images, headings, and text.

it but not the original post, [use Print My Blog's shortcodes or CSS classes](#)¹. With them, you can make parts of a post different on your website than in the generated Word document. This is much more convenient than manually editing the Word document after generating it each time (because despite whatever you initially think, you will probably want to regenerate the Word document a few times.)

The only time you should be directly editing the Word document is to make final design adjustments, like resizing images. But this can be time-consuming so you only want to do it once, not every time you fix a typo. For that reason, be sure to first proofread your work and make any adjustments to the content choices before doing the lengthy manual formatting in Word.

When Should You Not Make a Word Document from WordPress Posts?

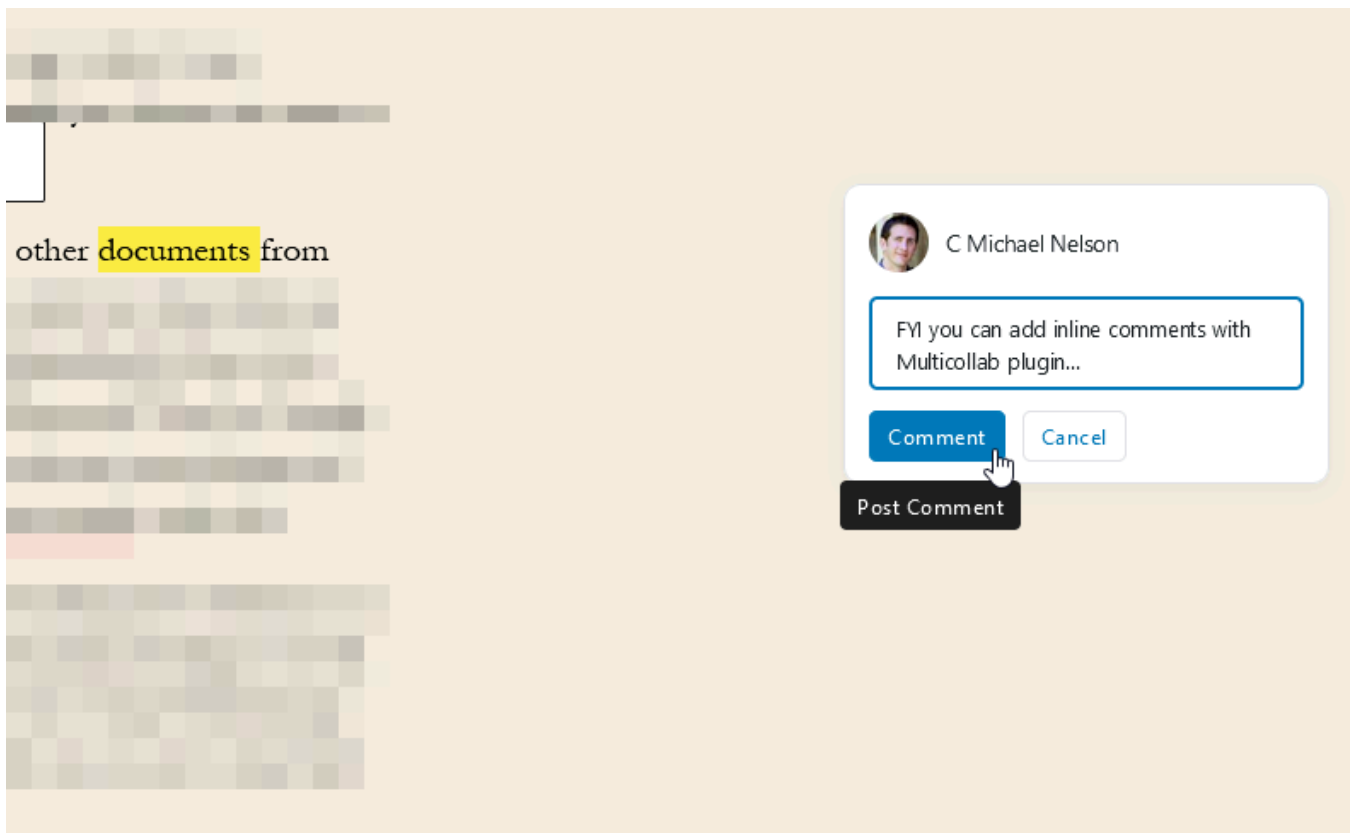
In some situations, there may be better ways to accomplish what you need without creating a Microsoft Word document which might be worth considering.

Printing out your posts with your home printer may be better served by instead exporting your posts to a print-ready PDF. Print My Blog can do this, and the file won't require manual tweaking in Microsoft Word. It can also automatically replace hyperlinks with page references and footnotes, convert YouTube videos into screenshots with a URL, and even automatically adjust image placement and size to avoid whitespace.

Creating a book and eBook for sale on Amazon can instead be an ePub file (for the eBook) and print-ready PDF (for the print-on-demand book). Print My Blog can have a single project be exported to multiple file formats, each handling the design differently (e.g., removing hyperlinks in the PDF but leaving them in the eBook; using large images in the PDF but smaller ones in the eBook, etc.)

Reviewing and editing will be more streamlined by keeping the feedback in WordPress or in a physical printout. The [Multicollab plugin](#) lets you add inline feedback to posts that are viewable only to authors, very similar to Microsoft Word's Review mode and Google Docs' comments.

1. See page [140](#).



An inline comment was added to a post using the Multicollab plugin.

For those willing to try using WordPress' plugins (especially if you're willing to work with the plugin authors to add the features you need) you may find exporting posts to Microsoft Word isn't necessary.

In Conclusion: WordPress ❤️ Microsoft Word?

WordPress can quite easily be used as a [total replacement for Microsoft Word](#) or in conjunction with it. Even if others expect and require Microsoft Word documents, there are advantages to using WordPress and exporting to Microsoft Word as needed.

Please let me know if you have any questions about using WordPress with Microsoft Word.

How to Create an eBook from an Existing Project in Print My Blog

Version 3.10.0 of Print My Blog (PMB) added the ePub eBook export format, so you can create eBooks to conveniently read from handheld devices and sell on book marketplaces like Amazon, Kobo, Apple Books, etc.

In this short tutorial, I'll show how to create an eBook from an existing project created in PMB.



For those who prefer to not read, here's a 2-minute video tutorial showing the same thing.

First, go to PMB 's "Pro Print" projects page. Find the project and click "Setup" below it.

If you have a paid license to PMB, you'll see the option to add "eBook (ePub)" to your project. Check it and save.

As with other formats, you can choose your design, although currently there is only one. Click "Choose this Design", or "Customize" if you'd like to customize the title page and what content is displayed from each article in your project.

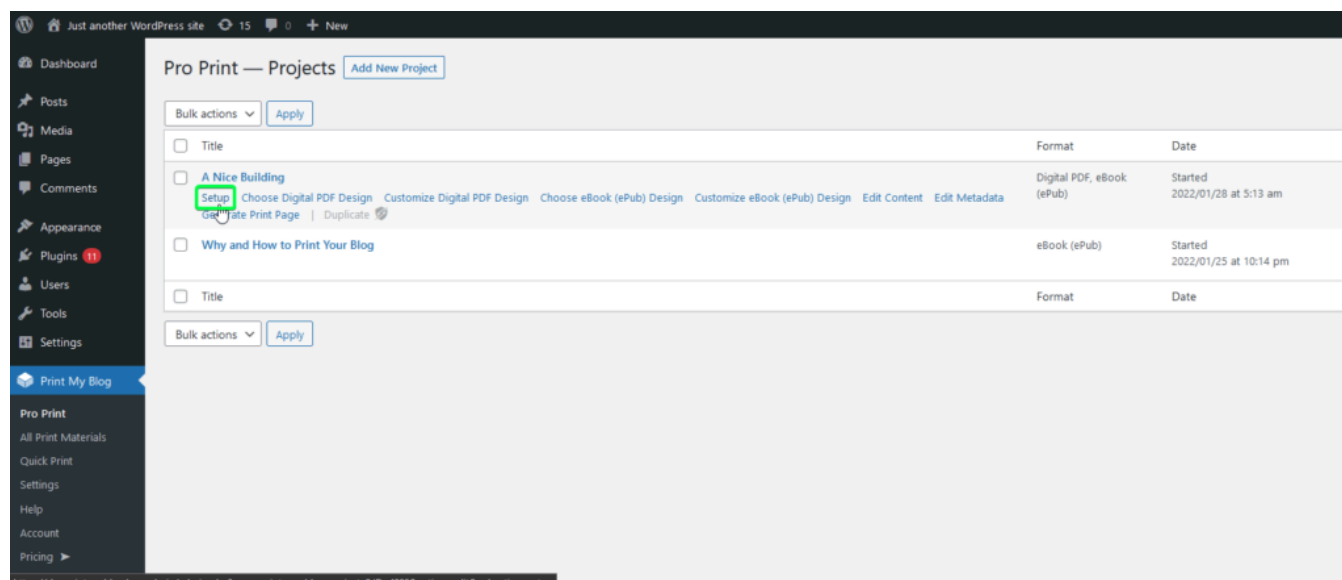
Before generating the project, you might want to click "Edit Metadata" to modify the ePub's filename, cover image, description, etc.

On the "Generate Print Page" step, click "Generate" under "eBook (ePub)" format which creates the Print Page, where your content is all placed onto a single page.

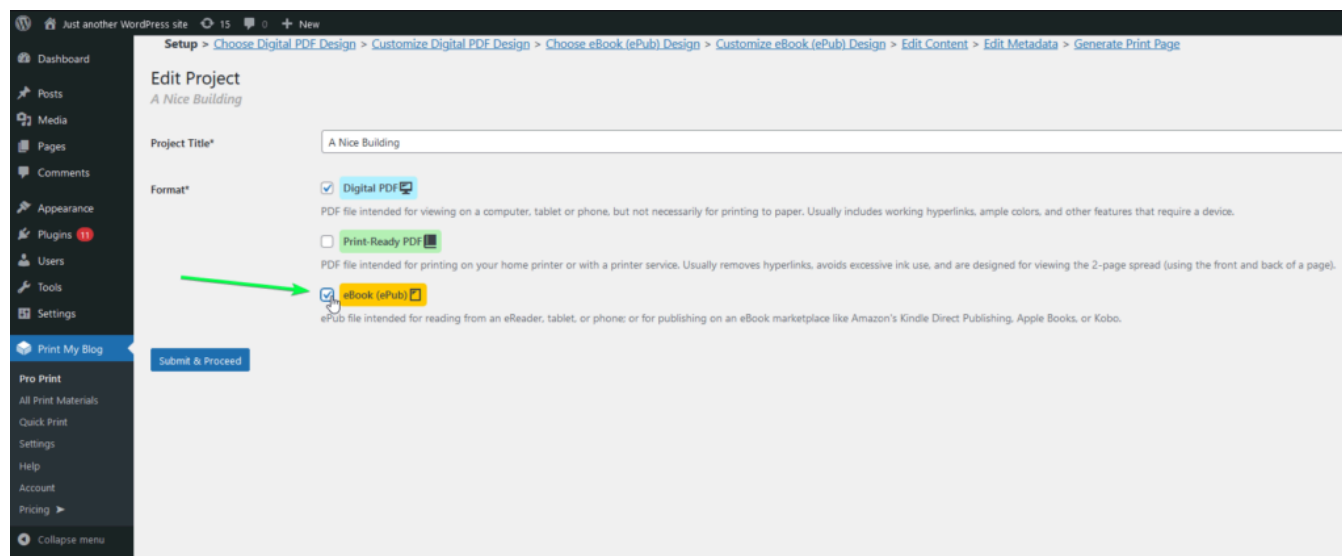
Click "Download ePub" to create the file.

You're now free to do what you like with the ePub file.

On your computer you can open it using an eBook reader like [Calibre](#), or preview it using the [Kindle Previewer](#).



PMB's "Pro Print" projects page, showing the link to the "Setup" step of a project.



A project's "Setup" step, showing the new "eBook (ePub)" option available with a paid license to PMB.

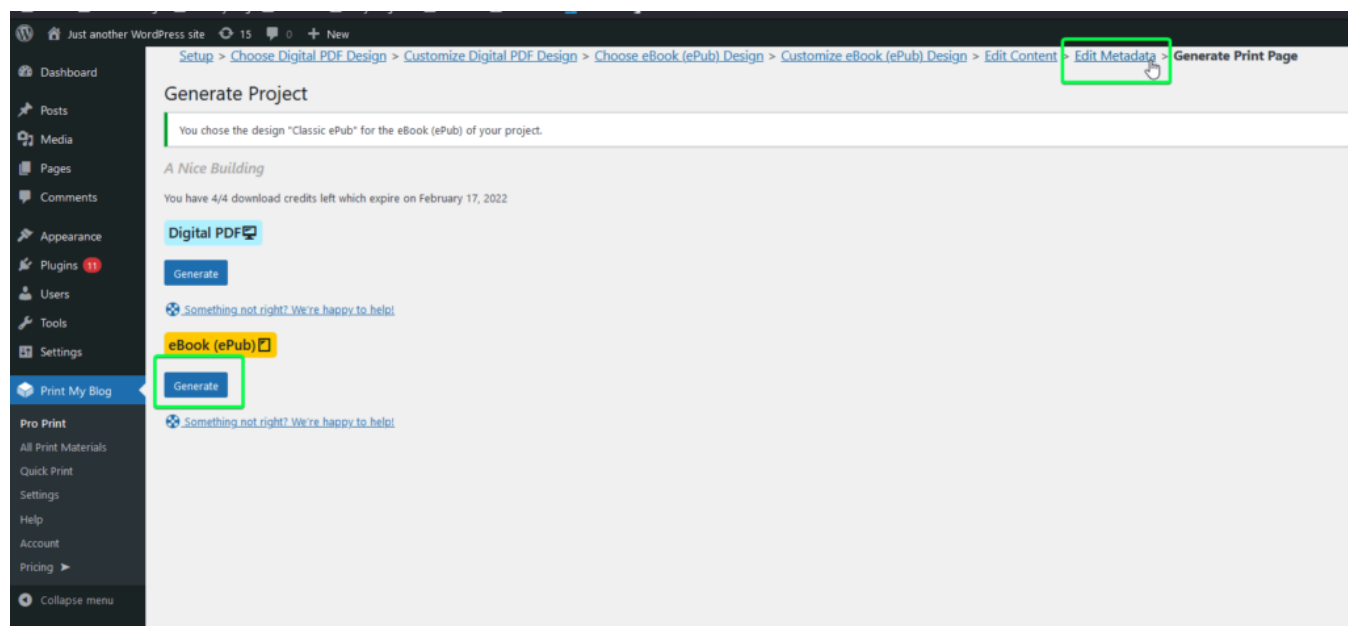
You can also send the eBook to your phone (e.g., email it to yourself and open the email from your phone) to read it from there. Likewise, you can send it to others or make it available for download by others so they can read it from the device of their choosing.

You can also upload it to a book marketplace like Amazon, Kobo, Apple Books.

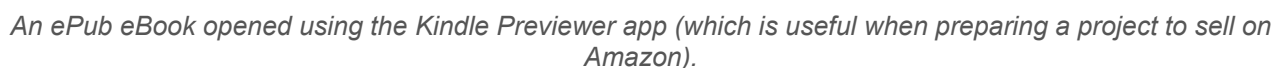
Please let me know if you have any issues or want to request any new features.



The “Choose eBook (ePub) Design” step, which only has one design to choose. Clicking “Customize” will take you to customize the design, whereas “Use This Design” skips customizing it (you can come back and customize it later).



A project’s “Generate Print Page” step with a link to generate a file in each format selected during the earlier “Setup” step. The breadcrumb links at the top can also take you to the “Edit Metadata” step, which has more options for the ePub, like choosing a cover image.



Thanks for Reading

Good for you! You're now pretty well an expert on using PMB Pro. All you might need is a little practice.

If you still have questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch via Twitter (I'm @cmljnelson) or [my contact page](#). I've found that often really great ideas start with what seem to be really simple questions (eg "How do I print my blog?" 😊) So you'll be doing me a favour by asking.

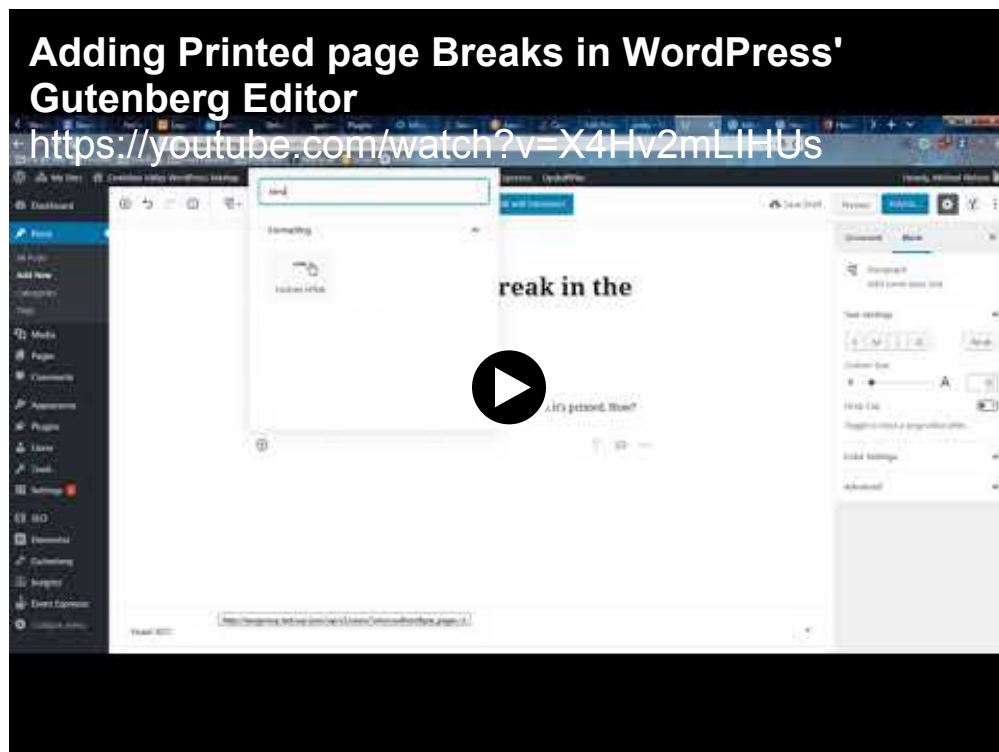
What follows is a little supplemental materials that you might find of interest. Thanks again!

—Mike Nelson, Developer of Print My Blog

How Print My Blog Got Started

In 2018 I, Michael Nelson, was working for [Event Espresso](#) and started a [local WordPress meetup](#). One day, someone at the WordPress meetup asked how to print web pages from your browser without having the images get cut in half across page breaks.

I made a short video explaining a trick to do that. But I began to realize this was a problem many folks have, and it's mostly ignored by most web developers today.



I had previously been blogging for a few years, and had wondered how to best preserve that data, knowing that websites seem to come-and-go. I wrote a post titled [The Digital Dark Age & Your Blog](#) which got shared by fellow WordPress meetup attendee, Donna Connolly, who had quite a significant following on her blog.

The solution I came up with was to just make a PDF from my blog, then upload it to Family Search for posterity to read (just like I had uploaded data about my ancestors there).

Anthologize was a plugin that looked like it would accomplish that, but not quite. It just wasn't setup for handling hundreds or thousands of posts, which I had, and I realized lots of other folks had.

I contributed to Anthologize briefly, but [its developer, Boone Gorges, suggested](#) what I wanted was so different it would probably be best to create my own plugin. So, [Print My Blog was born, primarily with the purpose of helping preserve our blogs for the future.](#)

Growth of the plugin has been surprisingly steady (although not explosive) as I've recorded over the months of [transparency reports](#).

I really enjoyed working on my own plugin (helping customers, building features based on their feedback, reaching out to new potential customers with the improvements) and hoped to do it more full-time. [I hoped to fund my time entirely through donations](#), but despite doing quite well for the plugin's size, it was never anywhere near enough. Plus, it seemed to get more donations I'd have to employ a lot of strategies that removed all the joy in it (like trying to make people feel bad until they donated). So I [decided to create a paid version](#).

A paid version would also allow me to use paid 3rd-party software (like Prince or DocRaptor) that would allow a lot of cool features that had often been requested (like more control over page margins, a table of contents with page numbers, intelligently rearranging big images to reduce dead space.) So I started working on Print My Blog Pro.

Based on [an article from Freemius' blog by Vito Peleg](#), I outlined a plan to recruit some “founding members”, work with them to create the first version, then give them a big discount when it was finally released.

The feedback from founding members was very useful, but I admit it took me a lot longer to build it, while receiving their feedback, than I anticipated. It didn't help that I chose to basically rewrite the entire plugin, then integrate the new with the old. It ended up taking about a year, instead of the 3 months I had planned.

But, as of May 2021, Print My Blog Pro is released for anyone to use and purchase. It's hardly perfect, but it was great to get it finished, and then be able to iterate and improve it (rather than forever thinking “I'll release it after I finish just this last thing” over and over again.)

I hope Print My Blog is useful to you, and helps your writing reach wider audiences right now, and helps preserve your writing far into the future.

About the Author



Colin Michael Lucien Jonathan Nelson is “the longest name in WordPress”, [according to his own blog](#).

He’s a software developer specializing in WordPress and Django. He likes having new ideas. He lives with his wife, 3 girls, and a lot of pigs.

You can get in touch with him on [Twitter](#) or via [his blog](#).

What You Should Do Next

If you've made it all this way, and haven't yet installed and tried Print My Blog, certainly do that. You've got a good overview of what it can do but need to get your hands dirty.

Once you've tried it, you'll probably have lots of questions. Please get in touch! Only about a tenth of users with problems or questions report them. And sometimes those problems have an easy fix if only the software creators are made aware of them.

Got an idea that would make Print My Blog really useful for you or someone you know? Please reach out also. Nobody knows what software users need quite like the users themselves. So you're the expert in knowing your needs! If you can, please share some of that expertise!

Either way, I hope you'll write stuff that's readable both online (websites) and offline (PDFs, books). There's a lot of talk about making websites accessible, which is important to help neglected individuals, but I think hand-in-hand with that is making content accessible *outside* of your website. Not everyone can read from a screen while connected to the Internet all the time. You choose the content you wrote, let your readers choose the format they'll read it in.

If you are a web designer, or know one, try to keep print media in mind when designing websites. Browsers are getting better at printing, but I think designers are increasingly neglecting the fact someone may try to print their website. This is resulting in a feedback loop where no one prints webpages because they're terrible in print, then designers don't design for print because no one prints web pages. You can help break that cycle.

If you've found Print My Blog useful, please share what you've accomplished with it on our Facebook group, your friends and followers on social media, and on your blog. I'd appreciate hearing about it, and would appreciate your help in getting the word out. Thanks if you can!

After all that, take a break and enjoy life too. Don't forget about that! Take care!

—Michael Nelson, Developer of Print My Blog