Gutenberg now, what’s next and how to use it today.

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Presentation to Cornershop Creative
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What we’ll cover today!

• What is Gutenberg (recap).
• What’s coming soon.
• Next steps for Gutenberg and WordPress.
• Ways to use Gutenberg more effectively today.
• How to stay up to date.
What is Gutenberg?
Gutenberg

• It’s more than just “the editor”.
• 2nd phase - “Customization”
• Developed as **Featured Plugin**:
• Merged into Core:
What is coming soon?
WordPress 6.0 features in 4mins - be upgrade ready

ALL FEATURES

WORDPRESS

6.0

IN 4MINS

Watch on YouTube
What’s next for Gutenberg?
WordPress 6.1+
https://github.com/WordPress/gutenberg/issues/33094

- More editor tools.
- Increasing emphasis on patterns.
- Expanded style system.
- Intrinsic design controls.
- Block theme building improvements.
More Editor tools

- Dedicated UI for Navigation structure.
- Browse mode - click around your site whilst editing.
- Enhancements to template browsing experience.
- Loading states, speed, performance and a11y.
Increasing emphasis on Patterns

- Section pattern page builder mode.
- Semantic patterns - surface based on context where being added.
- Improved previewing experience when browsing block patterns.
Expanded Style System

- Ability to style based on interaction state (e.g. :hover, :focus).
- Style Engine - consistent API for rendering the styling for blocks across front and back end.
- Improved integration with Global Styles.
- Enhanced typography controls.
- Expanded support for post Feature Images.
Intrinsic design controls

- Adjust more things based on breakpoint.
- Responsive / auto-layout controls.
Block theme building improvements

- Create more template types from the editor.
- Remove coupling of templates and parts when switching Themes.
- Improvements to ability to curate editor experience (e.g. theme.json role based enable/disable, great fidelity...etc).
Roadmap

- Phase 1 (complete).
- Phase 2 is customization (in progress).
- Phase 3 is collaborative editing.
- Phase 4 is multilingual support.
Ways to use Gutenberg more effectively today*.

*with WordPress 6.0
#1: Block Styles


- Allow alternative styles to be applied to existing blocks.
- Adds a className to the block’s wrapper.
- Allow you to provide customised styles for various blocks and even make that style the default.
- Needs to be toggled for each block - best for simple use cases.
- register_block_style()
- Not portable between Themes.
#2: Block Patterns


- Predefined block layouts and configurations.
- Available from the “Patterns” tab of the block inserter.
- Can be modified as required on per instance basis.
- Great for crafting “sections” from which clients can build their own pages.
- Add a `/patterns` directory and provide one PHP file with metadata in comment (or `register_block_pattern`).
- Create via the editor and copy+paste into PHP file.
#3: Page Patterns

https://make.wordpress.org/core/2022/05/03/page-creation-patterns-in-wordpress-6-0/

- New with WP 6.0!
- Provide patterns that represent an part of/an entire page.
- Display in a modal when creating a new Page.
- Similar to Post object templates feature but more flexible and easier to register.
- Same method as for Block Patterns except Block Types meta must include `core/post-content`. 
#4: Template and Block Locking

https://make.wordpress.org/core/2022/01/08/locking-blocks-in-wordpress-5-9/
https://make.wordpress.org/core/2022/05/05/block-locking-settings-in-wordpress-6-0/

- API in 5.9 but a new UI is landing in WP 6.0.
- Ability to restrict manipulation (removal and/or movement) of blocks.
- Can be added at a template level (template_lock) or at a block level (lock attribute).
- Can be overridden in the UI by default, but this can be restricted via PHP filters.
- Check out github.com/ryanwelcher/gutenberg-block-level-locking
#5: Guide content creation with theme.json

https://mkaz.blog/wordpress/using-theme-json-in-a-classic-theme/
https://matiasventura.com/post/the-theme-json-horizon/
https://developer.wordpress.org/block-editor/how-to-guides/themes/theme-json/

- Introduced in 5.8 and can be used in block *and* classic themes.
- Control branding and layout on a global and a per-block basis.
- Enable or disable core blocks.
- Disable things you don’t want (e.g. custom colors!).
- Opt in/out of UI controls via appearanceTools setting.
- Use the schema to get code editor autocomplete and linting.
#6: Create your own blocks


- If you need *full* control and customization.
- Comes with maintenance overhead - aim to make generic across all your projects.
- Consider extending Core blocks instead:
  - Block Variations (like Block Styles with super powers!).
  - Block Filters.
- Use create/block (JS/React) or consider ACF.
More on curated experiences

● I have a growing list of resources on my blog at:
  https://aheadcreative.co.uk/articles/resources-for-creating-curated-experiences-with-the-wordpress-block-editor/

● Remember:
  ○ mix and match the tools to create highly tailored and curated experiences.
  ○ Use theme.json even in your Classic Themes.
  ○ This is all still evolving. Please report Issue you find or feature requests.
How can I stay up to date?
“Gutenberg is moving so quickly that it’s really difficult to keep up with all the changes that are coming. Can you all just slow down a bit?”
Resources

- What’s New in Gutenberg series:
  https://make.wordpress.org/core/tag/gutenberg-new/

- Gutenberg Changelog Podcast:
  https://gutenbergtimes.com/podcast/

- YouTube:
  - https://www.youtube.com/c/AnneMcCarthy/
  - https://www.youtube.com/c/JamieMarsland
  - https://aheadcreative.co.uk/youtube (me!)

- Get involved - Core Editor chat
  https://make.wordpress.org/chat/
  https://make.wordpress.org/core/tag/core-editor-agenda/
Thank you! Any questions?

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