

PHP: State of the Art

As of May 6th 2010 at 7pm CST

PHP: The Past

- 15 Years old
- 5 major release up till today
- Introduced to solve the “web problem”
- Dynamic, Interpreted, Embeddable Scripting Language

PHP3

- 15 Years old
- PHP3 released in 1998
- Represents the language grammar you're familiar with today
 - \$
 - ;

PHP4

- PHP4 released in 2000
 - Represents the “PHP as a platform” you’re familiar with today
 - CLI
 - superglobals (register_globals)
 - Security enhancements
 - Two pass compiler/executor

PHP5

- PHP5 released in 2004
- Represents the Object Model you're familiar with today
 - `$f = new Foo();`
 - More bug/security fixes
- Support for PHP4 discontinued on 8/8/8

PHP Today

- PHP 5.3 released mid-2009
 - Like a MAJOR release in several ways
 - New keywords & binary incompatibility
 - Namespace support
 - Closure support (anon functions)
 - GOTO

PHP Popularity

- Tied for 3rd most popular language according to TIOBE Index
- Tied with C++
- <http://www.tiobe.com/index.php/content/paperinfo/tpci/index.html>

Multi-Paradigm

- Functional
- Procedural
- Object-oriented
 - Class based
 - Single Inheritance, multiple interface

Multi-Faceted Developers

- Hybrid web developer / designer
 - Websites / CMS / Lightweight dynamic apps
- Web based business prototyping
 - Ability to scale horizontally, cheaply
 - (the next facebook or moontoast)

New Markets?

- Medium and Large Organizations
 - Intranet applications
 - Replace legacy code bases (green screen)
 - Replace expensive code bases (.NET/Java)
 - Use a technology that has a strong web focus, with enterprise tooling...

PHP Adoption

- Very small learning curve to get started and be productive
- Lends itself to best practices you'd find in the Enterprise Java and Enterprise .NET world
- Different organizations have different needs, PHP can scale as needs scale

Off-Shelf Applications

- Wordpress
- SugarCRM
- Drupal
- Joomla
- Mediawiki
- (more)

Frameworks

- Application Frameworks / Components
 - Zend Framework
 - Symfony
 - CodeIgniter
 - CakePHP / Lithium
- ORM Framework: Doctrine
- Various other enterprise grade projects

Enterprise Grade Tools

- Eclipse Platform
 - Zend Studio
 - PDT
- Continuous Integration & Testing
 - PHPUnit
 - Phing / Ant
 - phpUnderControl / CruiseControl

Enterprise Grade Stack

- Zend Suite of Products
 - Zend Server
 - Zend Studio
 - Zend Guard
- Other stacks:
 - Redhat, MAMP, WAMP, etc

Best Practices in Code

- PHP's nature well suited to Java/.NET code patterns
- PoEAA Popularity
 - Patterns: MVC, ActiveRecord, Mappers
- GoF Popularity
 - Patterns: Singleton, factory, facade, adapter

NOLA PHP

- What topics interest you?
- Do you have a project you'd like to present?
- Questions?
- Open discussion!