You invest your time learning, plugging away and perhaps even shed a few tears in getting your WordPress site setup.

Now, let me ask you: **What are you doing to keep it SAFE?**

While I will never understand why hackers hack, they are out there and we must do all that we can to keep our sites safe. Sometimes it isn't even a hacker that takes a site down.

The truth is, sometimes things just break. Themes get outdated. Plugins get outdated. Sometimes when doing something as innocent as updating a plugin, the entire site can come down.

I know this because it has happened to me, more than once. Those are moments when your heart skips a beat and the sweat starts to trickle down your temples.

That's not just me, right? Right, guys?

There is good news though. While nothing can ever 100% prevent a site crash or a site hack, there are things that you can do to protect it.

Before you make any major changes to your site, know where it stands. This is why a security audit is a good plan.

How To Audit Your WordPress Security:

Is your favorite web browser up to date?

I know what you are thinking: What on earth does this have to do with WordPress? Well, it would sure be terrible if your web browser has a vulnerability that is allowing some sort of key logger surveillance to pick up all of your passwords. Read more here: http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/K/keylogger.html

Note: Update your web browser before you proceed to the next step.

Is your site being backed up?

This is the first and most critical factor before proceeding to any of the steps below. If your site is not being backed up, you should do this ASAP.

You may feel tempted to skip this step.

Just yesterday, a client's site crashed because a plugin was not compatible with the latest version of WordPress. We were able to analyze the problem and figure out that it was a conflict. Once we figured that out, we were able to roll back to the latest backup of his site. Now it is running smoothly again.

Backupbuddy is my go to WordPress Backup Plugin. Here is a link to buy it today: http://bit.ly/1IV024N

Are you running the latest version of WordPress?

Here's how to verify this:

Step 1: Go to this link: https://wordpress.org/download/ and look on the right for the latest version of WordPress.

Step 2: Log into your WordPress dashboard.

Step 3: Scroll to the bottom and look for your WordPress version in the far right corner.

Note: **Do not** update WordPress unless your site has recently been backed up.

When is the last time that your theme was updated?

Sometimes theme developers abandon themes. Believe it or not, it happens all the time, especially with free themes. Don't be alarmed but do check in with your theme shop and see how things are going.

Step 1: Log into your WordPress dashboard.

Step 2: Click on Appearance

Step 3: Click on Themes

Step 4: Click on the image for the active theme

Step 5: Is there an update available?

Note: If there is an update available read about the update and learn a bit about what has changed. It is possible that the latest update may cause compatibility issues with your plugins or the current version of WordPress.

If there is no update available, click through to the theme developer's site and read up to see when the last update was created. At this point your primary goal is to make sure that the theme

developer is still supporting the theme and that it hasn't been abandoned.

Finally, before you hit update on the theme, be prepared to restore your backup just in case something goes wrong.

Final note, check for updates about once a month as a general rule.