Creating a widget

A widget is a reusable part of a view that not only renders some data but also does it according to some logic. It can even get data from models and use its own views, so it is like a reduced reusable version of a module.

Let’s create a widget that will draw a pie chart using Google APIs.

Getting ready

Create a new yii2-app-basic application using the composer as described in the official guide at <http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html>.

How to do it...

1. Create the widgets directory and add the Chartwidget class:

<?php

namespace app\widgets;

use yii\base\Widget;

class Chartwidget extends Widget {

public $title; public $width = 300; public $height = 200; public $data = []; public $labels = [];

public function run()

{

$path = '<http://chart.apis.google.com/chart'>;

$query = http\_build\_query([

'chtt' => $this->title,

' cht' => 'pc',

'chs' => $this->width . 'x' . $this->height,

'chd' => 't:' . implode(',', $this->data),

' chds ' => 'a',

'chl' => implode('|', $this->labels),

' chxt' => 'y',

'chxl' => '0:|0|' . max($this->data)

]);

$url = $path . '?' . $query;

return $this->render('chart', [

'url' => $url,

]);

}

}

2. Create the widgets/views/chart. php view:

<?php

use yii\helpers\Html;