Table of Contents

WordPress The Right Way

This book is a condensed resource of best practices for and by WordPress developers, intended to fast track developers past common mistakes and painful problems.

This is a living document and will continue to be updated with more helpful information and examples as they become available.

How to Contribute

You can contribute on GitHub. Changes will be pushed to Gitbook.io automatically when the main repository changes.

Editing the book can be done either by updating the markdown files with a text editor, or opening the repository in the Gitbook desktop app. The desktop app will give you a live preview option.

License

Getting Started

Basic PHP

It's assumed that you have a basic knowledge of PHP. This will include a knowledge of:

- functions
- arrays
- variables
- loops and conditionals
- classes and objects
- class inheritance
- polymorphism
- POST and GET
- variable scope

If you don't have a good grasp of those concepts, you should make sure you have a firm understanding before continuing.

It's also assumed you have a code editor that has PHP syntax highlighting, although these will be beneficial:

- Auto Indenting
- Auto-completion
- Brace matching
- Syntax checking

Local Development Environments

It's important to have a local development environment. Gone are the old days of changing a PHP file then updating it on the live server and hoping for the best.

With a local environment, you can work faster, no more uploading and downloading files, being at the mercy of a dodgy internet connection, or waiting for pages to load from the open web. With a local server stack you can work on a train in a tunnel with no wifi or phone signal, and test your work before deploying it to the live server.

Here are a few options for setting up a local development environment. They fall into two categories:

- Virtual Machines
- Native Server Stacks

The first type of environment usually involves projects such as Vagrant, and gives you a standardised consistent virtual machine to work with.

The second, installs the server software directly into your operating system. There are various tools that make this easy, but your environment will be unique and more difficult to debug. These are sometimes called LAMP stacks, which stands for Linux Apache MySQL PHP.

IIS

Microsoft Internet Information Services is the server software that powers Windows based servers. Variants of it come with Windows if you install the appropriate components, but knowledge of IIS setup in the WordPress community is rare. Most remote servers run an Apache or Nginx setup, and developer knowledge is geared in that direction.

IIS is not the easiest route to take.