

## Re: PEAR DB – Useful?

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2005-01/0471.html>

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ryan@carsonworkshops.com wrote:

> *What are people's thoughts on this class? IMHO, it seems like it's*  
> *overkill for what most developers need.*  
>  
> *I've been using it for awhile now, and I tend to use only about 3% of*  
> *it's functionality.*  
>  
> *Thoughts? Opinions?*  
> -----  
> *One Day PHP/MySQL Workshop*  
> *www.carsonworkshops.com*  
>

I use it and like it quite well. I also only use probably only a small amount, but I find it makes things much more manageable and a bit easier to read/understand. I like the fact that provided I produce compliant SQL, all I have to do is change the connect string and I can use it to work with more or less any database out there. Personally I only use mysql, but for projects I make which I distribute, like my IRC bot, I can say that it can, theoretically, be used with databases other than mysql.

I also like the `if (DB::isError($result))` part, as it makes error checking easier. Now I don't have to worry about 'for this sql statement, what constitutes an error' type things. Coupling that with PHP5's exceptions and stuff, I do things like this:

```
if (DB::isError($res)){  
    throw new DatabaseException('Unable to query for ...', $res);  
}
```

then my DatabaseException class can examine the \$res variable and provide debugging information in a log file. Again couple these exceptions with templates(smarty) and a logError function, I can do things like this:

```
if (DB::isError($res)){  
    logWWWError($tpl, new DatabaseException('Unable to query for ...',  
$res), __FILE__, __LINE__);  
    exit;
```

}

and not only do I get quick error checking, but I get a nice log file with sql error details and also a generated error page which is shown to the user with the message from the exception. Makes my applications look nicer, and run a bit smoother I think.