

## Blog Export: Rasmus' Toys Page, <http://toys.lerdorf.com/>

Monday, April 27, 2009

### Using pecl/oauth to post to Twitter

I have seen a lot of questions about OAuth and specifically how to do OAuth from PHP. We have a new pecl oauth extension written by John Jawed which does a really good job simplifying OAuth.

I added Twitter support to Slowgeek.com the other day and it was extremely painless. The goal was to let users have a way to have Slowgeek send a tweet on their behalf when they have completed a Nike+ run. Here is a simplified description of what I did.

First, I needed to get the user to authorize Slowgeek to tweet on their behalf. This is done by asking Twitter for an access token and secret which will be stored on Slowgeek. This access token and secret will allow us to act on behalf of the user. This is made a bit easier by the fact that Twitter does not expire access tokens at this point, so I didn't need to worry about an access token refresh workflow.

First, a bit of DB groundwork that has nothing to do with OAuth itself. I needed a place to store the access tokens and secrets and relate them to the existing user ids. My Slowgeek user table has a numeric u\_id field for each user, so that is what I am using as my primary key here:

```
CREATE TABLE twitter (  
  u_id int(10) not null,  
  name char(32) default NULL,  
  state smallint default 0,  
  token varchar(64) default NULL,  
  secret varchar(64) default NULL,  
  description varchar(255) default NULL,  
  status varchar(140) default NULL,  
  location varchar(80) default NULL,  
  followers smallint default 0,  
  mtime timestamp default CURRENT_TIMESTAMP on update CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,  
  PRIMARY KEY (u_id)  
) TYPE=MyISAM;
```

And the related DB code using PDO.

So, I now have a mechanism for storing Twitter-related data. Now for the real oauth work. First I registered my application with Twitter to get a consumer key and consumer secret. You do that at [http://twitter.com/oauth\\_clients/new](http://twitter.com/oauth_clients/new).

Because I am updating the status I needed read/write access for this app. Now the PHP code. It will probably be easier to read if you copy and paste it out of the iframe into your favourite editor.

The last thing this script did after it had gotten the access token and secret was to call `verify_credentials.json` to get the user's credentials.

That gives us json back which we can decode with `json_decode()`. There is some interesting stuff in your Twitter record. Here is mine from a few minutes ago:

## Blog Export: Rasmus' Toys Page, <http://toys.lerdorf.com/>

stdClass Object

```
(
  [favourites_count] => 0
  [profile_text_color] => 666666
  [description] => Breaking the Web
  [screen_name] => rasmus
  [utc_offset] => -28800
  [profile_background_image_url] => http://static.twitter.com/images/themes/theme9/bg.gif
  [profile_link_color] => 2FC2EF
  [following] =>
  [profile_sidebar_fill_color] => 252429
  [url] =>
  [name] => Rasmus Lerdorf
  [time_zone] => Pacific Time (US & Canada)
  [protected] =>
  [status] => stdClass Object
  (
    [truncated] =>
    [in_reply_to_status_id] => 1642930101
    [text] => @DonMacAskill Floating point values are approximations in all computer languages #php #broken
    [in_reply_to_user_id] => 813491
    [favorited] =>
    [in_reply_to_screen_name] => DonMacAskill
    [id] => 1643107564
    [source] => Nambu
    [created_at] => Tue Apr 28 21:57:56 +0000 2009
  )

  [profile_sidebar_border_color] => 181A1E
  [notifications] =>
  [profile_background_tile] =>
  [followers_count] => 2112
  [friends_count] => 71
  [profile_background_color] => 1A1B1F
  [profile_image_url] => http://s3.amazonaws.com/twitter_production/profile_images/52489510/rl_normal.jpg
  [location] => Sunnyvale, California
  [id] => 928961
  [statuses_count] => 577
  [created_at] => Sun Mar 11 15:39:19 +0000 2007
)
```

The `$debug = $oauth->getLastResponseInfo();` after an oauth call will always give you info about the last call. For this verify\_credentials call the LastResponseInfo is (with the actual token and secret deleted):

```
[u_id] => 1823955881
[name] => rasmus
[state] => 2
[token] => XXX
[secret] => XXX
[description] => Breaking the Web
[status] => @cdamian I don't like things strapped to my chest. My brain is a perfectly good built-in heart rate monitor.
[location] => Sunnyvale, California
[followers] => 2080
[utype] =>
[mtime] => 2009-04-26 09:07:08
```

And now you can actually send a tweet. This assumes the filename is 'twitter.php'. This shows how to POST a tweet to

## Blog Export: Rasmus' Toys Page, <http://toys.lerdorf.com/>

twitter. Two things to note here. Because Twitter requires a status update to be sent as a POST request, we have to use OAUTH\_AUTH\_TYPE\_FORM when we instantiate the oauth object here. And second, I have a CSRF-preventing crumb in the POST data. The idea here is to tie the POST body to the current user's login cookie so the bad guys can't spoof a form post to our twitter.php script.

I am hoping the code is for the most part self-explaining. You can also have a look at the great pecl/oauth examples.

Posted by Rasmus in PHP at 15:20

What's necessary to run this scripts? Can you post a functional example with all necessary archives, please?

Thanks.

Anonymous on Dec 1 2009, 01:23

Hi, this is a great library to use oauth support. I have a question how i can use it in windows, the problem is that i doesn't find a dll to use it, i found a dll but not match with mi php api version. Thanks

Anonymous on Dec 28 2009, 19:04

Hi,

This was very helpful thanks. Especially seeing how to make it POST.

I am currently attempting to use the pecl OAuth extension to post to Blogger.

Using the previous "AuthSub" methods to create a new blog post I use the code I've shared here :

<http://pastie.org/768253>

I'm losing my hair trying to figure out how to do this using the OAuth Pecl 'fetch' function.

As you can see from the AuthSub method, I need to send some xhtml in the body called \$entry

I've tried using this in the '\$args' using a similar method that you have provided above, but cannot seem to get it to work.

Any ideas? Anyone? Thanks! :)

Anonymous on Jan 5 2010, 16:46

@Carlos

You need to download the package here:

<http://pecl.php.net/package/oauth>

And depending on your platform, follow the info here:

<http://us3.php.net/manual/en/book.oauth.php>

Anonymous on Jan 5 2010, 16:48

Thanks for this-- very helpful.

One thing I encountered is that I can't pass a hash of variables to fetch() -- the signature does not verify on the server side in that case.

So where you do this:

```
$oauth->fetch( 'http://twitter.com/statuses/update.json', $args );
```

I have to do this:

```
$oauth->fetch( 'http://twitter.com/statuses/update.json/?' . http_build_query($args) );
```

And it works.

I should note that I am using POST, not GET. I haven't experimented to see if this is the issue.

Just mentioning this in case anyone has ideas for what might be going wrong. Thankfully I have a working solution though.

Anonymous on Jan 31 2010, 13:57

Thanks for this. FYI, I found the use of sleep() invaluable when posting multiple items at once to Twitter. Sleeping at least 5 seconds between posts seemed to keep the OAuth exception from being triggered.

Anonymous on May 19 2010, 14:58

## Blog Export: Rasmus' Toys Page, <http://toys.lerdorf.com/>

This is an awesome post! As an aside, I find your code to be very clear.  
Anonymous on May 28 2010, 12:44

I'm wondering how can I specify the callback URL using this extension. I have installations like app1.domain.com, app2.domain.com and so on, and because of this the callback URL can't be the one and only given at twitter.com. I read that using LinqToTwitter is possible, but that's .NET, of course:

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1237189/trying-to-oauth-to-twitter-and-return-back-to-http-localhostport>

Thanks :)  
Anonymous on Jan 24 2011, 12:11

Rasmus, why not release a new oauth-1.0.0 based php-oauth.dll&#65311;  
We find that it's more than one year passed since you released the php\_oauth-0.99.9 at <http://downloads.php.net/pierre/> .  
Anonymous on Jan 27 2011, 20:36

Sorry, I don't do Windows of any sort. In fact I don't build binaries for any platform. The source is there, just compile it.  
Anonymous on Jan 27 2011, 20:45

Hi,  
I ran into a small problem with the sending of tweets. I found that when sending tweets the \$oauth->fetch command needs to have the 3rd parameter (method) set to "POST" otherwise I got access denied errors

:-Dave  
Anonymous on Aug 19 2011, 04:35