

# PHP Frameworks



# Disclaimers

- Novice Perspective
- Not rigorous, not exhaustive
- Subjective assessments
- Only considering Open Source

# What is a Framework?

- Library of Processes/Practices?
- Library of Code Modules/Templates/Objects?
- Library of Automation Tools?
- Consultant BS?
- All of the above?

# Nothing New Under the Sun

- Standard way of doing things
  - Repeatability
  - Scaffolding
  - Patterns
- Simplify the process
- Automate the tedious bits

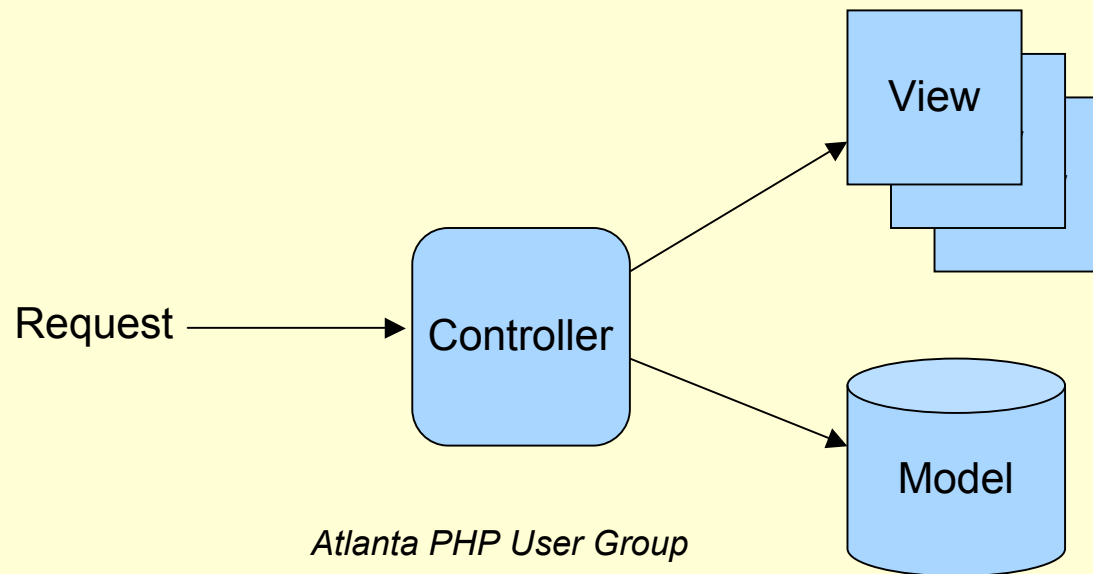
# Expectations

- Influence of Ruby on Rails
  - Highly automated
  - Object oriented language
  - Database abstraction
  - Use of assumptions in development



# Expectations

- General Acceptance of **MVC** Division of Labor
  - **Model** – information storage
  - **View** – information display
  - **Controller** – information manipulation (business logic)



# PHP Frameworks

- Lots to choose from!
  - Zend
  - eZ Components
  - WASP
  - CakePHP
  - Symfony
  - etc. etc. etc.
- Many ports of Java MVC frameworks
  - Phrame (Struts)
  - Studs (Struts)
  - etc. etc. etc.

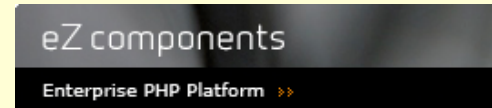
# Zend PHP Framework

- Announced and hyped
- Many PHP players on board
- Company angle
  - Zend
  - [www.zend.com](http://www.zend.com)
- Framework links
  - [www.zend.com/collaboration](http://www.zend.com/collaboration)
  - [www.zend.com/collaboration/framework\\_overview](http://www.zend.com/collaboration/framework_overview)



# eZ Components

- Object library approach
- Simplified object loading
- No UI components, No Ajax support, No automated data model creation (yet)
- Seems geared toward professional coders
- Company angle
  - eZ Systems
  - ez.no
  - [ez.no/products/ez\\_components](http://ez.no/products/ez_components)



# WASP

- [wasp.sourceforge.net/content](http://wasp.sourceforge.net/content)
- So-so community support
- Company angle:
  - Pango Media
  - [www.pangomedia.com](http://www.pangomedia.com)



# CakePHP

- [www.cakephp.org](http://www.cakephp.org)
- Dynamic community
- Company angle:
  - None?



# Symfony

- [www.symfony-project.org](http://www.symfony-project.org)
- Dynamic community
- Excellent documentation/tutorials
- Data abstraction layer/schema generator provided (Propel)
- Company angle:
  - Sensio
  - [www.sensio.fr](http://www.sensio.fr)

The logo for the Symfony project, featuring the word "symfony" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, centered within a dark brown rectangular background.

# Symfony Demo

- sf\_sandbox (for quick start)
- Tutorial notes
  - Missing folder: .../apps/frontend/modules
  - SQLite needs to be enabled in PHP 5.1.x
    - php.ini settings
    - `extension=php_pdo.dll`
    - `extension=php_sqlite.dll`

GOOD LUCK

# Symfony Integrations

- Propel
  - Object Relational Mapping (ORM)
- Creole
  - SQL data abstraction layer

# Tutorial Steps

1. Install symfony and initialize the project
2. Initialize the data model
3. Create the application scaffolding
4. Modify the layout
5. Pass data from the application to the template
6. Add a record relative to another table

# Tutorial Steps

7. Form validation
8. Change the URL aspect
9. Clean up the frontend
10. Generation of backend
11. Restrict access to backend
12. Conclusion

# Big project how to...

- Advent calendar of tutorials
  - [www.symfony-project.com/askeet](http://www.symfony-project.com/askeet)
  - [www.askeet.com](http://www.askeet.com)

The screenshot shows the Askeet website interface. At the top right, there are links for "sign in / register" and "about". The main header features the "askeet!" logo and the tagline "ask it - find it - answer it". Below the header, there are two main sections. On the left, under "featured questions", there are two questions: one with 98 interested users asking "Is askeet better than Yahoo Answers?" and another with 129 interested users asking "what is the 21st day addition to Askeet?". On the right, there is a purple button labeled "ask a new question", a "popular tags" section with various tags like "askeet", "bug", "computers", "fr", "framework", "god", "life", "linux", "love", "meaning", "movies", "peterjackson", "php", "religion", "search", "symfony", "test", "tutorial", "web", "world", and a "find it" search bar with a "search it" button and a checkbox for "search with all words".

# Conclusions

- Frameworks are about organizing your development practices. Can you?
- Open source frameworks are still rough; tutorials need work
- When you commit to somebody else's framework, you may be at their mercy.
- Expect trend toward frameworks endorsed by major industry players