

Cut to the Chase Series

More Walk – Less Talk

alchemy webapp framework



alchemy Application *General Framework Configuration*

alchemy Webapp Framework - General Application Configuration

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Implementation

Initially installing and configuring the application environment can be a daunting task, especially if installing and configuring infrastructure is not your day job. While I have tried to make this as easy as possible, the fact remains that the alchemy framework contains a great deal of moving parts.

Important Readme

The alchemy framework is LAMP and WAMP based. There are an endless array of configurations for each of these. I could spend most of my time just covering the myriad of installation options and considerations. This is neither my passion nor my desire.

In order to put this document together I need to make some presumptions and set some norms as to what I will be covering here.

First, I realize my development/production environments may not reflect yours. In terms of installation I can only cover mine. My development environment is a Windows based laptop. My production environment is Centos (posix/linux) based that is a VSP. I have also used various ISP plans as well to run my websites. VSP's and ISP's almost all lay down the LAMP stack in a similar fashion. In fact, I choose the directory name public_html as my root directory for web content as this is the typical root directory name for VSP's and ISP's.

Installing

Prerequisites

You have already installed and configured the web server infrastructure. Please note that I am predominantly documenting installing this infrastructure on Windows machine as this is where my development environment is.

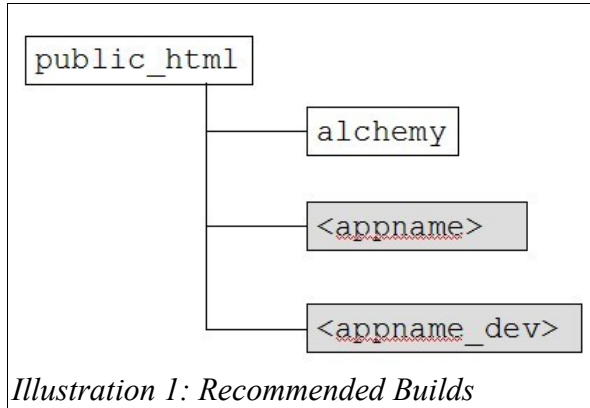
Installing

Under the webserver root directory you will find the main webserver content directory named public_html. Unzip the file alchemy to this location. This will install the alchemy framework, with the exception of the alchemy database that needs to be built for the login framework (covered under a separate document).

If you want to install this infrastructure in a posix environment just place it in under the web servers content root directory. In the case of many ISP and VSP's this would be the directory named public_html.

Recommendations for Managing

Assuming that you will be managing one production environment I would recommend the following setup.



First, I would get the framework running within the alchemy build. Once you have done this I would copy this build for a development environment, giving it the name of your intended application, or some other name with `_dev` appended at the end of the name. In my case the development environment is on my windows machine.

I have an environment name alchemy so I can do on-going development for the framework. I also have it as I will sometimes add functionality in an application build environment that I want to back fit into the alchemy build.

As the more environment you are managing, the more work you have you can certainly opt not to maintain an alchemy build. The only drawback I see is in taking new functionality directly to your development environment you run the risk of introducing new code or inadvertently replacing existing files you have tweaked.

There are many effective ways to manage your development and production environments. Use the means that works best for you. I am not going to say any more on this subject.

Configuration

The default configuration assumes you are implementing this infrastructure in Windows on your c drive and that you are using localhost (127.0.0.1) as your webserver IP. This configuration does not cover configuration for the login framework. That is covered in the document named `alchemy_Login_Framework.pdf`.

... alchemy\eConfig\envref.php

Change the following configuration parameter as required

```
$drive = 'c:/';  
$rootwspath = 'webroot/public_html/';  
$rootdir = 'alchemy/';
```

There are areas of the framework that require the full filepath to the alchemy framework root directory. The three scalars collectively define this path. Modify them as required for your implementation

... alchemy\eLib\envvars.php

Change the following configuration parameters as required.

```
$url = 'http://127.0.0.1/';  
$dns = 'localhost';  
$ip = '127.0.0.1';  
$fw_host = "127.0.0.1";  
$fw_db = "alchemydb";  
$fw_logon = "root";  
$fw_password = "mysqldev";
```

These are the network parameters and the parameters to access the alchemy MySQL database. The network parameters are set by default for localhost.

... alchemy\eLib\loggers.php

Change the following configuration parameter as required

```
$eLogFile = "c:\\webroot\\public_html\\alchemy\\eLog\\applog.txt";
```

This is the path to application log file. For the record, this path is purposely hardcoded in order to

facilitate multiple implementations of the logger.

... alchemy\eLib**<PhpExcel Module>**

Alchemy implements the totally cool "PhpExcel" module. This module allows for the creation of Excel spreadsheets and PDF files. I have integrated this module to work with the alchemy data access api's. There is a databinder and a wrapper layer I have created to interface with this module. There are two flavors of this, 1) Direct MySQL access; 2) ODBC access. The following are the configuration for each flavor.

File: excelWrapper.php

Change the following configuration parameters as required.

```
public $pathtoq = "c:\\webroot\\public_html\\alchemy\\reposq\\";  
public $pathtoout = "c:\\webroot\\public_html\\alchemy\\dfltdevoutput\\";
```

Direct MySQL

Change the following configuration parameters as required.

File: excelbindermy.php

```
'c:/webroot/public_html/alchemy/eLib/Classes/PHPExcel.php';  
'c:/webroot/public_html/alchemy/eLib/Classes/PHPExcel/IOFactory.php';
```

```
$cls1->host = "127.0.0.1";
```

ODBC

Change the following configuration parameters as required.

File: excelbinderx.php

```
'c:/webroot/public_html/alchemy/eLib/Classes/PHPExcel.php';  
'c:/webroot/public_html/alchemy/eLib/Classes/PHPExcel/IOFactory.php
```

```
$cls1->host = "127.0.0.1";
```