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Thursday, March 17. 2005

Sightseeing in Japan



Two days ago I took a day off and did some sightseeing with the President of Zend Japan. We took an amazing full-day tour of historic Kyoto, and Nara and I have some [great photos](#) online for those interested. When I get back to the states I'll try to find some time to put

descriptions along side things, but even without the descriptions the sights were just stunning. I can't express enough thanks to Yoshi (the President) and the entire Zend Japan staff for making this trip an enjoyable one.

Posted by John Coggeshall in [General](#) at [18:12](#) | [Comments \(4\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(7\)](#)

Sunday, March 13. 2005

The Open Source Realize Forum 2005



OPEN SOURCE JAPAN
オープンソース・ジャパン株式会社

This week I've taken my first trip to Japan to

speak at the *Open Source Realize Forum 2005*. This event is targeted at educating companies of the benefits of Open Source, and I specifically will be speaking on (you guessed it) using PHP in the enterprise. It's been quite the experience coming to Asia for the first time, and I look forward to the rest of my week here. I am schedule to travel from Tokyo where I am currently to Kobe, and I am told I will also go on a sight-seeing tour as well to Kyoto so you can expect a ton of photos from me when I return. The conference will include speakers from PHP (myself), MySQL (David Axmark), and Zope (Rob Page), so it should be a great series.

Since it's not overly obvious, Open Source Japan is the parent company that runs, among others, [Zend Japan](#) responsible for Japanese sales and localization of products like Zend Studio.

Posted by John Coggeshall at [23:22](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

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Merry Christmas!
(Taken: Dec 31 6:00 CST)

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Tuesday, March 8. 2005

Zend: Power your business with PHP

October 18th through October 21st Zend will be hosting its first [PHP Conference](#) in California. The conference will have a focus on bringing PHP into the Enterprise, but will also have many hands-on tutorials and sessions as well. So, looks like you'll likely find me mid October!

For those of you who would like to speak, I believe the Call For Papers will open at zend.com starting March 15th.

Posted by John Coggeshall at [09:44](#) | [Comments \(3\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Friday, March 4. 2005

Interview with CIPS/NPA

Today I was given the links to an interview I did with [Stephen Ibaraki](#) for the [Canadian Information Processing Society](#) and [Network Professional Association](#). The interview was rather extensive and for those of you who might be interested it covers a bit of my personal life alongside a whole lot of my opinions on everything from PHP to the future of technology. I'm honored to have my interview appear alongside an MIT professor/Database Legend, the CEO of Novell, and one of the world's leading IT Analysts.

You can find a direct link here: [CIPS](#), [NPA](#)

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [16:56](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Trackback \(1\)](#)

Thursday, February 24. 2005

My deepest sympathies

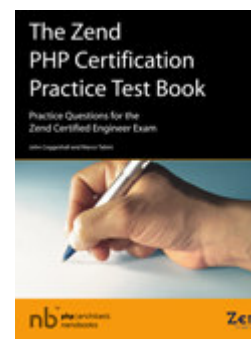
On February 15th, Michael Arciola, brother of a good friend of mine here in New York was killed in action by small arms fired in Al Ramadi, Iraq. I had the privilege of spending time with him over some beers while he was on leave just a few short weeks ago and words cannot express my sadness to now have to attend his wake tonight. He was a very good man, a soldier who was proud of his job, and now another name remembered forever as someone who gave all he had in the name of his country. My prayers and deepest respects are with him and his family -- I am truly honored to have known him.

Posted by John Coggeshall in [General](#) at [17:33](#) | [Comments \(3\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Thursday, February 17. 2005

The last remaining active version of PHP 1.x?

Today we were poking around on IRC and Rasmus showed us [this](#)



[PHP Unleashed](#)

John Coggeshall

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[tarball](#), probably one of the last remaining copies of PHP version 1.08 in existence. Ah to be back in the day when ./configure wasn't necessary (just run 'make' from the directory and you should be all set).

Even more interesting, a google search returns ~400 results for the string 'php.cgi', the PHP 1.08 CGI binary... interesting enough most of them point to the home page of [Phil Andrews](#). His [Long Distances](#) page is likely the last remaining **running** copy of PHP 1.08, and it's still going strong!

To see it in action, look at the bottom of the page 😊

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [23:30](#) | [Comments \(3\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Improved XML-RPC extension (XMLRPCi) 1.0-beta released

Today I [released](#) the first public beta of XML-RPCi -- an improved XML-RPC extension for PHP 5+. Built upon the libxml2 library it supports object overloading and automatic fault handling as interfaces for XML-RPC requests.

For instance:

```
<?php

// Calling methods from the 'package' namespace
$package = new XMLRPC("http://pear.php.net/xmlrpc.php",
"package.");

try {
$package->info("DB");
} catch (XMLRPC_Fault $fault) {
var_dump($fault);
}

?>
```

The basic use is as follows:

```
new XMLRPC($xml_rpc_url [, $optional_calling_prefix]);
```

Where \$optional_calling_prefix is used for situations where the XML-RPC method being called contains a namespace prefix which can't be easily called from PHP. For instance, to call the 'package.info()' RPC method you can't do:

```
$rpc->package.info("DB");
```

instead you would specify the string "package." for \$optional_calling_prefix and then use the method directly:

```
$rpc->info("DB");
```

Although this limits the instance of a class to calling a particular "namespace" of RPC calls, you can also call methods in other

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namespaces using the '__call' method:

```
$rpc->__call("package.info", "DB");
```

In the event of an error from the XML-RPC server (a fault) or a malformed response a XMLRPC_Fault will be thrown.

Feedback welcome of course, and please report any bugs to me. As the extension matures I plan on adding support for creating XML-RPC servers and backward compatible functions from the old ext/xmlrpc extension.

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [19:21](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#) | [Trackback \(1\)](#)

Monday, February 7. 2005

This was a stupid idea

A friend of mine showed me [this link](#) where I can order, for free, 1,100 postal boxes of varying sizes from the USPS and have them shipped basically to any address I want. This is a perfect example of how the gov't can just blow my hard earned money, not to mention gets my mind thinking of [pranks](#) I could pull to contribute to mayhem. Did the thought of getting a few hundred people together and all ordering 1,100 boxes to one institution or person occur to anyone yet? Not that I would condone such things, but you have to admit it would be really, really funny.

Posted by John Coggeshall at [23:49](#) | [Comment \(1\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Friday, January 28. 2005

Social Networks are, unfortunately, largely worthless.

Social Networks are a hot topic right now -- if you're paying attention to anything it has really become the flavor of the week. Regardless, unfortunately right now I think Social Networks are largely worthless to me and I'm wondering why it has to be that way.

The problem I'm seeing with social networks are, basically, they are very segmented to the point where they are more trouble than they both need to be or are worth. Recently I made myself an account on my first business-oriented Social Network [LinkedIn](#). I like the account, I felt like it was actually useful compared to [Orkut](#) which sort of was neat for awhile but didn't really give me anything particularly useful. Unfortunately as I was going through my Contact List inviting those who weren't signed up to join, and connecting with those who already had an account, I realized it was a waste of my time because half the people I invited accepted my invite then promptly invited me to another service that they favored for whatever reason... I now have accounts on four different social networks ([Orkut](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Plaxo](#), and [Open BC](#)). That means I have to re-enter and answer the same stuff four times, maintain that information in four different locations, and honestly who really has the time to deal with all this crap?

In my opinion, this segmentation between the networks makes them more trouble than they are really worth. I'm better off just keeping my contact list to myself in Evolution than going through the trouble setting up an account on a network.

My question is this: Why can't these networks provide a Web Services API?

Think of Instant Messenger Clients which had the same problem years ago -- I needed one for my friends on Yahoo!, one on my friends on AIM, one for MSN, and it was a real pain until someone got their act together and wrote clients like [GAIM](#) and [Trillian](#) which consolidated all of those contacts into one easy to manage list. What was the result? Basically everyone ended up with an account on every network and everyone was happy -- I think the same thing would happen to Social Networks if they'd let it.

If I had access to a Web Services API for these sites I would love to write a web-based application which communicated with all of them and provided a single interface to search, interact, and otherwise manage my social network without having to worry about which physical company's network my contact belongs to. I would think that this is probably possible now to some degree, because most of these networks provide Outlook or I.E. toolbar plugins which communicate with the network -- it's only a matter of understanding the protocol they are using.

Although that's a possible solution, it'd be nice to just see these sites expose an API via SOAP which would let me do all of this. I know one of the companies is planning something like this, I don't suppose an employee of one of the others might be able to chime in and give me some advice here?

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [15:36](#) | [Comment \(1\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Thursday, January 27, 2005

A Change in Policy

On January 24, Zend [announced](#) strategic investments by Intel and SAP and caused another [Spartacus](#) backlash from the PHP community because Zend has once again portrayed themselves as the "creators" of PHP -- an arguably misleading statement not giving credit to the many volunteers who have poured countless hours into the project.

Thanks to some complaining by influential PHP community members however, I'm pleased to announce that Zeev and Andi have intervened within the company and will from this point forward change the wording used in press releases to more accurately reflect the ongoing contributions to PHP by those in the general community. I get the warm fuzzies to see my employer willing to change their ways a little bit and give credit when credit is due! I'm told they'll also be changing the press release which caused the backlash on the web site soon as well.

With any luck, it's the last we'll see of Spartacus!

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [14:53](#) | [Comments \(5\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Sunday, January 23. 2005

Phishing, and why PHP is so good at it.

Over the past few months I have entertained myself by reading and checking out e-mails sent out by hackers [phishing](#) for my e-bay password, paypal password, credit cards, etc. In most cases, such as [this](#) one. They come to me with a similar e-mail:

Dear customer,

We regret to inform you that your eBay account will be suspended due to the violation of our site policy below:

* Misrepresentation of Identity (User) - Representing yourself as another eBay user or registering using the identity of another.

Due to the suspension of this account, please be advised you are prohibited from using eBay in any way. This includes the registering of a new account.

Please note that this suspension does not relieve you of your agreed-upon obligation to pay any fees you may owe to eBay.

According to our site policy you will have to confirm that you are the real owner of the eBay account by completing the following form or else your account will be deleted.

<http://free.hostdepartment.com/e/ebaybilling/signin.html>

Our apologies for this inconvenience.

Thank you for using eBay! <http://www.ebay.com>

Some are more clever than others, but all end up linking to a fake login / validation page for eBay and execute a classic man-in-the-middle attack to compromise the user's validation information. While some are [Unsecured Linux Boxes running a default Apache](#) which hackers have gotten into and created bogus eBay login pages with, there is a new flavor I have recently found as well, such as [this one](#) which takes advantage of unsecure form mailer scripts running on [respectable web sites](#) to send e-mails to [drop-box e-mail accounts](#) with the login credentials, credit card information, etc. of anyone who is ignorant enough to buy into the scam.

Unfortunately, all of these phishing attacks have one thing in common: They are taking advantage of stupid people running PHP. Although different approaches are being used, neither could have happened if PHP wasn't involved. Of course one shouldn't leave an unsecured fresh linux box in the wild in the first place, but there is **no reason** why a company should have a form mailer script out there which allows me to bounce e-mail anywhere I want in the world as I see fit. Unfortunately, my attempts to contact the company running this nonsense has resulted in nothing but bounced e-mails (imagine that..)

When it's all said and done this is not a new problem, but for the

lack of somewhere better to vent my frustrations I thought I would post them here. After all, I've been [talking about](#) this stuff for 4 years now so I doubt anything is going to change now.

If anyone has any brilliant suggestions on how PHP itself can be changed (perhaps a default configuration changed, or new anti-phishing restrictions put into place) which make any sense I'd love to hear them.

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [14:47](#) | [Comments \(4\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Monday, January 17. 2005

Back from PHP West: Web Services

Well I've returned from the west coast after giving my talk on PHP 5 and SOAP to the [PHP West](#) conference crowd in awesome (yet incredibly cold) Vancouver, Canada. Although this conference was a very short one (only one day, one track) it was a special one for me because it was the first time I got to see both of my new books [PHP Unleashed](#) and [The Zend PHP Certification Practice Book](#). While the Unleashed book wasn't for sale at the conference, I did give away a number of signed copies to attendees.

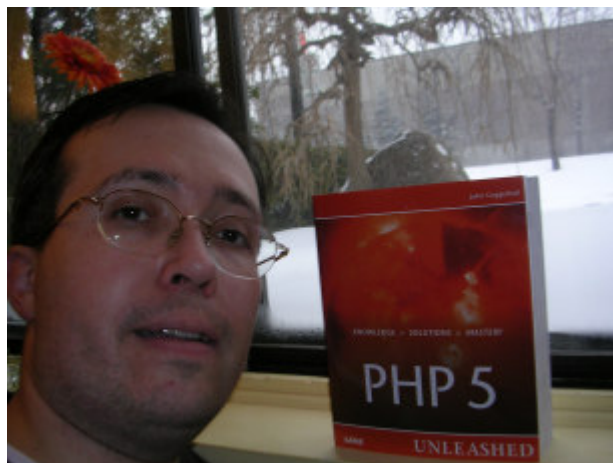
For those of you who missed my talk, or perhaps would like to reference my materials, I have put the slides from my talk online in my [Talks Section](#). You can find a direct link to them [Here](#).

(note, for some reason my talks section is a little sluggish.)

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [14:05](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Thursday, January 6. 2005

PHP Unleashed: Hot off the press!



Although I have yet to actually get a copy myself, as you can see

[PHP Unleashed](#) is back from the printers! Also, you can now purchase the [Zend PHP Certification Practice Test Book](#) as well online through Amazon. I thought getting one book published would be exciting, but I never thought I'd have two out at the same time!

Go get a copy!

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [14:05](#) | [Comments \(4\)](#) | [Trackback \(1\)](#)

Wednesday, January 5. 2005

PHP: The Programming Language of 2004

[TIOBE Software](#), maintainer of the [TIOBE Programming Community Index](#) has named PHP the Programming language of 2004. While I'm not surprised myself, I was very interested in hearing that while PHP has grown over 3% Java has dropped a relatively steep 6%. Admittedly the way this is measured isn't an absolute indication (it is based on figures taken from the major search engines: Google, MSN, and Yahoo!), I do think it serves as a valid barometer.

TIOBE credits the release of PHP 5 with PHP's surge in usage. While they don't draw the line between PHP's rise accounting for Java's drop, I do believe that has been a factor. In my work with [Zend](#) I have seen many companies now turning to PHP to solve their serious "mission critical" (I hate that phrase) problems, and thanks to the new object model PHP can now solve these problems using many of the same software engineering techniques Java brought to the table without the complexity of Java enterprise architecture. I know that makes my life easier, and I think it's that ability of PHP to develop scalable, hardened applications fast which makes it the powerhouse it has become today.

The best part about all of this, which is the part that really excites me, is that I can see PHP taking the web to all new places. With its ease of development and hot new technologies on the horizon (such as web services and XUL) which it can interact with I don't think it's a stretch at all that PHP will play a major role in the "Network Operating System" of the future myself and men such as [Tim O'Reilly](#) have been talking about over the years. It'll just take a little time to pull it all together, but it'll happen.

Posted by John Coggeshall in [PHP](#) at [13:19](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

Friday, December 31. 2004

Happy New Year!

Well, I am currently in Times Square waiting for the New Year celebrations to arrive. I hope all of you are with friends, and wish you the all the best of the new year! See you in 2005!

Posted by John Coggeshall at [18:58](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Trackbacks \(0\)](#)

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