

# Zend Framework: Getting Started

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Mike Naberezny

# About Me

- Wrote the first line of code for the Zend Framework and built its website
- Coauthor of the Zend PHP 5 Certification

# Agenda

- Get a basic overview of the Zend Framework and how to start using it
- Learn about some useful components you might want to try in your applications
- Get some general tips on using ZF and learn about a few trouble spots you might want to avoid for smoother development

# Agenda

- Overview
- Download and Install
- Useful Libraries
- Trouble Spots
- Wrap Up
- Q&A Discussion

# Overview

# Overview

- Open-source, Commercial-friendly License
- Collection of PHP 5 libraries that may be useful for building web applications
- Zend's "PHP Collaboration Project" is their way of giving back to the community by dedicating resources to development
- Supported by Zend, some of its partners, and the Zend Framework community

# License

- Uses the new BSD License so commercial use is not restricted
- Contributors must submit an Apache-style License Agreement (CLA) to ensure IP rights of others are not violated

# Development

- PHP 5 Only
- File structure and naming conventions compatible with PEAR
- Mostly the same coding standards as PEAR.
- Provides requirements for testing and documentation
- Guided by Zend through their proposal process



# Real World Usage

- [framework.zend.com](http://framework.zend.com)
- [devzone.zend.com](http://devzone.zend.com)
- [phpdeveloper.org](http://phpdeveloper.org)
- IBM's QEDWiki Project
- Others?

# Support

- Nine mailing lists\*
- Nice documentation (DocBook) available to download or read online
- Community Wiki (Confluence)
- Issue Tracker (JIRA)
- Zend! It is nice of them to donate their resources to an open source project.

\*Community members try to answer questions on the mailing lists. Often, dedicated Zend resources will also participate and try to provide help.

# Development Trees

- **Core** - Released somewhat frequently in .zip and .tar.gz format, includes bundled documentation and tests
- **Incubator** - Less stable, more frequent changes, intended to be moved to Core once API stabilizes, tests completed, and documentation written
- **Laboratory** - Code being proposed to Incubator or miscellaneous developer-supported code not destined for Core

# Core

- Zend\_Cache
- Zend\_Config
- Zend MVC\*
- Zend\_Db\*
- Zend\_Feed
- Zend\_Filter
- Zend\_Http\_Client
- Zend\_Json
- Zend\_Log
- Zend\_Mail
- Zend\_Pdf
- Zend\_Search
- Zend Services
- Zend\_XmlRpc

\* Trouble Spot

# Incubator

- Zend\_Acl
- Zend\_Calendar
- Zend\_Console
- Zend MVC\*
- Zend\_Currency
- Zend\_Date
- Zend\_Db\_Xml
- Zend\_Form
- Zend\_Http\_Client\*
- Zend\_Locale
- Zend\_Mail\*
- Zend\_Measure
- Zend Servers
- Zend Services

\* Rewrite or significant change of an existing Core component.

# Laboratory

- Nothing significant yet
- May grow in the future as more proposals are developed

Download and Install

# Download

- Available only in its entirety and not as individual library downloads
- Not available for automatic installation with PEAR Installer (yet)
- Core is available in “stable” releases or nightly builds
- Everything else is available for anonymous checkout from the Subversion repository
- <http://framework.zend.com/download>



# Install

- “Officially” requires PHP 5.1.4. Most libraries work with earlier versions but dependencies are not tracked anywhere
- Some extensions may be required, such as GD for `Zend_Pdf`
- Install the files into your PEAR directory (preferable) or any directory in your `include_path`

# Useful Libraries

# Useful Libraries\*

- Zend\_Cache
- Zend\_Search\_Lucene
- Zend\_Feed
- Zend Services
- Zend\_Mail
- Zend\_XmlRpc
- Zend\_Pdf

\*There are many libraries in the Zend Framework that you may find useful. This is a selection that I have used and think you might find to be useful.

# Zend\_Cache

- Written by the authors of the successful PEAR caching package, Cache\_Lite
- Provides several forms of fragment and page caching through a flexible frontend interface system
- Many storage backends including APC, File system, Memcached, and SQLite
- Extensive unit tests and good documentation

# Zend\_Feed

- Swiss Army Knife for reading feeds
- Won't build the next Bloglines or Feedster but provides many useful features
- PHP 5 object overloading provides a convenient, SimpleXML-like interface to feed data
- Supports modifying feed and entity structures.
- Supports Atom Publishing Protocol

# Zend\_Mail

- Simplifies creating and sending email
- Simplifies dealing with attachments and MIME types
- SMTP transport available now, IMAP and other transports being developed

# Zend\_Pdf

- Able to both create new PDFs and also modify existing ones
- Supports drawing shapes, fills, rotations
- Able to insert JPEG, TIFF, and PNG images
- Text support including experimental TrueType font support

# Zend\_Search\_Lucene

- Reads and writes the same index file formats as Java Lucene 1.9 (mostly)
- Completely implemented in PHP - no C or Java components required
- Supports term, multi-term, and phrase queries. More queries being developed.
- Pluggable analysis, scoring, and storage containers



# Zend\_Service\_\*

- Amazon
- Flickr
- Yahoo
- More being developed

# Zend\_XmlRpc

- Brings the convenience of PHP 5's SOAP extension to XML-RPC clients
- Automatic type conversion between PHP native types and their XML-RPC equivalents, casting with type hints
- `Zend_XmlRpc_Server` available in the Incubator

# Trouble Spots

# Trouble Spots

- Zend Framework is not yet stable, so the API changes between releases and your code may break as a result.
- Certain components appear to receive quicker maintenance than others.
- You might want to check the bug tracker history before deciding to use a component.
- Zend and the community are working hard to smooth out the rough edges.

# Trouble Spots

- Zend\_Filter implementation is still incomplete and this might not be obvious when you start using it. Check the source for unimplemented functions first.
- Zend\_Mail works fine for simple mail but has some issues with MIME types, multipart email, and character encodings. It's currently being reworked in the Incubator.

# Zend\_Db

- Accounts for over 25% of all bugs in the issue tracker. The last significant bug fix was quite a while ago. Can you help them?
- It works for many common tasks but will probably give you grief. The PDO-based adapters are reasonably stable, best to avoid the others for now.
- Solar\_Sql\* predates Zend\_Db and continues to mature. It is extremely similar but fixes almost all of the Zend\_Db problems while providing additional features.
- AdoDB and PEAR's MDB2 are both excellent alternatives that are well tested and supported.

\*[http://solarphp.com/index.php/docs/read/Solar\\_Sql](http://solarphp.com/index.php/docs/read/Solar_Sql)

# Zend MVC

- Zend “MVC” consists of Zend\_Controller and Zend\_View (no Model)
- Zend\_Controller is presently being completely rewritten, it might be best to wait for that to finish first. It’s slated for completion in about two weeks.
- Zend\_View works well but hasn’t been updated in months and its helper library is very weak. Consider Smarty, Solar\_View (Savant), or others as an interim solution.

Wrap Up



# Wrap Up

- Visit <http://framework.zend.com> for more information and to download
- Both Zend Developer Zone and the Wiki have links to ZF tutorials and articles
- php|architect's April 2006 Issue
- Consider subscribing to the fw-general mailing list but especially the SVN commit list

Questions?

# Thank You

<http://mikenaberezny.com>

[mike@naberezny.com](mailto:mike@naberezny.com)