

Project Approach Explanation

- Objective
 - Split the project into two separate WordPress installations with different roles, connected to each other:
 - Domain = showcase site with my custom code (HTML/CSS/JS).
 - Subdomain = student platform fully powered by WordPress for registration, purchases, and document access.
- Main domain (BRIGHTFUTURE.COM)
 - WordPress installed only as a container to serve my custom-coded front page (HTML/CSS/JS), giving me full freedom of design: animations, 3D, storytelling, SEO.
 - No users, no database dependency here: a fast, secure, public site.
 - Clear CTAs pointing to the platform: "Login", "Register", "My Dashboard".
- Subdomain (PUPIL-BRIGHTFUTURE.COM)
 - A standard WordPress installation, used in a practical way: user/role management, payments, permissions, and content delivery.
 - Handles student registration/login, dashboard, and access to documents.
 - Entirely built in WordPress so you can easily update texts, PDFs, courses, and permissions without touching code.
- Access model for documents
 - Public preview: thumbnail or first pages visible to everyone.
 - Full access: restricted to logged-in students with permissions after purchase.
- Payments & permissions
 - Payments handled with Stripe Checkout.
 - On successful payment, the document ID is added to the user (via usermeta or a bridge table) → instant access.
- PDF delivery & protection
 - PDFs are not served via direct URLs; instead, a protected PHP endpoint validates session and permission.
 - The viewer inside the platform decides between preview vs. full view based on user permissions.
- UX flow
 - User lands on BRIGHTFUTURE.COM → sees the fast, custom front page.
 - Clicks CTA → goes to PUPIL-BRIGHTFUTURE.COM → registers/logs in.
 - Previews, purchases, and unlocks the full PDFs.
 - On return login, sees previously purchased documents linked to their account.
- Key benefits of the dual WordPress approach
 - Simplicity for everyone: the marketing site is pure front-end; the platform is managed via WordPress. The client can update platform content easily.
 - Design freedom on the front page (no limits of editors or blocks).
 - Security: sensitive user data lives only on the subdomain.
 - Performance: the public home is ultra-light and fast; the platform loads only what it needs.
 - Maintainability: changes or issues in one site don't affect the other.
 - Scalability: design and functionality evolve independently, yet remain connected.
 - Unified ecosystem: both run on WordPress → same stack, easier hosting setup, familiar update flow.
- Analytics & SEO
 - Shared GA4 property between domain and subdomain to track the full funnel (from visit to purchase).
 - SEO focus on the front page; the platform can be de-indexed except for necessary routes (login, checkout if required).
- Recommended setup
 - Domain: install WordPress, create a minimal theme/template, and load my custom HTML/CSS/JS for the front page; add CTAs linking to the platform.
 - Subdomain: install WordPress, configure Login, Register, Dashboard pages, payments (Woo/Stripe), and protected endpoints for PDFs.
 - Ensure HTTPS on both, cache the front page, and exclude sensitive routes (/login, /checkout, /my-account) from caching.
- Why this approach is better than having everything in one site
 - Simpler for the client: they update the platform in WordPress without touching the custom-coded front page.
 - More secure & stable: the marketing layer won't break because of LMS plugins or platform changes.
 - Better performance: a lightweight home and a separate, optimized platform.
 - More control: maximum visual quality on the domain and maximum practicality on the subdomain.
 - Scalable long-term: growth in design or functionality without unnecessary complexity.

In summary: two separate but connected WordPress installations, each optimized for its mission. The front page shines in design and speed, while the platform offers practical management, permissions, and payments — a structure that ensures simplicity, security, and scalability for both the academy and its students.