

Laravel 6

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Learning Resources

Primary: Official Docs, <https://laravel.com/docs/6.x>

Secondary: <https://laracasts.com/>

Intro

- PHP MVC framework based on Symfony with version 1.0 in 2011, and current version (6.13)

- Built in authentication, restful routing, lightweight templating through Blade templating engine, unit testing supported out of box, wide array of OO libraries built in.

- Built in command line interface through Artisan

- Highly modularized packaging system with dedicated dependency manager

- Prepare SQL statements only (preventing sql injection), as well as many other security features

- General flow: User submits request for page. Laravel sees request and routes to proper controller based on config in *routes.php*. Controller, which holds domain knowledge and business logic, gets request. Back-end logic runs, controller passes data to view, then view loads and is displayed to user.

- Note that *somePage.php* and *somePageController.php* are separated, so controller acts as de-coupled between view and back-end logic.

- Laravel 6 requires PHP 7.2 (released Nov 2017) or higher

- Using a framework like laravel lets you not re-invent the wheel, handles security well by default, can provide performance updates, and makes extension easy via plugins. It also standardizes code when used in multi-projects, files, etc. by providing a common design and implementation.

Installation

- Install PHP, MySQL, Composer, Laravel

<https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-install-linux-nginx-mariadb-php-lemp-stack-on-debian-10>

<https://getcomposer.org/download/>

<https://laravel.com/docs/6.x#installation>

<https://laracasts.com/series/laravel-6-from-scratch/episodes/3>

-If Laravel install complains about missing ext-zip missing, install via:
`sudo apt-get install php-zip`

-On Debian, set `$PATH` by adding below to `~/.bashrc`
`export PATH="$HOME/.config/composer/vendor/bin:$PATH"`

Why Use in Building API

- MVC works well for building properly designed API
- Eloquent ORM through Artisan allows for auto-creation of models based on table existing scheme and allows proper DB layer
- Automated unit test
- Fast, simple, clean routing
- Managed queuing during high load times to increase speed
- Easy and quick autoloading

Composer, Namespaces, and Autoloading

-Knowledge on all of these will be required for aptly using Laravel. See *PHP7.odt* notes for info on these under sections, "Advanced PHP," and, "Composer"

New Project

-Create new laravel project: `laravel new projectName`

-On first attempt to create new on Debian, PHP was missing dependencies. Install via:
`sudo apt-get install php-mbstring`
`sudo apt-get install php-dom`

-Creation will create folder `projectName` with all required dependencies, as well as template html page, similar to React via `create-react-app`

-Laravel comes with config for local dev server for project, typically running on <http://127.0.0.1:8000>. From project dir, start via: `php artisan serve`

Webserver Project Config

-Root directory for webserver should be set to `my_project/public` which holds `index.php`, which starts Laravel, includes autoloading for dependencies, requires Bootstrap, and serves as front controller for all HTTP requests entering app

-Ensure project `storage` and `bootstrap/cache` dir have write permissions

-If did not build project with `laravel new` (aka composer), set app key for security modules via:
`php artisan key:generate`

-Additional useful config (ex. timezone) in `my_project/config/app.php`

-Depending on project, also might want to configure `my_project/config/cache.php`, `my_project/config/database.php`, and `my_project/config/session.php`

-For security reasons, always host laravel projects in the root folder for the “web directory” (ex. /var/www/). Example:

```
server {  
    listen 80;  
    listen [::]:80;  
  
    root /var/www/html/quickstart/public;  
    index index.php index.html index.htm index.nginx-debian.html;  
  
    server_name example.com www.example.com;  
  
    location / {  
        try_files $uri $uri/ /index.php?$query_string;  
    }  
}
```

For more details on deployment:

<https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-deploy-a-laravel-application-with-nginx-on-ubuntu-16-04>