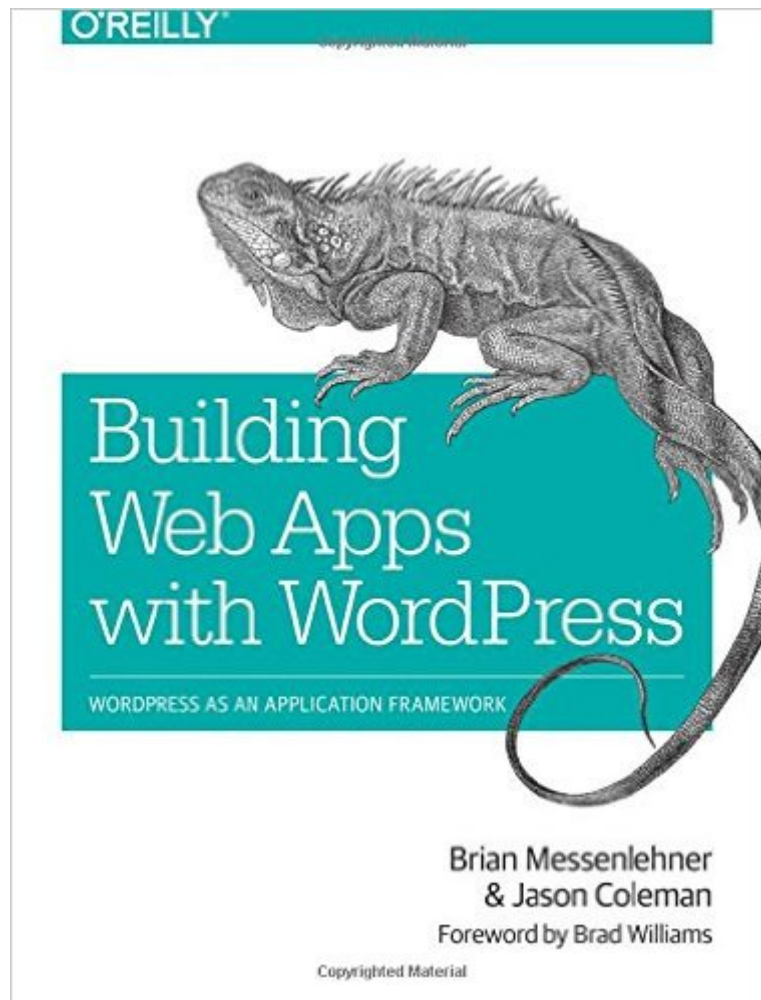


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# Building Web Apps With WordPress



## Synopsis

WordPress is much more than a blogging platform. As this practical guide clearly demonstrates, you can use WordPress to build web apps of any type—not mere content sites, but full-blown apps for specific tasks. If you have PHP experience with a smattering of HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, you’ll learn how to use WordPress plugins and themes to develop fast, scalable, and secure web apps, native mobile apps, web services, and even a network of multiple WordPress sites. The authors use examples from their recently released SchoolPress app to explain concepts and techniques throughout the book. All code examples are available on GitHub. Compare WordPress with traditional app development frameworks Use themes for views, and plugins for backend functionality Get suggestions for choosing WordPress plugins—or build your own Manage user accounts and roles, and access user data Build asynchronous behaviors in your app with jQuery Develop native apps for iOS and Android, using wrappers Incorporate PHP libraries, external APIs, and web service plugins Collect payments through ecommerce and membership plugins Use techniques to speed up and scale your WordPress app

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Writers of books on WordPress are presented with a bit of a quandary, I think. On the one hand, one of the best resources for working with WordPress is the WordPress Codex itself, which is free, complete, regularly updated, and can cover a lot more territory than neatly fits within the covers of any one book. On the other hand, writers of WordPress books have to contend with the fact that a

phenomenal book on WordPress already exists, Williams, Damstra, and Stern's Professional WordPress: Design and Development. Messenlehner and Coleman's Building Web Apps with WordPress enters this crowded field and acquits itself reasonably well. It's no Professional WordPress, and it's not the book it might have been, but it is a solid addition. The book covers a lot of territory, starting from the basics of WordPress as a CMS and an app platform all the way to how to optimize your WordPress performance. The basic idea of the book, then, is that it will take you from some basic understanding of WordPress and WordPress plugins through to scaling and optimizing your wildly successful app in a production environment. Early chapters introduce WordPress and give some rough idea of how it works. Chapters 4 through 8 are the core of the book, and cover themes, custom post types, users and roles, other miscellaneous APIs and objects, and security. Later chapters introduce more specialized, supplementary topics such as mobile WordPress apps, and ecommerce apps. Despite the clear layout of the chapters, the organization could be better, and important material is hidden in unexpected places. For example, the section of chapter 5 on custom post types does not actually cover the functions used to work with post metadata.

Disclosure: This book was provided free as part of the O'Reilly Bloggers Program. Building Web Apps with WordPress by Brian Messenlehner and Jason Coleman is a unique book, and one of the few that focuses on deploying a full web application using WordPress as a framework. This book covers a wide variety of topics and had some sections that were extremely important and helpful to get started on building a full web application using WordPress, including Chapters 3, 4, and 16. The whole gamut of development is covered extensively throughout the 16 chapters of this book and the references provided within provide an excellent resource to strike out and continue to expand your own personal development outside the confines of this book. It covers how to create a plugin, how to build a theme, and when to use both of these tools to help develop the web application. The chapter that stood out to me was Chapter 16, Optimization and Scaling; I thought it was by far the most useful chapter to me and it contained a lot of information that is helpful. One of the most useful aspects of the book is providing a wealth of information about the variety of plug-ins available. But one of the biggest problems I feel with this book is that the application they use as an occasional demonstration is incomplete and no code can be viewed. Expanding upon that thought, I also was unclear what this book was actually trying to accomplish – I feel that using the example application was confusing and inconsistently implemented. Having read many programming books over the years, this feels like it almost jumped back and forth between a “Program Along With This

Example App • book and a Web App with WordPress Recipe Book •

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