Write a template operator in PHP

A task guide for a template operator written in PHP - the eztemplateautoload.php registration, the operator class with operatorList(), namedParameterPerOperator(), namedParameterList() and modify(), input and output...

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This task guide is for PHP developers who give templates a new operator, such as `{$amount|acmereport_money( 'EUR' )}`. An operator is a PHP class that the template engine (`lib/eztemplate/`) calls with the piped value and the parameters. Template authors find the shipped operators in the template operators section; the application view is Writing template operators.

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Step 1: register the autoload path

`extension/acmereport/settings/site.ini.append.php`:

INI

```
<?php /* #?ini charset="utf-8"?
[TemplateSettings]
ExtensionAutoloadPath[]=acmereport
*/ ?>
```

The template engine then reads `extension/acmereport/autoloads/eztemplateautoload.php`, as it does for `ezjscore` (`extension/ezjscore/settings/site.ini.append.php`).

Step 2: list the operator

`extension/acmereport/autoloads/eztemplateautoload.php`:

PHP

```php
<?php
$eZTemplateOperatorArray = array();
$eZTemplateOperatorArray[] = array(
    'script' => 'extension/acmereport/autoloads/acmereporttemplateoperators.php',
    'class' => 'acmeReportTemplateOperators',
    'operator_names' => array( 'acmereport_money' ) );
```

The engine loads the class only when a template uses one of the names, so many operators cost nothing until used. `extension/ezjscore/autoloads/eztemplateautoload.php` registers `json_encode`, `ezscript` and others the same way.

Step 3: the operator class

`extension/acmereport/autoloads/acmereporttemplateoperators.php`:

PHP

```php
<?php
class acmeReportTemplateOperators
{
    function operatorList()
    {
        return array( 'acmereport_money' );
    }

    function namedParameterPerOperator()
    {
        return true;
    }

    function namedParameterList()
    {
        return array(
            'acmereport_money' => array(
                'currency' => array( 'type' => 'string', 'required' => false, 'default' => 'EUR'
),
                'decimals' => array( 'type' => 'integer', 'required' => false, 'default' => 2 ) )
 );
    }

    function modify( $tpl, $operatorName, $operatorParameters, $rootNamespace, $currentNamespace,
                     &$operatorValue, $namedParameters )
    {
        switch ( $operatorName )
        {
            case 'acmereport_money':
            {
                $decimals = max( 0, min( 4, (int)$namedParameters['decimals'] ) );
                $operatorValue = number_format( (float)$operatorValue, $decimals ) . ' ' . $named
Parameters['currency'];
            } break;
        }
    }
}
```

Step 4: use it

```
{$item.amount|acmereport_money()|wash}
{$item.amount|acmereport_money( 'USD', 0 )|wash}
```

Regenerate the autoloads and clear the template caches (`php bin/php/ezcache.php --clear-tag=template`); under Velocity use `exp:velocity deploy`.

Input and output

What	Where it arrives
the piped value (`$x|op`)	`$operatorValue`; set it to the result (it is passed by reference)
named parameters	`$namedParameters`, defaults applied
raw parameters	`$operatorParameters`, unevaluated; use `$tpl->elementValue()` only if you know you need them
the operator's name	`$operatorName`, so one class can serve several operators

An operator used without a piped value (`{acmereport_money( 12 )}`) gets `null` in `$operatorValue`; declare the value as a parameter if that is how it is used.

Escaping

Return values, not HTML, and let the template print them through `|wash`. If an operator must return markup, escape every piece of input in it with `htmlspecialchars( $value, ENT_QUOTES | ENT_SUBSTITUTE | ENT_HTML401, 'UTF-8' )` (the flags are needed for PHP 8.0, see Escaping output from PHP), and never put inline `style=""` or `<script>` into it (Content Security Policy for your code).

Performance and compiled templates

- Operators run on every render, also inside loops. Keep `modify()` fast and free of database queries; data belongs in a fetch function (Write a fetch function).
- Templates are compiled to PHP. Kernel operators that are pure can describe themselves with `operatorTemplateHints()` so the compiler inlines them (`kernel/common/ezkerneloperator.php` is an example); your operator works without it.
- No side effects: inside a `{cache-block}` the operator does not run again until the block expires.

Testing modify()

`modify()` is a plain method; call it in a DB-less test:

PHP

```php
public function testMoneyFormatsTwoDecimals()
{
    $operators = new acmeReportTemplateOperators();
    $value = 12.5;
    $operators->modify( null, 'acmereport_money', array(), '', '', $value,
                        array( 'currency' => 'EUR', 'decimals' => 2 ) );
    $this->assertSame( '12.50 EUR', $value );
}
```

Related pages

- Template operators (extension developers)
- Template operator pattern
- The template language
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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