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System requirements for installing Blog2Social

Blog2Social works fine with standard settings. However, here are some general system requirements that you should check, in case something does not work as expected.

First of all, you should check the **performance and speed of your website** to make sure your WordPress installation as well as plugins like Blog2Social can work with optimal performance. The page speed of your website is one of the most important factors for your Google ranking as well as **for the social media to display your posts and images correctly**. There are several options to find out, whether your website loads with appropriate page speed.

You can test your PageSpeed scores with the [Google page speed checker](#) by entering the URL of your website. This tool will offer suggestions on how to improve your page speed if your scores are below average.

Another option to test the response of your website is by using **Traceroute, Ping, MTR, and PathPing**:
https://www.okta.com/de/identity-101/ping-trace/

These are network tools or utilities that test if your website can be reached at all, the response time of your website and if the performance of your website ensures a good user-experience.

Please make sure to check the following system requirements for your blog to make sure to get the best out of your work with Blog2Social:

- **Wordpress Version** > 4.7.0

- **PHP Version** > 5.5.3

- **PHP Extension OpenSSL**

- **MySQL Version** > 5.5.3
  The MYSQL user (see wp-config.php in the Wordpress installation) needs the following rights to install Blog2Social correctly:
  - SELECT
  - UPDATE
  - INSERT
  - DELETE
  - CREATE
  - ALTER

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- INDEX
- SHOW
You can adjust the rights of the database user via your hoster panel (PHPMyAdmin).

- **Memory limit** > 256M
  Solutions:
  a) in wp-config.php File (in root folder of WordPress) define ("WP_MEMORY_LIMIT", "256M"); //512M (M=MEGABYTE) Minimum 256M
  b) in .htaccess File (in root folder of WordPress): "php_value memory_limit 256M"   c) in php.ini File (in Apache Folder): "memory_limit=256M"

- **Activate Heartbeats**
  WordPress and Blog2Social work with Heartbeats by default.
  You can deactivate or regulate Heartbeats with various plugins. However, disabling Heartbeats prevents the background tasks of WordPress and Blog2Social from running properly. Therefore, we recommend not limiting or disabling Heartbeats on your websites.

  1) Examples of plugins that limit or disable Heartbeats:
  -Heartbeat Control
  -Perfmatters
  -LiteSpeed Cache
  -WP Rocket
  -SG Optimizer
  -Asset CleanUp
  -Autoptimize
  -Swift Performance
  -Security-Plugins (Wordfence / iThemes)

  If you're experiencing issues with scheduled posts not being shared properly, please check the settings of your plugins for options such as "Heartbeat," "Disable Heartbeat," or "Reduce Heartbeat," and ensure they are not restricted.

  2) You can check your theme or other plugins for related Heartbeat settings as well. Just search for:
  -wp_deregister_script('heartbeat');
  -wp_dequeue_script('heartbeat');
  -add_filter('heartbeat_settings', '__return_false');
  -remove_action('init', 'wp_heartbeat_init');
  -remove_action('admin_enqueue_scripts', 'wp_localize_heartbeat_settings');

  See also: http://www.wpbeginner.com/plugins/how-to-limit-heartbeat-api-in-wordpress/

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3) If you're still experiencing issues, we recommend verifying that the file "heartbeat.php" is present in your /wp-includes folder.

Please note: Some Hosting services such as WPEngine restrict heartbeats by default. If you encounter the following message and have not actively restricted heartbeats, please contact your hosting service and ask them to

✖ WordPress uses heartbeats by default, Blog2Social as well. Please enable heartbeats for using Blog2Social! Please see FAQ

- **Hotlink Protection:** Several performance plugins or security tools provide Hotlink Protection for you. Hotlinking describes the embedding of external images or videos on your own website. A Hotlink is generated, for instance, if somebody visits your website and shares one of your videos or images on his own website or on social media. Social networks and third-party tools like Blog2Social use Hotlinks to display your images in the post preview correctly. Hotlink Protection blocks this option and prevents you and your social media community of this option to share your images, your infographics, or your videos across the internet. To check, if your website or your images are blocked by Hotlink Protection, you can use the following tools:

  Hotlink-Checker: [Free-Webhosting](#) offers such a service for free. You can check the URL of your image to see if your image is blocked by Hotlink Protection. Just make sure to clear the cache of your browser (press ctrl + F5 in your open browser window) before you do the check!

  Blog2Social Troubleshooting Tool: You can use the [Blog2Social Troubleshooting Tool](#) in the Blog2Social dashboard. The protocol will show you if your website has activated Hotlink Protection.

  To deactivate Hotlink Protection you should check and uninstall or deactivate all activated plugins for Hotlink Protection or deactivate the Hotlink Protection settings in your plugins. If you are not sure which of your plugins enable Hotlink Protection, you can find [some example plugins in the WordPress.org directory](#).

  Or, select your „htaccess"-directory, check on the following entries and delete them if necessary, as these entries might prevent third-party sites and services like social networks and Blog2Social from accessing your images and videos:

    - RewriteEngine on
    - RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^$
    - RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^http(s)?://(www\.)?yourdomain.com [NC]
    - RewriteRule \.(jpg|jpeg|png|gif)$ - [NC,F,L]

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- RewriteRule .*\.(jpe?g|gif|bmp|png)$ - [F]

- **PHP CURL extension enable in php.ini**
  STEP BY STEP Solution:
  - Locate your PHP.ini file. (normally located in the bin folder of your apache install e.g.)
  - Open the PHP.ini in notepad.
  - Search or find the following: ';extension=php_curl.dll'
  - Uncomment this by removing the semi-colon ';' before it.
  - Save and Close PHP.ini.
  - Restart Apache.

- **Max execution time** >= 300 Seconds
  Solutions:
  a) in .htaccess File (in root folder of WordPress): "php_value max_execution_time 300"
  b) use wordpress plugin: https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-maximum-execution-time-exceeded/

- **Max post size** (optional)
  Solution:
  in .htaccess File (in root folder of WordPress): "php_value post_max_size 200M"

- **Max. Input Vars** (optional)
  Solution:
  in .htaccess Datei (in root folder of WordPress): "php_value max_input_vars 3000" (Default is: 1000)

- **Enable PHP DOM extension**

- **Permission to write into the database**: Please make sure that you have permission to write into the database of your blog.

- **PHP mbstring extension:**
  Please activate server-side the PHP "mbstring" extension in your "php.ini" file to use the character limit function.

- To use the "**og:image:width**" and "**og:image:height**" specifications in your Blog2Social open graph tags, please ensure the following:
  1) Create an .htaccess file and keep it in root folder (sometimes it may need to place it one step back folder of the root) and paste this code there:
  php_value allow_url_fopen On

2) Create a php.ini file (for update server php5.ini) and keep it in root folder (sometimes it may need to place it one step back folder of the root) and paste the following code there:
allow_url_fopen = On

Firewall settings

If you use an additional Firewall, please make sure that your settings allow outgoing connections or include an exception or whitelisting for Blog2Social.

Buttons are not working properly?

If you experience issues with unresponsive buttons in Blog2Social, please take a look at the troubleshooting steps in the following guide:
[Why are some buttons in Blog2Social not working properly?](#)

More tips for troubleshooting

- [The connection to the server failed. Please try again!](#)
- [How to check your blog settings with the Troubleshooting-Tool](#)
- [My Dashboard is freezing](#)
- [Social Media Connections don't load](#)
- [What should I do if I get the message "Please make sure that your website address is reachable."?](#)
- [403 Forbidden error solution](#)

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