


Wednesday, January 14, 2009

## Zend Framework: Surviving The Deep End, Chapter 3 - The Model Available

Another day, another chapter!

Today Chapter 3, The Model, has entered the online book. Apart from some early jitters when PHPIDS (an intrusion detection system I use) lost the plot and commenced a vendetta against Opera, the new chapter is fully operational.

I've decided to start noting in these announcements that these early Chapters are akin to drafts. While they are written as complete units, it's intended to revisit them every few weeks for improvement until a final version emerges to be forever immortalised as a first edition of the book. Your comments are therefore an invaluable guide to this process. You'll have a lot more to comment on when we get down and dirty with source code 

To mark the status of the book, I'll be implementing a colour coded status label for each chapter as a rough indication of its level of completion. It should offer some quick visual feedback on whether you're reading a rough draft or a pristine final version.

I'd also like to thank those who have donated to support the book (and my aspirations for a new Macbook Pro!). I haven't gotten around to thanking donators personally but I appreciate the early donations. I need to tinker with the donation model a bit after sorting through some ideas I have, but my intention is that while the book will remain freely available online I'd like to reward donators with some additional benefits.


Posted by Pádraic Brady in PHP General, PHP Security, Zend Framework at 17:29

Ah do you happen to have a good implementation technique for Zend Framework and PHPIDS ?

Cheers,

Steve Anonymous on Jan 14 2009, 19:26

Hi, Is there any way to subscribe to the comments in the book? Anonymous on Jan 14 2009, 19:29

I made you a donation via paypal.....this book...this project is amazing 


Anonymous on Jan 14 2009, 19:40


Second that! Anonymous on Jan 15 2009, 03:48

Hi Pádraic,

First of all, I'd like to thank you for the great work you've done. I've always found your articles very interesting and its with your help I got a good start on Zend Framework which I've now used in a dozen of projects - thank you.


I have one question or plea for you. When it comes to PHP I'm pretty much self-thought through the past 10 years and though I was slightly familiar with the MVC concept it wasn't until ZF I got to work with it. I'm glad that you've released the chapter regarding the model, since that's the one which puzzles me the most. I've googled all around for various articles regarding the use of models in Zend Framework applications. The point where I'm not really sure if I'm doing things the right way, is when my model isn't directly a Zend\_Db\_Table (or whatever it's called). What if I just have a model which contains functions to fetch various data, manipulate it and pass it on to the controller without directly extending from any Zend\_\* class? What I've done to utilize models in my application is to extend Zend\_Action\_Controller and implement a function of mine called fetchModel. I then let my modules' controllers extend from that instead. All the fetchModel function does is take the name of the model and then combines it with the current module to know

where to look for the file. It then includes it to be utilized. I would really like some feedback about this - some practical examples on how to use models in Zend Framework applications would really be nice 

Hope that made sense, english isn't really my first language 


Thanks again,  
Christian Rasmussen, Denmark. Anonymous on Jan 15 2009, 07:18

I've gotten a peek at the book and I've read your articles for a while now... so first of all thank you for all the great content you've provided!

Now, am I the only one who has had trouble connecting to <http://www.survivethedeepend.com/> ???? I get a network timeout error most of the time, and I haven't been able to reach it for days (from home or work) 


Anonymous on Jan 15 2009, 08:42

Dont get me wrong, I have the greatest respect for yourve work, but you released the entire blog series faster then the updates on the book. We have waited forever for the next step AFTER the blog series. Anonymous on Jan 27 2009, 20:27

The book is a more deliberate effort - any idea how long it takes to plan a book, write draft chapters, organise a release medium that doesn't completely suck and still find time to go to work each day? 

Book chapters will take more time, but they do tend to come in pairs and I'm targeting a fortnightly/weekly release depending on the available time.

Right now, my time is limited (one of the reasons why not all comments here are being answered immediately).

Patience, padawan 

. Anonymous on Jan 28 2009, 00:16

Where do you want general comments or "feature requests" for the book to go?

Do you know yet what sort of application you will be using for demonstration during the book?

Most of what I've seen from some ZF books and a bunch of tutorials they all stop too early. They show a fairly trivial interaction of one model/table, a list view, and maybe a simple edit form. They don't show more complex multi-table interactions that are a little more real world. My guess, which may be wrong, is that the bread & butter for many php developers is database applications.

I'd like to see a some non trivial db interactions, like like an add/edit form that relies on drilling down in data from several other models/tables. An example of that would be a bug tracking application, where you'd need to first select the product, then you need to select the version, then you might need to select the sub-component. You'd be primarily working with the bug model but you'd likely have a number of other tables with the list of products, versions, and sub-components. Showing how to handle those cascading select boxes and wire them together with dojo or other toolkit would be a big help. Also what should the model support look like for that sort of thing? (I'm assuming you'd say embedding too much into the controllers is the wrong way to go.)

I hope that makes some sense, no I'm not expecting the book to teach programming, but there are a lot more details to Zend MVC especially with Ajax then have generally been covered.

In any case, Thank you, we all appreciate your efforts,  
--Rob T. Anonymous on Jan 28 2009, 07:00

I think what you're searching for is Matthew's bugapp example application:  
<http://github.com/weierophinney/pastebin/tree/bugapp>

Take a look at the Gateways BugTracker.php, CommentGateway.php and UserGateway.php within the directory  
application/modules/spindle/models/

Marcus Anonymous on Jan 29 2009, 00:14

Thanks. Yes, Matthew's example app is very good. I've been working through it. His blog posts and the discussions have been very useful. See:

<http://weierophinney.net/matthew/>

However, my comments were in the context of trying to possibly influence the Surviving the Deep End book and other future ZF books. I, and I'm assuming a number of other developers, will be trying to crank out ZF MVC applications with Dojo integration that need a little more guidance on wiring it all together. Anonymous on Jan 31 2009, 05:04