Concept dictionary: framework terms in Exponential

A lookup table from the words of Symfony, Laravel, Django, Rails, Express and Spring to the Exponential term, the class or setting that implements it, and the page that explains it - including the concepts that have no...

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This page is for developers who think in the terms of another framework and want the matching Exponential term quickly. Each row names the term, what Exponential uses instead, the class or setting where it lives, and the page that explains it. Where Exponential has no direct equivalent, the row says so.

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Request and routing

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Front controller	`index.php` with `ezpKernel` and `ezpKernelWeb`	`kernel/private/classes/ezpkernelweb.php`	The request lifecycle
Host or tenant resolution, app per domain	siteaccess matching	`site.ini [SiteAccessSettings] MatchOrder`	Siteaccesses
Route, URL pattern	module and view (`/<module>/<view>/...`)	`extension/<ext>/modules/<module>/module.php`	Routing
Route parameter	ordered `params` and unordered `(name)/value` parameters	`$ViewList[...]['params']`, `unordered_params`	Routing
Slug, permalink	URL alias	`eZURLAliasML`	Pretty URLs
Redirect route, rewrite	URL wildcard	`eZURLWildcard`	Pretty URLs
Controller, action	module view (script or `Exponential\Runnable\ModuleView` class)	`kernel/private/classes/runnable/moduleview.php`	Controllers

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Response object	the `$Result` array, or output plus `eZExecution::cleanExit()`	`eZModule`	Responses
Middleware, before filter	request rules; `request/input` listeners	`settings/requestrules.ini`, `site.ini [Event]`	Middleware
After filter, response middleware	`response/output` filter listeners	`site.ini [Event] Listeners[]`	Events and listeners

Views and templates

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Twig, Blade, Jinja, ERB	the template language (`.tpl`)	`lib/eztemplate/`	The view layer
Base layout, `extends`	the pagelayout (`pagelayout.tpl`) around `$module_result`	design of the siteaccess	The view layer
Template inheritance, theme override	design chain and `override.ini`	`site.ini [DesignSettings]`, `override.ini`	Template resolution
View helper, filter, Twig extension	template operator	`eztemplateautoload.php`	Fetch functions and operators
View composer, view model	fetch function (`fetch( 'module', 'function', hash() )`)	`function_definition.php`	Fetch functions and operators
Partial, include	`{include uri='design:...'}`	template language	The view layer
Fragment cache	`{cache-block}`	template language	Caching
Translation function	the `i18n` operator, `ezpI18n::tr()`	`kernel/common/ezpi18n.php`	Translations

Data and persistence

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Model, entity, active record	`eZPersistentObject` subclass	`kernel/classes/ezpersistentobject.php`	ORM
Content type, CMS model	content class	`eZContentClass`	The content model
Record of a content type	content object, its versions and its nodes	`eZContentObject`, `eZContentObjectTreeNode`	The content model
Field type, column type	datatype	`extends eZDataType`	The content model
Query builder	fetch parameters (`subTreeByNodeID()`), `eZPersistentObject` conditions, `eZDB` SQL	`lib/ezdb/`	Queries

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Database connection	`eZDB::instance()`	`lib/ezdb/classes/`	Queries
Migration	`.dba` schema file plus your upgrade scripts	`extension/<ext>/share/db_schema.dba`	Migrations
Seeder, fixture	`db_data.dba`, content packages, `eZContentFunctions`	`share/`, `.ezpkg`	Migrations

Configuration and wiring

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
`config/*.yaml`, `config/*.php`, `settings.py`	INI files in layers	`settings/`, `extension/<ext>/settings/`	Configuration
`.env`, `APP_ENV`	`EXP_ENV` in `config.env.php` and settings variants	`config.env.php.example`	Environments and secrets
Service container, providers	none in the kernel; handler classes named in INI	`eZExtension::getHandlerClass()`	Dependency injection
Bundle, package, app	extension	`extension/<ext>/`	Packages
Event dispatcher	`ezpEvent`	`kernel/private/classes/ezpevent.php`	Events and listeners
Model observers, signals, callbacks	workflows and triggers on operations; event listeners	`workflow.ini`, `site.ini [Event]`	Workflows

Security

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Authentication, guard, firewall	login handlers, sessions, siteaccess login check	`site.ini [UserSettings] LoginHandler[]`	Authentication
Authorization, voter, gate, policy	role, policy, function, limitation	`eZRole`, `eZPolicy`, `$FunctionList`	Authorization
CSRF middleware	`ezformtoken`	`extension/ezformtoken/`	Forms and CSRF
Form request, validator	module actions plus your checks; datatype validation for content	`eZInputValidator`	Validation
API tokens	personal API keys, OAuth2, expservices tokens	`rest.ini`, apikey module	REST and JSON APIs

Background work, APIs and tooling

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Console, artisan, manage.py	`bin/php/console`	`bin/php/`	Command line

Framework term	Exponential term	Where	Read
Queue, job, worker	expqueue jobs and handlers	`extension/expqueue/`	Queues
Scheduler	cronjob parts run by `runcronjobs.php`	`settings/cronjob.ini`	Scheduled tasks
REST resource, API controller	REST provider, ezjscore server function, expservices	`ezprestapi`, `ezjscore.ini`	REST and JSON APIs
Profiler toolbar	the Exp debug bar	`site.ini [DebugSettings]`	Debugging
Application server (Octane, RoadRunner)	Exponential Velocity, FrankenPHP	`settings/velocity.ini`	Servers and deployment

No direct equivalent

Say these out loud early in a project, so nobody looks for them:

- **A general dependency injection container with autowiring.** Not in the legacy kernel.
- **Annotation or attribute routing.** Routes are declared in `module.php` arrays only.
- **Migration classes with up and down methods and a migrations table.** Schema files and your own upgrade scripts take their place.
- **Template inheritance with blocks.** Overrides and includes take its place.
- **Automatic output escaping.** Templates escape with `|wash` where you write it (No automatic escaping).

Related pages

- Glossary for web framework developers
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- Application creators: start here
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