

Five Things

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

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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 don't like anything on TV.



#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 very good
 - Solar
 - CodeIgniter
 - Li3 (Lithium)



#5: Learn a Framework

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



#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 (<http://tek.phparch.com>)
 - Community Oriented
 - Dutch PHP Conference (<http://phpconference.nl>)
 - Advanced developer/Enterprise developer oriented
 - ZendCon (<http://zendcon.com>)
 - Business oriented
 - ConFoo (<http://confoo.ca>)
 - Web technologies in general



#3 Learn where to get help

- Websites
 - <http://phparch.com>
 - <http://phpdeveloper.org>
 - <http://planet-php.org>
 - <http://phppodcasts.com>
 - <http://DevZone.zend.com>
 - <http://techPortal.ibuildings.com>
 - <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
 - **@phparch**
 - @phpc
 - @planetphp
 - **@devzone**
 - @phpdeveloper
 - **@mtacon**
 - **@zendcon**
 - @dpcon
 - **@phppodcasts**
 - @phpcamp
- **@calevans**
- @mtabini
- @akrabat
- @dragonbe
- @ramsey
- @elazar
- @elizabethn
- @lornajane
- @enygma
- @caseysoftware
- @weierophinney
- @auroraeosrose
- @s_bergmann
- @jwage



#3 Learn where to get help

- Podcasts
 - <http://piqueweb.net/>
 - ZendCon Sessions
 - DPC Radio
 - <http://phppodcasts.com>
 - php|architect Podcast
 - oddWeek



#3 Learn where to get help

- User Groups
 - A great source of discussions and quality speakers.
 - If you are part of NPUG, you've got this one covered.



#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

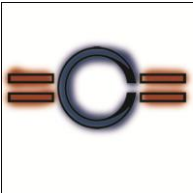
- Pick a bug and submit a patch!



#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



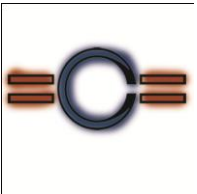
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- Pick a bug and submit a patch!
- Get involved in the documentation team
- Do a tour of duty in IRC
- Regularly blog about small things you have learned.
- Get involved in your local user group
- **Submit a talk to a User Group (yes, user group, try 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://phpdeveloper.org)
- [http:// planet-php.org](http://planet-php.org)
- <http://phppodcasts.com>
- <http://php.dzone.com>
- [http:// sitepoint.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?

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