WordCamp Atlanta 2013

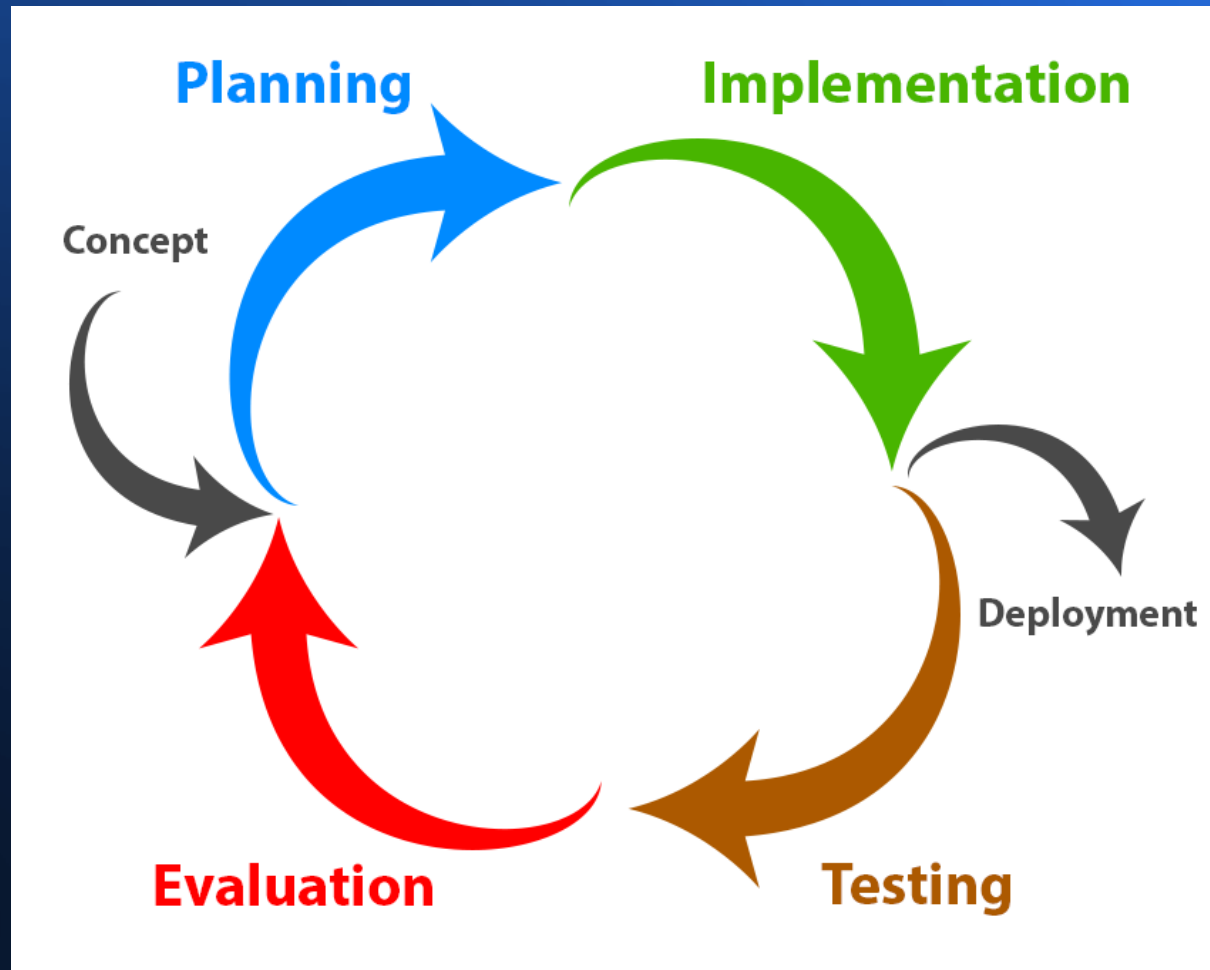# Using WordPress as a Rapid Prototyping Engine

By Drew Morris

What is Rapid Prototyping?

- 3 Rules:
  - Find the quickest path to UX
  - Doing is the best type of thinking
  - Use tools that move at the speed of thought

- 8 hour app idea

- Great Frameworks: Ruby on Rails, CodeIgniter, CakePHP, Express.js, Bootstrap, LESS, jQuery/jQuery UI, Sencha Touch and Ext.js

- Great Tools: Heroku, Sublime Text 2, Easel.io, Jetstrap, and tons of others

The Iterative Process

Why use WordPress?

- Large community

- User-friendly

- Many great themes and plugins

- Turn-key features already built-in

  - User Management

  - Login and Registration

  - Templating System/CMS with awesome UI

  - Plugins, Widgets and Shortcodes

Planning the App

- Figure out your plugin structure; independent vs interdependent

- Don't go plugin crazy; plan for the future

- Keep it simple and comment everything

- Use abstraction; focus on the business logic

- Don't bite off more than you can chew

  - Gravity Forms vs Custom Functionality

  - Child Themes are cool too

Tools and Frameworks

- Gravity Forms

- WP-MVC

- WP-LESS

- Roots

- Pods

- Piklist

  - jQuery is to JavaScript as Piklist is to WordPress

  - Planned UI to build out readable code (think scaffolding)

Using Piklist

parts

    parts/**media**

    parts/**meta-boxes**

    parts/**settings**

    parts/**terms**

    parts/**users**

    parts/**widgets**

        parts/widgets/**example-form.php**

        parts/widgets/**example.php**

Piklist Loves Comment Headers

```
/*
Title: My Meta Box
Description: My cool new meta box
Post Type: my_post_type
Capability: manage_options
Context: normal
Priority: high
Order: 1
Status: published,prequote,repair-quote
Locked: true
New: false
Collapse: true
*/
```

Really Easy Widget Fields

parts/widgets/**example-form.php**

```php
piklist('field', array(
    'type' => 'text',
    'field' => 'demo_text_small',
    'label' => __('Small Text','piklist'),
    'description' => __('Lorem','piklist'),
    'value' => 'Lorem',
    'attributes' => array(
        'class' => 'small-text'
    )
));
```

Really Easy Widget Display

parts/widgets/**example.php**

```php
<?php echo $before_widget; ?>

    <?php echo $before_title; ?>
      php __('Example Widget','piklist'); ?>
    <?php echo $after_title; ?>

    <ul>
      <li>
        <strong><?php __('Small Text','piklist'); ?></strong>
        <?php echo $settings['demo_text_small']; ?>
      </li>
    </ul>

<?php echo $after_widget; ?>
```

Piklist Demos

The code that built this meta box can be found here:

`C:\xampp\htdocs\wp-content\plugins\piklist\add-ons\piklist-demos\parts\meta-boxes\field-text.php`

Select Fields   ORDER 20

Select
Third Choice [v]

Add More
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit.
Third Choice [v]

The code that built this meta box can be found here:

`C:\xampp\htdocs\wp-content\plugins\piklist\add-ons\piklist-demos\parts\meta-boxes\field-select.php`

Radio Fields   ORDER 30

Normal
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit.

○ First Choice
○ Second Choice
◉ Third Choice

Single Line

○ Yes ◉ No

Group Lists
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit.

List #1
○ First Choice
◉ Third Choice

List #2
○ First Choice
◉ Second Choice
○ Third Choice

Nested Field
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit.

○ First Choice
○ Second Choice with a nested [12345] input.
◉ Third Choice

Moving beyond WordPress

- When scaling is an issue

- Your Prototype != A Finished Product

- Map out your app architecture from your plugins

- Plan your next move

  - Decide on technology

  - Standardize your data

Contact Me

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