

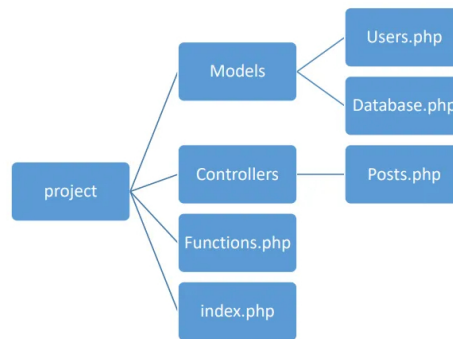
# Autoload Multiple Files From Different Directories in PHP



Oyekunle Opeyemi · Follow  
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Let's take a look at the file structure below:



File Structure

This is not a real project, but a sample good enough to explain how to autoload multiple files from different directories. First off, let's start with autoloading files from one directory.

1. **Autoload files from a single directory:** Let's make an assumption that files would be loaded from only the Models directory, we can simply use the PHP built-in autoload function:

```
spl_autoload_register(?callable $callback = null, bool $throw = true, bool $prepend = false): bool
```

- i. The first parameter is a callback (optional). The default value is null. The default implementation of `spl_autoload` will be registered if no parameter is provided.
- ii. The second parameter is a boolean (optional). The default is true. If the `autoload_function` cannot be registered, `spl_autoload_register()` should throw exceptions.
- iii. The third parameter is also a boolean (optional). If true, `spl_autoload_register()` will prepend the autoloader on the autoload stack instead of appending it.

For more explanation about this function, you can follow this link

<https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.spl-autoload-register.php>

Let's create `Database.php` and `Users.php` files in the Model directory, and an `index.php` file in the root directory:

`Database.php`

```
<?php

class Database{
    public function connect() : string {
        return "I am connected to the database.";
    }
}
```

`Users.php`

```
<?php

class User{
```

```

class Users{
    public function get_user() : array {
        return [
            'id'=> 1,
            'name'=> 'Oyekunle Opeyemi'
        ];
    }
}

```

index.php

```

<?php

spl_autoload_register(function ($class){
    $class_name = substr($class, strrpos($class, "\\"));
    require_once 'Models/'.ucfirst($class_name).".php";
});

$Database = new Database();
$Users = new Users();

```

In the index.php file, we have been able to include all the php files in the Model directory by using the spl\_autoload\_register() function. So, let's look at how we can autoload multiple files from multiple directories.

**2. Autoload files from multiple directories:** This is more of an upgrade to our last example. Let start by creating two more files: Posts.php in the Controllers directory and Functions.php in the root directory:

Posts.php

```

<?php

class Posts{
    public function get_post() : array {
        return [
            'id'=> 1,
            'title'=> 'Autoload Multiples Files From Different Directories in PH
        ];
    }
}

```

Functions.php

```

<?php

class Functions{
    public static function auto_load_files(string $class, array $dirs) : void {
        $class_name = substr($class, strrpos($class, "\\"));
        foreach ($dirs as $dir) {
            $classes = "$dir/".ucfirst($class_name).".php";
            if (file_exists($classes)) require_once $classes;
        }
    }
}

```

Let's take a look at what we have in the Functions.php file:

- A static function was created with two parameters that accepts a string and an array respectfully.
- The \$dirs array was looped through to pick each directory in the array to form a path to the class file names.
- In order not to assign a file to a directory that does not exist, a file\_exists() function was used to check the file's existence in the directory before creating a path for it.

We would have to update the index.php file.

index.php

```

<?php
require 'Functions.php';

spl_autoload_register(function ($class){
    $data = [
        "Models",
        "Controllers"
    ];
    Functions::auto_load_files($class, $data);
});

$Database = new Database();
$Users = new Users();

```

```
$Posts= new Posts();
```

a. In the callback, \$data is an array of directories, where the class files we want to access are.

b. We called the static function auto\_load\_files(\$class, \$data) and provided the class registered, and the array of directories.

c. The Posts class from Controllers was added.

I hope this helps someone out there.

Thanks for reading.

PHP Autoload Autoloading

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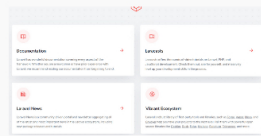
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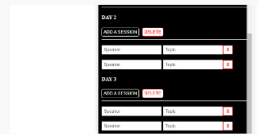
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{
  "autoload": {
    "psr-4": {
      "YourVendor\\HelloWorld\\": "src/"
    }
  },
  "prefer-stable": true,
  "minimum-stability": "dev"
}
```



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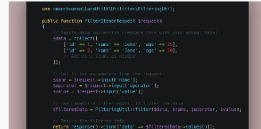
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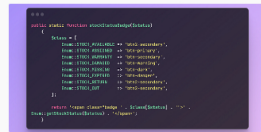


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