PHP Developer Test

This is a simple programming exercise to gauge your knowledge of PHP and approach to problem solving.

Please read the attached problem and email us an archive containing your solution within 2 weeks. Feel free to contact us with any questions, or should you need any clarification.

Please note that there are many ways to complete this test, so please don't get too hung up on trying to find the one 'right' answer. It is just a way for us to assess your current abilities, and to give us something to talk about should we offer you an interview.

Scenario

Our fictional company require a new payroll system. Your task is to use PHP to write the part of the system that determines the date that salaries are paid.

Pay day is the second-to-last day of the month. If this date falls on a weekend then pay day is the Friday before the weekend. It takes up to four working days for a payment to reach the employee's account after being sent to the bank (if payment is sent on Monday, it will reach the account by Thursday at the latest).

Step 1.

Write a class that, for a given month and year, will calculate:

1. Pay day for that month
2. The date the payment should be sent to the bank to ensure the employee receives their wage on pay day

Step 2.

The accounts department require an interface so they can query this information from their own system. The information in part 1 will need to be exposed via a web service that can be queried remotely.

Write a service that will use the class in step 1 to respond to queries from a client. The client will specify the month and year of payment and your service should return the two required dates.

Write a command-line client that, for testing purposes, will make requests to your service.

The choice of protocol for this service - whether it be XMLRPC, SOAP, REST or some other method is entirely up to you.

What to send us

Email us an archive containing the source code for your solution, with instructions on how to get it up and running, and any necessary software and version on which your code depends. We should have enough information to run your service and get your test client to talk to it.

What are we looking for?

There is no one 'right' way of solving this problem. There are many possible solutions. What we are looking for in your solution is:

- Does it solve the given problem?
- Have you properly read and understood the requirements
- Is your code clean and readable?
- Does it demonstrate a good working knowledge of PHP?
- Do you follow industry best-practices?
- Have you stated any assumptions you have made about the requirements?

Thank you for taking the time to complete our technical test. Best of luck, we hope to hear from you soon.