HTTP is your architecture International PHP Conference 2011

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> > 10.10 2011

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#### Degree in computer sience



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- Degree in computer sience
- More than 10 years of professional PHP



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- Degree in computer sience
- More than 10 years of professional PHP
- Open source enthusiasts
- Contributing to various FLOSS projects





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#### Co-founders of



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We help people to create high quality PHP applications.

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# Outline

#### Introduction

### HTTP

Taking it further

#### Conclusion

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# Aspects of a web application

- Scalability
- Reliability
- Simplicity
- Usability
- Security
- Standard Compliance



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# LCoDC\$SS

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# LCoDC\$SS

Who heard of this term before?

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# LCoDC\$SS

#### Who heard of this term before?

▶ This is HTTP. [Fie00]

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# LCoDC\$SS

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# Layered CoDC\$SS

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# Layered Code on Demand C\$SS

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# Layered Code on Demand Client \$S Server

HTTP is your architecture



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# Layered Code on Demand Client Cached S Server

HTTP is your architecture



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# Layered Code on Demand Client Cached Stateless Server

HTTP is your architecture



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Introduction

## HTTP

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# Outline

## HTTP

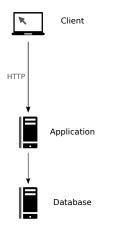
#### Layered architecture

Request semantics Stateless server Code on demand

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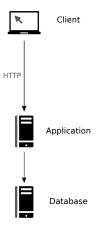
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▶ What is required?

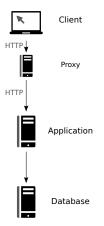


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- ► What is required?
  - Request semantic



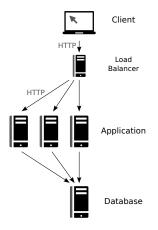
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#### ► What is required?

- Request semantic
- Stateless server



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# Outline

### HTTP

#### Layered architecture Request semantics

Stateless server Code on demand

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#### Well known

- ► GET
- POST

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#### Well known

- ► GET
- ► POST

#### Less known

- PUT
- ► DELETE



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#### Well known

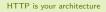
- ► GET
- ▶ POST

#### Less known

- ► PUT
- ► DELETE

- Mostly unknown
  - HEAD
  - OPTIONS
  - TRACE
  - CONNECT

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#### Well known

- ► GET
- ▶ POST
- Less known
  - ► PUT
  - ► DELETE

- Mostly unknown
  - ► HEAD
  - ► OPTIONS
  - ► TRACE
  - ► CONNECT
- WebDAV
  - MKCOL
  - PROPSET
  - ▶ PROPGET

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#### Well known

- ► GET
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  - ► TRACE
  - ► CONNECT
- WebDAV
  - MKCOL
  - ► PROPSET
  - ▶ PROPGET
- ► Use any you want...

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• ... so it is *safe* for spiders to call them.



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... so it is safe for spiders to call them.

Since nothing is modified, the result can be cached.

- Proxies can use that automatically
  - Varnish / Squid
  - Company application proxies



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- Layered Code on Demand Client Cached Stateless Server



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```
<form action="/search" method="POST">
 <input type="text" name="term" />
 <input type="submit" value="Search!" />
 </form>
```

#### HTTP is your architecture



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```
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```

#### Broken semantics

Search results may not be cached



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#### Broken semantics

- Search results may not be cached
- No bookmarking of search results



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#### POST



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POST

... is used to request that the origin server accept the entity enclosed in the request as a new subordinate ... [RF99]



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#### POST

- ... is used to request that the origin server accept the entity enclosed in the request as a new subordinate ... [RF99]
- Appends to an existing resource!
  - e.g. an existing collection of documents



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#### POST

- ... is used to request that the origin server accept the entity enclosed in the request as a new subordinate ... [RF99]
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- Examples
  - Posting a message to a bulletin board
  - Extending a database through an append operation





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#### POST

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#### PUT

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#### Examples

- Posting a message to a bulletin board
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#### PUT

- ... requests that the enclosed entity be stored under the supplied Request-URI. [RF99]
- Creates or replaces a resource!
- Examples
  - Updating account data using (PUT /users/42)
  - Create a new resource with known identifier

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### Using PUT and DELETE as HTTP methods for the form element is no longer supported. [vK10]

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$$f(x) = f(f(x))$$

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### Everything but POST has to be idempotent

• Executing the request again, should not change anything.



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$$f(x) = f(f(x))$$

#### Everything but POST has to be idempotent

- Executing the request again, should not change anything.
- This includes PUT and DELETE



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# f(x) = f(f(x))

Everything but POST has to be idempotent

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- Really useful to just resend request, if one failed due to network problems



# f(x) = f(f(x))

Everything but POST has to be idempotent

- Executing the request again, should not change anything.
- ▶ This includes PUT and DELETE
- Really useful to just resend request, if one failed due to network problems
- Idempotence is a useful property in all messaging systems



- \$\_GET contains the request parameters
- \$\_POST contains the request body

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- \$\_GET contains the request parameters
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- All HTTP requests may contain body and parameters



- \$\_GET contains the request parameters
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- All HTTP requests may contain body and parameters
  - Yes, even GET!



- \$\_GET contains the request parameters
- \$\_POST contains the request body
- All HTTP requests may contain body and parameters
  Yes, even GET!
- You may want to use something like
  - \$request->parameters
  - \$request->body



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### GET and HEAD must be supported

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### ▶ GET and HEAD **must** be supported

### All other methods are optional

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- ▶ GET and HEAD **must** be supported
- All other methods are optional
- But if you implement them, they must obey to semantics



- GET and HEAD must be supported
- All other methods are optional
- But if you implement them, they must obey to semantics
- Sorry, your website is not HTTP, if you ....
  - ... are using POST for a search form.
  - ... are using POST for data updates.



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# Outline

### HTTP

Layered architecture Request semantics

### Stateless server

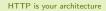
Code on demand

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- No persistent connection
- Each request contains all information to be processed





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# Stateless server

### No persistent connection

Each request contains all information to be processed

Cookies







### No persistent connection

- Each request contains all information to be processed
  - Cookies
- Servers can be exchanged transparently

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#### No persistent connection

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Cookies

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  - Mind the sessions and static data



### No persistent connection

- Each request contains all information to be processed
  - Cookies
- Servers can be exchanged transparently
  - Mind the sessions and static data
- Layered Code on Demand Client Cached Stateless Server



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### Drawbacks

#### Benefits

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- Drawbacks
  - Users do have state
- Benefits

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### Drawbacks

- Users do have state
- Benefits
  - Scalability

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### Drawbacks

- Users do have state
- Benefits
  - ► Scalability
  - Failover

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### Drawbacks

- Users do have state
- Benefits
  - Scalability
  - Failover
  - Simplicity



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# Share nothing!

### PHP itself follows a share nothing architecture

- Clean PHP instance for each request
- By default no shared resources

App servers usually suck!

HTTP is your architecture



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# Share nothing!

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## Share nothing!

▶ PHP itself follows a *share nothing* architecture

- Clean PHP instance for each request
- By default no shared resources
- It's your job to obey to it!
  - Session storage?
  - Database server?
  - File access?
- App servers usually suck!



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## Outline

#### HTTP

Layered architecture Request semantics Stateless server Code on demand

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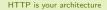
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Do you deliver code on demand?





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Do you deliver code on demand?

You do!

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- Do you deliver code on demand?
- You do!
  - JavaScript

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- Do you deliver code on demand?
- You do!
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  - HTML is also just code although not turing complete



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- Do you deliver code on demand?
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Layered Code on Demand Client Cached Stateless Server

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## Code generation is the root cause for web application security problems.

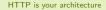
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## Code generation is the root cause for web application security problems.

Escape for target context / language (XSS)





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#### Introduction

#### HTTP

#### Taking it further

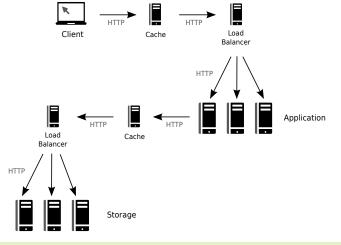
#### Conclusion

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## Embrace HTTP

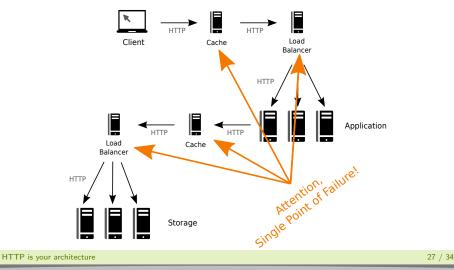


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## Embrace HTTP



No Alexandre Construction Const

## Use HTTP actively

- Semantic HTTP methods
- URIs (address resources)
- Status codes
- Headers
  - Cache control
  - Content negotiation
  - ▶ ...



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#### What is REST actually?

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#### What is REST actually?

"New" style web services

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#### What is REST actually?

- "New" style web services
- Follow HTTP / LCoDC\$SS
- ► Follow resources / concept character of URIs
- Use proper status codes



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#### What is REST actually?

- "New" style web services
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HTTP is your architecture



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#### What is REST actually?

- "New" style web services
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- HATEOAS
  - Hypermedia as the Engine of Application State [Fie00]



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#### What is REST actually?

- "New" style web services
- ► Follow HTTP / LCoDC\$SS
- ▶ Follow resources / concept character of URIs
- Use proper status codes

#### HATEOAS

- Hypermedia as the Engine of Application State [Fie00]
- Short: Use hyper links to delegate client



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#### Introduction

#### HTTP

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## Use HTTP!

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## Use HTTP, properly!

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## Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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## Thanks for listening

Please rate this talk at http://joind.in/3857 and (optionally) give us some feedback right now

This is very important for ...

- Speakers
- Organizers
- ► You!



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## Thanks for listening

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- kore@qafoo.com
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- Tobias Schlitt
- toby@qafoo.com
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Rent a PHP quality expert: http://qafoo.com

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