

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

patTemplate bits and pieces

Well, the code base of patTemplate is pretty majure and new releases quite seldom. Still patTemplate is alive and in heavy use. Working with patTemplate in larger projects always includes writing custom extensions like variable modifier and template functions for it. Every now and then, modules for general use appear and I usually add them to patTemplate's code base. This way patTemplate grows little by little, even if it's core stays the same.

Here are some variable modifiers that were recently added:

Calc (like a pocket calculator), Dateformat, Numberformat, Sizeformat (displays human readable file sizes) and Truncate (makes verbose text brief).

This week Torben Egmose provided a template caching driver based on famous Memcache. Now there are five cache backend modules available: File, eAccelerator, Memcache, MMCache and XCache.

As mentioned above, there are no major changes, but as usual, it those little bits and pieces that make life enjoyable.

Posted by gERD in PAT at 09:01

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

mistralys.eu Job offer

Under normal circumstances I would not post this here, but I am getting desperate - and I thought a job offer is infinitely more useful if not as entertaining than the recent "seven things" chain postings

My company, Mistralys, is based on the southern mediterranean french coast and offers services to german companies as well as local and nationwide subcontractors and companies. Due to the amount of project requests piling up, it is time to grow. I need someone who can work autonomously, and who has a foot both in PHP development and design.

To keep things simple, these are the main job requirements:

- Good knowledge of german (at least read & write it)
- Very good knowledge of Photoshop and Web-based design
- Good all-round PHP knowledge, including object-oriented development
- Be available full-time (or part-time in the beginning)

I am aware that moving to france is not going to be an option for many (although that would be ideal). Working remotely from your home is a possibility, as long as you are available during CET working hours (roughly 9am to 17pm).

NOTE: freelancing does not mix well with the projects I work on, as I often get requests that have to be finished on very short notice (sometimes within a few hours). This is why I avoid working with freelancers, and discourage freelancers applying for the offer.

I have a full job description on the website, feel free to read up on all the details. If you want to apply or know more, please contact me at s.mordziol at gmail.com with your portfolio and salary expectations. Comments welcome, as always.

Regards,

Sebastian Mordziol.

Posted by argh in PHP at 13:54

Saturday, July 19. 2008

patError 1.2.0 released

After a year of inactivity in our blog, there are finally some news worth mentioning. Some minutes ago, I release version 1.2.0 of patError. Although this release contains no new features, it might be interesting for any of you using patError, as I adjusted the code to PHP 5. When using this new version, you will get not E_NOTICE or E_STRICT warnings any more as it has been the case with previous releases. There will also be no E_DEPRECATED errors, when you make the switch to PHP 5.3.0. As usual, you can get the release from our PEAR channel.

I decided to port patError to PHP 5 while writing the second edition of my PHP Design Patterns book, which covers patError as a dependency of patTemplate.

Posted by schst in PAT at 19:32

Saturday, July 14. 2007

Conference-ish Autumn

Today Timo told me that his session proposal got approved! Yippie! We both applied for the AJAX in Action in Frankfurt November this year.

I submitted a session about some essential JavaScript tricks for modular sites that make extensive use of Web 2.0 technologies. I planed to focus on real live examples - stuff that we implemented at My Nero, in other words sneak into a big AJAX site's internals . Unfortunately it got rejected

However I'm looking forward to see Timo's session about a flexible and easy to use AutoSave Framework. Adapting his thoughts, you can add the AutoSave feature to any form on a web-site easily. As I know some internals about his implementation, I can tell you that he solved some big issues. Though he focused on reusability and came out with a bunch of really nice lines of code.

It's going to become a very interesting conference this autumn.

Posted by gERD in PHP at 15:09

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

Testing FIT

I just uploaded the package Testing_FIT to PEAR. Testing_FIT is the PHP and pearish version of Ward Cunningham's FIT <http://fit.c2.com/>. As such it provides an easy to use framework for acceptance software tests.

```
pear install Testing_FIT-beta
```

Simply install the PEAR package Testing_FIT browse the examples and write your own test classes. Of course, the PHP version of FIT provides the four basic fixtures: Action-, Column-, Row- and Primitve-Fixture. Also there is a Summary-Fixture that shows some statistics.

You'll see, writing tests with this PEAR package is a piece of cake. Besides, the basic idea of FIT - using HTML documents providing test data will convince you.

Posted by gERD in PHP, PAT at 21:20

Monday, June 18, 2007

I18n and such

In lack of a better idea, I founded a new PAT Package: patI18n. So far this package is just a draft and only exists in the SVN repository. As you might guess, patI18n is an abstraction layer for translating issues. Therefore it provides nearly the same interface as the famous GNU Gettext. Still, the actual translation is done by a chain of modules - this way everything is possible and the design stays open to new ideas.

Of course, I didn't start patI18n out of the blue. Last year, I branched patForms to use Gettext for translation instead of the proprietary internal solution. Since then, we have to maintain two branches of patForms. Yesterday I mended the implementation of patForms' gettext branch to use patI18n. This way patForms got rid of all I18n functions (like setLocale) and stuff. My first tests show that everything works fine - still this code is experimental. However you are invited to check out the new versions and give it a go.

Download the sources from our subversion server:

patI18n: `svn co http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patI18n/trunk/ patI18n`

patForms: `svn co http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patForms/branches/gettext/ patForms`

View the source code of patI18n at gERD's playground.

Posted by gERD in PHP, PAT at 08:45

Saturday, June 2, 2007

patTemplate 3.1.0 stable released

After two years of development we finally released patTemplate 3.1.0 as a stable version. The changes since the last beta release are minimal. You can read about all changes since the last stable release in the changelog. patTemplate can be downloaded from our PEAR channel server or easily installed via the PEAR installer:

```
$ pear channel-discover pear.php-tools.net
```

```
$ pear install pat/patTemplate
```

More information can be found the the patTemplate development site.

Posted by schst in PHP, PAT at 17:30

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Friday, February 16. 2007

Stubbles Blog is live!

Yesterday, the Stubbles project got its own blog at www.stubbles.org.

Stubbles is a new framework for PHP 5.2 which focuses on clean OO design, the use of patterns and ports some features from the languages commonly referred to "enterprise languages" to PHP. If you are looking for new ways to develop your PHP applications, you should definitely take a look at the `stubReflection` package, which brings Java Annotations to PHP. The next issue of the German PHP Magazin will feature an article, that shows how to use this package.

The blog will feature tutorials, thoughts on Stubbles and surely rants on PHP itself. So it will be definitely worth the read.

Stubbles currently is developed by Frank Kleine, Nico Steiner and Stephan Schmidt. The design of the Stubbles logo and the Stubblog design have been created by Sebastian Mordziol of Mistralys, who is also responsible for the PAT design and several PAT packages.

Posted by `schst` in PHP at 18:05

Sunday, February 11. 2007

PHP Programming with PEAR reviewed

Cal Evans, editor of the Zend Developer Zone, wrote a review of "PHP Programming with PEAR", the book I wrote together with Carsten Lucke, Aaron Wormus and Stoyan Stefanov.

The review is very positive and what's especially nice about it, is, that he liked Chapter 4 (Web services) the most and this is one of the chapters that I wrote. If you are interested in buying a copy of the book, you can find more information at the book website, which has been set up by Aaron. And of course you can directly order it at Amazon.com.

Posted by schst in PHP at 10:20

Thursday, February 1, 2007

patTemplate Documentation in Bahasa Indonesia

We are vary proud to hear that there are patTemplate enthusiasts around the world. Actually, we just learned that there is a patTemplate Documentation in Bahasa Indonesia available. Thanks a lot for translation!

Posted by gERD at 20:41

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We are vary proud to hear that there are patTemplate enthusiasts around the world. Actually, we just learned that there is a patTemplate Documentation in Bahasa Indonesia available. Thanks a lot for translation!

Posted by gERD in PHP, PAT at 20:41

Tuesday, December 12, 2006

Nightly builds for XJConf available

XJConfForPHP, the XML-to-object-mapper, Frank Kleine and me are working on is now available as a daily snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net.

While the project started as a 1:1 port of the Java version, we are constantly adding new features as well as unit tests. If you need a flexible solution to parse XML documents and create PHP data structures, you might give XJConfForPHP a try.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:29

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

FIT for PHP

As I'm going to talk about FIT at the PHP Conference, I like to invite you to check out the preview of PHPFIT package. Simply download and install the PEAR package or tar archive.

FIT stands for Framework for Integrated Test (See: FIT Wiki) realises acceptance tests with heavy use of HTML documents. Those documents do not just contain the usual blah-blah but hard facts. The facts are actually stored in (HTML) tables. This is where FIT - respectively PHPFIT - comes in. The FIT knows which testing class must be executed for a particular table and which function to call to calculate the results of a specific cell and the framework makes it very easy for you to implement concrete test-classes.

Also FIT simply handles HTML documents. As such they can be viewed in common browsers and even created with Word-a-like editors. Hence FIT goes far beyond what traditional unit testing offers (FIT is not meant to replace unit-tests) and may enrich your next project.

Hopefully PHPFIT will be available as official PEAR package. Unfortunately I lost my password. So I was not capable to push the proposal any further. But this will change.

Posted by gERD in PHP, PAT at 21:34

Thursday, October 12, 2006

PHP programming with PEAR published

As Aaron blogged earlier today "PHP Programming with PEAR" has finally been published. It is a collaboration between Carsten Lucke, Stoyan Stefanov, Aaron Wormus and me. It takes a quite practical approach that showcases a lot of code to get the job done very quickly using various PEAR packages. Packages covered in the book range from Date and MDB2 to XML_Serializer and Services_Webservices. I contributed to chapters that introduce the reader to the XML and Webservice packages, as I contributed a lot of code to these categories.

The book is available for order from Amazon.com or if you are living in Europe you might as well order it from Amazon.de or Amazon.co.uk. Aaron also set up a wiki for the book, where you can find more information or even contribute.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:49

Monday, October 9, 2006

PHP Design Patterns published

After nearly a year of work, my first very own book has finally been published and arrived last weekend. PHP Design Patterns is published by O'Reilly and introduces the reader to the world of patterns by providing practical examples. The patterns used in the book include simple patterns like the Singleton, Subject/Observer or Composite, but also more complex patterns like the Intercepting Filter or Event-Dispatcher patterns. If you never used PHP5 for object-oriented development, you might also find the short introduction to PHP5's new features, including interceptors, SPL and exceptions, worth reading. All patterns covered in the book can be applied to web applications, and to stay on the practical side of development, PEAR, Propel and patTemplate are used in some examples.

So if you are capable of understanding German and interested in learning more about patterns and software design in general, feel free to buy it at Amazon.de. More information and code examples can be found at the book website or at O'Reilly's online catalog. If you're still not convinced to buy the book, it might help, that the book has been published as a hardcover so it will last longer than most other books

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:48

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, September 5, 2006

XJConf for PHP

Today, Frank and I released the first version of XJConf For PHP. This is a port of the original XJConf I developed for Java. XJConf allows you to map complex XML documents to data structures by defining the mapping rules in a simple XML-based language. You may define the type for each tag (objects, arrays, primitives) as well as how its attributes, child elements and enclosed character data should be treated. When creating objects, you may also define the setter methods to nest the objects. There are plenty of examples available in the documentation of the original java version. Most of the examples have been ported to PHP as well by Frank, who did most of the work in this project.

If you want to give XJConf For PHP a try, you can get it via our PEAR channel or from SVN at <http://svn.xjconf.net/XJConfForPHP/>.

The fantastic XJConf logo has been developed and designed by Georg Rothweiler.

Posted by schst in PHP, PAT at 21:56

Sunday, August 27, 2006

Analyzing aide (advanced intrusion detection environment) output with PHP

Since we started hosting our sites on our own server we had some nasty cracker-attacks (most often certainly script-kiddies) causing lots of traffic by hosting crappy italian movies or by installing rootkits. To at least have a chance recognizing whether the system had been compromised we started to use aide some time ago. Aide keeps track of changes in the filesystem and provides us with a human-readable report once a day.

However, sometimes changes in the filesystem happen because of (security-)updates and not because a cracker exchanged your ps binary against his own personal version. Of course aide has no chance to identify such valid and invalid changes. 3rdPEARty's Util_AideAnalyzer is a solution to that problem - read on if you're interested.

The output aide produces when it checks the filesystem against the database looks something like this:

AIDE found differences between database and filesystem!!

Start timestamp: 2006-08-27 12:48:40

Summary:

Total number of files: 78400

Added files: 44

Removed files: 7

Changed files: 958

Added files:

...
added: /var/backups/dpkg.status.2.gz
added: /var/backups/dpkg.status.3.gz
...

Removed files:

...
removed: /var/backups/dpkg.status.4.gz
removed: /var/backups/dpkg.status.5.gz
...

Changed files:

...
changed: /usr/lib/menu
changed: /usr/lib/menu/lynx
...

Detailed information about changes:

...
File: /usr/lib/menu/lynx

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

```
Mtime : 2005-10-08 13:30:57 , 2006-08-14 01:36:12
Ctime : 2006-06-17 16:14:23 , 2006-08-26 16:19:35
Inode : 5947970 , 5948063
```

...

It lists some statistics, a list of added, removed and changed files/directories and a detailed summary of what exactly changed.

As mentioned above the summary often contains files/directories that were changed because of updates on our machine. To avoid the tedious task of separating the good ones from the bad ones you can put the output into a file and let Util_AideAnalyzer do the filtering for you. The following code snippet shows you how easy it is.

```
// necessary includes
require_once '3p/Util/AideAnalyzer.php';
require_once '3p/Util/AideAnalyzer/ItemChecker/Ctime.php';
require_once '3p/Util/AideAnalyzer/ItemChecker/Mtime.php';
require_once '3p/Util/AideAnalyzer/ItemChecker/Composite.php';

// the file containing the results of the aide-check
$file = 'rsrc/check-2006-08-27.txt';

// Analyzed-item checkers to be used in compound
// to sort out valid changes.
$checkers = array(
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Ctime(strtotime('2006-08-27 12:43:26'), 10),
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Mtime(strtotime('2006-08-27 12:43:26'), 10),
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Ctime(strtotime('2006-08-26 00:50:55'), 10),
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Mtime(strtotime('2006-08-26 00:50:55'), 10),
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Ctime(strtotime('2006-08-26 16:19:33'), 10),
    new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Mtime(strtotime('2006-08-26 16:19:33'), 10));

// a composite analyzed-item checker
$compChkr = new Util_AideAnalyzer_ItemChecker_Composite($checkers);

// creating an analyzer instance and performing analyzation
$analyzer = new Util_AideAnalyzer($file, $compChkr, false);
$analyzer->analyze();

// print the results
echo $analyzer->printTestResult() . "\n\n";
echo $analyzer->printDebugInformation();
```

You see that I create six item-checker objects (for each date one mtime and one ctime checker) which will sort out items whose mtime/ctime property changed at the given time (with a bias of 10 seconds, which is the second parameter). Each of those three timestamps represents a date/time when I updated the system. Thus the following change aide noticed:

```
File: /usr/lib/menu/lynx
Mtime : 2005-10-08 13:30:57 , 2006-08-14 01:36:12
Ctime : 2006-06-17 16:14:23 , 2006-08-26 16:19:35
Inode : 5947970 , 5948063
```

is a valid one, now (compare the ctime-property and keep the 10 second bias in mind).

The rest is as simple as cooking coffee. I take the \$checkers array and create a composite checker implementing the Util_AideAnalyzer_AnalyzedItemChecker interface. Then I create an Util_AideAnalyzer instance and call the analyze() method. The rest is just printing out the filtered information which will look like that:

Invalid items:

...
File: /etc/postfix/prng_exch
Directory: /root
File: /root/.viminfo
File: /root/.bash_history
File: /root/.rnd
File: /home/luckec/.bash_history
...

Valid items:

Directory: /etc
Directory: /etc/alternatives
...

Analyzation statistics:

Number of added items : 44
Number of removed items : 7
Number of changed items : 958

Number of valid items : 904
Number of invalid items : 54

Number of added/removed/changed items: 1009
Number of valid/invalid items : 958

I think you will agree that checking the validity of the remaining changed files/directories (invalid items) is done pretty fast as there are only a few left.

If you like what you read feel free to download and install Util_AideAnalyzer. Type

```
pear channel-discover 3rdparty.net
```

Then you will be able to install the package by using:

```
pear install 3p/Util_AideAnalyzer
```

Have phun!

Posted by luckec in PHP at 22:47

Sunday, August 20, 2006

New releases of patTemplate and patForms

After I finally finished my book (and my contribution to Exploring PHP) I finally have enough time to work on all of my open source projects again and today made two new releases. patTemplate 3.1.0b1 contains tons of changes since the last stable version. Most of the features that users have been requesting for years have been incorporated into this release, like the possibility to read templates from a database: \$tmpl = new patTemplate();

```
$tmpl->setRoot('mysql://root:@localhost/test', 'DB');
```

```
$tmpl->readTemplatesFromInput("SELECT content FROM templates WHERE id='foo'", 'DB');
```

// or use this syntax:

```
$tmpl->readTemplatesFromInput('templates[@id=foo]/@content', 'DB');
```

It is now also possible to use any PHP function or method as a default value for a variable which allows you to prefill a value with the current timestamp. Furthermore I have been putting a lot of work into the new patTemplate manual.

patForms 0.9.0b3 mostly contains bugfixes and provides several install-groups for the PEAR installer, which allow you to choose your form renderer when installing patForms. This will hopefully be one of the last beta version for patForms 0.9.0 as we plan to release a stable version during the next 4-6 weeks.

Both packages can easily be installed using of PEAR channel server at pear.php-tools.net.

Posted by schst in PHP, PAT at 15:25

Creating PEAR-installable nightly builds

If you incorporate a "release early, release often" policy for your projects, it helps you to detect bugs in an early development stage of your application. In many cases making a release takes some time and you do not release new versions as often as you intended. We had these problems with our projects over at www.php-tools.net. That's why we created snaps.php-tools.net, a site where you can download nightly builds of our projects as ZIP, TAR.GZ or TAR.BZ2 archive. This saves the users, who want to test the latest development versions the hassle checking out the latest version from our subversion repository. The problem of this technique was, that most users use the PEAR installer to deploy our packages and if they downloaded a ZIP file, it's not possible to use the PEAR installer on this file. That's why we came up with a solution to create nightly builds that are installable with the PEAR installer. Read on, if you are interested in how this can be achieved...

To create a PEAR installable package, all you need is a package.xml file, that contains all information about the project and the related files. So to create a nightly build, you will need a current package.xml that describes the package. Creating this by hand can be very cumbersome, as it has to contain all dependencies as well as all files that you want to include in the resulting package. But help has arrived, as Greg Beaver provides a PEAR package that aids you in the creation of package.xml files: PEAR_PackageFileManager. This package provides a PHP-API to read, modify and write the package.xml file needed to create an installable package. To automate this process, you need to follow these steps: Export the latest version from Subversion/CVSDetermine a version number to identify the nightly buildGenerate a package.xml fileUse the pear package command to create the archiveThe first task at hand is extremely easy, as Subversion and CVS both offer the export command. To get the latest version of patTemplate, the following command does the trick:

```
$ svn export http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patTemplate/trunk patTemplate
```

Now that you have exported the latest code-base the next steps is to create a unique version number. We decided that we wanted to use the latest officially released version (e.g. 3.1.0) and add a version suffix. This suffix could either be the latest SVN revision, or the date that the last change has been made.

As the revision in Subversion is incremented for the complete repository, once a commit has been made and all our projects share a common repository, we decided to use the date of the last change in the project folder as the version suffix. Once you have checked out the contents, this can be easily accomplished using the SPL's

```
RecursiveDirectoryIterator:function getLastModifiedDate($folder) {  
    $modified = 0;  
    $dir = new RecursiveDirectoryIterator($folder, RecursiveIteratorIterator::LEAVES_ONLY);  
  
    foreach (new RecursiveIteratorIterator($dir) as $file) {  
        if ($file->getMTime() > $modified) {
```

```
        $modified = $file->getMTime();
    }
}
return $modified;
}
```

This information now has to be used in a script, that will generate the package.xml file. For snaps.php-tools.net, we decided to split these tasks. The SVN export and the generation of the version suffix is handled by a simple script `createSnaps.php` which also build the plain ZIP or TAR archives.

After exporting the latest SVN version, this script searches for a file called `autopackage2.php`. If the file is available, it will execute the file and pass the version suffix as the sole parameter. `$createPackageFile = "php autopackage2.php " . date('YmdHi', $mtime);`
`exec($createPackageFile);`The `autopackage2.php` file then will use `PEAR_PackageFileManager` to create the current package.xml file. I will not go into detail here, you may take a look at an example in the `patTemplate` subversion repository. The most important part is, how the version number is created:// Base version
`$baseVersion = '3.1.0';`

```
// current version
$version = $baseVersion . 'dev' . $argv[1];
```

Furthermore it uses a `filelistgenerator` provided by `PEAR_PackageFileManager` to include all files that have been exported from SVN. This `autopackage2.php` script will generate a `package.xml` file and save it on disk. To create a PEAR installable package from this newly generated `package.xml` file, all that's left to do is execute the following command:`$ pear package -n`The `-n` switch is used to echo the full path to the generated `.tgz` package file after it has been generated. We use it to move this file to the document root, so it can be downloaded. And voilà you created a PEAR-installable nightly build.

For snaps.php-tools.net we also implemented some more features:It is possible to not only create a version from the current trunk, but as many branches as you likeWe also create ZIP, TAR.GZ and TAR.BZ2 archives for users who do not use the PEAR installerWe implemented a simple class that acts as a webfrontend to download the nightly builds.If you are interested in using the same technique for your nightly builds, feel free to use the code of snaps.php-tools.net as a starting point. You can get it from our subversion repository:`$ svn co http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patSnaps/trunk`Beware that some of the code is several years old and while it works with PHP 5.1 it surely could be optimized. Examples for the `autopackage2.php` file are available in the subversion repositories for `patTemplate`, `patForms` and `patBBCode`.

Posted by schst in PHP, PAT at 11:23

Friday, August 18. 2006

PHP Design Patterns finished

Today I received a message from O'Reilly, that my book PHP Design Patterns is now going to print and is scheduled to be released in September 2006. The work of the last six months is finally bearing fruit and I will be able to spend my spare time on coding again instead of just writing. If you wondered, why patTemplate or any of my other open source projects did not show any progress, this announcement should answer your questions.

I put nearly all of my thoughts on software architecture, OO design and patterns into this book and thus it consists of 370 pages dealing with OO development in PHP 5.1, creational patterns, structural patterns, behavioural patterns as well as enterprise patterns and MVC architectures. Furthermore it covers SPL, Propel and patTemplate to provide some real-life examples of the patterns.

If you intend to buy the book, you should be warned that it has been written completely in German. If you still are interested, you will find more information on the book as well as the code example on the website or you can already pre-order it from Amazon.

Thanks go to gERD, luckec and Frank who supported me with their knowledge as well as Toby, who introduced me to O'Reilly.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:07

Thursday, August 17, 2006

patForms Gettext Patch

Usually i18n and multi language support is not a big issue in web business. Even if web-sites seem to be global players, most of them get along with support for very few languages. patForms for example comes with support for English, French and German and therefore covers pretty much everything I ever wanted.

On the contrary non-French, non-English and non-Germans may blame patForms for lack of support for Danish, Swedish, Spanish, Russian etc. Rightly, I suppose. Unfortunately, the supported languages are within the form elements and rules. Hence it would mean to change a lot of files (classes) to simply add another language's messages. Knowing that we started to introduce support for external translation tables - stored in ini-files.

Another idea was to use the PHP Gettext extension which should be available on most servers. The two major advantages of this method are: (1) You simply don't have to bother about NLS (native language support) while you write some geek patForm rules or element. (2) Gettext is widely spread and comes with a bunch of tools to extract translatable strings and maintain translation tables. This makes it fairly simple to add support for additional languages like Spanish, Danish and even Gungan.

So far, patForms does not use Gettext. Still, I created a patch which works extremely well. I love to invite you to test this patch and and tell me what you think about patForms using Gettext. Please also tell me your opinion whether we should move to Gettext for the next release of patForms.

Download:

- Zip file: [patForms-Gettext.zip](#) 512 kByte
- Tar Bz2 archive: [patForms-Gettext.tar.bz2](#) 188 kByte

Checkout from our Subversion repository

```
$ svn co http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patForms/branches/gettext/
```

Links:

- [PHP Gettext](#)
- [GNU Gettext](#)
- Translation editor [PO Edit](#), [KBabel](#)

Posted by gERD in PHP at 20:10

Monday, August 7, 2006

Der Zauberlehrling - Sorcerer's Apprentice

Recently the German PHP Magazine published the August 2006 issue. The principal topic is AJAX and Web 2.0 technologies, including an article covering the PEAR package HTML_AJAX

This article's target is (1st) to give a brief introduction to AJAX and how things work from Javascript an PHP side in contrary. Also (2nd) I wanted to show that you actually don't have to muck around with a mess of Javascript (browser compatibility issues and such) because it's it is all done by the Joshua Eichorn's HTML_AJAX framework.

Unfortunately, four odd pages arn't enough to build up a complete application. Still, it tells you where to begin and how you can add Web 2.0 features to your site within minutes. Also there is one more crux: it's German only Still, I hope you'll enjoy the article.

Posted by gERD in PHP at 08:58

Sunday, August 6, 2006

patTemplate 3.1.0a2 released

I just released patTemplate 3.1.0a2. This will be the last alpha version for 3.1.0 and I hope to release a stable version during the next 6-8 weeks. The major changes since 3.0.1a1 include: You may now use variables in conditions for sub-templates! added an input filter that allows Smarty syntax for variable modifiers! It is now possible to read templates from a database using PEAR::DB! The full list of changes can be found in the changelog. You can download the package using or PEAR channel server.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:47

Exploring PHP to be published soon

Exploring PHP, a book I've been working on in march, will finally be published. I have been working on this together with Frank, Christian, Sandro and Kore and the book features five articles on advanced PHP topics. All articles in the book have been written in German.

The article I contributed showcases how event-driven-development can be used to create component based, flexible applications that allow you to easily plug in new features without modifying the core application. The examples in the book use PEAR's Event_Dispatcher. Other articles cover unit testing with SimpleTest (by Frank), the generation of 3D images with PEAR's Image_3D (by Kore), migration to PHP 5 and refactoring (by Sandro) as well as news on PHP 6 (by Christian). The editor for the book is Markus Nix, he compiled all the articles. If you take a closer look at the cover, you might see that there are different names listed on the cover than those mentioned in the blog. This is because some of the original authors did not manage to deliver their articles in time and have been replaced.

The planned release date for the book is 08/17/2006, so keep your eyes open.

Posted by schst in PHP at 12:01

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Reprogramming wheels

Clay Loveless recently posted a small rant [1] about loner applications, and that inspired me to write up a comment of sorts.

I think that the interoperability Clay wants requires out-of-the-box thinking, but sadly most of the programming world lives in tight boxes. To change that tide would require a lot of dedication and time, both of which I for one am not prepared to invest.

It is really quite sad, but the time and effort I need to get the author(s) of any piece of software to become aware of the non-interoperability with software XY I prefer to invest in getting a solution done - especially since the answers are usually "works for me", "don't need software XY", "it's open source, fix it yourself", "nobody needs that except you", "no time, maybe this winter". I usually try contacting the authors in case I should get lucky, but tend to avoid those kinds of discussions as they lead nowhere.

I think that one of the core reasons for the lack of interoperability is the reprogramming the wheel syndrome. I did that quite a few times myself, and while it may often be because the programmer feels he can do it better, I think there is more to it than just that. These are a few issues I can think of on the spot:

Lack of knowledge/training in development paradigms
Mislead prioritizing of featuresets
Ignorance of existing tools, either willing or unwilling
Lack of interest/motivation to find out if there are existing libraries for task XY
Confidence that it is easy and fast to develop on one's own (like database abstractions and authentication layers)
Unwillingness to conform to existing APIs
Lack of understanding of existing APIs
Stressed work environments that do not allow for research of existing tools (or training, for that matter)
General mistrust of external libraries

I am sure a psychiatrist specializing in modern software developers would be able to find quite a bunch more issues, but I am not sure I want to know about that in such detail after all.

Expectations, Approaches

This is one more issue that I feel compelled to write about, since it is the reason why I have reprogrammed the wheel a few times in the past, and actually still do: different approaches to a problem.

As an example, have you ever wondered why there are really that many CMSs out there? Is it really because someone said "I can do it better"? That may very well be the case, but why did he/she think so? I think it is because that someone had a different idea of how a CMS should work, dismissing the other system because it did not match his expectations. Like the users using a software like a CMS will be more at ease with one or the other system, developers will be more at ease with one or the other library. PEAR's HTML_QuickForm [2] essentially does the same than patForms [3], but in a different way - why does one developer choose the one over the other? The choice is not always based on the featureset.

I know that when I look at a library and it does not work the way I expect it to, I am easily tempted to find another (if possible) or think of writing one of my own. My friends and colleagues have largely succeeded in curing me of the syndrome, like by teaching me how to use wrappers to overcome the awkwardness of using an "alien" API. Now I usually only program a new wheel when there are not really any good libraries for the task at hand, or the library of choice has serious issues.

Real life and productivity vs interoperability

When I started my own business, I knew I would need an application that would help me build the websites for my customers, so I started looking around. There are many great frameworks and CMSs out there, and I took a good look at them. My decisionmaking was based on a few simple rules:

The system had to
allow complete freedom of layout
feature a multilingual frontend and administration
be extensible to add any kind of

features have enough modularity to allow frequent structure changes
be secure work under PHP4 (most of my customers run on shared hosting)
be open source for easy adjustment to custom needs
have a user-friendly and self-documenting interface for end users
have an administration sdk to easily add new administration features
take care of all redundant website building tasks
allow me to let loose my customers in the administration interface
allow me to use third-party libraries (interoperability)
be around for a while

In everyday use, the goals were

to empower me to keep the quality as high as I want it to
allow me to reduce my prices to lessen the gap with the discount offers of the competition
to give me an edge on development times versus the competition

I don't want to turn this post into a feature comparison, so I will skip that step. After reviewing several frameworks and CMSs, I realized that none would fit what I wanted. Only a custom solution would work, because for the rate of development I targeted I needed a tool that functions on a level I can comprehend. Inspired by patPortal, I planned and started the development of SimpleSite [4]. As a strictly solo project at first and due to the development timeline priorities, interoperability was the least of my worries. Even now, after about a year and a half of constant development it is still lacking in that regard. However, I have made sure that it is interoperability-ready: all the required interfaces and structures are built to allow swapping components as you see fit.

I think that knowing how to prepare for interoperability and adding it to your application development plans is much more important than actually offering it, as it makes the job for other developers that much easier. I also know that it is not always that simple either however - in SimpleSite, the templating engine of choice is patTemplate. While you can use any template engine you like in your modules, the main structure is always handled by patTemplate, and there are related helper methods that only work with patTemplate. It is sometimes really a matter of weighing the development effort and related costs against the added value interoperability would add.

Related links

[1] Clay loveless' "Stop writing loner applications" post

[2] PEAR HTML_QuickForm

[3] patForms

[4] The SimpleSite development portal

Posted by argh in PHP at 16:48

Monday, June 5, 2006

XML_Parser tutorial published

In January 2005 I wrote a tutorial on the PEAR package XML_Parser, that I maintain. This tutorial was supposed to be published in the PEAR section of Zend's developer zone, as they planned on sponsoring PEAR developers that were willing to write tutorials for their packages. Sadly enough this tutorial has never been published, although Zend promised me to do so and I also never received the promised discount on the Zend certification.

When cleaning up my hard disk yesterday, I stumbled across the tutorial and decided, that it would probably be better to publish it on my own website instead of waiting for Zend to finally put it online. So if you still are using PHP4 or prefer SAX-based parsing although PHP5 offers a decent DOM implementation, you can now find the XML_Parser tutorial on my website.

Be warned: Although the tutorial itself has been written in English, the rest of the website is in German, so you might find the navigation a bit strange. But no need to worry, the this link will guide you directly to the tutorial.

Posted by schst in PHP at 11:51

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Thursday, May 11. 2006

Nero goes PHP - join us!

Of course, Nero AG in Karlsbad (Germany) is famous for CD-burning software, which is far away from web technologies and PHP. Still, Nero applications grow together with the need of communication in the world wide web. Also there are plenty of traditional web projects as well as AJAX based PHP programming going on.

Still there are so many lines of code to write, so many ideas to implement and so many visions to think about that we can't handle it on our own. Therefore we need your experience, your skills, your brain and enthusiasm. We need your help!

Have a look and apply for a job in our team, we are looking forward to meet you!

German job offers at Nero AG:
Job offers GERMAN
Job description GERMAN

English job offers at Nero AG:
Job offers ENGLISH

Posted by gERD in PHP at 10:44

Monday, April 3. 2006

Date_Holidays - New releases

The past weekend Stephan spent some time to fix all filed bugs for Date_Holidays. The result was the release of version 0.15.2. Meanwhile I finally managed to install all the tools on my new MacBook I needed for PHP development. Wasn't that easy because I had a hard time deciding what IDE I should use. Since my old Zend-Studio 3.5 couldn't be installed on the MacIntel and I was not willing to spent the money for the current version I switched over to PHPEclipse. I didn't yet try whether debugging and more advanced stuff works, but it's for free and keeping that in mind it's pretty good (IMO better than the Zend PHP-IDE, at the moment). The switch from ZendStudio to Eclipse wasn't a problem as I develop a lot of Java and like Eclipse very much - it's a great platform. Anyhow, as I coded a bit to test the features PHPEclipse offers I implemented a feature-request for Date_Holidays that allows to create drivers not only by a unique driver-id (until now this was the only way to create a driver):

```
$driver = Date_Holidays::factory('Germany');
```

but also by using an ISO3166 country code:

```
$driver = Date_Holidays::factoryISO3166('de');
```

as well as:

```
$driver = Date_Holidays::factoryISO3166('deu');
```

I published this some minutes ago and the 0.16.0 release can be found at the PEAR package home.

Posted by luckec in PHP at 23:03

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

patError documentation available

patError has been developed as we needed a simple tool to unify the error management in all our different projects such as patTemplate, patForms or patBBCode. Although we liked the error handling provided by PEAR, we did not want to use it, as we did not want to force our users to use PEAR in combination with our tools. Still, we adopted several concepts from the PEAR error handling, so most of the users who already have been familiar with PEAR were able to use patError without the need to learn a lot of new concepts.

However, in the past months, more and more people asked us questions about patError and so I decided as was time to write some decent documentation on all the features. As Aaron announced that his upcoming talk at the next PHP Usergroup Frankfurt meeting would also include patError, I realized that it was now or never and wrote the full documentation for patError, which includes advanced topics like registering new error levels or replacing the error class with your own class. The documentation is available on our new Trac-powered site, which also provides SVN-access and a bug tracker.

If you ever wanted to know more about patError, you will hopefully find all that you need on our new site.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:28

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

patTemplate tag reference

This is just a quick note to let you know, that our project has not died. We are currently in the process of moving all available documentation from our website to the Trac installations we will be using to maintain our projects. While moving the existing documentation, I also added a new page, which contains a tag reference for patTemplate.

We will keep you updated on our future plans for our projects.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:57

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Regular expressions for dummies

If like me, regular expressions are constantly nagging at you because you just can't get the knack of them, you'll be happy to learn that I have finally found that software I have been waiting for all these years: RegxBuddy. Behind this mindbogglingly dull name hides a very nice visual regular expression editor, debugger, tester and optimizer. Regular expression nirvana!

I am a completely lost case regarding regexes, so I have purchased a copy - and I can honestly say that's the most well spent money I ever spent on software (with the exception of Photoshop, I think). The integrated regexp parser tree view shows you exactly what a regexp is made of, what it matches, where you could optimize it as well as correct common errors. It supports Perl-Compatible regexes as well as POSIX extended ones, has integrated PHP syntax highlighting... I'll stop here before anyone thinks I am affiliated with the creators of the software (but you were probably already thinking just that).

As pictures tell more than words, I'll let these screenshots speak for themselves:

The regex wizards out there will probably laugh at this, but I can highly recommend it if you want to learn regular expressions or simply to be able to make some of your own without external help

Posted by argh in PHP at 13:06

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Saturday, September 24. 2005

Pearadise.net now lists pat-releases

This week, I finally managed to upgrade our server to the latest version of Chiara_PEAR_Server, which is now uses REST instead of XML-RPC. Besides all the new features this enables in our channel, one huge advantage of using REST is that I finally could add our channel to pearadise.net.

pearadise.net is the channel aggregation portal for PEAR compliant channel servers. So if you are looking for a package that solves a specific problem you do not need to search for this package on every website that offers, PEAR packages. You just go to pearadise.net and browse the listings of all channels that are registered there. If you are even more lazy than the average developer, you just use the search functionality offers. For example, if you are looking for a template engine, you just search for "template engine" using the form the website offers and it will list you all "official" template engines as well as Smarty and our own patTemplate.

There are already seven channels registered, which is really great, as the site is still in beta-state and PEAR 1.4.0, which brought us the channel features is only stable for a few days.

The developer behind pearadise.net is Tobias 'toby' Schlitt, who is well-known in the PEAR community for his work on the PEAR website and several PEAR packages. He is also a member of the PEAR-QA-Core-Team, so you can all rest assured that this new project of his will surely improve over the next time and will soon be the number one site to search for re-useable PEAR components. If you are maintaining a PEAR compliant channel, make sure to register your channel at pearadise.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:16

Monday, August 15. 2005

patForms v0.9.0b1 released

Yesterday we released the first beta of patForms, following our second alpha release. There has been a lot of activity around patForms lately, and most notably a new lead developer has joined the team: Sven Fuchs. Among other things he has added a complete layer that allows patForms propel integration, and has contributed new renderers.

Quick overview of changes:

A lot of bugfixes, subpackages more stablePropel integrationNew renderers: Smarty, PHPTal and HTML_Template_FlexyForm namespacesNew rules and storagesEnhanced parserMinor enhancements and new features

With all the bugfixes and enhancements in this new version, the whole package has become a lot more stable and along with the new functionality has taken a step more towards making working with forms fun We are planning to make a first stable release in october, so we need your help in weeding out the leftover bugs!

If you are using patForms in your projects, please upgrade and test the new version (please see the section on upgrading further down in this post for additional notes). If you do not know patForms yet, I think this is a good time to discover the project. With the extensive and comprehensive examples collection, you can start working with it in a breeze!

You can report any bugs or feature requests in our new Trac-powered project manager, where you can also find a documentation wiki.

- [1] Download via our PEAR channel server
- [2] Download via the traditional download page
- [3] Project manager (bugs, feature request, wiki)
- [4] Online examples collection

Notes on upgrading

If you are already using a patForms beta, you may have to change a few things in your script as we have a few BC breaks in some subpackages. Nothing extraordinary, and as this new release is our first beta the API stands as it is and will not change anymore.

Changelog

The changelog is also available on our channel server, but for convenience I have included the complete list of changes since our v0.9.0a2 release here:

patForms main:

Added "namespace" support to patForms and patForms_Elements (closing ticket #129) (Sven Fuchs)Added a class patForms_Definition: base class for xml based form definitions (Sven Fuchs)Removed patForms_FormatChecker and replaced it with rules (closing ticket #156) (schst)Added an event onValidate to patForms and registered storages to listen to this event. This allows patForms_Storage containers to do their own validation, e.g. for unique keys. (This closes bug #130) (Sven Fuchs)Cleaned up event-management and added new onRender() event (schst)Avoid multiple autoValidate checks in the same request (schst)Changed datasources to receive the element (closing ticket #151) (schst)Added datasource for country-selection (schst, argh)Added createDatasource() method to patForms (schst)patErrors triggered by event listeners will now bubble up to the user (schst)Check, whether custom locale file exists prior to loading it (schst)Fixed several PHP 4.4.0 notices (schst)Added the getRenderer() method (argh)

Elements

Fixed bug #87: Passwords will not be sent back to the browser if the "resendpasswd" attribute is not set to "yes" (schst)Fixed bug #148: Enum/RadioGroup/Set/Combobox Elements now accept retrieving values from a datasource additionally to the already defined value set (argh)Fixed bug #147: Enum/RadioGroup/Set/Combobox Elements now support setting a 'disabled' attribute for values (argh)Fixed bug #150: Date day element displays 32 days (argh)Fixed bug #172: modified behavior of the setValue for the set element so that you may pass either a string for a single selected value, or an array with a list of selected entries (argh)Fixed bug #149: Non-required date elements are validated against min and max dates (argh)Fixed bug #179: Add errormanagement to patForms_Element::serialize*()

(argh)Fixed bug #174: New method removeRule() is used to remove the previously added rule when usign the format attribute (schst)Fixed bug #171: Element_Date accepts invalid dates (argh)Fixed bug #182: Switch element does not check for the correct value (argh)

Rules

Added several patForms_Rules to match Propel Validator classes and enable client side validation for these. New rules are: MaxLength, MinLength, MaxValue, MinValue, Match, NotMatch, ValidValues (Sven Fuchs)Added new rule: AnyRequired (schst)Fixed bug #173: translated missing french strings in patForms_Rule_URL as well as other rules (argh)Added new rule that prohibits updating entries in a storage (Frank Kleine)Added new rule that prohibits adding entries in a storage (schst)Fixed bug #187: Storage* rules need french translations (argh)

Storages

Allowed the use of the DB storage container to only add entries (schst)Added new feature to the DB storage container to provide additional values for new entries (schst)Fixed the DB storage container to work with SQLite (schst)Fixed bug in storage containers that did not provide the onValidate() method (schst)Added new "Mail" storage (schst)Fixed bug #140 (missing check for database error) (schst)Fixed bug #177 (minor bugs in CSV storage) (schst)

Clientside features

Changed scripts collection mechanism in patForms, patForms_Element and patForms_Rule for clientside validation. (This closes bug #133) (Sven Fuchs)

Propel Integration

Added a class patForms_Definition_Propel: definition that either populates itself from a Propel ObjectPeer class and writes itself to an xml file OR reads an existing xml file and populates itself from it, when this file exists (Sven Fuchs)Added a class patForms_Creator_Definition: creates a patForm instance and populates properties, elements and rules from a patForms_Definition instance (Sven Fuchs)Added a class patForms_Datasource_Propel: used to populate data to form elements for foreign key/related tables from a Propel ObjectPeer. (Sven Fuchs)Added a class patForms_Storage_Propel: implements the patForms_Storage interface to integrate with a Propel object peer. (Sven Fuchs)

Renderer

Changed patForms_Renderer_Array to not include patForms_Datasource objects in the results array (This closes bug #131) (Sven Fuchs)Added new patTemplate Renderer (schst)

Parser

Edited patForms_Parser "sourcefile could not be read"-message to include some additional useful debugging information (argh)Added filename to patForms_Parser error message (schst)patForms_Parser_HTML now extracts attributes of the tag (schst)Allow more than one element with the same name (schst)Fixed bug with spaces in attribute values (schst)Added value-namespace support via the namespace attribute of the tag (schst) Added event support via attributes of the tag (schst)

Posted by argh in PHP at 11:37

Saturday, August 13. 2005

patConfiguration 2.0.0 stable released

I finally released a stable version of patConfiguration 2.0.0. patConfiguration is a package to read and write configuration files in different formats, like XML, WDDX and INI. The most powerful driver is the XML driver, which allows you to write rules how the XML tags should be interpreted. This means, that you can map any XML document to arrays, objects and scalar variables by defining the target types of the tags and their attributes. This makes reading configuration files from XML as easy as just passing the configuration as a PHP variable.

You can download patConfiguration either from our website or use the PEAR installer and get it from our channel-server. Be sure that you have patError installed (which is done automatically, when using the PEAR installer).

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:41

Wednesday, August 10, 2005

We switched to Subversion

While relocating to a new server, we decided to use subversion instead of CVS to manage the source code of all our projects. This led to some problems, as we had to adjust several of our scripts that automatically generated the API documentation and the nightly builds of our projects.

I just finished the last adjustments and now it's possible to download a ZIP or TAR.GZ file of the current development version of any of our projects from snaps.php-tools.net. If you prefer to checkout the projects from our subversion repository, that's possible as well as we are allowing anonymous read access. All you need to do is the following (if you have a subversion client installed):

```
$ svn checkout http://www.php-tools.net/svn/patTemplate/trunk patTemplateIf you want to checkout patForms or patBBCode instead of patTemplate, just replace the project name. To browse the subversion repository online, you may just enter the same URL in your browser.
```

For some of our more active projects, we also provide an installation of Trac which brings you a nicer web-svn-viewer (including pretty diffs), a bug-tracker, a roadmap and a wiki for the project. You can access our trac installations at trac.php-tools.net. The project, which is currently the most active is patForms, which you can see using the Trac timeline. We are nearing a first stable release, but this will be the topic of another post.

Posted by schst at 21:59

Tuesday, August 9. 2005

HTTP_Cache moved to 3rdPEARty.net

Today I made the first release of HTTP_Cache on 3rdPEARty.net, the channel server provided by Carsten Lucke. If you are already using HTTP_Cache, please change your installations and register the new channel-server:

```
$ pear channel-discover 3rdpearty.net
```

```
$ pear install 3p/HTTP_Cache
```

If you are already using HTTP_Cache, make sure to uninstall it beforehand to avoid conflicts:

```
$ pear uninstall pat/HTTP_Cache
```

3rdPEARty.net is relatively new and will provide packages by several PEAR and PAT developers that are not available in the PEAR repository, more on this subject will probably follow soon by Carsten. I moved HTTP_Cache to this server, so that the PAT server will only provide packages prefixed with pat. Other packages available at 3rdPEARty are Util_Checksum, which is able to generate various checksums as well as a package that provides commonly used exceptions, called P3AR_Exception.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:30

Monday, August 8, 2005

Event_Dispatcher and patConfiguration in Java

As I'm currently using Java a lot at work (90% of the time), I started porting some of the classes, that I use a lot to Java and make them available to the public under an open source license. Most of the time, you only read of projects ported from Java to PHP, but I think the PHP community offers a lot of projects which currently are not available in Java and a lot of Java developers can learn a lot from PHP.

The first two projects I ported are patConfiguration, which is now named XJConf and Event_Dispatcher (now called EventDispatcher). XJConf allows you to map any XML document to Java objects by defining rules for the mapping process. These rules allow you to call setter-methods and the constructor and define the classes used for the tags and attributes. It also is extendible using XML namespaces, I already implemented basic XInclude support. XJConf is a lot more powerful than the PHP version, but I plan to port the new features back to a PHP5-only version of patConfiguration.

EventDispatcher is a package that helps you build event-centered applications by dispatching the event-objects to the listeners that have been registered for the various objects. The package provides almost the same functionality as the PHP version, which has been developed by Bertrand Mansion and myself.

Documentation for both packages is available at my new website java.schst.net, which also provides a web-SVN viewer, ticketing system, a roadmap and many other features (powered by Trac). Currently there aren't any ready-to-use JAR files, but you can get them from SVN and build them using ant.

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:48

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Sunday, July 17. 2005

Forum back online

As some of you may have noticed, our forum at <http://forum.php-tools.net> has been offline for the last two weeks. The cause has been that someone hacked our server and used it for file-sharing which caused a lot of traffic, which we have to pay for. As the hacker used a security hole in phpBB (which has been fixed in newer versions, but our installation wasn't up to date), which we used as a forum software, we decided to disable our forum until we had evaluated, whether to install a different software.

Since today, our forum is back online, but we switched from phpBB to FUDForum, as we experienced several problems with phpBB during the last year and FUDForum seems to be a lot more secure. Thanks to a lot of help from Ilia, I also was able to import all userdata and all postings from the old software so you can still login with the same username and read the old postings. A big "THANK YOU" for this from the pat team to Ilia, this has been the best support we experienced for an open-source product.

Posted by schst in PHP at 19:02

Saturday, June 25. 2005

PHP5 Kochbuch released

Just in time for the LinuxTag 2005 O'Reilly Germany released the "PHP5 Kochbuch". This is a new edition of the translation of the original PHP cookbook by Adam Trachtenberg and David Sklar.

For the new revision which now completely focusses on PHP5 I contributed four chapters: XML, Webservices, PEAR and "PHP on the commandline".

These chapters deal with all new features of PHP5 like the new DOM, XSL and SOAP extensions, but also with some features that will only be included in PHP 5.1 like xmlReader and xmlWriter and even the brand-new XML-RPCi extension in PECL. Through all my chapters I'm also making constant use of PEAR packages like Net_Server, XML_Serializer, XML_RPC or Services_Ebay. The PEAR chapter itself even deals with PEAR 1.4.0 and explains you how to set-up a channel server. If you read the book, I'm happy to receive any feedback on my work.

Posted by schst in PHP at 14:19

Monday, June 6, 2005

PHP Conference vs. Vegas and Hawaii

Although the Call-for-Papers for the International PHP Conference 2005 in Frankfurt has just been announced I won't be submitting any sessions this year. But of course neither the conference nor the organizers are responsible (the conference has been great all the past years), but at the time the conference takes place, I'll be in my honeymoon on Hawaii after getting married in Las Vegas in the first week of November. I bet, this experience will sure beat another PHP conference, although I won't be able to meet all of the PHP folks I regularly meet there like Christian, Toby, Aaron as well as a whole bunch of PEAR-developers.

For the same reasons I did not propose any sessions for any of the upcoming conferences, I'll hopefully be back, next year (At least, I do not plan to get married again...)

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:25

Sunday, June 5, 2005

HTTP_Cache released

I just released HTTP_Cache 0.1.0 through our own PEAR-Channel at pear.php-tools.net. I proposed this package via PEP8 some time ago, but because some of the functionality already is available in the packages HTTP_Header and HTTP_Download I never initiated the call for votes. But still I think this small package is quite useful when you need HTTP-Caching using ETag. As it supplies a handler for PHP's output buffering all you need to add to your scripts are two lines of code:

```
require_once 'HTTP/Cache.php';  
$cache = &new HTTP_Cache(array('auto' => true));
```

```
echo "You now may send any data to the browser";
```

If a user now requests this page twice, it will be only sent to the browser once, unless the output has changed in the meantime.

If you are using PEAR 1.4 installing the package is nearly as easy as installing a package from PEAR:

```
$ pear channel-discover pear.php-tools.net
```

```
$ pear install pat/HTTP_Cache
```

The package will be get installed in the PEAR directory of you server and you can instantly start to use it.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:10

Thursday, May 5, 2005

patForms 0.9.0a2 released

I just released the next alpha version of patForms, our form generation and validation package. This release contains some small bugfixes as well as a feature request from Helgi.

One of the coolest features of patForms is that you may embedd your form elements using XML tags directly in HTML files, like web controls in ASP.Net or Java Server Faces. patForms will then parse the HTML code and creates PHP objects from the embedded components that interact with the data the user submitted and automatically serializes them back at the end of the request. Other features are support for event-driven development and the subject/observer pattern to get rid of spaghetti code. Furthermore patForms provides custom filters and rules for the user input and is easily extendible.

Starting with this version, patForms is now also available through our PEAR channel, which makes the installation quite easy (if you have PEAR 1.4.0a11 or higher installed):

```
$ pear channel-discover pear.php-tools.net
```

```
$ pear install --alldeps pat/patForms
```

patForms also gets more and more acceptance in the community, currently there's work done on a patForms / Propel integration by Sven Fuchs and some other developers. This will allow you to build forms from Propel objects that automatically load and save data from and to the database. You can read more about these plans in the weblog of Sven. There's already some working code available and we expect a release of this quite soon.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:25

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

PHP Conference session slides

Stephan uploaded the slides for his two talks on the International PHP Conference in Amsterdam yesterday evening. Apparently both sessions were well attended, and the Power Workshop on XML and WebServices he has made along with Tobias Schlitt went quite well

You can have a look at the slides for Stephan's talks right here:

Go OO! - Real-life Design Patterns in PHP5
Component and Event Based Architectures

The examples are not included yet, but we will add them as a separate package soon.

Posted by argh in PHP at 09:44

Friday, April 22. 2005

PHP Magazine 3.05

This week, this latest issue of the PHP Magazine International Edition has been released. This issue contains the second part of my "Go OO!" series which deals with design patterns in PHP5. If you are interested in decorators, iterators or the delegation pattern, make sure to buy a copy. Sebastian also contributed his first article and shows you how patForms can be a timesaver when creating form-based user interfaces. And last but not least, Carsten Lucke (another pat-related developer and friend) showcases his PEAR package Date_Holidays. And of course there a a lot of other interesting topics covered.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:24

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, April 12. 2005

php-tools.net relaunch plans

We are currently planning a complete relaunch of the php-tools.net site, and would welcome any feedback on how we can improve it in the process. The new site will have a completely new design and backend (we are still deciding what we will use), but even though we have a good idea of what featureset the new site will need, you can still help. Tell us what you least and most liked about the current site, and what features you missed most: simply send a mail to [argh \[at\] php-tools \[dot\] net](mailto:argh@php-tools.net) with your ideas / criticism / feature requests.

Thanks in advance from the Team!

Posted by [argh](#) in [PHP](#) at 13:39

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

All new pat channel server

Since Greg Beaver invented the PEAR_Server class and Davey Shafik created a handy package to set up your own Channel frontend, we've been itching to make a pat Channel. Stephan installed it on pear.php-tools.net, and after my designer eyes stopped bleeding when I saw the default layout of the beast (don't get me wrong, Davey - I know it's just an example layout), I made a pat-skin and now it's ready to roll.

For the moment only a few of our packages are available through our channel, but we'll add the others eventually.

You can read more about the PEAR_Server package on Greg's blog, and more about the Channel frontend package on Davey's blog.

Posted by argh in PHP at 15:56

New releases of patConfiguration and patTemplate

Yesterday I released patTemplate 3.1.0a1, the first alpha version of the 3.1 branch of my templating engine. This release provides dozens of new features and although it's labelled alpha, it's nearly production quality. I'm currently using it in one of my projects, that servers 400.000 visitors a day.

patConfiguration 2.0.0b2 mainly contains some bugfixes and is supposed to be the last beta version before I'm going stable. If you are using any of these, please test the new versions and report any bugs you find.

If you are using PEAR 1.4.0 you can also get them from our channel server.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:48

Monday, March 7, 2005

patTemplate 3.0.1 released

I just made a bugfix release of the patTemplate 3.0.x branch, which fixes some small notices and bugs that have been reported in the last few months. If you are using patTemplate 3.0.0 I recommend you to upgrade. If you would like to test some of the new features I have added to patTemplate you may grab the latest snapshot of the 3.1.x series from snap.php-tools.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:06

Sunday, March 6, 2005

patConfiguration 2.0.0b1 released

I finally managed to release a first public beta of my configuration reader patConfiguration.

Starting with this release it is now driver-based which keeps the codebase small and at the same time allows you to read and write XML, INI and WDDX files using the same API. The XML-reader is the most powerful driver as it allows you to define how you would like the tags to be handled. This means you can define that the tag should automatically be converted to an array that should contain the attributes of the tag as values. Of course you can also choose which types to use for the attribute values, so they get converted to booleans, floats, integers, strings, arrays or objects.

To achieve this, patConfiguration provides a very easy-to-use built-in tag:

Now that you've defined, how patConfiguration should interpret the tags, you may use them in your configuration:

Parsing this configuration is extremely easy:

```
getConfigValue('articles');  
?>
```

If you worry about the overhead of parsing XML files on every request, you may want to switch-on the caching system which makes loading the configuration faster than reading it from PHP files. If you want to use your tag definitions in more than one file, just use external entities or xInclude tags, patConfiguration supports both, even in PHP4.

After reading this XML-document with patConfiguration, you'll get the following array structure back:

Array

```
(  
  [0] => Array  
  (  
    [vendor] => Green Lantern  
    [title] => Power battery  
    [price] => 99.99  
  )  
  
  [1] => Array  
  (  
    [vendor] => Batman  
    [title] => Batarang  
    [price] => 500  
  )  
)
```

patConfiguration allows you to return the complete configuration or only parts of it, using a mixture of PHP's array syntax and a path to the desired value. If you'd like to see more features of patConfiguration in action, you may want to take a look at the online examples or download it from our site.

If you are using PEAR 1.4.0 you may also get it from our PEAR-channel:

```
$ pear channel-discover pear.php-tools.net  
$ pear install --alldeps pat/patConfiguration
```

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

If you stumble upon a bug, please report it using our bugtracker.

Posted by schst in PHP at 11:54

Friday, March 4, 2005

PHP5-Client for Yahoo's Webservice API

Our new member Daniel Wiegand (wiegi) implemented a PEAR compatible client for Yahoo's new REST-based webservice API. From the Yahoo developer site: "Yahoo! Search Web Services allow you to access Yahoo content and services in your favorite programming languages. This means you can now build Yahoo directly into your own applications." By using Daniel's PHP5 client you do not need to worry about the protocol or the resulting XML format, everything is done in plain PHP:

Besides `searchWeb()` the client provides more methods to use the different web services offered by Yahoo: `searchImages()` `searchVideos()` `searchNews` `searchLocal()` Each of the methods can be used with several parameters that need to be passed in a fixed parameter order or you may pass an associative array that contains any parameters you want to pass.

As Daniel has been using PHP5 all of these methods return a `Services_Yahoo_Result` object that provides methods to return the total number of search results but can be iterated like a normal object, thanks to SPL. This result object offers a lot more, as you can use it to fetch the next page using the same search parameters:

Quite cool, isn't it?

You can take a look at the sources at http://pear.php-tools.net/projects/Services_Yahoo/ or even download a PEAR installable package from http://pear.php-tools.net/projects/Services_Yahoo/Services_Yahoo-0.1.0.tgz (requires PHP5, XML_Serializer and HTTP_Request).

We would have loved to propose this to PEAR, but there already is a draft for a `Services_Yahoo` package by Martin Jansen, but until now he hasn't showed any of his code. Hopefully Daniel and Martin could be working on a package together.

Posted by schst in PHP at 12:05

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Sunday, February 27. 2005

I love Greg Beaver!

I really do! Yesterday he released the first official version of PEAR 1.4.0 (alpha, of course) which provides a lot of new features. The most interesting feature is the ability to install files from different channels, which is really great for our non-PEAR packages at php-tools.net. But that's not all, Greg did to get my love: He also developed a PEAR_Server with a simple HTML frontend that can be easily installed using PEAR 1.4.0. So this morning I decided to play with it a bit and after several minutes, I had our own channel server online which is already able to serve patError and patTemplate (more projects will follow). If you'd like to try it, download PEAR 1.4.0a2 and then add our channel and start installing the packages:

```
pear upgrade PEAR-alpha
pear channel-discover pear.php-tools.net
pear install pat/patTemplate
```

If you are interested in documentation and technical insight, the following postings might be of interest to you:

Several PEAR-related posts in Greg's blog

A look at package2.xml and how to create a PEAR 1.4 package by Tobias Schlitt

Set up you own PEAR channel by Tobias Schlitt

I'll keep you updated on our new channel server. And once more:

Thanks Greg, you've done the most amazing job I can imagine.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:46

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Welcome to patPortal, Wiegi

Yesterday a new developer joined patPortal, by committing a new Response Filter to the project. patPortal is a component-based and event-driven framework that uses an extremely high level of abstraction, as you never access any session, GET or POST directly directly, but use a request object for this. This allows us to use the same API for HTTP-based applications as well as SOAP requests et al.

The same principle is used for the response, as you are never sending data directly to the client but pass it to a reponse object instead. Daniel's response filter now allows you to strip unnecessary whitespace from the response prior to sending it to the client.

Daniel decided to join us for this project, so welcome aboard the pat-team. You can reach him at [wiegi\[at\]php-tools\[dot\]net](mailto:wiegi[at]php-tools[dot]net).

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:18

Monday, February 14, 2005

New release of PEAR::Date_Holidays

Some minutes ago I released a new version of Date_Holidays (now it's version 0.13.0). This package is quite powerful in calculating holidays and other special days.

I am writing an article about it for the upcoming issue of the International PHP-Magazine. This gave me the reason to add some useful new features: I adapted some of the existing calculation drivers and added a new one that calculates the birthdates of the PHP geeks who sent me their date of birth (look at this) I implemented filter-objects that allow detailed filtering of the calculated holidays. This includes blacklists, whitelists and composite filters. Big thanks goes to Stephan Schmidt who patiently proof-read the article and gave me some hints.

If you ever stumbled across the problem of calculating holidays and didn't find a good solution at all, this article will certainly be worth reading. I hope the people of the PHP-Magazine will provide it as online-article because it would be a great addition to the documentation of this package.

Posted by luckec in PHP at 23:31

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

The day you were born ...

Hi folks,

would you mind telling me about your date of birth, please? You want to know why I am interested?

I want to write a driver that calculates the birthdates of all php.net-people for Date_Holidays. I want to use this driver for some demonstration purposes for an article in one of the upcoming issues of the International PHP-magazine. You'll see the result when it's done.

So again, what I would need: Your

- name
- date of birth
- country where you live

Would be really great, if you could mail me this information to luckec -at- php -dot- net. Thanks in advance...

Posted by luckec in PHP at 20:04

Thursday, February 3, 2005

Services_Ebay 0.11.0 released

I just released a new version of Services_Ebay, which provides two cool new features, as well as several new API-calls. One of the new features is the new caching system, I added to the model classes. As API calls to the eBay API tend to be quite time consuming (and expensive) most users probably will be trying to cache the return values from the eBay API. So I decided to add this as an optional feature to Services_Ebay. Using the cache is extremely easy:

After instantiating a new cache container, you set the type of expiry you want to use for caching the data. Currently only a fixed expiry time is supported, but this can be changed easily (as expiry checks are objects) and thus an expiry check will be added that caches data of eBay items shorter the nearer the end of the auction draws. I'll probably also add cache containers based on databases, as they are more flexible than filesystem caches.

The second feature I added (with some help by the fabulous Adam Trachtenberg) is the support for product finders. Product finders are those neat and advanced forms that eBay provides on their website, which lets you choose the style, color, size of clothing or any other item you are looking for. eBay's API provides calls that help you add those interactive search tools to your site as well: GetProductFinder, which returns XML code with the raw information (form elements and values for a certain category) and GetProductFinderXSL which returns the stylesheet eBay uses to render the HTML from the raw XML data. Services_Ebay makes working with these calls extremely easy, as it provides a ProductFinder model:

Using this code will result in 4 drop-down menus as well as some javascript, which will update them, whenever the user selects an item.

The new release is also the first release which features code by Carsten Lucke, who added two new API calls (that deal with Dutch auctions and member messages) as well as the needed models for these calls.

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:53

Friday, January 28, 2005

Tutorial for Services_Ebay

Adam Trachtenberg, manager of Technical Evangelism at eBay, has written an introductory tutorial on Services_Ebay, one of my newest PEAR packages.

Although this ONLamp.com tutorial is rather short, it deals with some interesting aspects of Services_Ebay, as he shows what can be accomplished by object-overloading and he even makes use of the ability to switch model classes in a way I've never thought of them. Adam implements his own models to use them as a presentation layer as he only changes the output of the `__toString()` method.

If you are interested in the Services_Ebay package, this is the tutorial that will get you started.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:36

Monday, January 24. 2005

International PHP 2005 Conference - Spring Edition

I will be giving two talks at the annual PHP Conference in Amsterdam this year: Go OO! - Real-life patterns in PHP5
This talk will show you how to use PHP5's new object-oriented capabilities and the interfaces of SPLComponent and event-driven architectures in PHP5

This session will introduce you to new concepts of web development and show you how to implement event handling in your applications which make them a lot more flexible

In addition to these sessions I'll be doing a power workshop entitled "XML and Web services with PHP5 and PEAR" together with Tobias Schlitt.

Hope to see you there!

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:23

Sunday, January 16. 2005

PEAR is getting event support

Bertrand Mansion started a new proposal for Event_Dispatcher, a package that provides easy-to-use event handling for your projects. I only realized that this package has been proposed as Bertrand started the call for votes on this package, but as I'm using this technique a lot in patPortal and at my work, I decided to give this package a try.

The package's architecture is quite simple: There is an Event_Dispatcher, which is able to hold observers (native PHP callbacks) for different notification types. These observers will be notified whenever an event (aka notification) occurs. This notification is a simple object that stores information about the event itself. In real life you can use it to add functionality to your sites, without having to change the code of your application, e.g. in my applications, I send a notification, whenever a user places an order (onOrder) and pass the order object to the notification. This way I can easily plug in new objects, that write logfiles, update cookies or send a trackback to an affiliate partner.

As I liked the simple architecture of the package, I played with it a little and reached some limits of the package as it has been missing features I heavily use in my commercial projects. The first feature I was missing was the ability to let an observer cancel the notification (for example if you want to plugin in some checks before a user is able to place an order, which enable you to cancel an order after the user pressed the submit button), so I added this to Bertrand's code. Next was the ability for event bubbling, which allows you unlimited levels of event handling and an event that was triggered at a lower level will then inform all observers of the higher levels. So I added this feature as well, by allowing the user to nest as many dispatchers as they like.

And last but not least, I wanted to be able to use a custom class for notifications, which is now possible in my version as well (for a single dispatcher as well as all dispatchers).

I hope that Bertrand will include all these changes in the official distribution and that this package will be accepted by the PEAR community, so if you haven't voted, do it now.

Posted by schst in PHP at 14:13

Monday, January 3. 2005

HTTP_SessionServer 0.4.0 available

I just released a new version of HTTP_SessionServer, a daemon that is able to store key value pairs and communicates with any kind of client using a simple protocol.

Besides some cosmetic changes, this release features a new backend contributed by Carsten Lucke, which stores session data in a database using the DB abstraction layer.

If you'd like to learn more about how HTTP_SessionServer works, you can take a look at the presentation I did at the International PHP Conference in Frankfurt.

Posted by schst in PAT at 19:47

Wednesday, December 29, 2004

New release of PEAR::Date_Holidays

Finally I managed to release Date_Holidays 0.12.0. You'll find some new language-files (German translation for USA-holidays and Italian translation for Christian holidays).

Additionally the getHolidayForDate() method has been vastly improved. Lorenzo sent me a cool patch which makes this method much faster.

Posted by luckec in PHP at 16:58

Sunday, December 26. 2004

Unemployed at Boxing Day

Well, we survived XMas and we will survive Boxing Day and New Years Eve as well (Even if I'm not sure with NYE). Even if the world changes every day, people still need to work to afford living. So do I. Therefore I'm looking for a job in Australia again. This time I'm in Melbourne (VIC) - the home of Cricket and the Australian Open. So, if you run a web-design or development company in this beautiful city, I would be glad hearing from you.

Thanks in advance.

Posted by gERD in PHP at 07:26

Wednesday, December 22, 2004

New versions of XML_Parser and XML_Serializer released

I released new versions of two of my PEAR packages: XML_Parser 1.2.2 and XML_Serializer 0.14.0. While XML_Parser 1.2.2 only fixes two bugs, XML_Serializer 0.14.0 provides two cool new features: By splitting the SAX-handlers from the XML_Parser class (which is possible since XML_Parser 1.2.0) you may now set the source and the target encoding of the XML documents that you want to unserialize. This enables you to read UTF-8 encoded documents and convert them to ISO-8859-1 on-the-fly. I added a new option "encodeFunction" to the XML_Serializer class, which lets you specify a PHP function or method that will be called for all character data and attributes before they are written to the XML document. This allows you to encode your data in UTF-8 before creating an XML-document. As XML_Unserializer provides a matching option to decode the data, you could also use this to transparently encrypt XML and decrypt XML documents. I added these two new features, as eBay requires applications to work with UTF-8 encoded XML documents and thus Services_Ebay needs to read and write UTF-8 encoded XML-streams. But the more I think about these features the more situations come to my mind where those options could be timesavers.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:17

Saturday, December 11. 2004

Two new articles published

This week, two of my articles has been published. It started with issue 1.05 of the German "Java Magazin" for which I did a short introduction of to XUL. XUL is an XML language to model user interfaces for Mozilla, I did a PEAR class that allows you to create XUL applications with PHP.

Today I received the latest issue of the International PHP Magazine, which includes my article on XML_Serializer, I package I maintain in PEAR that is able to serialize almost any PHP structure to an XML document and vice versa.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:30

Thursday, December 9, 2004

patSpiderizer v2.0.9 bugfix release

As I have finally had the time to look into the "cannot redeclare xmlrpc_decode()" bug, a new patSpiderizer release (v2.0.9) is now available from our site. This is just a bugfix release, but that one bug was very annoying, and only happened on PHP installations that had the xmlrpc extension included - the function names of our xmlrpc connectivity class simply were the same as those of the extension...

This is probably the last version for the v2 branch (except for bugfixes), as I have started writing up notes for the new v3. This new version will be rewritten from scratch, and synthesize the experience gained with patSpiderizer and its bigger brother XENA PolePosition (German) that I developed for my former employer, Metrix Internet Design GmbH, in one tool. The global concept will bring some fresh wind to the 'cloaking' scene, I think, as it will be the first NOT to cloak

Posted by argh in PHP at 11:38

Wednesday, December 8, 2004

Welcome Adam - Services_Ebay 0.10.0 released

I just released a new version of Services_Ebay, which fixes a small bug in the Item Model, allows you to change the language of the error messages and allows you to specify international shipping options for your items. But the most important change is, that Adam Trachtenberg now has CVS karma to commit to the CVS repository. He already committed his first patch, hope there will be some more in the near future, when he started working with the package. So welcome aboard, Adam!

Posted by schst in PHP at 00:16

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

New PEAR proposal: HTTP_Cache

I just proposed a new package for inclusion in PEAR: HTTP_Cache. This package helps you creating ConditionalGet requests in your pages. This helps you keep the traffic low on your sites as it only sends the request body with the first request and a 304 (Not Modified) header on subsequent requests. This is especially useful, if a page that is requested quite often is not changed a lot, but still is generated by PHP, so the browser will not cache it by default.

If you would like to implement this in your site, HTTP_Cache does all the work for you and even is able to work with output buffering. If using this feature, you only need to add two lines of code to the scripts you want to cache:

HTTP_Cache will generate a unique id for the current browser and send the following headers:

Cache-Control: must-revalidate

Etag: e33b111743ff17c7829cd6bdad6815cb

On the next request the client will resend the ETag back to the server and HTTP_Cache will compare the client's ETag with the one that will be generated on the server. If both tags match, the data will not be send to the client, but a 304 header will be issued:

HTTP/1.x 304 Not Modified

The only drawback is that HTTP_Cache will need to create an MD5-sum of the content, which could slow your application down in some cases. But using the cache will speed up your site as your webserver does not have to send as much data as without the HTTP_Cache.

Furthermore you may supply the unique id so HTTP_Cache does not need to create use the md5() function. This is especially helpful, when you are already using a serverside cache system and already generated a unique cache key for the current page. In this case you may also check whether the browsercache is valid so you do not need to load the cache file from disk:

If you are interested in this package, take a look at the package proposal or download the first version from our site.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:13

Monday, December 6, 2004

PHP5 Kompendium is now available

While shopping for christmas presents on Saturday, I found Christian's and Tobias' new book PHP5 Kompendium standing on the shelves and until then I hadn't realized, that this already had been published. The German book deals with all you need to know about PHP5 and is the perfect christmas present for everybody who either wants to learn PHP from scratch or is looking for some advanced techniques.

While skipping through Christian's blog, I discovered that the book had been released nearly two weeks ago, I guess it's time that Christian's blog is included in Planet PHP.

Congratulations to Christian and Tobi.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:40

patBBCode describers meet patTemplate

I have added the patTemplate driver to the new Describer class included with patBBCode: this driver uses a patTemplate template file or loaded templates to generate the tag guide, leaving nearly total control in layout. The effect can best be seen by comparing the very simple HTML Driver output with the new patTemplate driver output.

In addition to making it possible to let patBBCode render its tag guide automatically directly in your site's design, the patTemplate driver has a series of options you can set, namely:
injectContent: whether to inject the content into the loaded templates directly, or return the rendered list as a string. This is very useful if you want to inject the content directly in place into an existing template your application has already loaded.
sortBy: sorting of the tags list. Possible values are 'tagName' to order by tag names alphabetically, 'attributes' to sort by tags with or without attributes, or set to 'null' to disable completely.
sortDir: sorting direction.
asc|desccontainerTemplate: sets the name of the template containing the whole tags list
entryTemplate: the name of the template for each tag
attributesTemplate: the name of the template with the attributes list
variablePrefix: a prefix prepended to all variables in the templates - use if some of the standard variable names collide with existing ones in your application
These changes are currently only available in CVS, so you can view the changes in our WebCVS or download the latest CVS snapshot.

Posted by argh in PHP at 14:04

Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Unit testing with .phpt

In the latest issue of the PHP Barnstormer Aaron wrote a nice summary of Greg's tutorial on how to use those strange phpt-files and how to write your own tests. This currently is the best source of information on phpt files you can get (at least I could not find better information).

Together with the new PEAR_RunTest class, that Greg wrote, it will finally be a lot easier using these standard tests for your PEAR packages.

This reminded me, that a lot of my PEAR packages still are in need of some good unit tests, guess I'll give phpt a try.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:29

Tuesday, November 30, 2004

It's here! patTemplate 3.0.0 stable released

I finally managed to release the stable version of my templating engine. It has been completely recoded for this release, as well as redesigned. Here's just a short list of the features: based on XML tags, very flexible architecture, interchangeable readers: read from files, string, other template formats, input filters, output filters, variable modifiers, easily extendible (bind PHP objects to tags), accepts strings, arrays and objects, features conditions for special templates (odd, even, first or last repetition)

If you'd like to see a full list of features, you might want to take a look at the online examples or browse our blog.

If you're still not convinced to use patTemplate, maybe you should know, that the content management system Mambo started adopting patTemplate for their next major version.

To download the package, have a look at our site, or to be on the bleeding edge and give yourself some shivers, there's also the CVS snapshots.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:31

Services_Ebay 0.8.0 released

I just released a new version of my PEAR package Services_Ebay, which is now marked as alpha as the API starts to stabilize.

This version includes some quite interesting new features: Services_Ebay now provides some kind of introspection, as you can get a list of all supported API calls using Services_Ebay::getAvailableCalls(). Furthermore it finally supports a changeable SiteId, that means it's not restricted to ebay.com anymore.

To help you debugging your application and to help me analysing the bug reports it's now also possible to capture the XML data that is sent to and received from the eBay webservice.

But the coolest new feature are the custom models, an idea I had in the Toby's and Lukas' powerworkshop. They used Services_Ebay in conjunction with some other PEAR packages, but wanted to store some additional information for the items in a database. To achieve this, they created a new object that stored a reference to a Services_Ebay_Model_Item object and the additional data that they wanted to store in the database. Although this worked, it did not look very nice and can get quite messy.

To achieve the same result, you may now create new model items to replace the ones provided by Services_Ebay. That means you can create classes for users, items, feedback etc. that will automatically be created and filled with data by the Services_Ebay package. All you have to do is the following:

```
<?php;
```

```
require_once 'Services/Ebay.php';
```

```
// simple model class
```

```
// You may implement any additional methods you need
```

```
// in your custom models.
```

```
class myItem extends Services_Ebay_Model_Item
```

```
{
```

```
    // Dummy method
```

```
    // This does not really do anything, but you can implement whatever you like
```

```
    // here...
```

```
    public function StoreItem()
```

```
    {
```

```
        echo "Now you could store the item data in your local database...";
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
Services_Ebay::useModelClass('Item', 'myItem');
```

```
$session = Services_Ebay::getSession($devId, $appId, $certId);
```

```
$session->setToken($token);
```

```
$ebay = new Services_Ebay($session);
```

```
$item = $ebay->GetItem('4501296414');  
$item->StoreItem();  
?>
```

This is totally simple and allows you to add any functionality you need in your application without wrapping methods or duplicating code.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:57

Data filters for patForms

Inspired by Helgi's comment on patForms, I started a new approach to data filters in patForms.

patForms data filters are fore more powerful than input filters in other form processing tools, liek QuickForm. The possibilities of filters include: Filters work in two directions, e.g. you can store seconds in database and let the user view and enter hours by applying a multiplier filter. Filters can be applied before data is validated, I call these HTTP filters, as they sit between the browser and patForms. Filters can be applied after data is validated, I call these PHP filters, as they sit between patForms and your application.

Although this made filters an extremely cool feature, they are harder to use than filters in QuickForm, as each filter (independent of the real complexity) has to be an object and needs to be instantiated before it can be used, which led to the following code:

Helgi complained that in most cases you'll probably just want to apply a built-in PHP function to the date that is sent from the user and that having to instantiate objects is overkill for this simple feature.

Today a nice idea popped to my mind: I created a new filter object that is able to apply any PHP function to the form data. Furthermore I created a wrapper function in the element base class which lets you instantiate and configure this object in a single method call. This reduces the necessary code while still maintaining the flexibility we introduced by using filter objects:

In addition to a function that filters incoming data, you may pass a second function that modifies the value before it is sent back to the browser. Of course `applySimpleFilter()` also accepts static methods or object methods instead of functions.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:29

Monday, November 29, 2004

First official release of patBBCode

Our BBCode parser, patBBCode, is available as v1.0.0beta. This small library is based on a SAX parser, and retrieves all tags with just one regular expression. The tag transformation is then done by filter objects, or patBBcode itself in case of 'basic' tags without attributes.

A complete documentation is available as well as a series of examples also included in the package for a quick start.

Some are already familiar with patBBCode, but with this release there are a few new things. Filter classes can now trigger their own user errors, e.g. if a vital attribute is missing. The biggest addition, however, is the Describer helper class: it enables you to describe an existing patBBCode object by retrieving information about all available tags. This can be used to automatically generate a tag guide which you can retrieve in several output formats by means of a specific Driver object. The following bit of code generates an HTML table with a list of tags and their function:

```
// create the Describer
$descr =& patBBCode::createDescriber();

// create the driver
$driver =& $descr->createDriver( 'HTML' );

// tell the describer to use the driver
// $descr->setDriver( $driver );

// and display the documentation
echo $descr->describe( $BBCode );
```

You can view the result here - this is included in the examples collection of the package. For the moment, the HTML driver is very simple, but I intend to add a patTemplate driver which will give you total layout control. Another feature worth noting: the Describer respects the locale you set in the patBBCode object you describe

Posted by argh in PHP at 14:30

Friday, November 26. 2004

patForms 0.9.0 alpha released

Today, Sebastian released the first public version of patForms. Here's what he wrote in his release announcement:

"Many were eagerly awaiting this moment, and this is it: patForms is out, It's only an alpha version, but that depends on the parts of patForms you will be using. In you don't know what our form abstraction class is or what it can do for you, have a look at the overview. Otherwise, download and test away! Just make sure you report any bugs you find via our patBugzilla."

So the next thing is to propose this package to PEAR as it would allow us a faster release cycle and provide a better infrastructure. And it would introduce this package to a broader audience.

If you haven't tried patForms yet, now's the perfect time for it.

Posted by schst in PHP at 19:18

Bitflux adopts patForms

In an entry in the Bitflux blog chregu writes, that they started integrating patForms in the Bitflux CMS. So finally people start using this projects, which is great, as it hasn't even seen an official release yet. So if you wonder, how people can use this already, you may be interested in the latest CVS snapshot, API documentation or the examples.

I was really happy, that the guys at Bitflux like using patForms, as they developed a lot of things I really liked and chregu is one of the few people I really look up to, when it comes to XML knowledge.

The only feature they have been missing so far is multi-page support, but this is on my todo list, maybe I could work on this together with the Bitflux team.

This morning, Sebastian promised to prepare a first release and already applied for a PEAR account, as we would like to submit this project to PEAR (this has been requested by people like Toby, Lukas, Klaus, Arnaud, Carsten, Aaron, Markus and Christian). Hey, this should ensure our five votes, that we need...

So keep your eyes open for the first official patForms release, or get the latest snapshot, there are tons of (well documented) examples included, so it should not be too hard to get started with patForms. We are already using it in a lot of commercial projects, when will you start using it?

Posted by schst in PHP at 11:40

Tuesday, November 23, 2004

First public release of Services_Delicious

I just released the first public version of Services_Delicious, a PHP API for the REST based webservice of the social bookmarking site del.icio.us. If you've read my last blog entry on this topic, you already know, what it can do for you. If you are not familiar with social bookmarking, here's an introduction for you:

Social bookmarking allows you to compile a list of categorized links that are accessible through a website by other users. This has the advantage that you can also browse the bookmarks of others and easily find interesting site. del.icio.us is a quite popular bookmarking site, which also offers a webservice to add new bookmarks or read your existing ones using HTTP and XML.

When using Services_Delicious you can easily manage your bookmarks using PHP:

Adding a new bookmark is not any harder:

Services_Delicious provides a lot of more methods, API documentation should show up on the PEAR website quite soon and I already started writing the end-user documentation for the PEAR manual.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:02

Monday, November 22, 2004

Started writing documentation for `Services_Ebay`

Although my PEAR package `Services_Ebay` is still in devel state, I started writing documentation for it. So far I've finished the "Getting started" section which helps you setting up your developer account at the eBay developer program and gets you acquainted with the Auth&Auth procedures and the eBay sandbox.

These things got me stuck when I started working on the project and so I thought, I could attract more developers to the package by providing a shallow learning curve, as using `Services_Ebay` is a lot easier than understanding how the eBay webservice works.

I just committed the documentation the the PEAR website, but the manual is only rebuilt on Sunday, until then you may read it in my testing environment.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:25

Sunday, November 21. 2004

ToolGarage relaunched

Carsten (aka luckec), a friend of the pat-team has just relaunched his personal site tool-garage.de. The site has been built with patPortal, a project of Sebastian, Carsten and myself. I'm also working on some other projects together with Carsten like Date_Holidays or ext/id3. His site now finally is in English and he has published some new projects, so please give it a try.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:04

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Thursday, November 11. 2004

It wasn't me!

In his last entry for the PHP Conference, Aaron made me personally responsible for the failure of the party on Tuesday. He blames me for giving a private session on patForms at the hotel bar, but hey, there were only about six people watching it... I hope S&S will allow me to attend the conference next year nevertheless.

I've been talking to Sebastian this morning, and he would also like to see patForms in PEAR, so I guess I'll start a proposal on this as soon as I find some time for it. I'm already in pain when thinking of the work that has to be done to adjust the coding standards in all files....

Posted by schst in PHP at 13:20

pat en Français (pat goes french)

Comme certains ont peut-être remarqué, j'ai déménagé d'Allemagne pour retourner en France. J'en ai profité pour faire de mon blog perso un blog entièrement en français, sur lequel vous pourrez suivre l'actualité de pat sans avoir recours à vos talents de traducteurs en herbe.

(As some might have noticed, I have moved back from Germany to France - if you want to try and put your translation talents to the test, you can now follow pat news in French via my own personal blog)

Posted by argh in PHP at 11:29

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

Preview for the next issue of PHP Magazine

Indu Britto has put together a preview of the next issue of the PHP Magazine. This will feature an article written by me that introduces you to the possibilities of XML_Serializer. This will buy me some time on writing documentation, as I can point all people having questions to the article. Issue 01.2005 is scheduled to hit the stands on the 14th of December, 2004.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:49

Monday, November 8, 2004

First Beta of patForms due this month

patForms is slowly reaching maturity, and for those of you who have been following patForm's development a little closer, there have recently been a few interesting changes:

- I have entirely rewritten the Date element, which now generates several input fields directly for each token in the specified date format, and can either display as several text input fields or select boxes. The API has changed a bit, so if you are using the Date element in your projects, be careful when upgrading. Please post any bugs you find via bugs.php-tools.net.
- I have reviewed all the patForms elements and rewritten parts to optimize the code, and finish implementing the display and edit attributes - they now work correctly in HTML and Readonly modes.
- Finally, I added a small feature to the examples framework, which is to display the submitted form values after submitting a form.
- Stephan on his side has finished implementing the Group element, and thanks to the new patForms_Collection class which can be used for handling multiple forms, the patForms_Parser can now handle multiple forms in a form template.
- Stephan also added support for external user error codes definitions so you can either define your own for the existing locales, or add new error codes for your own locales.

As it stands, we will release a first beta of patForms this month, along with an article in the international PHP Magazine on easy form management also featuring patForms. You can have a look at the current CVS snapshot via snaps.php-tools.net.

Posted by argh in PHP at 17:20

Sunday, November 7, 2004

[PHP Conference 2004] Services_Ebay 0.6.1 released

While sitting in the excellent PEAR workshop held by Toby and Lukas, I released a new version of Services_Ebay. This version brings the ArrayAccess interface to the models.

That means, they can be used like you would use an array:

You may read, write and delete properties using this syntax. I had the idea, while Toby and Lukas presented their small application, which combines Services_Ebay with QuickForm, MDB2, Auth, LiveUser as well as some other packages. For some coverage of the workshop take a look at the excellent posting by Aaron Wormus.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:09

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Up, up and away!

Tomorrow morning I'll be leavin for the International PHP Conference 2004 in Frankfurt.

I'll be doing two talks:

SessionServer - Maintaining state between different servers
The big documentation extravaganza
The first talk will focus on one of my PEAR packages, HTTP_SessionServer, which provides a simple daemon that is able to store key/value pairs on a remote server. It comes with some PHP functions that you can register with `session_set_save_handler()`. My second presentation will not contain any code, but is a short trip through the land of documentation tools. It will showcase tools like phpDocumentor, DoxyGen, reST and DocBook.

I'm also looking forward to attending a lot of other sessions. On Sunday, Lukas and Toby will be giving a 6 hours workshop on PEAR, where they will be using my Services_Ebay package in combination with MDB2, Quickform and a bunch of other packages. Furthermore I plan to attend Chregu's XML-talks as well as Volker's talks on XUL and SOAP. You can find a timetable of all sessions on the conference website

The International PHP Magazine has set up a conference-blog and all speakers will be able to post their thoughts there, so you probably should bookmark their site to get all the latest information.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:08

Services_Delicious

I just proposed a new package for inclusion in PEAR: Services_Delicious, a client for the REST-based webservice offered by del.icio.us. del.icio.us is a site for social bookmarking, which stores your bookmarks in a database that is accessible by others as well.

This is kinda like blogging, but without having to write all of this annoying text to describe what you are linking to.

The webservice allows you to search in your bookmarks (by selecting only bookmarks with a special tag), add new bookmarks and delete existing ones.

Using the PHP interface is quite easy:

Adding a new bookmark is not any harder:

The bookmarks can be browsed using your webbrowser or you may parse the RSS feed, like planet-php.net is already doing.

Now I'm eager to get some feedback on this class before starting the call for votes.

Posted by schst in PHP at 14:22

Wednesday, November 3, 2004

Documentation for patTemplate 3.0.0

Andrew Eddie, one of the core developers of Mambo, has put together some great documentation on patTemplate 3.0.0 which is available on the documentation wiki of Mambo.

It starts with a short introduction to templating systems and the model view controller pattern and then shows you how to extend patTemplate. Finally there are two pages on using patTemplate in Mambo.

If you are using patTemplate, I recommend reading this, as it will provide a lot of information that you will not find anywhere else. If you are not using patTemplate, you should definitely start using it.

It is great to see, how fast patTemplate has been accepted by projects like Mambo, which is one of the leading open source content management systems, although there has not been a stable release yet.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:00

Saturday, October 30, 2004

First public release of Services_Ebay

Today, I released the first public version of the PHP5-package Services_Ebay, which provides a very easy way to access the eBay XML API with PHP5.

Although the package is still in devel state, it supports about 50 of the 70 API calls that the eBay web service offers. Furthermore it adds model classes for eBay users, items, feedback, categories, etc. that helps you working with the eBay data. By making use of PHP5's new OO-features, you may access properties of eBay items as if they were native PHP data structures. The easiest way to demonstrate this, is a tiny example. The following code snippet fetches an eBay item:

If you are the seller of the item, you may revise the item and send it back to eBay using the following code:

Working with other entities, like users or categories, is also extremely easy:

All models provide are using methods like `__call()`, `__get()` and `__toString()` so they can be used in several ways.

The Services_Ebay class is loading the API calls on demand and thus reduces the code that needs to be parsed. Each API call may be used in three ways:

Use it with the Services_Ebay class and pass arguments like you would pass them to a standard PHP function (you need to pass only the most important parameters). Use it with the Servcies_Ebay class and pass arguments as an associative array (needed, when sending complex queries) Instantiate the object on its own, pass arguments to the constructor. Furthermore, the API calls are able to describe their parameter list by calling `$call->describeCall()`;

To use the package, you will need to register as an eBay developer at <http://developer.ebay.com> and then create an authentication token from the token generation tool at the developer site.

More information about Services_Ebay and the eBay XML API can be found in the PEAR proposal and the eBay developer site.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:56

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Monday, October 25, 2004

iX international edition available

Heise, a German publisher that is most famous for its German magazines c't and iX, as well as a great news feed, decided to start an international edition of the iX magazine.

iX focusses on software development and programming languages and published some interesting articles on PHP and XML during the last years. The english version will be available as PDF and the first issue can be downloaded free of charge.

Topics include SQL, XML schema as well as the influence of a doctype on the browser.

As this issue is free, I recommend reading it, the German version is always worth its money.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:59

Saturday, October 23. 2004

Back from PHP World

I'm back from attending the PHP-World Conference in Munich, Germany, where I presented a case-study of my daily work at 1&1 Internet AG.

I had a lot of fun during the conference and our meeting with some of the guys of MayFlower/ThinkPHP.

Christians talk on security was entertaining as always, probably the most funny talk I ever attended ("Sicherheit hat Priorität"). Toby gave an introduction to PEAR and Lukas did an extremely interesting session on database abstraction, including MDB2 and PDO.

Furthermore we had a PHP5 talk by Zeev, a web services talk by Tobias Hauser and a talk on optimising your sites for search engines (or better, Google).

If you did not attend the conference, make sure to add it to your calendar for next year, is it is worth a visit.

Posted by schst in PHP at 13:02

Tuesday, October 12. 2004

Back from the dead...

We had some problems with our server (it was completely down, actually) during the last four or five days. But now most of our sites (and email access) are working again.

Please do not expect all parts of our site to be fully working, we still need to adjust some configuration files on our server.

We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused you.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:16

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, September 29. 2004

schst.net launched.

I finally managed to put some content on my private website schst.net. This site fully focusses on all things I have achieved or like, so you will find a list of commercial and open-source projects, publications, presentations and of course also my curriculum vitae. The site is only available in German, but I intend to translate all the content. The fabulous design has been created by Sebastian 'The Argh' Mordziol, while the site is powered by or newest project called patPortal. Most of the pages are rendered from XML-sources using PHP5's new XSL extension.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:46

Tuesday, September 28. 2004

New Project: patSession

After adding some documentation we added another project to the list of public releases: patSession.

patSession is an abstraction layer for handling storing values in sessions the object oriented way. The modular design of this utility allows to extend it with custom storage drivers. Currently the package includes the Native driver, which implements a storage container based on the build-in PHP-session features. Furthermore, patSession comes with heaps of features to make sessions secure.

Visit the patSession pages for further reading and code examples. Of course, patSession is open-source and free for usage and download, as well.

Posted by gERD in PHP at 12:30

Saturday, September 25. 2004

ext/id3 v0.2 released

Today, Carsten released the new version of our id3 extension. He has been working hard and started implementing support for ID3 version 2, which is a lot more complex than version 1. It currently only supports reading text and URL frames, but expect more features to come. Thanks to Marcus and Wez the extension now also compiles with PHP4 and on Win32 systems. Get the sourcecode from PECL or get the fully compiled extension for PHP 5.0 on for Windows from snaps.php.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 12:15

Tuesday, September 21. 2004

Just Branched patTemplate...

Some days ago, I decided to branch patTemplate development into HEAD and 3.0.

So I'll start implementing brand-new features in HEAD, which will be released in version 3.1, while only bugfixes will make it into the 3.0 branch.

I also updated the script generating the daily snapshots for snaps.php-tools.net, so you will be able to download your preferred branch.

If you hadn't guessed it already: This means, patTemplate 3.0.0 can be regarded as stable and I'll release it during the next two weeks (hopefully).

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:34

Monday, September 20, 2004

Calling for Votes on Services_Ebay

This morning, I initiated the Call for Votes on my new Services_Ebay proposal for PEAR. So far, I'm getting a lot of positive reactions.

If you are a PEAR developer and plan on using the eBay API, make sure to vote on this package.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:28

Friday, September 3. 2004

Hunting for Galactic Civilization's perfect starting location

Talking about what can be done with javascript... for the Game Manager I built to calculate the values of starting locations in the Galactic Civilizations PC game, I implemented language switching and skin switching entirely in javascript.

The whole tool is built on objects that tightly communicate amongst themselves - each star system, planet or game is an object and can render itself. The layout control is mostly implemented with stylesheets, the javascript only rendering a very simple html structure. The core is the gameManager class itself - it renders the main navigation elements, and provides a series of helper methods (like the button() method that is used to render a button).

The language switching was not too difficult - I first googled around but the generally used trick with `document.write('[script tag]');` makes Mozilla reload the page. I found a nicer way to do this: create the script tag with the `document.createElement()` method, and append it to the document's head tag with `document.getElementsByTagName('head')[0].appendChild(tag);` As my language files consist of one file with a list of variables, they simply get replaced when loading the new script. Updating the display is a breeze, I just have to tell the objects to redraw themselves

The skin (stylesheet) switching proved a little more annoying: it works the same way than the javascript include, by appending a link tag to the head - but the existing styles do not get replaced, they are overwritten and extended. Meaning that if in my standard stylesheet, the h1 tag has a padding but not in the second stylesheet, that padding will still be there... Solution: delete all styles before loading the new stylesheet. That's easy to do by accessing the document's `styleSheets` property, going through each stylesheet and deleting each style rule via `document.styleSheets[x].deleteRule(x);` Peter-Paul Koch has an excellent reference on this.

Currently the Game Manager only works with gecko-based browsers like Mozilla or Firefox, as I use some specific methods like the `addEventListener()` method (to check when the external file has been loaded), and also because I used only the gecko implementation of the `styleSheet` access methods.

The result matches my expectations: a blazingly fast online tool, that would have taken a lot of time to build with a PHP/Javascript mixture and would not have been this fast. Now I only need to implement the save button and it's ready to really rock. Implementing this would take a little time, but basically all I need is already there: if you clicked on one of the View XML buttons in the interface, you have seen that each object can render itself to XML too, so I would just have to submit that to a PHP script for storage, and parse existing XML to rebuild the needed settings... but that's for another blog entry

You can view the whole Game Manager package in my personal WebCVS.

Posted by argh in Experiments at 10:18

Thursday, September 2, 2004

Unifying our example collections

With the current work on patForms, patTemplate and patBBCode, we have started unifying the example collections for all our tools. For this, we have built the patExampleGen class, which manages each collection by building the navigation and tabbed example pages automatically.

Using patExampleGen has several advantages:

- It gives us a comfortable way to manage all the examples for a tool by having all example descriptions in a central location.
- It makes it easier for the developers to view the examples, as you have both the output and highlighted source code for each example directly in the examples interface.
- Depending on the tool, some additional info like the template source code for patTemplate examples is also generated automatically via the extension features of the class that enable you to add your own dumpers.
- The actual source code in the examples is kept at a minimum to be easy to understand by having the examples framework render any needed output like the frame of the html pages.
- The tabbed interface for each example is also extensible, making it easy to add specific information on a per-example basis (like adding some extra notes, for ex.).

If you want to take a look at it, you can grab a copy of the CVS version of patForms (WebCVS), or patBBCode (WebCVS) and have a look at the examples/patExampleGen folder in the distribution. It is not currently available as a separate tool for download, but may become in the future. We welcome any comments on patExampleGen in our forum!

Posted by argh in PHP at 14:11

Monday, August 30, 2004

Upcoming conferences

I'll be speaking at two more conferences this fall. First is the German "Internet World" in Munich in October, where I'll be giving "PHP for High-End applications", a talk that focusses on PHP used for high traffic sites that are used to really make some money.

Later on in November, I'll visit the International PHP Conference in Frankfurt to give two talks. One will be about developing a PHP-based server that stores session data in a centralized spot, the other one is about documenting your code and tools that help you in extracting this documentation.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:26

Making huge progress with Services_Ebay

About 6 months ago, I started a wrapper for the eBay webservice and created a draft in Pepr.

As I realized that eBay already is promoting a PHP package for accessing their API, I put this project on hold and worked on my other projects. But after some coverage of the project by Harry Fuecks and the PHP Magazine Adam Trachtenberg, technical evangelist at eBay, contacted me and asked me to update the project to implement eBay's new authentication method.

After we exchanged some mails, Adam told me that there's no official eBay package for PHP yet and so I started working on this again.

This was about 10 days ago, and I made huge progress already. I implemented 50 of the available API calls and now only some of the seldomly used methods are left to implement. The project makes heavy use of PHP5's new OO-features like overloading (methods are loaded on demand) and SPL's iterators. This allows you to work with eBay entities, like they were some native PHP objects, available on your system. Adam, who already saw some of my examples, was absolutely amazed, how easy it is to work with the complex API.

But enough of the talk and let's take a look at some examples:

```
&lt;?PHP
// get information about a user
$user = $ebay->GetUser('superman-74');
// display user ID
echo $user->UserId;

// display all user data
print_r($user->toArray());

// get feedback for the user
$feedback = $user->getFeedback(Services_Ebay::FEEDBACK_BRIEF);
foreach ($feedback as $entry) {
    echo $entry;
}
?>
```

All these return values are objects, that may also be used in foreach() loops or echo'd to the user, overloading will take care of how they are handled.

Adding a new item is also easy as baking cake:

If you realised that there's a mistake in the recently added item, just change it and send it back to eBay:

Most methods can be either called on the Services_Ebay object or on the model directly:

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When calling a method, you may either pass scalar parameters in the parameter order defined in the call object itself or you pass an associative array, using the names specified in the official API documentation. This keeps Services_Ebay simple for all users, while offering the full, complex functionality for the users who want to use advanced features of the API.

Services_Ebay already provides Calls and Models for working with users, items, searchresults, feedback, transactions, feedback, MyEbay, etc.

All code and a lot of examples are available in my CVS, there you can see all methods that have been implemented at a glance.

I'll probably start a real PEAR proposal next week, so this can be included in PEAR as fast as possible.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:30

Sunday, August 29. 2004

Sailing under a new flag

Last friday, I had my last day at my former employer, Metrix Internet Design GmbH. After nearly five years, I decided, that it was time for something new and I took an offer from 1&1, Europe's largest Webhosting company, which has branches in the US, UK and France and is a member of United Internet.

That means, only one of the pat team is left at Metrix, as gERD left last May to go to Australia (those of you who understand German, may read his blog at oz.exit0.net). But Sebastian already is packing his things and will be leaving for France (as he's been living there nearly his whole life and found the love of his life there) in mid-September to work as a freelancer. If you are looking for someone to support your company, you may reach him at [argh\[at\]php-tools\[dot\]net](mailto:argh[at]php-tools[dot]net). He is not only an excellent PHP developer, but also a great designer (he designed all our sites plus a lot of other websites) and an HTML and Javascript expert. He is currently working on his site <http://sebastian.mordziol.de> (sorry all texts are French)

But that we are spread around the world, does not mean that we are stopping our open-source efforts. Sebastian will soon release the first versions of patForms and patBBCode and I'm heavily working on some PEAR/pecl stuff as well as moving patTemplate3 towards a stable release. So, "pat's not dead!"

Posted by schst in PHP at 13:53

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, August 25, 2004

Bye, bye luckec!

Today, Carsten left for BRB. We had a lot of fun, while he was staying with us in Karlsruhe and the future will probably see releases of ext/id3, Services_Ebay and patPortal, as we have been working on these projects. I'll post more information on these projects during the next days.

Posted by schst in PHP at 12:41

Tuesday, August 24. 2004

Cloaking like a search engine would want you to

A recent entry in our patSpiderizer forum initiated me to renew the discussion about the ethics of cloaking. patSpiderizer enables you to create spider pages with contents tailored for a spider's needs, with the motivation to help websites with few indexable content (like flash-sites) to get listed in search engines. At the time of the initial release of patSpiderizer in 2001, about everybody was involved in cloaking, and everyone had his own more or less successful cloaking recipe. Can you remember those pages with a giant keyword block at the bottom with black text on black background? At the time, this worked, as the spiders did not filter those pages out yet.

What has changed since then? Not much - the cloaker/spider war goes on, each side inventing new ways to screw each other. Did you know that some spiders actually check the grammatical structure of your website's content? Forget keyword lists. All this nonsense awakens my urge to break a few necks. Imagine all that fake content automatically generated from keyword lists, just to get to the top of search engine rankings until the spiders filter those out too... I would not want to have to write the search algorithms needed to get intelligible search results from that heap of garbage.

This is not only about ethics - it's also about better ways to success. I have several patSpiderizer installations that have been running for about three years now, and apart from updating the content from time to time, I did not have to change anything to get very good results. As I see it, there is only one way to cloak - the way a search engine would want you to. So let's see how that can be done:

- Cloaking: this implies that you hide something from the spiders, but why would you have to? Don't interfere with the way a spider indexes your site - on the contrary, help it by providing links to relevant pages, and especially those which may be hidden quite far in the navigation.
- Automatic content generation: admit it, you are just lazy. You will only get good and persistent rankings if you don't invent any new content, but mirror that of your website, in a more organized fashion. Group your content by theme, and create spider pages for each theme so that it is clear the user will find that particular information on your website (example: if you sell vacuum cleaners and soap, make one page for vacuum cleaners and one for soap). Also, always add links to the corresponding pages in your site so they get indexed too - after all, those are the pages your visitors will want to see!
- Link rating: no secrets here - the more external links you have to your site, the better your ranking. If you want a good link rating, you will have to make sure you have the best information so that everybody links to you.
- Structuring your content: if you are not happy with your search engine rankings, don't blame the search engine, blame yourself. There is a lot of time to be invested in finding the right wording to get good results, and also in finding out what people search for to find you. I have one really search-engine obsessed customer that has a patSpiderizer installation, and she spends a lot of time changing the wording of her spider pages, with a hell of success. Cloaking simply gives you the possibility to structure your content in a way you cannot in your website.

My conclusion is that there is no miracle solution, no hack, no trick, no joker that will shazam! get you a pole position in search engines without giving it some thought, work, and respecting the way the web works. And with the risk of getting your neck broken by a reactionary spider-friendly cloaker like myself, I would not dare try the opposite

P.S. Comments welcome in the forum

Posted by argh in PHP at 13:40

Monday, August 23. 2004

patTemplate 3.0.0 beta2 available

The second beta version of the completely recoded patTemplate 3.0.0 is now available. This is supposed to be the last beta release before 3.0.0 stable and only bugs will be fixed until 3.0.0 is released. If you are using patTemplate, please test this release.

A list of changes since beta1 is available in the changelog, if you never used 3.0.0, you will find a summary of all new features in the patTemplate 3.0.0 overview.

Go to the [download page](#).

Posted by schst in PHP at 11:43

Saturday, August 21. 2004

Calculating holidays with PHP

Today a new package has been released at pear.php.net, which helps you calculating holidays. `Date_Holidays` has been developed by Carsten Lucke, a friend of mine is a driver-based package that provides holiday calculation rules for different religions and countries.

Using the package is quite easy:

Posted by schst in PHP at 00:23

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, August 11. 2004

Comment feature has been disabled

Due to massive comment spamming, we have disabled this feature. Please use our forum if you would like to comment on our blog entries.

Thanks für your support,

Stephan

Posted by schst at 21:53

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Monday, August 2, 2004

OSCON presentation available

I finally managed to upload the materials for the "PEAR for the masses" talk I gave at the OSCON. You may download it in Powerpoint format from our presentation page.

Posted by schst in PHP at 06:44

Thursday, July 29. 2004

Brisbane Backpacker

Well, backpacker's live is hard! Sightseeing every day, getting up early for tourist tours, watching wales and dolphins, hanging around on beautiful beaches, walking through fascinating rain forests, visiting art galleries, going out at night and having weekend every day - that 's really hard work.

Therefore I'm looking for a job in Brisbane (QLD). So if you are in Brisbane and look for a system administrator or web developer, I will be glad hearing from you. Just send me an email and I'll call you for a chat.

Posted by gERD in BTL at 00:33

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Sunday, July 25. 2004

Up, up and away (to OSCON)

I'll be in Portland/Oregon next week, doing a talk on PEAR at the OSCON. Afterwards we'll fly to San Francisco and take some time off. That means I will not be able to work on my projects or answer to all mails during the next two weeks.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:22

Friday, July 23. 2004

New issue of German "PHP Magazin"

This week the new issue of the German PHP Magazin has been published. Aside from the cover article on Eclipse, an introductory article on PHP5 OO and a simpleXML tutorial it features three articles that have been written by our very-own schst.

There's one introductory article on using PHP on the commandline, one article on generating XUL with PHP (using the PEAR package XML_XUL) and an article on PHP5's newest XML extension xmlReader.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:40

Tuesday, July 20. 2004

Started working on patPortal

Due to popular demand, we started working on patPortal, again.

patPortal is (or better will be) a framework that helps you creating websites. It will be based on patConfiguration, patTemplate, patForms and tons of PEAR packages.

Some first steps of the component-based project are available in CVS, but you should not expect too much from it until now, I just devoted two evenings to the project.

I'll be mostly working on the general architecture that will manage data-interchange between the components using events and on a plugin system whereas Sebastian will focus on some components that you may actually use in your site, like views on database content, auto-generated navigations, etc.

The framework will not only aid you in the creation of web-applications, but also in any other field, where you may use PHP, as the request will be encapsulated in objects.

If you decide to try the current CVS snapshot (which is not recommended, yet), make sure that you've got the latest versions of patTemplate and patConfiguration (from snaps.php-tools.net) installed.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:44

Thursday, July 15. 2004

Tutorials for patXMLRenderer available

Vikram Vaswani (author of XML and PHP as well as MySQL: The Complete Reference) wrote two tutorials on patXMLRenderer.

patXMLRenderer allows you to transform XML documents to whatever you like (XML, HTML, PDF) by simply using patTemplate and PHP. You may bind namespaced tags to PHP objects to inject any dynamically generated content. If you ever worked with Sebastian's XML_Transformer, you probably already are aware of the technique.

[Injecting XML Content Into Page Templates With patXMLRenderer \(part 1\)](#)

[Injecting XML Content Into Page Templates With patXMLRenderer \(part 2\)](#)

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:18

patBBCode nearing release

patBBCode is our custom pat BBCode parser, with a slightly different syntax than the widely known BBCode. pat BBCode features tags with attributes, empty tags and even tags with custom namespaces. Tag filters enable mapping classes to tags with a very simple to use API for quick development.

patBBCode uses a sax-based parser to parse the tags, so that developers who want to add their own tags need not worry about that part. A filter class only needs to implement the createContent() method, and gets the content and attributes of the tag to work with. A small, custom template class makes it very easy to generate the needed content from any number of tag template files.

Simple tags that need not be mapped to a class are stored in .bbt (patBBCode templates) files used to render the content of the tag, e.g. the tag template for the [B] tag could look like this: %s, where %s stands for the content of the tag.

The first available version of patBBCode still used rather unflexible tag configuration files, and on Stephan's advice I implemented tag configuration readers. The main patBBCode class takes care of parsing the tags and rendering them from the tag template files, while the tag configuration readers are used to determine whether a tag exists and is allowed. Currently two readers are available:

The AutoFile reader is the default reader, and determines whether a tag exists and is allowed by checking if the template files are available in the filesystem.

The INI reader reads tag configurations from .ini files, enabling easy switching between tag configurations.

You can have a look at the CVS tree for this project at cvs.php-tools.net, and grab the current CVS snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net.

Posted by argh in PHP at 20:28

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

It's here!

After years of waiting, PHP 5.0.0 finally has been released and is available for download. Read the release announcement or download it.

Posted by schst in PHP at 08:58

Friday, July 9, 2004

Rapid page development with patTemplate

Recently I added a new custom function to patTemplate, that pushes unifying site design to a new level. In most sites, you have a set of design components, that you use in many pages to build headlines, information boxes, news entries, etc.

These should look the same on all pages to give the site a unified look and feel. To achieve this, you could either use XML and XSLT or you try to use a templating engine. This has the drawback that the designer, who creates the static pages of the site is not able to access the components in the template. It would be great if he could just say "hey, use the template for a box with this headline and that content" and it would automatically be replaced with the correct layout.

Well, patTemplate 3.0 can do this for you, all I had to do was create a custom function with about 10 lines of code. To ease your designers life, you can do the following:

1. Create a template file with all re-usable components you need in your site.
2. Get the latest version of patTemplate from CVS
3. Re-use the components in the pages by using

The best way to show what I'm talking about is an example:

File "components.tpl":

```
{TITLE}

{CONTENT}
```

```
{HEADLINE}
By {AUTHOR} on {DATE}

{CONTENT}
```

This file defines two templates, hint and news which we will re-use in the pages of our site. A news consists of a title, date, author and content, whereas a hint only has a title and content.

File "page.tpl":

By using the new patTemplate:Call function, it is possible to define often used design elements in one template file and then re-use these components to display any information you need.

The Function allows you to pass any number of attributes as variables of your component templates.

You may nest the Call tags as deep as you like, this brings most of patXMLRenderers functionality to patTemplate.

This shows you how to reuse the templates. If you need to change the layout of this news block, you only need to change it once and all news entries will have the design you created.

PHP Code:

When executing the page, the result will look like this:

patTemplate goes Randy By Stephan Schmidt on 2004-07-08 By using the new function, it is possible to define often used design elements in one template file and then re-use these components to display any information you need. The Function allows you to pass any number of attributes as variables of your component templates. Calls may be nested. You may nest the Call tags as deep as you like, this brings most of patXMLRenderers functionality to patTemplate. Been to the Spidey-Night. By Stephan Schmidt on 2004-07-07 This shows you ho to reuse the templates. If you need the change the layout of this news block, you only need to change it once and all news entries will have the design you created.

As you can easily see, it's quite easy for a designer to use the predefined elements in the pages. All he has to do is using the tag and passing the name of the desired element to the template attribute. All other attributes will be passed as variables to the template. The content of the tag will go into the {CONTENT} variable.

The example is included in the distribution and available online.

In the templates, you may use any of patTemplate's features, like variable modifiers or conditions. As patTemplate features a template cache that caches the resulting file with all components expanded, performance will not be an issue.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:01

Monday, July 5, 2004

PHP meets ASP.NET WebControls

After the interesting Christian's and Tobias' interesting talk at LinuxTag about the advantages and disadvantages of ASP.NET in comparison to PHP, Christian and I had a short chat about patForms and the parser we are using for rapid development.

IN ASP.NET, webcontrols allow you to add an additional attribute `runat="server"` to your HTML elements, which makes them available as variables in your script. This is extremely interesting when used with forms, as validation may be easily added and the elements automatically keep their values after submitting the form. Tobias and Christian thought, this was a huge advantage of ASP but then mentioned HTML_QuickForm. But using Quickform forces you to build your form in an object-oriented way by creating instances, setting properties and then combining all elements to a form which you may then serialize to HTML. This is a boring and tedious task.

I told Christian about patForms_Parser, which is able to extract special tags from any HTML page and build a patForms object from it, which can be validated and then sent back to the user with about 7 lines of PHP code, independent of your form.

But still, you need to create a HTML page, that contains special tags and that your designer is not able to view in his favourite HTML editor, which definitely is a drawback when it comes to rapidly creating form based applications. Last week I wrote a very simple subclass of the parser, which is able to read plain HTML forms, and give you a form object back that you may modify, validate and then send it back to the browser. All you need is the following code:

You may use this code with any HTML page that contains a form and you will get an form element object for all elements that you added to the HTML page. The steps where a form template is written, can basically be left out, these just create the HTML pages with the special tags.

To include special validation rules you may add attributes like `required="true"`, `format="email"`, etc. to your standard HTML elements. Of course you may easily modify the form from PHP, as patForms provides a DOM-like API. To add a new custom validation rule to an element, you just had to get the element and modify it:

You may also use all other features of patForms, like filtering user-input (to avoid XSS attacks), observers which allow to modify elements on certain events (e.g. changing the CSS class on error), javascript validation or storage container, which automatically write the user input to a datasource or file.

You may also specify a cache file which enables you to speed up your form-based applications. The code and a simple example is available in CVS or can be downloaded as a snapshot.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:41

Wednesday, June 30, 2004

Object overloading in PHP5

One of my favourite new features of PHP5 are the object overloading capabilities. These allow you to specify for any of your objects how they should look like as a string. By adding four lines of code to patTemplate, the following example is possible:

This will display the rendered template to the browser. I guess this will open a lot of new possibilities for your PHP applications.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:06

Monday, June 28. 2004

Documentation for ext/id3

As Carsten is quite busy at the moment, I decided I'd write some documentation for our id3 extension, available through PECL. I already committed it to the phpdoc CVS tree and am now waiting for the manual to rebuild, which may take some time. If you need the documentation before php.net is rebuilt, you may read it at <http://pecl.php-tools.net/phpdoc/ref.id3.html>.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:56

Friday, June 25. 2004

Reach the pat team through jabber

If you are using our tools or PEAR packages and suddenly are stuck, we provide another way to get in touch with us. You may reach us now via instant messaging, specifically via Jabber. Jabber is the OSS equivalent of tools like ICQ or AIM. It uses a set of streaming XML protocols, that can be easily extended using namespaces. To communicate with us using Jabber, you will need a Jabber client. A list of all available Jabber clients for various platforms can be found at the Jabber website. You will then have to create a new account and register with our Jabber server. If your client asks for a servername, please use `jabber.php-tools.net`. To send a message to one of us, add us to your roster list. These are our jabber ids:
`schst@jabber.php-tools.net`
`argh@jabber.php-tools.net`
`gerd@jabber.php-tools.net`
Be aware, that these are no email addresses but Jabber-Ids. You can probably also reach pat's friend Carsten at `luckec@jabber.php-tools.net`. Carsten is helping me with my `pecl` extension `id3` and recently proposed `Date_Holidays` in PEAR, which is a by-product of his internship at the company I'm currently working for. So we hope to meet some of pat's users some time soon!

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:48

ext/tidy meets patTemplate

I just returned from the LinuxTag, where John Coggeshall did a session on his tidy extension which enables you to clean up your HTML documents with three lines of code. John showcased an output filter for Smarty (and outed himself as a Smarty fan), so I decided that patTemplate should get one, too. So if you are using the latest patTemplate version from CVS, you may tidy up our pages before they are sent to the browser with the following lines of code:

If you are using PHP4, you will need to install ext/tidy first.

Thanks to John for this great extension to PHP.

Posted by schst in PHP at 19:23

Tuesday, June 22. 2004

Reading and writing ID3 tags in MP3 files

This weekend, a new PHP-extension got published in pecl. id3 allows you to extract information from MP3 files. These tags contain the artist, song title, album name and genre id. id3 provides not only functions for obtaining this information, but also functions to update existing MP3 files and translate the numeric genre ids to human-readable genre names like "Rock'n'Roll" or "Blues".

id3 has been tested with PHP5 on Unix and still experiences some problems with older versions of PHP-versions, which will be fixed in future releases. You can install the extension using the PEAR installaer by typing:

```
$ pear install id3
```

To extract information from any file just use:

Posted by schst in PHP at 13:23

Monday, June 21. 2004

ThinkPHP is hiring!

Ever wanted to work with the top PHP developers? Then now's your chance! ThinkPHP (co-founded by the chief editor of the German PHP Magazin Björn Schotte) is looking for PHP developers that are also able to create client-side applications using Javascript, HTML and XUL. You get to work with PHP developers like Sascha Schuman, Pierre-Alain Joye, Ulf Wendel, Hartmut Holzgraefe and others while developing large-scale web applications. You should be located in the area of Munich/Germany or willing to move there if you'd like to apply for the job. Furthermore Björn told me it's helpful if you carry the spirit of open source software in your soul.

If your interested do not hesitate and contact ThinkPHP at info@mayflower.de or take a look at their website. I'd surely apply for I job, If Munich wouldn't be too far away for me

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:11

PHP, PEAR and XUL

The latest issue of `php|architect` features an article on XUL, Mozilla XML dialect for creating graphical user interfaces. Besides the basics of XUL and how PHP can be used to create XUL applications, Jonathan Protzenko provides in in-depth view on my PEAR package `XML_XUL`. This is great as I did not write any end-user documentation on the package and the article helps you get started.

As the article is not available online, I recommend you to buy the issue, which is available in a PDF and printed version. I wrote a similar article for the German PHP Magazin some time ago, which will hopefully be published in the next issue in mid-July.

The international php magazine also features an article on XUL, by my favourite blogger Harry Fuecks. Seems XUL finally gets the attention it deserves.

Posted by schst in PHP at 15:17

Sunday, June 13. 2004

PEAR's Core QA Team formed

Today the voting for PEAR's new QA team has been finished. 23 PEAR developers took part in the voting process which allowed them to vote for up to seven developers, they would like to be part of the core team for quality assurance. The core members will have karma to pull releases and fix issues any package may have and will coordinate all QA discussions and actions. Of course everybody is encouraged to join QA and help improving PEAR's quality. A full explanation of how the QA will will work, can be found in the RFC.

Davey announced the vote summary on the pear-dev and pear-qa lists this morning. The initial members are: Lukas SmithKlaus GuentherDavey ShafikDavid CostaStephan SchmidtTobias SchlittArnaud Limbourg Stefan Neufeind received the same amount of votes as Arnaud, and after a short discussion Stefan and Arnaud decided that Arnaud should be part of the team.

Thanks to all developers who voted for me for their trust.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:50

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Tutorial on XML_Statistics

Today I stumbled across a short tutorial on builder.com, which explains how to use one of my PEAR packages, XML_Statistics. This package allows you to extract various kinds of statistical information from an XML string or file. In addition to the tutorial, there's also online documentation available.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:53

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Sunday, June 6, 2004

pat goes pecl

Earlier today I proposed a new extension id3 to pecl. The extension is able to read (and update) information stored in an ID3-tag. These are used in MP3 files to store information about the title, artist, etc. Sourcecode currently still is in php-tools.net CVS, but will imported to pecl this week.

I plan to do a first release later this week or early next week, as I'm currently doing some restructuring together with Carsten Lucke.

With this extension, pat finally has the first C-extension for PHP.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:00

Thursday, June 3. 2004

New features in patTemplate

I'm still adding new features in patTemplate 3.0. The next release will allow you to specify a limit parameter for templates that defines how often you need them to be repeated. That means, the designer may decide if he prefers to only display 5 of the news entries the developer added to the template.

Furthermore I implemented a new 'chunk' feature, which allows the designer to build a table from a list. The designer may define, how often a template is repeated, before the container template is repeated and the process starts again. Both features are still experimental, but will be available in the next beta.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:17

Monday, May 24. 2004

New PEAR::XML_* releases

Today I released new versions of two of my XML packages at PEAR. This first is XML_Util 0.6.0, which provides a feature requested by Sebastian: in XML_Transformer, he needs to create an attribute from an array, without replacing the entities in the array values. Furthermore XML_Util increases in performance, as PEAR.php is not needed (and thus not included), until an error occurs.

The second release is XML_Serializer 0.10.0: I fixed a small bug and added a new feature, which allows you to define how an array is serialized (i.e. if some of the values should be used as attributes). This feature has been requested quite often, so finally it's here.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:59

Tuesday, May 18. 2004

Developer docs for patTemplate

Five minutes ago, I uploaded the developer documentation on patTemplate to our site. This documentation explains, how to extend patTemplate without touching the original code. It covers variable modifiers, input- and output filters, template cache, readers, custom tags, etc. To sum it up, here you'll find all you need to know, if you plan to add some features to our favorite templating engine.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:02

Monday, May 17. 2004

XML_Parser and XML_DTD

I just released XML_DTD 0.4.2, which contains some bug fixes, that have been left over from Tomas. I adopted this package, until Tomas will be able to work on it again. Furthermore, I released a new beta version of XML_Parser, which provides a new class XML_Parser_Simple. This class is a simplified version of XML_Parser, as it allows you to handle the whole tag, including the enclosed CDATA. All you have to do, is create an elementHandler that will process the tag. This handler will receive three parameters: tagname, array containing all attributes and the included character data. This is suitable for a lot of scenarios, as it's common practice to build an element stack when using a SAX parser. An example is included in the package, feel free to play with it.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:38

Did I invent cloning?

I'm not talking about `__clone()` here!
In his newest tutorial, Harry Fuecks suspected that I managed to somehow clone myself to get all the work done. But I have to disappoint you, there is no

The secret is, that pat, our friendly dog, does all the work and I receive the praise. But I guess I deserve the praise, as it can be really hard work to teach a mammal the principles of object oriented programming. And to close the circle, if you are interested in reading and writing XML, I highly recommend Harry's tutorial "Instant XML with PHP and PEAR::XML_Serializer" over at SitePoint.com.

Posted by schst in PHP at 19:13

PHP Magazin 4.2004 released

Today the latest issue of the German "PHP Magazin" has been released. As in every May issue, the focus is on Content Management with a huge overview of PHP powered CM systems. Furthermore it features an article on Harry's XMLPull implementation in PHP as well as an article by Sebastian that explains how to build your own PHP on Windows platforms. I contributed again, by writing a introductory article (available online) on application configuration which explains how to use `parse_ini_file()` and the packages PEAR::Config and patConfiguration. A list of all included articles is available online.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:12

Saturday, May 15, 2004

Tutorial on XML_Serializer

DevShed published a new tutorial by Vikram Vaswani on my PEAR package XML_Serializer. The article "Serializing XML with PHP" explains how to use the PEAR class, which is able to create XML documents from any PHP datasource like objects or arrays.

XML_Serializer also provides a matching XML_Unserializer, that is able to read the XML documents and return data structures. It allows you to easily create and read RSS feeds or any other XML document.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:14

MySQL - The complete reference

Today I finally recieved my copy of MYSQL - The complete Reference by Vikram Vaswani, author of "XML and PHP" and several tutorials over at Devshed.

The book deals with everything you ever wanted to know about MySQL but were afraid to ask, starting with a very short introduction to databases in general and the architecture of MySQL. The Vikram talks about MySQL installation and configuration before he shows you how to actually use MySQL in the second part of the book.

He explains SQL basics as well as all functions, datatypes and operators that MySQL provides. This part of the book also explains newer features of MySQL like subqueries and transactions. Part 3 of the book focuses on the administration of the database server and delves into security issues as well as performance optimization and the replication features of MySQL.

The last part is for developers that want to use MySQL from their applications and explains the MySQL API for C, Perl and of course PHP.

I'll post an in-depth review as soon as I've finished reading, but at a first glance the book looks excellent, like Vikram's other work.

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:55

Monday, May 10, 2004

patTemplate still improving

Although I recently released patTemplate 3.0.0beta1 I'm still working on new features and plugins for patTemplate. My newest two projects do not touch the main code, which is in a feature freeze.

Inspired by John's IntSmarty, I thought about implementing I18N functionality in patTemplate and came up with a solution that really resembles the one, John implemented for Smarty. To create multi-lingual websites, you just have to enclose the strings you want to translate in `<tags>`. The Translate tag is a custom function, that's loaded as soon as it's used in a template, so it does not slow down the main engine. patTemplate will create a "default.ini" file, where it stores all strings that need to be translated and assigns each of these strings a unique ID. Now you copy this file to ".ini" and translate all strings. The next time you display the page, just set the language using `$tmpl->setOption('lang', '');` and patTemplate will use the correct language file. And in contrast to IntSmarty you do not have to know anything about the internals of patTemplate to develop this, as patTemplate allows you to register callback objects (dubbed custom functions) for new tags.

You may view the example and the source online. Again a big hug to John for inspiring me to do this.

Another thing I started implementing is a compiler for patTemplate, which is just a subclass and behaves exactly like patTemplate. I only spent a few hours on this project, so it's not working like it should, but basic functionality is there and it will support nearly all features of patTemplate once it's finished.

With the stable release of patTemplate and its subpackages, Smarty will get some serious competition, as patTemplate provides the features all you Smarty users have been complaining about.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:08

Friday, May 7. 2004

Mirror for the PEAR manual

We are now providing a mirror for the english version of the PEAR Manual. It is available at pear.php-tools.net/peardoc/. The mirror may not look as nice as the original (argh will have to adjust the stylesheets), but it is rebuilt every two hours instead of only once a week.

That means if you are looking for up-to-date information, you should check our built, if the docs you are looking for are not available at the PEAR website.

This will also help you, if a are a contributor to the manual and would like to see your changes online. The log is also available, so if the built contains errors, you may view the error log at pear.php-tools.net/peardoc.log.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:11

Tuesday, May 4, 2004

patTemplate 3.0.0beta1 released

You do not have to wait any longer, it's finally here! A lot of people probably thought it would never happen, but today I released the first beta of the completely refactored patTemplate 3.0.0.

The list of all new features is nearly endless, so I just mention the most important features here, see the news file for a list of all changes.

split into several small modules for performancesupport for input- and output-filtersupport for variable modifiers (PHP functions and custom classes)support for modulo templateable to read from any datasourceable to read PHPLib templatesupport for new tags: comment and varsupport for custom tagssupport for template cachesupport for flexible namespacesnew built-in conditions: __first and __lastand many more...

This release is a beta release, please test it and report bugs after downloading it from our site.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:47

Monday, May 3, 2004

New features in patForms

Our powerful, but not yet released, form management package patForms got a lot of new features during the last week. On friday, I created a subpackage called patForms_Storage, which allows you to automatically store data in and retrieve data from various datasources without writing anything on your own. So far, I've implemented datastorages for CSV and PEAR DB. You may specify a set of primary keys, so the storage container is able to determine whether the entry has to be updated or added. The code that you have to use looks like:

```
$storage = &patForms::createStorage( 'DB' );
$storage->setStorageLocation( 'mysql://pat:@localhost/pat', 'patForms_Storage' );
$storage->setPrimaryField( array( 'user', 'email' ) );
$storage->setFieldMap( array(
    'user' => 'user',
    'pass' => 'password',
    'email' => 'email'
    )
);

$form->setStorage( $storage );
```

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:33

Sunday, April 25. 2004

Assimiliating HTML_Template_IT

Yesterday, I added a new feature to patTemplate 3.0: It is possible to read templates, that have been designed for HTML_Template_IT and work with them, like they are patTemplate templates. This could be done with a few lines of code, as the reader is separated from the main templating engine.

All I had to do is create a new reader by extending the standard reader and change the preg_split() expression that is used to emulate SAX-parsing of the templates as well as the loop that calls the element handlers. But this was mainly copy & paste. As the feature resides in a different reader, it does not slow patTemplate down.

You can take a look at how it works on our examples site or view the sourcecode in CVS. By using patTemplate as the engine for your IT templates, you also get some new features, like the output filters or template caches, as well as the easy PHP syntax to build tables or lists. The example I provided does exactly the same as the example in the PEAR manual, but needs only one line of code instead of seven.

Just to set things straight: I'm not saying that HTML_Template_IT sucks, It still can be used for a lot of things, but I wanted to show how easy it can be to switch from HTML_Template_IT to patTemplate without having to change all of your templates.

A first beta of patTemplate will probably be released during next week, but may download a CVS snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:28

Friday, April 23. 2004

XML_Parser 1.1.0 released

Today I released XML_Parser 1.1.0 stable. This is the first release since early 2003 and the first since I adopted the package from Stig.

I plan to add several more features by providing subclasses and decorators for XML_Parser, including support for namespaces and an XML Pull parser, similar to Rob's xmlreader for PECL.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:58

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Wednesday, April 21. 2004

patTemplate examples online

Regular readers of our blog probably know it already: I've nearly finished the development of patTemplate 3.0.0, which has been completely recoded and boasts with features like variable modifiers, custom tags, filters for input- and output stream etc.

I will release the first beta version later this week or early next week, but if you'd like to see what patTemplate is able to do, you may take a look at the online examples at <http://examples.php-tools.net/>.

All examples come with syntax-highlighted PHP source and syntax-highlighted template sources, visible online.

If you prefer to test the examples on your own server, you may download the latest snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net or get a CVS checkout at cvs.php-tools.net/.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:51

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, April 20. 2004

PHP magazine 3.04 released

Today the latest issue of the php magazine has been released. Topics include the Phing build system, mdecrypt, DOM and using AdoDB as a container for session data. Furthermore, Chris Shifflet talks about the roots of the PHPCommunity project.

In the news section there's a short article on my XML_XUL project. Please visit the php magazine website for more information.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:30

Monday, April 19. 2004

PEAR::XML_Parser 1.1.0

Last week I've taken maintainership for PEAR's XML_Parser, as Stig does not have enough time to maintain it anymore and all PEAR developers thought that I was the perfect match for this job.

My first course of action was to fix the outstanding bugs, clean up the inline docs, add error codes and prepare XML_Parser for PHP5. On Saturday I released a first beta, which was followed by beta2 quite soon after a bug report by Michael Wallner (thanks for the fast response). Since then, I haven't heard of any problems regarding XML_Parser. To make sure that the new version is bug free and I can proceed and release it as stable, I'd like you to test XML_Parser 1.1.0beta2 with your applications relying on older XML_Parser versions.

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:38

Friday, April 16. 2004

pat at O'Reilly Open Source Convention

This year, I will be giving a talk at the O'Reilly Open Source Convention (OSCON) in Portland/Oregon. The session is an introduction to PEAR, entitled PEAR For The Masses and will feature the usage of the installer, error handling concepts, pearweb and I'll also showcase some of the most important concepts.

The OSCON focusses on open source technologies, ranging from Linux to MySQL, Perl and XML. This year is the fourth year that there is also a PHP conference.

My session will be the last of the PHP Conference, it takes place on Friday, July 30, I hope I'll see you there.

Posted by schst in PHP at 18:59

A question of Transport

Next month one pat-Team guy will travel to the fifth continent - me! I applied for a visa, resigned from my loved job and we move out of our smart appartement. I planed stay in Australia about one year - enough time for working, vacation and to do little socializing.

Beside these daily adventures expected Down Under, I tried to sign on an freighter and travel as a shipboy to Australia. Sadly, I havn't found a ship or a skipper, yet. Of course there are lot of shipping companies running vessel from Europe to Australia, but they don't want to hire a novice sailor just for a single transit.

So I decided to post me tragedy, maybe you know somebody who knows somebody who may help me ...

Thanks in advance.

Posted by gERD in BTL at 18:40

Tuesday, April 13. 2004

patBBCode in the works

Lately I needed a BBCode parser for my Etherlords fanpage, Ether Planes, as the language-dependent texts are stored in XML files, and I needed to be able to add links and text formatting. I had a look at what is already available out there - no need to reinvent the wheel each time... After taking a look at PEAR::HTML_BBCodeParser, however, I decided to reinvent the wheel after all.

What I did not like about the PEAR::HTML_BBCodeParser package was that to add a new tag, you have to build the regular expression to match your tag yourself. As I am not a regular expression expert, I decided that I needed a generic, easily extensible system - namely patBBCode.

So how does it work? By emulating a SAX-based BBCode parser (sponsored by our XML-Guru schst), patBBCode parses a string for BBCode tags and prepares the needed data like the attribute collection and content of the tag. This data is then processed by small filter classes that are mapped to a tag via an ini-based configuration file. So to add your own tags, you just have to create a small filter class that returns the needed content based on the tag's attributes and content, and add it to the list of known tags in the tag configuration file. No need to know anything about regular expressions!

If you want to have a look at the package (alpha!), you can download the latest CVS snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net, or browse the CVS repository via cvs.php-tools.net. As always, feel free to give us feedback!

Posted by argh in PHP at 21:37

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Thursday, April 8, 2004

Auto-Generated API Documentation

Since today, we are providing API documentation for all of our tools at <http://dogs.php-tools.net> (no, this is not a typo, we mean dogs).

The docs are being generated every night from the latest CVS sources using phpDocumentor. So the documentation compliments the snapshots you may download from <http://snaps.php-tools.net>.

Soon we'll also provide different formats as well as ZIPs to download the generated docs.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:15

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Friday, April 2, 2004

The end is near!

No, it's not the end of the world and this does not have anything to do with April Fool's Day. I'm referring to the development of patTemplate 3.0.0. I implemented all features that have been available in previous versions as well as a bunch of new functions like (not the complete list):

Input and output filters

Variable modifiers

Copying of variables in the template

Automatic creation of tables from n-dimensional arrays

new modulo template (similar to oddEven but contains as many different rows as you like)

Template cache to improve performance

auto-load external templates only when needed

Flexible namespace

Driver-based architecture makes patTemplate extendible

new parseIntoVar() method

new built-in conditions for first and last entry in a list

And finally the most requested feature is available, it's possible to change the source of an external template from PHP! The architecture has been completely revamped, it's much cleaner now and can be extended by the user in many ways. Furthermore a lot of bugs have been fixed, especially regarding varscopes, conditions, etc.

If you want to try the new version before it is released, you can download a CVS snapshot from cvs.php-tools.net. Please report any bugs you find at bugs.php-tools.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 14:22

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Bugzillas greatest bug

A few hours ago I had some trouble logging into our bug-tracking system. Of course there was no real problem, I just forgot my password and I've never logged into it from this computer, so there was no password-manager to assist me. Even worse, I could not use the "I'm so stupid, I forgot my password, please email me a new one"-Button because my mailservser has hanged since the day before and my provider hasn't fixed the problem, yet.

So I decided to use my shell-account, open, run the mysql-client and search for the password in the database. Finding the database useb by bugzill was no problem, but there was no "user" table! I took another few minutes to ascertain: there where lots of tables, a "groups"-table, a "user_group_map" and so on. But no table named "user" or something similar.

I could not believe, that bugzilla may work without a "user"-table, so I asked my friend to log into bugzilla.

As I assumed, he could not log into bugzilla, too! My fears became true - somehow the user-table of bugzilla was removed. Maybe by an SQL-injection-attack from some bad guys, maybe by a terrible bug in bugzilla or maybe by one of the system's administrators who droped this table by accident.

It took some time searching for a file containing the SQL-statements used during the installation of bugzilla that initializes the database-structure. Later we decovered a table in the existing database. This table is called "profiles" and contains all the data we expected in the non-existing table "user"!

Logging in bugzilla was quit easy after changing my password stored this table. But my friends still seemed to be in trouble. He had not forgotten his password, but he also could not to log in. Once again, we updated his password in the database - without success. Finally we recognized, that he tried to access with his user-name and password instead of his email-address and password.

Shortly after solving this problem, we realized once more: usually the bug is in front of the screen.

Posted by gERD in Nonsense at 23:12

Wednesday, March 24, 2004

pat recommends "Advanced PHP Programming"

Today I received my copy of George's book "Advanced PHP Programming". After I skipped thru the table of contents and read some chapters I've to say that I'm amazed. Finally there's a book about PHP that deals with concepts instead of only hacking some source code.

George is talking about "Designing a good API", "Design Patterns", "Error Handling", "Unit Testing" and a lot of other topics that are useful for solving the web problem.

There's only one thing, that makes pat sad: in the chapter about using templates for web application there's not a single reference to patTemplate, but nobody's perfect.

So if you are using PHP, pat says "Buy this book!". And as last words: George is not paying us, if that's what you wanted to ask. (Although he now should....)

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:28

patError 1.0 beta released

Dealing with errors and failures is a mess. Errors may appear in every part of an application. Some of them can be ignored others do harm. Furthermore the complexity of errors usually grows with the complexity of the application. Using patError allows you to handle all kind of errors in an unitary and easy way. Even if patError is very easy to use, it is very flexible in design and allows all kinds of error-handling.

patError Overview

Posted by gERD in PHP at 01:23

Tuesday, March 23. 2004

Making progress with patTemplate 3.0

I've been directing a lot of work towards the new patTemplate version and I'm finally making some progress. Most of the old features are now supported by the new (completely revamped) engine. It already supports repetitions, condition templates, simple conditions, oddEven templates and varscopes.

Furthermore some new features have been implemented like the conditions "__first" and "__last" which may be helpful for creating lists as well as some systemvariables that can be added automatically. A quite interesting feature is the new "modulo" template type, that allows you to define a special template for every 5th entry in a list (of course this is not restricted to the 5th entry).

The most interesting change is the new structure of the package, which allows driver based readers, dumpers, filters, etc.

If you are interested in the development, you may take a look at the source in our CVS repository [1] or download the daily snapshot [2]. Of course you may also take part in the feature discussion [3].

[1] <http://cvs.php-tools.net>

[2] <http://snaps.php-tools.net>

[3] <http://forum.php-tools.net/viewtopic.php?t=19>

Posted by schst in PHP at 23:54

Thursday, March 18, 2004

PHP5 RC1 released

Today the first release candidate of PHP5 has been released and we'll now start test-driving our packages with PHP5. Our newer project already seemed to be working quite flawless with the last beta, so chances are good that there's not much work ahead of us.

We encourage you to test the release candidate (though not in production environment) and report bugs at bugs.php.net.

It can be downloaded from <http://www.php.net/downloads.php#v5>, for more information on PHP5 read Andi's announcement.

Nearly at the same time the forth release candidate of PHP4.3.5 has been released and is available at php.net.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:52

Accessing the eBay API with PHP

I recently started working on a class that acts as a wrapper for eBay's XML API. eBay provides an API for nearly all functions that are available on their site: You may search for item, browse categories, leave feedback and even manage your seller account.

The PEAR package I'm working on will make these functions available as methods of an objects and thus allow you to use them without any knowledge of the eBay XML syntax.

You may browse the code in our CVS repository or download an alpha version of the packge (does not support a lot of functions) at pear.php-tools.net. If anyone knows about a package developed by eBay that provides the same functionality, please let me know.

Posted by schst in PHP at 17:57

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Getting Started With PEAR

Harry Fuecks published an introductory article on PEAR called "Getting Started With PEAR" over at SitePoint.com. The article starts off with some reasons for using PEAR and after diving into the history of PEAR and the usage of the PEAR installer finally rounds it up with an example of how to use PEAR packages.

The PEAR packages he is using are HTTP_Request and my XML_Serializer package, as he utilizes them to parse a RSS feed.

Thanks for mentioning our package in this well-written and informative article.

Posted by schst in PHP at 16:14

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Monday, March 15. 2004

Markus Wolff on user authentication

This wednesday the new issue of the German "PHP Magazin" will be released. It features an article by Markus Wolff of DB_DataObject_FormBuilder and LiveUser fame, that discusses the concept of user authentication. Besides the basic concepts like .htaccess and basic authentication he also writes about PHP libraries that help you integrating an authentication system in your website. Besides several PEAR packages he also mentions patUser and has only good things to say about it. In fact he calls our site a code repository that matches or even exceeds PEAR in quality standards.

Thanks very much for the nice read, Markus. Pat likes you!

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:53

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Friday, March 12. 2004

Always the current PEAR manual

Since tonight php-tools.net provides a new service. Every midnight we are generating the current PEAR manual in English. As the official version only gets updated on Sundays you may sometimes find information that lacks in the official manual. The disadvantage of this version is, that it's only plain HTML and contains no syntax highlighted examples.

You can find the manual at pear.php-tools.net/peardoc/

Posted by schst in PHP at 10:27

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Thursday, March 11. 2004

Ever wondered how php-tools.net works?

If you ever wanted to know how the website of the PAT team has been implemented, now's your chance. After relocating to the new server we fully control our CVS repository and allow anonymous read-only access to the PHP code and the XML sources of our site.

You'll find instructions on CVS access on cvs.php-tools.net, where you can also just browse the repository. The module of the website is called patSite.

If you are too lazy to check it out yourself, you may also download as a daily CVS snapshot from snaps.php-tools.net where you can also get the latest snapshots of most of our tools.

Posted by schst in PHP at 20:39

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Creating XUL with PHP

Yesterday I released a new PEAR package, called XML_XUL. It allows you to build XUL applications by instantiating PHP objects, a similar approach to creating any XML document with DOM.

XUL is used by Mozilla to build user interfaces and can be combined with CSS, JavaScript and RDF to build complex applications that run in the browser. With this package creating the user interface becomes a charm. Download the package at pear.php.net or take a look at the online examples (which are of course also included in the package).

Posted by schst in PHP at 19:04

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

History's biggest disasters vol. 1 : Atlantis

Ever wondered who is behind all the big disasters in history? Well then look no further - you have found just the man. No kidding - want to know what happened to the city of atlantis? Roughly at the time it is supposed to have happened (~9.600 BC), I was studying the power of the rumour. I had gathered knowledge about the intricacies of planting rumours from the greatest scholars, and felt the urge to test my new found knowledge...

I needed something big - something positively huge. As I was waiting for the right moment to act, a volcano erupted on the mediterranean shores of ancient greece - and the beauty of it simply stunned me: with the use of a 20 feet tall broken statue of the goddess Atlantis, and a very nimble tongue, I was able to plant the seed of the greatest hoax of all time.

So how did I manage it? Probably needless to say, but here goes anyway: a master's secret is not so easily given. But basically, I had to follow but a few simple rules. Man loves mystery, especially if there is some hidden treasure involved (this is true even since before the stone age - believe me, I tested that too). Just wrap your golden, shining mystery in a veil of fatally precise (but completely off the mark) indications of where and what happened, and tell of the fate of all the fair maidens that were swallowed by the depths in the cataclysm. A few broken pieces of the statue I mentioned earlier, and the sightings of its other remnants by divers gave the necessary bit of proof needed to ignite that little spark of doubt that makes a story hit "home". And to make them all go really wild, I suggested that some of those fair maidens had now turned into mesmerizing mermaids, guarding the treasure... (I could not help it)

Actually I am quite proud - there is nothing more satisfying than watching the seed you planted grow some really huge roots, and have generations of commoners and scientists alike hack each other to pieces (figuratively and literally) about theories and "reliable" sources on the subject. So much energy spent on a puff of smoke... it is not only beautiful, it is consummate, simple and pure genius: one of mankind's eternal traits - gullibility.

Atlantis: the real story?

Posted by argh in Nonsense at 02:09

CVS repository gets alive

Currently the pat-team works hard to refill the CVS repository. After the whole project moved to the new server, we got "root"-permissions for the entire system. Now there are many giga bytes on the brand new harddisk to be filled with PHP-stuff.

Besides the new subdomain, you can find some new packages in our CVS-repository at cvs.php-tools.net.

Posted by gERD in PAT at 01:37

Friday, February 27. 2004

Testing PHP5 with WAMP5

Wampserver released the first version of WAMP5, a Windows installer that includes Apache, MySQL and PHP5 beta 4. The package is available in two versions (full and light): one with MySQL and phpMyAdmin and one without these components.

This allows novice users to explore the new features of PHP5.

The package can be downloaded from their website at www.wampserver.com.

Posted by schst in PHP at 22:09

Blog Export: a programmer's best friend, <http://blog.php-tools.net/>

Tuesday, February 24. 2004

To bug or not to bug...

Today I installed BugZilla on our server. We will use this tool to track all bugs for all of our projects. The current installation may frighten users that are not familiar with BugZilla, we will be working on the user interface during the next days/weeks.

If you want to report a bug for our tools, just visit bugs.php-tools.net.

Posted by schst in PAT at 22:21

Sunday, February 22. 2004

Creating Mozilla Applications with PHP

I just proposed a new PEAR package to PEPr, that allows easy creation of XUL documents. XUL is an XML application that's supported by Mozilla and that allows you to build graphical user-interfaces that can be rendered by the browser. They can be skinned with CSS and enriched with Javascript.

Follow these links for more information:

XULPlanet, for information on XULProposal on PEAR WebsiteOnline ExamplesDownload PEAR packageI hope this package will make it into PEAR, as imho XUL is one of the coolest things that happened to the web.

Posted by schst in PHP at 21:35

Whuff! PAT started blogging

Our friendly little dog finally takes part in the new hype and starts his own blog. With the help of his favourite programmers argh, gERD and schst, he will inform you what's going on in his life and the PHP Application Tools Team.

BTW: This blog is powered by the great s9y blog.

Posted by schst in PAT at 19:46