

PHP - File Uploading

Advertisements

⬅ Previous Page

Next Page ➡

A PHP script can be used with a HTML form to allow users to upload files to the server. Initially files are uploaded into a temporary directory and then relocated to a target destination by a PHP script.

Information in the **phpinfo.php** page describes the temporary directory that is used for file uploads as **upload_tmp_dir** and the maximum permitted size of files that can be uploaded is stated as **upload_max_filesize**. These parameters are set into PHP configuration file **php.ini**

The process of uploading a file follows these steps –

- The user opens the page containing a HTML form featuring a text field, a browse button and a submit button.
- The user clicks the browse button and selects a file to upload from the local PC.
- The full path to the selected file appears in the text field then the user clicks the submit button.
- The selected file is sent to the temporary directory on the server.
- The PHP script that was specified as the form handler in the form's action attribute checks that the file has arrived and then copies the file into an intended directory.
- The PHP script confirms the success to the user.

As usual when writing files it is necessary for both temporary and final locations to have permissions set that enable file writing. If either is set to be read-only then process will fail.

An uploaded file could be a text file or image file or any document.

Creating an upload form

The following HTML code below creates an uploader form. This form is having method attribute set to **post** and enctype attribute is set to **multipart/form-data**

```
<?php
if(isset($_FILES['image'])){
```

🔗 Live Demo

```

$errors= array();
$file_name = $_FILES['image']['name'];
$file_size =$_FILES['image']['size'];
$file_tmp =$_FILES['image']['tmp_name'];
$file_type=$_FILES['image']['type'];
$file_ext=strtolower(end(explode('.',$_FILES['image']['name'])));

$expensions= array("jpeg","jpg","png");

if(in_array($file_ext,$expensions)=== false){
    $errors[]="extension not allowed, please choose a JPEG or PNG file.";
}

if($file_size > 2097152){
    $errors[]='File size must be excately 2 MB';
}

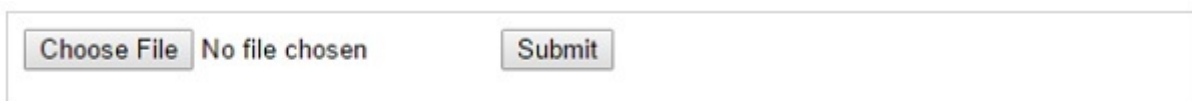
if(empty($errors)==true){
    move_uploaded_file($file_tmp,"images/".$file_name);
    echo "Success";
}else{
    print_r($errors);
}
}
?>
<html>
<body>

<form action="" method="POST" enctype="multipart/form-data">
    <input type="file" name="image" />
    <input type="submit"/>
</form>

</body>
</html>

```

It will produce the following result –



Creating an upload script

There is one global PHP variable called **\$_FILES**. This variable is an associate double dimension array and keeps all the information related to uploaded file. So if the value assigned to the input's name attribute in uploading form was **file**, then PHP would create following five variables –

- ▣ **\$_FILES['file']['tmp_name']** – the uploaded file in the temporary directory on the web server.
- ▣ **\$_FILES['file']['name']** – the actual name of the uploaded file.
- ▣ **\$_FILES['file']['size']** – the size in bytes of the uploaded file.
- ▣ **\$_FILES['file']['type']** – the MIME type of the uploaded file.
- ▣ **\$_FILES['file']['error']** – the error code associated with this file upload.

Example

Below example should allow upload images and gives back result as uploaded file information.

[Live Demo](#)

```
<?php
if(isset($_FILES['image'])){
    $errors= array();
    $file_name = $_FILES['image']['name'];
    $file_size = $_FILES['image']['size'];
    $file_tmp = $_FILES['image']['tmp_name'];
    $file_type = $_FILES['image']['type'];
    $file_ext=strtolower(end(explode('.',$_FILES['image']['name'])));

    $expensions= array("jpeg","jpg","png");

    if(in_array($file_ext,$expensions)=== false){
        $errors[]="extension not allowed, please choose a JPEG or PNG file.";
    }

    if($file_size > 2097152) {
        $errors[]='File size must be excately 2 MB';
    }

    if(empty($errors)==true) {
        move_uploaded_file($file_tmp,"images/".$file_name);
        echo "Success";
    }else{
        print_r($errors);
    }
}
?>
<html>
<body>

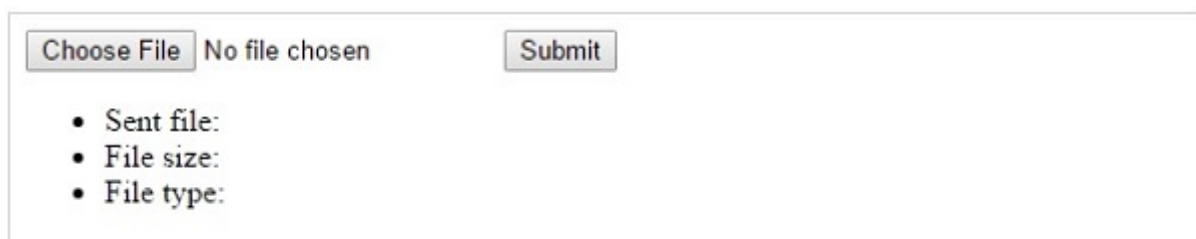
<form action = "" method = "POST" enctype = "multipart/form-data">
    <input type = "file" name = "image" />
    <input type = "submit"/>

    <ul>
        <li>Sent file: <?php echo $_FILES['image']['name']; ?>
        <li>File size: <?php echo $_FILES['image']['size']; ?>
        <li>File type: <?php echo $_FILES['image']['type'] ?>
    </ul>

</form>

</body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following result –



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a file upload form. The form has a 'Choose File' button, a text input showing 'No file chosen', and a 'Submit' button. Below the form, there is a list of results:

- Sent file:
- File size:
- File type: