

# Re: Beginner Question: Define PHP "framework" for me

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2005-07/msg01129.html>

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- *From:* Scott Auge <[scott\\_auge@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:scott_auge@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 19 Jul 2005 06:33:36 GMT
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In article <[dbhg2s\\$q30\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dbhg2s$q30$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>, [adykes@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:adykes@xxxxxxxxxx) (Al Dykes) wrote:

- > I've just grabbed a PHP book and can deal with the syntax and now I
- > need to decide to learn specific packages and features.
- >
- > Define "framework".
- >
- > What are the major framework flavors ?
- >
- > Under what conditions can I use two or more frameworks?
- >
- > Sorry for the beginners question.
- >
- > Thanks

A frame work is a set of classes that can be used to perform the more mundane manipulations of the data in your application.

The stuff on <http://pear.php.net> could be considered a framework of sorts. There are bunches of classes that provide some utility and abstraction of different processing.

For example, PEAR DB lets you use the same code to interact with multiple types of databases. So instead of coding `mysql_query()` and `pg_query()` in your app, you simply instance an object of class DB, define the database type and connection via the DSN and use the `_same_` methods in the class to interact with `_whatever_` database it is. In short, your app user can use any database supported by PEAR DB without modifying the code (SQL excepted – that is more a database level thing than a PHP thing.)

I recently wrote some code that lets me take in user input in an `Unsafe()`, `SafeSQL()`, or `SafeHTMLSQL()` manner in PHP/PostgreSQL E-Zine Issue 2 <http://amduus.com/phpezine/archive/Issue2.pdf> Source code ( <http://amduus.com/phpezine/archive/issue2.zip> ). It takes into account sourcing from `_POST`, `_GET`, `_SERVER`, etc.

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If I want something from what the user entered, I do:

```
-----  
include_once("ObjSafeIO.php");  
  
$IO = new ObjSafeIO;  
  
// Protect from SQL Injection  
$FirstName = $IO->SafeSQL("FirstName");  
  
or  
  
// Protect from SQL Injection / Cross scripting attacks  
$FirstName = $IO->SafeHTMLSQL ("FirstName");  
-----
```

The class searches across the `_POST`, `_GET`, etc for an entry of `FirstName` and then applies the manipulations to it to make it safe for SQL use and for display on a web based app... or not safe depending on what I want to use the value for.

Hope this helps explain things.

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- **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **[Re: Beginner Question: Define PHP "framework" for me](#)**  
◇ From: Colin McKinnon

- **References:**

- ◆ **[Beginner Question: Define PHP "framework" for me](#)**  
◇ From: Al Dykes

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