PHP and WordPress Workshop- Develop a Plugin

Students with basic knowledge of PHP and WordPress.

1. Workshop Objectives:

* Understand the structure of a WordPress plugin.
* Set up a development environment using VSCode.
* Write a simple WordPress plugin.
* Utilize VSCode features to enhance coding efficiency.

1. Course Plan:

Introduction (10 minutes)

* Welcome and Introduction
  + Brief overview of the workshop objectives.
  + Introduction to WordPress plugins and their importance.

Section 1: Setting Up the Environment (20 minutes)

* Installing VSCode
  + Quick installation guide.
* Installing Necessary Extensions
  + PHP Intelephense: For PHP support.
  + Live Server: For local testing.
* Setting Up a Local WordPress Environment
  + Brief overview of tools like Local by Flywheel or XAMPP.
  + Create a new WordPress site for development.

Section 2: Understanding Plugin Structure (15 minutes)

* Basic Plugin Structure
  + Explanation of the main files: plugin-name.php, readme.txt, etc.
  + Discussing the header information in the main plugin file.
* File Creation
  + Create a new folder in wp-content/plugins/ for the new plugin.

Section 3: Writing Your First Plugin (40 minutes)

* Creating the Main Plugin File
  + Open VSCode and create my-first-plugin.php.
  + Add basic header information.

php

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<?php

/\*

Plugin Name: My First Plugin

Description: A simple plugin to get started with WordPress development.

Version: 1.0

Author: Your Name

\*/

* Adding Functionality
  + Write a simple function to display a message on the WordPress site.
  + Hook the function to an action or filter (e.g., wp\_footer).

php

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function my\_first\_plugin\_message() {

echo '<p>Hello, this is my first plugin!</p>';

}

add\_action('wp\_footer', 'my\_first\_plugin\_message');

* Activating the Plugin
  + Walk through the steps to activate the plugin in the WordPress admin panel.

Section 4: **Prepare Your Plugin to upload to WP (optional)**

* Ensure your plugin is complete, tested, and adheres to WordPress coding standards.
* Create a **readme.txt** file following the [WordPress readme file standard.](https://wordpress.org/plugins/readme.txt) This file should include:
  + Plugin Name
  + Description
  + Installation Instructions
  + Frequently Asked Questions
  + Changelog
  + License

 **Create a WordPress.org Account**

* If you don’t have one, sign up for an account at [WordPress.org](https://login.wordpress.org/register).

 **Submit Your Plugin**

* Go to the [Plugin Submission page](https://wordpress.org/plugins/add/).
* Fill out the submission form with your plugin details.
* Upload your plugin ZIP file (it should contain your plugin files and the readme.txt).

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Conclusion and Q&A (10 minutes)

* Recap of what was learned.

As you reflect on your experience with WordPress plugin development, consider the following key points:

* 1. Why Do We Need to Download a Plugin?
* 2. How to Make Sure the Plugin is Safe?
* 3. When Do You Want to Share a Plugin?