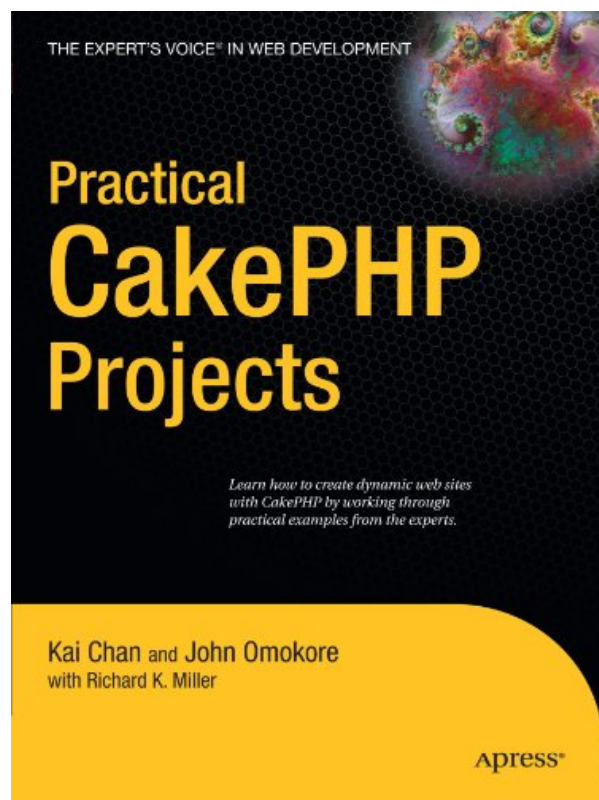


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BY CHERYL MILLER, JOHN OMOKORE,  
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# Practical CakePHP Projects

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practical examples from the experts.*

Kai Chan and John Omokore  
with Richard K. Miller

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## About the Author

Richard K. Miller graduated from Brigham Young University in Utah with a degree in business management, but has been interested in technology since he began computer programming at age 10. His experience includes web programming, Internet marketing, and new media strategies. He is the developer of several MediaWiki extensions and WordPress plugins, including the widely- used What Would Seth Godin Do plugin.

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If you've been using PHP for sometime now and would like to start using a web framework, you'll want to try CakePHP, which is an open source rapid development web framework built on PHP.

PHP experts Kai Chan and John Omokore guide you through a variety of practical CakePHP applications. You will work on projects such as a video gallery, unit testing application, an e-commerce app, a blog site, and much more. Practical CakePHP Projects covers the key architectural concepts as well as including mini projects that you can use to enhance your own applications.

- A friendly introduction for any web programmer looking to choose a PHP framework
- Real-world projects based on current and future trends
- Practical CakePHP techniques that you can use right away

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- 400 pages

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- Used Book in Good Condition

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## Most helpful customer reviews

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful.

Good for newer users

By John D. Anderson

Practical CakePHP Projects is published by Apress, intended for for developers familiar with PHP, and at least marginally familiar with CakePHP as well. The book starts with some introductory material, then

moves on to twelve chapters of practical project implementation. If you're not familiar with CakePHP, it's a rapid application framework for PHP. It cuts out a large swath of redundant tasks needed in everyday web development. It's a mature framework with a fantastic community I'd recommend you check out.

Honestly, the first impression of the book isn't great (stick with me though, it gets much better). First, as a member of the core CakePHP team, it's always a bit disappointing to see a book coming from people I'm not familiar with. I'd suggest prospective authors get their feet wet contributing to the community in a significant way before moving straight on to commercial publishing. The lack of community interaction shows in the first chapter-it's essentially a rehash of material that is better found in CakePHP's official online documentation. It's going to be more up to date, and there's really no reason to have it in the book.

You'll probably want to skip right to chapter 2, where the title of the book comes into play - actual projects created in CakePHP. In general, the specific project chapters are technically accurate and easy to follow. Newcomers to the CakePHP field will enjoy the examples and code they can pick through to better see the big picture.

Having said that, some chapters seem much more relevant than others. For example, leading out with a blog application (which is usually the first example new users are pointed to in the official documentation) seems a bit redundant. They don't cover much new ground there, focusing on vanilla MVC interactions. There's a bit of a diversion into the creation of RSS feeds, but that's more or less covered in the official manual as well.

The following chapter covering a simple e-commerce application is similarly uninteresting. More vanilla MVC, peppered with a bit of Google Checkout and PayPal "integration" at the end, which unfortunately only amounts to rendering some buttons that hand users along to their respective payment engines.

New users may appreciate these chapters, but you'll probably find comparable overviews of Cake's underpinnings in blogs, the CakePHP Bakery, and in the official manual.

The remaining chapters of the book (4-13) is where the book really shines. Project examples are varied, and each idea is inviting and innovative:'

A message forum webservice

Google maps for traveling salesmen

A Twitter/Google translator mash-up

Unit Testing (not so much, but stay with me)

An ACL-enabled control panel

Internationalization using behaviors

Custom automagic fields

Custom view tags integrated with plugins

"Dynamic Data Fields" (not that CakePHP specific, but interesting to some)

Captcha (which is more of an example with controller/component callbacks)

My impression of the remaining chapters was positive. The steps are easy to follow and seem well-explained to me. The code inserted onto the printed page gets a big hefty in places (three consecutive pages in chapter 9), but that's to be expected in some instances, I suppose. It's a programming book, after all.

Best practices seem to be evident as well - keeping your models thick and your controllers thin, not repeating code, and following CakePHP convention in order to take advantage of automagic are all present.

Aside from the rehash that is the introduction and first few chapters, the authors seem to avoid that in the rest of the book. Each chapter is atomic enough to pick up on its own (more or less), yet you don't have to be re-introduced to covered topics each time you move on.

Putting my own personal grudge of people publishing before contributing to the core effort aside, I'd recommend the book to users who are getting started with CakePHP. Experienced users have probably seen most of what's here, but new users will enjoy example after example of good CakePHP code in interesting, practical projects.

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

Terrible Examples, Poorly Written Book...

By Aniq N. Rahman

It would be acceptable if this book taught you how to do practical projects well, but unfortunately, it cuts corners and teaches you little. You're far better off learning from the gurus in IRC and reading the blog tutorials online.

The ecommerce chapter gives a very simple integration of Google Checkout and Paypal which is prone to security vulnerability using simple apps like Firebug (not optimal at all!). The last chapter creates a very easily hackable CAPTCHA using ASCII art and totally violates the DRY concept.

There is even a chapter on creating a blog (which is less in depth than the CakePHP blog tutorial on [CakePHP.org](http://CakePHP.org))...

A lot of the code samples in this book are also poorly written -- some controllers that are like 150 lines should really be 30 when written out properly. For anyone wanting to learn Cake, I'd recommend David Golding's book for a firm grasp that goes in depth but also teaches you concepts and methodologies. TERRIBLE book!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Worthless Without Source Code

By richwalkup

I am a well-versed PHP developer but only marginally familiar with Cake. I was amazed to see the great depth of how the book delved into a few great issues like Access Control Lists and a control panel to ease security settings as well as how to do database-level internationalization so I quickly thought the book would be invaluable. I spent hours reading the book and manually typing in all the code in the samples to be "hands on" and watch the code grow into completion only to find that MAJOR critical pieces of the code were completely undocumented and missing from the sample code listings. My projects ended up looking nothing like their screenshots or samples and none of the advanced topics worked at all without essentially copying over their sample code into my directory because so many pieces were missing. Great code samples, poor presentation, poor publishing in my opinion.

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