

Pantheon vs. WP Engine



Pantheon is the clear choice for effortless scalability, enterprise-ready architecture, dedicated secured environments, and always-on support.

When it comes to mission-critical WordPress sites, there's no room for compromise. Choose Pantheon – the only integrated platform for teams building, scaling, and securing exceptional WordPress websites.

Feature	Pantheon	WP Engine
Scalability	Container-based infrastructure ensures effortless scaling; all sites are load-balanced by default.	Single-VM shared hosting architecture has hard limits, while special load-balanced multi-server setup could be faster and more costly to scale.
Development Workflow	Mandated version control; dedicated Dev, Test, and Live with best-practice workflow to manage releases; Multidev allows simultaneous development on multiple tracks.	The staging environment lacks a structured workflow, and “cowboy coding” can still happen directly on Production. There is no Multidev equivalent and version control is optional and rarely used.
Automated Updates	Pantheon Autopilot uses visual regression to validate updates to WordPress core, plugins, and themes in a Multidev environment before auto-deploying.	WP Engine's auto-update tool, Smart Plugin Manager, updates plugins and themes directly in live environments. If something breaks, restoration from a backup is required.
Hosting Environment	All sites and environments are isolated and dedicated, eliminating “noisy neighbor” problems and enhancing security.	Most sites run on shared hosting, making them vulnerable to security risks and performance issues caused by other sites on the same server.
Enterprise Readiness	Designed for complex, mission-critical sites and large-scale customers needing multi-year contracts, strict SLAs, and robust tools for managing large site portfolios.	Built for simpler, smaller-scale projects and transactional customers with just one website, they need to be more focused on the needs of enterprise customers.
Support	Streamlined support focused on rapid conflict resolution, with direct access to experts.	Complex support infrastructure spanning multiple data centers and configurations, complicating issue resolution and delaying support responses.



Here's why Pantheon outshines WP Engine

While WP Engine helps hundreds of thousands of customers quickly and effectively “just use WordPress,” Pantheon serves those looking to use WordPress as a platform, leveraging best practices in web development, enterprise architecture, and modern operational workflows to deliver breakthrough digital value to their organization.

1. NO COWBOY CODING

Pantheon's website operations (WebOps) best practices ensure that all modifications to your WordPress code, theme, and plugins are meticulously tracked by version control. This allows for thorough review and approval before deployment.

Horizontal Scalability: Pantheon's enterprise architecture guarantees that your website's capacity is never limited to a single box. Each site, including developer sandboxes, is designed for seamless scalability from the outset, so there's zero downtime to add capacity.

2. AGILE DEVELOPMENT

Agile Development: Pantheon's Multidev feature gives your development team the power to work in isolated environments, enabling concurrent workstreams and confident code deployment. This promotes a frictionless and efficient workflow without the need for manual synchronization.

3. BUILT FOR LARGE PORTFOLIOS

Pantheon's advanced automation tools and governance capabilities are game-changers for anyone managing a large site portfolio. They ensure that WordPress is being used effectively across hundreds, thousands, or even thousands of separate independent instances.

4. ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE

Tailored for sophisticated, mission-critical websites, Pantheon offers robust performance and reliability supported by multi-year contracts and comprehensive SLAs. You can trust that your website will maintain resilience and handle even the most demanding use cases.

5. NO NOISY NEIGHBORS

Pantheon's dedicated environments eliminate the “noisy neighbor” issue often found in shared hosting, ensuring consistent performance and enhanced security. This provides a rock-solid foundation for your digital presence.

6. SUPERIOR SUPPORT

Pantheon's streamlined support structure is dedicated to rapid conflict resolution. All issues are efficiently resolved with direct access to expert support, minimizing downtime and maximizing productivity.

"Multidev has been a game-changer. Prior to Multidev, when we were on WP Engine, I had to make an update and pray that it wouldn't take down all 150 of our sites that are connected. Because I was literally pushing everything directly to our live sites. And that's terrifying."

– *Brittany Rapheal, Senior Web Developer, Decisely*

"Consolidating on Pantheon with 3 Media Web brought in about \$20,000 a year in hosting savings. We also knew Pantheon was best of breed, so it was a real win. Having all of the hosting monitoring in one centralized location, pushing right into our Slack channels, provided real-time notifications in the event of any downtime."

– *Samantha Spano, VP of Marketing at Employ (Former WP Engine customer)*

Experience the Pantheon Difference

Pantheon offers a comprehensive platform tailored for mission-critical WordPress (and Drupal) websites, ensuring seamless scalability, robust development workflows, and top-tier security. Unlike WP Engine, Pantheon is built to meet the demands of enterprise-grade projects, providing a reliable and efficient solution for your digital presence. Don't settle for less – choose Pantheon today.

