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Deleting a WordPress user without losing their posts

WordPress & CMS

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Deleting a WordPress user without losing their posts

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The short answer: when you delete a user, WordPress asks what to do with what they wrote: **delete everything** or **pass it to another user**. If you do not pick the second, their posts and pages disappear. Read the screen before you confirm; this choice cannot be undone without a backup.

The choices

Option	What happens
“Delete all content”	That user’s posts and pages go to the bin and disappear. Only if you are sure you do not want them.
“Attribute all content to…”	**Usually the right one.** The content stays, with another author. Choose who.
Change the role instead of deleting	Making the user a “Subscriber” takes away their powers and keeps the history. Often enough.
The only administrator	Never delete them without creating another first. You would be left with no way into the dashboard.
Comments	The comments they wrote stay on the site, tied to the name and e-mail.

Step by step

1. **Take a backup of the site** first: **What to back up before you update**.
2. **Go to Users,** hover over the name and press “Delete”.
3. **On the next screen,** choose “Attribute all content to” and the user who keeps the posts (for example, the administrator).

4 **Confirm.** The user disappears; the posts stay.

5 **Check** the post list and the pages: the author changed to the one you chose.

If the user had access and should no longer have it,
also change the administrator's password and the others', if in doubt. Someone leaving a team takes what they knew with them: **Changing the administrator password**. In a shop, customers are users: do not delete them without knowing the effect on orders.

To give someone different powers instead of deleting them, see **Which role to give**.

NEED A HAND?

Deleted a user and lost posts? Open a ticket right away, with the address: there may still be a copy.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- Adding a WordPress user, and which role to give them →
- Changing the WordPress administrator password →
- What to back up before you update WordPress, plugins or PHP →
- Protecting the WordPress login: three steps in order of effect →

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