

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of white lines and circles on a blue background, resembling a circuit board or a tree structure.

# TOOLS FOR WORDPRESS CHILD THEME DEVELOPMENT

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# TOOLS? YOU MEAN, LIKE... THEMES & PLUGINS?

- Sure, themes and plugins are great!
  - They often have good support.
  - They can save you time, and your client money.
  - They are generally easy to use and implement.

Until... you can't find one that fits



# SO WHAT DO WE DO?

- Keep Calm
  - It's software. Anything is possible!
- Discuss Options with Your Client
  - Potential for adjustments to requirements
  - **Theme or plugin customization**





## NOW UPGRADE IT

- Plugin Customization and Development
  - You bet! But let's save that for a later talk.
- Theme Customization
  - A great place to start with WordPress customizations
  - Let's do it!

# THEMES AND CHILD THEMES

- Themes

- A theme is a set of CSS, PHP, and asset files that can be used to change the look and feel of a WordPress site.
- A great way to bring a site's look and feel "90% of the way there"

- Child Themes

- A child theme is a theme that depends upon and extends or overrides parts of a theme
- Changes do not get overwritten when the parent theme is updated
- Generally, most of the code lives in the parent theme
- Use child themes to polish the look and feel of a site to a client's needs

# CREATING A CHILD THEME

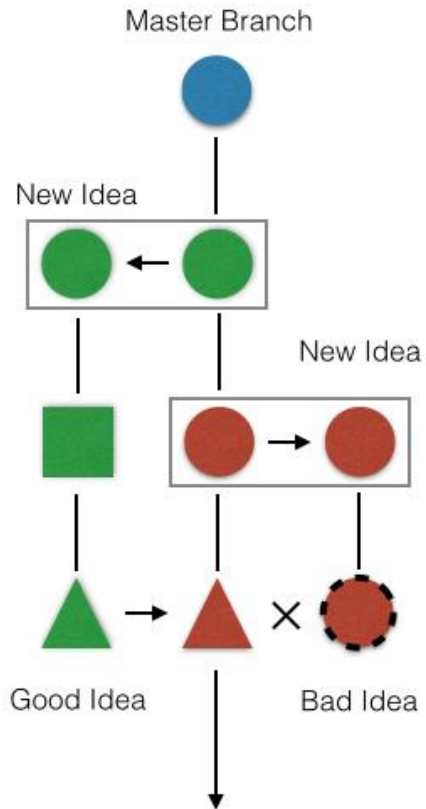
- There's a Plugin for that!
  - But it's so easy to do by hand (once you try)
    - As a result of the exercise, you will be in a better place to make customizations
    - You will need:
      - An SFTP Client, like FileZilla (and SFTP access to your site)
      - A Text Editor, like Notepad++
- OR
- A nice Integrated Development Environment, with an SFTP client built in

# SQUIRREL!!

- Plugins abound to facilitate file changes.
- Why use an Integrated Development Environment (IDE)?
  - Consistency of development workflow
  - Reduce the number of development tools that you use
    - Pro Tip: Update your local IDE, not every distributed instance of development plugins.
  - Keep production environment clean and more secure by reducing number of plugins.
  - Take advantage of Source Control integration for PHP and CSS changes
  - Enjoy your work (even more)



# GIT



## SOURCE CONTROL

- For Everyone:
  - Maintain an additional backup of your custom code.
  - Quickly learn when features were introduced
  - Discover when bugs were introduced
  - Bring your self up to date with the history of a code base at any time.
  - Try new ideas without fear.
- For Teams:
  - Keep up on the nitty gritty of what other developers are working on
  - Work on the same files as other developers, merge as needed
  - Code reviews, release management, etc.



# PHP STORM DEMO

- Connect to Test and Production environments via SFTP
- Create child them, and make modifications
- Commit changes to local repository, deploy to test
- Push working changes to central repository, and deploy to production

# QUESTIONS?

- Tools

- PhpStorm: <https://www.jetbrains.com/phpstorm>
- Bitbucket: <https://bitbucket.org>
- Sourcetree: <https://www.sourcetreeapp.com>
- Beyond Compare: <http://www.scootersoftware.com>
- Digital Ocean: <https://bit.ly/HostingForWordPress>

- Learning:

- Git: <https://try.github.io>
- CSS: <http://flexboxfroggy.com>
- PHP Storm: <http://bit.ly/LearnPHPStorm>
- Child Themes: [https://codex.wordpress.org/Child\\_Themes](https://codex.wordpress.org/Child_Themes)

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