


Friday, October 31. 2008

## An Apologetic Tale of the Unexpected

When you're a programmer you very quickly learn a few things. At the top of the list is knowing that if you do not properly backup data, it is inevitable that you will lose it. Guess who fell afoul of that rule? Yeah...me!

Some months ago I became crazily busy and at the same time commenced centralising a lot of diverse web properties to a single location. During the process I took backups, took second backups, took third backups. Then I scattered them across several hard drives for good measure to avoid any hiccups like HDD failures. After I'd reenabled all the original properties with great success and limited downtime I left many of my personal websites offline since, being crazily busy, I just didn't have the time.


About a month later I attempted to get one of these back up and realised to my horror that something in my backup strategy had gone horribly wrong. Archives refused to deflate, some files appeared to have vanished into thin air, and I quickly realised I had committed the cardinal sin of the backup world. I'd only made one damn archive of my personal sites! I managed to recover a lot of data, but several database backups were irretrievable and I was left with older copies I had squirreled away some time earlier. Unfortunately, the newer backups contained more recent adventures in writing which I personally considered to be quite valuable (then again, as a writer, everything I write tends to have an inflated value  ).

The upshot was that I lost two months of blog posts and comments. I was not a happy programmer.

To make matters worse, I switched from crazy busy to insane busy (this is a step in the wrong direction). So I ended up in a situation where getting the blog back online was an ever shifting target continually assigned to that mysterious force called "maybe next week". If you ever meet this force in your life, please feel free to shoot it the head and email me a snapshot. I have the frame here ready!

But let's put this nonsense, for which I apologise profusely, behind us and get things rolling normally again. The blog is online - albeit with the most recent post behind this one being May - and I slowly piecing together the remaining posts I lost. The first 8 of the massive Zend Framework tutorial is also back online. Many were thankfully archived as text files, some are in subversion repos, and others are mere outlines which knowing me I can re-draw from memory better than ever. I will only focus on the main informative articles and omit those which dealt with news items and personal opinion.

To everyone who has emailed me (all 50+ of you!) the Zend Framework Tutorial series will be back with Parts 9-12 posted in coming weeks. I had plans to create a free resource using it, and the only part of that which has changed is time. To make up for the long long (long \* 1000) time I'll try accelerating the articles transfer to more permanent HTML and PDF formats. Those who realised the source code archives never went offline probably know a lot of articles were already transferred to Docbook already.


Did I mention I'm back? 

I'm hosting the blog on its ancestral home of Dreamhost until I get around to configuring my better equipped Slicehost server.


Posted by PÃ;draic Brady in Irishisms at 09:34

Welcome back!

Rob... Anonymous on Oct 31 2008, 13:57

Thanks! Good to be back with three months of ideas rolling around in my head awaiting expression here 

2008, 14:08

Nice to see your blog online. I had started to follow your ZF tutorial when the site went offline. Can't wait to read the rest of the really informative series 

Anonymous on Oct 31 2008, 20:32

Real nice to have youe back. Ive been reeding up on other tutorials in the downtime but youre solutions sames so easy in camparson. Looking forward to the rest! Anonymous on Nov 1 2008, 11:07

Glad to have you back! I've been looking forward to the resurrection of your blog and especially the ZF blog series.

FYI... someone else likse your blog so much they are copying it directly.


<http://blog.insicdesigns.com/category/zfblog-tutorial/> Anonymous on Nov 1 2008, 18:16

I'm so happy to see this blog online again! The Zend tutorial you have is by far the best and most comprehensive of all. I'm looking forward to the rest of the series! Anonymous on Nov 1 2008, 20:02

Part 10 will arrive soon, and Part 9 will be reposted tomorrow 

. As for other blogs copying direct - I've notified more than a few to cease copying unless they are willing to give me attribution (make it clear I wrote the articles and provide a link back to the original) and also state the article is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

It's impolite to copy entire posts wholesale without sticking to the conditions - that's why one of the first things anyone sees here states "Original content in this work is licensed under a Creative Commons License".

If anyone sees other non-credited copies I would someone telling them they are illegally neglecting the license terms. Won't do much harm though once Google gets wind and starts indexing me again 

. Anonymous on Nov 2 2008, 14:18

Good news!

Welcome back 

Anonymous on Nov 2 2008, 15:22