

The Impact of the Feud on Internet Culture

Description

Perthshire Picture Agency, Blonde woman with her arms folded looking up at the camera
Perthshire Picture Agency

Tricia Fox's small business in Scotland has been affected by the row between two major US companies

Currently, one of the preeminent web publishing platforms—employed by a substantial segment of the internet—finds itself embroiled in a conflict that is adversely impacting countless global businesses.

Despite the majority of its work remaining unseen by users, WordPress claims to facilitate approximately 40% of all websites through its behind-the-scenes web-building tools.

Consequently, its dispute with WP Engine is causing significant disruptions for the numerous enterprises dependent on their services to maintain functionality.

Tricia Fox, who manages an agency responsible for around 70 websites and is entangled in this conflict, expressed to the BBC that "operating a business under such uncertainty is untenable."

Daniel Card, a Fellow of the BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, emphasized that the extensive adoption of WordPress renders it "essential to the fabric of the internet," with its actions reverberating widely across the online landscape.

Origins of the Dispute

The discord between these entities arises from the dual nature of WordPress: its non-profit organization *WordPress.org* and its commercial arm, Automattic.

While WordPress.org offers its source code freely, enabling diverse developers to create and distribute their own tools, WP Engine utilizes this code for its web hosting services.

In return for access to the source code, WordPress expects contributors to assist in its maintenance through bug fixes and feature testing.

However, WordPress's leader has alleged that WP Engine has failed to uphold these contributions, even labeling the company as "a cancer to WordPress."

In late September, this culminated in a decision to [prohibit](#) WP Engine from leveraging integral components



of WordPress.

WP Engine vehemently contests these assertions, declaring its pride in its substantial contributions to the WordPress ecosystem.

Assessing the Impact

Caught in the crossfire are myriad websites and blogs reliant on the services of both organizations.

Tricia Fox, utilizing a WP Engine subsidiary for website hosting, is now contemplating migrating her sites—a decision she estimates could cost "tens of thousands of pounds" over forthcoming years.

She is motivated to sever ties with WP Engine due to the fallout causing her team to undertake an increased workload, thereby inflating operational expenses.

"The team remains uncertain whether the platforms will function on any given day," Ms. Fox conveyed.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Embroided** /ɪm'brɔɪd/ (verb): Involved deeply in an argument conflict or complicated situation.
2. **Adversely** /'æd.vɜ:s.li/ (adverb): In a manner that prevents success or development; harmful or unfavorable.
3. **Untenable** /ʌn'ten.ə.bəl/ (adjective): Not able to be maintained or defended against attack or objection.
4. **Reverberating** /rɪ'vɜ:.bə.reɪt/ (verb): Having continuing effects; echoing or resounding.
5. **Prohibit** /prə's'hib.ɪt/ (verb): To formally forbid something by law rule or other authority.
6. **Contemplating** /'kɒn.tɛm.plə.tɪŋ/ (verb): Thinking deeply or considering something.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What percentage of websites does WordPress claim to facilitate?

- Option: 20%
- Option: 40%
- Option: 60%
- Option: 80%

2. Who is Tricia Fox and how many websites does she manage?



- Option: Software developer managing 50 websites
- Option: Agency manager responsible for around 70 websites
- Option: Web designer handling 100 websites
- Option: Freelancer managing 30 websites

3. Who emphasized the extensive adoption of WordPress?

- Option: Mark Zuckerberg
- Option: Tim Cook
- Option: Daniel Card
- Option: Jeff Bezos

4. What did WordPress do to WP Engine in late September?

- Option: Banned it from using WordPress source code
- Option: Acquired WP Engine
- Option: Merged with WP Engine
- Option: Promoted WP Engine

5. What is WP Engine accused of by WordPress?

- Option: Being a partner to WordPress
- Option: Contributing significantly to WordPress
- Option: Failing to uphold contributions
- Option: Ignoring WordPress

6. How does Tricia Fox describe operating a business under the current circumstances?

- Option: Achievable
- Option: Untenable
- Option: Lucrative
- Option: Exciting

True-False

- 7. WordPress is involved in a conflict that is affecting global businesses.
- 8. WP Engine is proud of its contributions to the WordPress ecosystem.
- 9. Tricia Fox is contemplating moving her websites to WP Engine.
- 10. WordPress.org provides its source code freely to developers.



11. Daniel Card is a Chartered Accountant.

12. The dispute between WordPress and WP Engine is affecting only a few websites.

Gap-Fill

13. Tricia Fox, who manages an agency responsible for around 70 websites, expressed to the BBC that "operating a business under such uncertainty is _____."

14. The discord between WordPress and WP Engine arises from the dual nature of WordPress: its non-profit organization WordPress.org and its commercial arm, Automattic. In return for access to the source code, WordPress expects contributors to assist in its maintenance through bug fixes and feature _____.

15. Tricia Fox is now contemplating migrating her sites from WP Engine—a decision she estimates could cost "tens of thousands of pounds" over forthcoming _____.

16. Ms. Fox is motivated to sever ties with WP Engine due to the fallout causing her team to undertake an increased workload, thereby inflating operational _____.

17. WP Engine vehemently contests the allegations from WordPress, declaring its pride in its substantial contributions to the WordPress _____.

18. Tricia Fox expressed uncertainty about whether the platforms will function on any given _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 40% 2. Agency manager responsible for around 70 websites 3. Daniel Card 4. Banned it from using WordPress source code 5. Failing to uphold contributions 6. Untenable

True-False: 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. untenable 14. testing 15. years 16. expenses 17. ecosystem 18. day



Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the opposite of approved?
Option: A) Condemned
Option: B) Manipulative
Option: C) Sophisticated
Option: D) Commitment
2. Which word means having an intense but short-lived passion or admiration for someone?
Option: A) Infatuated
Option: B) Significant
Option: C) Adversely
Option: D) Prevalent
3. What term refers to the variety of life in a particular habitat or ecosystem?
Option: A) Regulation
Option: B) Biodiversity
Option: C) Conservation
Option: D) Commitment
4. What is the term for the dying out or extermination of a species?
Option: A) Untenable
Option: B) Extinction
Option: C) Reverberating
Option: D) Prohibit
5. Which word relates to the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their environment?
Option: A) Identified
Option: B) Synthesis
Option: C) Ecological
Option: D) Mandate
6. What word means sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention?



- Option: A) Proliferation
- Option: B) Burnout
- Option: C) Significant
- Option: D) Streamline

7. What is a formal order to do something?

- Option: A) Acclimate
- Option: B) Mandate
- Option: C) Integration
- Option: D) Prohibiting

8. What is the rapid increase in numbers of something?

- Option: A) Burnout
- Option: B) Proliferation
- Option: C) Identified
- Option: D) Synthesis

9. What means to make a process more efficient and effective?

- Option: A) Integrate
- Option: B) Streamline
- Option: C) Elucidating
- Option: D) Mandate

10. What is the process of organisms adjusting to a new environment?

- Option: A) Embroiled
- Option: B) Prevalent
- Option: C) Acclimate
- Option: D) Compounds

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

- 11. The two countries were _____ in a bitter territorial dispute.
- 12. Water is _____ for human survival.
- 13. The suspect was _____ by several eyewitnesses at the scene.
- 14. The _____ of different ideas led to the breakthrough in scientific research.
- 15. The professor did an excellent job of _____ complex theories in simple terms.



16. It is important to _____ new members into the team smoothly.
17. Constant work pressure can lead to _____ among employees.
18. His argument was _____ in the face of overwhelming evidence.
19. The sound of the explosion was still _____ in their ears.
20. The law _____ smoking in public places.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The mother's _____ was evident when her child went missing.
22. The new software had a design that impressed the users.
23. _____ efforts are crucial to protect endangered species and their habitats.
24. Her unwavering _____ to her goals propelled her to success.
25. Flu outbreaks are _____ during the winter season.
26. Chemical _____ can have various properties and applications.
27. She sat in silence _____ her next move carefully.
28. The political scandal left the government in controversy.
29. The economic downturn has affected small businesses.
30. Patience is _____ when dealing with difficult situations.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A) Condemned 2. A) Infatuated 3. B) Biodiversity 4. B) Extinction 5. C) Ecological
6. C) Significant 7. B) Mandate 8. B) Proliferation 9. B) Streamline 10. C) Acclimate

Gap-Fill: 11. embroiled 12. indispensable 13. identified 14. synthesis 15. elucidating 16. integrate 17.
burnout 18. untenable 19. reverberating 20. prohibits

Matching sentence: 1. anguish 2. sophisticated 3. conservation 4. commitment 5. prevalent 6. compounds
7. contemplating 8. embroiled 9. adversely 10. indispensable



CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL5

Date Created

2024/10/27

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