Ten pitfalls for framework developers

The ten mistakes developers from Symfony, Laravel, Django, Rails and similar frameworks make most often in their first Exponential project, each with the symptom, the cause and the fix - from unescaped template output...

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This page is for developers in their first weeks with Exponential. Each pitfall comes from a habit that is right in another framework and wrong here.

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1. Printing without wash

Symptom: text with < or & breaks the page, or a script runs. **Cause:** templates do not escape automatically. **Fix:** `{$value|wash}` on everything from users or the database (The view layer).

2. A new class is "not found"

Cause: classes are found through generated class maps, not by PSR-4 for extension classes. **Fix:** `php bin/php/ezpgenerateautoloads.php -e`, then deploy; `--kernel` for kernel classes (Autoloads and class naming).

3. A setting does not take effect

Causes: the INI cache; or the value is overridden by a later layer, for example an extension's global settings win over `settings/siteaccess/`. **Fix:** `./console exp:ini where <file>/<block>/<key> <siteaccess>`, then `php bin/php/ezcache.php --clear-tag=ini` (Configuration).

4. A template change does not show

Causes: the view cache, a cache block, or the override cache for a new template file. **Fix:** clear `template-override` after adding a template file, clear `content` and `template-block` when cached output is stale; `exp:velocity deploy` does all of it in order (Caching).

5. State leaks between requests

Symptom: one user sees another user's data, or a listener runs twice, only under Velocity. **Cause:** persistent workers keep static properties and attached listeners. **Fix:** no per-request state in statics; register listeners in settings (Servers and deployment).

6. Writing SQL into content tables

Symptom: a change does not appear, or appears without history, search or cache updates. **Cause:** content tables are not your tables. **Fix:** `eZContentFunctions` or the operations, which run workflows and clear caches (The content model).

7. A table for what should be content

Symptom: you are building an admin screen, a revisions table and a translations table. **Fix:** make it a content class and get all three (ORM).

8. Checking permissions only in templates

Cause: hiding a link is not access control. **Fix:** name the function in the view's `functions`, check object access in the view, filter lists in the query (Authorization).

9. Forgetting the siteaccess on the command line

Symptom: a command or cron part cannot find your module, setting or job type. **Cause:** your extension is active only in a siteaccess. **Fix:** `-s <siteaccess>` (Command line).

10. Comparisons with symbols

Symptom: an `{if}` behaves randomly and the log shows a parser error. **Cause:** the template language has no infix operators. **Fix:** `gt`, `lt`, `eq`, `ne`, `and`, `or` (No infix comparison).

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