

# The WordPress 7.0 Readiness Audit

Find exactly where your site is most likely to break on upgrade, and fix it before WordPress 7.0 finds it for you.

## How to use this

Work through each risk honestly. If you have to think about the answer, the answer is No. Three or more No answers in any section tells you what to fix before you press Update.

Website being audited: \_\_\_\_\_ Audited by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

| RISK 1: THE FOUNDATION RISK |   |                          |                          |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| #                           | Question  | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now   |
| 1                           | Is your PHP version 8.1 or higher?<br>Tools > Site Health > Info > Server. PHP 7.4 will not survive WP 7.0 cleanly.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ask your host to upgrade PHP on a staging copy first. Never upgrade PHP on production blind. |
| 2                           | Is MySQL 5.7+ or MariaDB 10.4+ running?<br>Same Site Health screen. Older database engines fail silently mid-migration.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Get the upgrade path in writing from your host before touching WordPress core.               |
| 3                           | Are you on the latest 6.x release before jumping to 7.0?<br>Skipping versions hides errors that incremental upgrades would have surfaced.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Update to the latest 6.x first. Run the site for 7 days. Only then plan 7.0.                 |
| 4                           | Have you confirmed memory, execution time, & OPcache settings with your host?<br>256M memory and 60s execution are the real-world floor. Shared hosting often ships less. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Get the limits in writing. If your host won't say, that is the answer.                       |

Risk 1 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4

**RISK 2: THE BACKUP RISK**

| # | Question  | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now   |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Is your most recent full backup less than 24 hours old?<br>Files and database, both. A weekly backup is not a backup before a major version upgrade.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Run a fresh full backup right now. Confirm both files and DB are included.                         |
| 2 | Have you actually restored that backup somewhere even once?<br>An untested backup is not a backup. It's a guess wearing a backup's clothes.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Restore your backup to a staging URL today. If it fails, you don't have a backup, you have a file. |
| 3 | Is the backup stored somewhere other than the server it backs up?<br>A backup on the same server is not a backup. It is a Schrödinger's backup.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Move backups off-server: S3, Google Drive, Backblaze. Anywhere that survives a server failure.     |
| 4 | Is your rollback procedure written down, not living in someone's head?<br>If the developer who knows the steps is asleep when something breaks, you don't have a procedure. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Write the rollback as a 5-step doc. Anyone on the team should be able to follow it cold.           |

**Risk 2 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4**

### RISK 3: THE COMPATIBILITY RISK

| # | Question  | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now   |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Have you checked every active plugin against WP 7.0, not just the dashboard's word? "Tested up to 6.4" tells you nothing about 7.0. Check the changelog and the support forum.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | List every plugin. Mark each: confirmed compatible, unknown, or abandoned. Replace the unknowns. |
| 2 | Do you know how many plugins haven't been updated in the last 12 months?<br>A stale plugin is a future failure with a release date attached.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Replace or remove every plugin not updated in 12 months. Yes, even the one you "need".           |
| 3 | Is your active theme, including any child theme, confirmed compatible with the WP 7.0 block editor?<br>Custom themes need explicit testing. A green dashboard checkmark is not testing. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Run the theme on staging with WP 7.0. Click every template. Note what breaks.                    |
| 4 | Have you scanned your custom code for deprecated hooks, filters, and functions?<br>PHP Compatibility Checker and Plugin Check both run free. Five minutes now beats five hours later    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Run both tools against your codebase this week. Fix every flagged item before upgrade day.       |

**Risk 3 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4**

**RISK 4: THE STAGING RISK**

| # | Question   | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now   |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1 | Do you have a staging environment that mirrors production exactly?<br>Same PHP. Same MySQL. Same plugins. Same theme. Same data. No shortcuts.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Spin up a staging clone today. If your host charges extra for it, pay. The cost of not having one is higher. |
| 2 | Have you tested every revenue path on staging such as, checkout, forms, login, payment?<br>"Looks fine" is not tested. Walk through every flow that produces money.            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | List every revenue-touching flow. Walk each one end-to-end on staging. Sign off in writing.                  |
| 3 | Have you confirmed every third-party integration still fires on staging postupgrade?<br>CRM sync, analytics, email triggers, webhooks. All of them. Not the ones you remember. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | List every integration in one document. Verify each one delivers data after the staging upgrade.             |
| 4 | Have you tested the new WP 7.0 real-time collaboration features on staging? New in 7.0. If two of your editors use the block editor at once, this matters.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Open the same post in two browsers on staging. Edit. Confirm presence signals and merge behaviour.           |

**Risk 4 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4**

**RISK 5: THE PERFORMANCE RISK**

| # | Question   | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now  |
|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Have you captured your homepage and top-3 page load times before upgrade?<br>If you don't measure before, you can't prove what 7.0 changed.                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Run PageSpeed Insights on your top 3 pages. Screenshot the results. File them with your rollback doc. |
| 2 | Do you know your current LCP, INP, and CLS instead of just a "good" rating?<br>"Good" hides regressions. Numbers don't.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Record exact figures from CrUX or PageSpeed. Compare them again 48 hours after upgrade.               |
| 3 | Do you have a plan to disable caching plugins before upgrade and re-enable after?<br>Stale cache is the single most common cause of "the upgrade broke the site", and it didn't. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Add "deactivate cache plugins" as step 1 of your upgrade runbook. Re-enable as the final step.        |
| 4 | Have you set a TTFB threshold that triggers a rollback?<br>Decide your "this is broken" number before upgrade, never during.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pick a number e.g., TTFB above 800ms for 10 minutes = rollback. Write it down. Tell the team.         |

**Risk 5 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4**

## RISK 6: THE LAUNCH RISK

| # | Question  | Yes                      | No                       | If No, Act Now  |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Is the upgrade scheduled for your lowest traffic 4-hour window?<br>Check analytics for the actual quietest stretch. Don't trust your gut on this.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Open GA4. Find the lowest sessions / lowest conversions hour bracket. Schedule the upgrade there.                             |
| 2 | Have you written the rollback trigger, the exact symptom that says "revert now"? Without a trigger, you'll talk yourself out of rolling back while the site bleeds.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Define one trigger: 5xx error rate above 2% for 5 minutes, or checkout failure rate above 10%. Don't negotiate it on the day. |
| 3 | Will someone be watching the site for the first 60 minutes post-upgrade, not just glancing? "I'll keep an eye on it" is not monitoring. Sitting in front of error logs is.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Assign a named person. Their only job for 60 minutes is to watch errors, conversions, and uptime.                             |
| 4 | Have you submitted your own form, completed checkout, & logged in, after the staging upgrade?<br>A site that loads is not a site that works. A working site delivers email, takes payment, & lets users in. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do all three end-to-end on staging. Confirm the email arrived, the payment cleared, the login worked.                         |

**Risk 6 - No count: \_\_\_ / 4**

**YOUR TOTAL SCORE: \_\_\_\_ / 24**

### The Verdict:

- **0-2 No answers:** You're upgrade-ready. Plug the one or two specific gaps and proceed on schedule.
- **3-5 No answers:** You're carrying real risk into upgrade day. Start with Risk 2, without a tested backup, nothing else on this list saves you.
- **6+ No answers:** Do not upgrade yet. Start with Risk 1. If your foundation can't carry 7.0, every other fix is decoration.

Mavlers works with WordPress teams who can't afford a botched upgrade, such as agencies, e-commerce sites, and SaaS marketing teams running real revenue through their CMS.

From pre-upgrade audits and staging environments to live-window deployment and post-launch monitoring, we make sure WP 7.0 lands without taking the site with it.

If you want a second pair of eyes on your upgrade plan before you press the button, request a **free 30-minute readiness review** at [mavlers.agency](https://mavlers.agency).