Meeting summary for WPG WordPress Meetup (02/14/2024)

Quick recap

Mark DuBois discussed the importance of accurate plugin descriptions, the different licenses available, and the significance of using up-to-date software tools. He emphasized the need for developers to resolve plugin issues quickly and the importance of website accessibility. He also highlighted the security measures, including Math Capture, and the necessity of a valid security certificate. Lastly, he addressed the security implications of moving a website from WordPress to Squarespace.

Summary

WordPress Plugin Installation and Usage Basics

Mark DuBois discussed the installation and use of a plugin, emphasizing the need for a name, description, and correct uniform resource indicator (URI). He mentioned the possibility of having a series of plugins available and stressed the importance of providing accurate descriptions to avoid confusion. Mark also discussed the different licenses available, choosing GPL as an example, and explained that this license allows sharing and asking for credit. He ended the discussion by mentioning that the meeting would cover the basics and more advanced aspects of WordPress plugins and might include testing and deployment of the plugins.

Software Tool Updates and Security

Mark DuBois discussed the importance of using up-to-date software tools, particularly WordPress, which he noted has several security issues. He stressed the need to ensure compatibility with the current version of the software and pointed out that there are security tools available for use. Mark also mentioned the availability of a paid version for those using the tool extensively. He shared an experience where their website's plugin had some issues, but it was resolved quickly by their developers, emphasizing the importance of having developers on hand for quick issue resolution.

Cybersecurity and Plugin Discussion

Mark DuBois discussed the importance of various plugins and security measures. He highlighted the potential security issues if backups are not regularly restored, and the need for different forms of mail sending capabilities. Mark also mentioned the use of Math Capture, a plugin that requires a simple math question to log into a site, as a measure against constant attempts to access websites. He further discussed the challenge of running a professional service under constant cyber attacks, particularly from Russia.

Plugin Installation and Website Accessibility

Mark DuBois discussed the installation and usage of a plugin that provides additional information for single posts and pages. He then demonstrated how to download and upload a plugin, emphasizing that there are no necessary prerequisites for this process. Mark also touched on the topic of website accessibility, specifically regarding the length of links. He expressed his concern over the accessibility issues with the newly renamed Twitter, stating that it was inaccessible due to its shortened character links.

Plugin Installation, Website Security, and SSL Certificates
Mark DuBois discussed the installation and testing of plugins, including a hypothetical plugin that fetches data from a specific source. He also covered the topic of website security, particularly the importance of a valid security certificate. He demonstrated how to generate a self-signed SSL certificate and how to apply it, and explained the concept of public key encryption. He suggested that website owners should pay for SSL certificates to support developers who create and maintain plugins. The discussion ended with a question about the implications of moving a website from WordPress to Squarespace.