Defining multiple layouts

Most applications use a single layout for all their views. However, there are situations when multiple layouts are needed. For example, an application can use different layouts on different pages: two additional columns for blogs, one additional column for articles, and no additional columns for portfolios.

Getting ready

Create a new application using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at [http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-startinstallat]'on.html](http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-startinstallation.html).

How to do it...

1. Create two layouts in views/layouts: blog and articles. Blog will contain the following code:

<?php $this->beginContent('//layouts/main')?>

<div>

<?= $content ?>

</div>

<div class="sidebar tags">

<ul>

<li><a href="#php">PHP</a></li>

<li><a href="#yii">Yii</a></li>

</ul>

</div>

<div class="sidebar links">

<ul>

<li><a href="<http://yiiframework.com/>">

Yiiframework</a></li>

<li><a href="[http://php.net/">PHP</a></li](http://php.net/%22%3ePHP%3c/a%3e%3c/li)>

</ul>

</div>

<?php $this->endContent()?>

2. Articles will contain the following code:

<?php

/\* @var $this yii\web\View \*/

?>

<?php $this->beginContent('@app/views/layouts/main.php'); ?> <div class="container">

<div class="col-xs-8">

<?= $content ?>

</div>

<div class="col-xs-4">

<h4>Table of contents</h4>

<ol>

<li><a href="#intro">Introduction</a></li> <li><a href="#quick-start">Quick start</a></li> <li>..</li>

</ol>

</div>

</div>

<?php $this->endContent() ?>

3. Create a view file, views/site/content. php, as follows: