

WP development:

Fantastic tools and where to find them

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WP Meetup Milano

08/05/2018

17. Quali sono i
trucchi fantastici
che usi con
WordPress?

Agenda

- Some useful plugins
- Actual development tools
- Bonus tip: automation magic

But first...

- **Disclaimer #1:** No advanced topics and bleeding edge technologies
- **Disclaimer #2:** This is not a workshop
- **Disclaimer #3:** First time public speaking





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3+ years of WordPress development



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<https://t.me/webdevhub/>

Part 1:

Plugins

Custom Post Type UI

Best tool if you want to go beyond blogging and stay organized

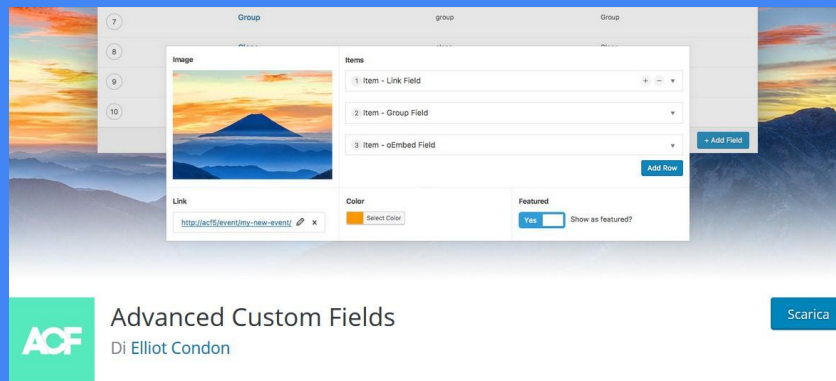
- Split multiple post types in well organized structure
- Theme agnostic
- Easy to import/export
- Integrated into REST API
- Easy to display with Visual Composer
- To be used instead of messing with functions.php of your theme



Advanced Custom Field

Add extra information to regular or custom posts

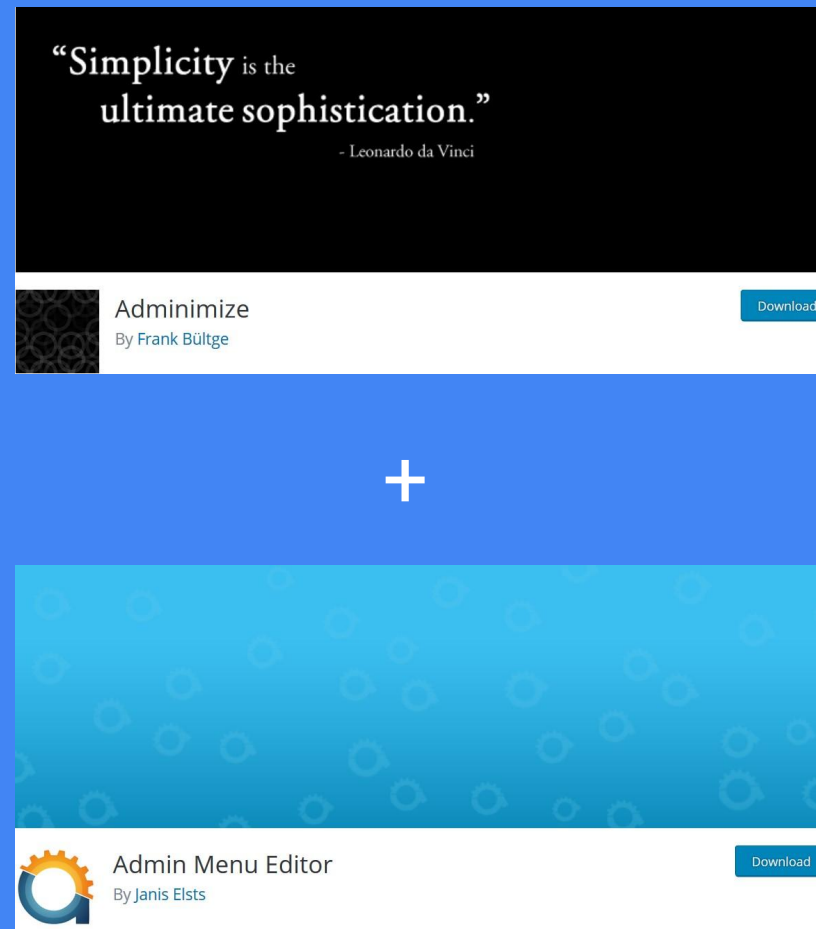
- Add more information to your post (ingredients of a recipe, salary for a job position etc)
- Theme agnostic
- Integrated into REST API
- To be used instead of messing with `functions.php` of your theme



Adminimize + Admin Menu Editor

Will make you sleep peacefully when you give your clients access to back end

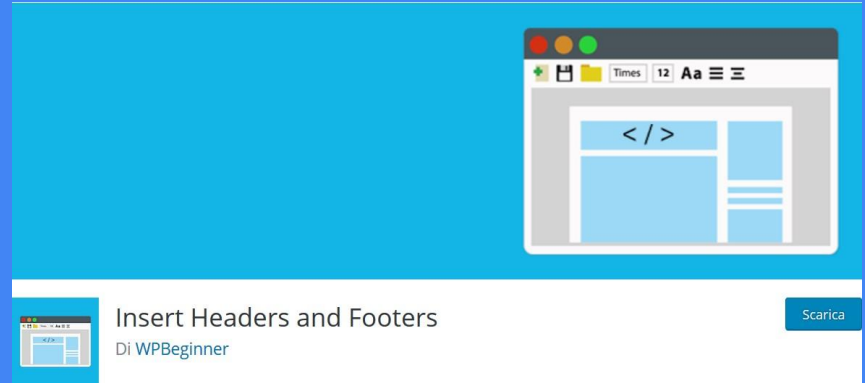
- Edit menu items names and icons
- Hide unnecessary menu items from “Advanced user” clients
- To be used instead of messing with functions.php of your theme



Insert Headers and Footers

Probably the best tool to place your Google Analytics, Facebook Pixel and other external services scripts

- Edit menu items names and icons
- Hide unnecessary menu items from “Advanced user” clients
- To be used instead of messing with functions.php of your theme





“Messing with functions.php”

What does this even mean?

functions.php

Isn't for:

- Custom post types
- Custom fields
- Editing back end
- Adding analytics scripts

Is for:

- Customize excerpt length
- Customize thumbnail sizes
- Add additional CSS and JS

You will lose
everything
when you
switch your
theme



Also



Changed functions.php file and now site is blank [closed]

- ▲ I tried to change the functions.php CSS page, commenting out the original load fonts function and replacing it with my own. Now, when I try to access the site, I just get a blank page.
- 2 Even worse, when I try to go to the wp-admin, I also get a blank page.
- ▼ I'm guessing that the load fonts function that I replaced with did not work, which is why I'm getting a blank page, but why can't I even access my wp-admin page? And how do I fix this?
- ★ Thanks



When in doubt,
use a plugin.

Part 2:

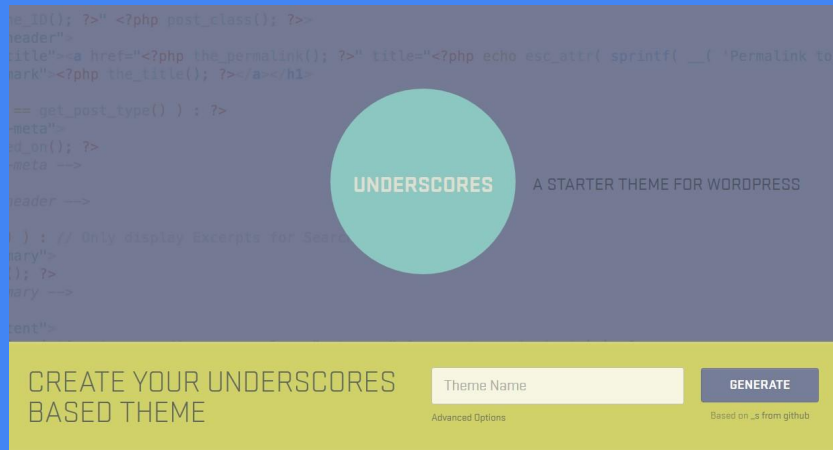
Development

tools

Underscores (a.k.a “_S”)

Customizable boilerplate for robust
and extendable WordPress themes

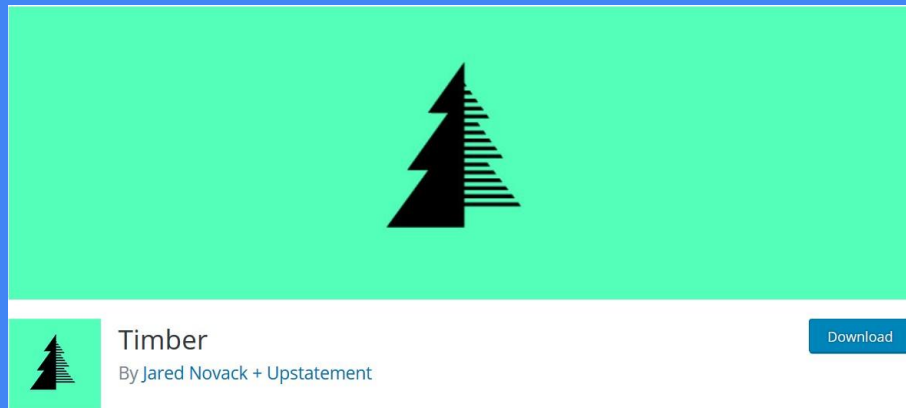
- Free
- Easy to set up
- Baked by Automattic
- With accessibility in mind



Timber

“Timber helps you create fully-customized WordPress themes faster with more sustainable code.”

- One click (or one line) installation
- Brings OOP to WordPress theme development
- Open source
- Shipped with _S boilerplate theme



Timber adds Twig support



```
$THUMB_ID = get_post_thumbnail_id($post->ID); $URL  
= WP_get_attachment_url($THUMB_ID); post_title; ?>" />
```



```

```

WP CLI

Turns infamous 5 minutes
WordPress installation into 10
seconds installation



wp cli

Administration

- 1 line wp installation ('wp core download', 'wp core install')
- Easy plugins management (wp plugin install, wp plugin activate)
- Easy users management
- Website settings (locale, home url, comments)

Back end

- Easy migrations with 'wp search-replace'
- Better cron jobs management with 'wp cron'
- Database management with 'wp db'
- Work on different environments with wp-cli.yml

Part 3:

Automate

Boring stuff

3 files & coffee

1. Vagrantfile

Virtual machine with LAMP stack

(<https://github.com/alsoknownasdrew/vagrant-lamp>) and wp cli for local development

2. wp-cli.yml

My environment variables for local, stage and production envs

3. setup.sh

- Creates a new user and database
- wp cli commands for installing core, create config.php, scaffold _s
- Loop through a basic array with list of plugins and run 'wp plugin install' and 'wp plugin activate' for each of them

4. Run 'Vagrant up' and go grab a coffee

“I choose a lazy person to do a hard job. Because a lazy person will find an easy way to do it.”

- Bill Gates



Thanks!

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