Documentation Tool: phpDocumentor

Introduction

1. What is phpDocumentor?

phpDocumentor is an open-source documentation generator written in PHP. It automatically parses PHP source code and produces readable API and source code documentation, based on PHPDoc-formatted comments and the structure of the source code itself. It supports documentation of both object-oriented and procedural code. phpDocumentor runs at the command line to create documentation in HTML format. It has support for linking between documentation, incorporating user level documents like tutorials, and creation of highlighted source code with cross referencing to PHP general documentation.

2. Documentation

Click here.

Installation & Usage

3. How to install phpDocumentor?

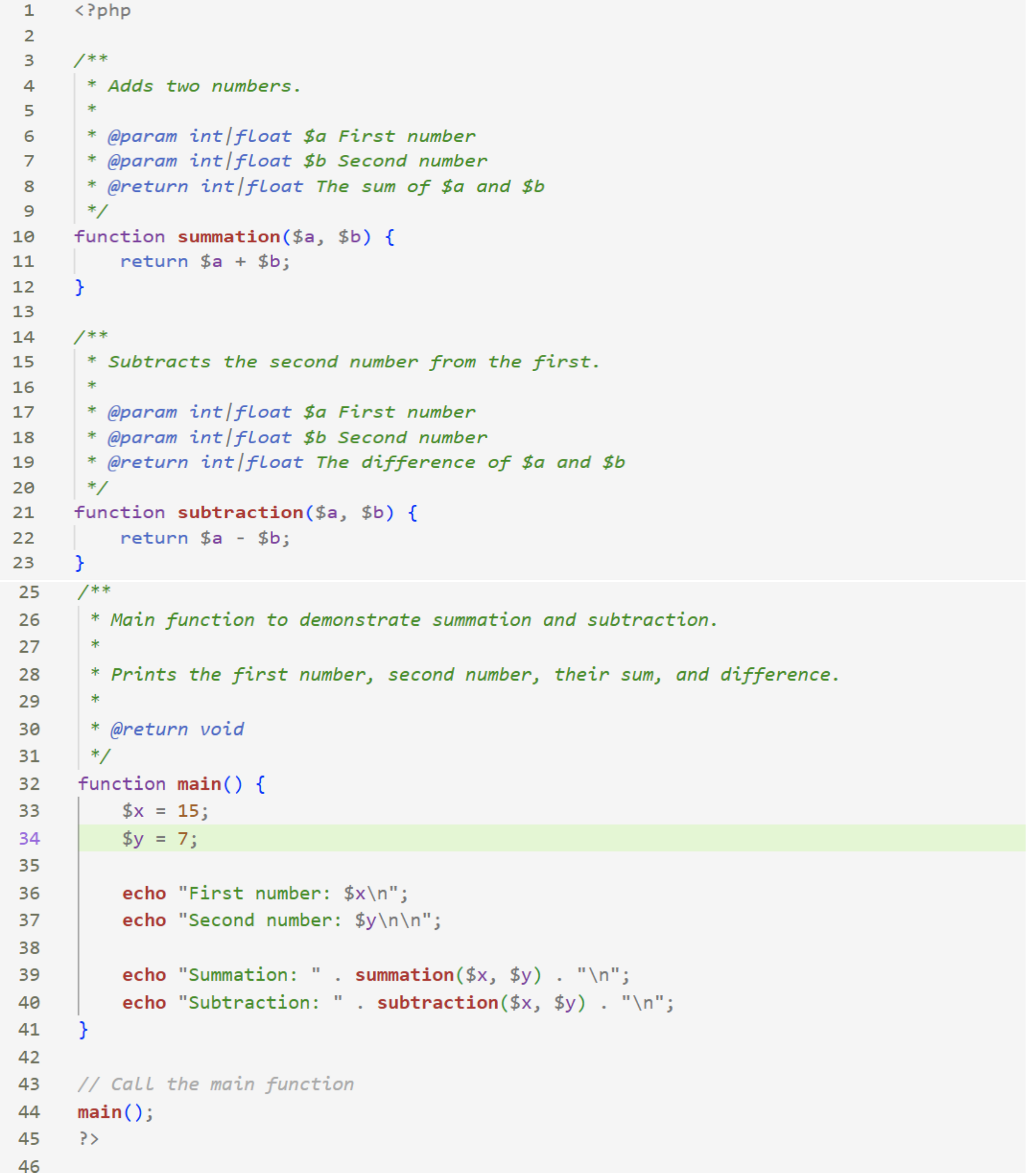
Click here.

4. How to make phpDocumentor documentation?

Click here.

5. Source Code:

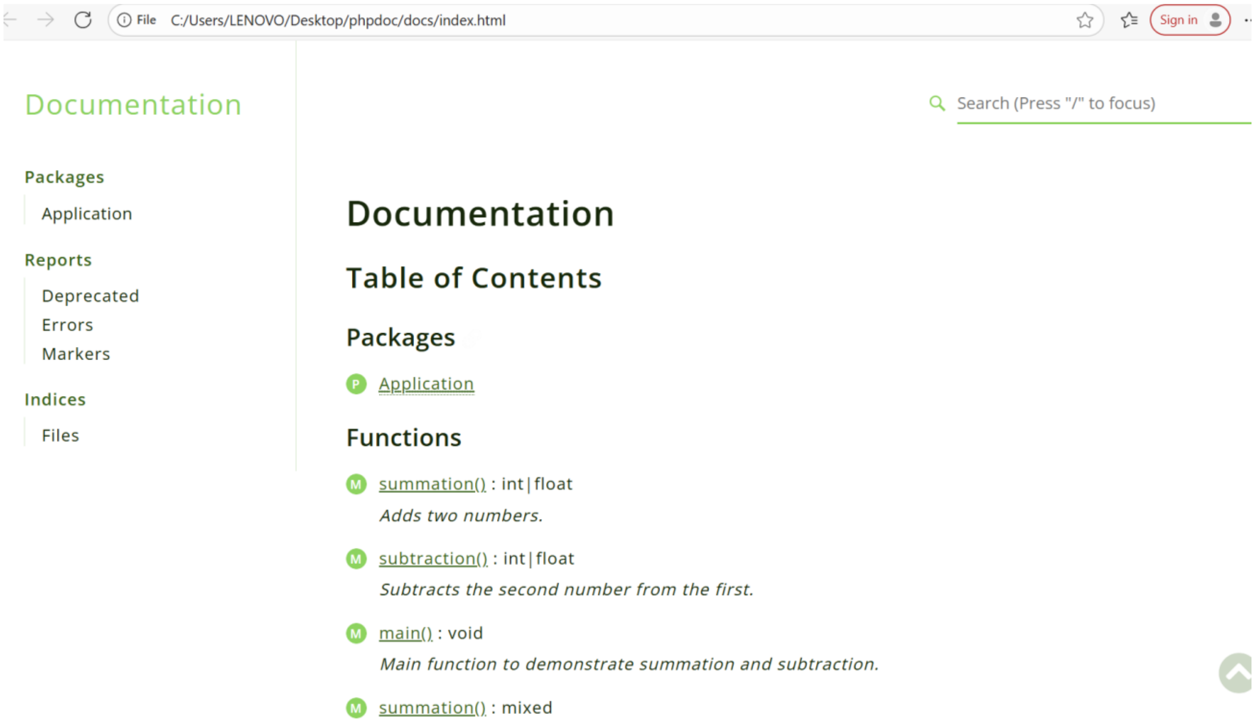
Here are the source codes of three php files the we’ve created: main, summation and subtraction.



```php
<?php

/**
 * Adds two numbers.
 *
 * @param int|float $a First number
 * @param int|float $b Second number
 * @return int|float The sum of $a and $b
 */
function summation($a, $b) {
    return $a + $b;
}

/**
 * Subtracts the second number from the first.
 *
 * @param int|float $a First number
 * @param int|float $b Second number
 * @return int|float The difference of $a and $b
 */
function subtraction($a, $b) {
    return $a - $b;
}
/**
 * Main function to demonstrate summation and subtraction.
 *
 * Prints the first number, second number, their sum, and difference.
 *
 * @return void
 */
function main() {
    $x = 15;
    $y = 7;

    echo "First number: $x\n";
    echo "Second number: $y\n\n";

    echo "Summation: " . summation($x, $y) . "\n";
    echo "Subtraction: " . subtraction($x, $y) . "\n";
}

// Call the main function
main();
?>

```

6. Produced documentation

Here are the documentation created for those php files.



Documentation

Table of Contents

Packages

P Application

Functions

M summation() : int|float

Adds two numbers.

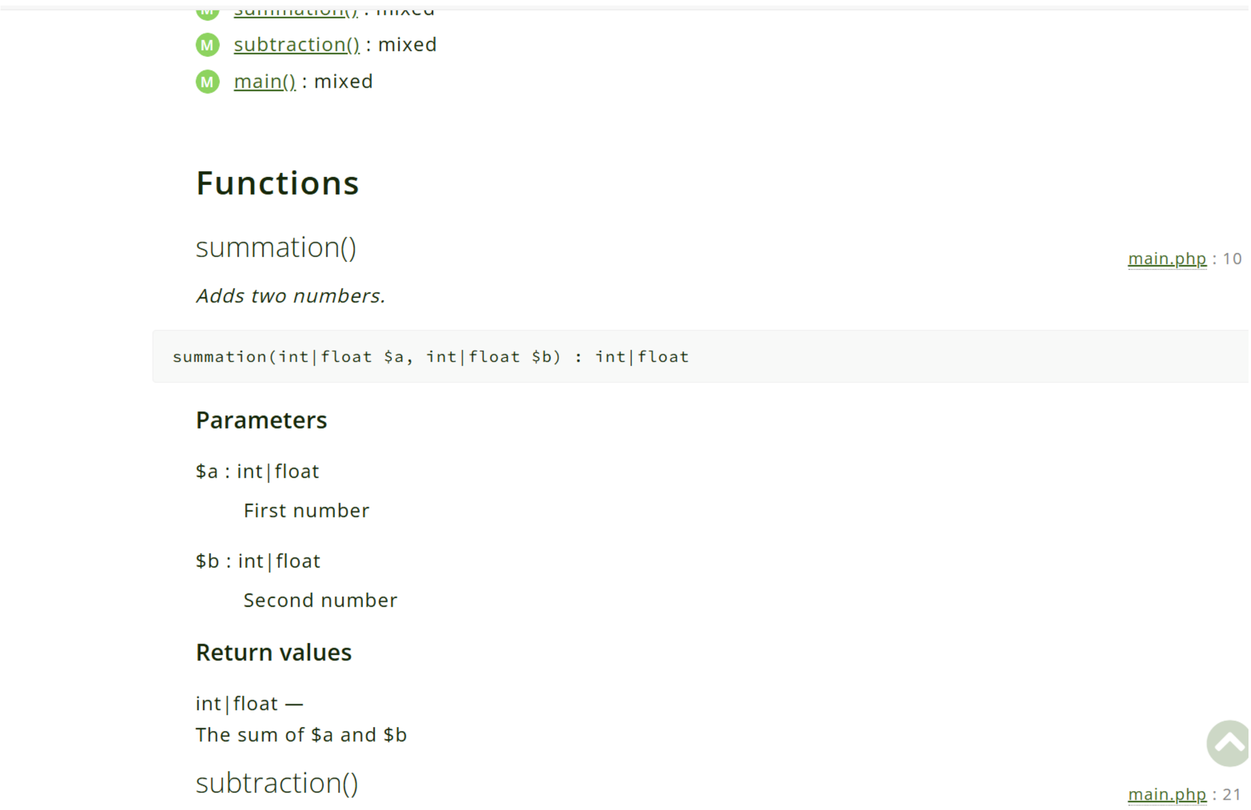
M subtraction() : int|float

Subtracts the second number from the first.

M main() : void

Main function to demonstrate summation and subtraction.

M summation() : mixed



- M summation() : mixed
- M subtraction() : mixed
- M main() : mixed

Functions

summation()

main.php : 10

Adds two numbers.

```
summation(int|float $a, int|float $b) : int|float
```

Parameters

$a : int|float

First number

$b : int|float

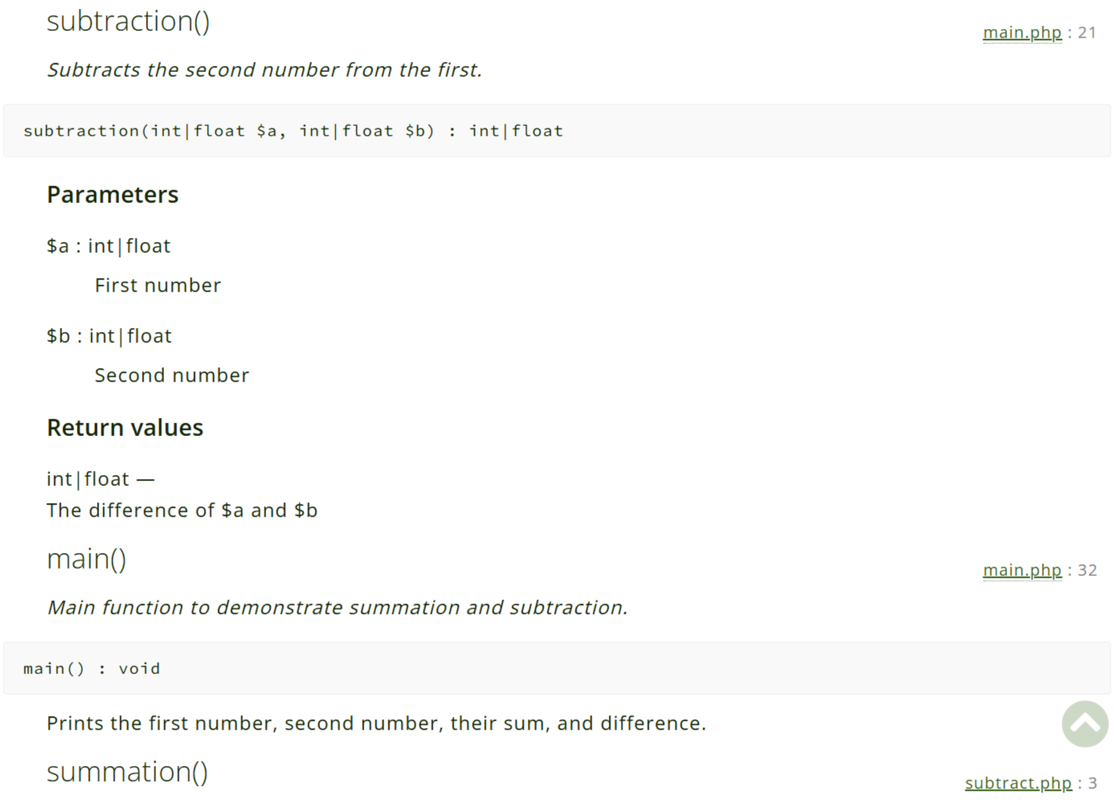
Second number

Return values

int|float —
The sum of $a and $b

subtraction()

main.php : 21



subtraction()

main.php : 21

Subtracts the second number from the first.

```
subtraction(int|float $a, int|float $b) : int|float
```

Parameters

$a : int|float

First number

$b : int|float

Second number

Return values

int|float —
The difference of $a and $b

main()

main.php : 32

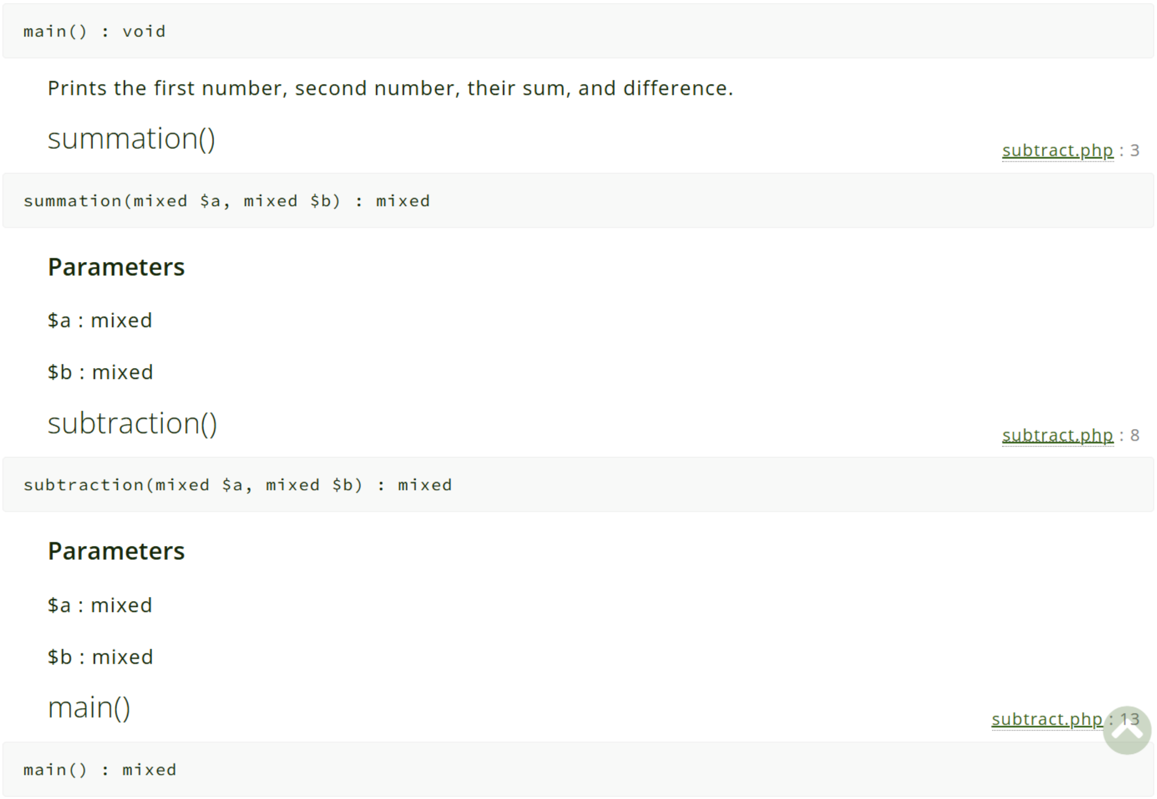
Main function to demonstrate summation and subtraction.

```
main() : void
```

Prints the first number, second number, their sum, and difference.

summation()

subtract.php : 3



```
main() : void
```

Prints the first number, second number, their sum, and difference.

summation()

subtract.php : 3

```
summation(mixed $a, mixed $b) : mixed
```

Parameters

$a : mixed

$b : mixed

subtraction()

subtract.php : 8

```
subtraction(mixed $a, mixed $b) : mixed
```

Parameters

$a : mixed

$b : mixed

main()

subtract.php : 13

```
main() : mixed
```

Pros & Cons of phpDocumentor

1. Why phpDocumentor?

- Standardized output following PHPDoc conventions.
- Automatically parses functions, classes, parameters, and comments.
- Supports multiple output formats (HTML, PDF, custom templates).
- Works with namespaces and object-oriented code.
- Cross-platform: Windows, Linux, macOS.
- Can be integrated into CI/CD pipelines for automatic documentation.

- Encourages clean and well-documented code.
- Open source and free to use.

2. Why not phpDocumentor?

- Requires proper PHPDoc comments; missing comments lead to sparse docs.
- May show deprecation warnings with newer PHP versions.
- Can be slow on very large projects.
- Limited styling; customizing HTML output requires learning templates.
- Slight learning curve for beginners to understand PHPDoc syntax.

Despite these limitations, phpDocumentor remains a powerful and widely used documentation tool in the software development community.