

Dear WordPress community: We stand with you

To the WordPress community,

In light of the recent turmoil between Matt Mullenweg as project leader and Automattic CEO, and WP Engine, we have written this joint statement expressing our concerns with how WordPress operates as a community and an ecosystem.

This letter is not about picking a side in the case before the courts, rather it is about surfacing the issues—as we see them—to drive the project forward to a better future.

We are:

- Core committers and contributors
- Make/WordPress team elders and contributors
- Others serving in various community roles

We are you.

Our anonymity is a shield against retaliation by Matt Mullenweg or others. Our names and roles within the project have been independently verified by Rae Morey from The Repository.

We object:

We object to the status quo, and believe the WordPress project's current internal operating structure threatens the health and sustainability of the project and its community.

On governance:

- We object to the continued opaqueness of the WordPress governance model.
- We object to one person, Matt Mullenweg, controlling all official infrastructure, including the project's website, email systems, support forums, core, plugin, and theme repositories, update systems, security tools, communication channels, and other technical assets.
- We object to major decisions being made without community input, advice, or support.
- We object to a project model where influence granted can overrule influence earned.
- We object to the WordPress Foundation playing no meaningful role in the governance of the WordPress project outside of administering meetups and WordCamps via its PBC subsidiary, WordPress Community Support.

On transparency:

- We object to continued misrepresentations by Matt Mullenweg of the community and its contributor teams' efforts.

- We object to the WordPress Foundation continuing to lack community participation or oversight.
- We object to the continued lack of transparency around all licensing and sub-licensing of the WordPress trademarks.
- We object to the lack of transparency around how recommended hosts are determined.

On double standards:

- We object to project leader Matt Mullenweg not being accountable to the project's own Code of Conduct policy.
 - We object to WordPress having an executive director who is employed by Automattic—not the WordPress Foundation—and who is therefore accountable only to Matt Mullenweg in his role as Automattic's CEO.
 - In summary, we object to the continued absence of an official Conflict of Interest policy and the notion that it's possible for one person, Matt Mullenweg, to have simultaneously served in several key positions of power (project leader, Automattic CEO, and WordPress Foundation board member) for so long.
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We believe:

1. We believe there has been a major breakdown in trust between Matt Mullenweg and the WordPress community stemming from actions he's taken since WordCamp US 2024.
 2. We believe the volatility of the self-governing BDFL model has become clearer than ever.
 3. We believe the unchecked disrespect from Matt Mullenweg towards contributors, community members, and members of the public is unacceptable.
 4. We believe continuing to contribute to WordPress over these objections will ultimately be a personal decision for us all, as well as an economic one for those whose contributions are a source of their livelihood.
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We want to work together:

We implore Matt Mullenweg to meditate on these objections and propose community-minded solutions.

If you are a contributor or community member who finds our objections resonate with you, please share this letter within your networks and help us spread the word.

We are all part of the WordPress community. We stand together.

Sincerely,

The contributors