



The PHP Company

# Zend Certification

August 23, 2011

# Introduction

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- **Speaker : Debbie Otterstetter**
  - Responsible for Training and Certification Programs at Zend

# Agenda

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- **Understanding Zend Certification**
- **Steps to becoming a Zend Certified Engineer**
- **Questions?**

# Understanding Zend Certification

# Zend Certification

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- Zend created the exam to establish a measurable and recognizable standard of excellence in the technical knowledge and practical application of the PHP language
- It has become the most recognized and sought after PHP credential for PHP programmers around the world



# What is certification?

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- Certification is NOT passing a test
- Certification IS recognition of a set of capabilities that the person taking the test has developed
- Helps potential employers quickly answer questions about you like:
  - ▶ Has this applicant achieved a pre-defined minimum standard of experience to undertake professional quality work?

# Why become a ZCE?

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- **Join an exclusive community**
  - ▶ Currently there are ~ 7500 ZCE's world wide
  - ▶ The goal of the Zend Certification program is to allow PHP professionals to show a level of expertise through experience and study
- **Employers look for qualified developers**
  - ▶ Advantage over competitors when looking for a new job; or at your annual salary review
  - ▶ Global recognition of your PHP skills
- **Other Bonuses**
  - ▶ Free copies of Zend Studio & Zend Server
  - ▶ Discounts on Zend PHP conferences
    - ZendCon held Oct. 17-20, 2011 in Santa Clara, CA USA
  - ▶ Download the [ZCE Logo](#) and add it to your resume
  - ▶ Join the Linked In group for ZCE's

# Advisory Boards

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- Exams are built and structured by a technical advisory board
  - ▶ Subject Matter Experts selected from the PHP and Zend Framework communities
  
- The Zend Education Advisory Boards
  - ▶ Establish the curriculum criteria necessary to demonstrate expertise in PHP and Zend Framework
  - ▶ They came up with the topic areas and subtopics on the exam
  - ▶ They create questions you find on the exams

# PHP - Education Advisory Board

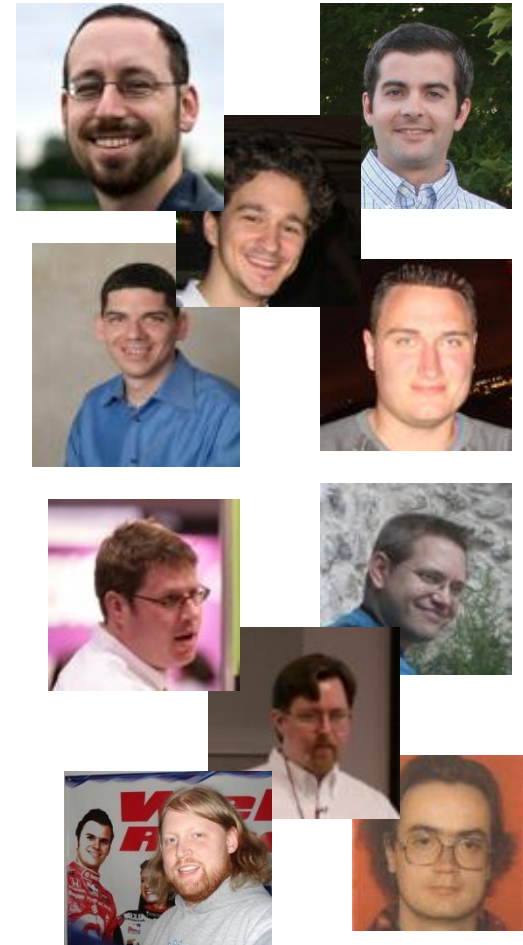


- Ilia Alshanetsky
- Marcus Boerger
- Andi Gutmans
- Ivo Jansch
- Martin Jansen
- Paul M. Jones
- Stanislav Malyshev
- Jeff Moore
- Mike Naberezny
- Tobias Schlitt
- Damien Seguy
- Chris Shiflett
- Kevin Schroeder
- Zeev Suraski
- Marco Tabini
- Matthew Weier O'Phinney
- Christian Wenz

# Zend Framework - Education Advisory Board



- Rob Allen
- Nico Edtinger
- Darby Felton
- Andi Gutmans
- Ralph Schindler
- Wil Sinclair
- Thomas Weidner
- Matthew Weier O'Phinney
- Jon Whitcraft
- Alexander Veremyev



<http://www.zend.com/en/services/certification/framework/>

# Steps to Becoming a ZCE

# Studying for the exam

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- What is on the exam?
- How to get help studying

# PHP 5.3 Exam

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- 70 questions, 90 minutes
- Varying degrees of difficulty
- Based on 5.3
- Covers 10 topic areas
  - ▶ PHP 4/5 Differences has been eliminated
  - ▶ Some topics have been combined
  - ▶ Responsible for all content that was a part of the PHP 5 exam (unless the PHP feature has been eliminated or deprecated)
  - ▶ New PHP 5.3 features, such as namespaces, have been incorporated within the ten areas

# Exam Topics

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- PHP Basics
- Data Types and Formats
- Strings and Patterns
- Arrays
- Input/Output
- Functions
- OOP
- Databases
- Security
- Web Features

# Certification Topics - Links

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- PHP 5.3 Exam
  - <http://www.zend.com/services/certification/php-5-certification/>
- Zend Framework Exam
  - <http://www.zend.com/services/certification/framework/>

# Basic Exam Information

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- The certification is independent of the Operating system and specific database/adapter
- A general understanding of related technologies like HTTP or SQL is required
- Questions refer to a virtual PHP system with the recommended configuration
  - `register_globals` is OFF
  - `magic_quotes_gpc` is OFF
  - Error reporting is set to `E_ALL`
  - Errors are displayed (unless otherwise noted)

# Basic Exam Information, cont.

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- **You do not have to code large portions on the exam**
  - ▶ There are free text questions which may contain variable names or small snippets of code
- ▶ **You do not have to memorize the entire PHP manual**
  - ▶ You do need to know by memory the most important concepts and elements, for example, the parameter order for an important function
- ▶ **You must analyze PHP Code**
  - ▶ The emphasis is more on analysis than on memorization

# Types of Questions


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- **Multiple Choice**
  - ▶ One answer is correct
  - ▶ Multiple Answers are correct
  
- **Free Text**

# Multiple Choice Sample Question # 1

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How is PHP internally programmed?

- A) In PHP
-  B) In C
- C) In C++
- D) In Perl

# Multiple Choice Sample Question # 2

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Which of the following are valid variables? (Multiple answer)

➔ A) `$_a1`

➔ B) `$_1`

C) `$1`

➔ D) `$$a`

# Free Text Sample Question

What is the output of the following code?

```
1  <?php
2  echo strlen('1\n2') * strlen("1\n2");
3  ?>
```

12

# Study Aides and Resources

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- **Study Guides**

- ▶ Free downloadable PDF's

- PHP - <http://www.zend.com/topics/Zend-PHP-5.3-Study-Guide-v1-3.pdf>
    - ZF - <http://www.zend.com/en/download/173>

- **Zend Online Test Prep: Certification Training Courses**

- ▶ Test Preparation Course - Does not teach Zend Framework or PHP
  - ▶ Strategies for answering the exam questions
  - ▶ In-depth review of the topic areas covered on the exam
  - ▶ Includes sample exams and a final comprehensive exam, in addition to quizzes throughout
  - ▶ Includes a testing voucher

# Registering for & Taking the Exam

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- Exams are administered at a Pearson VUE training centers (<http://www.pearsonvue.com/Zend/>)
- Register for the exam via phone, internet or at a testing center
  - ▶ May differ by country; please check online
- Bring two IDs, one must have your photo (and both must have your signature)
- You will receive “scratch“ paper or an eraseable board for calculations at the time you take the test
  - ▶ You are not permitted to bring any materials into the room with you


# The Testing Software


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- **You can mark questions for review**
  - ▶ Be sure to check whether there are any questions marked for review before you submit your test
- **You can mark questions for comment**
  - ▶ If there is something you would like the committee to know about a particular question, please use the Comment option to communicate back with Zend
- **You can easily navigate back to questions you have marked, but not the others, so remember this feature**
- **Submit the exam and get your results**

# After passing Take advantage of your ZCE status

- Download the  or  and put it on your business cards and resume

- Take advantage of the **LinkedIn**  Group that allows you to display the ZCE logo on your listing for better visibility to potential employers

- Update your  listing so employers can verify you are a ZCE

- Keep your score report so that employers can also verify your status as a ZCE from Pearson Vue

## Have you benefited from the certification?

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“I had direct benefits. In fact, my salary has doubled since I got the certification. ...”

-Diego Henrique Oliveira, Brazil

“I had direct benefits and my salary was increased by 45%. I was looking to change jobs when I got a good proposition and the fact that I was a ZCE did help to guarantee the new higher salary. ...”

- Cristiano Diniz da Silva, USA

# Questions?

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# Thank you

For more information visit:

<http://www.zend.com/services/certification/>

or

Email: [certification@zend.com](mailto:certification@zend.com)