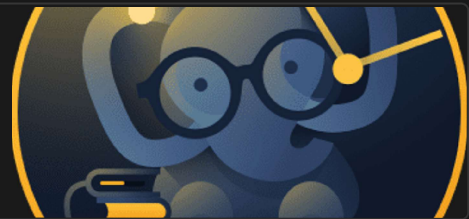# 🚄

0.1 - Getting started

Introducing Laracasts

Meet *Laracasts* and Jeffrey (Jeff) Way. Laracasts is a website where you can find hundreds of videos and video series about web development in general and especially Laravel. In this chapter we will work through the following series:

> **The PHP Practitioner**
> We all start somewhere. When it comes to web development with PHP, well, your first stop is this series. Designed specifically
> 🚄 https://laracasts.com/series/php-for-beginners

In most of the videos you see Jeffreys screen and you will hear him explaining the code and the workings while he is experimenting with his code.

> 💡 **Tip:** You can decide for yourself if you repeat all the experiments that Jeffrey does or just watch the videos and only do the 👩‍💼 exercises described here.
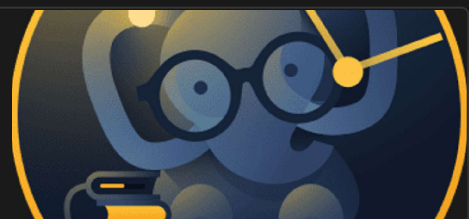
Get PHP Installed

In the first episode of the series *The PHP Practitioner* Jeffrey shows you how to install the PHP platform on your own computer/laptop zo you can experiment for yourself and develop your own web applications.

> **Step 1: Get PHP Installed**
> So you've decided to become a web developer? Excellent, excellent choice. At this point, you have a basic understanding of
> 🚄 https://laracasts.com/series/php-for-beginners/episodes/1

💁 **Exercise 0.1** Prepare your laptop so you can experiment with PHP. You are free to decide on the tools you install. We advice you to use XAMPP if you have a Windows machine. For Mac users Homebrew seems to be the most convenient tool and if you are a Linux user, you are nerdy enough to figure this out for yourself (if you aren't, DigitalOcean guides are really good). Please use the latest PHP version. That means you will probably have to uninstall your currently installed version of XAMPP and install the latest one!

⚠️ **Warning**: when using XAMPP, using `php <filename>` in the terminal does not work out of the box. In order to make this work, the PHP executable should be in your path. See the following answer on StackOverflow.

💡 **Tip:** Always update your software when it's safe and possible to do so. One of the most ignored reasons to do so is optimizations for hardware. The creator of PHP explains in this video that if everybody in the world updated their websites from PHP 5 to PHP 7 (which in practice was about 5 minutes of work for most websites), the optimized code from PHP 7 would save billions of kilograms (!!!) of CO_2 released every year. Just because the servers could execute the new code faster, which costs less energy, which reduced carbon emissions. By. A. Lot. Always update when you can.
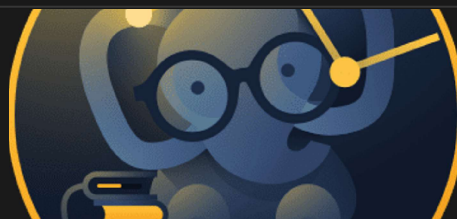
Install a Proper Code Editor

The second episode is about installing a proper code editor. Up until now you either used online editors (CodeSandbox) or Microsoft Visual Studio Code. These editors were not well known when Jeffrey recorded these videos.

Step 2: Install a Proper Code Editor

Before we get started, let's ensure that you have a proper code editor installed on your machine. As you'll find, code editors are

🔗 https://laracasts.com/series/php-for-beginners/episodes/2

💁 **Exercise 0.2** Select and install a proper code editor. We advise you to install **PHPStorm.** See below

💡 Jeffrey states that **PHPStorm** has the most features. This editor requires a paid license. However it provides for a special **free licence** for students: the *PHPStorm Educational License.* Therefore we advice you to apply for this license with your HZ email address and install PHPStorm. If you already have access to the Github Student Developer Pack (which you should!), then getting the free license is as easy as clicking "GitHub" from the JetBrains registration page and then authorizing with your GitHub account. See:

Free Educational Licenses - Community Support

Learn or teach how to code with best-of-industry tools from JetBrains. Free Educational Licenses for JetBrains' tools.

https://www.jetbrains.com/community/education/#students

For more info about the Github Student Developer Pack:

GitHub Student Developer Pack

The GitHub Student Developer Pack is all you need to learn how to code. Get your Pack now.

https://education.github.com/pack