PHP FUNDAMENTALS

PHP is a well-known and used programming language that allows us to develop websites focusing on the server-side scripting and also can be embedded to HTML.

LANGUAGE REFERENCE (from PHP documentation)

* Basic Syntax
  + PHP Tags
* In PHP, whenever file is parsed, it always looks for the open and close tags which are <?php for opening tag and ?> for closing tag that starts PHP in executing the code between them. PHP allows this manner of parsing to embed all kinds of documents as all other outside the open and close tags is ignored by the PHP parser.

Sample code:

<?php

echo “PHP opening and closing tags”;

?>

* + Escaping from HTML
* All other codes outside the open and close tags will be ignored by PHP. PHP allowed this to embed in the HTML documents, one example is creating templates.

Sample code:

<p>This part of code is ignored by PHP.</p>  
<?php echo 'While this is going to be parsed.'; ?>  
<p>This will be also ignored by PHP.</p>

* Other examples are (1) Escape using the conditions and (2) Using the PHP and close tags. Samples of the two are the following respectively.

<?php if ($expression == true): ?>  
<?php else: ?>  
<?php endif; ?>

and

1.  <?php echo 'You can use this tag if the PHP code will served in XML or XHTML documents.; ?>  
  
2   <?php echo 'You can use this tag known as the “short echo tag”. It is enabled in PHP 5.4.0 or later versions of PHP.' ?>.  
  
3.  <? echo 'You can use this code if it is within the short tags, but will only work if the “short open tag” Is enabled.'; ?>  
  
4.  <script language="php">  
        echo 'You can also use this tag in processing instructions.';  
    </script>

    5.  <% echo 'You can also use ASP-style tags optionally'; %>  
    All the codes that are within this tag <%= $variable; %> is a shortcut for this code <% echo $variable; %>

* + Instruction Separation
* Like in other programming languages such as C and Perl, PHP also requires all the instructions that all of the statement will end with semicolon. The closing tag of a PHP block will automatically imply a semicolon, and you are no longer to input another semicolon to terminate the last line of the PHP code. The closing tag will include the immediately trailing new line of there is any.

Sample code:

<?php echo 'This is the first example; ?>  
  
<?php echo 'This is the second example' ?>  
  
<?php echo 'This is the third example that omits the last closing tag.';

* + Comments
* PHP styles for comments support C, C++, and Perl-style comment.
* The one-line comment, multi-line line comment and another one-line comment that just like a shell-style or a Perl-style comment.

Sample code:

<?php  
    echo 'Examples for different styles of comment in PHP.';

// This is a one-line c++ style comment  
    /\* This is a multi-line comment  
       Part of multi0line comment\*/  
    echo 'This is another example of comment style';  
    echo 'Last example'; # This is a one-line shell-style comment  
?>