Code Standards & Conventions

Code that is easy to understand, build upon and maintain saves time and minimizes errors. Coders who have these concepts well in hand are in demand in industry. For that reason, we'll incorporate standards and conventions in our code and even go as far as to incorporate code review into our process!

PSR-1 and PSR-2 Standards: In order to make our code more maintainable and readable, we'll attempt to adhere to PSR-1 and PSR-2 coding standards.

Linting: In our context,to lint code is to check it for anomalies. The term references removing bits of wool (lint) from a sweater. The process of linting code can help us identify and possibly fix code anomalies and standards issues. We'll utilize third party tools to help us identify and correct errors and standards anomalies.

Resources

Why You Need Coding Standards - *"This makes sure that a large project is coded in a consistent style — parts are not written differently by different programmers. Not only does this solution make the code easier to understand, it also ensures that any developer who looks at the code will know what to expect throughout the entire application."*

Be A Better PHP Developer: Coding Standards - "*The PEAR coding standard is arguably the most prevalent among the PHP community. However, it is exhaustive and therefore not easily adopted. When reading about PHP namespacing last year, I came across the PHP Standard Requirements (PSR)."*

"The latest version of this standard is PSR-2, which expands PSR-1, is a straightforward document outlining basic coding standards. It leaves some flexibility for developer style. And while I may not agree with every standard – mainly the curly brace conventions – it passes the governance." (PSR is up to level 4 or 5 at this time, not just PSR-2)

PSR-Huh? A History of PSRs - *"PHP has never truly had a uniform standard for writing code. Those who maintain various codebases commit time to writing their own naming conventions and coding style guidelines. At the php|tek conference in 2009, people representing various projects discussed their options for working between projects. they labeled themselves as the Framework Interoperability Group (FIG).*

"The goal of the FIG is to create a dialogue between project representatives, with the aim of finding ways to work together (interoperability). Those recommendations are free and can be adopted by anyone, though no one is obligated to do so. In fact, voting members are not required to implement any of the PSRs in the projects that they represent!"

PHP The Right Way - "*There's a lot of outdated information on the Web that leads new PHP users astray, propagating bad practices and insecure code. PHP: The Right Way is an easy-to-read, quick reference for PHP popular coding standards, links to authoritative tutorials around the Web and what the contributors consider to be best practices at the present time."*

PHP CodeSniffer - *"PHP_CodeSniffer is a set of two PHP scripts; the main phpcs script that tokenizes PHP, JavaScript and CSS files to detect violations of a defined coding standard, and a second phpcbf script to automatically correct coding standard violations. PHP_CodeSniffer is an essential development tool that ensures your code remains clean and consistent."*

PHP CS Fixer - *"The PHP Coding Standards Fixer tool fixes most issues in your code when you want to follow the PHP coding standards as defined in the PSR-1 and PSR-2 documents and many more."*

"If you are already using a linter to identify coding standards problems in your code, you know that fixing them by hand is tedious, especially on large projects. This tool does not only detect them, but also fixes them for you."