

Custom Website Build Checklist

Migrating from WordPress to a custom stack with Cursor and Google Cloud.

Based on [Why I Ditched Wordpress For A Custom Built Website Cursor Google Cloud](#) by Casey Builds It

1. Evaluate WordPress Limitations

Understand the drawbacks of relying on WordPress plugins and themes.

- Identify plugin dependencies and their potential risks.
- Assess security vulnerabilities introduced by third-party plugins.
- Recognize limitations imposed by plugin update cycles.
- Evaluate how plugin roadmaps might hinder custom feature development.
- Determine if existing plugins meet specific workflow needs.
- Consider the overhead of managing multiple plugins.

2. Explore Custom Stack Components

Understand the core technologies used in a custom-built website.

- Learn about Google App Engine for hosting.
- Investigate building a custom backend.
- Understand the role of AI-assisted development tools like Cursor.
- Explore Google Cloud for hosting and database management.
- Evaluate the benefits of full control over performance.
- Assess control over website structure and features.

3. Plan Custom Automation Tools

Design and build automated workflows for content creation and publishing.

- Define requirements for video processing (description, thumbnail, shorts).
- Plan the automated generation of blog post content from videos.
- Integrate automated publishing to the site's CMS.
- Map out the workflow to eliminate manual copy-pasting.
- Identify steps to replace separate, stitched-together tools.
- Consider API integrations for automation.

4. Develop a Custom Admin Dashboard

Build a tailored backend interface to manage site operations.

- Design a media library for asset management.
- Integrate downloadable lead-generation tools.
- Implement a feature for tracking future project ideas.

- Ensure the dashboard replaces multiple plugin functionalities.
- Build custom tools specifically for your workflow.
- Avoid relying on third-party dashboard solutions.

5. Leverage AI for Development

Utilize AI tools to accelerate the custom development process.

- Use AI for writing custom code.
- Employ AI for debugging errors.
- Test AI's ability to read screenshots of issues.
- Utilize AI to suggest code fixes.
- Integrate AI into the daily development workflow.
- Troubleshoot live issues with AI assistance.

6. Implement Google Cloud Services

Configure and manage hosting and database solutions with Google Cloud.

- Set up hosting on Google App Engine.
- Manage backend logic within Google Cloud.
- Configure databases for site data.
- Ensure optimal performance through cloud configuration.
- Maintain full control over the hosting environment.
- Securely manage site data and assets.

7. Assess Custom Build Benefits

Evaluate the advantages of a custom-built website over a platform like WordPress.

- Quantify time savings from automation.
- Measure improvements in website performance.
- Assess the level of customization achieved.
- Evaluate the reduction in security risks.
- Determine the ease of future feature development.
- Compare the cost-effectiveness of custom vs. plugin-heavy solutions.

Resources & Further Reading

Use these pages while working through the checklist:

■ Casey Builds It

<https://caseybuildsit.com/the-files/>

■ Casey Builds It

<https://caseybuildsit.com/make-contact/>

■ Casey Builds It

<https://caseybuildsit.com/>

■ Downloads

<https://caseybuildsit.com/downloads/>

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Full control, automation, and speed are achievable with a custom-built website stack.