Where to find beautiful PHP code to read? [closed]

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago   Modified 9 years, 7 months ago

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16

As it currently stands, this question is not a good fit for our Q&A format. We expect answers to be supported by facts, references, or expertise, but this question will likely solicit debate, arguments, polling, or extended discussion. If you feel that this question can be improved and possibly reopened, visit the help center for guidance.

Closed 12 years ago.

As a way to find inspiration and improve my PHP skills, I am looking for some beautiful PHP source code to read, preferably an open source "standard" web site rather than a more tool-like project such as phpMyAdmin.

So, where can I find some beautiful PHP code?

`PHP`   **php**

edited May 3, 2015 at 2:47

Jonathan Leffler
752k ● 145 ● 946 ● 1.3k

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6   phpMyAdmin has some of the ugliest code ever...
     – DisgruntledGoat Sep 21, 2010 at 9:30

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. – hakre ✿ Jun 19,
2012 at 22:11

10 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ⇅

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CodeIgniter code is beautiful. There are many projects
written in CodeIgniter which are publically available and
you can check out the source code.

Have a look at the Getting started page of CodeIgniter's
tutorial and read through. I can gaurantee you'll be
inspired and want to fire up your IDE and get coding
straight away :).

You can also download and have a look at the source
code of Bamboo invoice. When I need inspiration I also
search for 'php code' on youtube :)

edited May 4, 2010 at 10:47

Lucas Jones
20.1k ● 9 ● 77 ● 88

answered Sep 27, 2008 at 17:14

Ali
286 ● 1 ● 2 ● 6

4   The one ugly thing about CodeIgniter is its PHP4-compatibility. It would probably look nicer without it. – Christian Studer Nov 11, 2009 at 7:49

I don't want to get into a flame war, but I'd vote against CodeIgniter now as it's not very modern. It may have some beautiful code, but it's missing out on lots of modern features. I'd go for Symfony2 or zf2 instead. – dave1010 Nov 28, 2012 at 16:43

8

Not all opensource projects are great examples as of how things are done.

Take a look at PEAR, ezComponents and the Zend Framework. All three are pretty popular in the PHP world, they solve a ton of different problems [each sometimes with a different approach] and they all follow great coding standards.

Also, there is often a trade-off between beautiful/elegant code and code that is very optimized. For example, if you want to see code that is powered to run a large website which needs to handle a lot of traffic, check out

[Mediawiki](#). It's build on very efficient code, but it's not very pretty.

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answered Sep 27, 2008 at 15:51

Till
22.4k ● 4 ● 60 ● 89

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1   +1 for mentioning the dissonance between elegance and performance – sunwukung Apr 7, 2011 at 12:18

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2   Also note that beauty is very subjective. For instance, I would *never* recommend ezComponents or Zend Framework as examples of beautiful code as I find both of them difficult to read, far too verbose - and needlessly so. Like trying to use PHP as Java. But both are extremes and given the general low quality of PHP code they strike as something that at least follows *some* coding principles. – johndodo Sep 20, 2012 at 11:08

I agree that this is very subjective. Beautiful code can mean a lot of different things – e.g. it's nice to read and elegant. In that sense I prefer verbosity over magic. Sometimes beautiful code is also the opposite. – Till Sep 20, 2012 at 14:18

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Try looking at the source of the best PHP frameworks - Zend's, Symfony and CakePHP. They are very well documented and generally well designed.

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answered Sep 27, 2008 at 15:44

3   I'd argue Cake. You can **build** beautifully coded applications with Cake, but last times I plumbed the depths (about a year ago) there was a ton of ugly needed for PHP 4 compatibility. – Alana Storm Sep 27, 2008 at 21:25

5

Kohana and Zend Framework i'd say. Zend's coding standards is also a good read.

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edited Sep 29, 2008 at 16:36

answered Sep 27, 2008 at 17:49

olle
1,194 ● 7 ● 10

5

PHPUnit consists of great PHP5.3 code
http://github.com/sebastianbergmann/phpunit/tree/

Also the Lithium Framework uses great PHP 5.3 code
http://rad-dev.org/lithium/source

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edited May 4, 2010 at 10:56

answered May 4, 2010 at 10:49

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http://fatfree.sourceforge.net/ so minimal it's insane

http://fuelphp.com/ very easy to use

https://github.com/auraphp Aura has some really interesting standalone packages on offer

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answered Mar 18, 2011 at 21:37

sunwukung
2,815 ● 4 ● 41 ● 56

If you like F3 check phunction.sf.net. ;) – Alix Axel Apr 6, 2011 at 23:20 ✏️

cheers @Alix Axel - I'll take a look! – sunwukung Apr 7, 2011 at 12:15

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ezComponents: Well documented, and has very handy tutorials.

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answered Sep 28, 2008 at 17:34

Imran
90.8k ● 26 ● 100 ● 131

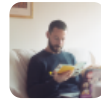Krugle.org is a great place to browse for code. Not just PHP, of course.

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answered Sep 29, 2008 at 16:26

Ignacio
8,035 ● 15 ● 64 ● 74

PHP.net is an open source website, but isn't exactly beautiful - some of it feels archaic but it works and is very secure.

Symfony is worth looking at, and there are some projects in the PHP.net CVS that are a bit more modern than the website.

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answered Sep 27, 2008 at 15:50

Ross
47k ● 39 ● 123 ● 173

Have a look at "Expert PHP 5 tools" book. **There is e-book available in web also**.

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answered May 4, 2010 at 10:45

Bakhtiyor

7,298 ● 15 ● 57 ● 80