**CodeIgniter 3**

**helpers :**

In CodeIgniter 3, helpers are utility files that contain functions that can be used throughout your application. These functions provide common functionality and can be loaded when needed. CodeIgniter comes with a set of built-in helpers, and you can also create your custom helpers.

Here's how you can work with helpers in CodeIgniter 3:

1. **Loading Built-in Helpers:**

CodeIgniter 3 has several built-in helpers that you can load and use in your controllers, models, or views. You load helpers using the $this->load->helper() method in your controllers or wherever you need them.

For example, to load the Form Helper:

**$this->load->helper('form');**

After loading a helper, you can use its functions within the scope where it's loaded. For instance, after loading the Form Helper, you can use functions like **form\_open(), form\_input(), and form\_submit()** in your views or controllers.

1. **Creating Custom Helpers:**

You can create your custom helpers for functions specific to your application. To create a custom helper, follow these steps:

Create a new PHP file in the application/helpers directory. For example, create **my\_helper.php.**

Define your functions in the helper file. Here's an example of a custom helper function:

**<?php**

**if (!function\_exists('my\_custom\_function'))**

**{**

**function my\_custom\_function($param1, $param2)**

**{**

**// Your custom code here**

**return $result;**

**}**

**}**

To use your custom helper, you don't need to load it explicitly. CodeIgniter will automatically load all helper files in the **application/helpers** directory. Just make sure the filename matches the function name.

You can then use your custom helper function in your controllers, models, or views without needing to load it manually.

**Autoloading Helpers:**

To autoload certain helpers so that they are available globally without needing to load them in each controller or model, you can specify them in the **application/config/autoload.php** file.

For example, to autoload the URL Helper:

**$autoload['helper'] = array('url');**

Autoloading helpers can be helpful for widely used functions like URL handling or custom helpers that are used throughout your application.

**Removing Helper Autoload:**

If you decide to remove an autoloaded helper, simply remove it from the **$autoload['helper']** array in **application/config/autoload.php.**

That's how you work with helpers in CodeIgniter 3. Whether you're using built-in helpers or creating your custom ones, they can simplify common tasks and promote code reusability in your CodeIgniter applications.

**Built-in helper methods :**

CodeIgniter 3 comes with several built-in helper methods that provide useful functionality for common tasks in web development. Here are some of the commonly used built-in helper methods and a brief explanation of what they do:

**URL Helper (url):**

base\_url(): Returns the base URL of your CodeIgniter application.

site\_url(): Generates a complete URL based on your application's routing settings.

anchor(): Creates an HTML anchor link with optional attributes.

**Form Helper (form):**

form\_open(): Generates an opening form tag with optional attributes.

form\_input(): Generates an input field with optional attributes.

form\_textarea(): Generates a textarea with optional attributes.

form\_dropdown(): Generates a dropdown/select input field.

form\_checkbox(): Generates a checkbox input field.

form\_radio(): Generates a radio button input field.

form\_submit(): Generates a submit button.

form\_close(): Generates a closing form tag.

**HTML Helper (html):**

heading(): Generates an HTML heading with the specified text and heading level.

img(): Generates an HTML image tag with optional attributes.

br(): Generates an HTML line break tag.

**Text Helper (text):**

character\_limiter(): Limits the number of characters in a string.

word\_limiter(): Limits the number of words in a string.

highlight\_code(): Highlights code syntax.

auto\_link(): Converts URLs and email addresses into clickable links.

**File Helper (file):**

file\_exists(): Checks if a file exists.

read\_file(): Reads the contents of a file and returns it as a string.

**Array Helper (array):**

element(): Returns an array element's value or a default value if it doesn't exist.

random\_element(): Returns a random element from an array.

**String Helper (string):**

random\_string(): Generates a random string of a specified length.

convert\_accented\_characters(): Converts accented characters to their non-accented counterparts.

**Security Helper (security):**

xss\_clean(): Cleans data from XSS (Cross-Site Scripting) attacks.

**Cookie Helper (cookie):**

set\_cookie(): Sets a cookie.

get\_cookie(): Retrieves a cookie's value.

**Date Helper (date):**

now(): Returns the current date and time.

date(): Formats a timestamp into a readable date/time string.

These are just some of the built-in helper methods provided by CodeIgniter 3. You can load these helpers using **$this->load->helper('helper\_name')** in your controllers or views and use them to simplify various tasks in your web application development. Each helper has specific functions and options to assist you in performing its respective tasks.