

Minimal Blog — User Guide

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Minimal Blog — User Guide

A guide to writing, publishing, and managing your blog. This covers the admin panel end to end: posts, media, templates, tags, search, and the Tools & Settings page.

If your blog is hosted through **BarePress**, everything below applies — BarePress is Minimal Blog running as a hosted subdomain service. The two names refer to the same software.

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1. Logging in

Your admin panel lives at a private, non-guessable web address — something like `https://yourblog.example.com/panel-xxxxxxx/login`. This address is **not** `/admin` or `/wp-admin`; it's unique to your site and was given to you when your blog was set up. Bookmark it, since there's no public link to it anywhere on the site.

Sign in with the single admin password for the blog. Minimal Blog is single-user — there's only one account, no roles, no invite system.

If you forget your password, see [Account recovery](#).

2. The dashboard

After logging in you land on the dashboard, which lists your posts (newest first) with their status (Published/Draft) and quick links to edit or view each one. The admin sidebar gives you:

- **Posts** — the dashboard itself, and "New post"
 - **Media** — your uploaded image library
 - **Templates** — switch or customize your blog's look
 - **Tools & Settings** — site options, backups, security, cache
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3. Writing and publishing a post

Click **New post** (or **Edit** on an existing one). The editor has two parts: a small table of metadata fields at the top, and a Markdown text editor below.

Metadata fields

Field	Notes
Title	Required, up to 200 characters.
Slug	The URL segment (/post/your-slug). Auto-generated from the title but editable. Allowed characters: lowercase letters, numbers, hyphens. Changing the slug on an already-published post creates a new copy under the new slug — the old one isn't renamed, it stays behind. Fix the slug before you publish if you're not sure yet.
Date	Defaults to today; you can backdate or schedule a display date.
Tags	Comma-separated, e.g. <code>travel, iceland, photography</code> . Normalised automatically (lowercase, spaces become hyphens).
Status	<i>Published</i> (visible on the public site) or <i>Draft</i> (saved but hidden).

The body editor

The body field is plain **Markdown**. Above the text box you'll find:

- **Write / Preview tabs** — Preview renders the post exactly as it will appear live, without saving.
- **Markdown help** — a quick-reference dialog covering every syntax rule (also reproduced below).
- **A formatting toolbar** — buttons for Bold, Italic, Heading, Link, Image, Bulleted list, Numbered list, Quote, Inline code, and Table. Each button inserts or wraps the relevant Markdown syntax around your current selection — it's a shortcut for typing the syntax yourself, not a what-you-see-is-what-you-get editor. The stored post is always plain Markdown text, never HTML, which is what keeps posts portable and easy to back up or migrate.

Note: the heading/list/quote buttons prepend syntax on click rather than toggling it off. Clicking "H2" twice on the same line will give you `## ## text` — if that happens, just delete the extra `##` by hand.

Inserting images

Click the **Image** toolbar button to open the media picker, which shows your uploaded media library. Pick an image and click **Insert** to drop its Markdown into the post at your cursor. You can also upload a brand new image without leaving the editor, or go to the [Media library](#) page beforehand if you prefer to prepare everything up front.

Saving

Click **Save**. This writes the post, rebuilds the site's post/tag indexes, and clears the page cache so the change appears immediately — there's no separate "publish" step once Status is set to Published.

Published posts show a **View live** → link above the editor once saved.

4. Markdown syntax reference

Result	Syntax
Heading	# H1 through ##### H6
Bold	**bold text**
Italic	<i>*italic text*</i>
Inline code	`code`
Code block	```lang on its own line, code, then ```
Link	[text](https://example.com)
Image	![alt text](/path/to/image.jpg)
Image, sized	![alt text](/path/to/image.jpg =300x200) or =300 for width only
Unordered list	- item
Ordered list	1. item
Blockquote	> quoted text
Table	A B then --- --- then rows of 1 2
Horizontal rule	--- on its own line
Paragraph	a blank line between blocks of text
Line break	a single newline, no blank line

Raw HTML is **not** supported in post bodies — anything that looks like an HTML tag is escaped and shown as literal text rather than rendered. This is a deliberate security measure (it closes off script-injection via posts), so stick to Markdown syntax for everything, including tables and sized images per the table above.

5. Media library

Media in the sidebar shows every image you've uploaded, in a searchable grid (search matches name or tag).

Uploading

From the Media page (or the in-editor picker), choose an image file — JPEG, PNG, GIF, or WebP, up to 8 MB — and optionally give it:

- **Descriptive name** — used as the image's alt text wherever it's inserted.
- **Tags** — comma-separated, for your own organisation and for search.

Every upload is decoded and **re-encoded** on the server as a security measure (it strips anything hidden inside the file that isn't actual image data), and is served from a path where PHP cannot execute — so even a maliciously crafted upload can't run as code.

Editing metadata

Click **Edit** on any image in the library to update its name or tags without re-uploading it. This is useful for retagging old images or fixing alt text after the fact.

Reusing an image

Click **Copy** on an image in the library to copy its ready-to-paste Markdown, or use the **Image** button in the post editor's toolbar to insert it directly.

6. Tags

Add tags to a post via the comma-separated **Tags** field in the editor. Tags:

- Show under each post and link to `/tag/tag-name`, a page listing every post with that tag.
 - Populate the **tag cloud** shown in the site footer, where tags used more often appear larger.
 - Are searchable and filterable, but are not hierarchical — there's no concept of parent/child tags or categories.
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7. Templates

Templates control your blog's visual design. Minimal Blog ships with several built-in templates, and you can switch between them, tweak their options, or install a new one.

Switching templates

Go to **Templates** in the sidebar. Each installed template is listed with its name, author, version, and (if provided) a screenshot. Click **Use this template** to make it live immediately — this doesn't touch any of your posts, only how they're displayed.

Customizing a template's options

Many templates expose a small set of options — typically things like accent color, background color, font, base font size, a footer note, and an advanced custom-CSS box. These appear directly under each template in the Templates list; adjust them and save. Options are saved per template, so switching templates and switching back won't lose your earlier settings.

Installing a new template

If you (or a designer) have built a template as a `.zip` file, upload it from the bottom of the Templates page: give it a template ID (lowercase letters, numbers, hyphens — this becomes its internal folder name) and choose the zip file. Limits: 10 MB per zip. See [Creating a Template.md](#) for a full guide to building your own template from scratch.

Deleting a template

Any template except the built-in `default` template can be deleted, provided it isn't the one currently active. Switch to another template first, then delete. This cannot be undone.

8. Tools & Settings

The **Tools & Settings** page is split into a *Settings* tab and an *Advanced* tab.

Settings tab

- **Site Options** — your site title and how many posts appear per page (1–50).
- **Appearance** — the admin panel's own Light/Dark theme. This only affects how the admin panel looks to you; it has no effect on your public-facing site (that's controlled by Templates).
- **Backup & Restore** — download a full backup zip of your posts, media, templates, and settings at any time. Restoring **replaces the entire site** — you'll be asked to type a confirmation phrase before it proceeds, and automatic snapshots are kept. Take a fresh backup before restoring an old one.
- **Import from WordPress** — if you're migrating from WordPress, install the companion "Minimal Blog Exporter" plugin on your WordPress site, export a zip from it, and upload that zip here. Posts, images, and tags come across automatically.

Advanced tab

- **Page Cache** — Minimal Blog caches whole rendered pages for anonymous visitors for speed. This section shows how many pages are currently cached and how much disk space that uses, with a manual **Clear** button. You don't normally need to touch

this — the cache clears itself automatically whenever you save a post, change a template, or change a site option.

- **Security** — toggle blocking of known scanner probe paths (requests to things like `xmlrpc.php`, `wp-admin`, `.env`, `.git` — none of which exist on a Minimal Blog site, so these are almost always malicious probing and are blocked regardless of who's asking). You can add extra paths to block, and maintain a manual list of IP addresses to block — useful if you spot a persistent bad actor in your hosting provider's own access logs.
 - **Danger Zone** — delete all content. Irreversible; phrase-confirmed. Take a backup first.
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9. Search, tag cloud, and RSS feed

These are all automatic — nothing to configure:

- **Search** — every public page has a search box; it matches against post titles and body text.
 - **Tag cloud** — shown in the footer of every page, built from your posts' tags.
 - **RSS/Atom feed** — available at `/feed` on your site, linked from the footer. Any standard feed reader can subscribe to it.
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10. Account recovery

If you're locked out:

- **Recovery codes**: if you generated one-time recovery codes ahead of time (Tools & Settings), use one at the `/recover` page (found via your admin login page) alongside a new password. Each code works once and is destroyed the moment it's used, so it can't be replayed even if it leaks.
- **Server/CLI access**: if you or your host has command-line access to the server, `bin/reset-password.php` resets the password directly and can also regenerate a fresh batch of recovery codes. This only runs from the command line, never over the web, as an extra safeguard.

Any password reset — through any of these paths — instantly invalidates every existing login session, everywhere.

11. Troubleshooting

I edited a post but the live site still shows the old version. Saving a post always clears the cache, so this is almost always a browser or CDN cache on your end — try a hard refresh.

I changed a post's slug and now there are two versions of it. This is expected current behavior: changing the slug of a published post creates a new copy under the new slug rather than renaming it in place. Delete the old slug's post manually if you don't want it kept around.

A toolbar button (like Heading) inserted `## ##` instead of toggling. The formatting buttons insert syntax; they don't detect or remove existing syntax on the same line. Just edit the text directly.

My uploaded image didn't keep its original quality/metadata. All uploads are re-encoded on the server as a security measure — this is intentional and can't be turned off.

I can't find my admin login page. There's no public link to it by design. Check wherever your hosting provider or original setup email gave it to you; if it's genuinely lost, you (or your host) will need server access to look it up in `config.json` (`admin_path`) or reset it there.