



## Tools/Sites/Services Mentioned in Workshop/Consultation

**1Password:** Remember and Manage ALL your long/secure passwords using one master password to log into this tool:

<http://uniquethink.com/go/1password>

**PicMonkey:** A free tool for cropping and resizing images - also has some added functionality, definitely check it out:

<http://uniquethink.com/go/picmonkey>

**Canva:** This is another great great tool for creating things like header images or ads for your site (without being a graphic designer) <https://www.canva.com/>

**Pixlr:** A free editing software in place of Photoshop, it lives online:

<http://pixlr.com/>

**Skitch:** It lets you take a Screenshot, Annotate and Edit it. I love Skitch, it is now part of Evernote. It's Free and you can use it without Evernote, as well:

<https://evernote.com/skitch/>

**SXC.HU:** Free stock photo site. You can use these images online, but check the usage/license agreement. It may cost to use in logos, an ads, or on a product.

<http://www.sxc.hu/>

Since SXC is a sister of **iStockPhoto** (which is owned by Getty), the top and bottom row are Premium images that might cost as low as \$2. So, if you want free images, make sure you stay with images on SXC's site. If you are interested in the **iStockPhoto** images, you can buy credits to purchase their images:

<http://uniquethink.com/istockphoto>

**Stocksy:** This is a great place to look for 'un-stocky' looking stock photos. They are trying to share more realistic images. They are also giving the artists/photographers a more equal split of the profits <http://www.stocksy.com/>

**ColorZilla Eyedropper:** Browser based way to find out what color is being used

<http://www.colorzilla.com/>

**Color Cop:** Let's you find out what color is being used from a PC/Window's computer <http://colorcop.net/>

\*Some links are affiliate link, but I only recommend products I have tried and believe are good, solid solutions



**Da Button Factory:** Creates buttons for use on websites and email newsletters - very easy to use

<http://dabuttonfactory.com/>

**Mobile phone emulator:** Let's you see what your site will look like on a mobile device

<http://www.mobilephoneemulator.com>

### **Premium Theme Developers:**

**ThemeBlvd:** This is my top theme developer. He offers tons of great features/ functionality in well designed themes that look good out of the box. His Framework 2 themes have Responsive Design (are mobile-friendly) - check out [Akita](#) - which is my favorite. This developer created videos to show how to do everything - and there are lots of options! <http://uniquethink.com/themebldv>

**StudioPress** (Genesis Framework): If you are looking for a good theme with lots of features and a nice design out of the box, these might be worth looking at (but some are not responsive): <http://uniquethink.com/studiopress>

### **Maintenance of WordPress**

**Sucuri.net** - You can use their free scanner to make sure your site is safe. But they also offer a monitoring service, this is a great way to make sure your site stays secure. And, if you get hacked and do get malware, they can remove it for you!

<http://uniquethink.com/go/security>

**BackupBuddy:** A premium (paid) plugin that allows you to backup your full site, not just your database. You can also use this tool to MIGRATE your site to another server <http://uniquethink.com/movewp>

### **HOSTING SERVICE PROVIDERS:**

**Here are a few hosting solutions I recommend:**

**HostMonster:** This company has a low yearly price, 24 hour Utah based "technical support" (not just customer support, but folks who can answer technical questions) and are good with WordPress/security and backup issues: <http://www.hostmonster.com/track/uniquethink/>

They also recently added a "PRO" account - which is more money, but provides faster speed, your own dedicated IP address, and more



**BlueHost** is the sister company of HostMonster and offers the same product/tech support team, but for about \$1 more a month. They are also a recommended [WordPress.ORG](http://WordPress.ORG) vendor:

<http://www.bluehost.com/track/unquethink/>

**HostGator:** This company has reasonable monthly plans and uses renewable energy – they are also a good choice for folks who are planning to have a store on their site. They also offer plans for sites that might grow too large or prefer not to be on a shared server (which I can explain better, if you have a need for this):

<http://secure.hostgator.com/cgi-bin/affiliates/clickthru.cgi?id=bethink>

**WP Engine:** This company is considerably more expensive, but has a lot to offer. They specialize in hosting WordPress sites, do backups and upgrades for you, so you don't have to worry about doing them on your own. One draw back is they do their support via email, not phone. You also can't host any other CMS on their servers (no Joomla or Drupal). This is a good choice, if you are running WordPress and are not the type to maintain updates on your site, seriously consider this option: <http://uniquethink.com/wpengine>

Keep in mind maintenance upgrades are important. So either learn to do them, yourself, get a hosting company that does it for you or hire someone to do the maintenance for you.

FYI: HostMonster, BlueHost and HostGator were all recently purchased by EIG, who owns many other hosting companies.

There are a lot of companies I would not recommend, because of price, security or other factors, so please consider one of these as an option. Or do some research to find the best solution for your specific situation.

These are affiliate links, but the reason I recommend them is because I think they are better solutions than other providers like GoDaddy and Network Solutions (who I do not recommend).

A domain registration service to consider is IWantMyDomain.com: <http://uniquethink.com/domain>

I typically encourage folks to purchase their domain name registration somewhere else and then point it to your hosting company (think of it like forwarding a phone number). The reason for this is if you ever want to change hosting companies, it is potentially easier. It also lets you manage all your domain names in one place.

*Focusing on the many possibilities... Bethany*