

Custom Website Build Checklist

Transitioning from WordPress to a custom stack with AI and cloud tools.

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 that create risks.
- Assess security vulnerabilities introduced by plugins.
- Recognize limitations imposed by plugin update cycles.
- Determine when plugin roadmaps hinder custom development.
- Evaluate the overhead of managing multiple plugins.

2. Explore Custom Stack Components

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

- Learn about Google App Engine for hosting.
- Investigate building a custom backend.
- Understand the role of AI-assisted development tools.
- Explore using Cursor for coding and debugging.
- Consider Google Cloud for databases and infrastructure.

3. Plan Custom Automation Tools

Design and build automated workflows for content and site management.

- Define requirements for video processing automation.
- Develop functionality to generate descriptions from videos.
- Implement automatic thumbnail creation.
- Build automated YouTube Shorts generation.
- Create a process for generating blog posts from videos.
- Integrate direct publishing to the site's CMS.

4. Implement Custom Backend Logic

Develop the server-side functionality for your website.

- Build custom backend code.
- Manage hosting and database configurations.
- Implement API integrations.
- Address authorization errors during development.
- Troubleshoot backend issues using AI tools.

5. Develop a Custom Admin Dashboard

Create a tailored interface for managing site content and assets.

- Build a media library for asset management.
- Integrate downloadable lead-generation tools.
- Develop a feature for tracking project ideas.
- Ensure the dashboard replaces multiple plugin functionalities.
- Design the dashboard for personal workflow efficiency.

6. Leverage AI for Development

Utilize AI tools to accelerate the custom website building process.

- Use AI for writing code.
- Employ AI for debugging errors.
- Utilize AI to interpret screenshots of issues.
- Get AI-powered suggestions for code fixes.
- Integrate AI into the daily development workflow.

7. Assess Custom Build Benefits

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

- Achieve full control over website performance.
- Gain complete control over website structure.
- Implement custom features without plugin limitations.
- Experience faster development cycles with AI tools.
- Automate tasks to save significant time weekly.
- Reduce reliance on third-party dependencies.

Resources & Further Reading

Use these pages while working through the checklist:

■ Casey Builds It

<https://caseybuildsit.com/>

■ Casey Builds It

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

■ Downloads

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

■ Casey Builds It

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

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- | caseybuildsit.com
Custom builds with AI and cloud offer speed, control, and automation.