

Re: PHP global namespace clogged up

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2004-09/0273.html>

From: Tim Tyler (tim_at_tt1lock.org)

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Chris Hope <blackhole@electrictoolbox.com> wrote or quoted:

> *Tim Tyler wrote:*

> *The main problem with trying to fix PHP in respect to the issues you have
> pointed out in your many posts, is that they need to maintain backward
> compatibility. OK, so maybe they don't, but it makes it very hard to move
> developers/hosting providers/etc onto a Brand New Version of PHP which
> isn't backward compatible, even though it might address all the issues
> brought about because of the way PHP has evolved. It'll take long enough
> for everyone to move to v5, let alone to a new version which throws all the
> existing function names and syntax out the window, and breaks all existing
> legacy systems.*

My proposal (in the first post of this thread) described what would be needed to clean things up without breaking legacy systems:

``To clean up the existing mess, many new functions need to be created as member function of the appropriate objects – and most of the old functions in the global namespace need deprecating."

Deprecating functions doesn't break anything – since all the old functions are still there and they still work just as before – the only difference is that they generate deprecation warnings if you set a flag when parsing the page.

This doesn't clean things up immediately – but it does allow a clean-up to be performed in the future.

IMO, if a clean-up is attempted it is most likely to initially take the form of third party libraries – intended for "real programmers", who are not happy with the existing situation – and want a decent set of library routines for PHP.

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