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# PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor)

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PHP is a general-purpose server-side scripting language that is especially suited for dynamic and interactive websites and can be embedded into HTML.

It is the widely-used, free, and efficient alternative to competitors such as Microsoft's [ASP.NET](#). The PHP syntax is very similar to Perl and C. PHP is often used together with [MySQL](#) (DBMS) and [Apache](#) (web server) on various operating systems. A PHP file may contain text, HTML tags, and scripts. Scripts in a PHP file are executed on the server.

## What Is PHP?

- PHP is a server-side scripting language, like ASP.
- PHP scripts are executed on the server.
- PHP supports many databases including MySQL, Informix, Oracle, Sybase, Solid, PostgreSQL, Generic ODBC, etc.
- PHP is an open source software (OSS).
- PHP is free to download and use.

## What Is a PHP File?

- PHP files may contain text, HTML tags, and scripts.
- PHP files are returned to the browser as plain HTML.
- PHP files have a file extension of .php, .php3, or .phtml.

## Why PHP?

- PHP runs on different platforms including Windows, Linux, Unix, etc.
- PHP is compatible with almost all servers including Apache, IIS, etc.

- PHP is free to download from the official PHP resource: [www.php.net](http://www.php.net).
- PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side.

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