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PHPUnit Essentials



Synopsis

Get started with PHPUnit and learn how to write and test code using advanced technologies
About This Book
Learn how to install PHPUnit as well as how to write and execute tests
Understand the advanced concepts of testing using test doubles and the continuous integration process
A hands-on, step-by-step guide full of real-life examples to help you learn quickly and effectively
Who This Book Is For
This book is a practical guide featuring a step-by-step approach that aims to help PHP developers who want to learn or improve their software testing skills. It also takes you through many real-life examples encountered by PHP developers to help you avoid common pitfalls.
What You Will Learn
How to install PHPUnit and configure IDEs for PHPUnit support
What are unit tests and why to test code
Write test doubles and learn how to replace dependencies
Explore how to test legacy code
Test code calling APIs and connecting to the database
Run functional tests in a web browser using Selenium tests
Use tests as part of the continuous integration process
Discover the alternatives to PHPUnit
Use PHPUnit tests in the Jenkins and Travis CI servers
In Detail
The ability to write unit tests and software testing have become skills that every PHP developer should master. This book is a practical guide to PHPUnit and unit testing, covering all aspects of writing PHPUnit tests and using them. The book shows why testable code is better code and how to write good tests with the help of simple and easy-to-understand examples. With this book, you will learn how to write, organize, and execute effective tests. Step-by-step techniques of how to write testable code, how to refactor the code, and how to run your tests are shown. You will also learn about advanced testing techniques, including how to test databases, APIs, and legacy code. PHPUnit Essentials is a guide for PHP developers who want to learn or improve their software testing skills. It is a book for developers who begin with testing but is also a good source of information for developers who are already familiar with PHPUnit.

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Customer Reviews

PHPUnit Essentials by Zdenek Machek is a technical resource book that provides an impressive overview of PHPUnit and unit testing in general. The book starts at the very beginning, explaining the common methods of installing PHPUnit, progressing through into running basic tests, then more advanced techniques, and automated testing. A lot of technical resource books simply focus on their specific subject and skip over the environment, but not this book. Zdenek takes a lot of effort to not only explain the specifics of PHPUnit, but also to explain how testing benefits proper application design and problem solving with some real examples. Before he digs too deep into showing the different testing functions, he spends some time showing how you'd design code based on how to test it. The result is a well written, and well tested, piece of code. I approached this book as a PHP developer who has only lightly touched on PHPUnit in recent years. As is often the case when you're working to very strict time limits, unit testing often falls by the wayside, so I set out to remedy this with PHPUnit Essentials. I sat down with one of my projects, and started implementing test cases as I worked through the book. It didn't take long for me to discover a couple of bugs in my code, and I even swapped dependencies to a more suitable solution, all because I'd spent 15 minutes writing a test for what I thought was a working piece of code. Although most of the earlier chapters conveyed pretty standard PHPUnit functionality, it soon moved into talking about Mocking, backing up globals, data providers, and other interesting things that I've not used much and didn't really understand (or hadn't even heard of).

"PHPUnit Essentials" would have come in handy while on a recent contracting gig and on all the other PHP projects I've worked on. The book is great in covering multiple installation methods and

multiple IDEs. I liked how much detail the book went into about each method of install, for example I haven't used Composer on a project yet but seeing how simple it is in this chapter, I'm going to consider its use on future PHP projects. Chapter 3 covers what a unit test is, and how to define them using PHPUnit. One thing I didn't like about this chapter is that it refers you to a URL to see a complete list of assertions you can use in tests. It would be nice if the complete list was shoved into the back as an appendix so that it could be used as a quick reference. An interesting real-world example that frequently comes up is how to test code that uses external APIs. PHPUnit Essentials covers this in chapter 10 with examples of integration with the Stackoverflow, the Paypal, the Facebook and the Twitter APIs. While the book covers publicly available APIs, the code examples are solid guide on how to test proprietary external APIs as well. The only criticism I would offer of this section is that maybe it tests too many external APIs at once. Sacrificing this chapter to add more information on writing custom assertions or on how to test with legacy code might would have been a good idea. The source code in the book is nice and clear. The drawback of it are the comments.

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