Tools For Speeding Up Custom Theme Development
Who Are We?
An Agency Was Born

DesignLoud was founded in 2011 by Derek Schmidt. At the time of its inception Derek had been working with WordPress for more than a year and grew very fond of the platform because of how easy it was for his clients to make changes to their website and how scalable it was as a Content Management System. After working with several clients on custom websites, Derek developed a passion for developing with WordPress. Fast forward several years later, Derek and his team have developed several dozen websites for clients in different industries.
Starter Themes
Sprig Starter Theme

Sprig comes with the **Twig** template engine, allowing you to write less code and develop quickly. Sprig includes Bootstrap and Foundation, Gulp and Bower and useful functions from Underscores and Roots to make your development more easier.
HTML5blank Theme

Html5blank is a minimalist theme with simple styling, suitable for development. Html5blank has plenty of awesome productivity and core features to make development easier.
Quark Starter Theme

Quark is made based on Underscores and TwentyTwelve. You will find the built-in Options Framework theme, which makes it easier to add custom options on your theme.
FoundationPress

FoundationPress uses Foundation 5 for base styling and let you turn this starter theme into an advanced responsive theme. FoundationPress contains essentials needed to help you start build WordPress themes on any design. It includes SASS files to make styling easier, and Grunt.
BST Starter Theme

Fully integrated with Bootstrap 3, BST comes with features such as WordPress menu position with Bootstrap navbar, Bootstrap pagination for blog index and category pages, and also a Visual editor stylesheet, which allows you to get the same visual style on the text-editor and on the frontend interface.
DevDmBootstrap3

Armed by Bootstrap 3, DevDmBootstrap3 comes with clean codes and you can make child themes that run on top of this theme. This Cleanblog theme is a great example.
Cornerstone Theme

Cornerstone integrates the Zurb Foundation Responsive Framework on providing WordPress starter theme. It’s lightweight, responsive and SEO friendly.
Cutlass Starter Theme

Root-based Cutlass is a WordPress starter theme which gives you the advantages of Blade, a template engine that allows you write code more quicker. Cutlass includes Bootstrap 3 and Font Awesome by default and Gulp.
WordPress Bootstrap

WordPress Bootstrap come with features such as Multi-Lingual in 7 different language, page templates (e.g. homepage, standard page with sidebar, full width page, etc.), theme options panel, shortcodes, and sidebars.
Big Blank Theme

Big Blank Theme provides you a blank responsive starter theme, with minimal styling and semantic HTML5. Its basic stylings include common elements such as headings, image alignments, comments and forms.
Compass Theme

Compass is a boilerplate for your custom WordPress theme with advanced features, built using modern tools like Grunt, Sass, Bourbon and Hybrid Core.
_tk Theme

=tk is integrated seamlessly with Bootstrap to give you a good-looking minimal starter theme. It also comes with wp-bootstrap-navwalker, a custom WordPress nav walker class that fully works with Bootstrap. The _tk code is based on Underscores.
Blank WordPress Bower Grunt

Blank WordPress Bower Grunt is armed with Grunt and Bower and is ready to use with SASS Compass for styling the design. This theme also includes the format-{POST TYPE} files that separate into each format types, such as format-gallery.php, format-quote.php and so on.

Wordpress with Grunt

A blank wordpress theme with some basic grunt packages installed.

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WordPress Starter Theme

WordPress Starter Theme lets you build custom themes with SASS, AutoPrefixr, and HTML5 Boilerplate and includes modern web technologies such as Grunt for running tasks, and Browser Syncs for auto reloading the project across browsers.
JointsWP

JointsWP is a blank theme made with Foundation 5, giving you basic styling to develop a WordPress theme further. Integrated with Foundation, JointsWP is responsive, and includes JavaScript features such as off-canvas navigation. For styling, JointsWP has included a SASS file to make it easier to expand the styles.
Bones adopts the mobile-first approach and is responsive. SASS files are included to kickstart the styling on your theme project. It comes with preloaded Custom Post Types and Custom Dashboard Functions for you to customize the admin area on the dashboard.
Underscores

Underscores is built by most developers of Automattic. Underscores comes with simplicity and best practices for theming, minimal functions and styles — a great for starting point for developing your own theme.
Sage Theme (DRY)

Sage is a starter theme developed by Roots, with an advanced workflow to write styles in LESS/SASS, check JavaScript error, synchronized browser testing and other tasks which are automatically run by Gulp. It uses Theme wrapper, Root’s way to keep you use clean code in building theme.
WP Flex

Wp-Flex is a blank responsive theme for WordPress. The code is written based on the WordPress Codex and theme review guidelines.
Plugins
Custom Post Type UI

This plugin provides an easy to use interface for creating and administrating custom post types and taxonomies in WordPress. This plugin is created for WordPress 3.0 and higher.
Advanced Custom Fields

- Visually create your Fields
- Select from multiple input types (text, textarea, wysiwyg, image, file, page link, post object, relationship, select, checkbox, radio buttons, date picker, true/false, repeater, flexible content, gallery and more to come!)
- Assign your fields to multiple edit pages (via custom location rules)
- Easily load data through a simple and friendly API

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InfiniteWP

- Self-hosted system: Resides on your own server and totally under your control

- One-click updates for WordPress, plugins and themes across all your sites

- Instant backup and restore your entire site or just the database

- One-click access to all WP admin panels

- Bulk Manage plugins & themes: Activate & Deactive multiple plugins & themes on multiple sites simultaneously
Task Runners
Grunt.js

In one word: automation. The less work you have to do when performing repetitive tasks like minification, compilation, unit testing, linting, etc, the easier your job becomes. After you've configured it through a Gruntfile, a task runner can do most of that mundane work for you—and your team—with basically zero effort.
Gulp.js

Easy to use
By preferring code over configuration, gulp keeps things simple and makes complex tasks manageable.

Efficient
Using the power of node streams, gulp gives you fast builds that don't write intermediary files to disk.

High Quality
By enforcing strict plugin guidelines, we ensure that plugins stay simple and work as expected.
Package Managers
Bower

Keeping track of all these packages and making sure they are up to date (or set to the specific versions you need) is tricky. Bower to the rescue!

Bower can manage components that contain HTML, CSS, JavaScript, fonts or even image files. Bower doesn’t concatenate or minify code or do anything else - it just installs the right versions of the packages you need and their dependencies.
Composer

Composer is a tool for dependency management in PHP. It allows you to declare the libraries your project depends on and it will manage (install/update) them for you.

Composer is not a package manager in the same sense as Yum or Apt are. Yes, it deals with "packages" or libraries, but it manages them on a per-project basis, installing them in a directory (e.g. vendor) inside your project. By default it does not install anything globally. Thus, it is a dependency manager. It does however support a "global" project for convenience via the global command.
In Conclusion

Thank you for following our presentation on Tools for speeding up custom theme development. I hope you have learned a lot from this presentation and you can start to plan out your website and grow your empire.

Thank you for following along,
Derek Schmidt