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Web Design in WordPress

Plugins in WordPress

Filip Marković

Faculty of Technical Sciences - University of Mitrovica (UPKM)























The Role of a Theme in WordPress

- Plugins (Add-ons) represent the core of WordPress flexibility.
- They are small software components that extend the functionality of the core system.
- By using plugins, WordPress transforms from a simple CMS into a complex tool for e-commerce, education, design, or analytics.
- Each plugin is a part of the modular architecture the system grows by adding functional blocks without altering the core.







Theoretical Framework for Theme Selection

- Plugins are located in the /wp-content/plugins/ directory.
- Each plugin contains a main PHP file that connects to the **WordPress API**, enabling integration with existing database structures and the interface.
- Installation does not modify the system core, which keeps WordPress stable and secure.
- This mechanism reflects the principle of **decentralised modularity** a key concept in modern software design.



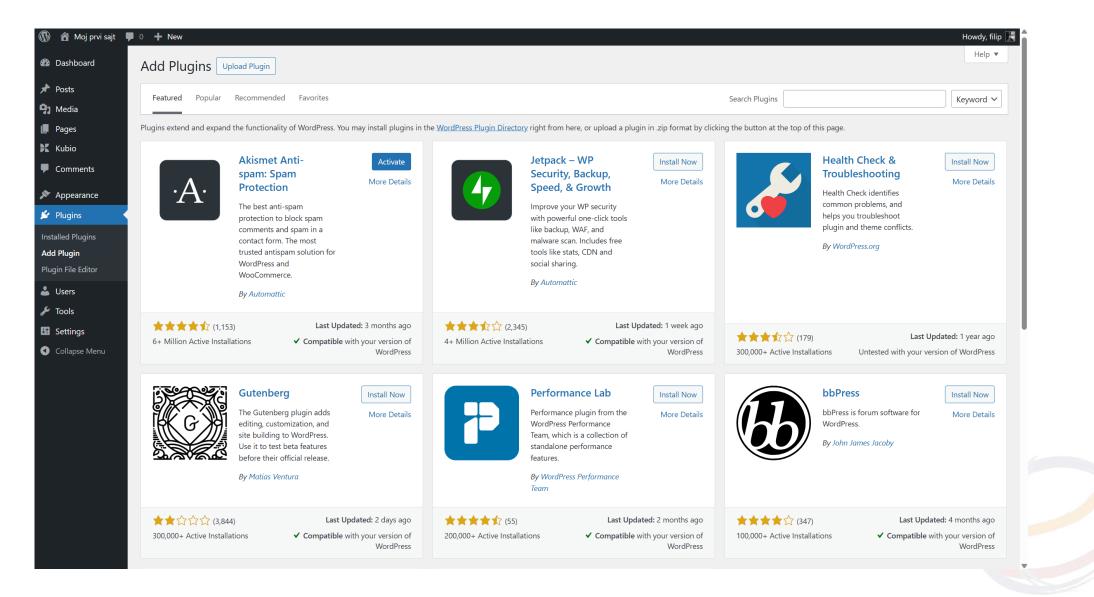


Downloading and Installing the Theme

- Through Dashboard → Plugins → Add New, users can access a library of over 60,000 plugins.
- Search can be performed by name, function, or author.
- Installation is done by clicking **Install Now**, and activation by selecting **Activate**.
- WordPress automatically downloads and installs the plugin into the appropriate directory.
- In a pedagogical context, this serves as an example of **user-friendly design** complex actions are presented through a simple and intuitive interface.







Appearance of the Add Plugins Section





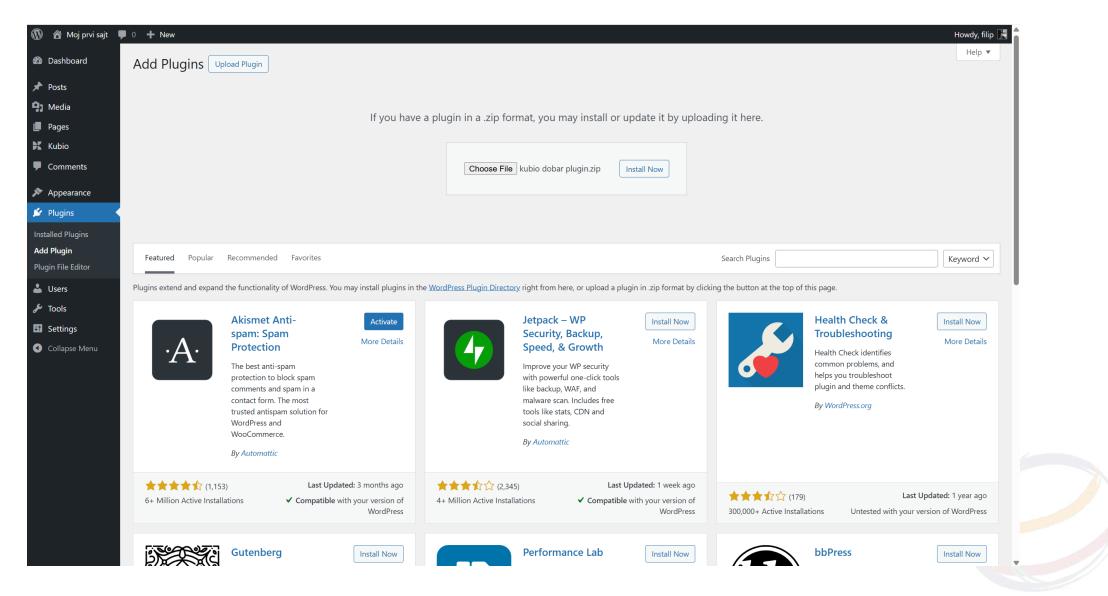
Manual Installation of Plugins

- Alternatively, a plugin can be installed manually:
- Download the ZIP file from wordpress.org/plugins.
- In the Dashboard, click Upload Plugin.
- Select the file and click Install Now.
- Then click Activate.
- Manual installation is useful when using a plugin from a local drive, educational repositories, or when uploading a custom-built plugin.









Appearance of the Manual Plugin Upload Section





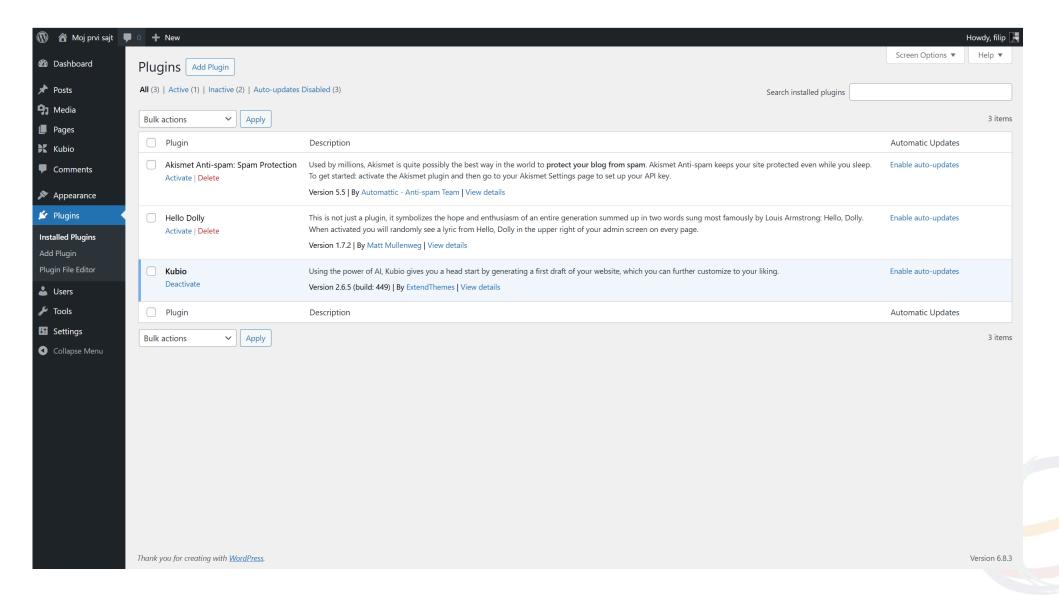
Active and Inactive Plugins

- Through Plugins → Installed Plugins, the list of all plugins can be viewed.
- Active plugins are marked with a blue bar, while inactive ones can be reactivated or permanently deleted.
- WordPress allows selective activation only the necessary plugins should be enabled to optimise performance.
- Fewer active components result in a more stable system.









Appearance of the Active and Inactive Plugins Section



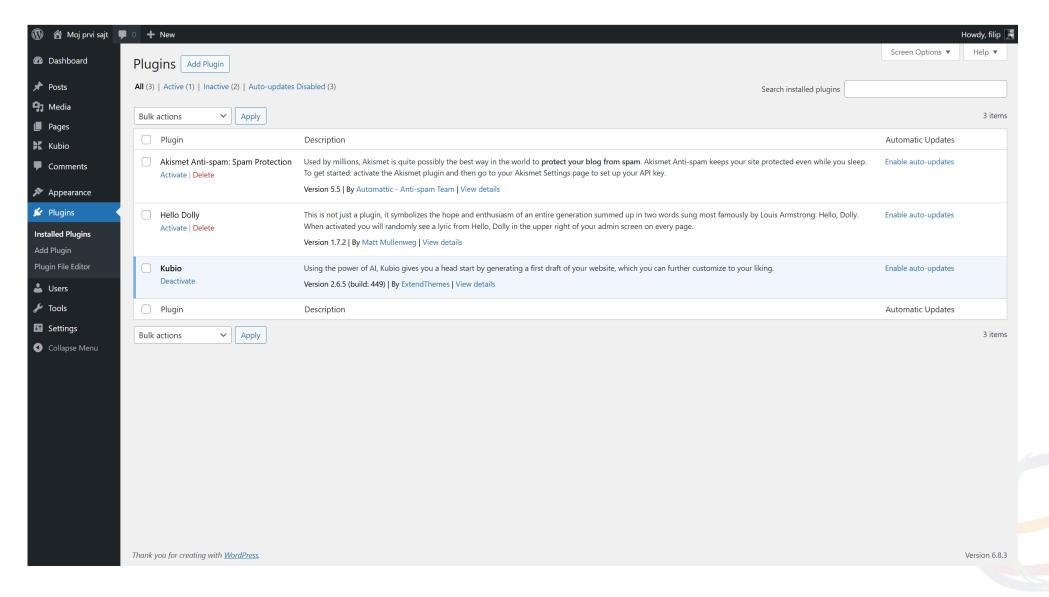


Installing Kubio Page Builder

- Kubio Page Builder is a tool for visual page creation without the need for coding.
- To install it:
 - Open Plugins → Add New.
 - In the search bar, type "Kubio".
 - Click Install Now, then Activate.
- Kubio automatically integrates into the Gutenberg editor and adds new blocks.
- Themes such as Mistify are fully compatible with Kubio, enabling interactive page design.







Appearance of the Section for Changing the Site Name and Adding the Site Image





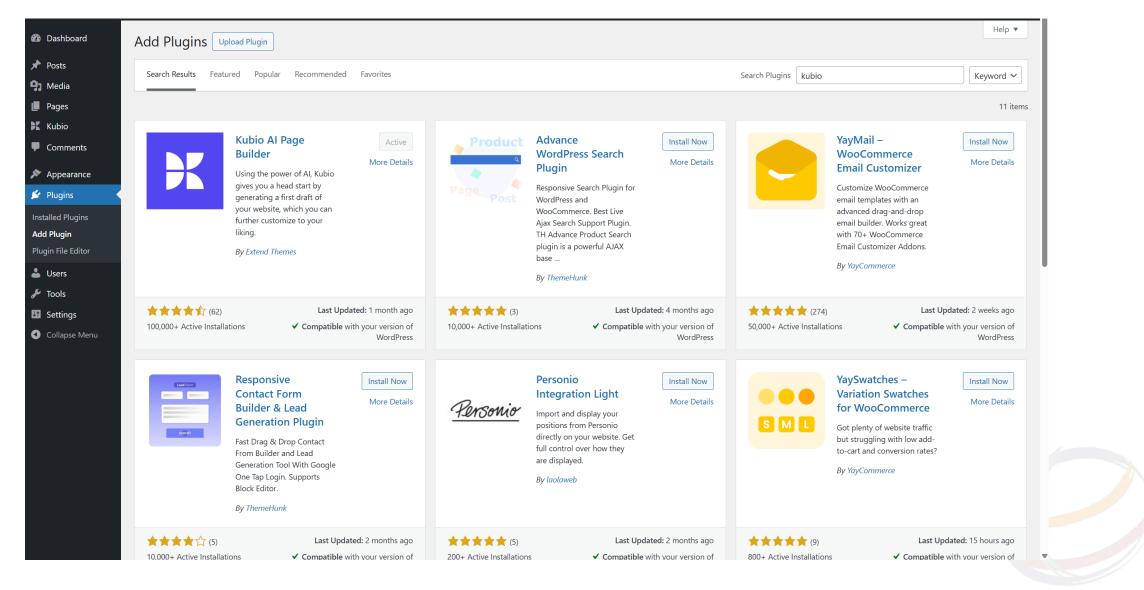
Installing Elementora

- Elementor is the most popular page builder, with over five million active installations.
- The installation process is identical:
 - Plugins → Add New → "Elementor" → Install Now → Activate
 - After activation, the Edit with Elementor option appears within each page.
- **Elementor** enables visual editing through a **drag-and-drop** system, allowing students to see directly the structure, style, and arrangement of elements.









Appearance of the Section for Changing the Site Name and Adding the Site Image





<u>Difference Between Kubio and Elementor</u>

- **Kubio** builds upon **Gutenberg**, while **Elementor** functions as an independent page-building system.
- Kubio follows the philosophy of WordPress blocks making it ideal for educational use, as it preserves the CMS structure.
- **Elementor** offers a more advanced interface and allows for complex design creation without any coding.







Plugin Management

- Excessive use of plugins can slow down a website.
- It is recommended to regularly delete inactive plugins and update active ones.
- Updates fix errors and security vulnerabilities.
- After installation, each plugin should be tested with the current version of WordPress and the active theme.
- In a local environment (XAMPP), students can experiment safely without risk.
- Due to the modular nature of WordPress, conflicts between plugins are possible.
- This learning phase highlights the importance of **system analysis** every change in one part affects the entire system.





Essential Plugins

- Kubio Page Builder visual page editing.
- **Elementor** advanced design and layout.
- **Yoast SEO** content optimisation.
- **UpdraftPlus** backup and security.
- Wordfence Security website protection







Questions & Answers

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