



CakePHP 3: Bake by example



northgoingzax · Sep 14 '18 · 1 min read

#cakephp #php #beginners

This article is aimed at newbies to the CakePHP 3 framework.

I'm a fan of CakePHP, and was completely new to it about 9 months ago. Any framework takes some getting used to, but my biggest issue with Cake 3 is the manual. I feel it is written very much with a feeling of "you're familiar with Cake 2, so we don't need explain as much with this one".

Once you get used to using the framework however, it is a very rewarding framework, and luckily the [IRC channel](#) and [cakephp-3.x](#) tag on stack overflow is actively maintained, so you can work it out or get an answer pretty quickly.

Rather than moan about the manual, I thought I would post an example-based guide to the code generation feature, to help any other new-to-cake devs out there.

These examples are deliberately simple, they're just to get you started with the code generator, rather than just the basic list of commands currently available in the [docs](#).



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2. Check you are in the root directory of your project, if you do a directory listing `ls` you should see folders "bin", "config", "src", "webroot"

Create a controller for a table called `users`

```
bin/cake bake controller Users
```

creates `src/Controller/UsersController.php`

Create a model (and entity) for a table called `users`

```
bin/cake bake model Users
```

creates `src/Model/Table/UsersTable.php`
creates `src/Model/Entities/User.php`

Create the default template files for a table (add/edit/view/index)



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view.ctp

Bake all of the above in 1 command

```
bin/cake bake all Users
```

Bake just the index template file

```
bin/cake bake template Users index
```

creates src/Template/Users/index.ctp

Baking for prefix folders (e.g. admin)

If you are baking for an admin section of your site, you will be using separate controller and template files

```
bin/cake bake controller Users --prefix admin
```

creates src/Controller/Admin/UsersController.php



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creates src/Template/Admin/Users/index.ctp edit.ctp add.ctp
view.ctp

Bake from a different database

The previous examples all use the db connection defined in app.php as 'default'. If you have a legacy database for handling client records, e.g. db_records, your [config file](#) might look like this

```
// in config/app.php
'Datasources' => [
    'default' => [
        'host' => 'localhost',
        'username' => 'db_user',
        'password' => 'pass123',
        'database' => 'db_application',
    ],
    'records' => [
        'host' => 'localhost',
        'username' => 'db_records_user',
        'password' => 'pass123',
        'database' => 'db_records',
    ],
]
```



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database

```
bin/cake bake model UserRecords -c records
```

```
creates /src/Model/Table/UserRecordsTable.php  
creates /src/Model/Entities/UserRecord.php
```

This will include in your `UserRecordsTable.php` file

```
public static function defaultConnectionName()  
{  
    return 'records';  
}
```

Create a model from this database for a table not following cake convention, e.g. `tbl_records_user`

```
bin/cake bake model UserRecords -c records --table tbl_records_user
```

```
creates /src/Model/Table/UserRecordsTable.php  
creates /src/Model/Entities/UserRecord.php
```



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```
$this->setTable('tbl_records_user');
```

There are other options you can set here, but some are easier to set by editing the file afterwards. But for example, you can also set the [display field](#) to be something other than the default, e.g. email

```
bin/cake bake model UserRecords -c records --table tbl_records_user --display-
```



This will modify the display field

```
$this->setDisplayField('email');
```

Baking with a plugin

Assume you have installed a plugin such as [friendsofcake/BootstrapUI](#) so that your template files are using Bootstrap styles by default
You can now add `-t BootstrapUI` to any of the above commands



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view.ctp

```
bin/cake bake template Users -t BootstrapUI
```

Create the whole MVC skeleton (controller, table, entity, templates) using the legacy database

```
bin/cake bake all UserRecords -c records --table tbl_records_user -t BootstrapUI
```



Useful Features

Bake relies on the database connection, so to save you loading up and remembering all the tables in the system, you can call a command without specifying the table name to see a list of available tables. Let's say your database has 3 tables:

```
users
articles
activity_logs
```

Using the command `bin/cake bake model` will produce a list of available tables



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```
bin/cake bake model
```

Choose a model to bake from the following:

Users

Articles

ActivityLogs

The same goes for:

```
bin/cake bake controller
```

```
bin/cake bake template
```

Hopefully if you're using CakePHP for the first time this is a useful reference for the bake console.

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