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behat documentation

Behat is an open source Behavior Driven Development framework for PHP 5.3+. What's *behavior driven development*, you ask? It's a way to develop software through a constant communication with stakeholders in form of examples; examples of how this software should help them, and you, to achieve your goals.

For example, imagine you're about to create the famous UNIX `ls` command. Before you begin, you will have a conversation with your stakeholders (UNIX users) and they might say that even though they like UNIX a lot, they need a way to see all the files in the current working directory. You then have a back-and-forth chat with them about how they see this feature working and you come up with your first scenario (an alternative name for example in BDD methodology):

Feature: Listing command

In order to change the structure of the folder I am currently in
As a UNIX user
I need to be able see the currently available files and folders +

Scenario: Listing two files in a directory

Given I am in a directory "test"
And I have a file named "foo"
And I have a file named "bar"
When I run "ls"
Then I should get:
" " " "

 v: latest ▾

```
bar
foo
'''
```

If you are a stakeholder, this is your proof that developers understand exactly how you want this feature to work. If you are a developer, this is your proof that the stakeholder expects you to implement this feature exactly in the way you're planning to implement it.

So, as a developer your work is done as soon as you've made the `ls` command, and made it behave as described in the "Listing command" scenario.

You've probably heard about this modern development practice called TDD, where you write tests for your code before, not after, the code. Well, BDD is like that, except that you don't need to come up with a test - your *scenarios* are your tests. That's exactly what Behat does! As you'll see, Behat is easy to learn, quick to use, and will put the fun back into your testing.

Behat was heavily inspired by Ruby's *Cucumber* project. Since v3.0, Behat is considered an official Cucumber implementation in PHP and is part of one big family of BDD tools.

quick intro

To become a *Behat'er* in 30 minutes, just dive into the quick-start guide and enjoy!

- [Building Domain Model](#)

guides

Learn Behat with the topical guides:

- [Writing Features](#)
- [Defining Reusable Actions](#)
- [Hooking into the Test Process](#)
- [Testing Features](#)
- [Configuring Test Suites](#)

- [Configuring Behat](#)
- [Running Tests](#)

cookbook

Learn specific solutions for specific needs:

- [Integrating Symfony2 with Behat](#)
- [Accessing contexts from each other](#)

more about behaviour driven development

Once you're up and running with Behat, you can learn more about behaviour driven development via the following links. Though both tutorials are specific to Cucumber, Behat shares a lot with Cucumber and the philosophies are one and the same.

- [Dan North's "What's in a Story?"](#)
- [Cucumber's "Backgrounder"](#)