

Custom Website Build Checklist

Migrating from WordPress to a custom stack with AI and Cloud.

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

1. Evaluate WordPress Limitations

Assess the drawbacks of using WordPress plugins and themes.

- Identify plugins as dependencies and potential security risks.
- Recognize that plugin updates can break site functionality.
- Acknowledge limitations imposed by plugin roadmaps.
- Consider the overhead of managing multiple plugins.
- Evaluate if plugin convenience outweighs long-term risks.

2. Explore Custom Stack Components

Understand the core technologies for a custom-built website.

- Consider Google Cloud for hosting and database management.
- Investigate AI-assisted development tools like Cursor.
- Understand the benefits of a custom backend.
- Evaluate the advantages of full control over site performance.
- Assess the ability to customize site structure and features.

3. Plan Custom Automation Tools

Design automated workflows for content and site management.

- Identify repetitive manual tasks to automate.
- Plan for video processing (description, thumbnail, shorts generation).
- Design a system to automatically generate blog posts from videos.
- Integrate automated publishing to the site's CMS.
- Consider API integrations for automation workflows.

4. Build a Custom Admin Dashboard

Develop a tailored backend interface for site management.

- Create a media library for managing site assets.
- Integrate downloadable lead-generation tools.
- Implement a feature for tracking future project ideas.
- Ensure the dashboard replaces the need for multiple plugins.
- Design the dashboard to match your specific workflow.

5. Leverage AI for Development

Utilize AI tools to accelerate the building and debugging process.

- Use AI for writing and generating 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.

6. Implement Google Cloud Hosting

Set up your website on a reliable cloud platform.

- Deploy your custom backend to Google App Engine.
- Configure databases within Google Cloud.
- Ensure full control over hosting environment.
- Optimize backend logic for performance.
- Monitor site performance and scalability.

7. Refine and Expand Automation

Continuously improve your automated workflows.

- Review the effectiveness of the current automation pipeline.
- Identify areas for further workflow refinement.
- Explore pushing automation capabilities further.
- Test new features and integrations.
- Document improvements to the automation process.

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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Custom builds with AI and cloud offer speed, control, and automation.