Zend_Config_Xml Attribute Support - Ben Scholzen

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Zend Framework: Zend_Config_Xml Attribute Support - Ben Scholzen Component Proposal

Proposed Component Name	Zend_Config_Xml Attribute Support - Ben Scholzen
Developer Notes	http://framework.zend.com/wiki/display/ZFDEV/Zend_Config_Xml Attribute Support - Ben Scholzen
Proposers	Ben Scholzen Zend Liaison - Ralph Schindler
Revision	1.0 - 20 February 2008: Initial proposal. 1.1 - 20 February 2008: Prototype and unit tests finished. (wiki revision: 13)

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1. Overview

This proposal will extend Zend_Config_Xml to be able to use node attributes. This will make config files not only more readable, but also easier to handle and quite smaller.

2. References

3. Component Requirements, Constraints, and Acceptance Criteria

- This component **will** keep the compatibility with prior xml config files.
- This component **will** allow values given by parent nodes.
- This component **will** allow a short form of parameter values.

4. Dependencies on Other Framework Components

- Zend_Config

5. Theory of Operation

The Config is instantiated like before, and the usage nor the data structure will change in any way. Programmers just get the ability to write their configurations in a shorter way.

Parameters of a node can either be attribute values in a parent node (which may contain childs, but doesn't have to), or as sub-nodes of the parent. In this case, either the the classic style can be used (<key>value</key>) or one of the two new styles (<key value="value"/> or <param name="key" value="value"/>). To keep things backward compatible, a parameter with the key "extend" is not permitted in parent node attributes.

6. Milestones / Tasks

- Milestone 1: [DONE] Proposal finished
- Milestone 2: [DONE] Working prototype checked into http://zend.svn.dasprids.de
- Milestone 3: [DONE] Unit tests exist, work, and are checked into http://zend.svn.dasprids.de
- Milestone 4: [DONE] Proposal confirmation
- Milestone 5: [DONE] Initial documentation exists.
- Milestone 6: [DONE] Everything checked into incubator

7. Class Index

- Zend_Config_Xml

8. Use Cases

The following examples will all result in the same data structure

UC-01

Classic XML layout

```
<database>
    <adapter>pdo_mysql</adapter>
    <params>
        <host>localhost</host>
        <username></username>
        <password></password>
        <dbname></dbname>
    </params>
</database>
```

UC-02

Parent node attributes

```
<database adapter="pdo_mysql">
    <params>
        <host>localhost</host>
        <username></username>
        <password></password>
        <dbname></dbname>
    </params>
</database>
```

UC-03

Short params (variant 1)

```
<database adapter="pdo_mysql">
    <params>
        <host value="localhost"/>
        <username value=""/>
        <password value=""/>
        <dbname value=""/>
    </params>
</database>
```

UC-04

Short params (variant 2)

```
<database adapter="pdo_mysql">
    <params>
        <param name="host" value="localhost"/>
        <param name="username" value=""/>
        <param name="password" value=""/>
        <param name="dbname" value=""/>
    </params>
</database>
```

UC-05

Short params (variant 3)

```
<database adapter="pdo_mysql">
    <params host="localhost" username="" password="" dbname=""/>
</database>
```

9. Class Skeletons

```
<?php
class Zend_Config_Xml extends Zend_Config
{
    public function __construct($filename, $section = null, $allowModifications = false)
    {}

    protected function _processExtends($element, $section, $config = array())
    {}

    protected function _toArray($xmlObject)
    {}

    protected function _arrayMergeRecursive($array1, $array2)
    {}
}
```

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