

Wordpress for Web Development: Lab 2

Mark Hannon

LearnToProgram.TV

The WordPress loop

For this lab we will look at the WordPress loop which displays the content we add to the visual editor on a WordPress web page.

The code below is the basic html content for the index.php file. Where do we add the loop and what additional code goes into it?

index.php:

```
<?php get_header(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

    <section id="content"><!-- The main web content -->

        <h2 class="site-title">
            Catchy headline goes here
        </h2>

    </section> <!-- End of content -->

    <?php get_sidebar(); ?>

</section> <!-- End of container -->

<?php get_footer(); ?>
```

Let's review the loop:

```
<?php if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>

    <!-- content inside loop -->

<?php endwhile; ?>

<!-- alternate content if there are no posts -->
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

Breaking it down:

Conditional statements:

`if (have_posts())`

Checks to see if any posts have been created on posts or pages

`while (have_posts())`

If the posts exist, then as long as they exist, go to the next step.

`the_post()`

If the "if()" and "while()" conditions establish that there are posts, it's OK to display them on the page.

`endwhile`

Once all posts have been displayed, the while() conditional statement needs a stop to signal its task has been completed.

`endif`

Similar to endwhile, endif creates a stop for the if() conditional statement once the presence of posts is set as true or false.

Putting it all together:

```
<?php get_header(); ?>

<section id="container"> <!-- Holds content & sidebar -->

<?php if (have_posts()) : while (have_posts()) : the_post(); ?>

    <section id="content"><!-- The main web content -->

        <h2 class="site-title"><?php the_title(); ?></h2>

        <?php the_content(); ?>

    </section> <!-- End of content -->

<?php endwhile; ?>

<?php else : ?>

<section id="content"><!-- The main web content -->

    <h2 class="site-title">Nothing Found</h2>
    <p>Couldn't find the content you were looking for</p>

</section> <!-- End of content -->
```

```
<?php endif; ?>
```

```
<?php get_sidebar(); ?>
```

```
<?php get_footer(); ?>
```