Web framework developer FAQ

Short answers to the questions developers from Symfony, Laravel, Django, Rails, Express and Spring ask most about Exponential - is it a framework, where is the container, can I use Twig or Composer libraries, how do…

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This page is for developers with a quick question. Each answer links to the page with the details.

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Is Exponential a framework or a CMS?

Both. Its README calls it "a professional PHP application framework with advanced CMS (content management system) functionality" (Exponential for web framework developers).

Where is the service container?

There is none in the Exponential 6 kernel. Classes are found through generated class maps, configurable implementations through handler settings (Dependency injection and services).

Is there a router with named routes?

No. Addresses follow `/<module>/<view>/<parameters>`, declared in `module.php`; content gets URL aliases automatically (Routing, Pretty URLs).

Is there an ORM?

`eZPersistentObject` maps your own tables to classes; content uses the content API with versions and translations (ORM, The content model).

How do migrations work?

Tables are described in database-neutral `.dba` files; you ship an install command and upgrade steps. There is no migration runner (Migrations).

Can I use Twig or Blade?

Not in Exponential 6 alone. Twig is available when Exponential 6 runs inside Symfony through the legacy bridge (The view layer).

Can I use Composer libraries?

Yes. `autoload.php` loads Composer's autoloader, and extensions are Composer packages (Packages).

Does it follow PSR-7 and PSR-15?

The kernel predates them: requests are read through `eZHTTPTool`, responses are result arrays or direct output (Coming from Slim, CodeIgniter, Yii, CakePHP or Laminas).

Is there middleware?

Request rules, `request/input` listeners and `response/output` filters cover most middleware uses (Middleware).

Is there an equivalent of Octane or RoadRunner?

Yes: Exponential Velocity runs the installation in persistent workers and is part of Exponential as of 6.0.15; FrankenPHP is the alternative (Servers and deployment).

Is there GraphQL?

Not in Exponential 6; its APIs are REST, ezjscore and expservices. The Symfony-based platform products ship GraphQL (REST and JSON APIs, The platform products).

How do I test?

PHPUnit; most tests without a database, integration tests against a throwaway database (Testing).

How do I run background jobs?

With the `expqueue` job queue, cronjob parts and content jobs (Queues).

Which databases?

SQLite (the default), PostgreSQL, MongoDB, MariaDB, Oracle and MySQL (Database support).

Where do I start?

At Web framework developers: start here, then the reading path.

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