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Using WordPress as a Rapid Prototyping Engine

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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

Planning → Implementation

Concept → Deployment

Evaluation → Testing
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

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

parts/widgets/example-form.php
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

**Select**
- Third Choice

**Add More**
- Third Choice

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

**Normal**
- First Choice
- Second Choice
- Third Choice

**Single Line**
- Yes
- No

**Group Lists**

**List #1**
- First Choice
- Third Choice

**List #2**
- First Choice
- Second Choice
- Third Choice

**Nested Field**

- First Choice
- Second Choice with a nested input: 1234
- 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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