Quick answers to common problems

CodeIgniter 2 Cookbook

Over 80 recipes to help you create CodeIgniter-powered applications and solve common coding problems

Rob Foster

[PACKT] PUBLISHING open source* community experience distilled

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I would like to thank Lucy for all the missed weekends I spent working on the book (at least you got to 62 on Skyrim), Rob Parsons for doing a great job on the images in the book. Thanks to Mum and Dad, Peter and family, Richard (good to have you back again), friends, and family.

About the Reviewers

Harpreet Singh Bhatia is a freelance developer who believes that coding is as much art as it is science, because it not only involve a strong, logical thinking with a care for system resources, but also gives the coder the ability to express himself in order to ensure a smooth flow, making code.

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He has had an enriching experience in software and IT infrastructure development, spanning a wide IT spectrum. This includes web development, application designing, system installation and configuration, and so on.

I would like to thank my father for provoking me to review this book. I would also like to thank the publisher for reaching out to me for this work.

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He believes that sharing knowledge with other people is one of the keys to success.

John Skoumbourdis (known as Johnny) is a senior web developer who loves coding. He is always trying to maximize and improve his skills by learning new things in a challenging environment. His mission is to create beautiful and professional websites and help other people to do so by sharing his knowledge. He is currently developing three really famous libraries in CodeIgniter; they are:

- Grocery CRUD (`http://www.grocerycrud.com`)
- Image CRUD (`http://www.grocerycrud.com/image-crud`)
- CodeIgniter Simplicity (`http://www.grocerycrud.com/codeigniter-simplicity`)

If you want to know more about him, you can visit his personal blog at `http://www.web-and-development.com/`.

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Preface

CodeIgniter 2 Cookbook offers many easy-to-use, easy-to-integrate, and easy-to-adapt recipes using HTTPS, image manipulation, cookie acceptance, form validation, and so on. It is a great resource for 2 AM problems.

What this book covers

Chapter 1, *CodeIgniter Basics*, takes you through CodeIgniter's download and installation, basic configuration, and so on.

Chapter 2, *User Management*, focuses on building a basic CRUD interface for managing users.

Chapter 3, *Creating E-commerce Features*, explores the use of the CodeIgniter Cart class to create a simple storefront, allowing a customer to add items to the cart and checkout.

Chapter 4, *Email, HTML Table, and Text Libraries*, focuses on sending e-mails using the CodeIgniter Email library, creating interactive tables, and using a few handy HTML functions.

Chapter 5, *Managing Data In and Out*, deals with form validation, writing files to disk, confirming cookie acceptance from the user, and so on.

Chapter 6, *Working with Databases*, covers the usage of basic Active Record functions, exporting data from a database query binding, and most of what you might need to work with databases.

Chapter 7, *Creating a Secure User Environment*, covers escaping user input, switching to and from HTTPS in CodeIgniter, and so on.

Chapter 8, *Calendaring, Right Place, and Right Time*, deals with creating an interactive calendar that you can add appointments to using fuzzy dates and calculating a person's date of birth (for age verification).

Chapter 9, *Extending the Core*, focuses on using the language class and switching languages on the go, creating hooks, uploading files with FTP, and extending your controllers with MY_Controller.

Chapter 10, *Working with Images*, deals with using the CodeIgniter image manipulation library to crop, rotate, and add watermarks to images and adding CAPTCHA validation to forms.

Chapter 11, *SEO, Caching, and Logging*, deals with caching data from a database, using the CodeIgniter routing methods to alter and amend how URLs are displayed in a browser's address bar, and logging errors and other activities throughout your application.

What you need for this book

You will require the following software:

- An *AMP environment (LAMP, MAMP, WAMP, and so on)
- A copy of the CodeIgniter framework

Who this book is for

CodeIgniter is an easy-to-pick-up framework written in PHP; so, familiarity with PHP and CodeIgniter is advantageous. But, having no experience with CodeIgniter shouldn't be a road block to read the book either. The best thing to do (if you're unsure) is to buy it and just jump in. Having said that, if you are familiar with CodeIgniter, this book can provide immediate sold snippets and recipes you can use for all sorts of day-to-day, CodeIgniter-related tasks.

Conventions

In this book, you will find a number of styles of text that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles, and an explanation of their meaning.

Code words in text, database table names, folder names, filenames, file extensions, pathnames, dummy URLs, user input, and Twitter handles are shown as follows: " The `public function index()` function redirects us to the function `public function send_mail()`."

A block of code is set as follows:

```
$this->email->from('from@domain.com', 'Your Name');
$this->email->to('to@domain.com');

$this->email->subject('This is a text email');
$this->email->message('And this is some content for the text
  email.');
```

When we wish to draw your attention to a particular part of a code block, the relevant lines or items are set in bold:

```
function __construct() {
    parent::__construct();
    $this->load->helper('url');
    $this->load->library('email');
}
```

Any command-line input or output is written as follows:

```
C:\path\to\CodeIgniter\file.htaccess" .htaccess
```

New terms and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, in menus or dialog boxes for example, appear in the text like this: "The user clicks on **View Cart** to view the products they wish to order".

Warnings or important notes appear in a box like this.

Tips and tricks appear like this.

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