Self-Hosted vs Fully Hosted Website Builder Comparison Chart

	Self-Hosted Website Builder	Fully Managed Website Builder		
	WordPress	Wix	Squarespace	Weebly
Overall Rating	★★★ ✓ **Most Flexible Website Builder** ✓ **Hardest to Use Website Builder**	★★★★★ ✓ **Best Overall Flexible Website Builder**	★★★★⯪ ✓ **Best Design Oriented Website Builder**	★★★★⯪ ✓ **Easiest to Use Website Builder**
Type of website it supports	★★★★★ ✓ **E-Commerce*** ✓ **Membership*** ✓ **Online booking abilities** ✓ **Online Portfolio** ✓ **Blog** ✓ **Business website** *These features are NOT STANDARD. It is only possible with third party plugin or software at additional cost.	★★★★⯪ ✓ **E-Commerce** ✓ **Online booking abilities*** ✓ **Music download** ✓ **Online portfolio** ✓ **Blog** ✓ **Business website** *Basic version comes standard. Premium version is available at added cost.	★★★★⯪ ✓ **E-Commerce** ✓ **Online booking abilities*** ✓ **Online portfolio** ✓ **Blog** ✓ **Business website** *Integrate with OpenTable ONLY.	★★★★ ✓ **E-Commerce** ✓ **Membership**** ✓ **Online booking abilities*** ✓ **Blog** ✓ **Business website** *Third-party software available at added cost. **Can protect any page with password. THIS IS NOT a membership management software.
Ease of website operation	★★★ **Require EXPERT code knowledge:** ▪ Modify template design. ▪ Adjust template to work with non-compatible plugins. **Require BASIC code knowledge:** ▪ Customize page layout design ▪ Add design elements like image slider, textbox, tabs and elements that is not built into the template. **Require NO code knowledge:** ▪ Add/edit/remove content like text and images. ▪ Add/edit/remove blog posts.	★★★★⯪ **Require NO code knowledge:** ▪ Add third party apps – 1 click button install. ▪ Customize page layout design. ▪ Add design elements like image slider, textbox, tabs and elements ▪ Add/edit/remove content like text and images. ▪ Add/edit/remove blog posts. *You can only use the themes provided by Wix and cannot create any custom website design.	★★★★⯪ **Require NO code knowledge:** ▪ Modify template design – Squarespace have a very comprehensive design editor that you can customize 80% of the theme without any coding skills. ▪ Customize page layout design. ▪ Add design elements like image slider, textbox, tabs and elements ▪ Add/edit/remove content like text and images. ▪ Add/edit/remove blog posts. *No app store so adding third party software is not supported	★★★★★ **Require EXPERT code knowledge:** ▪ Modify template design. **Require NO code knowledge:** ▪ Add third party apps – 1 click button install. ▪ Customize page layout design. ▪ Add design elements like image slider, textbox, tabs and elements ▪ Add/edit/remove content like text and images. ▪ Add/edit/remove blog posts.
Features & Flexibility	**Extreme Flexibility & unlimited plugins/apps** ★★★★★ Unlimited number of plugins and software you can use with WordPress. Since it is Open Sourced, you can even hire a developer to create your custom plugin or app to run on your WordPress website.	**High Flexibility & huge plugins/apps selection** ★★★★⯪ Wix's App Market with more than 260 Apps for you to integrate into your website at any time with 1 click app install.	**Limited flexibility with no plugin/app store** ★★★ Currently don't have any app store so you can easily add more features and integrate third party software easily. So this limits the flexibility of your website.	**Moderate Flexibility with small plugins/apps store** ★★★⯪ Weebly App Center offers 25 Apps (and growing) that you can easily add to your Weebly website. The App Center a new 2015 addition, so the collection is still growing.

Level of technical support	**No support – Free to use software** ⭐ Since it is a free to use software, there are no support. If you have any question or need help to implement anything, you will need to hire a designer or developer to help you.	**Full Technical Support** ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ - Email - Phone - Forum - Knowledgebase	**Full Technical Support** ⭐⭐⭐⭐✬ - 24/7 Email - Live Chat - Knowledgebase	**Full Technical Support** ⭐⭐⭐✬ - Email - Phone - Forum - Knowledgebase
Time to master	**High Learning Curve** ⭐⭐ - A couple hours to learn the basic of adding, editing and remove content. - Few weeks to learn basic codes to modify layout design. - Few months to a year to learn intermediate / advance codes to modify website design. - Few months to a year to learn advance codes to fix plugin compatibility issue or upgrade issues.	**Low Learning Curve** ⭐⭐⭐⭐✬ - Learn the basic of adding, editing and remove content in less than 30 min. - Few minutes to link payment processor to your store. *All technical issue like hosting, security, app compatibility issues are all dealt by Wix so there is no need to worry. **Cannot edit theme codes so there is no need to learn coding to customize your website design.	**Low Learning Curve** ⭐⭐⭐⭐✬ - Learn the basic of adding, editing and remove content in less than 30 min. - Few minutes to link payment processor to your store. - Few minutes to learn how to modify minor layout design in a couple hours. - Few minutes to learn how to customize theme design. *All technical issue like hosting, security, app compatibility issues are all dealt by Shopify so there is no need to worry. **Cannot edit theme codes so there is no need to learn coding to customize your website design.	**Low Learning Curve** ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ - Learn the basic of adding, editing and remove content in less than 30 min. - Few minutes to link payment processor to your store. - Few minutes to learn how to modify minor layout design in a couple hours. - Few months to a year to learn intermediate / advance codes to customize theme design. *All technical issue like hosting, security, app compatibility issues are all dealt by Shopify so there is no need to worry.
Cost of use	⭐⭐⭐ **Minimum Start Up Cost:** - **Hosting:** $5/month - **Basic Theme:** $35 - **Standard Theme:** $60 - **Premium Theme:** $150+ - **Custom Design:** $2,000 - $10,000+ - **Technical & Security Support:** $50/month - **E-Commerce Software:** $50/month or $350 - $550 1 time cost - **Membership Software:** $50/month or $350 1 time cost - **Online booking software:** $50 1 time cost *No limit to how much it can be	⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ **Minimum Start Up Cost:** - **Starter:** $4.50 - **Combo:** $8.50 - **Unlimited:** $12.50 - **E-Commerce:** $16.50 - **VIP:** $24.50 * All hosting, security, technical support, theme designs, ecommerce software and website builder are all included. **Optional Cost:** - **Apps:** Free or paid	⭐⭐⭐⭐✬ **Minimum Start Up Cost:** - **Personal Website:** $12 - **Business Website:** $18 - **Basic Commerce:** $26 - **Advanced Commerce:** $40 * All hosting, security, technical support, theme designs, ecommerce software and website builder are all included.	⭐⭐⭐⭐✬ **Minimum Start Up Cost:** - **Starter:** $8 - **Pro:** $12 - **Business:** $25 - **Performance:** $49 * All hosting, security, technical support, theme designs, ecommerce software and website builder are all included. **Optional Cost:** - **Apps:** Free or paid