

Zend_Yaml; Gone the way of the Dodo...

After my previous blog entry about escaping the trap of being overworked to the point I was failing to maintain a respectable sense of responsibility for getting things done in my open source life, I've been going through all those open source projects and cutting the dead weight. It should pay dividends before the weekend with such achievements as completing development of PHPSpec_Context_Zend, PHPMock 0.1, and committing Zend_Service_Yadis before I start writing its belated unit tests.

One of the victims of this review has been Zend_Yaml. Earlier this morning I found an odd comment on the Zend_Translate_Yaml proposal by Thomas Weidner that he was erasing his proposal on the basis that there had been no progress on Zend_Yaml. Now enough is enough, so I read through the past comments and found Zend's review. The review dated 2 January 2008 stated:

- Work with Padraic Brady to ensure that Zend_Translate_Yaml's syntax will be supported by Zend_Yaml.
- If Padraic is unable to move Zend_Yaml forward, create Zend_Yaml with support for parsing the syntax subset necessary for Zend_Translate_Yaml; future development could then take care of any other portion of the syntax we wish to support. To remove any similar confusion and perhaps stem the tide of emails over YAML, I have erased Zend_Yaml from the proposal page once and for all, and here's why.


On the 15th November 2007, I received an email indicating that Zend_Yaml had been reviewed, and some concerns had been raised. Notably, the component required adherence to the YAML 1.1 specification and it was pointed out this would not perform well unless an extension existed supporting YAML 1.1. On this basis it was recommended the proposal await a future YAML 1.1 extension.

I replied that I agreed a full parser was no longer viable, esp. since in between the original proposal and it's eventual review, the Syck extension for YAML had been accepted into PECL which was a huge push towards YAML support in PHP. I suggested a lightweight subset of YAML be supported.

I did not receive a response, so the status from my perspective was that Zend_Yaml had been effectively turned down until support for YAML 1.1 was available via an extension for PHP. Since that was unlikely to happen soon - Zend_Yaml was pretty much dead in the water.


So for those not paying attention - Zend_Yaml has been out of the picture since November 2007.

In December 2007, Eric Coleman posted a question about the status of Zend_Yaml and Zend_Service_Yadis. ZSY is easy to explain - overworked Paddy fumbled the ball horribly and rather disappointingly on that one so it's currently released on PEAR, but not yet in the ZF. Wil Sinclair responded with the following on December 20th:

We just haven't scheduled a team meeting to go over them yet. As you've probably noticed, we've been pretty busy working on the 1.5 release. [...] but the fact is they are still there because we've got a lot on our plates. If Paddy were a squeakier wheel they would probably get through faster. 


I got a bit "squeaky" after reading it, though honestly I'm only getting around to applying a little oil to remove squeaks this month, and pointed out Zend_Yaml was already reviewed, and I had responded with suggestions. Predictably, there was nothing further. Which goes right back to a blog post I made sometime ago about [the Zend Framework's idea of a proposal process](#).

Now this is twice my name has been dropped as the ignoramous holding up Zend's YAML support. I fully confess to being an irresponsible ass over Zend_Service_Yadis which has sat in PEAR for months without a Zend Framework migration as I struggled between work and other stuff, but pointing the finger at the author

of a rejected proposal nobody else at Zend seem to realise has been rejected is a bit tiresome 

So guys, just to clarify things...I've deleted the proposal. This will ensure everyone figures out it's been rejected and I'm not holding it up, and that using it as a review point for future YAML using proposals is thereby pointless. Maybe someone can now re-review Thomas' Zend_Translate_Yaml proposal and give it a second lease on life before it too joins the Great Dodo in the sky...

Posted by Pádraic Brady in PHP General, PHP Security, Zend Framework at 20:02

Big up for a transparent process. Now Zend could follow. 

Anonymous on Feb 4 2008, 20:20


Took me a moment to realise that Zend_Yaml is about YAML(1) and not about YAML(2) ...

(1) <http://www.yaml.org/>

(2) <http://www.yaml.de/> Anonymous on Feb 5 2008, 21:18

Hi Padraic, sorry to hear about Zend_Yaml. For everyone's reference, I'd like to point out you didn't erase it entirely. It can still be viewed and commented on here: <http://framework.zend.com/wiki/x/jGQ>.

Also wanted to make sure you didn't misinterpret the comment I made on the list and that you're citing in this post- I actually knew next-to-nothing at the time I wrote that mail about the content and status of the Zend_Yaml proposal. What I was trying to say in that mail is that sometimes it helps to poke us a bit to get proposals through the process as it stands now. This shouldn't be necessary, and it's a big part of my job to make sure we do right by our community and making contributing fun and rewarding, and I've taken some of your blog posts as inspiration here. We're actually working on a plan right now to keep proposals moving through the process (and keep the process as a whole enjoyable) that we hope to put in to practice directly after the 1.5 release; I can run through our current ideas with you on the process if you're interested in providing feedback on our draft-state thinking. We will be asking for the entire community's feedback once we have a full proposal for everyone to consider.

Also, I got the idea from your response to that mail that you might have thought that I didn't intend for you to see it. I can assure you that's not the case- I know you're on the list and I was hoping you'd read it so that you might poke us a little and give us a good excuse to make room for the Zend_Yaml review among everything else. 


Sorry if this wasn't clear. I'm not claiming to be the world's best communicator, and I'm sure you know what it's like when you're trying to juggle ~100 things at any given time. I hope you'll keep contributing to ZF and keep active in our community, but regardless we recognize and thank you for the substantial contributions and input you've given so far. And let me leave no doubt here- ZF is a much better framework for your having worked on it.

Best.

,Wil Anonymous on Feb 6 2008, 07:00


Hi Wil,

I have no intention of abandoning the Zend Framework - in fact it's currently a large part of my daily web development usage. I like it so much, I just added two new proposals!


The removal of Zend_Yaml to Archived status was simply to clarify my own understanding of its status, which as reviewed in November was that the proposal has a lot of merit but without extension support for YAML 1.1 was being put on hold indefinitely. Yes, I could of prodded harder here but as both Matthew and Dmitry can no doubt testify my prodding time during the Autumn and early Winter was just non existing (a case of my pay cheque taking precedence 

).

I am currently on track with my ZF proposals and contributions for the next few months so I'll be interested in seeing any (and I mean ANY) proposal process improvements. You have to bear in mind I write these blog posts from a view point of being a proposer with

proposals which are in some cases hitting 8-9 months between the month of proposing, and the month of review. My tendency to jump up and down excitedly increases in direct proportion to the lack of time scheduling I experience 

In any cases, I've put out Zend_Microformat today, here's to it being reviewed before October. Anonymous on Feb 6 2008, 08:16

Great to hear about the new proposals. I intend to pleasantly surprise you with our responsiveness. 

,Wil Anonymous on Feb 6 2008, 08:28

Looking forward to it - Microformats don't need a complex components (the XFN proposal is borderline easy-as-pie). Anonymous on Feb 6 2008, 23:18

If I'm not wrong, one of those proposals was Zend_Microsoft right? 

Anonymous on Feb 8 2008, 04:15

I'm still looking for the edit button on that blooper 

Anonymous on Feb 8 2008, 07:55