Enterprise PHP on IBM i

Alan Seiden – Strategic Business Systems aseiden@sbsusa.com

New England Midrange Users Group (NEMUG) Seekonk, Mass. June 17, 2009

Alan Seiden (me)

PHP on IBM i Developer / Consultant / Mentor Strategic Business Systems, Inc.





Developed IBM/COMMON's "Best Web Solution" of 2009



Contact: aseiden@sbsusa.com, 201-327-8746 x144

Blog/articles: alanseiden.com

Strategic Business Systems, Inc.

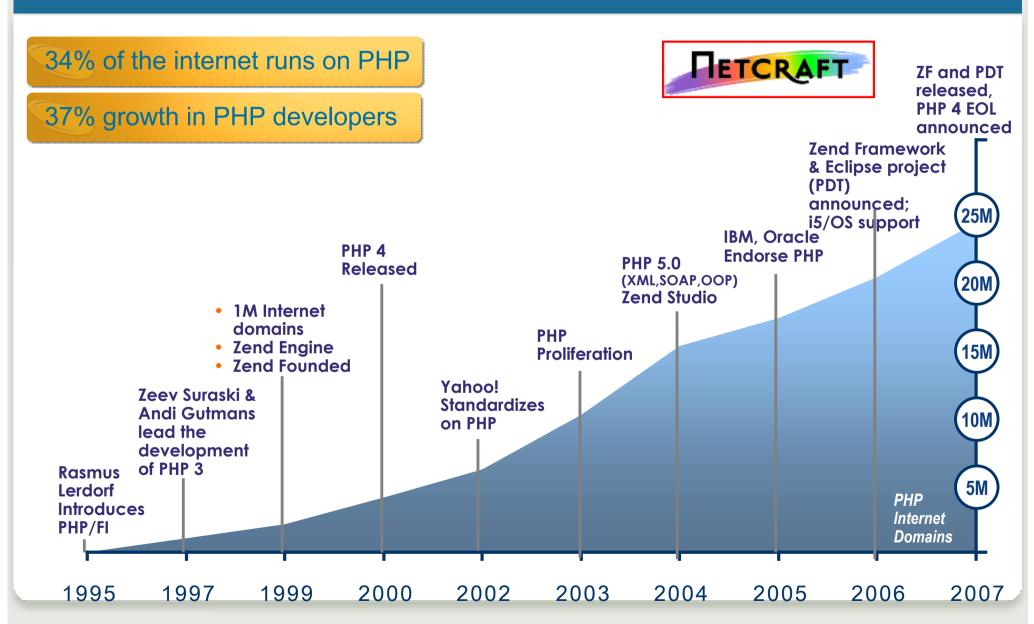
IBM partner since 1982

- IBM i (AS/400) hardware, software development, consulting
- Concentration in food & beverage and automotive industries
- HQ in northern New Jersey

Zend ("the PHP company") partner since 2008

- PHP's been our preferred web technology for ourselves and clients since 2005
- In addition to our consulting/development services, we offer Zend's training and software
- We represent Zend in the northeastern USA

PHP's growth as a web development language



Reasons for PHP's success

- Easy way to get data to Web
 - Generates ordinary HTML, viewable in any browser
- **Cross-platform**
- Offers gradual path of mastery
 - grass roots
 - pilot project
 - **Enterprise**
- **Open source**
 - Managed by Zend, "the PHP company"
 - Contributors from community and corporations

Open source is mainstream

http://www.economist.com/business/displaystory.cfm?STORY_ID=13743278

Economist.com

BUSINESS

Open-source software in the recession

Born free

May 28th 2009 From The Economist print edition

Open-source software firms are flourishing, but are also becoming less distinctive

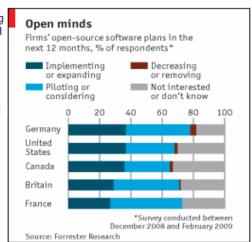
MANY technology firms are floundering amid the recession. But many of the ones that offer services tied to open-source software—free programs written by volunteers who collaborate online—are boasting double-digit growth. Sales at Red Hat, the world's biggest independent open-source firm with annual revenues of \$653m, grew by 18% year-on-year in the first quarter. More and more firms, particularly in Europe, seem prepared to embrace open source (see chart). "Budgets are tight and we think that is good for open source," said Jim Whitehurst, Red Hat's boss, when announcing the results.

Indeed, open source is so widely accepted that traditional software firms are beginning to dabble in it, while some open-source firms are starting to sell proprietary add-ons to open-source programs instead of charging to provide support to firms using open-source software. If current trends hold, traditional software firms and their open-source rivals will soon be hard to tell apart. "A new pragmatism is rising," says Matt Asay, an open-source advocate and an executive at Alfresco, which makes open-source software that helps firms manage digital content.

The "free and open-source software" movement, as it is officially called, has come a long way from its anti-establishment origins. Pioneers such as Richard Stallman did not want users to be locked into monolithic products, but to be able to change programs in whatever way they wanted, and to share their modifications.

For years, this software commons was no more than an obscure sideshow. But then the internet provided volunteer programmers with a way to co-operate cheaply. IBM and Oracle, two industry giants, threw their weight behind the Linux operating system, in part to weaken their rival Microsoft, After the dotcom bubble burst in 2001, many firms turned to Linux and other open-source software to save money.

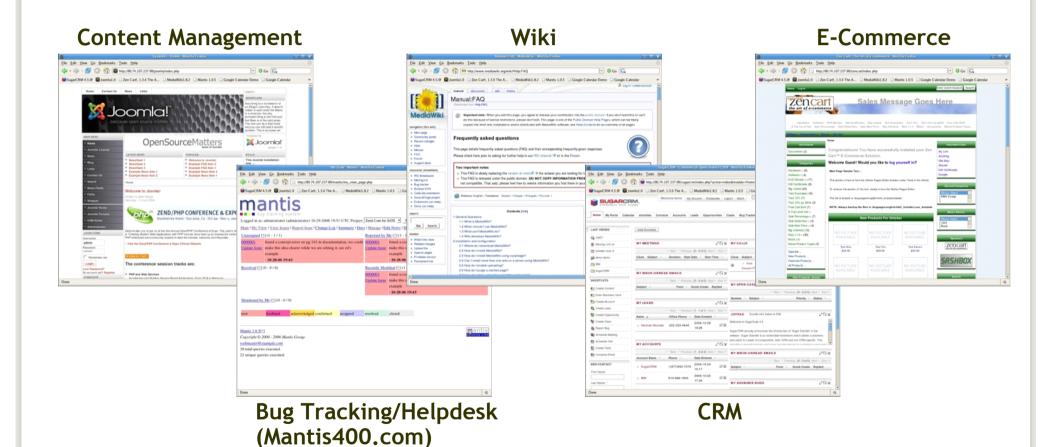
Cost is once again the main reason why companies are turning to open source, says Jeffrey Hammond of Forrester Research, a consultancy. Its success is no longer limited to basic software, such as Linux or



Who uses PHP?

- Yahoo, eBay, Wikipedia, Mazda, Disney, Facebook
 - I bet it's used somewhere in your company
- Open source developers 10,000+ projects
- **Strong community worldwide**
- 7 million+ developers

Downloadable applications (fine for i5/OS!) Most of these use MySQL database



Application demo: WordPress blog

10 Cool PHP Things

They're cool and they run on System i

WordPress + System i = Cool

October 23rd, 2007

This is my first blog post using WordPress 2.3 2.7.1 on System i. I just noticed that WordPress saved my draft automatically to the MySql database.

> Tags: blogging, cool, PHP, System i Posted in Uncategorized | Edit | No Comments »

Search

Pages

» About

Archives

» October 2007

Categories

» Uncategorized (1)

Blogroll

- » Development Blog
- » Documentation
- » Plugins
- » Suggest Ideas
- » Support Forum
- » Themes
- » WordPress Planet

Meta

- » Site Admin
- » Log out
- » Valid XHTML
- » WordPress

10 Cool PHP Things is proudly powered by WordPress Entries (RSS) and Comments (RSS).

PHP on i—a short history

- 2004: i5php.net
 - Unofficial PHP binary for "i" available online
- 2005: IBM and Zend got together
- 2006: Zend Core for i5/OS
 - Official release with help from IBM
 - i5 Toolkit, SMTP (email), Apache module (good performance)
 - Professional technical support from Zend
- 2007: Zend Studio and Platform
 - Studio: IDE/code editor and debugger
 - Platform: performance enhancer and code/bug profiler
- 2008: Zend Framework v1.7 enhanced for "i"

Why PHP on i

- Powerful, flexible, popular
- Runs completely on your good old "i"
- Backed by IBM
- Allows your teams to work together
 - Re-use RPG logic, called from PHP
 - Consolidate departmental solutions (Excel spreadsheets!) into your reliable db2 database

Typical stages of PHP on i

- **Grass roots**
 - Prove to yourself how well PHP works on i
- Pilot project(s)
 - Managers see potential value; project approval
- **Enterprise PHP**
 - Important projects, developed with experience

Grass roots stage

Grass roots stage

- Go ahead, kick the tires!
 - Download and install Zend Core (free)
 - Includes MySQL
 - Create a simple web page, reading/writing db2
 - Try open source software. Examples:
 - Mantis/400, mantis400.com
 - WordPress, wordpress.org
 - Prove it to yourself before "selling" to manager

What you must know: grass roots

Learn some basic HTML

- Try http://w3schools.com/html
- Tables (,,) useful for business data
- "View Source" in browser to borrow bits of HTML

Optional: learn as needed

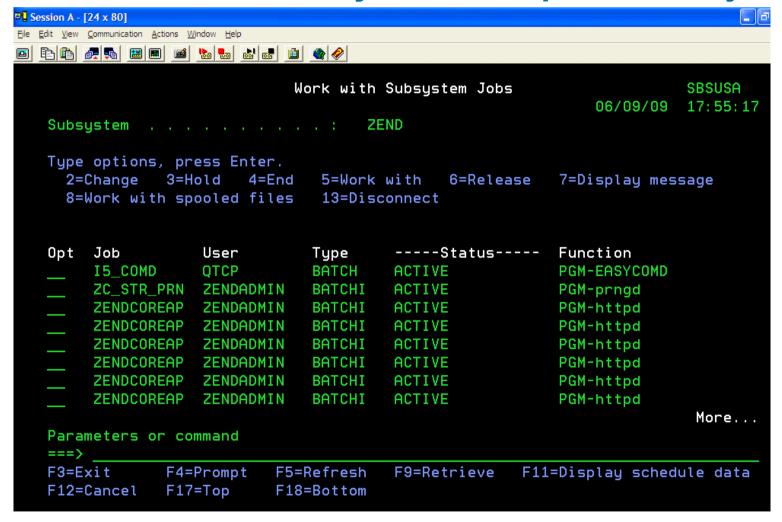
- **Javascript**
 - Adds dynamic functionality to pages
- Cascading style sheets (CSS)
 - Modern way to specify colors, fonts, and other attibutes of how a site looks

Install Zend Core

- **Check the prerequisites**
 - i5/OS V5R4, V6R1
 - PASE, Qshell, recent cumulative PTF package
- Get FREE Zend Core for i5/OS
 - Preloaded as licensed program or
 - Download from http://zend.com/en/products/core/downloads
 - Free account required
 - Choose Windows-based installer or *SAVF
- Install on your i5
 - If you need MySQL, can select it, too
 - Start Zend Core: GO ZENDCORE/ZCMENU, Option 5 then 1

Apache PHP jobs run in ZEND

Look in Zend subsystem for Apache/PHP jobs



First script: "Hello, World!"

- Save script in /www/zendcore/htdocs/helloworld.php
- Run in browser URL: http://i5system:89/helloworld.php

```
<?php
       simple script to test PHP
    echo "Hello, world!";
?>
```

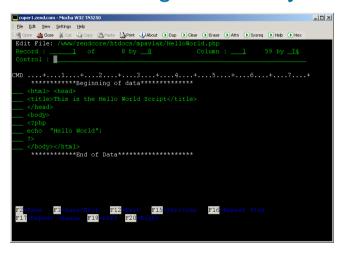
"Hello, world!" in browser

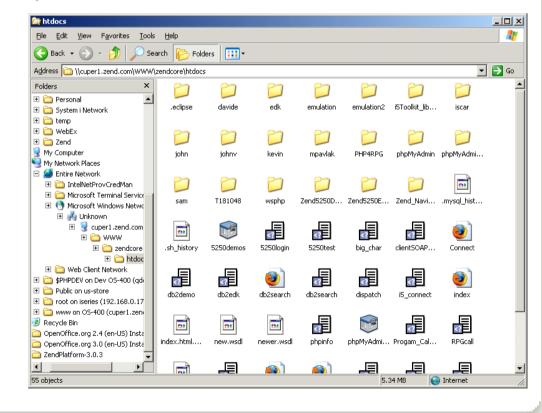
The output of helloworld.php



How do I access IFS files?

- Three methods
 - Netserver file associations (or a mapped local drive)
 - Can be sluggish, but works in Explorer too
 - FTP / "Remote server"
 - Recommended
 - WRKLNK
 - For emergencies only



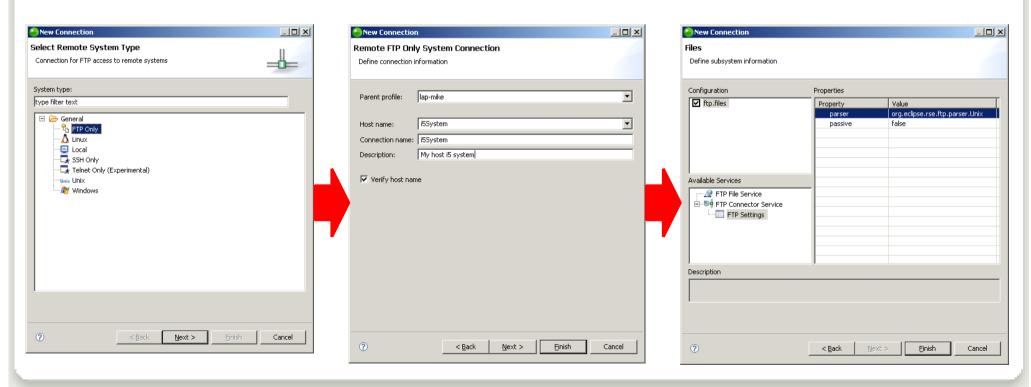


Zend Studio for Eclipse, i5 Edition

- **Better IDE than "Notepad"**
- Free for IBM i customers
- Can connect to mapped drive ("local") or FTP server ("remote")
- Alerts you to any syntax errors or other mistakes; offers interactive debugging and code completion (like the F4 prompt)
- For good performance, your PC needs 2GB RAM

Configure "Remote Server" in Studio

- Start Zend Studio for Eclipse, i5 Edition
- Click the new connection button; select FTP
- Enter domain name or IP address
- Set "FTP Settings/Parser" to Unix (org.eclipse.rse.ftp.parser.Unix)



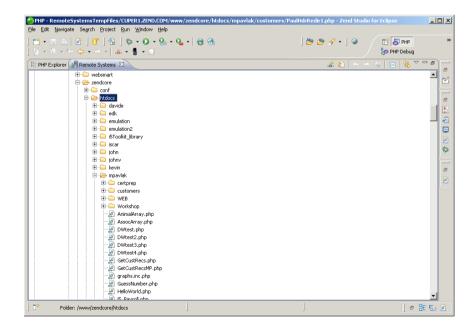
Configure FTP on i5

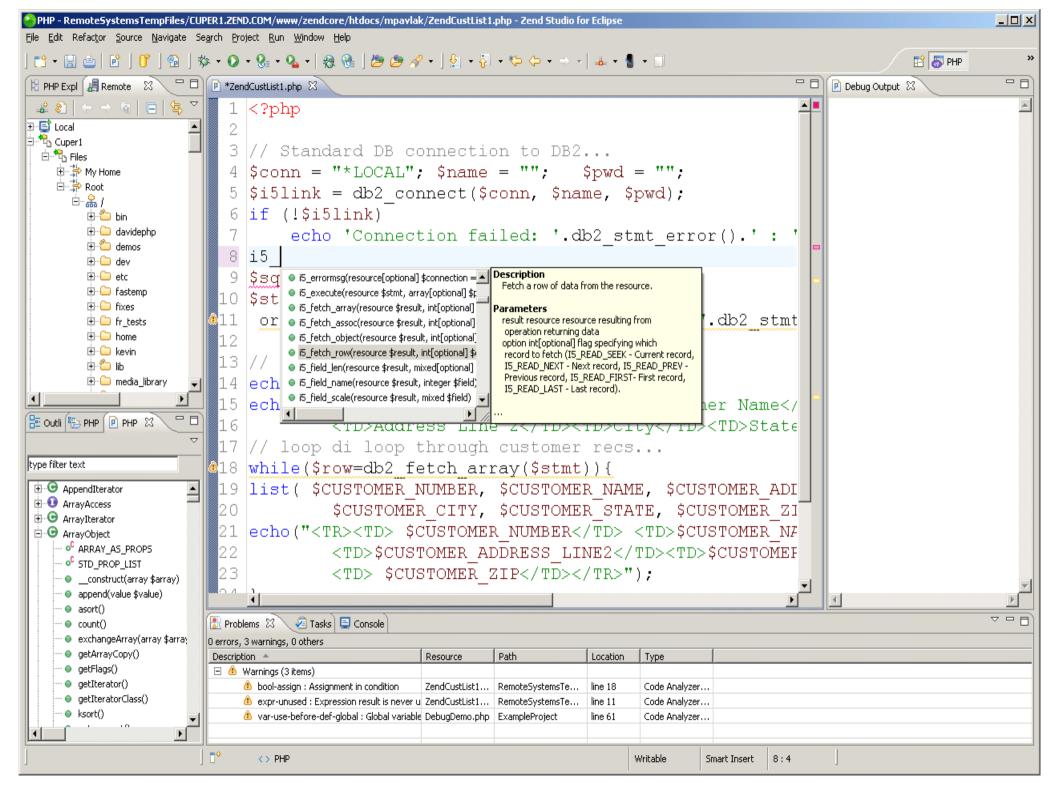
- CHGFTPA NAMEFMT(*PATH) CURDIR(*HOMEDIR) LISTFMT(*UNIX)
 - This is a more mainstream setting (no QSYS.LIB/QGPL.LIB to confuse FTP clients)
- **Restart FTP server**
 - ENDTCPSVR SERVER(*FTP)
 - STRTCPSVR SERVER(*FTP)

Navigate to files

- Expand the tree for your system
- Navigate to the directory /www/zendcore/htdocs
- Enter user credentials and you're in!

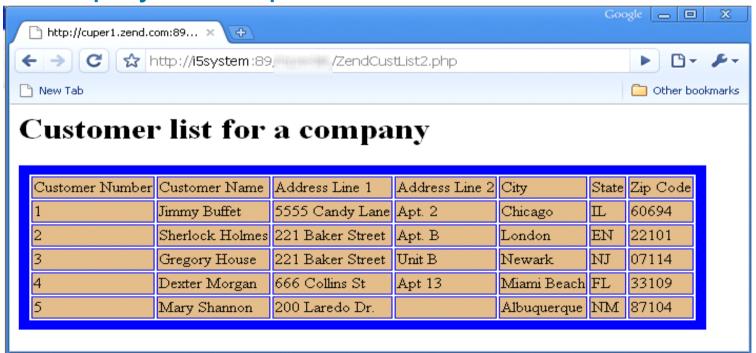






Basic file listing script

- Connect to DB2 i
- Select records from a DB2 table
- Load the records in an HTML table
- Display the output



Connection to DB2 for i

- Need three things:
 - System
 - User ID
 - **Password**

```
// Standard DB connection to DB2...
$conn = "*LOCAL"; $name = "";$pwd = "";
$i5link = db2 connect($conn, $name, $pwd);
if (!$i5link)
echo 'Connection failed: '.db2_stmt_error().' : '.db2_stmt_errormsg();
$sql = "SELECT * from zenddata.customer";
stmt = db2 exec(si5link,sql)
or die("Failed query:".db2 stmt error().":".db2 stmt errormsg());
?>
```

Reading data...

Loop through record set

```
<h1> Customer list for a company</h1>
<TABLE BORDER="10" BORDERCOLOR="blue"><TBODY BGCOLOR="DEB887">
<TR><TD>Customer Number</TD><TD>Customer Name</TD><TD>Address Line 1</TD>
<TD>Address Line 2</TD><TD>City</TD><TD>State</TD><TD>Zip Code</TD></TR>
<?php
while($row=db2 fetch array($stmt)){
list( $CUSTOMER NUMBER, $CUSTOMER NAME, $CUSTOMER ADDRESS LINE1,
    $CUSTOMER_ADDRESS_LINE2, $CUSTOMER_CITY, $CUSTOMER_STATE,
    $CUSTOMER ZIP)= $row:
echo(" <TR><TD> $CUSTOMER NUMBER </TD> $CUSTOMER NAME </TD>
    <TD> $CUSTOMER_ADDRESS_LINE1 </TD><TD>$CUSTOMER_ADDRESS_LINE2 </TD>
    <TD> $CUSTOMER_CITY</TD><TD> $CUSTOMER_STATE </TD>
    <TD> $CUSTOMER ZIP </TD></TR> ");
echo '  ':
db2 close($i5link);
?>
```

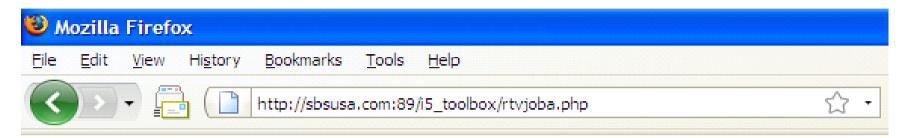
i5 Toolkit

- Included with Zend Core
- Allows a PHP application to:
 - run i5/OS commands and programs
 - access DB2 for i5 natively or in SQL
 - access DTAARA, DTAQ, User Spaces
 - read system values
 - read/list/create spool files
 - list system objects
- Example coming up...

i5 Toolkit Example: Retrieve Job Attributes

```
<?php
// rtvjoba.php: connect to i5, call command via Zend's i5 Toolkit
// two functions: i5 connect, i5 command
$conn = i5 connect("localhost", "ASEIDEN", "password");
$ret = i5 command(
"rtvjoba",
array(),
array(
"user" => "user",
"curlib" => "curl",
"usrlibl" => "userlib",
"syslibl" => array("syslib", "char(165)"))
);
echo "User: $user<br>";
echo "Current library: $curl<br>";
echo "User library: $userlib <br >";
echo "System libs list: $syslib <br > ";
?>
```

Results of rtvjoba.php



User: ASEIDEN

User library: QTEMP QGPL SBSUTIL ALAN ZENDCORE

System libs list: QSYS QSYS2 QHLPSYS QUSRSYS DBU80 QSYS38

Current library: *NONE

Grass roots resources

- Support: Zend Core includes one year of "silver" support
- **Forums and lists**
 - forums.zend.com (look for i5 forums)
 - lists.nyphp.org (general PHP questions)
- **Books (online and print)**
 - PHP Manual: http://php.net
 - Zend Core for i5/OS Redbook
 - PHP/i book by Jeff Olen & Kevin Schroeder (MC Press)
- PHP User Groups: Boston's is active
 - Bostonphp.org



Pilot project

Pilot project: how to pick one

- Well defined, useful, with modest scope
- Accesses IBM i resources
 - db2
 - RPG calls (optional)
- Could be a new application or extension of an existing one to the web

Pilot project: "AE" demo

1. Start | 2. Transferee Info | 3. Services | 4. Crating/Uncrating | 5. Special Instructions | 6. Review and Submit



Select tabs above by clicking on the tab names (or by pressing Alt and the tab number). See a summary of your order, and submit it, on Tab 6.

Pilot project: goals and resources

- Small scale lets you do it right
 - Set standards for future
 - Safe space to get experience
- You need these free tools
 - **7end Core**
 - Zend Studio
- And consider one or more of these:
 - Training/Support
 - A PHP framework (e.g. Zend Framework, which is free)
 - Mentoring, coached development
 - Greatly accelerate progress, save staff time
 - Especially when starting with a framework
 - Zend Platform (try 60-day trial)

A pilot project using Zend Framework

- FIDM: student course configuration system
 - Goals: Set standards for future. Do it "right." Work as a team.
 - **Training**
 - "PHP for RPG programmers"
 - Zend Framework introduction
 - Mentoring in Zend Framework
 - Invited certified consultant (me)
 - They invited me after doing some development, which generated good questions
 - "What we did together in 3 days, we couldn't have done alone in 3 months."

But what is Enterprise PHP?

Enterprise PHP is:

- **Grown-up development**
- Think of your mature RPG processes
 - Consistent
 - Reliable
- You know how to do that

Zend Framework helps you do it right

- A starting point for your applications, providing
 - Security features
 - Modular design
- A collection of over 70 PHP components to simplify common tasks, including some for:
 - Form creation (and reuse)
 - Logging
 - Database access
- A demonstration of PHP 5 best practices
- It provides standards and great functionality but will not cramp your style. Your development is not limited in any way

Zend Framework

- Like the "i," it has everything you need
- You don't have to integrate lots of pieces (template system, emailer, etc.)
- It's all tested for you

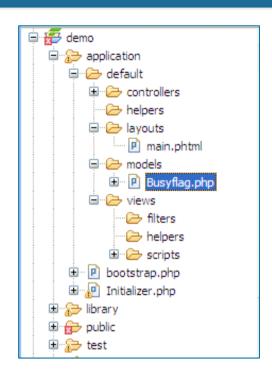
Zend Framework's Model, View, Controller

- M, V, and C separate parts of application for you
- Model contains most of your business logic
- View: If you have HTML you want to use, just plunk it in the "view" without worrying about overwriting your mainline PHP code
- Controller handles the application's flow

Zend Framework "Model": example

```
<?php
// model: Busyflag.php
class Busyflag
    // The table name
   protected $name = 'SYSFLAGS'; // old-fashioned "System 36" table
    // isSiteUp: return true if up, false if down
   public function isSiteUp() {
        // one record, with key "B"
        $sql = "select BZYFLG from {$this->name} where RECID = 'B'";
        $row = SBSDbhelp::getOneRow($sql);
        // true if Y, false otherwise.
        return $row['BZYFLG'] == 'Y';
    } //(public function isSiteUp())
} //(class Busyflag)
```

```
// usage (from a preDispatch front controller plugin)
$busyFlag = new Busyflag();
if (!$busyFlag->isSiteUp()) {
    // Take user to "site down" page.
    $request->setControllerName("Down");
    $request->setActionName("index");
} //(if (!$busyFlag->isSiteUp()))
```

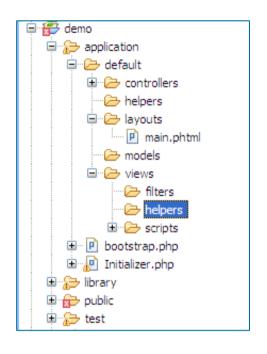


Controller Routes "friendly" URL request

Default routing convention: http://example.com/controller/action/param1/value1... Param/value pairs Controller maps are passed to to class name action Action maps to method name Controller1 http action1() request action2() Front Bootstrap: index.php Controller Controller2 action1() action2()

A "view helper": TitleCase.php

```
<?php
Require once 'Zend/View/Interface.php';
/**
 * TitleCase helper
*/
class Zend View Helper Title Case {
    public $view;
    public function titleCase($string = '')
        // convert incoming string so that
        // first letter of each word is capitalized/
        // but all other letters are lowercase.
        // Also trim the string.
        return ucwords(strtolower(trim($string)));
    } //(public function titleCase())
    public function setView(Zend View Interface $view) {
            $this->view = $view;
```



Usage:

```
echo $this->titleCase('mozilla
firefox');
// Mozilla Firefox
```

Action Controller

Controller classes handle groups of request URLs

http://example.com/controller/action

Default: IndexController

- Organizes and groups functionality
- One class (extending Zend_Controller_Action) for each controller
- Action methods in each controller class handle requests

http://example.com/controller/action

Default: indexAction()

- Named like actionAction()
 - Example: If action is "edit" then method is editAction()

Controller example

```
₽ PHP Explorer 🖾

□ IndexController.php 

□

          (+ -> Q | E S
                             1<?php
i demo
                             3 require once 'Zend/Controller/Action.php';
  application
    🖮 🗁 default
                             5 class IndexController extends Zend Controller Action
      i controllers
                             6 {
       ± □ ErrorController.php
       ± □ P IndexController.php
                                 * The default action - show the home page
       */
      public function indexAction()
                             10
       11
      ± ∵ → views
                             12
                                     // Use default value of 1 if id is not set
    13
                                      $id = $this-> getParam('id', 1);
    14
  // assign id to view

    ⊕ public

                                  Sthis->view->id = Sid:
  🗷 🕞 test
  18}
```

Zend Framework resources

- Framework.zend.com
- Devzone.zend.com
- Tune in to my webcast with Zend on June 17, 2009 (12pm Eastern Time)
 - http://www.zend.com/en/news/event/list/year/2009/month/6/da y/17
 - Afterward, look for archived copy online

Enterprise PHP in detail

Design/development cycle

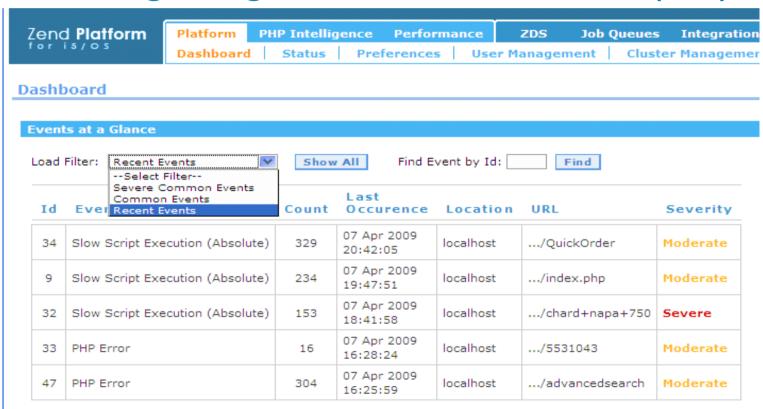
- **Standards**
- Security
- Focus on easy maintainance
- Reusable functionality (not just copy and paste)
- Procedures that ensure quality
 - Think of change management as well

Deployment

- Need tools to help support app in live environment
- Predictable, consistent performance

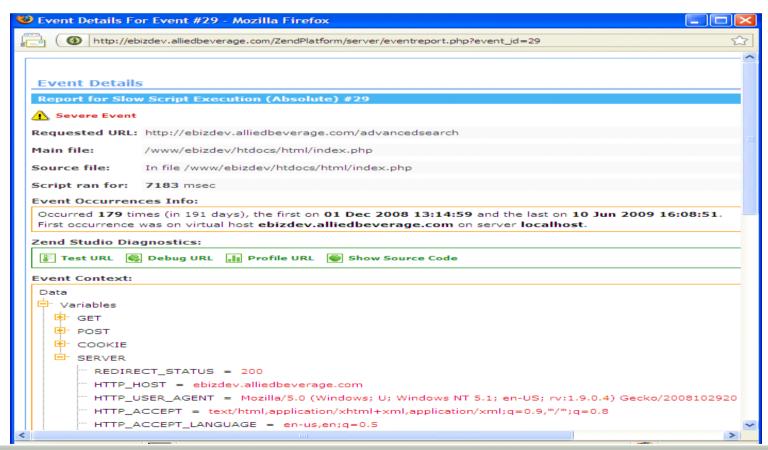
Zend Platform

Provides caching (fast!), debugging and event tracking, integration with Zend Studio (IDE)



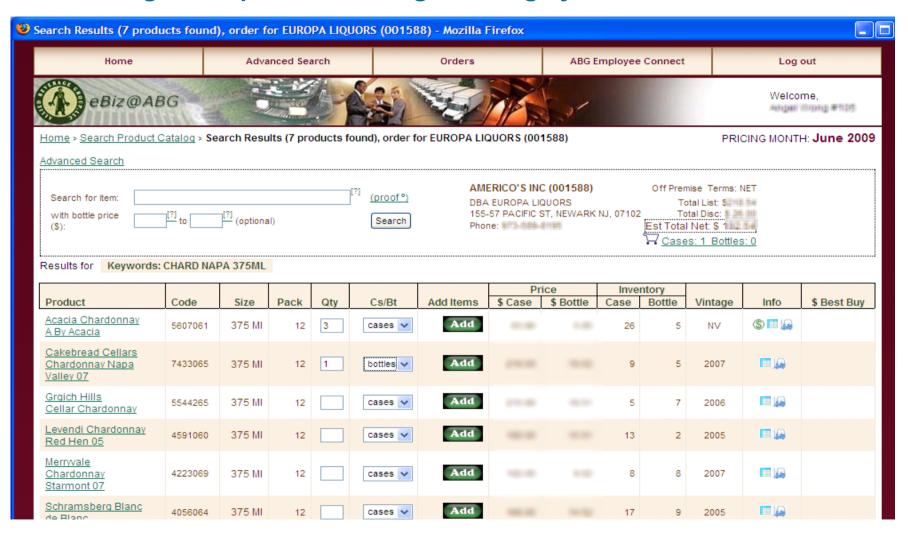
Zend Platform: detail

Drill down to find the cause of performance lags or errors



Enterprise and Zend Framework demo

Allied Beverage Group: Wine catalog/ordering system



Enterprise demo ingredients

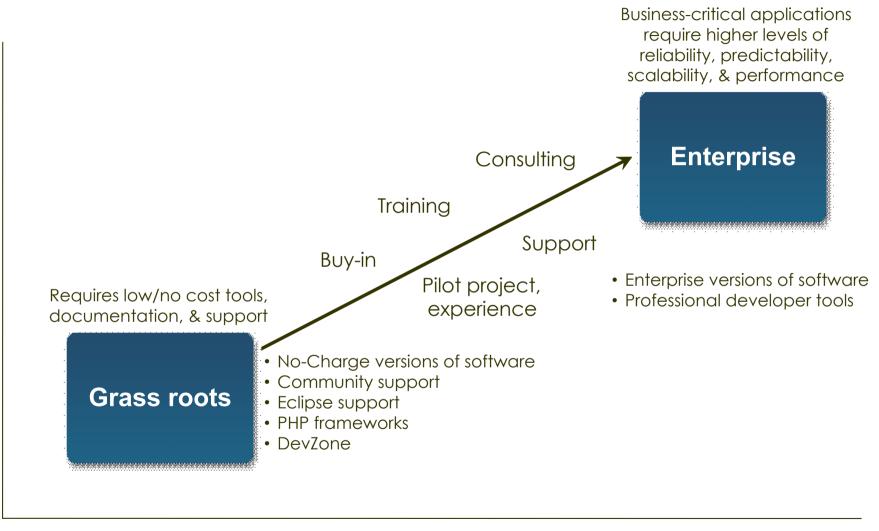
- Allied project won IBM/COMMON "Best Web Solution" of 2009
- For Allied, PHP brings people and resources together on the "i"
 - db2 database provides reliable, consistent product catalog and order data
 - No extra servers needed
 - Re-using RPG logic
 - Everyone on the same team
 - PHP is "superglue": plans afoot to connect other systems, too
- In the wine distribution industry, a solid reputation is important
 - For their first high-profile project, asked Strategic (us) to develop the system
- Consistency, standards, security, reusability
 - Zend Framework
- Speed critical for sales reps in the field
 - (Being compared to green screen speed!)
 - **7end Platform**
 - Also allows monitoring of production environment

How we did a full text search

- Create a reverse index, just as Google did
 - Don't use "LIKE" heavily in your SQL...must read every byte
- Run a job that goes through product catalog, breaking up each field into individual words
 - Omit "a", "the", etc.
- For each word, add a record to WRDSEARCH table/file
 - Keyed by the search word
 - Other fields
 - "Origin" of the word (original field name in which word was found)
 - The product code that we're looking up
- Now, we can query by the words the user typed in, and get the product codes back

How do we get there?

Path to Enterprise PHP



Tools that help (3 of them are free)

Grass roots



Enterprise



- **Consistent commercial** versions of PHP, extensions, database drivers, libraries
- Timely updates of security patches, bug fixes, new extensions/drivers
- **Configuration Management** across entire production infrastructure



- Pre-built components for rapid development
- **Best Practices**
- **Iterative development cycles**
- **Higher deployment success** rates results from rigorous testing by Zend & PHP community



- Reusability
- **Remote Debugging in Production**
- **Development best practices**
- Repeatable, uniform testing
- Standards for deployment
- **Root Cause Analysis**
- **Replicate Production problems in** developer's environment



Zend Platform

- **Improved Scalability**
- High performance via Caching
- **Defining/measuring** performance & scalability metrics
- **Proactive Monitoring & Management**

Get help to smooth the learning curve

Grass roots



Enterprise

Support

Gold Support

Business Hour Phone Access 4 hr Priority Response

Platinum Support

24/7 Phone Access 4 hr Priority Response/2 hr on P1

Training

PHP I: Foundations PHP for RPG Prog PHP for Exp Prog Studio w/ Platform

PHP II: Higher Structures Building Apps w/ Framework **Zend Certifications**

Zend Platform for SysAdmins **Building Secure Apps**

Consulting

Architecture & Design SmartStart Rapid App Dev Coached Development

Remote Install & Admin PHP Performance Audits PHP Security Audits

App Migration

Enjoy the ride...

Enjoy the ride...

...on the path to Enterprise PHP!

- **Start with grass roots: experiment**
- Get training and move on to pilot project
- As your confidence grows, use Zend Framework and other tools. Consider mentoring to accelerate progress, avoid pitfalls
- Call me for guidance or to sign up for training, mentoring, or to learn more about Zend's productivity tools
 - 1-800-727-7260 or aseiden@sbsusa.com
 - Say you saw Alan's presentation at NH/VT

Thanks and Questions

To download these slides, go to:

http://nemug.com/speaker_handouts.htm, or

http://alanseiden.com/presentations (leave a

comment!)



To receive free PHP/i tips by email, write to aseiden@sbsusa.com with subject: "PHP tips." Or write "PHP tips" on a business card.