

Exercise Solutions

Section 3 Lesson 2. Front Controller

Exercise 1: Front Controller

Use your IDE to do this exercise.

Step 1. Locate the Front Controller class

`Mage_Core_Controller_Varien_Front`

- Because the class is included by the Magento autoloader, the class name can be mapped to the file system as usual, resulting in the path *Mage/Core/Controller/Varien/Front.php*.
- Because it is a core component of Magento, it is in the core code pool, which gives us the full path *app/code/core/Mage/Core/Controller/Varien/Front.php*.
- Open the file in the IDE.

Step 2. List all events that the front controller fires

- Search for the string `dispatchEvent` within the front controller class. You will find 4 matches.

Step 3. List possible uses for each event

- The first event is `controller_front_init_before`. It is dispatched right at the beginning of the front controller dispatch process. It can be used for access control, or for starting a timer to benchmark the dispatch process.
- The second event is `controller_front_init_routers`. It can be used to add custom routers to the front controllers using `$observer->getFront()->addRouter($router)` in the event observer.

- c) The third event is `controller_front_send_response_before`. It can be used to add additional headers to the response object, for tidying the response data, or for appending additional data to the response body.
- d) The fourth event is `controller_front_send_response_after`. It can be used to do cleanup operations, to cache the response, or to collect benchmarks and other statistical data.

Note: There are many more possible usages. These are just examples.
