

TECH TOOLS

Zend Studio 10 Announced

Zend announced the general availability of Zend Studio 10, the latest version of its integrated development environment (IDE) for creating PHP code.

According to the announcement, Zend Studio 10 streamlines the creation, testing, and deployment of PHP applications, with particular focus on mobile apps with a PHP back end. The software lets developers prototype, create, and debug both client-side mobile apps and server-side PHP APIs from a single interface.

Zend Studio 10 also lets developers utilize the cloud more efficiently and improve team collaboration. Zend Studio 10 is integrated with Red Hat OpenShift, so developers can deploy PHP applications to Zend Server on premise or in the cloud. According to the company, Zend Studio also can help developers take advantage of the Zend Developer Cloud, which is an instantly available, consistent PHP environment for debugging, productivity, and team collaboration.

Zend is also offering a special upgrade price of US\$ 129 to existing customers. Zend Studio includes free upgrades and support for 12 months. Visit the website at:

http://www.zend.com/en/company/news/press/395_zend-launches-zend-studio-10-driving-the-next-decade-of-ides for details.

Tizen 2.0 Now Available

The Tizen project announced the general availability of Tizen 2.0 source code and SDK.

Tizen is an open source, standards-based software platform and mobile operating system for devices such as smartphones, tablets, netbooks, in-vehicle infotainment devices, and smart TVs. According to the website, Tizen provides a robust environment based on HTML5, and the Tizen SDK and API can be used to create applications that run across multiple device sectors.

Highlights of this Tizen release include: an enhanced web framework providing the latest HTML5/W3C API support and web UI framework, including full-screen and multi-window support.

Tizen 2.0 includes additional Tizen device APIs, such as Bluetooth and NFC support, and access to the device's calendar, call history, and messaging subsystems. The Web Runtime framework supports new configuration elements for specifying features and privileges.

As we reported last month, Samsung has already announced a new round of mobile phones based on Tizen. For more information about the new version of Tizen, please visit the website at: <https://www.tizen.org/>.

Django 1.5 Released

The Django developers released version 1.5 of the popular open source Python web framework. According to the announcement, the main new feature in this release is the configurable user model, which means applications using Django's auth framework are no longer forced to use Django's definition of a "user." Django 1.5 lets you create your own custom user model.

The Django 1.5 release also includes Python 3 support. The developers say the Python support is "experimental" – because it has received little real-world testing. However, all items are in place to begin porting apps to Python 3. According to the release notes, Django 1.6 will support Python 3 without reservations. Note that Django continues to support Python 2; however, the minimum version for Django 1.5 is Python 2.6.5, and Python 2.7.3 or newer is strongly recommended.

With this release, Django's documentation also has been improved; specifically, the main documentation page has been reworked for ease of use, existing tutorials have been updated, and several new tutorials have been added. New technical features in Django 1.5 include support for saving a subset of a model's fields and improved support for streaming responses via the new *StreamingHttpResponse* response class. Django 1.5, which is released under the BSD license, is available at <https://www.djangoproject.com/>.

Ruby 2.0 Released

Ruby developers have released Ruby 2.0.0, which represents the first stable release of the language since Ruby 1.9 in December 2007.

Ruby is "a dynamic, open source programming language with a focus on simplicity and productivity." According to the website, Ruby creator Yukihiro "Matz" Matsumoto blended parts of his favorite languages (Perl, Smalltalk, Eiffel, Ada, and Lisp) to balance functional programming with imperative programming.

Highlights of the Ruby 2.0 release include keyword arguments, which give flexibility to API design; asynchronous exception handling API; DTrace support enabling run-time diagnosis in production; an improved tracing API; and various performance enhancements.

According to the website, Ruby 2.0.0 maintains nearly full backward compatibility with the previous version, and migration from 1.9 to 2.0 will be easier than from 1.8 to 1.9. Additionally, many improvements have been made to the documentation based on user requests. For details, see: <http://www.ruby-lang.org/en/>