April 19, 2016 Presentation to DACS Website Dev SIG
By Andy Woodruff [with comments in blue by Annette]

My background:

• I had previously set up only a few full sites:

- A band website in 1997. I wrote HTML code by hand.
- A website about a deceased person, in about 2006. I used Dreamweaver.
- A website for a political action, in 2015. I used Drupal.
- I had also messed around with setting up several other sites, using Drupal and WordPress ... but none to completion.
- Hence I definitely needed Annette's help to succeed with Sofia's site.

My goals with Sofia's site:

- I wanted to give her a site.
- Sofia said she is personally interested in learning website development, and her parents support this. I knew that it would be frustrating and unsuccessful for her to try to set up a site by herself. So I figured it would be good if I set it up and then invited her to modify it … so that she would get a feel for that end of website maintenance.

There are three ways to view stuff about the site:

- Web host (Dreamhost.com) – to see basic information about the domain and the site
- FTP Client (FileZilla.com) – to see files and handle database operations (like restoring from a backup)
- Admin Area of site (sofiachiarandini.com) – to install and update plugins; and for ordinary maintenance

Following are the steps I took to set up the site.

I registered the domain. I registered it on my host, Dreamhost. I "parked" the domain.

Within the dreamhost.com logged-in user interface:

- I unparked the domain.
- I "added hosting" … that took me to the "Fully Hosted" [dreamhost settings] page.
- I set several parameters on the "Fully Hosted" settings page
- I selected that "no www" will be converted to www

- I selected to run under MasterAndy [own 'master' account]
- I selected PHP Mode 5.6 FastCGI (default)
- I accepted a "free certificate from Let's Encrypt" (a free encryption service, recently made available on DreamHost!)
- I did not set up PHP Xcache Support – required VPS (virtual private server)
- I did not set up Phusion Passenger
- I set up Cloudflare (DNS security) (gave it my email, set up a username and password, selected free account, applied it to all of sofiachiarandini.com, enabled CloudFlare Railgun)
- I did not set up Google Apps (looks like this costs $5-10 per month)

I pressed "Fully host" at bottom of [settings] page.

Dreamhost displayed a message:

"sofiachiarandini.com" has been added to our hosting system! ...

I waited a few hours for the DNS information to propagate.

Still on dreamhost.com, I went to the "Manage Domains" page. The "web hosting" column shows this site as "CloudFlare + Fully Hosted with PHP 5.6.

Still on dreamhost.com, in the left panel "Goodies", I selected "one-click installs". Then I clicked on WordPress, selected this site and "custom install".

Dreamhost displayed a message: Success! WordPress will be installed to http://www.sofiachiarandini.com/within 10 minutes (using your sofiachiarandini_com database).You will then receive an email from us with final instructions to configure your new software.

I received an email. The instructions in email were: Please create an admin user at: http://www.sofiachiarandini.com/wpadmin/install.php

[The /install.php should have installed WordPress and allowed you to set up your own user/ID]

I followed these instructions, using that URL, but got a message: "server not found".

So I went back to the Dreamhost site: In the left panel "Goodies", I selected MySQL Databases, scrolled down to this site, and pressed Add User. Dreamhost displayed a new screen with an opportunity to create new user. I did so … I created a username and password.

Dreamhost displayed a message: Success! User "xxx" has been granted access to your "sofiachiarandini_com" database! If you'd like to fine-tune their permissions or set where they can connect from, do so from here.

I found I needed to wait at this point. 30 min was insufficient. 6 hours was sufficient.

After this wait, when I went to the new site URL, [NOW WordPress did the installation process] some questions were automatically displayed [after WordPress had successfully connected to the database and run the install script, then the new admin user ID and password could be setup.]

- I selected English language.
- I selected the Site Title: Sofia Chiarandini
- I selected another username and password.
- I set the search engine visibility ON (i.e. I left the "discourage" checkbox unchecked)

I received an email:
"Your new WordPress site has been successfully set up at: http://www.sofiachiarandini.com
You can log in to the administrator account with the following information: Username: xxx
Password: The password you chose during the install. Log in here:
http://www.sofiachiarandini.com/wp-login.php"
[this is the default email sent by WordPress to the new admin user.]

On the website, I logged in and took many additional steps: I set up some basic stuff:

- I installed the free theme "Twenty Sixteen".
- I set up the menus
- I selected plugins for the various things to be displayed, as follows:
- I downloaded these modules from wordpress.org to my computer.
- I then uploaded them to the site.
- I installed them in the site.

[Plugins can also be installed through the Plugins interface within the admin area, no need to get them from wordpress.org, and download/upload. Don't save downloaded plugins, they are outdated as soon as an upgrade happens]

I selected to not allow visitor comments on the pages.

In particular, I selected the following plugins:

- WP Super Cache (Improved caching) (and later deactivated this plug-in, on Annette's advice – she has heard of difficulties with this)
- Calendar: Spider Event Calendar
- Photos: Photo-Gallery (https://wordpress.org/plugins/photogallery/). (I previously tried "Responsive Photo Gallery" but did not like it.)
- Video: Viper's Video Quicktags. But I don't love it.
- Backup: BackWPup
- Contact Form 7 (on Annette's recommendation)

I noticed that DreamHost also automatically installed three plugins. However, I did not activate these, because I saw negative comments online about bloat from the first two.

- Akismet (spam protection)
- Jetpack by Wordpress.com (many modules)
- Hello Dolly (random lyrics)

I backed up the site using BackWPup, still from within the admin area of the site, as follows:

- I set up BackWPup for the backup data to go to a Dreamhostlocation.
- I performed a full backup (i.e. a backup that included all files; notjust the database).
- I copied the backup from Dreamhost and deleted it from Dreamhost. (As Dreamhost's policy does not allow files to be justbe stored on their servers.)

I unsuccessfully tried to implement encryption. I was following directions from two sources:

Directions from Annette:

- You have to change the URL in the Settings/General to include the 's'.
- And THEN you MUST update the Permalinks.
- In Settings/Permalinks, just click the "Save Changes", even if you didn't make any changes.
- That will update most of the links.
- IF you hand coded full URL links anywhere, you'd have to update those two.
- But don't do this process until you're sure the https is actually functional for the domain name.

Directions from a website: http://www.wpbeginner.com/wp-tutorials/how-to-add-ssl-and-https-in-wordpress/