



Friday, 18 February 2022

Hello ,

This email landed in your inbox because you signed up at [PSG Studio](#) or a friend forwarded it to you. I hope you enjoy it, but if you'd like to leave, simply [unsubscribe](#).

Need to change your address? Please [unsubscribe](#) then [subscribe](#) with the preferred address.

Late winter is a challenge for everyone. Don't make it harder on yourself, please remember to:

- check backups
- test alternate ways to connect to your site
- review configuration settings
- don't do all work as administrator/root
- run through [disaster](#) and disruption plans, is anything missing?

Why? Each of these has happened in the past few weeks.

In one case, yes [an automatic update failed](#), to my and the client's complete surprise. Reviewing the incident shows it was likely due to a weird chance timing event between caching, a firewall, and the update. As I worked to fix the problem, I was dismayed to discover settings had changed since my last test, so I had to scramble to gain access to the site. Because it took some time to fix, a temporary notice needed to be displayed for site visitors.

In another, a plugin didn't behave as expected. It implied the user (working as an administrator) was removing posts from a list, instead it was deleting them from the site! That restoration was straightforward thanks to regular testing of backups.

The final issues happened while I was sending the newsletter for [my other business](#). First a customer let me know that some default text was showing up in the subscribe form, it didn't show my company name. That was embarrassing. I discovered that while I had set it to update the settings, I still needed to click through all parts of every form to update them. Then when I sent my monthly newsletter, every gmail addresses soft bounced! There are settings to increase the trust of my domain, but for some reason I'd not set that. Maybe it's a new feature that changed after I first configured my

account. Maybe I missed it the first time. That was a quick fix, and those addresses received my resend.

With these issues in mind, I'm updating my older posts that discuss these topics. Many now have outdated information. Is there something you need help with or wish I'd write about? Please let me know.

Links

It's easy to miss something useful. Here are some recent links that may be relevant for your business.

- [WordPress 5.9](#) (release date January 25, 2022) // This is a major release and I've seen a few blips on older sites when they auto-update. Please make sure [you are prepared before](#) that happens!
- [WooCommerce 6.2](#) (release date February 8, 2022). // Please note that while woocommerce blocks exist, these are for blog posts and pages. You still need to edit your products with the classic editor. If you want to understand why, please ask. It's complicated and frustrating.

Is there a tool you'd like me to monitor and list here? Did a website help you understand a topic and you think I should share it? Please let me know.

Reading

I thought I'd add a new section and include a short note about what I'm reading.

As part of my initiative to understand the past twenty years of changes to Artificial Intelligence, I picked up *Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence* by [Kate Crawford](#) at the library the other day. It's an interesting look into the far reaching tendrils of AI today.

From the Notebook Archive

Here are the most [recent posts](#):

Book Review: How to be a Productivity Ninja

I first read *How to be a Productivity Ninja* around the time it was published, back in 2014. That first copy was a review copy, received through NetGalley. It's been waiting for a review ever since.

[Read more »](#)

2022-02-17

Before an Automatic Update Fails

Today we can automate many of the administrative parts of WordPress — updating plugins, themes, and the core software itself. Most of the time this

works smoothly. Sometimes, however, it doesn't. The key is to be prepared before something goes wrong.

[Read more »](#)

2022-01-30

Hello, again, world.

While most of my planning and goal setting happens in the autumn, I often use the new calendar year as a time to make small changes for my business. This year is no exception and I've set a modest goal: remain flexible and find new ways to adapt during this continued and prolonged period of change and uncertainty.

[Read more »](#)

2022-01-09

managing information, the email inbox

How do I manage all the data and information that crosses in front of me every day? Honestly, some days are better than others. This post will explore how I keep my email inbox from becoming overwhelming.

[Read more »](#)

2021-11-11

Thank you for reading. I hope you found this newsletter useful. If you think someone else would find it helpful, please consider [forwarding](#) it. If this is your first time reading the newsletter, welcome. You can read [previous issues and subscribe here](#).

Finally, if you need to venture outside, please do so safely. Please get vaccinated/boosted, wear your mask (cover your nose), remain mindful about social distancing, and wash your hands.

/penny

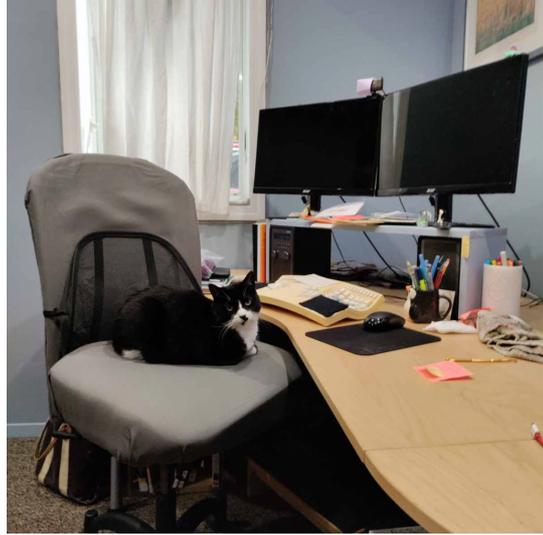
R&D Support

I love sharing my knowledge freely and know you may like to show your support.

[You can do so here.](#)

I do not use ads though may use affiliate links on occasion (they'll be disclosed).

There's no expectations on my part,
but plenty of gratitude if you're so
inclined.



PSG Studio

441 Central Park Ave, #42, Scarsdale
New York 10530 United States

Need to change your address? Please
[unsubscribe](#) then [subscribe](#) with the
preferred address.

You received this email because you
signed up on our website or made a
purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

mailer lite