

Bugs in Devvit (first 2 are most important, others in no particular order):

- Forms (technically not Devvit) doesn't indicate in a UI that required image fields are required.
- Webp image upload doesn't work
 - Go here
https://www.reddit.com/r/reddcipestest/comments/1i5yvep/grilled_cheese_cake/
 - Click dots in upper left
 - Click "New"
 - Put text in required field and a webp image in Picture field
 - Click "Post"
 - Observe that there is not a new post (fastest to check here
<https://www.reddit.com/user/reddcipes/>)
 - Repeat above with a different image format
 - Observe that there is a new post
- iOS context.dimensions is sometimes undefined for some of my posts in the feed of r/workittest – it seems like it's correct in PDP all the time and I'm having trouble getting a consistent repro
 - I'm also noticing that it reports 370 width in PDP and 402 in the feed, yet the view in the feed is actually smaller.
- iOS doesn't immediately update when you playtest
 - Workaround is quitting and reopening Reddit
- iOS doesn't send onPress to <text> elements in blocks
 - Workaround is to wrap the text in a vstack and put the onPress in the vstack
- Success-background-hovered is not implemented: "Could not parse color: success-background-hovered" but is documented here
<https://developers.reddit.com/docs/blocks/colors#:~:text=success%2Dbackground%2Dhovered>
- Mobile image cropping is inconsistent compared to web if you don't define imageWidth and imageHeight (h/t u/Xenc for identifying that these two properties cause the difference)
 - Workaround is to define imageWidth and imageHeight. I used dimensions of original image for them, then have the latter 2 calculated using context.dimensions.
- Mobile text wrapping is inconsistent with web:
 - On web, go here
https://www.reddit.com/r/reddcipestest/comments/1i5yvep/grilled_cheese_cake/
 - Click Instructions
 - Observe text is wrapping
 - On mobile, go here
https://www.reddit.com/r/reddcipestest/comments/1i5yvep/grilled_cheese_cake/
 - Click Instructions
 - Observe text is not wrapping

Feedback for Devvit (rough priority order):

- I have quite a complicated state at this point. Most of it is persisted to Redis, and then all of it needs to be available with useSate to some components, though not all components read and write from all parts of the state. I'd love an abstraction like Redux to coordinate all of this. I'd guess I could build the app about twice as fast if there were a really good framework to handle this
 - Current workaround uses a suggestion from Ask AI, and at least examples like this in the docs could be helpful in the short term
<https://discord.com/channels/1050224141732687912/1334199006087221440/1334202386733989938>
- I want to style menu items in a way that means buttons won't work, but I want them to still respond to hover. I wish blocks had a way to style buttons more (customizing their shape further) or a way to add hover interaction to other elements.
- Related to the above, more customization please on everything that's an enum like "small"—it's confusing to not have options for 1px gaps and padding, though the enum suggestions are helpful to still have alongside the option to pick px and % (see a confused dev here
<https://www.reddit.com/r/Devvit/comments/1jht2ro/comment/mjaphgp/>)
- Forms are good but not great for user input into a blocks app
 - Would be nice to have "multi-fields" where a user can choose how many to add, and add, remove, and reorder them.
 - Select fields don't work well for large lists:
 - Need to be able to use a keyboard to skip to or search for options
 - Need to see more than ~3 at a time if context UI tall enough
 - For an example, go to
https://www.reddit.com/r/workittest/comments/1piu5d/strong_lifts_day_1/
 click "Do This Workout", click Hamburger Menu in top left, then click New Workout and try out a dropdown.
 - Sometimes I have seen dimensions of fields not makes sense for the browser dimensions, but this needs testing by a better QA person than me to get repros and details.
 - I have quite a complicated state at this point. Most of it is persisted to Redis, and then all of it needs to be available with useSate to some components, though not all components read and write from all parts of the state. I'd love an abstraction like Redux to abstract all of this.
- Apps with text could really do with a larger dynamic height. Compare with text posts, which can be quite tall.
- SVGs on mobile, please!
- A CLI for viewing and editing Redis would be really helpful for development and debugging. Less important for published apps in public subreddits, in case there's a security concern.
- It would help to have animations in blocks. For example, I want to show paging animations through my app so that the users understand where things went relative to each other.
 - Similarly simple sound effects, like when a button is clicked.

- Ideally videos within blocks would be helpful, too. A mod has already requested videos of how to do an exercise.
- Could we have a monospace font in blocks, please? My use case is a timer that counts up every second, but I don't want to see the characters wiggling around.
 - Workaround is to encase each character in its own vstack of a fixed width
- The publish process and runAs approval process could use a way to look up status. At the current scale, maybe just an automatic post in r/devvit could do the trick and be a fun thing to create engagement and sharing?
 - It's also a little awkward to learn that you need the runAs form and wait for the next app review to get it. A lot of iterations to submit each thing and then wait for approval.
 - It's also slow going when "devvit publish" runs fine in a codebase that has no readme (they never do by default), and rather than the computer telling you immediately, you have to wait for human review. It's totally fair to expect these to exist, and would be great to encode that expectation into the devvit cli!
- New posts don't show up in subreddits instantly. This occasionally makes it feel like the app is broken when it is working.
 - Workaround is to always ui.navigateTo the new post.
 - Is there a way for Reddit to show posts even if they haven't fully gone through moderation or indexing for the subreddit, just to the user who is the author or mod or something?

Big philosophical soap box and related suggestions:

For an experienced developer, the hardest thing isn't anything about the framework or the engineering—y'all set that up to be really smooth. It's going from a working app to one that has an active userbase that's feeding in content, criticism, etc.

- The Devvit community is much better and proactive about helping with technical issues as they pop up than they are at testing, design suggestions, and critical feedback. Ultimately apps need a different source for this when they hit a certain part of their lifecycle.
- As a rhetorical question, what's the story for an app that is mostly built to turn into an app with tons of usage and an active community? And what can Reddit do to invest in the likelihood of that story working out?
- I think Experience Posts have a ton of promise sitting alongside other kinds of posts within a sub. Developer focus has skewed toward apps (mostly games) that just sit in their own subreddit, which could definitely be useful, too, but ultimately most of them could just be an app on any other platform, and there's not much differentiation to justify building it here. I think there's a whole untapped category of usage that could really change what Reddit looks like over the next decade, and these apps wouldn't be possible on another app store. So, keeping in mind that any app in Devvit is a little tricky to get out there in front of users, I'm focussing now in particular on apps intended for existing subreddits.
- Mods of established subreddits are shocking hostile to reach outs, which makes for a really rough developer experience. One subreddit banned me for messaging the mods a very polite explanation of what I was doing and why I was interested in hearing from

them or their users. Of 15 reach outs, one person provided substantive suggestions and context, and the rest was a combination of ghosting, asking me not to post to the sub, and that ban. No sub outside of r/devvit is comfortable with me posting about my app.

- On the flip side, mods have incredible context and are the perfect partners as potential designers/PMS/SMEs if they're willing to partner up on an app. I've found u/Xenc and u/SampleOfNone to be really strong examples of this. So there's amazing untapped potential out there, but Reddit needs to bridge the gap between people who can develop and people who know a given sub and subject—the intersection of those skills will be rare, so the volume of development Devvit should have can really only happen through collaboration.
- I'd love for a future hackathon to combine some of the above things: specifically focus on apps that fit into existing subs. Rally some mods that want to invest within their sub (to some, this would be really exciting), and involve mods throughout the process—maybe they're giving feedback throughout, maybe they have their own office hours, maybe they're even judges at the end, too.
- Consider hackathon prizes that invest in the future of a promising app. With the above concept, this could just be the promise to beta the winning app on the mods' sub. For any hackathon, maybe it's some credits to advertise your app within reddit or just get better exposure in the feed somehow (great for apps with their own subreddits, too). Maybe it's u/pl00h partnering with some winners to do reach out to new mods so that it's coming from an admin and not a random stranger.
- Do something like Netflix Preview Club, to foster an active community of power users who identify their value as testing and providing feedback, and their reward as voice plus exclusive early access. This is a little bit how some folks in the Devvit community operate, but lean into it more and give it a name and a system.
- Apps need ways to beta/preview/trial within a sub without immediately being installed for everyone and feeling like basically a commitment to support the app and its codebase forever.
 - I'd like to be able to share an app to an existing sub like "Look, it's the alpha of Workit running as a trial post within r/Stronglift5x5" instead of "I'm crossposting r/workit5x5 here." The latter feels too much like I'm trying to advertise other content and products and peel people away from the sub, when I'm actually interested in bringing a tool into that sub!
- Mods need more information and confidence in the future of reddit apps.
 - In particular, if Devvit's collaboration features are really smooth, and there's a story to tie mods themselves to open source ownership, it might be easier for them to invest.
- I think the Devvit Helper award was a step in the right direction on this front, by the way. I'd love to see people who are not developers who are more active in the hackathon, an maybe even rewarded for it. I've mentioned mods a lot, and they would be great (u/SampleOfNone is the best example of an engaged-in-devvit mod who is not a developer, I think), but I think there's a lot of room to make the early users of apps feel as much like participants as the developers, and I'm not sure that's exclusive to mods.

- I remember during the 2024 hackathon really enjoying r/playproximity, and rooting for it to win a prize. As a user of an app, that's a fun spot to be in, and it would actually be amazing if there were some kind of recognition (even if it's nominal) for the very early adopting users in addition to the creator. Twitch does this well with people who are early subs of a channel.

New stuff not in app feedback:

- setState in useAsync is a trap! And AI told me to use it
<https://discord.com/channels/1050224141732687912/1334199006087221440/1334202386733989938>
- CLI for Redis

Workit Todos:

- Fix daily posting after refactor
- Update README
- Completed summary should send you to the right places when you click a gif
- Deadlifts didn't keep previous weight for C
- C didn't get a message
- Daily 5x5 posts start with easy intro and commitment "Exercise"?
- Complex/circuit style AMRAP (for example <https://www.reddit.com/r/kettlebell/wiki/index/>)
- Timer pause button?
- Double increment deadlift?
- Leaderboard?
- Messages about this achievements
- Center exercises when possible (wide dimensions which allow plenty of space for nav bar) but continue to place off center when not possible (mobile)?
- Make Completion modal pretty?
- Add more Stats?
 - X redditors have done this exercise
 - Redditors totalled X weight on this exercise!
 - Based on previous workouts, you're setting an example for about X redditors who have yet to see this post!
 - Personal Bests
 - Graph of weights for one exercise
- Switch current exercise, just replacing the name and making weight optional?
- Superset authoring/editing?
- Show previous weight and reps somehow?
- Rest timer shouldn't run during AMRAP
- Timer configs to change color threshold or disable the timer
- Plate Calculator Diagram
 - Change barbell weight within plate calculator
- Link up posts as a regimen with navigation tools and maybe a pinned post
 - Bulk authoring
 - Author some with rules, like Starting Strength and Habit Nest
- Could have people seeing progress as it shows up, and responding/encouraging/coaching, possibly AI too
- Swap out exercises, on each step have it up/down/keep rep targets and weights based on how it went
- Pick next time's weight or add notes during exercise completion up
- Animate

- Scrolling
- Filling in Reps
- Weight updates
- Nav bar changes?
- Move authoring/editing to summary mode
- Refactor pending updates, state, and storage
 - Can update workout, template, collection, allWorkouts, allTemplates, exerciseToLastSet by processing a single list and doing all the updates in order.
 - collection, allWorkouts, allTemplates, and exerciseToLastSet can add stuff while keeping existing state from Redis
 - Nothing else should write to Redis
- View all my exercises (using allWorkouts)
- View all my templates (using allTemplates)
- Collection management, like deleting
- Swap out current exercise to one from database

Persistence Refactor

- Put it outside of render in a different thread? (not sure if possible in devvit)
- Put it in a different component (“)

Demo Script:

[Visuals of a personal trainer, a notebook, and a HIIT class]

What if a free app could be your personal trainer, workout log, and fitness class—all in one? And what if it could stop you from doom-scrolling Reddit mid-workout, while making your feed even better during recovery?

[Simple video walkthrough of Workit usage]

"Meet Workit—the Reddit-powered fitness app that lets you plan, share, and track workouts right in your favorite subreddits. Get expert-crafted routines, log progress, and stay accountable with an entire community backing you up.

[Screenshots of parts of the app, voice is like an excited gruffy race advertisement announcer]
Workit has all the features of premium fitness apps—without the price tag:

- Plate calculator
- Warmup suggestions
- Timers
- Reminders
- Automatic progression
- Supersets
- Graphs
- Achievements
- Exercise descriptions
- Gifs—wait, jiffs? Umm, animations!
- Optional accessory exercises
- Encouraging information

Every post is a new opportunity to get fit, and workouts are always social, because completing them starts a discussion in the comments.

[Pictures of matching subreddits with their exercise feeds, and subreddit names]

Give it a try now with StrongLifts 5x5 weight training, Starting Stretching, or Strength Supersets!