Developers: course overview

The course for PHP developers who build on Exponential, from a development installation of Git clones through the template language, designs and overrides, the content model, fetch functions, modules and views…

Source file: `doc/eng-us/help/trainers/developers/README.md` Last changed 2026-11-04
https://doc.exponential.earth/learninminutes/exphelp/viewer/help/trainers/developers/README.md

This course teaches PHP developers to build on Exponential. Every module adds a working piece to one development installation that each learner owns: templates and overrides, a datatype override, a fetch function, a module view with its own policy, an extension with settings, a console command, a persistent object table, a workflow event, a cronjob part, a REST provider and a test. The course ends with the RAD tools, deploying under Velocity and a pull request.

Who it is for

- PHP developers starting their first Exponential project.
- Agency developers who maintain sites built on earlier versions and want the 6.x way of working.
- Developers who will write extensions for others.

Outcome: after the course, a developer can build a site's templates, content model and features in extensions of their own, test them, deploy them under Velocity and contribute changes upstream.

Format and duration

Duration	53 lessons, about 45 hours of lessons (about seven days with breaks)
Format	Hands-on; classroom or online; one development installation per learner
Level	Intermediate to advanced
Prerequisites	PHP and object-oriented programming, Git, Composer, a terminal; a GitHub account for Module 13
Lab	A development installation of Git clones on SQLite, built in Module 1 (Develop with Git)

Modules

Module	Lessons	Duration
1. The development installation	4	3 h 25 min
2. The template language	6	5 h
3. Designs, overrides and debugging	5	4 h 15 min
4. Content classes and datatypes	4	3 h 40 min
5. Fetch functions	4	3 h 30 min

Module	Lessons	Duration
6. Modules and views	4	3 h 35 min
7. Extensions	5	3 h 55 min
8. Settings and siteaccesses	4	3 h 15 min
9. The console and persistent objects	5	4 h 20 min
10. Workflows, events and cronjobs	3	2 h 40 min
11. The REST API	3	2 h 45 min
12. Tests and quality	3	2 h 25 min
13. RAD, Velocity and contributing	3	2 h 30 min

Module durations include their breaks, as each module overview states.

Reading path

For a trainer preparing this course, in this order:

1. Trainers: start here and Teaching the core concepts.
2. Develop with Git and Update with Git.
3. The installation book chapters 3, 7 and 8.
4. The content model and editing content and Templates and design.
5. Extensions, RAD tools and the Extension development book.
6. REST API v1 and v2 and Coding standards.
7. Modules 1 to 13, in order; build every module's piece on your own development installation before teaching it.

Suggested schedules

Schedule	Plan
Seven days	One to two modules a day in order; day 7 for Modules 12 and 13 and a review of each learner's extension
Two blocks of four days	Days 1-4: Modules 1 to 7 (templates, content model, fetches, views, extensions); days 5-8 a month later: Modules 8 to 13
Agency fast track (four days)	Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 13; the rest as self-study
Weekly evenings	One module per week

For shorter formats, see the developers day, the three-day developer bootcamp and the full-stack developer week.

Assessing learners

Every lesson ends with a quiz with sourced answers. For a written test, a practical task and capstones, see Assessments and practical exercises. The assessments are the trainer's own

material, not an official certification; the partner program's certifications are separate (Certifications).

Related pages

- Trainers: start here
- Course catalogue
- Extension development
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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