

About my plugins, open-source libraries and my experiences and tips for dealing with developer resources for plugins

By Pablo Klaschka



About me: Pablo Klaschka

- Known in the forums as @pklaschka
- Studying space- and aerospace computer science
- Developer of „Text Toolbox“ and „Lorem Ipsum“ for Adobe XD
- Developer of multiple open-source libraries for XD plugin development (among them xd-storage-helper and xd-dialog-helper)
- Was part of the beta team testing plugin development before its public release
- Enthusiastic about everything around XD
- A nerd – and happy about it ;-)

Developing (my) plugins

My experience developing plugins for XD

Lorem Ipsum



- The function I had always missed in XD
- Developed as a kind of „Hello World“ plugin (when dialogs weren't a thing)
- Further enhancement since nobody else did placeholder texts during Beta
- Released in standalone and as part of Text Toolbox

Text Toolbox



- A collection of many small projects I did during the Beta (testing new API features etc.)
- Challenges like few shortcuts for many functions
- Often very simple functionality with some features added on top of them
- The not-so-popular plugin (far fewer users than Lorem Ipsum → simple plugins often more popular)

Developing a plugin – my process



The idea



Simple prototype
(Proof of concept)



Imagining features
enhancing the purpose



Implement „final“
plugin (with UI, more
features etc.)



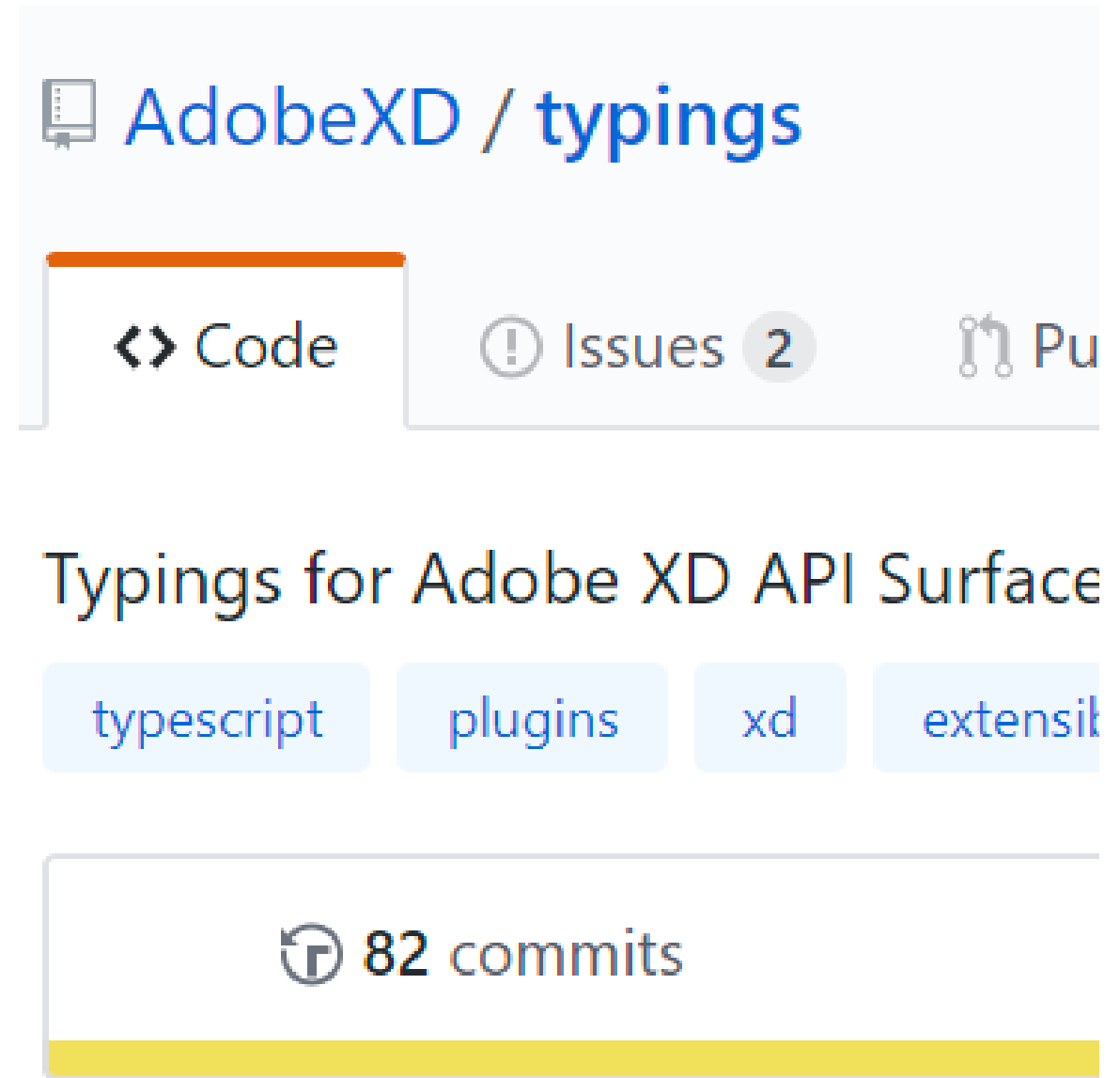
Adding marketing
materials and release

XD and Open Source

The typings, xd-dialog-helper and more

A quest for autocompletion: The typings

- First started as a feature request during the Beta
- No time by Adobe and up for a challenge
- Started as a personal project (during the Beta, shared in forums)
- Became „official“ during the XD Dev Days, a private event during the Beta




```
/**
 *
 * @param {SceneNodeList} selection
 */
```

```
function test(selection) {
  selection.forEach(node => {
    if (node instanceof Text) {
      node.
```

```
    }
  });
}

// @ts-ignore
return {
  commands: {
    test: t
  }
};
```

- strokeJoins
- strokeMiterLimit
- strokePosition
- strokeWidth
- styleRanges
- text**
- textAlign
- topLeftInParent
- transform
- translation
- visible
- Color

(property) Text.text: string x

The plaintext content of the node, including any hard line breaks but excluding soft line wrap breaks.

Setting text does not change styleRanges, so styles aligned with the old text's string indices will continue to be applied to the new string's indices unless you explicitly change styleRanges as well.

xd-dialog-helper

Reducing this (~188 lines of code):



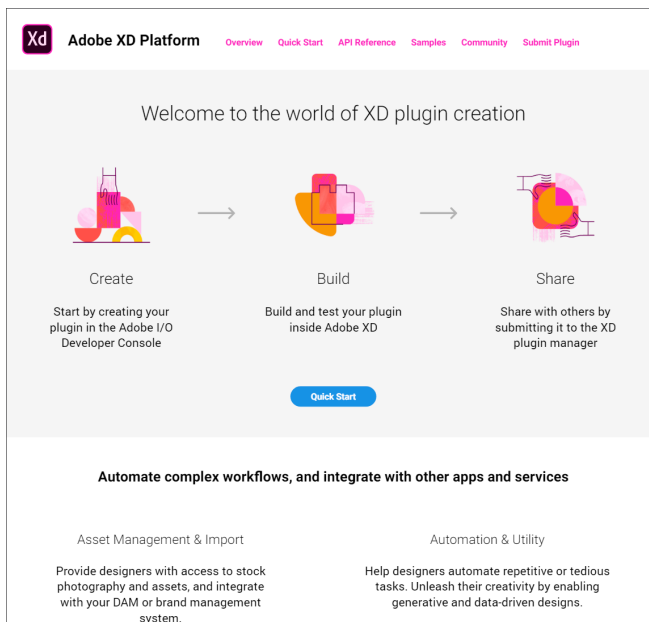
To this (~39 lines of code):

```
1 const DialogHelper = require('xd-dialog-helper')
2
3 function myFunction(selection) {
4   return DialogHelper.showDialog(
5     'replace-text-dialog',
6     'Replace text',
7     [
8       {
9         type: DialogHelper.HR,
10        id: 'myHR'
11      },
12      {
13        type: DialogHelper.TEXT,
14        id: 'explanation',
15        label:
16          'Just enter the text you want to replace and the one you want to replace it with and hit the "Replace text" button below.'
17      },
18      {
19        type: DialogHelper.TEXT_INPUT,
20        id: 'match',
21        label: 'Find'
22      },
23      {
24        type: DialogHelper.TEXT_INPUT,
25        id: 'replace',
26        label: 'Replace with'
27      },
28      {
29        type: DialogHelper.CHECKBOX,
30        id: 'caseInsensitive',
31        label: 'Ignore casing',
32        value: false
33      }
34    ],
35    {
36      okButtonText: 'Replace text'
37    }
38  )
39 }
```

Resources for developers and communication with Adobe

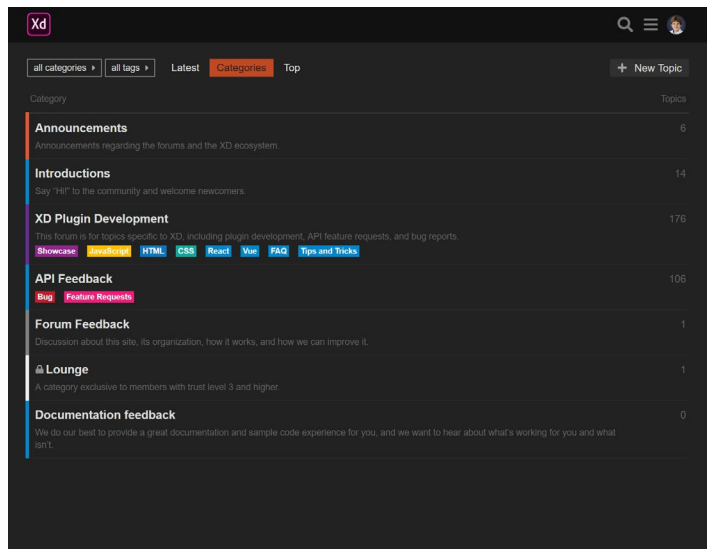
A „real“ developer's experiences and insights

adobexdplatform.com



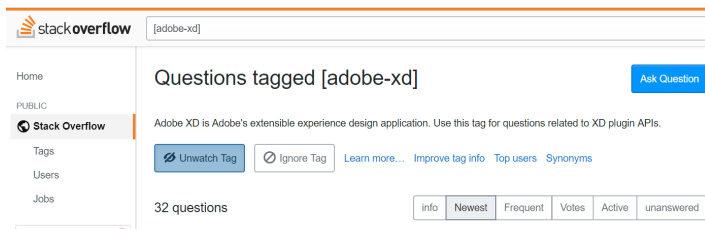
- Many useful resources and links
- Plugin development documentation, including guides and references
- Your starting point into development for Adobe XD

Forums (forums.adobexdplatform.com)



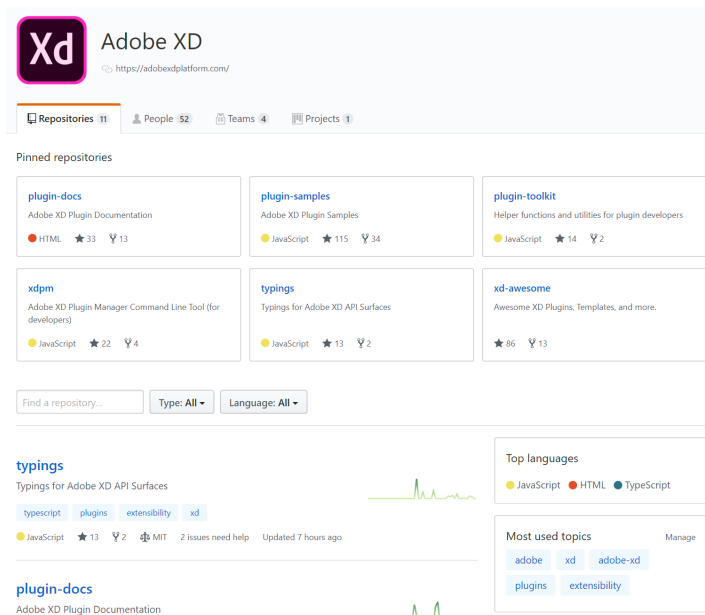
- Great for all sorts of questions related to plugin development for Adobe XD
- Not so good for feature requests regarding XD in general
- Many helpful community members
- First choice for all kinds of questions that don't suit better anywhere else

Stack Overflow

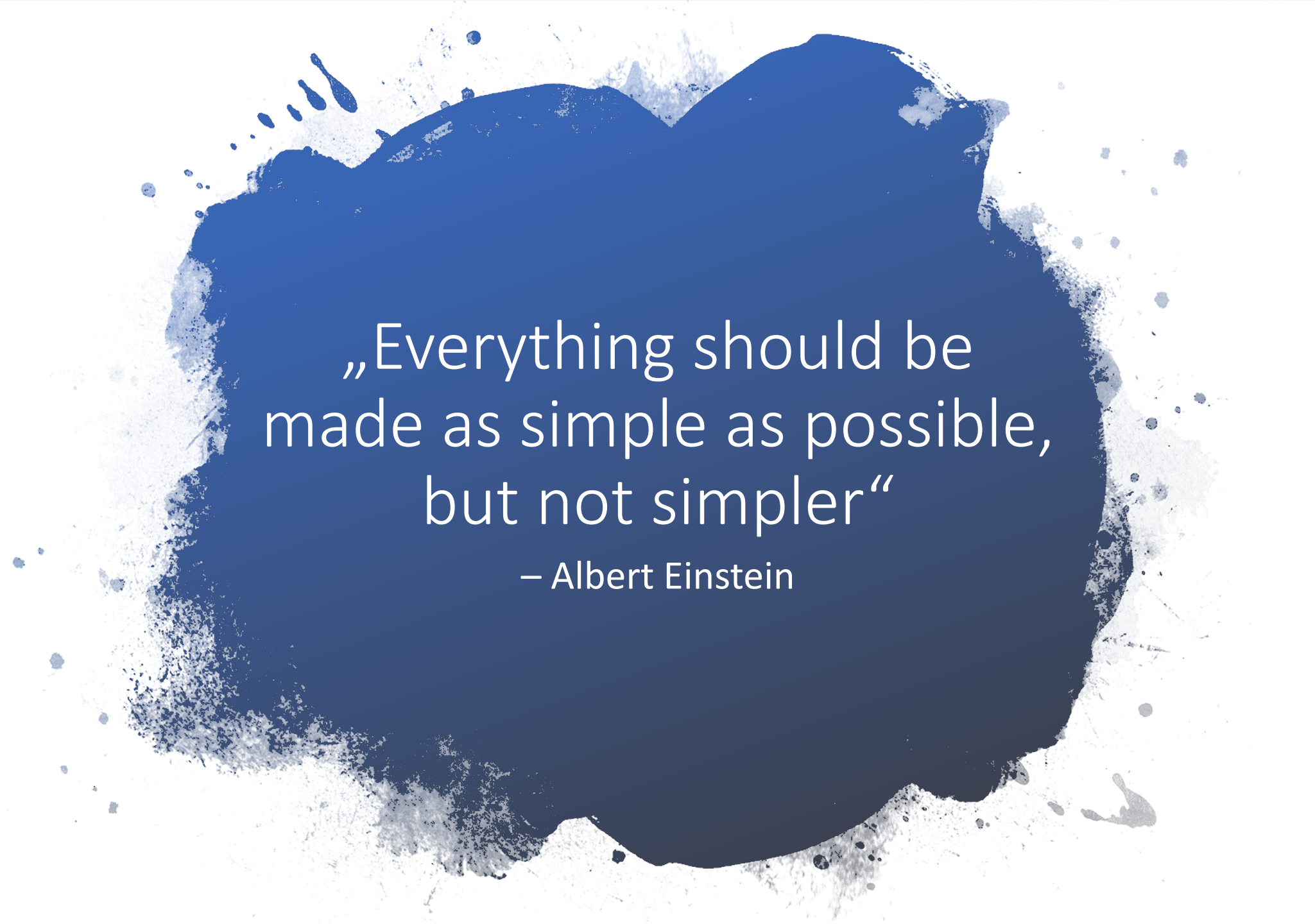


- Use the adobe-xd tag
- Not so active „around“ plugin development Use it if you must, but you'll better chances to get your questions answered (and treated politely) in the forums (my personal opinion)

Adobe XD on GitHub



- Great for reporting issues with the documentation (docs are also open-source)
- Great for finding samples to take a look at how specific APIs work
- xd-awesome is a great list of open-source stuff around XD plugin development
- Not the right place for “general” questions
- Often (much) slower than the Forums



„Everything should be
made as simple as possible,
but not simpler“

– Albert Einstein