Steps for Creating WordPress Plugin

1. Create a new folder for your plugin

Now that you're in the plugins folder it's time to create a folder for yours! Go ahead and create a new folder, giving it a unique name using lowercase letters and dashes such as my-first-plugin. Once you've done that, enter your new folder and move on to the next step.

2. Create the main PHP file for your plugin

Next, you'll need to create the main file for your plugin. To do so, create a PHP file within your new plugin folder and give it the same name such as **my-first-plugin.php**. After you've done that, open your plugin's main file and get ready to do some editing.

Now that you have a plugin, lets make it do something.

The easiest way to make things happen in WordPress is with actions and filters. Let's explore that by creating a simple action that adds a line of text below all of the posts on your site. Copy and paste this code into your main plugin file (below the plugin information) and save it.

```php
add_action( 'the_content', 'my_thank_you_text' );

function my_thank_you_text ( $content ) {
    return $content .= '<p>Thank you for reading!</p>';
}
```

This code hooks into "the_content" action that fires when WordPress renders the post content for your site. When that action fires, WordPress will call our "my_thank_you_text" function that is defined below the "add_action" call.

3. Setup your plugin's information

Finally, copy and paste the plugin information below into your main plugin file. Make sure to edit the details such Plugin Name and Plugin URI as they pertain to your plugin.

```php
<?php
/**
 * Plugin Name: My First Plugin
 * Plugin URI: http://www.mywebsite.com/my-first-plugin
 * Description: The very first plugin that I have ever created.
 * Version: 1.0
 * Author: Your Name
 * Author URI: http://www.mywebsite.com
 */
```

That's it! You've just completed the minimum number of steps that are required to create a WordPress plugin. You can now activate it within the WordPress admin and revel in all of your glory.

Actions and Filters

If you're going to start coding your own plugins, I highly suggest you familiarize yourself with how actions and filters work and which ones are available for you to use. The WordPress Codex is where I spend a lot of my time, I suggest you do the same.

Plugin API: Actions and Filters

Plugin API: Action Reference

Plugin API: Filter Reference

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