

Helpers

Overview

A helper class is a class filled with static methods and is usually used to isolate a "useful" algorithm. They are used to assist in providing some functionality, though that functionality isn't the main goal of the application. They're also used to reduce the amount of redundancy in your code.

Implementation

Helper classes are stored in the helper sub-directory of your component directory. Naming convention typically follows a pattern of {ComponentName}Helper({HelperName}). Therefore, our helper class is called HelloHelperOutput.

Here's our com_hello/helpers/output.php helper class:

```
<?php
// No direct access

defined( '_JEXEC' ) or die( 'Restricted access' );

/**
 * Hello World Component Helper
 */
class HelloHelperOutput
{
    /**
     * Method to make all text upper case
     *
     * @access public
     */
    public static function shout($txt='')
    {
        return strToUpper($txt).'!';
    }
}
```

We have one method in this class that takes all strings passed to it and returns them uppercase with an exclamation point attached to the end. To use this helper, we do the following:

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```
class HelloControllerHello extends HubzeroComponentSiteController
{
    public function display()
    {
        include_once(JPATH_COMPONENT.DS.'helpers'.DS.'output.php');

        $greeting = HelloHelperOutput::shout("Hello World");
        $this->set( 'greeting', $greeting );

        $this->view->display();
    }
}
```