

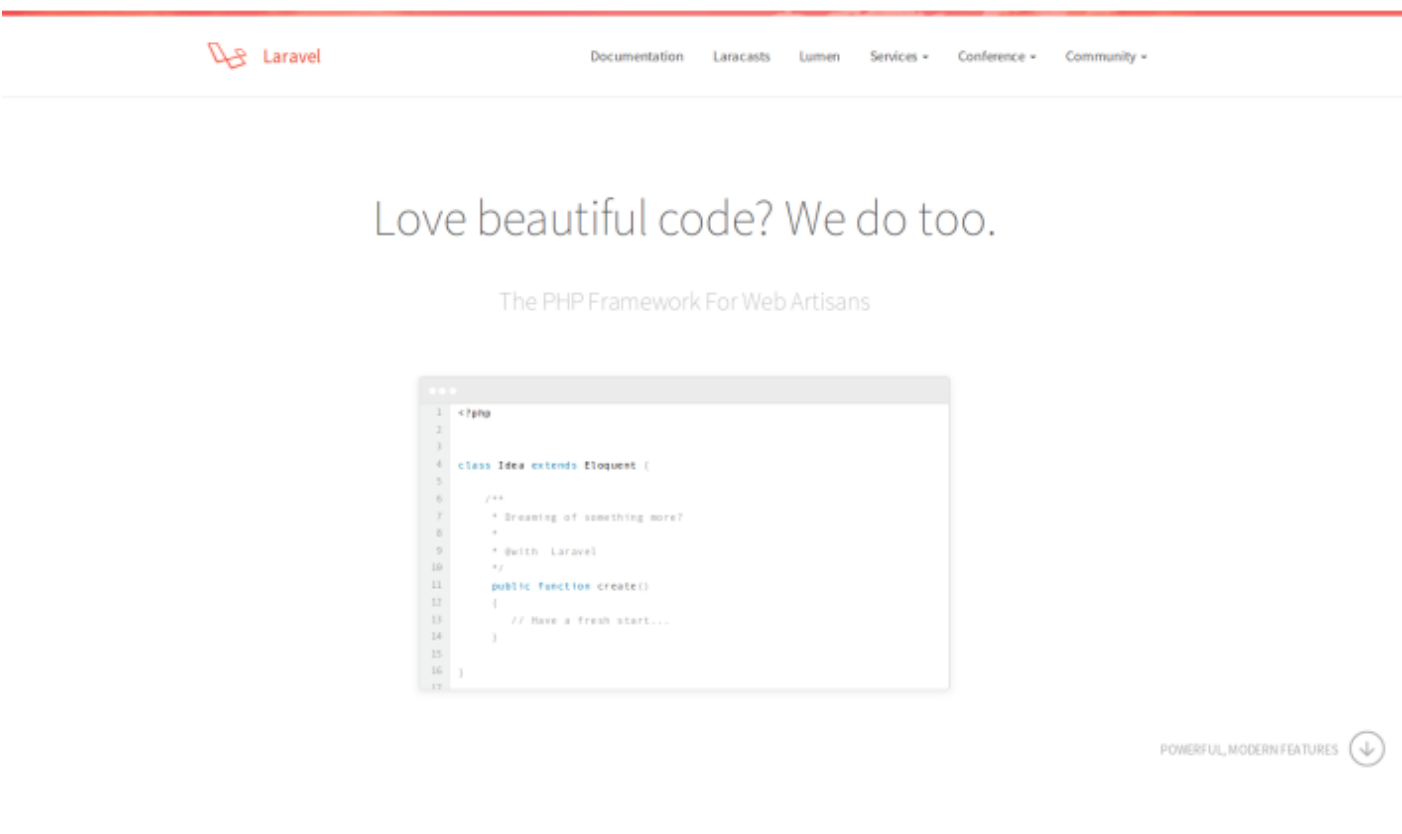
## PHP frameworks: Top 5 the most popular ones in 2016

**PHP** is a wide-spread script language actively used for [web development](#). It is one of the leaders among the languages designed to create dynamic websites. **PHP** is the choice of more than 80% of existing web server software, because it is open source, flexible, cost-efficient and provides maximum control over the website.

Creation of complex software applications or websites from square one is a time-consuming and laborious task. That's why highly functional **PHP frameworks** were designed to facilitate this process. By using reliable **PHP framework** one can easily organize the code and speed up the performance of the site, at the same time ensuring website's evolvement and growth.

Let's see what are **the most popular and actively maintained frameworks** which are worth drawing attention to **in 2016**.

### [Laravel](#)



Created in 2011, **Laravel** is considered to be **the most popular PHP framework** in the world. With its huge ecosystem, **Laravel** will provide your web application with a foundation of easy to

understand, clean and well-built code.

While possessing some of Symfony components, **Laravel** is armed with a set of features that enable rapid application development and make its management a lot easier. In particular, **Laravel** includes “*Blade*” – its own web templating engine, which makes possible writing **PHP** in the templates. Another powerful feature is named “*Homestead*” – a local development environment, which is a packaged Vagrant box. You will be impressed with **Laravel’s** intelligent syntax that makes much easier the tasks you do regularly, like queueing, authentication, caching and sessions. One of the best and not the last features is “*Composer*” – a wonderful tool that installs dependencies and facilitates managing the third-party components of your web application.

There won’t be much trouble with getting the hang of **Laravel**, even if you are a newcomer, because the Internet is abundant with free tutorials and learning materials on this subject.

**Laravel** is well thought out providing extraordinary flexibility to web developers to create anything from small and simple websites to large scale complex applications.

## [Symfony](#)



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Symfony website. At the top, there is a dark navigation bar with 'SensioLabsNetwork' on the left and 'Connect' on the right. Below this is a light gray header with the Symfony logo and the text 'a SensioLabs Product' next to a green 'DOWNLOAD' button. A horizontal menu contains links for 'What is Symfony?', 'Documentation', 'Community', 'Showcase', 'Marketplace', 'Jobs', 'Business Solutions', 'News', and 'Search'. The main content area has two columns of text. The left column is titled 'Symfony is a set of reusable PHP components...' and describes it as a standard foundation for PHP applications. The right column is titled '... and a PHP framework for web projects' and highlights speed and control. A central graphic features the 'sf' logo inside a blue circle with diagonal lines.

**Symfony** is just the **framework** you need if you are planning to start a complex enterprise project. At the same time it is quite easy to install and understand, which makes **Symfony** one of the most suitable frameworks for starters. Its code is simple, with phpDocumentor comments.

Its ecosystem contains an array of reusable and decoupled components that can be installed with the **PHP** Composer. With the help of **Symfony’s** components you can complete tasks like routing, templating, form creation, authentication and a lot others. Many of these components are now used by [Laravel](#). Moreover, they back up such large open source projects as phpBB, Piwik, Drupal and

eZ publish. The facts speak for themselves.

What is important about **Symfony** for enterprise applications is that it is actually stable for longterm projects. Being backed by enormous community of fans, **Symfony** keeps evolving and gaining popularity.

## [CakePHP](#)



Released in 2005, **CakePHP** hasn't run out of steam yet. It doesn't wish to take the back seat and stated it quite clearly with its latest version **CakePHP 3.0**, featured with decoupled components, increased ability to create standalone libraries, advanced session management, high modularity and ORM improvements. Moreover, it can be easily extended with helpers and plugins.

In the first years after being released, **CakePHP** held the position of leading **PHP framework** and caught attention of such huge brands as Hyundai, BMW and Express.

Containing reliable built-in security features such as XSS prevention, CSRF protection, SQL injection prevention and others, **CakePHP** is perfect for creating web applications that need robust security, which especially concerns commercial applications.

## [CodeIgniter](#)



The screenshot shows the CodeIgniter website homepage. At the top, there is an orange navigation bar with the CodeIgniter logo and links for Home, Download, Documentation, Community, and Contribute. The main content area features a large black flame icon on the left and the text "CodeIgniter Rocks" on the right. Below the text, it states: "CodeIgniter is a powerful PHP framework with a very small footprint, built for developers who need a simple and elegant toolkit to create full-featured web applications." Underneath this text are social media-style buttons for Star (12,088), Fork (6,091), Follow (19.2K followers), and a GitHub link. At the bottom, there are four light gray buttons with icons and text: "Download" (The latest is Version 3.0.6), "Read the Manual" (Clear documentation), "View the Forums" (Get Support & Discuss Things), and "On GitHub" (Fix Bugs or Add Features).

One of the main reasons for **CodeIgniter's** popularity is its lightweightsness (only about 2MB) in comparison to later **PHP frameworks**. It is easy to learn and use, with no extensive and massive libraries, which makes **CodeIgniter** suitable for starter PHP developers. Its installation process requires minimum configuration. What is more, **CodeIgniter** is compatible with standard hosting and has no limitative coding rules, which means that own coding is available.

By giving considerable freedom to developers, **CodeIgniter** enable them to create visually spectacular web apps. If you need to include more functionality to your web application, **CodeIgniter** allows adding third-party plugins.

[Zend](#)



As well as CakePHP and CodeIgniter, **Zend** is a relatively old tool, but it still ranks among the most popular and successful **PHP frameworks**. It is powerful and stable, but actually difficult to learn. In addition, it has complex configuration options, which makes **Zend** a framework for experts and definitely not for newcomers. **Zend** is not appropriate for small sized projects, that's why many web developers prefer **Laravel** and other simpler **frameworks**. But still it is an excellent tool for development of more complex and large-scale projects. Its latest version **Zend 3** is optimized for **PHP 7** and supports older versions till PHP 5.5.

As the **popular framework** for high performing web apps, **Zend** includes cryptographic coding [tools](#), PHP unit testing **tools**, secure coding tools and connected Database Wizard that allow performing **web development** projects in a faultless way. And not to forget its amazing drag and drop editor with front-end technologies support (JavaScript, HTML and CSS).



The key to success for every [web developer](#) is developing with high-quality, well-organized and maintainable code. This can be achieved by using proven **PHP frameworks** which will enable rapid application development, ensure its scalability and provide your web application with good security. Build general components with **PHP frameworks** and dedicate more time to the specific functionality of your app.