Checklists for framework developers

Four checklists for developers coming from other frameworks - evaluating Exponential for a project, setting up a development environment, reviewing a first module before it is merged, and taking an application live…

Source file: doc/eng-us/help/web-framework-developers/checklists-for-framework-developers.md Last changed 2026-11-04
https://doc.exponential.earth/exphelp/viewer/help/web-framework-developers/checklists-for-framework-developers.md

This page is for developers who want to tick boxes rather than read chapters. Each item links to the page that explains it.

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2. Setting up a development environment
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Evaluating Exponential for a project

☐ The data editors manage is listed, and each kind is either a content class or a table of your own (The content model).

☐ Sites, languages and audiences are mapped to siteaccesses (Siteaccesses).

☐ Permissions are described as roles with functions and limitations (Authorization).

☐ Every feature you count on is checked in the product and distribution you will install, not assumed from another framework (The platform products, Concept dictionary: no direct equivalent).

☐ The team has read When to choose Exponential.

Setting up a development environment

☐ A local installation: `./console exp:install --apply` (SQLite) (Installing in one command).

☐ `config.env.php` with `EXP_ENV=dev`; debug output and the `file` mail transport in the `dev` variant (Environments and secrets).

☐ Velocity with `Engine=qbix`, or Apache or nginx with PHP-FPM (Servers and deployment).

☐ Template path comments and the debug bar on (Debugging).

☐ An extension of your own, active, in its own Git repository (Packages, Development environment).

Reviewing a first module

☐ Every view names its policy functions in `module.php` (Routing).

☐ Parameters are cast and checked; redirect targets are checked (Validation).

☐ Every printed value is washed (The view layer).

☐ Forms post with the form token; no `$_POST` read directly (Forms and CSRF).

☐ No SQL into content tables; persistent objects or escaped SQL for your own tables (Queries).

☐ No per-request state in static properties (Servers and deployment).

☐ Settings documented in your extension's INI file, secrets only in `settings/override/` (Configuration).

☐ Logic in classes with unit tests that run without a database (Testing).

☐ No inline `<style>` or `style=""` in admin templates (admin4 styling).

Taking an application live

☐ Your schema and classes install with one command; upgrade steps exist for later releases (Migrations).

☐ The `frequent` and `infrequent` cronjob parts, your own parts and queue workers are scheduled (Scheduled tasks, Queues).

☐ Debug output is off for visitors; secrets are set per machine with mode 0640.

☐ `[HTMLForms] Secret` is set for the installation (Forms and CSRF).

☐ Caches and HTTP headers are decided: view cache, cache blocks, HTTP cache, Velocity response cache (Caching, HTTP caching).

☐ The release sequence is written down and tried on staging (Servers and deployment).

☐ The security hardening guide has been read (Security hardening).

☐ The website launch checklist is done for the public site (Launch checklist).

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