File Inclusion

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PHP File Inclusion Method

You can include the content of a PHP file into another PHP file before the server executes it. There are two PHP functions which can be used to included one PHP file into another PHP file.

- The include() Function
- The require() Function

Assume you want to create a common header for your website. Then create a file header.php with the following content.

```
<a href="http://www.example.com/index.htm">Home</a> -
<a href="http://www.example.com/ebxml">Java</a> -
<a href="http://www.example.com/ajax">R</a> -
<a href="http://www.example.com/perl">Ruby</a> <br />
```

Now create as many pages as you like and include this file to create header.

```
<html>
<body>
<?php include("header.php"); ?>
<p>This is an example to show how to include PHP file!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

- The require() function takes all the text in a specified file and copies it into the file that uses the require function.
- If there is any problem in loading a file then the require() function generates a fatal error and halt the execution of the script.
- There is no difference in require() and include() except they handle error conditions
- It is recommended to use the require() function instead of include(), because scripts should not continue executing if files are missing or misnamed.

By using above example

```
<html>
<body>
<?php include("xxheader.php"); ?>
<p>This is an example to show how to include wrong PHP file!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Output:This is an example to show how to include wrong PHP file

This time file execution halts and nothing is displayed.

```
<html>
<body>
<?php require("xxheader.php"); ?>
<p>This is an example to show how to include wrong PHP file!</p
</body>
</html>
```