



WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN OOP IN PHP

By: Stefan Mischook

Preamble

The following document outlines the topics covered in the video:

[Why learn Object Oriented PHP](#)

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Introduction

With the release of php 5 in 2004, php programmers finally had the power to code with the 'big boys'. Like Java and C#, php finally had a complete OO (object oriented) infrastructure.

For people new to OOP (object oriented programming) and used to procedural (traditional) php, you may be wondering why should you even bother to learn object oriented concepts ... why go through the trouble?

I a nutshell:

Object-Oriented Programming (OOP) makes building complex, modular and reusable web applications that much easier.

What is OOP ... in a nutshell?

Instead of having a bunch of functions, variables and code floating around willy-nilly, OOP is all about creating modular code that is contained in virtual packages called 'objects'.

Objects are the heart of OOP and they require a new mindset when working with them. For a lot of people, this can be a bit of a challenge ... but it's worth it for many reasons.

Why learn OO PHP:

1. OO PHP code is much more reusable because by its' very nature, it is modular.
2. OO PHP is easier to update. Again, because PHP code is organised into objects.
3. OO PHP makes team programming much easier to manage.
4. OO PHP makes larger projects much easier to manage.
5. OO PHP makes creating code libraries much easier.
6. Knowing OO PHP will make working with many opensource PHP libraries much easier. For example: projects like PEAR and the Zend Framework are built using OO PHP.
7. OO PHP programmers typically make more money and will be able to work on more projects.
8. Since object oriented concepts are the same in all OO languages, once you learn OOP in PHP, you will also have a good understanding of several other languages including:
 - a. Ruby
 - b. Java
 - c. C#
 - d. Actionscript

...among several other languages.

The downside to OO PHP

Object oriented PHP has 3 small disadvantages:

1. It is harder to learn than traditional (procedural) PHP.
2. OO PHP will run a little slower than traditional PHP.
3. OO PHP projects require more code than traditional PHP projects when the projects are small and just starting out. That is to say, if you are only writing a small 2 or 3 page script, you may just want to go with old-school PHP.

Stefan Mischook

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