WEB HOSTING
Setup

Disclaimer

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Hosting for Your Website

In order to build a website, you need to make sure that it's hosted with a web hosting company.

No hosting = no website so it's the first thing we need to take care of.

There are hundreds of hosts to choose from all offering a similar service.

While I'm no web hosting expert, I do have well over 80 websites across multiple web hosts and so my personal recommendation based on overall quality of service, support, security, uptime and price is:

A2Hosting and SiteGround.

They both offer a great service and are head and shoulders above any other host that I've experienced when it comes to the quality of service and quickly attending to any support question I have.

Think of it like flying in a plane.

Passengers can fly first class or economy class. Although all the passengers are headed to the same destination, the first-class passengers are getting a much better experience and level of service.

With A2Hosting and SiteGround you're flying first class for the same price as an economy class ticket.

Of the two, A2 Hosting is my first choice and the one which I recommend you get started with.

So, let's sign up:

Either click on the image or this link: Get A2Hosting+Discount

You'll now be on A2 Hosting's website. If you went through my link, you should have access to a pretty good discount (discount still available at the time of making this guide).

Click here for A2 Hosting Discount

We have a **blazing fast web hosting** solution perfect for you! Whether you have a low traffic, brand new blog or own a popular business site, **A2 Hosting has got you covered**! Whether you've never run a website before or are a professional developer, rest assured we have a web hosting solution to meet your unique needs!

SHARED HOSTING	RESELLER HOSTING	VPS HOSTING	DEDICATED HOSTING
Starting at	Starting at	Starting at	Starting at
$3.92	**$13.19**	**$5.00**	**$99.59**
USD monthly	USD monthly	USD monthly	USD monthly
(was $7.99)	(was $19.99)		(was $119.99)
👍 Host your personal blog/site	👍 Host your own customers	👍 More power than Shared Hosting	👍 For most intensive business needs
✔ **WordPress**, Drupal & Joomla optimized ✔ **Turbo** Servers (up to 20X faster) ✔ **Easy**-to-use	✔ **Easily** setup individual hosting accounts ✔ **Fully** white-labeled ✔ **World** class WHM control panel	✔ **Speed,** security & developer friendly ✔ **More** isolation ✔ **Choose** your management level	✔ **Customize** your server's resources ✔ **Complete** isolation ✔ **Choose** your management level
Use code: flash51	Use code: rslrsale		Use code: FASTSRVR
GET STARTED	GET STARTED	GET STARTED	GET STARTED
COMPARE PLANS	COMPARE PLANS	COMPARE PLANS	COMPARE PLANS

Now scroll down to the hosting plans as shown in the above image.

I always recommend choosing the most basic plan to begin unless you intend on building multiple websites. You can always upgrade or downgrade your plan seamlessly should the need arise.

So, for now, click on the "GET STARTED" button under the **Shared Hosting plan**.

You'll now be asked to choose your domain name.

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The domain name is the name of your website (example.com, yourbrandname.net, yourname.org etc…).

The domain name is different to hosting.

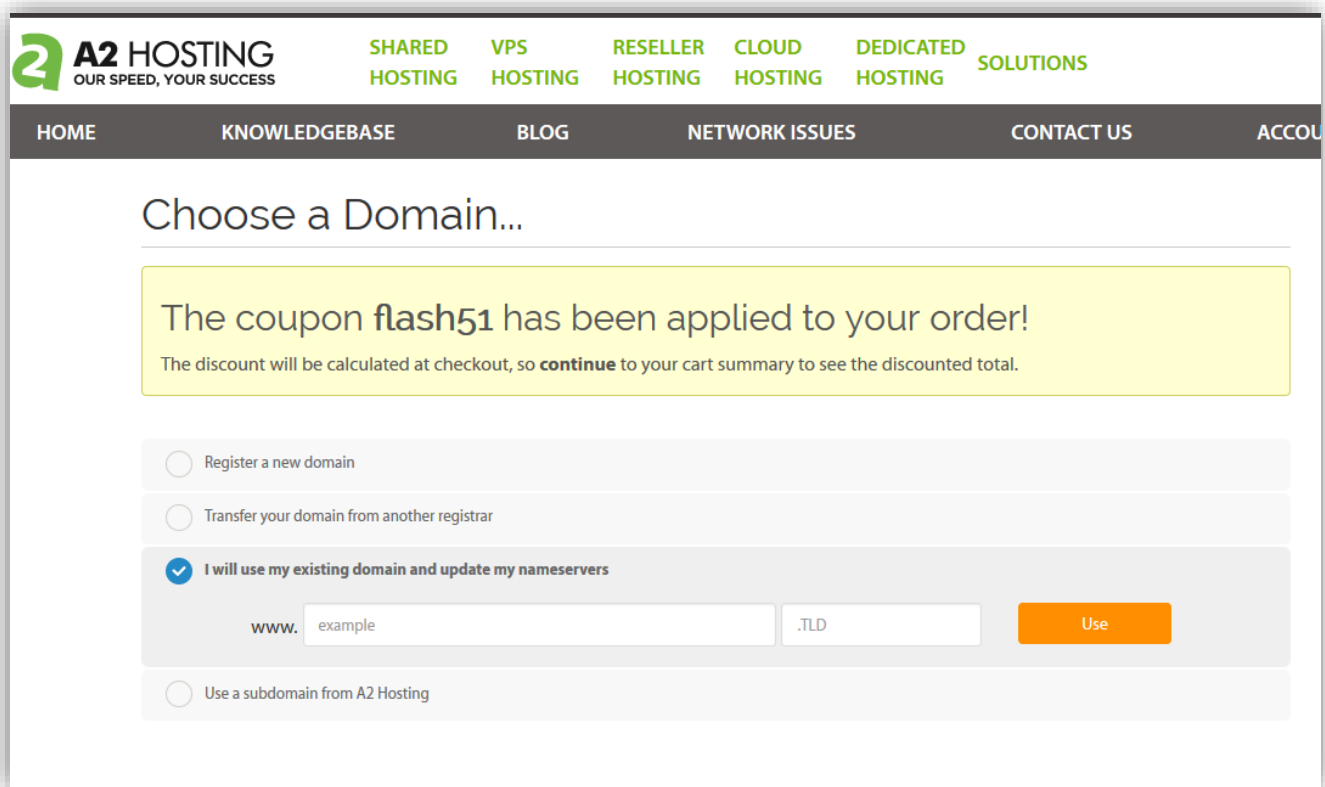Hosting is where your website "lives" and the domain is the name people use to view your website.

You have 2 options here.

You can either:

Register your domain through A2 Hosting

Or,

Register Your domain through a Domain Registrar like Namecheap or Name Silo, then point your domain name to A2 Hosting (This option is cheaper but will require an additional few steps). If you want to do it this way, check out my quick guide on registering a domain with a domain registrar.

When choosing a domain name, **always try to get the .com**. People tend to trust a .com more than a .net or.xyz or whatever.

The other reason is that .com's generally have a much higher perceived value than other domains.

So, if you want to sell the website, you'll get much more if you have the .com version. (I'll get more into building websites to sell for easy profit in a future guide).

The only time you wouldn't prioritize getting a .com is if you're building a local website that is meant for an audience of a certain country only.

Then you can get the country specific domain name.

Eg. .us (United States) .co.uk (United Kingdom) .ca (Canada) etc.

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Once you've chosen a domain name, A2 Hosting will give you an option to register the other versions of the domain (.net, .org, etc.)

Do Not register them (unless you really want to). This is unnecessary.

As long as you have 1 domain, you're good to go.

Click on Continue.

Now you'll be taken to an options screen, where you can configure some options.

The only option you really need to look at here is the Billing Cycle.

You can choose to pay monthly, yearly or every 2 years.

This option is completely up to you, so <u>decide which makes the most financial sense</u> in your current situation. (If budget isn't an issue, I would definitely consider going for the 12 or 24-month options as it will result in a pretty significant saving).

You can leave all the other options as is. You don't need any 'extras' for now but have a look at them and see if any interest you.

I recommend getting a Dedicated IP but this is completely optional and not needed especially if you're just starting out.

Once you're done, click on continue

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Next, you'll be asked to choose any additional domain configuration options you need.

The only thing I would consider here is ID protection.

ID Protection basically means that your private details (name, address, phone number, email) won't be publicly available if somebody tries to look up who owns the domain.

This is purely optional. If you do decide to register your domain through Namecheap or Name Silo, they provide **free** ID Protection. (You can take a look at my optional guide: Registering your domain with Namecheap, if you wish to do it this way).

When you're done, click on continue

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Review & Checkout

Product/Options	Price/Cycle	
Lite Web Hosting ✎Edit	$9.99 USD	✕
Web Hosting	Monthly	
mywebsitename111.com		
» Dedicated IP: No		
» Turbo Boost: None		
» Priority Support: No		
» DropMySite Offsite Backups: No Backup		
» Server Location: USA (Michigan)		
» Barracuda Spam Firewall: None		
» SSL Certificate: Lets Encrypt (FREE, good for personal sites)		
» Railgun: None		
Domain Registration ✎Edit	$24.90 USD	✕
mywebsitename111.com	1 Year ▾	
» ID Protection	Renewal $24.90/1yr	

🗑 Empty Cart

Apply Promo Code	Estimate Taxes

flash51 - 51% One Time Discount

Remove Promotion Code

Order Summary

Subtotal	$34.89 USD
51% One Time Discount	$5.09 USD
Totals	*$9.99 USD Monthly*
	$24.90 USD Annually

$29.80 USD
Total Due Today

Checkout →

Continue Shopping

Money Back Guarantee

You're going to love our service! Remember, we do offer a **Hassle-Free Money Back Guarantee**. That means no contracts and you can cancel at any time.

You'll now be taken to the review screen where you can see an overview of the hosting package you've chosen.
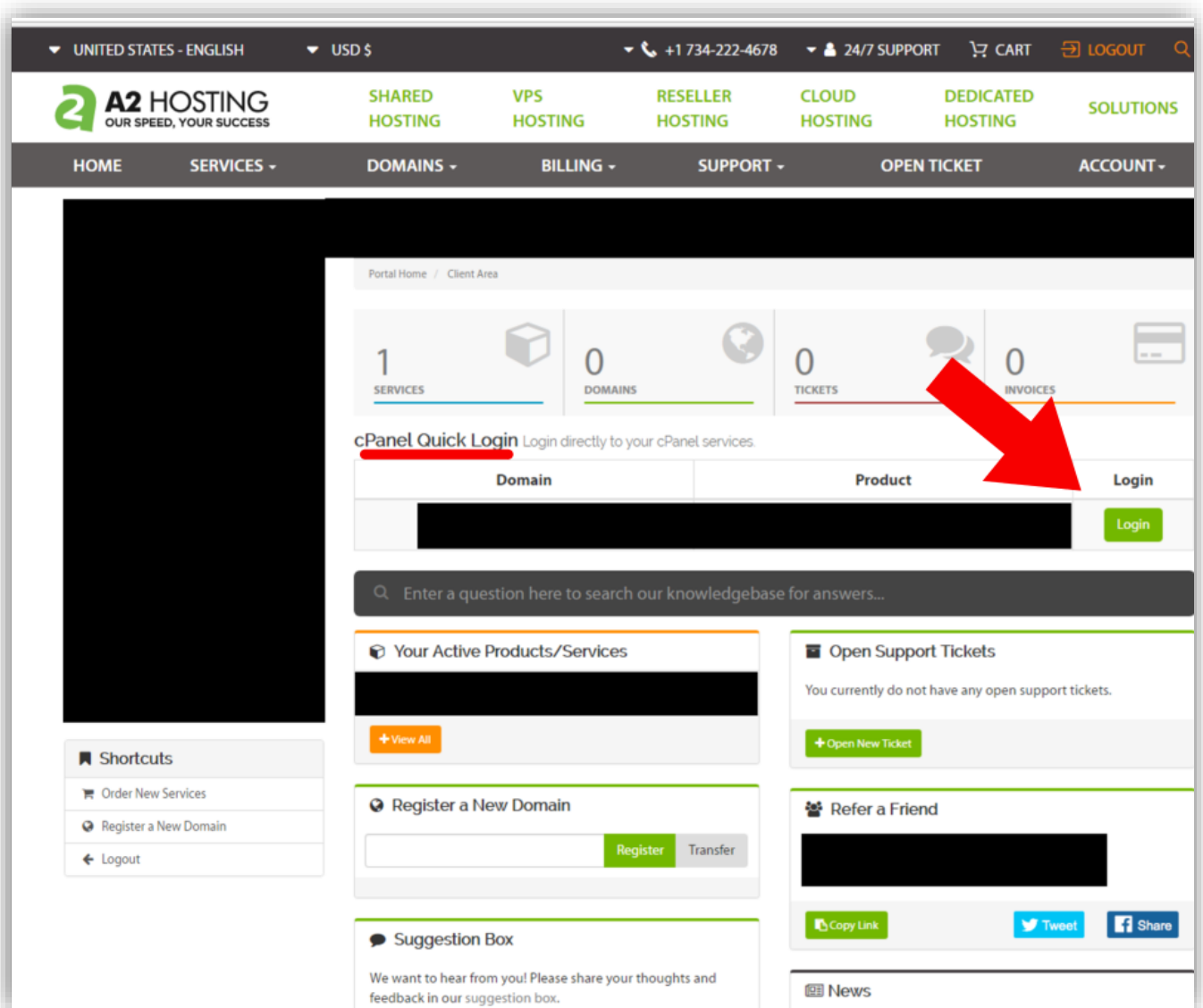
When you're ready, you can click on the Checkout button and proceed to enter your billing and login details.

Once you're checkout is complete, you will be able to login to your new A2 Hosting account.

You will also receive an email from A2 Hosting with all your account and login details.

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Once you're logged into your A2 Hosting account, you should be in a dashboard that looks similar to the image below:

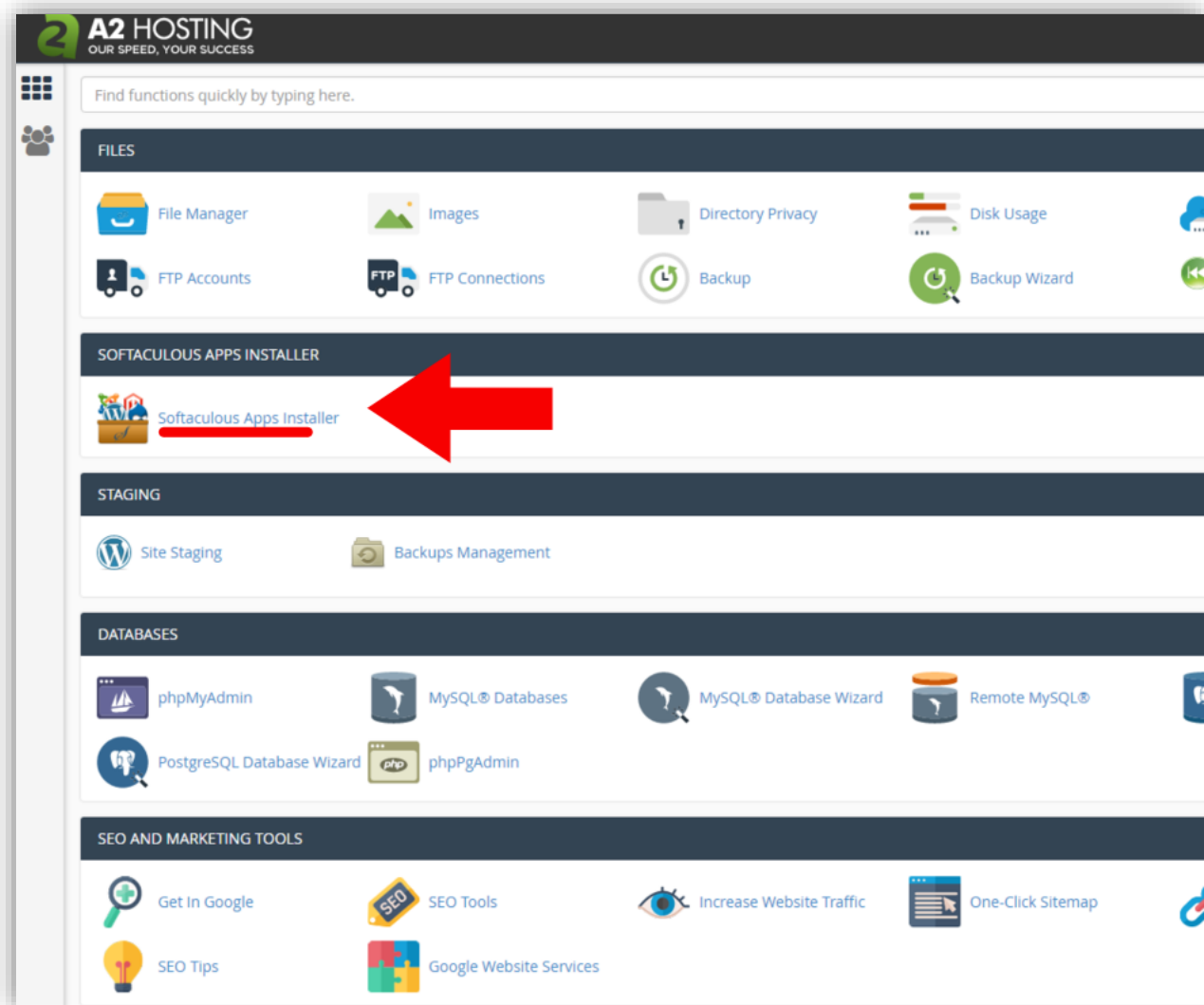From this dashboard, you can manage your account, upgrade/cancel services etc.

What we want to do now is **build our website**.

This is done from the **cPanel**.

To access your cPanel, look for the "cPanel Quick Login" and click on the "Login" button.

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This will take you to your cPanel which will look like the image below:

The cPanel will let you manage everything to do with your actual hosting and website.

We want to build a website. And since we aren't professional web developers, we want to <u>build a website the easy way</u>.

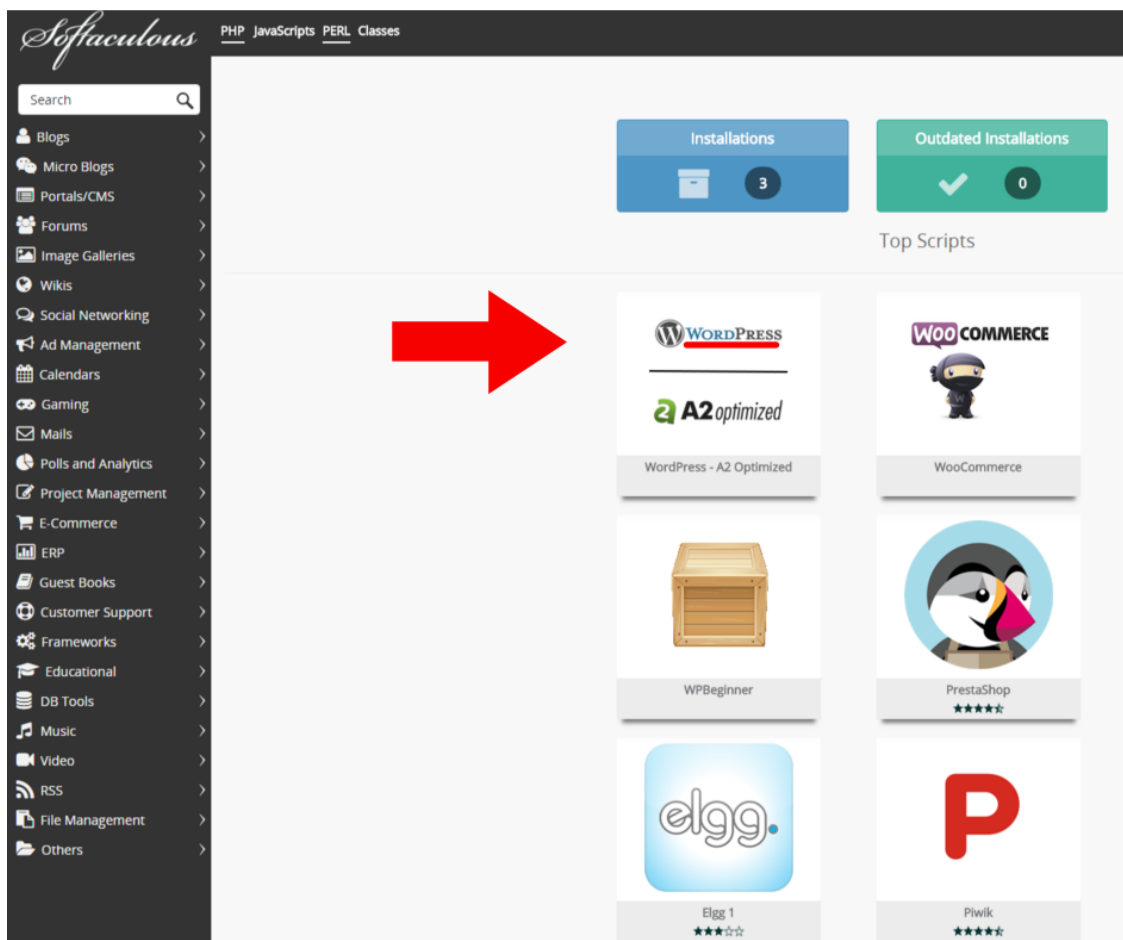And the easiest and most popular way to build a website is using **<u>WordPress</u>**.

WordPress is one of the most popular platforms for building a website since you don't need to have any experience in coding or web development.

In fact, *over 25%* of all the websites on the internet are built on WordPress. And this isn't limited to small business and bloggers. Some of the biggest global brands use WordPress for the websites.

To install WordPress from the cPanel, click on "**<u>Softaculous Apps Installer</u>**".
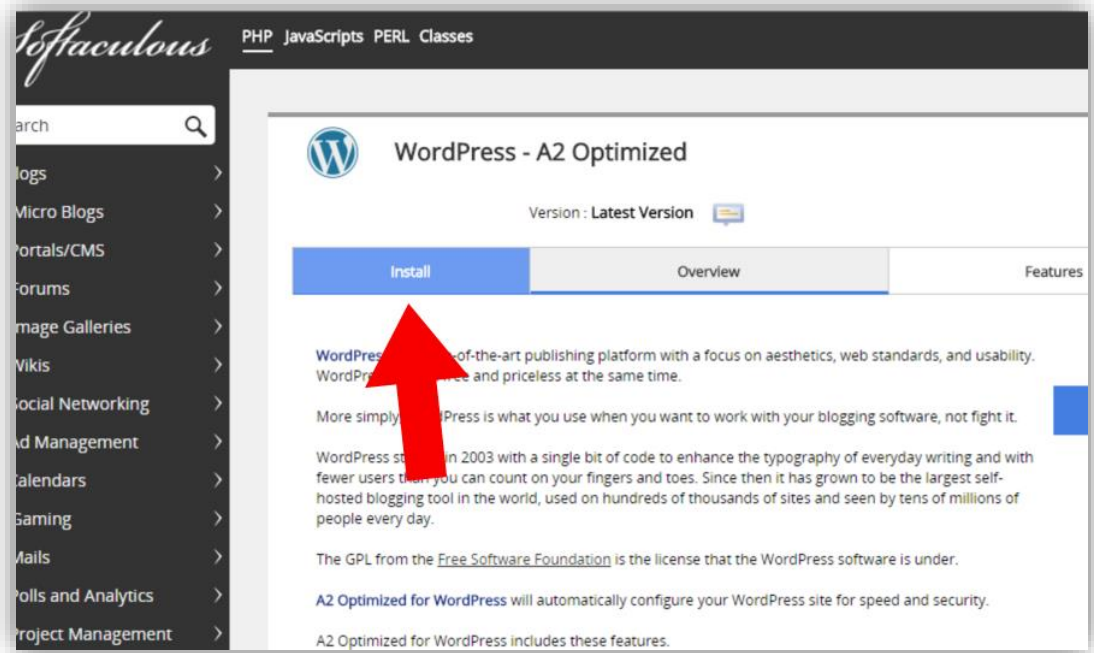
<u>Click here for A2 Hosting Discount</u>

This will take you to the Softaculous Dashboard as seen below:

From the Softaculous dashboard, you should see a WordPress option. Click on it, and you'll be taken to the WordPress Overview screen below.
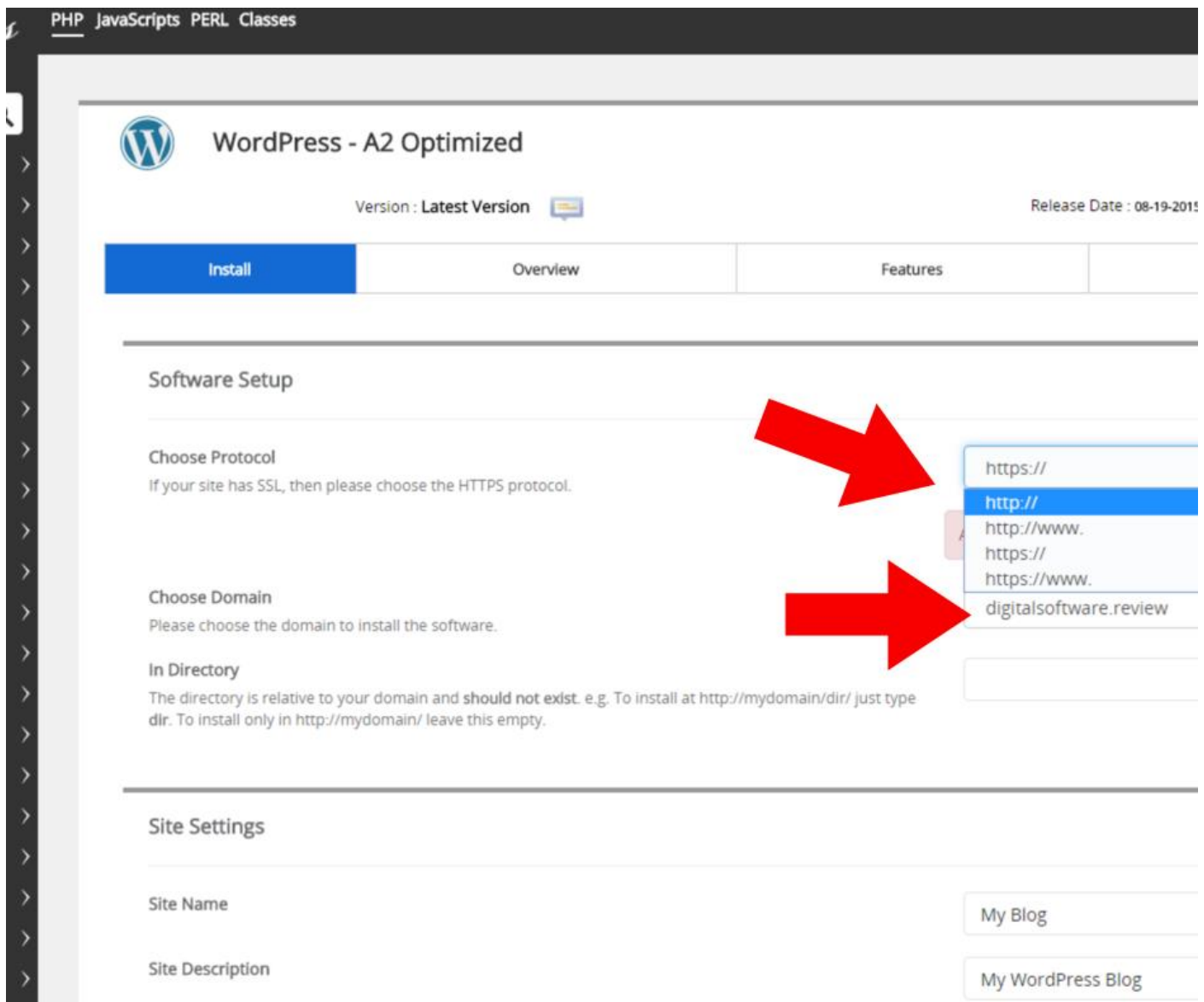
From the WordPress Overview screen, click on the "Install" button.

This will take you to the WordPress Install screen where you can install WordPress on your domain.
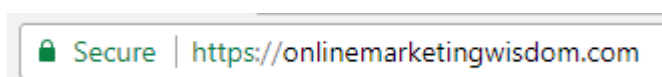
You'll start by choosing the protocol. This is just a fancy way of saying do you want your website to www.yourwebsite.com or do you want it to be yourwebsite.com (without the www in front).

It really comes down to personal preference here and there is almost no difference or benefit from choosing one over the other.

You can also select whether you want it to be the https version.

The https version will show the green 'Secure' tag in your visitor's browsers. This is recommended and normally requires that you purchase a SSL certificate.

However, **with A2 Hosting, you get free SSL** so you can use the https version without it costing you anything extra.

For now though, just choose the regular http:// or http://www. version as it often takes a few hours before you're able to use the https on a new domain in your hosting account.

You'll be able to easily change to the https version later.

Decide if you want a www in front of your domain or not, and select the appropriate option.

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Next, you'll need to fill out a few details

Site Name

Simply enter the name of your website here. This is what will be displayed to visitors.

Site Description

Enter a one-line description of what your website is about here.

Don't worry about what you put in here as you can always change it later within WordPress

Admin Account Section

This section is important. You will need the **username and password** you enter here to log in to your website's backend.

Tip: Please don't put "admin" as your username. This is normally the prefilled default for many WordPress installs and often the very first username a hacker trying to gain access to your site will use.

For the password, use a combination of numbers, letters and symbols. Try to get the password strength indicator to show "Strong (100/100)". Make a note of this password in a secure location.
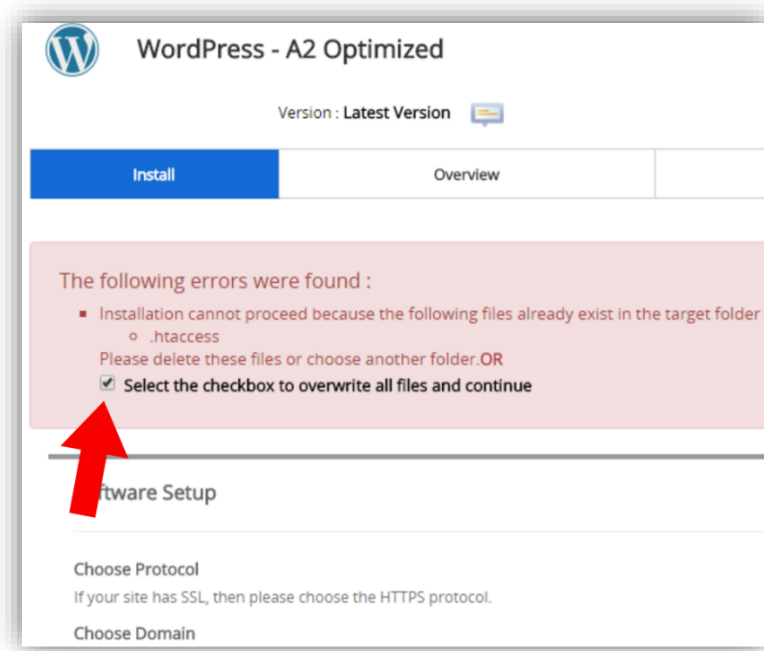
Admin Email

This is the email where you will receive notifications. You can always change this later.

In this last section, you can choose your preferred language and select plugins and a theme to pre-install.

I normally don't pre-install a theme and plugins as I do that from within WordPress.

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You can now click "**Install**" and the WordPress installation will begin.

If you see the following error when the installation is about to begin, just select "Select the checkbox to overwrite all files and continue" then scroll to the bottom of the screen and click on "Install" again.

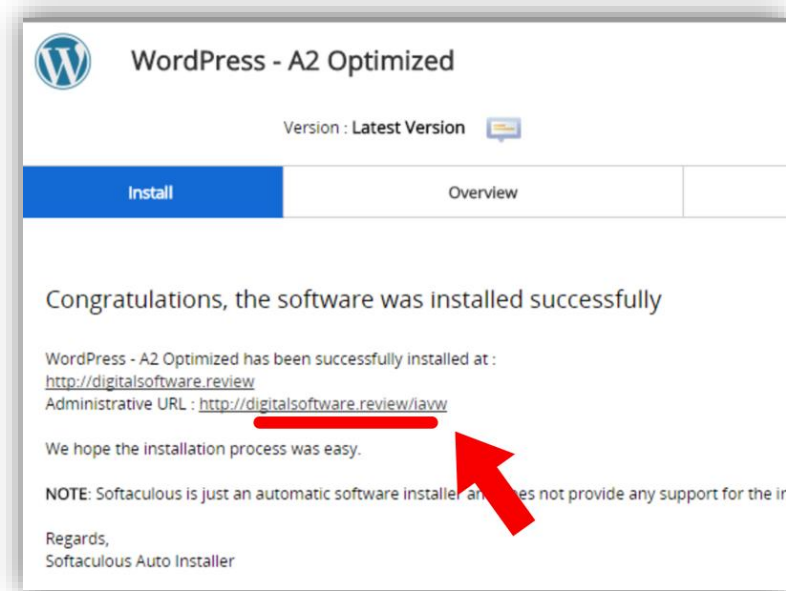Everything should work smoothly now.

Once the installation is complete you'll see a "Congratulations" screen similar to the one below

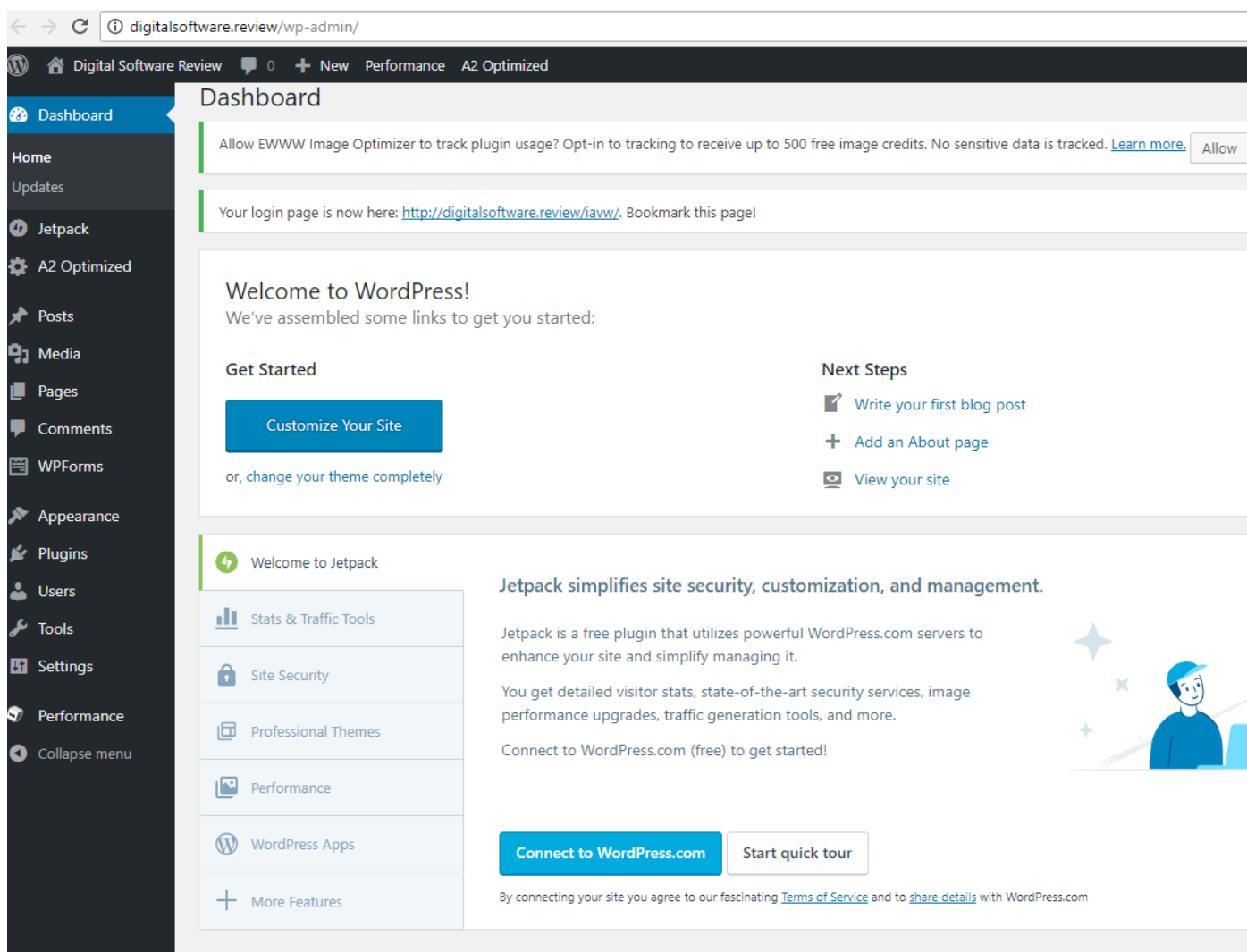This is just to let you know that your installation was successful as well as your Administrative URL.

This Administrative URL is extremely important as it's where you will login to website backend. Without it, you'll never be able to login to your website.

The Administrative URL is **yourdomain.com/wp-admin** however A2 Hosting will sometimes change this to provide more security.

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If you click on the administrative URL you'll immediately be taken to the backend of your new website.

To access your website's dashboard in future, you'll need to <u>enter the administrative URL into your browser</u>. Once you do, you'll be taken to your website's login screen as in the image below:

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Enter your username and password, fill out the CAPTCHA if you have one then Log In to access the backend of your website.

Well done, you're now ready to build your website.

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