# The Zen of PHP without Zend Server

Alan Seiden Richard Schoen



## Alan Seiden



Principal, Seiden Group

Mentors CIOs & development teams

Deliver modern technical solutions

Open Source Advocate

Co-developer of PHP Toolkit for IBM i Founder of Club Seiden community

Host/Sponsor, CIO Summit





## Richard Schoen



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## Owner, MobiGoGo

Former owner, RJS Software Systems
Innovator in IBM i solutions (30+ years)
Member of Seiden Group
Sr Solutions Consultant - Pegasystems

### Builder

Developer of iForgit IBM i git client
IBM i, Windows, Linux Developer
Mobile App Developer
RPG, CL, C#, VB, Node, PHP, Python, Java, HTML, CSS, etc.



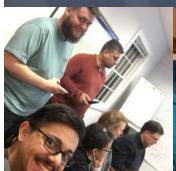


## Open Source Experts

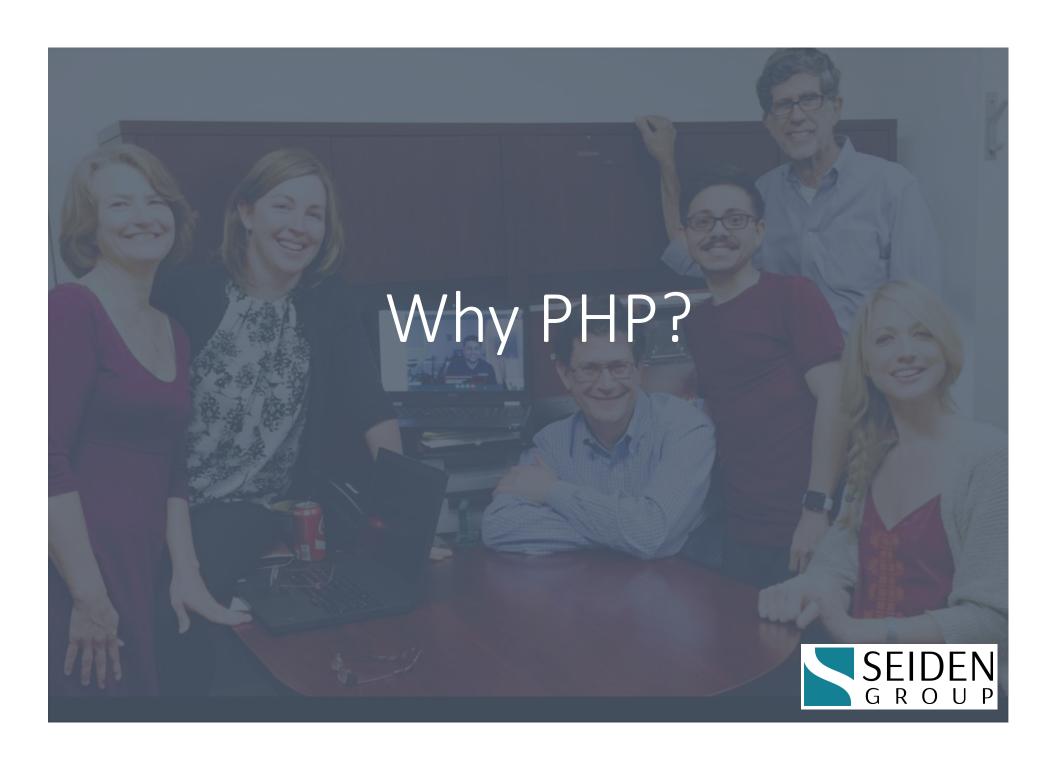
Develop web and mobile applications
Support Community PHP
Troubleshoot the toughest issues
Train developers in open source & IBM i

PHP | APIs | Git Node.js | Db2 | Python

seidengroup.com







# Web apps and APIs

- PHP has been pivotal in bringing web applications to IBM i
- Open source applications: CMSes, eCommerce
  - Mantis Bug Tracker was an oldie but goodie
- Award-winning applications across all industries
  - Continue to access your Db2 data, RPG code, and more
  - PHP Toolkit helped compatibility and integration
  - Web services and APIs
    - First taste of calling external APIs from IBM i
      - Credit card payments... Salesforce... many more
  - Converting green screens to web
- Community and conference sites
- Blogs
  - Wordpress.. beyond blogs.. Star Wars site, more!







## Use PHP from RPG, CL, etc.

- PHP can be called from CL and RPG too!
  - Often software development kits (SDKs) were written in PHP
  - Easy to get started
  - Still control flow from traditional RPG
  - Use new PHP power to access APIs and other functionality, create spreadsheets, graphics, etc.
- PHP has always contained all the basics to serve web pages and access APIs
  - SOAP in the beginning, REST now
- Millions of users; present on all web hosts
- Helped make the IBM i more mainstream



## PHP on IBM i timeline

- 2004: Alan needed PHP on i5!
  - i5php.net—Rob Ward's site
  - Included ODBC but was missing mail() function!
- 2006: Zend Core—IBM shipped in its DVDs
  - Zend Platform paid add-on
- 2008-9 Zend Server
  - No-cost OSS + admin pages + paid add-ons bundled
  - Basic / Professional / Enterprise licenses
- 2019: Community PHP
  - RPM-based
    - Includes ODBC again



## PHP in 2020-2021

- Zend Server Basic license withdrawn by June 2021
- PHP is widespread on IBM i
  - A no-charge option is still needed
- RPM-based PHP to the rescue!
  - Launched by IBM and Zend (Perforce)
  - Can be adapted/enhanced
  - It works well
- Still an option to pay for Zend Server Professional and Enterprise
- Give RPMs a try for license-free PHP





## Quick installation

- Minutes instead of hours
- No laborious FTP'ing, unzipping, SAVF, no hours-long installation
- Industry-standard Yum command
  - Same as other IBM i open source these days
  - Under /QOpenSys
  - The "cool kids" like it!
- Quick upgrades, too
  - Yum update
- Gain even more speed by automating / scripting the installation



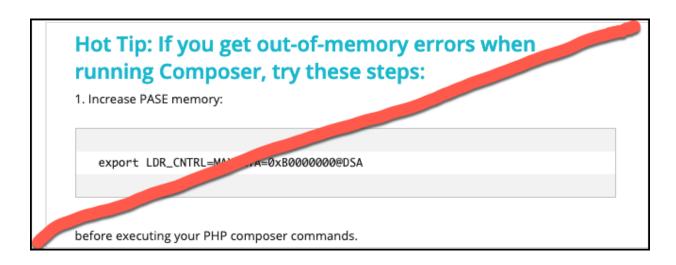
## Flexible installation

- Choose Apache or nginx
- Your existing Apache and FastCGI configs still work!
- Multiple web server instances for different workloads
- Test in parallel with existing Zend Server
- Could install multiple versions via chroot



## More bits = more data!

- RPM PHP is 64-bit, while Zend Server is still 32-bit
  - (as of May 2020)
- What does that mean?
- More data without errors (no more memory dump errors)
- Good-bye, "LDR\_CNTRL" memory hack!





## Improved performance

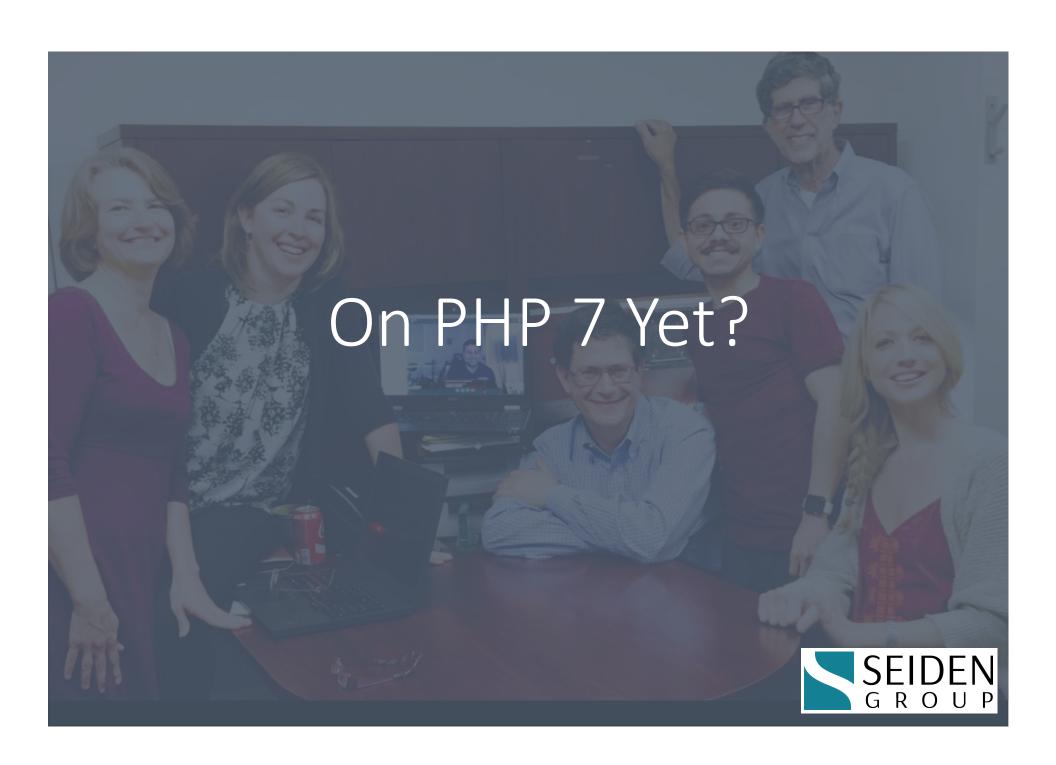
- PHP 7 was already fast
- PHP 7 with RPMs is even faster
  - A CPU type benchmark test I ran showed 0.11 seconds instead of Zend Server 0.31 seconds
  - That wasn't a realistic database-type test, but was a great start!
- Lighter distribution is quicker to start up, too
  - Especially PHP-CLI called from CL, RPG, etc.



## This PHP is open and flexible

- Although Community PHP is missing some of the extensions that were bundled in Zend Server....
- "We can rebuild them!"
- Several popular ones
  - Ibm db2
  - Ldap
  - Imagemagick
  - Implementing mail() with sendmail
- IBM has done a great job in building infrastructure to let us add the extensions we want and need

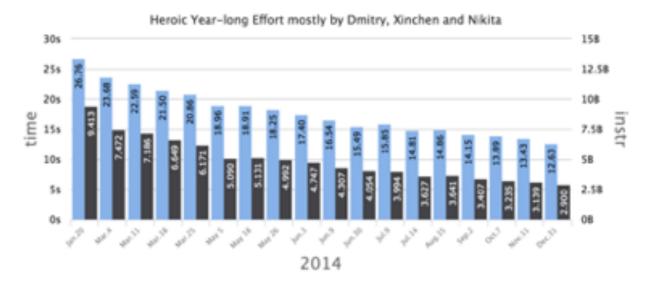




## PHP 7's Faster than PHP 5.x

- Spurred by competition with Facebook's "Hack"
- Noticeable speedup on large sites—pages "pop"

Time and number of machine instructions for 100 requests against Wordpress-3.6.0 front page





## What else about PHP 7?

- New features:
  - https://www.php.net/manual/en/migration70.new-features.php
- Code changes required? Long-deprecated functions removed
  - https://wiki.php.net/rfc/remove\_deprecated\_functionality\_in\_php7
  - Old MySQL code using the mysql\_\* functions should be updated to mysqli\_\* ("IMySQL Improved") or PDO
  - Old regular expression syntax "ereg()" was removed
    - https://www.scriptarticle.com/function-ereg-is-deprecated-in-php-5-3-x/



## Upgrading from PHP 5.6 to PHP 7

- Your code should "just work" with a few exceptions
  - https://www.seidengroup.com/2017/07/24/resources-for-upgrading-to-php-7-on-ibm-i/
  - RPM upgrade to PHP 7 is the same except use the path /QOpenSys/ pkgs/bin/php
  - Check /usr/local/zendsvr6/var/log/php.log for deprecation notices
  - Test your code with https://github.com/Alexia/php7mar
  - PHP 7 can run in parallel with older versions such as PHP 5.6
    - (If you find PHP 6, let us know! ©)



# Simple Speed Test Script (SSTS)

```
<?php
// homemade profiler using microtime(true), current time in seconds
$start = microtime( true );

for ($i=0 ; $i<1000000 ; $i++) {
    serialize($i);
  }
$end = microtime( true );
$duration = $end - $start;
echo "Took " . $duration . " seconds.\n";</pre>
```



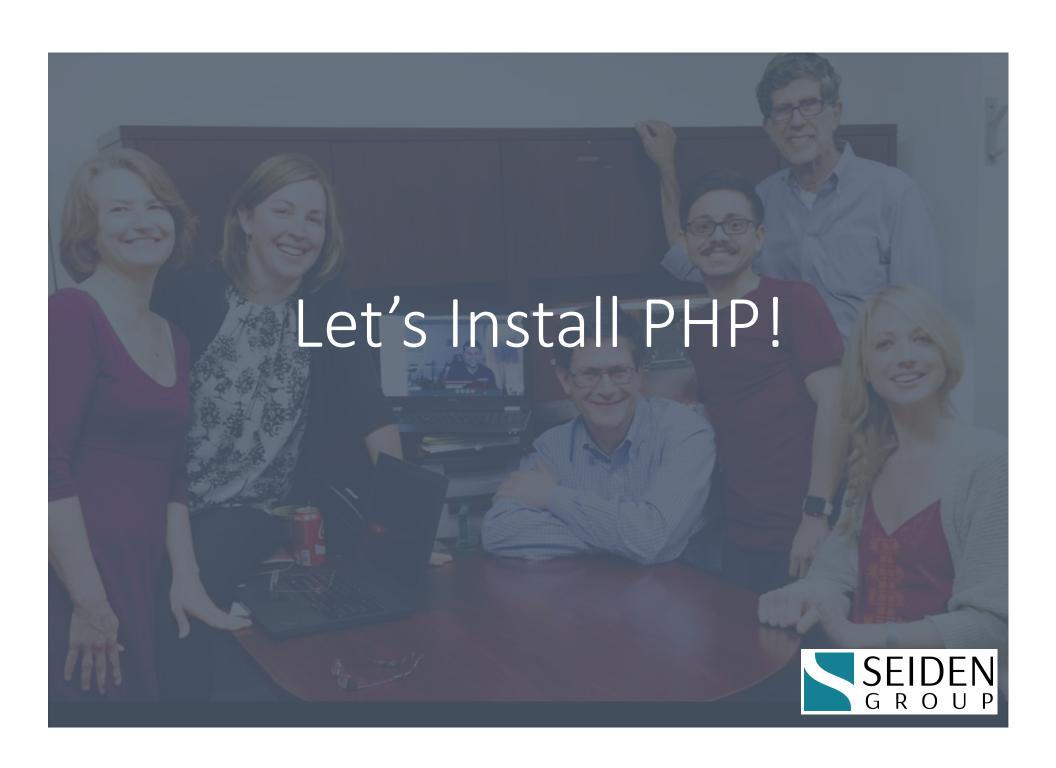
## PHP 5.6 vs 7.3

```
$start = microtime( true );
for ($i=0; $i<1000000; $i++) {
        serialize($i);
}
$end = microtime( true );
$duration = $end - $start;
echo "Took" . $duration . " seconds.\n";</pre>
```

#### Run from CALL QP2TERM or SSH terminal

cd /www/myserver/htdocs [location of speedtest.php]

- 1. /usr/local/zendsvr6/bin/php -n speedtest.php "Took 0.37887215614319 seconds." (PHP 5.6.18)
- 2. /usr/local/zendphp7/bin/php -n speedtest.php
  "Took 0.30699110031128 seconds." (PHP 7.3.11)
- 3. /QOpenSys/pkgs/bin/php -n speedtest.php
  "Took [really short/quick time; but it's a narrow, made-up benchmark] seconds" (PHP 7.3.17)



# Install PHP using Yum

- To install Community PHP with ODBC, we like these instructions from King Harrison (K3S):
  - https://odbcphp.k3s.com/
- We recommend SSH to get into PASE
  - STRTCPSVR \*SSHD
  - Industry-standard: your younger developers will thank you (install the bash shell for them!)
    - (In bash, the up-arrow key works like F9 to bring back prior commands)
  - Open source software works better in SSH than in QP2TERM or QSH



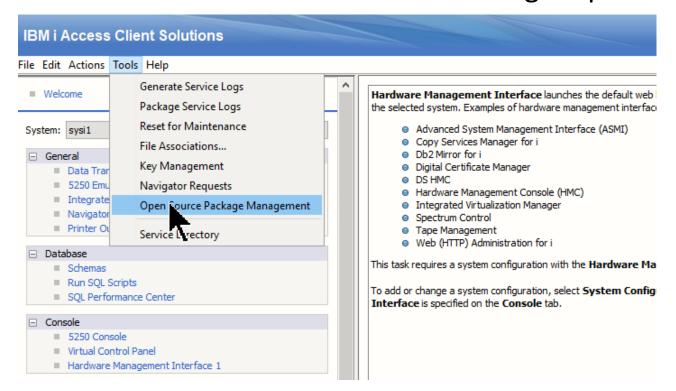
# Getting Yum ready

- Follow the K3S instructions to make sure Yum and the Open Source Package Management window of ACS are set up
  - https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/getting-started-open-sourcepackage-management-ibm-i-acs
- Add the Community PHP repository to your IBM i's Yum/RPM environment
  - yum-config-manager --add-repo http://repos.zend.com/ibmiphp/
  - (Or other non-IBM repo you need to add)
    - You could even create your own repository
    - For example, we maintain our own "repos" containing additional RPMbased modules



# Open Source Package Management

IBM i ssh server service must be running on port 22.





# Open Source Package Management (ACS)

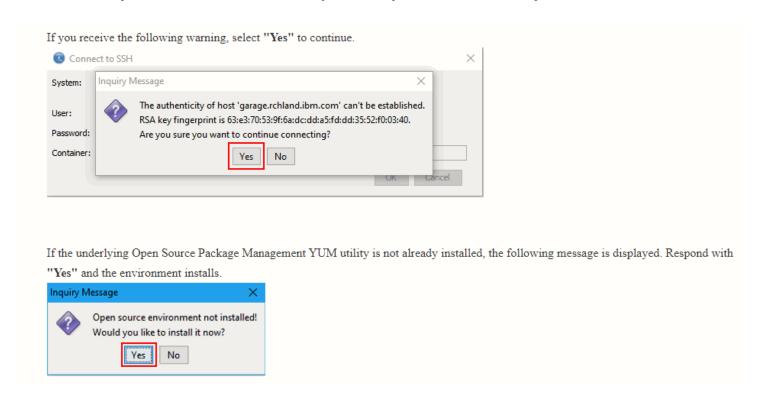
Log in with a QSECOFR or \*ALLOBJ level user

<ul><li>Open Source Package Management</li></ul>	_		$\times$
File View Connection Utilities			
<not connected=""></not>			
Installed packages Updates available Available packages			
Connect to SSH			×
System: garage.rchland.ibm.com 🗸			
User: wbowers			
Password: ••••••			
Container: /			
	ОК	Cancel	



## Open Source Package Management

You may receive these prompts. Just say Yes!





# Open Source Package Management

All is working if you see list of packages!

Connection: wbowers	@garage.rchland.ib	om.com:/		
Installed packages	Updates available	Available packages		
Package	Version	Repository		
bash	4.4-0	installed		
coreutils-pase-dummy	7.1-0	installed		
db	4.8.30-0	installed		
file-magic	5.30-0	installed		
libbz2-1	1.0.6-5	installed		
libcurl4	7.58.0-0	installed		
libexpat1	2.2.0-0	installed		
libffi6	3.2.1-1	installed		
libgcc_s1	6.3.0-15	installed		
libglib-2_0-0	2.52.0-2	installed		
libiconv2	1.14-1	installed		
libintl9	0.19.8-0	installed		
liblua5_3	5.3.4-1	installed		
liblzma5	5.2.3-0	installed		
libmagic1	5.30-0	installed		
libopenssl1_0_0	1.0.20-1	installed		
libopenssl1_1	1.1.1-2	@ibm		
libpcre1	8.40-0	installed		
libpopt0	1.16-1	installed		
libreadline6	6.3-1	installed		
libsqlite3-0	3.19.3-0	installed		
libutil 1	0.3-0	installed		
libxml2-2	2.9.4-2	installed		
libz1	1.2.11-1	installed		
nspr	4.13.1-3	installed		
nss	3.30-5	installed		
openssl Done: 36 rows retriev	1.1.1-2	@ibm		



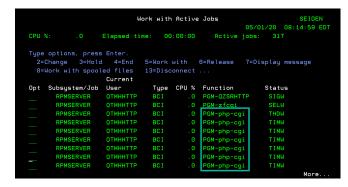
# Install PHP using Yum (continued)

- The yum command:
  - Yum install php-\*
  - TIP: Your user profile must have \*ALLOBJ to install via Yum
- More from the K3S setup document
  - Set up Apache or Nginx web server
    - You can continue to use your existing Apache instances that Zend Server created
  - Set up ODBC for Db2 access running on IBM i
  - How to use ODBC to connect from a Linux or Windows computer to the IBM i as well!
  - Tips for using the PHP Toolkit (XMLSERVICE)



## FastCGI configuration

- FastCGI prestarts PHP jobs to handle web workloads
- Minimal contents of fastcgi.conf (in /www/myserver/conf/):
  - Server type="application/x-httpd-php" CommandLine="/QOpenSys/pkgs/bin/php-cgi" StartProcesses="1"
- Additional/optional keys to include in fastcgi.conf:
  - How many PHP jobs to start
    - SetEnv="PHP\_FCGI\_CHILDREN=20"
  - How long to wait before a 408 timeout
    - RequestTimeout="60"





# Enabling and optimizing FastCGI—Details

#### # fastcgi.conf

Server type="application/x-httpd-php" CommandLine="/QopenSys/pkgs/bin/php-cgi" StartProcesses="1" SetEnv="LIBPATH=/QOpenSys/pkgs/lib" SetEnv="PHPRC=/QOpenSys/etc/" SetEnv="PHP\_FCGI\_CHILDREN=20" SetEnv="PHP\_FCGI\_MAX\_REQUESTS=0" ConnectionTimeout="30" RequestTimeout="60" SetEnv="CCSID=1208" SetEnv="LANG=C"

#### PHP\_FCGI\_CHILDREN

- Max number of PHP jobs needed at one time
- Default of 10 is low. Try 20, 30, 40, 50, and test.
- We run a monitor to track how many PHP jobs are used at a time.

#### RequestTimeout

- Seconds before FastCGI returns an HTTP 408 error
- Consider setting up multiple web server instances to handle varying workloads (slow vs. fast)

## Other options

- nginx web server
  - Flexible web server alternative to Apache
  - Full open source--not covered by SWMA as Apache is, but you could buy IBM TSS support if needed
  - Allows automated setup, including of SSL (no DCM)
  - Nginx works well with alternate FastCGI called php-fpm
- Php.ini settings
  - Edit directly in the Php.ini file using EDTF or your favorite editor or vim <sup>©</sup>
  - date.timezone
    - https://www.php.net/manual/en/timezones.php
    - date.timezone = America/New York



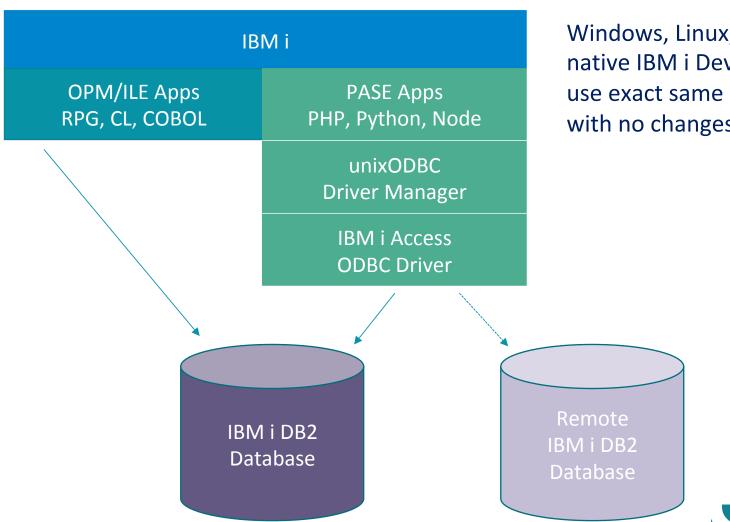


## History of Open Source Connectivity

- Before, IBM built custom middleware for each lang for the CLI. Prowas could customize for IBM i and Db2. Problems in CLI though.
- Db2 Connect product allowed same code LUW and IBM i. "Want to code on PC/laptop and then run on IBM i." Local debugging with favorite IDE. Two versions of code: ODBC free or pay / config Db2 Connect.
- Open source on the rise and to the rescue, unixODBC driver. Was on Windows and Linux but not IBM i. Needed db2 driver underneath that worked in PASE.
- NOW ODBC on IBM i. Making IBM i work as mainstream as possible.
   Generic connector! Don't need to create special versions anymore.
  - Frameworks that have ODBC can work now.
  - You may develop on PC, then deploy to IBM i



## **ODBC** Architecture

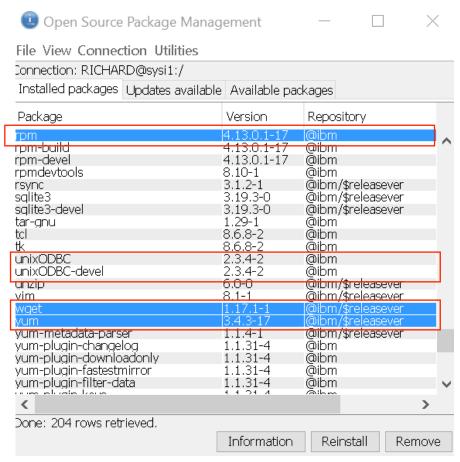


Windows, Linux, Mac and native IBM i Developers can use exact same codebase with no changes



# Install ODBC Yum Package Prerequisites

- Install yum
- Install wget
- Install rpm installed
- Install unixODC
- Install unixODBC-devel
- We will use rpm command when we install the IBM i Access ODBC driver

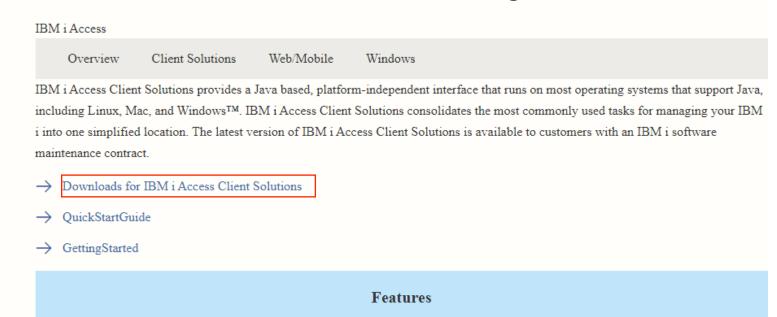




### Download IBM i PASE ODBC Driver

 IBM i Access Client Solutions Site: <a href="https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/ibm-i-access-client-solutions">https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/ibm-i-access-client-solutions</a>

\*\*Note: You will need an IBM account to log in and download





### Download IBM i PASE ODBC Driver

how 10 v entries			Search:
Description	Filename	Size	Action
IBM i Access Client Solutions	IBMiAccess_v1r1.zip	128074995 B	Download ↓
Readme file for 5733-XJ1	Readme.txt	5 KB	Download ↓
Quick Start Guide	QuickStartGuide_en.html	11 KB	Download 🕹
Getting Started	GettingStarted_en.html	110 KB	<u>Download</u> <u>↓</u>
ACS EHLLAPI - Version 8.19.338	acshllapi.exe	1120093 B	<u>Download</u> <u>↓</u>
ACS Windows App Pkg English (64bit)	IBMiAccess_v1r1_WindowsAP_English.zip	53311376 B	<u>Download</u> <u>↓</u>
ACS Linux App Pkg	IBMiAccess_v1r1_LinuxAP.zip	20797233 B	Download <u>↓</u>
ACS PASE App Pkg	IBMiAccess_v1r1_PASE_AP.zip	8577229 B	Download <u>↓</u>



## Upload IBM i Access PASE ODBC Driver

- Unzip ibm-iaccess-1.1.0.xx-0.ibmi7.2.ppc64.rpm from IBMiAccess\_v1r1\_PASE\_AP.zip
- Upload ibm-iaccess-1.1.0.xx-0.ibmi7.2.ppc64.rpm to IFS root dir as: /ibm-iaccess-1.1.0.xx-0.ibmi7.2.ppc64.rpm using your favorite file transfer tool.
- Note: "xx" above is file version number in your download. As of May 2020, it was "14".



#### Install IBM i Access PASE ODBC Driver

- Start Qshell (STRQSH), PASE (CALL QP2TERM) or (BEST) ssh terminal session using putty, MobaXterm, Mac Terminal, or other ssh terminal client
- Run command list below to install the IBM i Access ODBC driver
- cd /
  PATH=/QOpenSys/pkgs/bin
  export PATH
  rpm -i ibm-iaccess-1.1.0.xx-0.ibmi7.2.ppc64.rpm
- Once install has completed you will be notified on the command line.



#### Check for Default ODBC Data Source

- From your terminal (again, SSH is best)
- Run command list below to list the IBM i Access ODBC driver defaults from odbc.ini
- cd /QOpenSys/etc cat odbc.ini
- Cat command displays contents of odbc.ini



#### Check for Default ODBC Data Source

- Contents of default odbc.ini file
- You should be able to connect to other IBM i systems
- Change localhost to other system host name or IP address
- Use Password

```
### IBM provided DSN - do not remove this line ###

[*LOCAL]

Description = Default IBM i local database

Driver = IBM i Access ODBC Driver

System = localhost

UserID = *CURRENT

### Start of DSN customization

### End of DSN customization

### IBM provided DSN - do not remove this line ###
```



#### Potential PTFs Needed

- PTF needed for \*CURRENT user to work without password
  - 7.2: SI68113
  - 7.3: SI69058
  - 7.4: (none needed; comes with the operating system)
- \*CURRENT only works on localhost system (same partition as your code)





## isql command line

- Type isql and press Enter
- Shows command line options
- Option details:
  - https:// www.mankier.com /1/isql

```
bash-4.4$ isql
unixODBC - isql
     isql DSN [UID [PWD]] [options]
Options
           batch.(no prompting etc)
            delimit columns with x
 -dx
 -x0xXX
            delimit columns with XX, where
            x is in hex, ie 0x09 is tab
           wrap results in an HTML table
           column names on first row.
            (only used when -d)
            limit column display width to n
            set locale to x
           wrap char fields in dquotes
           Use ODBC 3 calls
           Use new line processing
           Use SQLExecDirect not Prepare
           Use SQLDriverConnect
           Length of col display (def:300)
 --version version
Commands
help - list tables
help table - list columns in table
help help - list all help options
Examples
     isql WebDB MyID MyPWD -w < My.sql
```



## Connecting to DB2 via ODBC

Type: isql \*LOCAL –v and press Enter

```
-bash-4.4$ isql *LOCAL -v

| Connected!
| sql-statement
| help [tablename]
| quit
|
```



# Running a Query Test

- Type: select \* from qiws.qcustcdt and press Enter
- When done, type quit and press Enter to exit isql

CUSNUM	LSTNAM	INIT	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIPCOD	CDTLMT	CHGCOD	BALDUE	CDTDUE
938472	Henning2	G K	4859 Elm Ave	Dallas	TX	75217	5000	3	37.00	1234.56
839283	Jones	B D	21B NW 135 St	Clay	NY	13041	400	1 [	100.00	0
392859	Vine	SS	P0 Box 79	Broton	VT j	5046	700	1 [	439.00	0
938485	Johnson	JA	3 Alpine Way	Helen	GA	30545	9999	2	3987.50	33.50
397267	Tyron	WE	13 Myrtle Dr	Hector	NY	14841	1000	1 [	0	0
389572	Stevens	KL	208 Snow Pass	Denver	CO	80226	400	1 [	58.75	1.50
846283	Alison	JS	787 Lake Dr	Isle	MN	56342	5000	3	10.00	0
475938	Doe	JW	59 Archer Rd	Sutter	CA	95685	700	2	250.00	100.00
693829	Thomas	AN	3 Dove Circle	Casper	WY	82609	9999	2	0	0
593029	Williams	E D	485 SE 2 Ave	Dallas	TX	75218	200	1 [	25.00	0
192837	Lee	FL	5963 Oak St	Hector	NY	14841	700	2	489.50	.50
583990	Abraham	ΜT	392 Mill St	Isle	MN	56342	9999	3	500.00	0



#### Your PHP on ODBC

```
<?php
$connection = odbc_connect('*LOCAL', '', '');
$stmt = odbc_exec($connection, 'select * from QIWS.QCUSTCDT');
while ($row = odbc_fetch_array($stmt)) {
    print_r($row);
}</pre>
```



### It works!

```
<?php
$connection =
odbc_connect('*LOCAL', '', '');
$stmt = odbc_exec($connection,
'select * from
QIWS.QCUSTCDT');
while ($row =
odbc_fetch_array($stmt)) {
    print_r($row);
}</pre>
```

```
Array
    [CUSNUM] => 938472
    [LSTNAM] => Henning
    [INIT] => G K
    [STREET] => 4859 Elm Ave
    [CITY] => Dallas
    [STATE] => TX
    [ZIPCOD] => 75217
    [CDTLMT] => 5000
    [CHGCOD] => 3
    [BALDUE] => 37.00
    [CDTDUE] => 0
Array
    [CUSNUM] => 839283
    [LSTNAM] => Jones
    [INIT] => B D
    [STREET] => 21B NW 135 St
    [CITY] => Clay
    [STATE] => NY
    [ZIPCOD] => 13041
    [CDTLMT] => 400
```





## Configure ODBC Prestart Jobs

- Prestart jobs named QZDASOINIT run in QUSRWRK
- Check out current configuration:
  - DSPSBSD SBSD(qusrwrk)
  - Then choose 10, Prestart job entries
  - Type 5 next to QZDASOINIT
- Defaults are very low.
  - Initial jobs = 1, threshold = 1, adljobs = 2
  - Configure as needed:

```
CHGPJE SBSD (QSYS/QUSRWRK) PGM (QSYS/QZDASOINIT)
STRJOBS (*YES) INLJOBS (xx) THRESHOLD (xx)
ADLJOBS (xx)
```



## Display Prestart Job Usage Statistics

- DSPACTPJ SBS(QSYSWRK) PGM(QSQSRVR) [ibm\_db2]
- DSPACTPJ SBS(QUSRWRK) PGM(QZDASOINIT) [odbc]

```
Prestart jobs:
  29
  Average number . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
                                              21.9
                                              49
  Prestart jobs in use:
  27
                                              18.4
  Average number . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
                                              46
Program start requests:
 Current number waiting . . . . . . . . . . . .
 Average number waiting . . . . . . . . . . . .
                                           . 0
 Peak number waiting . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
 Average wait time . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
                                          00:00:00.0
                                          100299
 Number accepted . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
 Number rejected . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .
                                          0
```





## Editors, editors, editors! And more!

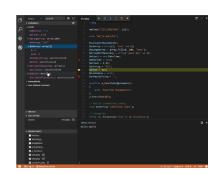
- Eclipse-based IDEs
  - NetBeans
    - https://netbeans.org
  - Zend Studio
    - https://store.zend.com/zend-studio-for-ibm-i-basic
    - (formerly free for IBM i, now paid)
- Microsoft Visual Studio and VSCode
  - https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/languages/php
  - TIP: Install SSH plugin (https://code.visualstudio.com/docs/remote/ssh)
- PHPStorm (https://www.jetbrains.com/phpstorm)
  - Paid product for power users (Seiden developers' fave)



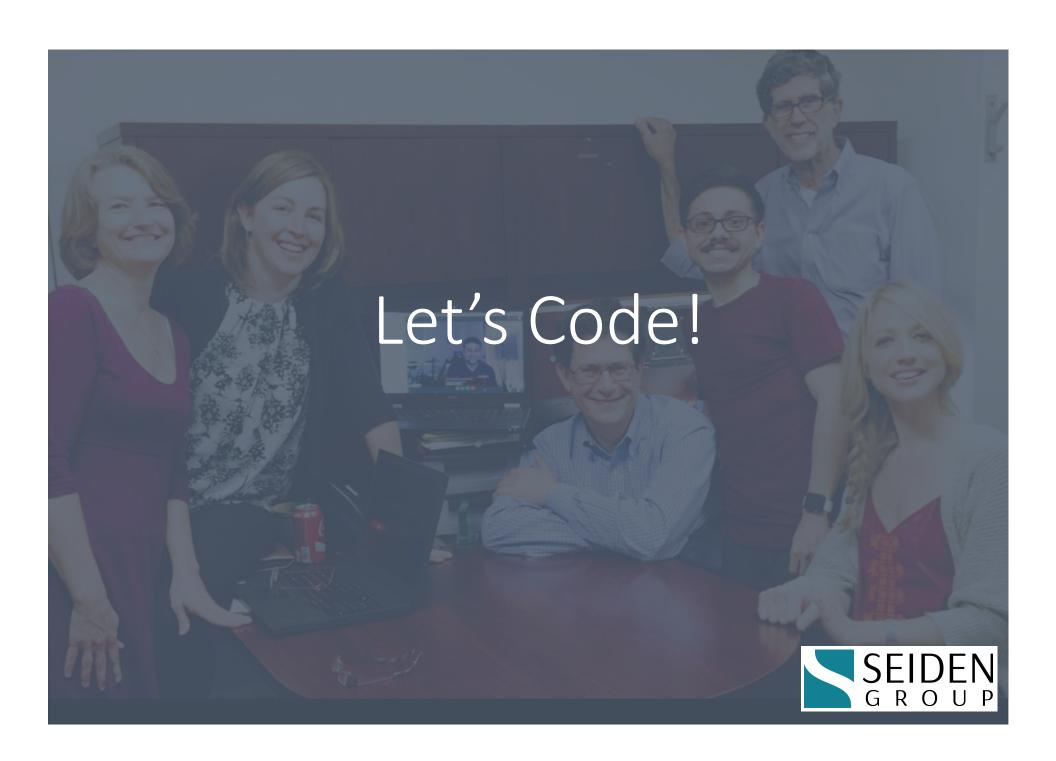


## Interactive debugging with PHP

- Var\_dump() and error\_log() are great but limited
- Xdebug
  - https://xdebug.org/
  - Industry-standard famous PHP extension
  - Single-step debugger, including remote debugging (on the IBM i), stack traces, and more



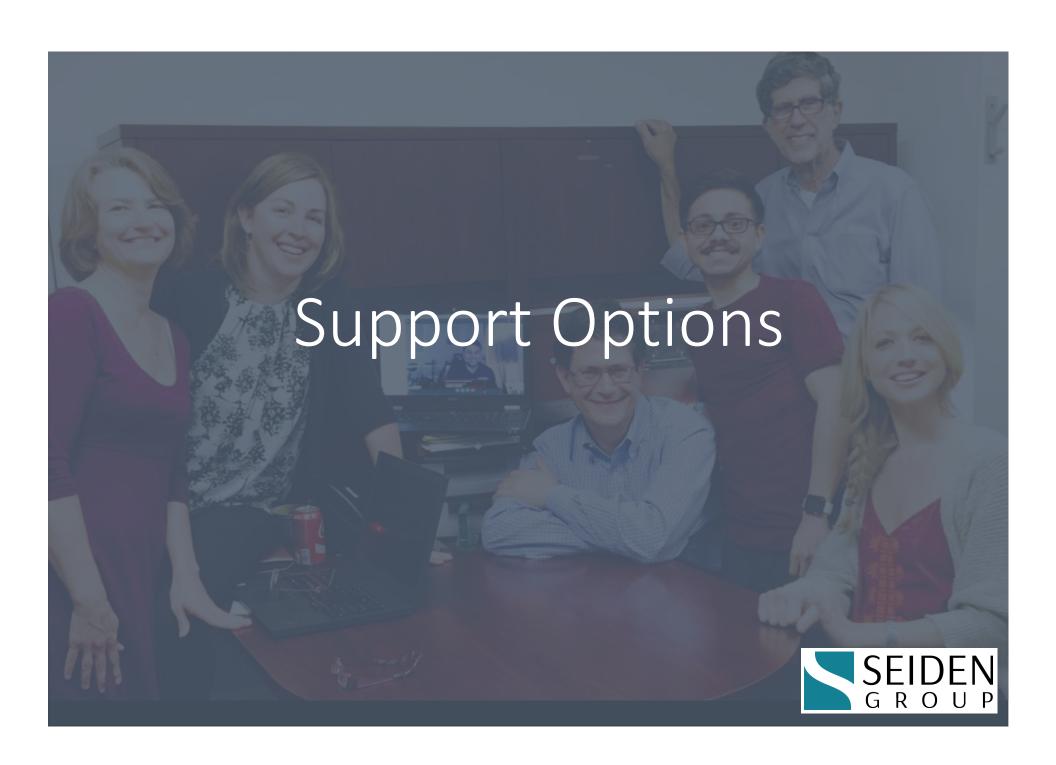
- IDE debuggers
  - Nearly IDEs have debugging. Examples:
    - VSCode: https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/items? itemName=felixfbecker.php-debug
    - PHPStorm with xdebug: https://www.jetbrains.com/help/phpstorm/debugging-with-phpstorm-ultimate-guide.html
    - Visual Studio PHP Tools



## Live coding session with Richard

See where our imaginations take us!





# How is RPM PHP Supported?

- Community support options
  - Get PHP version updates from Community PHP repository
    - Ryver (https://ibmioss.ryver.com)
    - IBMiOSS midrange.com list (https://archive.midrange.com/opensource)
- Paid support options (including break/fix)
  - Perforce (Zend)
    - Break/fix + extras + tools
  - Seiden
    - Migration help + break/fix + tools + repo of extensions (e.g. ibm\_db2)
  - IBM (TSS)
    - Break/fix
  - There may be others—Let us know



## Contact | Stay in Touch

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