WordPress Hooks 101

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Testing 123 ... attention please!

- Setting the Objectives
- Walk away from this, feeling a little inspired and less hacky.
- Less spaghetti in your code.
- “Eureka” moments, where suddenly your understand it and want to try it out
- Let’s have fun!

Hooks?

WordPress Hooks

Hooks are provided by WordPress to allow your plugin to 'hook into' the rest of WordPress; that is, to call functions in your plugin at specific times, and thereby set your plugin in motion.

– WordPress Codex

Once more!

"Hooks enable us to literally hook into parts of the WordPress page lifecycle to retrieve, insert, or modify data, or they allow us to take certain actions behind the scenes.."

– Tom McFlarin @ Tutsplus

But it's more than that!

Can be used anywhere

Themes OR Plugins

Note

In case of a theme, can be used in *functions.php* or a file included in *functions.php* for better code organization

Be Like Budh

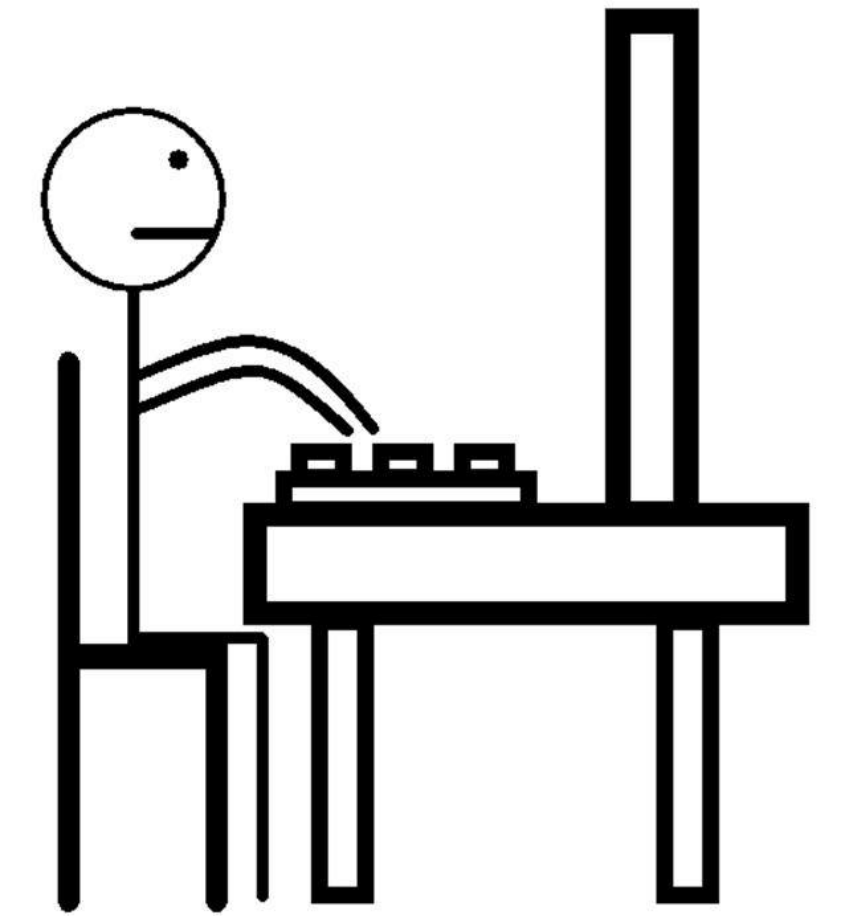
This is Budh

Budh works with WordPress

He doesn't write spaghetti code

He uses WordPress Hooks

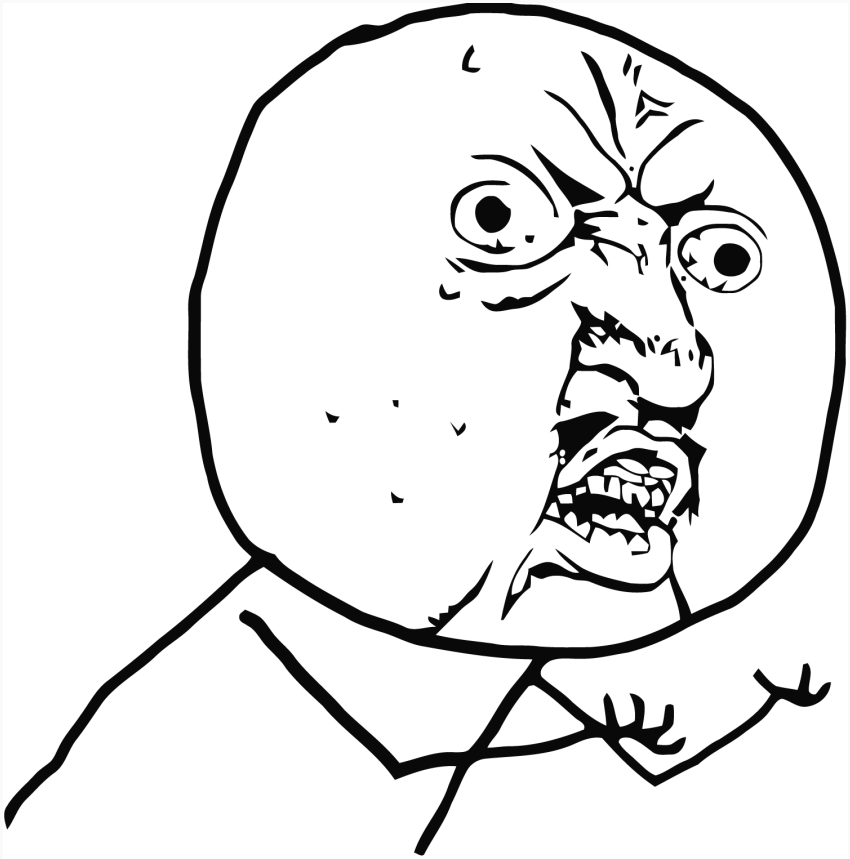
Be like Budh



A World without Hooks

- Including extra PHP files for things like AJAX requests
- Including files in the header / footer
- Hacking into plugins to change display/functionality while you should be using a . . . yes . . . a hook
- Hacking WP core files.. Seriously, who does that?
- Hacking theme files (when you should be using a child theme). With custom theme an exception to this rule.

So... Raju



Y U No Use Hooks?

Types of WordPress Hooks

Filters

Actions

Filters

Applying changing to content

```
// The Hook
apply_filters();

// Tie into the Hook
add_filter();
```

Actions

Hook your functions into an action

```
// The Hook
do_action();

// Tie into the Hook
add_action();
```

But they sound so similar?

Yes they are ... except!

Filters and actions are almost the same thing in syntax and capabilities but:

- The difference is how you use them!
- Both are powerful but remember:

Caution

"With great power comes great responsibility" – Not Uncle Ben

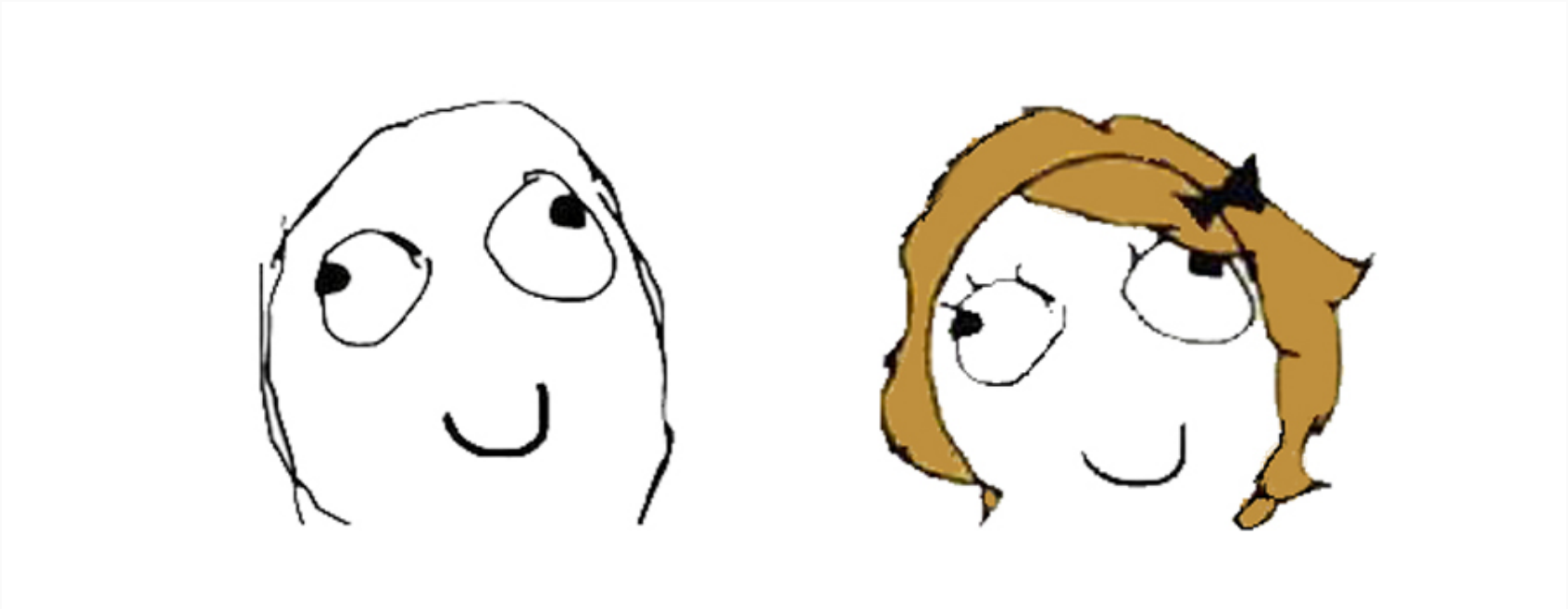
Filters

- Change existing WordPress content, blog posts, text, media files etc. Like cropping text or modifying a word.
- Change database content on the fly or display it differently
- Clean up poorly formatted code b ‘filtering out’ certain tags

Actions

- Tying into existing WordPress processes, like creating a new user, saving a post, updating permalinks, sending emails, saving a comment, etc.
- Adding an action to your plugin / theme to allow other developers to manipulate it without hacking

Makes a little more sense now!



Code Demos

- Sending all email notifications from gravity forms when a form is submitted
- Send an email on a post update
- Send an email on a post create / publish
- Reset the permalinks on a new custom post type registration
- Filtering the bad words from content
- Resizing the image

```php
function example_callback( $example ) {
    // Maybe modify $example in some way.
    return $example;
}

add_filter( 'example_filter', 'example_callback' );
```

```php
// if the page is called 'debug'
function cleanup($content) {
  return strip_tags($content);
}

add_filter( 'the_content', 'cleanup' );
```

```php
function publish_post_tweet($post_ID) {
  global $post;
  // Code to send a tweet with post info
}

add_action('publish_post', 'publish_post_tweet');
```

```
function create_my_widget() {
 register_sidebar(array(
 'name' => __( 'My Sidebar', 'mytheme' ),
 'id' => 'my_sidebar',
 'description' => __( 'The one and only', 'mytheme' ),
 ));
}

add_action( 'widgets_init', 'create_my_widget' );
```

```
function create_my_widget() {
 register_sidebar(array(
 'name' => __( 'My Sidebar', 'mytheme' ),
 'id' => 'my_sidebar',
 'description' => __( 'The one and only', 'mytheme' ),
 ));
}

add_action( 'widgets_init', 'create_my_widget' );
```

```
// Helps testing the email functionality

function testEmail() {
  wp_mail( 'info@fahdmurtaza.com', 'Test software', 'Testing
     some email at ' . get_bloginfo( 'url' ) );
}

add_action( 'init', 'testEmail' );
```

Questions?

“For everything you know, there are many more people out there that don’t know.”

Don’t be shy!

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https://goo.gl/xb5deC