Five Things

I wish they had told me before I started programming in PHP

Cal Evans

cal@calevans.com

http://blog.calevans.com

First Rule of Programming

Programming is hard.

If it looks easy when I do it, it's because I'm good at it.

(It's ok, take a moment, tweet this from your iPhone, I'll wait.)

Why this talk?

- PHP adoption is still growing. There are a lot of new developers trying out PHP.

- A lot of people who write PHP code don't write code for a living.

- When I started coding PHP, nobody told me these things.

Who should listen?

- This is a 101 level class.
- If you are new to programming
- If you are new to PHP
- If you didn't like any of the other selections in this timeslot.
(There is still time to check the schedule and slip into one of the other rooms.

#5: Learn a Framework

- Glue Frameworks
- Full stack Frameworks
- Hybrid Frameworks

#5: Learn a Framework

- Frameworks exist for a reason (and no, it's not to slow you down)
- Prototype however you want but build production systems with the framework
- Frameworks are just tools, they are not religious artifacts. Use the one that works best **for you**.
- 46 different MVC frameworks in PHP listed on Wikipedia.

#5: Learn a Framework

- The Big 3
  - Zend Framework
  - Symfony
  - CakePHP
- Second tier but still good
  - Solar
  - CodeIgniter
  - Agavi

#5: Learn a Framework

- Frameworks with benefits
  - Content Management
    - Drupal
    - Joomla
    - Wordpress
  - E-Commerce
    - Magento

#5: Learn a Framework

- Things to look for
  - Community
  - Community
  - Community
  - Completeness
  - Documentation
  - Unit Test Coverage
  - IP Ownership

#5: Learn a Framework

Choose the best tool for the job.

#4 PHP is not <insert your favorite language here>

PHP is not Java

- No Compiler
- Both object and procedure based
- No main()
- No application server

#4 PHP is not <insert your favorite language here>

PHP is not Perl
- – Ok, it started out as a series of scripts written in perl
- – PHP is loosely typed
- – PHP is easier to read

#4 PHP is not <insert your favorite language here>

PHP is not C#

- – PHP is truly cross platform (Windows, Linux, OSX, Solaris, BSD, etc.)
- – PHP works with multiple web servers
- – Not built for a specific framework.

#4 PHP is not <insert your favorite language here>

- PHP is no better or worse than any of those languages.
- PHP is the only language developed to solve web based problems.

#4 PHP is not <insert your favorite language here>

PHP is easy
PHP is complex

#3 Learn where to get help

- Conferences
  - php|tek
    - Community Oriented
  - Dutch PHP Conference
    - Advanced developer/Enterprise developer oriented
  - ZendCon
    - Business oriented

#3 Learn where to get help

- Websites
  - http://techPortal.ibuildings.com
  - http://DevZone.zend.com
  - http:// phpdeveloper.org
  - http:// planet-php.org
  - http://php.dzone.com
  - http:// sitepoint.com

#3 Learn where to get help

- IRC/IM
  - irc.freenode.net
    - ##php
    - #phpc
    - #phpwomen
    - #ibuildings

#3 Learn where to get help

- Twitter
  - **@techPortal**
  - @devzone
  - **@dpcon**
  - @zendcon
  - @mtacon
  - @planetphp
  - @phpdeveloper
  - @phpcamp
  - **@phppodcasts**

- **@calevans**
- @mtabini
- @akrabat
- @elazar
- @ramsey
- @elizabethn
- @lornajane
- @enygma
- @caseysoftware
- @weierophinney

#3 Learn where to get help

- Podcasts
  - PHP Abstract
  - php|architect Podcast
  - DPC Radio
  - ZendCon Sessions
  - http://phppodcasts.com

#3 Learn where to get help

- User Groups
  - Meetup.com has a great list of user groups in your area if you are not familiar with your local group.

#3 Learn where to get help

The Community is one of the things that makes PHP special. Be special with us!

#2 Learn your stack

- LAMP
- WAMP
- WIMP
- Learn the pieces
  - Operating System
  - Web Server
  - Database
  - Language
- You can't just learn one piece anymore, you have to know all of them.

#2 Learn your stack

- Learn which ones offer support
- Learn which ones for which you can find support
- Learn which ones stay current.

#1 Get Involved

PHP is a volunteer effort.

Have you made the effort to volunteer?

(That's another tweetable slide in case you are looking for something to tweet)

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!

#1 Get Involved

T-Shirts available for sale in the lobby

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team
- Do a tour of duty in IRC

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team
- Do a tour of duty in IRC
- Regularly blog about small things you have learned.

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team
- Do a tour of duty in IRC
- Regularly blog about small things you have learned.
- Get involved in your local user group

#1 Get Involved

- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team
- Do a tour of duty in IRC
- Regularly blog about small things you have learned.
- Get involved in your local user group
- Submit a talk to a User Group (yes, user group, try your new material out on the road)

#1 Get Involved

If you make your living using PHP then you are standing on the shoulders of giants. Give to the community because others before you gave.

Additional Reading

- http://techPortal.ibuildings.com
- http://devZone.zend.com
- http:// phpdeveloper.org
- http:// planet-php.org
- http://phppodcasts.com
- http://php.dzone.com
- http:// sitepoint.com
- http://iis.net
- http://port25.technet.com
- http://framework.zend.com
- http://cakephp.org
- http://symfony-project.org

Who Am I?

Cal Evans

http://techportal.ibuildings.com

http://blog.calevans.com

http://twitter.com/calevans

http://boxlunchtraining.com

Email: cal@calevans.com

AIM: cal@calevans.com

boxlunchtraining.com