Laravel

Summary:

Developed in June 11, 2011 by Taylor Otwell, Laravel was created for MVC applications or modle view controler. Laravel is a server side PHP framwork. In 2014, Larvel won the award for best PHP framwork. It is fairley easy to use, maybe except Laravel 4, and makes PHP easier as well. Larvel makes certain development challenges easier to code and allows the devloper to implement their ideas faster. Currently Laravel has 4 different products. The most recent one is Laravel 4, created in May of 2013. Before that was Laravel 3, created a little be longer than a year before its predicesor in Febuarary, 2012. The last two versons were Larvel 2, deveolped in November of 201; and the very first version, Laravel 1, mentioned above, was developed in June 11, 2011. As Laravel progressed in its development life, it gained new and exciting features along the way. Some features offered in Laravel 1: MySQL, Eloquent, caching, built in authentication, localization, and veiw totals. Most of these features on itself made Laravel a very strong competator for the best PHP framework in town. With all these great features Laravel was still not a MVC because it did not offer controllers to modify data. Laravel 2 was realeased about half a year after the first version. Laravel 2 is when Laravel became a MVC framework because controllers were added. The one thing to point out that was bad about the release of Laravel 2 was their decision to remove third party modules support. In Laravel 3 they decided to listen to the community and re-release thrid party modules. Another big focus when the development of Laravel 3 was happening was unit testing. Also, their release of their website http://laravel.com was done when Laravel 3 was released. At its current state, Laravel 4 was completely refactored from its previous versions. Some advanced features incorperated in this current version: Queues, Mail, Facades, and DB Seeding or Data Base Seeding. Laravel was designed to be an extension of PHP that gives developers powerfull tools to design their applications.

How to get Laravel on your computer:
1. You will need Composer which is able to download on Linux, OSX and Windows.
2. Follow the instalation guide here for Laravel.

Pros:
- Its free
- Works well with MySQL, Porthgres, SQL Server, and SQLite
- Clean elegent Syntax
- Great documentation at http://laravel.com/docs
- Built in Authentication (a lot of other frameworks dont have this feature)

Cons:
- Laravel 4 has a steep learning curve
- You need to know how to use PHP to use Laravel
- Some issues with using Laravel for Linux
- You need PHP 5.3.7 to be able to use Laravel

Websites built with Laravel:
- https://www.accountsportal.com/
- http://laravel.io/forum
- Mrore at http://wiki.laravel.io/Built_with_Laravel

Related Languages:
- Sinatra
- CodeIgniter
- Kohanna
- PHPixie
- Zend Framework
- CakePHP
- Ayoola Framework

My Opinion:
      Laravel looks like a great framework if not one of the best frameworks to use with PHP. With my lack of experience with PHP it is hard to tell if it really is better than other frameworks, but from what I read, people believe it is. I'm still not sure if I will be needing this for my project, but I do believe that I might use it for its built in user authentication.