Tom H Anderson

Lead PHP Architect

Profile

This narrative describes my work through the lens of a single project spanning 25 years that demonstrates the breadth and variety of my experience: **etreedb.org**.

1998, **etree.org** pioneered the distribution of bit-perfect live concert recordings over the Internet. I built the database to keep track of every live concert in circulation, and to let site users add those recordings to personalized lists. I chose **PHP 3** for scripting and **MYSQL** for storage. Having already been a professional database developer in **FoxPro, PowerBuilder**, **Oracle**, **Sybase** and **MSSQL**, good database design came naturally. PHP and MYSQL were new, especially because PHP lacked an **IDE**.

Multi-user support came in December 1999 thanks to **PHPLIB.** Site users can submit corrections and new data freely. By June 2000 I had created tools for users to administer this data with full auditing. **I now have over 300 such volunteers**.

The idea of community-generated content was huge where anyone could improve or lightly moderate it. It predicted and predated **Wikipedia** (started 1/15/01). etreedb.org gives every user a profile and allows them to curate the content listed there. The self-publication concept of putting your list online was a forerunner of **MySpace-**, **Facebook**, and similar.

Quickly, I faced numerous complications due to the popularity of the site. **Hits peaked at 20M per month**. PHP frameworks were still in their infancy. I started using **Smarty** templates and wrote custom **cache** handling. I wrote one of the first public PHP bootstrap files, *set_env.php*. Then **BitTorrent** was created and the etree community was the first user. **archive.org** volunteered its resources to store etree collected recordings.

To help manage its growth, **ibiblio** volunteered to host the application, and etreedb.org remains **the largest site hosted by this public library**.

With site stability ensured, I wanted to create a way for anyone to query the site in any way they wanted. I tried many different approaches beginning in **2011** with the integration of **Zend Framework 1**.

Soon I was invited to join the **Zend** team building **Doctrine** integration for **Apigility** featuring **Hypertext Application Language**. I created **api.etreedb.org**: an attempt to redesign the database with **Zend Framework 2**. The API worked but could not run the website. It was the idea of an API-driven tool that anyone could access to query etreedb data that I was pursuing.

I wrote **api-skeletons/zf-doctrine-graphql** and tried using that. I joined the **Doctrine open-source team**. I moved from **Laminas** to **Laravel** and

Details

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Links

tomhanderson.com
etreedb.org
LDOG Stack
graphql.lcdb.org

Skills

- PHP
- MySQL
- GraphQL
- Doctrine ORM (team member)
- Laravel (contributor)
- Skipper ERD (leading expert)
- Google Cloud Platform
- Speaker
- Eagle Scout
- Scores of Successful Projects Across the PHP Landscape
- Contributed to Over 150 Open-source Projects
- Expert with Github
- Exceptional with Docker
- Technical Writing

Certifications

Zend Certified Framework Engineer
Zend Certified PHP Programmer.

wrote many open-source libraries for Laravel and Doctrine. I decided what I needed was a GraphQL database on top of etreedb.org's existing database without any changes to the database structure.

I aliased the whole database with **Skipper** and now feature graphql.lcdb.org, which is built from my template application ldog.apiskeletons.dev. This site completes my dreams of a resource anyone can query for any doctrine supported database using the superior libraries of Laravel, Doctrine, and GraphQL in PHP. It is called the **LDOG Stack**.

Employment History

CEO at API Skeletons, Inc., Millcreek, UT

June 2015 — Present

Proprietor and programmer specializing in PHP GraphQL API database applications. Worked with over 80 clients through Upwork with a 100% success rate. Projects range from a few hours to several years.

Senior PHP Programmer at Wolfe, Pittsburgh, PA

September 2023 — February 2024

Member of core applications team using Symfony and Doctrine ORM. I started the Developer Experience Guild to form recommendations for improving code quality across all programming teams.

API Architect at NoteVault, San Diego, CA

February 2016 — September 2017

The company was using open-source libraries I created with Zend and Apigility. I led the development of an Elastic Search implementation that transformed the performance of NoteVault applications.

API Architect at Lodgable, Midvale, UT

July 2015 — January 2016

Created an API integration between Lodgable and a content provider with over 100 endpoints. I left when the integration was done, and I was later told that Lodgable never had to change my integration.

Sr. PHP Programmer at Soliant Consulting, San Mateo

March 2011 — July 2014

As a consultant, I worked with clients of Soliant Consulting on various projects. We started using Zend Framework 2 at Beta 3.

PHP Programmer at Power Music, Salt Lake City, UT

March 2009 — June 2010

Created a complex music track editing tool with jQuery. Created an API to combine sales data across all properties.

Other Experience at Miscellaneous, Salt Lake City, UT

May 1995 — March 2008

Professional programming beginning 1995. Available upon request.

Utah Army National Guard at US Army, Salt Lake City, UT

May 1990 — May 1998

91Q10 - Pharmacy Technician