

Console applications

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Besides the rich features for building web applications, Yii also has full-featured support for console applications which are mainly used to create background and maintenance tasks that need to be performed for a website.

The structure of console applications is very similar to a Yii web application. It consists of one or more `yii\console\Controller` (</doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controller>) classes, which are often referred to as *commands* in the console environment. Each controller can also have one or more actions, just like web controllers.

Both project templates already have a console application with them. You can run it by calling the `yii` script, which is located in the base directory of the repository. This will give you a list of available commands when you run it without any further parameters:

```
{lamb} php yii

This is Yii version 2.0.8-dev.

The following commands are available:

- asset
  asset/compress (default)  Allows you to combine and compress your JavaScript and CSS files.
  asset/template           Combines and compresses the asset files according to the given configuration.
                           Creates template of configuration file for [[actionCompress]].

- cache
  cache/flush              Allows you to flush cache.
  cache/flush-all         Flushes given cache components.
  cache/flush-schema       Flushes all caches registered in the system.
  cache/index (default)    Clears DB schema cache for a given connection component.
                           Lists the caches that can be flushed.

- fixture
  fixture/load (default)   Manages fixture data loading and unloading.
  fixture/unload           Loads the specified fixture data.
                           Unloads the specified fixtures.

- help
  help/index (default)    Provides help information about console commands.
                           Displays available commands or the detailed information

- message
  message/config           Extracts messages to be translated from source files.
  message/config-template Creates a configuration file for the "extract" command using command line options specified
  message/extract (default) Extracts messages to be translated from source code.

- migrate
  migrate/create           Manages application migrations.
  migrate/down            Creates a new migration.
  migrate/history          Downgrades the application by reverting old migrations.
  migrate/mark            Displays the migration history.
  migrate/new             Modifies the migration history to the specified version.
  migrate/redo            Displays the un-applied new migrations.
  migrate/to              Redoes the last few migrations.
  migrate/up (default)    Upgrades or downgrades till the specified version.
                           Upgrades the application by applying new migrations.

- serve
  serve/index (default)   Runs PHP built-in web server
                           Runs PHP built-in web server

To see the help of each command, enter:

yii help <command-name>
```

As you can see in the screenshot, Yii has already defined a set of commands that are available by default:

- [AssetController](/doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-assetcontroller) (</doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-assetcontroller>) - Allows you to combine and compress your JavaScript and CSS files. You can learn more about this command in the [Assets Section](/doc/guide/2.0/en/structure-assets#using-asset-bundles) (</doc/guide/2.0/en/structure-assets#using-asset-bundles>).
- [CacheController](/doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-cachecontroller) (</doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-cachecontroller>) - Allows you to flush application caches.
- [FixtureController](/doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-fixturecontroller) (</doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-fixturecontroller>) - Manages fixture data loading and unloading for testing purposes. This command is described in more detail in the [Testing Section about Fixtures](/doc/guide/2.0/en/test-fixtures#managing-fixtures) (</doc/guide/2.0/en/test-fixtures#managing-fixtures>).
- [HelpController](/doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-helpcontroller) (</doc/api/2.0/yii-console-controllers-helpcontroller>) - Provides help information about console commands, this is the default command and prints what you have seen in the above output.