Live Up Success Website Development Comparison: CodeIgniter 3 vs WordPress

This document compares the development of the 'Live Up Success' website using two different technologies: CodeIgniter 3 (custom PHP framework) and WordPress (CMS). The comparison includes estimated timelines, security aspects, customization flexibility, and suitability for each approach.

# 1. Timeline Comparison by Section

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Section | CodeIgniter 3 | WordPress |
| Setup & Installation | 2 day | 1 day |
| Hero Section (Video Background, CTA) | 2 day | 2day |
| Philosophy Sections (Live, Up, Success) | 2 days | 4 day |
| Films Section (Filters, Grid) | 4 days | 3 day |
| Collabs Carousel | 4 days | 1 day |
| Moments Gallery (Masonry Grid) | 4 days | 1 day |
| About & Footer Section | 4 day | 1 day |
| Admin Panel with Role Management | 4-5 days | 1 day |
| Enquiry and Contact us form submission and received by mail and report by excel file | 5 days | 1 day |

# 2. Summary Comparison

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| Factor | CodeIgniter 3 | WordPress |
| Development Time | 25 – 30 working days | 15 working days |
| Security | High (Custom-secured) | Medium (Depends on plugin security) |
| Customization | Full control | Limited to plugin/theme architecture |
| Performance | Optimized and fast | Moderate (plugin bloat possible) |
| Maintenance | Manual updates and fixes | Automatic via WP dashboard |
| Media Management | Manual or custom | Built-in Media Library |
| Scalability | Excellent | Moderate |
| Best For | Large custom apps, full control | Rapid campaign sites, branded content |

# 4. Page & Section Management (Add / Edit / Delete)

This section compares how different sections (pages/modules) like Films, Collabs, Moments, Philosophy, and About are managed in both CodeIgniter 3 and WordPress. It covers the ease of adding, editing, and deleting content, which is crucial for marketing, content teams, or admin users.

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| Page / Section | Management Task | CodeIgniter 3 | WordPress |
| Hero Section | Edit video, title, CTA | Manual update via backend panel, custom form | Visual editor (Elementor) |
| Philosophy Sections | Edit text + background | Custom form per section with file upload | Text blocks + background image edit in page builder |
| Films | Add/Edit/Delete films, filters | Full CRUD in admin, custom DB structure | Custom Post Type with plugin like CPT UI + ACF |
| Collabs | Add/Edit carousel entries | Image + text upload via admin CRUD | Slider plugin (SmartSlider / Elementor carousel) |
| Moments | Manage gallery uploads | UGC Upload + Approval module, custom gallery logic | Media Library + gallery shortcode |
| About | Edit mission, quotes | Edit from CMS panel form | Edit via visual editor |
| Footer | Edit links, logo, social | Editable settings module | Widget or theme customizer |
| User Roles | Create/edit role permissions | Custom RBAC logic per module | Plugin (e.g. Members, User Role Editor) |

Conclusion:

CodeIgniter 3 allows highly customized control over content management workflows and complex permissions logic suitable for enterprise environments. However, it requires more time to build and maintain.  
  
WordPress offers user-friendly visual editing and ready-to-use plugins for most content management tasks, which drastically reduces development time and training effort for non-technical users.

# 5. Form Handling (Inquiry / Contact Us with Email)

This section compares how contact or inquiry forms (e.g., 'Contact Us', newsletter signup, feedback forms) are handled in CodeIgniter 3 and WordPress. It focuses on how emails are sent, validation is handled, and spam protection can be implemented.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Description | CodeIgniter 3 | WordPress |
| Form Creation | Building a basic contact/inquiry form | Custom form using CI controller + view + model | Done via plugins like Contact Form 7, WPForms |
| Email Sending | Sending form data to admin via email | Handled using CI's Email Library (SMTP/Sendmail) | Handled via plugin + WP Mail or SMTP plugin |
| Validation | Check required fields, email format, etc. | Custom validation rules in controller | Plugin-based (drag-and-drop rules) |
| Spam Protection | Prevent spam or bot submissions | Custom CAPTCHA or Google reCAPTCHA integration | Built-in plugin support for reCAPTCHA and Akismet |
| Form Management | Admin viewing submitted forms | Optional: requires DB + backend UI | Most plugins support storing submissions in dashboard |
| Auto-responder | Send confirmation to user | Requires manual coding | Built-in options with plugins |

Conclusion:

While CodeIgniter 3 offers full control for creating highly customized forms and handling email logic securely, WordPress drastically reduces the time and effort required by offering robust plugins that cover most use-cases out-of-the-box. WordPress is preferred for rapid setup and basic to intermediate form functionality.