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* Running via the CLI

classic layout

[**Running via the CLI**](#gjdgxs)[**¶**](#30j0zll)

As well as calling an applications [*Controllers*](http://docs.google.com/controllers.html) via the URL in a browser they can also be loaded via the command-line interface (CLI).

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[**What is the CLI?**](#3dy6vkm)[**¶**](#1fob9te)

The command-line interface is a text-based method of interacting with computers. For more information, check the [Wikipedia article](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command-line_interface).

[**Why run via the command-line?**](#1t3h5sf)[**¶**](#3znysh7)

There are many reasons for running CodeIgniter from the command-line, but they are not always obvious.

* Run your cron-jobs without needing to use *wget* or *curl*
* Make your cron-jobs inaccessible from being loaded in the URL by checking the return value of [is\_cli()](http://docs.google.com/common_functions.html#is_cli).
* Make interactive “tasks” that can do things like set permissions, prune cache folders, run backups, etc.
* Integrate with other applications in other languages. For example, a random C++ script could call one command and run code in your models!

[**Let’s try it: Hello World!**](#4d34og8)[**¶**](#2et92p0)

Let’s create a simple controller so you can see it in action. Using your text editor, create a file called Tools.php, and put the following code in it:

<?php  
class Tools extends CI\_Controller {  
  
 public function message($to = 'World')  
 {  
 echo "Hello {$to}!".PHP\_EOL;  
 }  
}

Then save the file to your *application/controllers/* folder.

Now normally you would visit the site using a URL similar to this:

example.com/index.php/tools/message/to

Instead, we are going to open the terminal in Mac/Linux or go to Run > “cmd” in Windows and navigate to our CodeIgniter project.

$ cd /path/to/project;  
$ php index.php tools message

If you did it right, you should see *Hello World!* printed.

$ php index.php tools message "John Smith"

Here we are passing it a argument in the same way that URL parameters work. “John Smith” is passed as a argument and output is:

Hello John Smith!

[**That’s it!**](#2s8eyo1)[**¶**](#tyjcwt)

That, in a nutshell, is all there is to know about controllers on the command line. Remember that this is just a normal controller, so routing and \_remap() works fine.

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Built with [Sphinx](http://sphinx-doc.org/) using a [theme](https://github.com/snide/sphinx_rtd_theme) provided by [Read the Docs](https://readthedocs.org).