

PHP Study Group Formation Discussion

Notes by Mahalie, posted to mailing list for corrections, archived 4/10.

See The Seattle PHP Meetup Group page for more information: <http://php.meetup.com/49/>

Summary

There were 10-15 people expressing interest in a weekly study group Thursday April 3rd that met an hour in advance of the regular PHP Meetup at 7 pm. After some discussion there seemed to be a quorum on the following points:

- meet weekly
- keep meetings on Thurs and combine with regular PHP group on 1st Thurs
- start with PHP basics and move into advanced topics later (rather than start different study groups for different levels)
- use book simply to provide learning structure *meet in same location always, not dependent on one specific member (public location)

Details

When to Meet

Group discussed any day of week and frequency and generally agreed that only meeting once a month would make it too hard to catch up if you had to miss a meeting. Also the group would like to quickly cover basic topics so we can move into more advanced topics instead of having a second study group starting with advanced topics now. To keep things simple it was agreed to meet on Thursdays and to combine our study group meeting with the regular PHP group meetup once a month - we could use that time as catch-up or perhaps see if we can get whatever topic is on deck for that week to be rolled into the meeting.

Book (or resource)

It was proposed that we should select a book that we can use collectively to provide a learning path / structure to the group. The idea is that folks will know what topic is being covered each week based on the book although one could use any book(s) or resources they prefer. The book needs to be online or freely available in digital format so all members can reference it. Technically this could be a website broken down into lessons, or a book online. There was a suggestion to use an 'in 24 hours' type of book simply because they are already broken down into lesson plan parts that should be doable in a week.

Where to Meet

The conference room at Vivace was quite packed and it a writer's group has reserved it every Thursday evening. Everyone seems to agree that a new location is desired regardless - one that will accommodate more of us, have a white board, wifi and a projector. The group agreed that because people were coming from all directions that downtown Seattle was ideal. Barbara and myself (Mahalie) offered locations but each would depend on that particular person and it was generally felt that the location shouldn't be reliant on a specific member being there, e.g. public location is preferred. A couple of ideas were discussed, primarily libraries, but the Central Library doesn't offer free meeting spaces in the evenings. Other library locations only provide for one meeting a month and most branches close at 8pm.