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Using Zend Framework To Get HTTP Information

As far as web development goes, Zend Framework is one of the most popular frameworks out there. It's an MVC design that is used by many popular websites. It allows easy access to a vast amount of information, such as getting current URL attributes.

There are few scenarios where using a singleton design pattern is deemed acceptable. Zend Framework uses it as a pattern for the front controller, and it works great for accessing request information from anywhere in the application. The reason most developers don't use this pattern is because it may be abused, so be careful not to call the front controller where it shouldn't be. A good example is with using logic code in the view: this goes against MVC principle.

The view of a Zend Framework application is where all template code goes. Due to its nature, it's not acceptable to put logic code here. Because we aren't able to use the HTTP request singleton, we instead have access to a view helper. This helper is name the Server Url helper, and it is used to return the URL or URI. Further modification or need for information should be done in the controller and then passed to the view for access.

The controller extends the basic Zend Controller Action. With this class you can access HTTP request information through several different methods. You are able to access the scheme, domain, controller, action, path information, and parameters if they are present. You will have to piece all of these variables together to build a URI. It's more work than in the view because we don't use the view helper here.

The library files you work with likely will not extend the Zend Controller Action. Thus, you won't have direct access to the request object. The good news is that the front controller is a singleton, as we discussed earlier. This means that all a developer needs to do is create a new instance of the object and then access the HTTP request just like in the controller. While this is very helpful, it's recommended that developers not make their own singletons in this fashion.

To make things easier in getting a base URL, you may use a base URL helper. This allows you to quickly access a set base URL in any part of the application. You set this helper in the bootstrap and in your application configuration file. The base URL helper takes more time in setting up, but it's a joy to have when working in the view to quickly piece together URL information.

In Conclusion

Zend Framework gives easy access to URI information, just like PHP does. The difference is that Zend Framework makes the process easier and does so according to MVC design. The best part is that you can depend on the methods to return what you need - you won't have to build your own methods and functions to get URL variables.

This [Zend Framework tutorial](#) was written by Chris Channing. See more of his development and thoughts on [zend get current url](#) parameters.

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