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As everybody knows, Wordpress is a very popular blogging tool. Although there are various other platforms on the web, this particular Open source application has made its way to the top of the ladder and is still climbing forward! Whoever that has used Wordpress will not deny the fact that it is user friendly and packed with a lot of interesting features. Many of us have blogs on several sites, of which Wordpress may also be one. We may all have become quite an expert in it, but then do we know anything about how it all started?

Matthew Mullenweg â€“ The Brain behind!

Matthew Charles Mullenweg was born in Houston, Texas in 1984 (Yes, he is just 28 yrs old!). He is fondly called as Matt Mullenweg. He got hooked on to blogging when he was on a summer camp to the Washington DC. He started to blog so as to share the many number of photos that he had clicked during the trip using his new camera.

Matt & Mike â€“ Architects of this blogging tool

Blogger, Movable Type and b2 were the platforms that were available at that time but b2 was the only open source application among them. However this b2 had become literally abandoned without any development and Matthew blogged about this on his own blog. Mike Little, a fellow blogger asked Matt if he was interested in working together on b2. Thus these two got together and started to work on the b2 codebase. Michel Valdrighi who was the original b2 developer joined these two and thus Wordpress was founded. Matt owns up that it was pretty hard work as they had to make a lot of changes to the configuration and code. But these guys loved what they were doing so there were no complaints!

Automattic Inc

When he blogged that he will be in San Francisco, Mike Tatum of CNET Networks reached out to Matt and asked if they could meet up. Matt describes it as a totally weird and random meeting but when he got back Tatum was asking him if he would like to take up a job at CNET. He was doing his major in Political Science then but dropped out of it to join CNET Networks. He quit that job in 2005 and launched his very own Automattic Inc.

The idea behind starting this company was to provide support to open source developers who were working on open source applications. Akismet was launched to stop the comment and trackback spam. Wordpress hosting was also offered on Wordpress.com by this company of Mattâ€™s. Some of the key developers in this company were Ryan Boren, Mark Jaquith, Andrew Ozz, and Peter Westwood. They made up the strong team of Automattic.

Growth of Wordpress

â€¢ 2007 â€“ Release of Wordpress

â€¢ 2009 - Wordpress was ranked 31 on Alexa with 90 million monthly

page views!

â€¢ 2011 â€“ More than 50 million users with more than 65 million

downloads

There has been a tremendous response to this open source blogging platform all around the world. It has now become the most popular Content Management System (CMS) and controls around 22% of new websites. Matt has also been bestowed with many honors and awards for his contributions to the online world.

Future of Wordpress

According to Matt, Wordpress will be seen to quietly and invisibly control a large portion of the web content, in the future. This is an indication of the extent to which this application is going to be interspersed with our online life.

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