



October 5th, 2006

CakePHP @ The BostonPHP Bake-off, Round 1

Important Acronyms & Buzzwords to Remember

MVC: **Model-View-Controller** is a pattern for separating code within your application, where the input (Model) is on one end, the output (View) is on the other, and the business logic (Controller) is in the middle, running the show.

DRY: "**Don't Repeat Yourself**" is the high holy philosophy of the Cake framework. Beyond simply being against redundant code, DRY states that no piece of data or logic should be repeated more than once within the system (application). This includes things like database schemas.

ActiveRecord: In a nutshell, **ActiveRecord** is about creating an object to represent (wrap) a record in a table. This allows you to easily create relationships between the record and other records, and assign fun things like field validation rules.

Why Does This Stuff Matter?

Non-negotiable directory structure* -

Because it's so freeform and easy, PHP lends itself to creating disorganized, unmaintainable code. We created a pre-defined application structure so you don't have to. You may fight it at first, but in the end, it will save your life & sanity.

A place for everything, and everything in it's place -

With consistent code organization, zero-configuration and DRY coding style, not only is it easy to get up and running, but you can make changes to your application and refactor code extremely quickly. It is also much easier to pick code back up after an extended period of time.

It works the way you work -

Cake doesn't try to solve all your problems, just most of them. It takes all the common, repetitive tasks out of your application, so you can focus on the unique value that your app provides. And it doesn't get in your way: it's still easy to access lower-level objects, and do things that other frameworks will tell you you're not supposed to. You maintain the freedom of coding in PHP without the extra baggage.

* Okay, technically negotiation is possible, but not worth it without a really, really good reason.