

Basic WordPress plugin development

BART MCLEOD



Bart McLeod

- Self employed
- Painter
- Sculptor
- Php developer
- ZF2 developer and coach



Tutorial overview

- Best practices
- Coding conventions
- List of features for our plugin
- Hands-on coding

Best practices

- Stick to WordPress coding conventions
- Always code in debug mode: `WP_DEBUG = true;`
- Do not hard code
- Allow consumers to gracefully replace functionality
- Organize your plugin directory contents
- Do not force styles upon consumers
- Filter input, escape output

Coding conventions

- Mostly based on PEAR
- PhpStorm IDE offers WordPress formatting
- Generally IDE's support custom formatting rules
- Hint: Open PDF with coding conventions which differ from PEAR.
- No short open tags! Always `<?php echo $var ?>`
- For compatibility use old array syntax: `array();` (I don't)

Naming conventions

- `function function_name()`
- `Class_Name::method_name()`
- `$variable_name`
- `$this->property_name`
- `$this->_private_property_name`
- `CONSTANT_NAME`

Form | Function Theme | Plugin

Our plugin features

- Action and filter hooks
- Admin menu item
- Options page
- Check dependency on another plugin
- Shortcode and button to insert one
- Unit tests (if the network permits)

Requirements

- A file or directory with the name of the plugin under wp-content/plugins
- The minimum requirement is there be at least one php file
- Header with standard plugin information (next slide)

Required header

```
<?php
/**
 * Plugin Name: Very Simple
 * Plugin URI: http://bartmcleod.nl
 * Description: This is a very simple plugin.
 * Version: 0.1
 * Author: Bart McLeod
 * Author URI: http://bartmcleod.nl
 * License: MIT
 */
```

USB Stick contents

- WordPress 4.0
- Offline documentation pages for functions used in the examples (or you can use <http://codex.wordpress.org/>)
- Timber plugin (for rendering Twig templates)
- wp-cli.phar (for unit testing wp)
- phpunit.phar

Setup testing with wp-cli

```
# inside webroot: /vagrant/webapps/wordpress\ tutorial/wordpress
```

```
$ wp scaffold plugin-tests a-structured-plugin
```

```
cd wp-content/plugins/a-structured-plugin
```

```
# inside plugin dir
```

```
$ sudo chmod 770 bin/install-wp-tests.sh
```

```
$ bin/install-wp-tests.sh wp-test root 'localhost latest
```

```
$ phpunit #tests should now run
```

Thank you!

Bart McLeod

@bartmcleod

<http://spaceweb.nl>

mcleod@spaceweb.nl

<http://dwa.io>

<https://joind.in/11906>

**Scan to
give
feedback**

