TERRY'S TIPS ON GETTING STARTED IN DIVI PLUGIN DEVELOPMENT

STANDARD WP PLUGINS / DIVI-SPECIFIC PLUGINS / CUSTOM MODULES

by Terry Hale of Superfly, creator of Image Intense Divi Plugin

1. First Steps

WP plugins can be as simple as one file located in the folder. Hello Dolly, for example, is just one file called hello.php. While a lot of people think it's totally useless, in a way it's great for people new to WordPress plugins because it is about as basic as you can get with a plugin and it shows you all the essentials you need in order to create your own plugin.

You will need to have at least a basic understanding of what PHP is and can do. You don't have to be a guru, but if you want a custom plugin (as opposed to a plugin you follow along with in a tutorial) you'll need some experience or a developer friend.

There are tons of articles on creating standard WP plugins, which should be your starting place for more complex and/or Divi-specific plugins. Elegant Themes has a good primer on creating a plugin, then you'll want to look at the WordPress Codex for further information.

https://www.elegantthemes.com/blog/tips-tricks/how-to-create-a-wordpress-plugin
https://codex.wordpress.org/Writing_a_Plugin

2. Divi Plugin/Module Resources

After getting familiar you can go all the way to an advanced custom module, with subfolders, lanuage files, and custom JavaScript / jQuery. As a side note, besides creating custom modules as a plugin, they can also be integrated right into a child theme.

Check online resources already out there for the more advanced steps. For instance this article on Stack Overflow article from right at 2 years ago. https://stackoverflow.com/questions/31565287/how-to-create-custom-divi-module
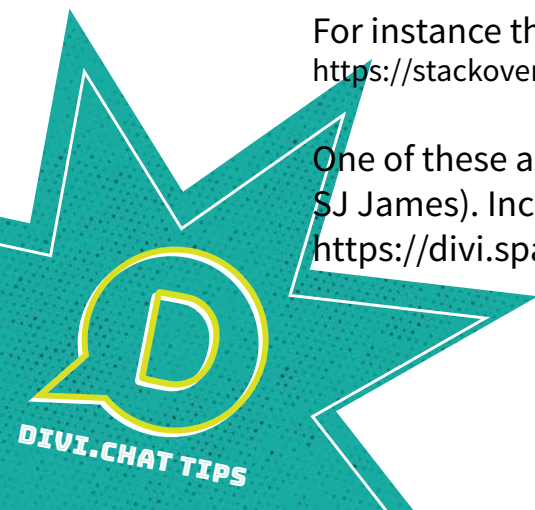
One of these answers links to an article (written by one of our Divi Chat hosts SJ James). Incidentally this is the very first thing I looked at when I started. https://divi.space/blog/adding-custom-modules-to-divi/

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The next thing I looked into was Jonathan Bossenger's article on creating a custom module. He has related articles as well.
https://jonathanbossenger.com/building-your-own-divi-builder-modules/

Bob Means also has a set of articles. #1 on understanding the structure of the Divi module.
http://www.robertmeans.net/you-are-divine/

3. Things to Consider

Creating Divi plugins as part of your business model involves several things. You might be able to handle all of these aspects, but most likely you will need some help to be a respected and successful Divi plugin developer.

- **Clean code that is also great.** Adhering to the WordPress and Divi code standards - not something PHP hacked that can't be followed by a future developer or actually doesn't resemble WordPress code.

- **Plugins should address a real community need or desire.** Should not be an alternative to a few lines of CSS or PHP that you can do for yourself by following a tutorial. However, there is a market for this type of thing by less experienced people who need help, or those who don't actually care what methods are used and just want to make some quick money. If you want to take advantage of that market, then you will ultimately be... not successful. On the long term, anyway. You might make a few bucks, but then you will be busted. Success is based on quality and long-term relevance.

- **In order for creating Divi plugins as a business to work, you also need marketing and support channels.** Few of us can do this by ourselves, so (getting to earlier Divi Chat episodes about communities and mergers) be aware of other people in the community whose practices seem to line up with your ideals and make some sort of partnership agreement.

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