Building Your First Plugin

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Steve Bruner

- CEO of SlipFire: WordPress development studio.
- Partner in Piklist LLC: building a WordPress framework plugin.
- An organizer of WordPress NYC meetup
- Organized WordCamp NYC 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014
- Building WordPress plugins since 2008

Prerequisites

- Access to a WordPress website (local is best)
- Code editor
- A few test posts (use Fakerpress)
- Images in media library

What is a plugin?

- Allows easy modification, customization, and enhancement of a WordPress website.
- Instead of changing the core code of WordPress, you can add functionality with WordPress Plugins.
- Plugins interact with WordPress and/or your theme.

How do plugins interact with WordPress and your theme?

Hooks

"Action" Hooks And **"Filter"** Hooks

What is an "Action" Hook?

- An Action in is a piece of code that is triggered at specific time when and lets you take an action. (i.e when a theme or plugin is activated)
- Actions can be in WordPress, your theme or a plugin.
- Example: `do_action( 'init' )`
- To hook: `add_action('init', 'my_function')`
- Popular Actions:
  - wp_head: theme
  - wp_footer : theme
  - init
  - admin_init
  - wp_enqueue_scripts
- Action reference:
  - https://codex.wordpress.org/Plugin_API/Action_Reference

What is an "Filter" Hook?

- Filters are functions that WordPress uses to pass data through.
- Allows you to modify the default behavior of a specific function.
- Filters can be in WordPress, your theme or a plugin.
- Example: `$content = apply_filters('the_content', $content);`
- To filter: `add_filter('the_content', 'my_function');`
- Popular Filters:
  - The_content
  - The_excerpt
  - the_title
  - body_class
- Action reference:
  - https://codex.wordpress.org/Plugin_API/Filter_Reference

What does a Filter do?

Data > **apply_filters** > changed data

Anatomy of a Plugin

- Main plugin file
- File header:
  - https://codex.wordpress.org/File_Header
- Readme.txt
  - Generate: https://generatewp.com/plugin-readme/
  - Validate: https://wordpress.org/plugins/about/validator/
- Language folder
  - Store language files (i.e. pot file)
- uninstall.php
  - Any scripts you need to run when a user uninstalls your plugin from wp-admin