



**'Code without  
coding'**

# CODING FOR NOOB DEVELOPERS

- HTML/CSS is difficult
- Noob code has lots of errors
- HTML/CSS -> WordPress != easy
- Noob developers need to create WordPress themes without knowing HTML/CSS and PHP/MySQL
- Cross-browser dropdown menus → total nightmare



# DROPDOWN MENUS IN WORDPRESS

- Miriam Schwab of <http://wordpressgarage.com/> posted about a dropdown menu plugin
- Two choices
  - Whine about it
  - Make my own



# SUCKERFISH DROPDOWN MENU PLUGIN

- Released in Jan. 2008
- Very basic plugin
- Support questions!
- 1000+ comments on  
one post in a  
month!



# NEEDED A BETTER WAY TO HELP PLUGIN USERS

- Users needed to modify CSS to change design
- Created a forum to help sort advice for others
  - Still received too many questions
- Needed way to reduce the support requests
  - Added option panel to beta plugin for users to modify colours
  - Using options panel -> problems
- Solution?
  - Created CSS generator



# CSS GENERATOR

- Hosted on PixoPoint.com
  - Allows us to charge for premium access
  - Almost all services free
  - 100% GPL compatible
- Added options page for copying CSS to plugin

The screenshot shows the 'Suckerfish multi-level CSS Generator' interface. At the top, there's a red header with 'Blog Stuff Forum' links. Below it, a welcome message states: 'Welcome to the Suckerfish multi-level CSS Generator. By modifying the options below, you can generate a restyled Suckerfish dropdown navigation above. You can copy and paste the CSS generated from the box further down the page.' The main form area includes a 'Premade' dropdown menu set to 'Current Design'. Below this is a 'Designs:' section with a 'Horizontal Dropdown' dropdown menu. A 'Submit Design' button is located to the right. Further down, there's a 'Navigational type:' section with a 'Premium users only' label and a '(show premium options »)' link. At the bottom, there are two side-by-side sections: 'Top Level Menu items' and 'Lower Level Menu items', each with a brief description of their function.

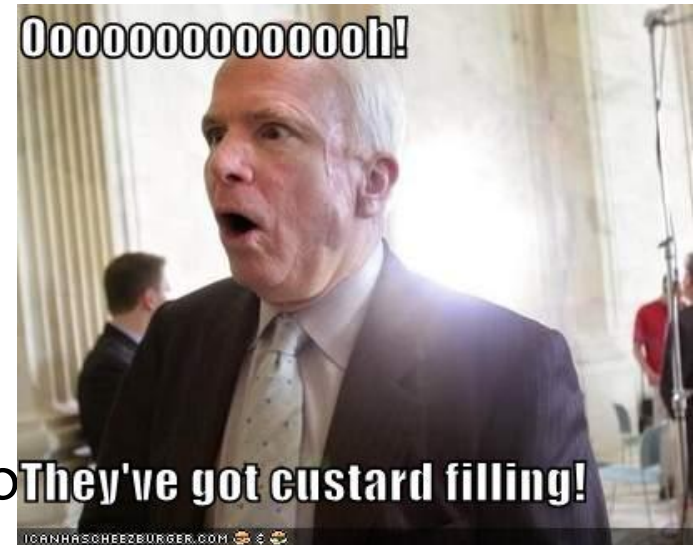
- Support requests  
**plummeted!!!**
  - 500+ questions/week -> ~50

- Fee for premium support



# FAMOUS USERS OF OUR CSS GENERATOR

- John McCain
- Nancy Cartwright (Bart Simpson)



# THEMES ... BEYOND AN OPTIONS PAGE

- Our dropdown menu system was a success
- The same principle can be applied to an entire theme
- Massive complications
  - Cross-browser themes are simple to make
  - Extending to a template generator → not so simple!
- Took 4 months off from PhD in chemistry
  - CSS framework
  - WordPress Theme framework
  - Editing panel





# EDITING PANEL

close

## Export your WordPress Theme

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Folder name       | <input type="text" value="basic_blue"/>                                 |
| Theme name        | <input type="text" value="Basic Blue"/>                                 |
| Theme URL         | <input type="text" value="http://pixopoint.com/basic-blue/"/>           |
| Theme Description | <input type="text" value="A basic blue design"/>                        |
| Theme Version     | <input type="text" value="1.0"/>  |
| Theme Comment     | <input type="text"/>  |
| Theme Author      | <input type="text" value="Ryan Hellyer"/>                               |
| Theme Author URL  | <input type="text" value="http://ryanhellyer.net/"/>                    |
| Screenshot URL    | <input type="text" value="http://pixopoint.com/uploads/basicblue.png"/> |

Export

*We recommend the following WordPress plugins for your site.*

- [Multi-level Navigation](#) (total control over your dropdown menu)
- [ICanLocalize](#) (language translation tool)
- [WP SlimBox 2](#) (slick jQuery powered lightbox clone)
- [WP e-Commerce](#) (make money from your site)
- [WordPress Wiki](#) (make a Wiki with WordPress)

## PANEL PIXOPOINT TEMPLATE GENERATOR EDITING

### Submit Design

| Templates | Overall      | Header      |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Main Menu | Sub Menu     | Sidebars    |
| Posts     | Headings     | Footer      |
| Forum     | Widget areas | Upload/save |

### Templates

Our free templates:

[Basic blue](#) (WordPress)

[Revolution generated](#) (WordPress)

[Hellish Simplicity](#) (WordPress)

[Aqua Vaccinium](#) (WordPress)

[Yoghourt](#) (WordPress)

[Nature \(incomplete - premium members only\)](#)

If you have any designs you think would be suitable for adding to our collection of templates, please let us know via [our forum](#).

### Submit Design

### Premium

[Logout](#)

### Want to advertise here?

We are looking for potential advertising partners. If you would like to advertise in this spot or on other areas of our site/services please [contact us](#) for further information.

- Export buttons



# Template Generator

## Submit Design

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## Submit Design

## Premium

To access the premium features of the template generator you need a [premium subscription](#).

Username:

Password:

## Translate your blog

For site translation PixoPoint recommend ICanLocalize, a localization service which makes professional translation affordable for small businesses.

ICanLocalize can translate anything; from a single sentence to an entire website! The entire process is tailored around your needs, designed especially for small businesses. You don't have to be a huge corporation to get the best service from us; we specialize in helping small businesses go global.

Visit [ICanLocalize](#) now to find out how to gain extra traffic from new international visitors to your site. [Click here to find out more about the translation services offered by ICanLocalize](#)

Tuesday, July 21, 2009

[FEED](#) [COMMENTS](#)

# Revolution *generated*

[forum](#) [archives](#) [about](#) [contact](#) [generator](#) [home](#)

FEATURED [Flyouts demo](#) [Dead link 1](#) [Dead link 2](#) [Dead link 3](#) [Dead link 4](#) [Dead link 5](#) [TESTES](#) [UNCATEGORIZED](#) [LINKS](#)

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| July 2009     | Dead link 2 |
| February 2009 | Dead link 3 |
| January 2009  | Dead link 4 |
| December 2008 | Dead link 5 |
| November 2008 |             |
| June 2008     |             |
| May 2008      |             |
| March 2008    |             |
| February 2008 |             |
| January 2008  |             |

| NEW | POSTS | LAST POSTER | FRESHNESS |
|-----|-------|-------------|-----------|
| 4   | Bob   | 1 week      |           |
| 7   | Tom   | 1 week      |           |
| 4   | Tom   | 1 week      |           |
| 2   | Ryan  | 1 week      |           |
| 1   | Ryan  | 1 week      |           |

### FORUMS

| MAIN THEME     | TOPICS | POSTS |
|----------------|--------|-------|
| bbPress themes | 28     | 124   |

**Beta: bbPress Forum Theme Generator**

### Featured Content

**PAGES**

- » bbPress
- » Contact
- » Contact Us
- » Our Location
- » test1
- » test 2
- » FAQ
- » Links

**CATEGORIES**

- » Featured
- » Generator
- » Plugins
- » Themes

## Generator



### Template Generator Update

We've completed a large update today for the PixoPoint Template Generator....



### HTML example page

To help show the various changes made in the PixoPoint template generator, we've...



### Export to WordPress

WordPress is a powerful Open Source blogging application. The PixoPoint template...

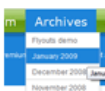
[Read More Posts From This Category](#)

## Plugins



### PixoPoint Menu plugin

It has been a long time coming, but we are pleased to announce that our new PixoPoint...



### Multi-level Navigation plugin Update Version 1.6

After extensive testing, a new heavily updated version of the PixoPoint Multi-level...



### WP SlimBox2 plugin

The WP SlimBox2 plugin for WordPress is a jQuery version of the WordPress Slimbox...

[Read More Posts From This Category](#)

## Templates

PixoPoint.com

| LATEST DISCOVERIES |
|--------------------|
| WordPress          |
| WordPress          |
| WordPress          |
| WordPress          |
| WordPress          |

### Beta: bbPress Forum Theme Generator

The PixoPoint Template Generator now supports bbPress themes. You may edit the colour scheme for your theme via the new 'forum' tab and export it via a new 'Export to bbPress' link in the 'Upload/Save' tab in the generator. bbPress... [Read more](#)

## Recent Posts

- [PixoPoint WordPress Unzipper](#)
- [PixoPoint Menu plugin](#)
- [Beta: bbPress Forum Theme Generator](#)
- [Dropdown shadows](#)
- [Simple CMS theme update](#)
- [Multi-level Navigation plugin Update Version 1.6](#)
- [Revolution Generated - magazine style template](#)
- [Web host failure](#)
- [WP SlimBox2 plugin](#)
- [Template Generator Update](#)

## Categories

- [featured](#)
- [Generator](#)
- [Plugins](#)
- [Templates](#)
- [Uncategorized](#)

## Archives

- [July 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)
- [February 2008](#)
- [January 2008](#)

## Recent Comments

- [Ryan: Paul - I'm sure that is possib](#)
- [Paul: Scot - check out sorting optio](#)
- [Ryan: Scott - Yep, the built in page](#)
- [Scot: Ryan Wondering if there is a](#)
- [Scot: Ryan Great plugin, wondering](#)

# EXAMPLE SITES



## LEIDEN SUNSET

Posted on Mar 29th 2009 by Ryan.

Vicki Argyle and I experienced this awesome sunset while in Leiden in the Netherlands.



### CATEGORIES

- » [Animals](#)
- » [Asia](#)
- » [Australia](#)
- » [Canada](#)
- » [Chemistry](#)
- » [Europe](#)
- » [Favourites](#)
- » [Middle East](#)
- » [New Zealand](#)
- » [Random](#)
- » [Skating](#)
- » [USA](#)
- » [Videos](#)
- » [Web Development](#)

### PAGES

- » [About](#)
- » [Contact](#)
- » [Guestbook](#)
- » [Links](#)

Search for:

# Dunedin Ice Hockey Association

home beginners » gallery » members » contact about forum

CLUB NIGHT Learning to play in Dunedin NEDIN ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE SOUTHERN ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE OTHER COMPETITIONS »

 Search

Learning to play in  
Dunedin

Introduction

Equipment Guide

Glossary of Hockey

Terms

Ice Hockey Positions

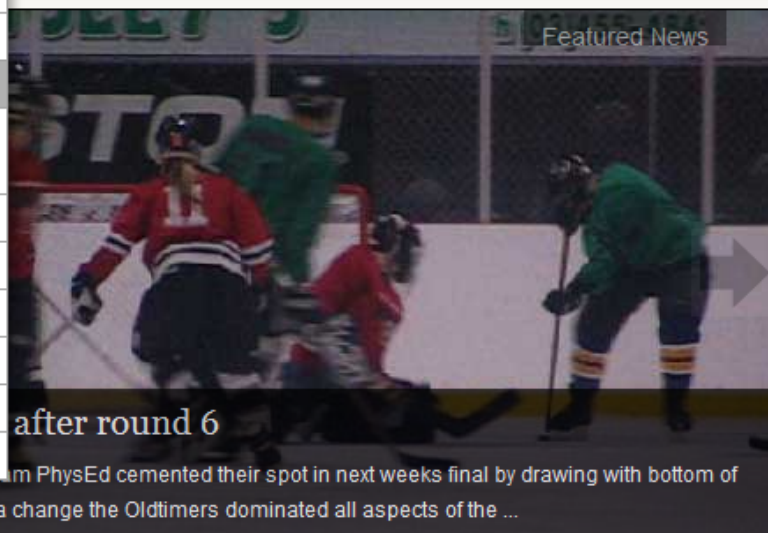
Learning to Skate

Puck Handling

Rink

Rules

Shooting Basics



Featured News

## DIHL after round 6

In the first game of the round 6 PhysEd cemented their spot in next weeks final by drawing with bottom of the table Oldtimers, 4-4. For a change the Oldtimers dominated all aspects of the ...

## Upcoming events

### Tuesday, July 21

6:00pm Peewee practice

8:30pm Checking Series

9:30pm Oldtimers Series

### Thursday, July 23

5:00pm KiwiHockey

6:00pm Midget practice

7:00pm Junior/SNC practice

### Saturday, July 25

5:30pm Club Night: Atom/Peewee

6:30pm Peewee/Bantam

7:30pm Shinny - all welcome

 Google Calendar

Visit the [DIHA Calendar](#) to see the entire event schedule.

## Local news



### Shinny: Saturday 25 July 7.30

After peewee and bantam house leagues on Saturday night, the club will be running a game of Shinny. 1) no goalies are allowed 2) a shinny ball is used,...



### DIHL SNC Finals schedule

Here is the updated schedule for the DIHL SNC finals.

## Regional news



### Southern U13

Promotional poster for the Southern U13 team is attached. Best of luck in Auckland guys! U13 southern 2009



### Wanted: SNC players to compete at Nationals

Anyone that is interested in travelling to Auckland to compete in Nationals in September as an SNC player, please contact Diane Elliot

## News Archive

- 2009
- 2008
- 2007
- 2006
- 2005

## Links

- [Ice Stadium](#)
- [DISC](#)
- [Christchurch SNC](#)

More on our links page.

# PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

- Closed source
  - Bug fixing very difficult
  - Dynamically generated themes → “usually” works fine
- Editing panel
  - Poor user interface
  - Users need to ‘figure it out’ first
- Only supports WordPress properly
  - Originally intended to support SMF, SilverStripe, Drupal, phpBB and bbPress
  - Due to structural errors, adding support for new systems was very difficult
- The solution?





## TEST BED – PIXOPOINT MENU PLUGIN

- Features required for new template generator tested on a smaller scale in new menu plugin
- WebLogToolsCollection.com plugin competition provided a perfect way to test out new ideas
- Good motivation to get it completed on time ☺



WordPress Plugin Competition 2009

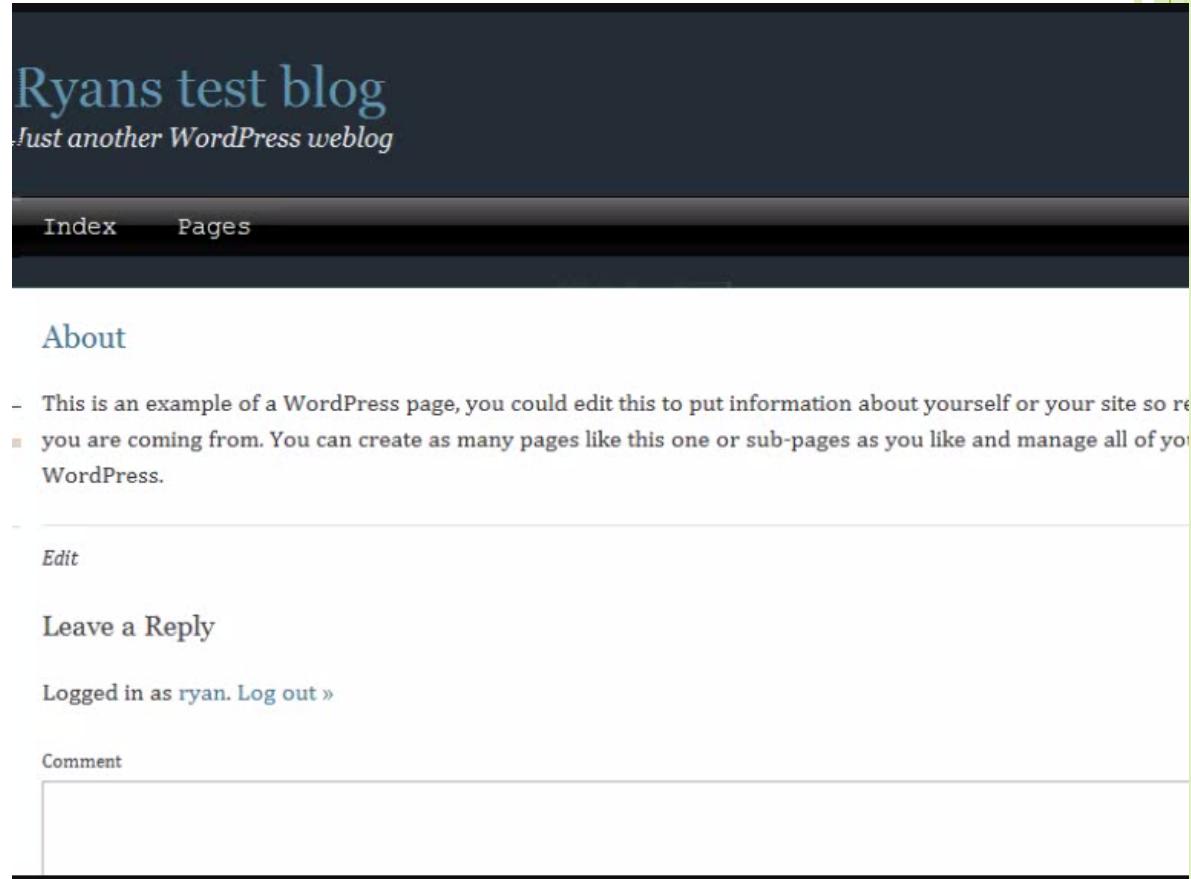
# PIXOPOINT MENU PLUGIN – EDITING PANEL

- Users wanted to edit their menu on their own site
- Originally needed to use PixoPoint.com to get CSS
- New plugin places editing panel on the **users site**
- Plugin sends data back to PixoPoint.com for processing
- CSS is sent back to users site, where it is stored in their WP database
- Demo ...



# PIXOPOINT MENU PLUGIN – DEMO

- Users wanted easier way to control menu arrangement
  - Widget style drag and drop
- Pulldown menus
- Some settings in tab



## BACK TO THE TEMPLATE GENERATOR ...

- How does the plugin help the template generator?
- There will only be one "theme"
  - available on WordPress.org
  - built in editing panel
  - Options will be sent to PixoPoint.com for processing
  - PixoPoint.com will send CSS back for storage in the WP database
- WordPress Mu compatible



# OPEN SOURCING ADVANTAGES



- Core of template generator will become open source
- Open source allows for:
  - Users submitted patches (time saver)
  - Can ask questions in public (ie: help forums)
- Crowd sourcing of editing panel
- Only need to maintain one theme
- Conclusion ...



# THANKS FOR LISTENING



- The Brooker Bunch
- Greg Yingling (transientmonkey.com)
- Paul O'Brien (pmob.co.uk)
- Dan Milward (instinct.co.nz)
- Jeff Chandler (wptavern.com)
- SitePoint staff (sitepoint.com/forums/)
- For more info.
  - <http://ryanhellyer.net/>
  - <http://pixopoint.com/>

