

Matt Nichols

Technical Deep-Dive: Good Wording

Overview

- **Good Wording:** building consumer software for introspective writing
- Our customer: existing journal writer seeking an inspiring space for deeper self-understanding
- Incorporated in late 2023 w/ co-founder Rishi
- We shipped an **alpha web app** for a handful of early users:
<https://ink.goodword.ing>
- After ~6 months of full-time work, we sunset Good Wording in mid-2024
- My ownership was primarily the **frontend**

× Home Topics Highlights Options



Welcome Home

Ink is [Good Wording](#)'s foundational alpha app. This is a vibey space that can help you craft and sustain your intentional writing practice, and we're so glad you're here!

We care deeply about providing a comfortable and immersive space for deep work. All of your writing is encrypted and securely stored, and you can customize the app's appearance & behavior in [options](#).

Ink is an alpha app, so you may encounter bugs and unpolished details. If you have any feedback or suggestions, please [let us know!](#)

Oct 2 Capturing life through journaling, focusing on process
1:10 pm

Oct 2 This is a second demo entry!
1:09 pm

Oct 2 This is a demo entry!
1:09 pm

Feedback?

- Jun 9 Pondering app tweaks, theme editor progress, and AI ambitions
9:47 am [Marriage and Relationships](#) • [Personal Projects](#) • [Product Lifecycle](#) •
- Jun 7 Thinking through user settings vs editor settings vs document settings
9:17 am [Journaling](#) • [Self-Reflection Practices](#)
- Jun 6 Pondering gravity, sawdust, and the art of writing
8:50 pm [Audio Transcription](#) • [Journaling](#) • [Self-Reflection Practices](#)
- Jun 6 Exploring Tauri and iCloud sync for our multi-platform product
8:22 pm [Work](#)
- Jun 6 Pondering car purchase, craving new dimensions of growth
7:08 pm [Audio Transcription](#) • [Self-Awareness and Authenticity](#) • [Self-Reflection](#)
- Jun 6 Rishi's busy weekend, now I seek human connection
10:39 am [Personal Projects](#) • [Supportive Friend](#) • [Journaling](#) • [Work](#) • [Self-Reflection](#)
- Jun 3 Feeling Sick at Parents' House
6:41 pm [Personal Projects](#) • [Work](#)
- May 31 Productive week with frontend updates and theme editor ideas
6:32 pm [Work](#) • [Progress](#) • [Software Engineering](#)
- May 30 Focusing on the Present Amid a Busy Schedule
9:16 am [Marriage and Relationships](#) • [Personal Projects](#) • [Work](#) • [Software Engineering](#)
- May 28 Enjoying gaming with friends despite some anxieties
10:13 pm [Marriage and Relationships](#) • [Entrepreneurship Dynamics](#) • [Halo](#) • [NFTs](#)

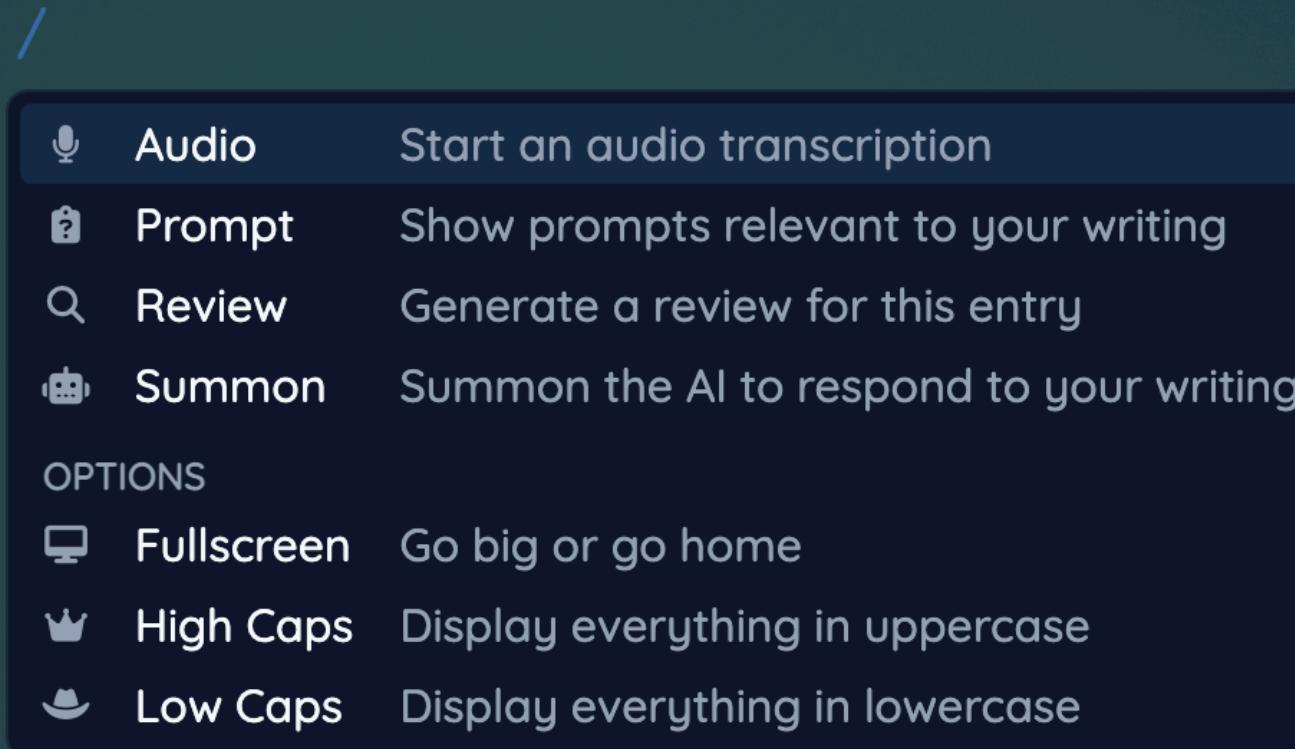
I am typing up a few little things here to demonstrate this app in dark mode; maybe we'll do something similar live, but I want to have a few images in place just in case. Let's try generating some text!

That's a great idea to have some images ready as a backup, just in case. As you continue exploring the app, I encourage you to use the journaling prompts or free-write to dive deeper into your thoughts and feelings. What aspects of your day or life are you hoping to capture through this journaling session? Reflecting on that could help provide a helpful starting point for generating meaningful text. Remember, the process is more important than the end result - allow yourself to be open and curious as you put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard).

And maybe some bullet points

- ooh
- *very cool!*

Really what I'm hoping to do is just write out a little bit - just to make sure everything's online, and have a little bit more to show in an interview setting.





Personal Projects

You have been exploring a variety of personal projects and ideas, including experimenting with visual AI, building a mobile web app, and working on your "Good Wording" startup with your co-founder Rishi. You've also been reflecting on your mindset and self-perception, trying to maintain a positive and optimistic outlook despite feeling overwhelmed at times. Additionally, you've been interested in the developments in artificial intelligence and its potential impact.

Entries

Updates

- Aug 8** Ok gotta real quick capture some ideas
6:48 pm Personal Projects • Entrepreneurship Dynamics • Conversational AI Experience
- Aug 5** Navigating career options, creative pursuits, and personal growth
9:56 am Marriage and Relationships • Personal Projects • Product Lifecycle • Support
- Jul 22** Ran, shipped features, chatted with folks
10:14 pm Marriage and Relationships • Personal Relationships and Life Milestones • Per
- Jul 20** Dining delights, creative flow, and episode anticipation
11:25 pm Marriage and Relationships • Personal Relationships and Life Milestones • Per
- Jul 19** Adventurous day at Oakland museum with Laura
10:01 pm Marriage and Relationships • Personal Relationships and Life Milestones • Per
- Jul 18** Navigating the ups and downs of work and life
9:15 am Personal Relationships and Life Milestones • Personal Projects • Supportive Fri

☰ Options

Thank you for using our Alpha!

If you'd like to contribute feedback, no notes are too large or too small to share! Please use the [floaty feedback doodad](#), click the big button below, or press Cmd+Shift+F from anywhere in the app.

[Send Feedback](#)

Floaty Feedback Doodad



Configuration

Adjust settings to configure your Ink experience.

App Theme

Choose your preferred look and feel for the app.

Parchment

Aquamarine

✓ Parchment

Astro [WIP]

Pizza [BAD]

Color Mode

Some themes support both light and dark mode, and can track your system settings.

Editor Typography

Choose the font style for the editor.

Auto-Scroll

Automatically scroll to keep your text cursor in the vertical center of the screen.



Spell Check

Use the system's spell check, auto-capitalize, and auto-completion features.



Visualizer Motion

Enable or disable animated graphics in Ink's background visualizer.



Enable Debug Features

See experimental settings, development tools, and assorted miscellany.



[Log Out](#)

Agenda

- Overview
- Screenshots
- Stack & Architecture Notes
- Document Model & UX
- Blocks & Jobs
- Visualizers
- Themes & User Config
- Improvements, Next Steps, Etc.
- Additional Discussion Topics

Stack & Architecture Notes

- Monorepo ✨
- **Frontend** (owned by Matt)
 - SvelteKit file-system based routing + edge compute
 - State via Svelte stores; some remote initial values (user config)
 - Supabase auth (via SvelteKit request handling)
 - Composite “blocks” for generated UI, document embeds
- **Backend** (owned by Rishi)
 - fly.io production server, with REST API
 - Supabase for data + auth + realtime updates
 - “Jobs” framework for generated content
 - We’ll focus on the **frontend** today!

Frontend

- SvelteKit
- TypeScript
- Tailwind
- TipTap
- Three.js
- shadcn-svelte

Backend

- Node
- TypeScript
- TSOA (Express)
- Freeplay (prompt eng)
- Supabase (Postgres)
- fly.io

Document Model & UX

- **TipTap** is a rich-text editor library based on ProseMirror:
 - Extensions: add behavior, e.g. handle “on transaction” events
 - Nodes: editor content with custom views, de/serialization, layout
- Each journal entry is one or more HTML chunks (serialized TipTap docs)
- TipTap instance is instantiated with custom extensions & nodes, contained in a Svelte component, and hydrated via a dynamic page route
- Editor supports “actions” (like Notion): type a slash, then an action keyword substring

Blocks & Jobs

- **Blocks** can render generated content within a custom **BlocksNode** in the editor
- Blocks are composed from sub-components:
 - Loading, header, text, block quote, HTML, array (w/ nested components), ...
 - We experimented w/ markdown sub-components for rich text, but moved to HTML to keep markdown rendering on the server
- **Jobs** produce JSON content, including Blocks; **JobManager** on the client enables live component refresh as jobs update (via Supabase realtime)
 - We can also subscribe to “houns”, e.g. display a changing title for a journal entry
- **To-do:** scaling considerations for realtime generative features

Visualizers

- A system for building visualizers with parameter inputs (via current theme)
- **Visualizer:** abstract class →
- **FragShaderVisualizer:** renders GLSL fragment shader art. Includes support for multi-pass rendering!
- **VizRegistry:** asset loading w/ Vite
- **VizManager + VizCanvas:** handle things all visualizers need (GL lifecycle, resizing, passing in UX inputs as params)

```
export abstract class Visualizer {  
    manager: VizManager;  
  
    /**  
     * Create a new visualizer.  
     * @param manager The manager that will render & control this visualizer.  
     */  
    constructor(manager: VizManager) {  
        this.manager = manager;  
    }  
  
    /**  
     * Render a single frame.  
     * Called by the manager, likely in a render loop.  
     * @param time The current time in milliseconds.  
     */  
    abstract render(time: number): void;  
  
    /**  
     * Set a parameter for the visualizer.  
     * @param name The name of the parameter to set.  
     * @param value The value to set the parameter to.  
     * @throws {Error} If the parameter name or value is invalid.  
     */  
    abstract setParam(name: string, value: VizParamType): void;  
  
    /**  
     * Clean up internal resources.  
     * Called by the manager, at the end of the visualizer's lifecycle.  
     */  
    abstract destroy(): void;  
  
    /**  
     * Resize internal resources.  
     * Called by the manager, after updating the canvas size.  
     */  
    abstract resize(size: [number, number]): void;  
}
```

Theme System

- **User Config** is stored remotely, and contains the user's selected theme; we need this for each request, but cache it for reuse (via cookies)
- **Themes** are defined in two parts:
 - Bundled as a collection of design tokens (CSS vars), then selected with injected “data-theme” attribute as the request resolves
 - Associated with a specific visualizer and custom parameter values, which can be specific to light/dark modes, or always applied
- Typography CSS is also injected depending on the theme selection, using bundled CSS files – making sure we load only the fonts we need
- **To-do:** adapt this system for user-defined themes

Improvements, Next Steps, Etc.

- **Product directions:**
 - Daily ritual + structured journaling
 - Create & edit templates
 - Theme proliferation + marketplace
- Local-first & offline support (PWA and/or mobile)
- Improved mobile modality: audio emphasis
- AI tools: quality heuristics + test harness, avoid regenerating artifacts

Additional Discussion Topics

- **Voice features:** transcriptions, cleanup
- **Live-chat NUX:** find a daily question
- **AI design:** synonyms → entities → topics
- **Editor features:** auto-scroll, other UX
- **Editor actions:** sorting, grouping, etc
- **Templates & flows:** multi-page entries
- **shadcn-svelte, tailwind,** other styling
- **Deeper SvelteKit discussion** (vs React)

Thank You!