

Using Propel

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About Tony Bibbs

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Presentation Overview

- What is Propel?
- Preparing Your Project for Propel
- Using Propel Models
- Advanced Features
- Future Development
- Wrap-up and Q&A



What is Propel?

- Object Relational Mapper (ORM)
- Persistence Layer
- Framework Component
- Time Saver



WTF is an ORM?

With an ORM you can generate:

- PHP from a database
- Database from PHP
- Secret to it all? XML
- Is all this still Greek?



Why Use an ORM?

- Allows developers to concentrate on the most important thing: The Business
- Framework-friendly (The “M” of MVC)
- Rapid Development
- Portability



ORM Downsides

- Bloat
- Ramp-up Time
- Performance



Typical Project Setup*

- Design Database in XML
- Configure Propel Generator
- Build SQL DDL and Build Database
- Generate PHP Classes
- Slang some code



Alternative Setup*

- Design and Build Database
- Configure Propel Generator
- Reverse Engineer Database into XML metadata
- Generate PHP Classes
- Slang some code



System Requirements

- PHP 5.2+ and PEAR
- Phing (during development only)
- MySQL, PostgreSQL, MSSQL, Oracle, SQLite



Our First Propel Build



Using the Propel Models

- Saving Data
- Deleting Data
- Retrieving Data
- Warning on Data Retrieval
- Putting the “M” in MVC



Advanced Techniques

- Persist multiple PHP objects to one table.
- Enforce RI on DBMS with no RI support
- Customize Propel Objects with Phing
- Binding Propel object(s) to a form
- Generating Propel objects from a form.



Future Development

- PHP 5.3 Namespace Support (in trunk).
Includes per-table namespaces (not in trunk).
- DAO Implementation
- Criteria Redesign



Wrap-up and Q&A

Wrap-up and Q&A



Resources

- Propel: <http://propel.phpdb.org>
- My Blog: <http://www.tonybibbs.com>
- Slides on Slideshare.net
- AptitudeCMS: <http://www.apptitudecms.org>
- Symfony: <http://www.symfony-project.org/>

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