

Awesome Intro Slide

(this slide is intentionally awesome)

About me:

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- mostly into “current affairs” Web Technologies (ISO Certified Hipster Compliant™)
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I do not use Facebook or WhatsApp.

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Use it.

My ID:
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Into the Abyss

**The mess that is WordPress and
how to make the best of it**

**WordPress does have
a few OK things**

- **WordPress has a really bad appdesign, but Drupal, Typo3 and Neos are even worse and they force you to play along. WP doesn't. This makes WordPress objectively better.**
- **End users don't instantly break into tears when catching a glimpse of the Dashboard (WP Admin UI). This is a rare and precious thing.**

- **140 Million active installs makes for some pretty awesome web security** (no joke!).
- **It uses PHP.**
... Yes, that is a good thing. Imagine WP built with Rails and you'll understand. PHP has been doing "serverless" for decades now. Welcome to the club!
- **It does not use a bad, bolted on templating thing or some obscure pointless config language.**

- **You know how to work around WPs annoyances within 30 minutes or less.**

Minimal touching points with WP core and those that are make sense. Mostly.

WP doesn't force its bad model on to you hook, line and sinker like others do.

- **Dashboard UI extension is equally trivial.**

- **Good to world-class documentation.**

WP lines right up into the PHP/MySQL community on this one too. Unmatched by any other ecosystem or product.

For starters:

- **Plugin Handbook**

- **The Codex**

- **Child templates.**

Nice. Templating well done.

- **Zero-fuss installation.**

- **Leading Plugin Infrastructure / Market.**

- **Others have felt the pain before you.**

Neat FOSS fixes, extensions and code interfaces on Github.

Examples:

WP_Model - Pseudo-ORM for WP Posts

cmb2 - Custom Meta-Boxes for WP

... many, many more!

*WordPress Fun Fact:
Hardwired URLs are the main
reason Matt and his mates will burn
in hell for all eternity*

How to do it

- **Do not use Multisite.**
Just don't.

Do multiple installs.
Trust me on this one.

- **Use Child templates when adjusting.**
Always! They are really awesome.

*WordPress Fun Fact:
The WordPress application model
violates the UN Declaration of
Human Rights in at least 6 places*

- **Develop all custom functionality as plugin(s).**

It's trivially easy and WP actually put some thought into this. (although WP corecrew was royally drunk half the time ... presumably)

Truth be told:

There is no other CMS that is easier to extend. Which makes for many plugins available.

And lots of bad stuff too. 🙄

It goes like this:

`/wp-content/plugins/...` ⇐ **version and deploy this**

`/wp-content/themes/...` ⇐ **version and deploy this**

`wp-config.php` ⇐ **gitignore this**

Do not touch anything else!

Automattic, the company behind WP, and the larger WP community does a pretty good job at maintaining core. Don't get in their way.

- Don't have time? ... \$wpdb.

```
global $wpdb; //<---- ... yeah, I know ...  
$results = $wpdb->get_results( "SELECT * FROM  
{ $wpdb->prefix }options WHERE option_id = 1", OBJECT );  
  
... blaidblah jadajada, A_ARRAY ); // ..., N_ARRAY );  
//more stuff: $wpdb->users, $wpdb->posts, etc.
```

Just Google it. [Or click here.](#)

It's instant MySQL to PHP, nothing more.

Nice.

- **Let it goooooo ...**

Do check out and use preconfected plugins. Use your general IT/proggin' skills to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Let go of the attempt to (re)build everything yourself even though your urge to do it will be stronger than ever with WP.

- **Themes, ready-made**
In abundance.
- **WordPress Orchestration**

WordPress is so insanely widespread that you get the strangest of tools for the WP ecosystem.

Example:
WordPress Orchestration.

InfiniteWP, ManageWP, RemoteWP, etc.

**You will consider
a career change**

- **The WordPress appmodel and database**

No use sugar-coating it:

*WordPress Fun Fact:
The WordPress codebase initially
was designed by 5th-graders*

Yes, it *is* that bad.

Abandon all hope ye who enter here.

Interconnect ITs Search-Replace DB soothes the pain.

Tons of other scripts around for migrating the DB.

- **Bizarre and obscure redirects**

I told you:

Do ***not*** use Multisite.

... should've listened.

*WordPress Fun Fact:
People who look at code from
WordPress are the most likely to die
from a fatal "Deadly Joke" accident
(look up "Monty Python Deadly Joke" on
YouTube)*

- **White Screen of Death**

It's your worst nightmare.
You will face it.

It's WP's standard rite of passage.

Three tours to Vietnam seem like a cushy vacation when debugging this. This is one of the reasons WordPress veterans are still super-chill when all others are ready to lapse into a nervous breakdown.

*WordPress Fun Fact:
Switching all WP setups to Statamic
or Hugo would immediately reduce the
worlds CO² output by 32%*

- **It's procedural, baby!**

Break one function, bork the entire environment.
Error 500 in abundance.

Get used to it.

*WordPress Fun Fact:
The power consumed by WP SQL statements
worldwide could be used to power NYC,
Beijing, Greater LA and Mexico City
simultaneously*

Some final thoughts

WordPress rules. For now.

We have to get over this cold hard fact.

Automattic is a good company and they make the best of WordPress. And any half-decent dev can earn money with some niche plugin.

Ignore what WordPress actually does well and your “replacement” will fail!

- Good Dashboard UI.
- Zero-fuss installation.
- Start small, add features with two clicks
(Plugin Infrastructure)
- Professional media management
(apart from missing folders that is ...)
- Zero-fuss media integration.
- Utilises the existing LAMP landscape like a champion.

Recommended read:

[Beating the Average](#), by Paul Graham.

It covers “The Blub Paradox”.

You will understand why such things as **PHP** and **WordPress** are so successful and actually kick your newfangled Node-thingies ass. Most of the time.

[An interesting comment on this.](#)



Thanks

for listening.

Questions?