

# HOW WILL MAGENTO EXTENSIONS FIT INTO PWA?



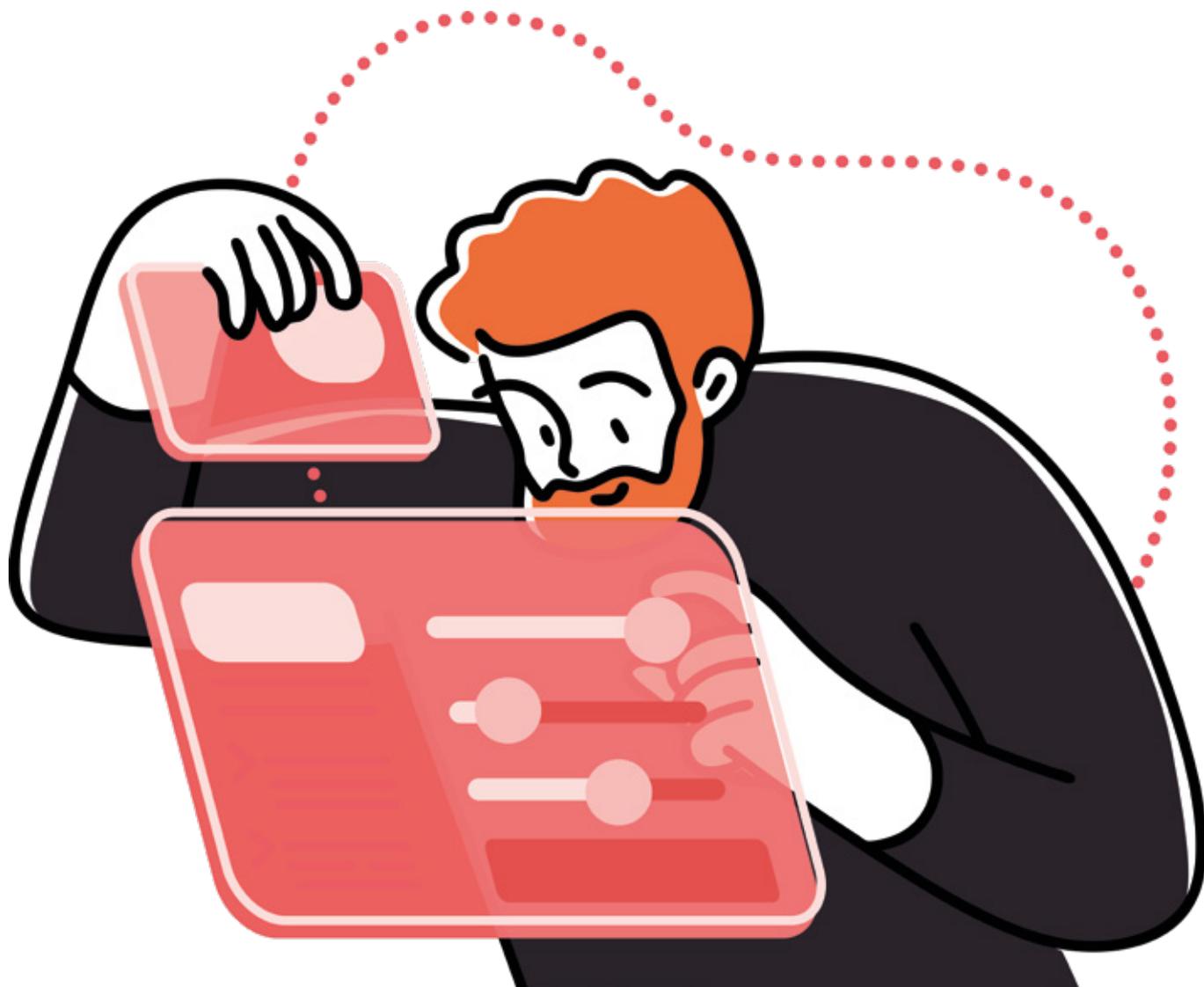
## IN THIS ARTICLE YOU'LL FIND OUT:

- Do Magento extensions work with PWA?
- What does the PWA market look like so far?
- Vue or React - which is a better option?

!! **Jisse Reitsma**

---

People love Magento. People hate Magento. But what I have learned about the current Magento 2 frontend is that everybody hates it. Its weird mix of Require, jQuery, Knockout and custom code is outdated and overly complex. I would even go as far as to say that Magento 2 projects have become more expensive simply because this frontend is so complex.



## THE PROMISE OF A NEW FRONTEND

The PWA hype might be a healthy reaction to the dissatisfaction with this frontend. I have been training Magento developers on React now for some time and have learned a few things from it: Redux and Apollo might be a bit overwhelming at first. But once you get the hang of it, it is a breeze compared to the current frontend. To proof my point, I have been building a dummy shop myself (with React, Redux, Bootstrap, Apollo and GraphQL) and got routing, CMS parts, catalog, a cart and login working within 24 hours or less.

The promise of React (and likewise Vue) is that it becomes easier over time. The learning curve is much shorter than with the regular M2 frontend and at the end of that curve, it becomes fun. And it allows for faster development.

## THE PWA LANDSCAPE AS OF YET

The Magento ecosystem is moving towards PWA. About three years ago, Magento was struggling with its releases of M2 and for the frontend, this opened up opportunities for other players. Dozens of companies ran Angular, Vue and React projects, many of them were dumped on GitHub. Only a few of those refactored their code for proper sharing: DEITY (React), FrontCommerce (React) and VueStoreFront (VueJS). Since then, other solutions have popped up like ScandiPWA (React) NeoStoreFront (React) and there might be more.

Now that Magento PWA Studio has stable releases (what?), some people seem to be waiting for a ready-made shop without the need for much customization. They are wrong. The real deal is with the technology.

*You don't need to wait for Magento, you don't need to choose between DEITY or VueStoreFront. The technology is already out there and ready to use. All of those PWA providers are proof of that. Everybody is able to build a PWA now.*

## THE FIRST CATCH: EXTENSIONS

There is, of course, a catch: PWA providers might be building great solutions. But if none of those providers offer out-of-the-box support for Magento extensions, how can they even be compared with the current Magento frontend? How can these solutions be the future if they do not incorporate Magento extensions?

I can't offer a straight answer to this, no one can. But I believe the question itself has been put wrongly. It is similar to the assumption that Magento 1 extensions would work with Magento 2. The architecture is different, so are extensions. A better question would be how extensions will fit into this picture.

## THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

So much for the generic PWA rant. The problem is that the devil is in the details. Without understanding the technology, it is impossible to make proper choices regarding PWA. For instance, one of the more popular PWA providers of the moment is VueStoreFront and they have chosen Vue. All of the other PWA providers mentioned above, including Magento, have opted for React. Does that make Vue a bad option? No, it's just a matter of taste.

*The problem is that the devil is in the details. Without understanding the technology, it is impossible to make proper choices regarding PWA.*

## VUE OR REACT?

When I'm asked whether developers should opt for React or Vue, I usually say "whatever". There are differences in the ecosystem, the specificities of the language itself, religious wars have started because of it. In general, you could say that React is more complex than Vue at first, so Vue is easier to start with. However, Vue becomes also complex over time (and in e-commerce apps) and that's where the initial investment in React could pay off. Bottomline is that you either like the one or the other or both (or none). The initial gut feeling probably leads to the right choice. And if not, you simply switch to the other option after a few years.

