

Giga Creations Tools “GCTools”

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README File

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<http://www.gigacreations.net/>

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About GCTools

Purpose

GCTools was designed to help web developers create dynamic, feature-rich, applications quickly. It was not intended to be a Content Management System (CMS), a web forum, a photo gallery, a login system, or anything in particular. Instead, GCTools aimed to enable developers to create anything they wanted.

This allowed GCTools to be extremely flexible, and streamlined. The developer only has to include those classes that he actually needs, not an entire library of functions that may, or may not, be needed. This is one of the reasons GCTools has been developed so extensively. The developers have put a lot of time into thinking about what it is that a developer may need, and how can we do it with the most simple implementation available.

History

The very first code of GCTools was written in early September, 2010. The initial idea was not to create a framework, but to develop a management system for an object-oriented design class at the University of Louisville. The initial code was fairly small, and only included a few classes.

At the time, PHP had not really been developed with objects in mind. Most code was small scripts that was reminiscent of old C code. Although objects existed in PHP, they had not been utilized to a large extent. This was the aim of J. “Giga” Murphy during his class... to show his class that PHP could be used as a viable object-oriented language for web development.

Following the class, development came to a halt as other classes took priority. The code was committed to a private Git repository, and was largely forgotten about until late April, 2011. At this time development ramped up.

Within a week more than 4 new classes were created, and much of the older code was optimized. GCTools also gained another developer, M. “Beanyhead” Parker. Not only was a new developer added, but the project was released under the GPL v3 license, and pushed to a public GitHub repository for others to utilize. This also enabled people in the community to add to the project, and help to improve it.

Thus, GCTools was officially born and put into open source development.

Future of GCTools

The future of GCTools at this moment is unknown. Open-source developers are still needed to help contribute to the project, and the project is still lacking some major features.

You may check on the status of GCTools at the project's website, <http://www.gigacreations.net/>

GCTools Files

cache.inc.php

Class Variables

- 1.) `cacheDir` – This defines the directory to store cached files. It must exist, and be writable.

Class Functions

1. `Cache($cacheDir)`
 - (a) `$cacheDir` defines the directory to store cached files
 - (b) Pre/Post Conditions:
 - i. Precondition: The `$cacheDir` should be defined.
 - ii. Postcondition: The cache class is initialized.
 - (c) This function initializes the Cache class. It ensures that the cache directory exists, and is writable. If the directory does not exist, or is not writable, an exception is thrown.
2. `getCacheDir()`
 - (a) Pre/Post Conditions:
 - i. Precondition: `$cacheDir` should be set
 - ii. Postcondition: Returns the `$cacheDir`, or FALSE otherwise
 - (b) This function provides the user with the location of the cache directory.
3. `setCacheDir($dir)`
 - (a) `$dir` defines the new location of the directory to store cached files.
 - (b) Pre/Post Conditions:
 - i. Precondition: `$dir` should be set, and a writable directory
 - ii. Postcondition: Return TRUE on success, and FALSE otherwise
 - (c) This function allows the user to change the location of the cache directory after the class has already been initialized.
4. `createCache($file)`
 - (a) `$file` defines the path to the file to be cached
 - (b) Pre/Post Conditions:
 - i. Precondition: `$file` should be a valid file
 - ii. Postcondition: Create a cache of the file and return TRUE on success, or FALSE on failure
 - (c) This function allows the user to create a cache of a file.

Class example

```
<?php
require_once("cache.inc.php");

try {
    $cache = new Cache("/path/to/my/cache/directory")
}
catch (Exception $e) {
    //There was some kind of error, so handle it
}

if (!$cache->createCache("/path/to/my/file")) {
    //There was an error creating the cache
}

//We're done. The cached file is /path/to/my/cache/directory/file.cache.html
?>
```

database.inc.php

Class Variables

Database class

- 1.) dbType defines the type of database that is being used.
- 2.) dbLoc defines the location of the database. This can be an IP address, a hostname, a file location, etc
- 3.) dbUser defines the username used to connect to the database, if needed.
- 4.) dbPass defines the password used to connect to the database, if needed.
- 5.) dbName defines the name of the database to use.
- 6.) lastError defines the text of the last error that occurred, if any.

MySQL class

- 1.) myCon defines the MySQL connection

Class Functions

Database class

file.inc.php

mail.inc.php

navigation.inc.php

photo.inc.php

security.inc.php

session.inc.php

user.inc.php

Credits

Code Contributors

- 1.) M. “Beanyhead” Parker
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 2. Website: <http://www.nomits.com/>
- 2.) R. Rios

Change Log

This is in the works

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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