

== Personal Details ==

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== Project Proposal ==

My proposal is based off on one of the ideas mentioned on the Wordpress ideas page: Theme frameworks. I think this area is one that is fast developing in the Wordpress community; this article does a great job of discussing the future of Wordpress themes:

<http://theshaper.com/future-wordpress-themes-2009/>. New sets of plugins such as BuddyPress and packages like Thematic (<http://wordpress.org/extend/themes/thematic>) are what convince me of the viability and sustainability of this project.

I propose to build an installer that is able to install/activate/deactivate one set of plugins at a time, in combination with a relevant theme, which I call a 'theme package'. Right now Wordpress only provides installation/activation of one plugin at a time and then the theme has to be optimized to take advantage of those plugins. For example, the 'social network' package installs a set of plugins that are used with BuddyPress, and the layout could be a facebook-type layout. This could also be used to extend child theme functionality for child plugins. I think this could greatly benefit the Wordpress community as it saves time for users who are not going to mix and match different plugins and layouts and also takes advantage of the growing number of child themes and plugins to heavily expand Wordpress's functionality set.

The implementation details consist of implementing several functions that execute when the theme package is installed: the function is a hook that checks all of the dependencies of the package and adds all the plugins that are not already installed onto a download queue. If a plugin or its dependencies fails to install, the installation breaks and reverts to the default theme (which can be specified by the user). Wordpress already has automatic plugin installation (<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/plugininstaller/>) and functions to detect when a theme breaks to assist me. Users can choose to have child themes inherit the parent plugin's functionality or have their own set of plugin functionalities. Once a theme package is installed, the user can choose to activate/deactivate the theme package or choose to activate/deactivate certain theme or child plugins which are all listed in the plugins manager. I believe that this method will provide the most flexibility for users who want the most customization out of their Wordpress powered website.

== Schedule of Deliverables ==

I plan to spend 40 hours per week on this project. I am a fan of agile development and would like to apply this methodology to my project. A visual schedule is available on my site:

http://www.blue-kaos.com/?page_id=313.

Apr. 20 – May 23: Community Bonding Period.

I'll be reading up on articles, Codex, etc as well as discussing with the WP community more in depth about the details of the project and get a more concrete idea of my schedule and what I can deliver. Several members on the mailing list as well as my prospective mentor of this project have already given me good feedback about where to begin and what improvements can be made and I hope to build upon that during this period.

~ May 23 to ~June 8: Basic installer cases and testing; making sure that my functions/hooks work with the pre-existing themes and for themes with one plugin dependency.

~June 7 to ~June 29: Working on, debugging and testing complex cases such as installing themes with multiple plugin dependencies, getting all the plugins to work well with each other, making sure that they all deactivate and reactivate without errors.

~June 29 to ~July 13: Further testing and debugging any broken cases from previous builds and provide a way to activate/deactivate specific plugins in the theme package and have the user specify default themes. Perhaps test the installer with pre-existing frameworks such as Buddypress or Thematic.

Deliverables: At this point, the general main use of this installer to install theme packages and frameworks should be complete and fully usable for most combinations of themes and plugins. I hope this can provide a good framework for mid-term evaluation.

~July 13 to ~July 27: Taking care of other instances of using the installer, such as extending a child theme to use child plugins (have the plugins only activate for the child or have the child inherit plugin functionality from the parent).

~July 27 to ~August 10: Further testing and debugging any broken cases from previous builds and provide a way to activate/deactivate specific plugins in the child theme. Also, any functionality that could not be met in previous deadlines should be taken care of at this point.

~August 10 to ~August 18, Project should be finished, so I will try to patch any bugs and issues that I have missed that are posted to Trac/WP core.

Deliverables: Full WP support for installing theme packages, child theme extension, plugin packages and theme frameworks.

== Open Source Development Experience ==

Relating to Wordpress, I have not developed any plugins yet, but I have looked at the Plugins API/Hooks at the Wordpress Codex and believe that I'm capable of doing the work. I have converted standard HTML/CSS themes to Wordpress before, modified the classes.php file to modify wp_list_pages behavior, created dynamically switching themes when the user reloads a page using switch_theme, and have submitted bugs to Trac (plugins trac:Ticket #969). I have read about plugin dependencies (<http://jonathanleighton.com/blog/2005/09/13/wordpress-plugin-dependencies/>) and know that the Wordpress community is very knowledgeable if I have any issues. Aside from those details, I have no open source experience. However I am familiar with the use of many open source tools such as version control (SVN/CVS), bug tracking (Trac, Bugzilla) and perhaps the most important: communication tools such as forums, mailing lists and IRC, which the Wordpress communities are very active in.

== Work/Internship Experience ==

I have had two co-ops related to computer science before: one in high school working at the local hospital on their corporate intranet site using VB.NET, and one last summer at Champions

Capital Inc (<http://www.acerenting.com>), building a web extraction tool using Java and inserting relevant information into the MySQL database using JDBC and shell scripts (source code can be viewed on my site).

== Academic Experience ==

I am on my third year of study in computer science at the University of Toronto. I have learned Java, Python, C, Javascript and XML from my courses there, and have elementary knowledge of PHP/AJAX from my days in high school designing websites. I am currently taking several project courses at the university which gives me a fair understanding of the Software development cycle, Design patterns and development methodologies.

== Why WordPress ==

I started blogging using Wordpress several months ago, and have since come to love using it and tinkering around with it, especially with themes and plugins. I love the customization, the ease of posting to my blog and that it uses PHP, a language that I hope to improve my skills on. Open source is definitely something I'm passionate about and want experience in, and this project with Wordpress is the perfect way to contribute my ideas to the community while receiving experience (and money!) at the same time.

== Why me ==

- I have been working on websites since I was 12 and love contributing to communities (my last website was an anime/graphics website where people could host their layouts/avatars/art).
- I am dedicated and willing to put the time, effort and the 40 hrs/week (or however long) it requires getting the job done and done well.
- I respond quickly to emails and inquiries.
- I learn quickly, and have a thirst for knowledge.
- I work well both independently and as part of a team.

I hope to get involved, and to receive good and encouraging feedback!

Thanks for your time.