Off-Grid Plugins: Updates Outside of WordPress.org

MIKE KARIKAS

#wcoc

You know that thing when a plugin updates and you get that little notification to update the plugin? But, like, what if your plugin isn't in the plugins directory, like it's just a zip file you made, but you want it to be able to do updates like that? This how to do that.

MIKE KARIKAS

Who am I?

- Grand Poobah of Technology at Neutrino, Inc

- Slinging PHP and teh webs professionally since 2002

- Use WordPress to build fancy, custom real estate websites

- Slides and files will be online!

tinder

Mike, 36
less than a miles away   Active just now

About Mike
Grand Poobah of Technology at Neutrino, Inc.,
focusing on real estate tools and technology. Currently
in a love/hate relationship with WordPress, "it's
complicated" lolz. Proud dad, ukulele player, Seattlite.
Purveyor of pirate humor. Swipe right to hear me talk
about plugins for 40 more minutes.

What is an Off-Grid Plugin?

An off-grid plugin is a plugin not stored on WordPress.org, but still has all the neat features of one (**updates**, robust information, pictures, etc)
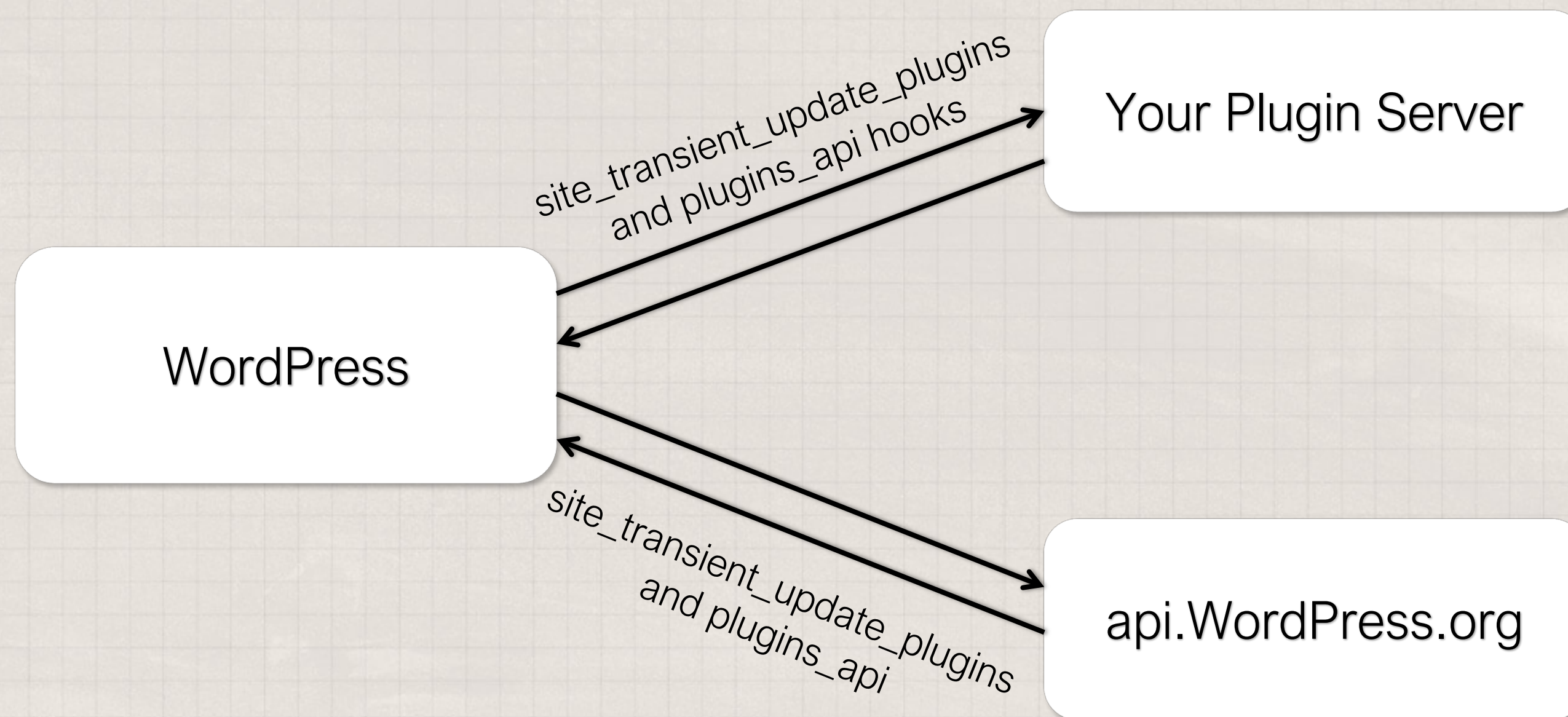
Why is an Off-Grid Plugin?

- Doesn't apply to the general public

- You want to $ELL it (ACF Pro, Gravity Forms, DB Migrate Pro)

- You want to violate WordPress' terms of service

How do you do it?

1. Need a "server" for plugins to phone-home to

2. Hook into WordPress to check it for updates

3. Fake out WordPress with bogus plugin information

There are no standards!

WordPress Plugin Check

Your Plugin Server

site_transient_update_plugins
and plugins_api hooks

WordPress

api.WordPress.org

site_transient_update_plugins
and plugins_api

Possible Solutions

1. Quick n' dirty
   https://github.com/omarabid/Self-Hosted-WordPress-Plugin-repository

2. WordPress-based management tool/server
   https://wordpress.org/plugins/wp-plugin-update-server/

3. Easy Digital Downloads and $200 – "Software Licensing"
   https://easydigitaldownloads.com/downloads/software-licensing/

4. My Way
   Based on https://rudrastyh.com/wordpress/self-hosted-plugin-update.html

Code Time

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Further Resources

Slides and Files:
https://github.com/karikas/wcoc-off-grid-plugins

Semantic Versioning:
https://semver.org/

WordPress Plugin Developer Handbook:
https://developer.wordpress.org/plugins/intro/

Plugin Readme Specs:
https://developer.wordpress.org/plugins/wordpress-org/how-your-readme-txt-works/

Generate a Plugin ReadMe.txt:
https://generatewp.com/plugin-readme/

Pirate Jokes:
http://www.piratejokes.net

WordPress Plugin Code:
wp-admin/plugin-install.php::
install_plugin_information()