

Magic methods in PHP

Introduction

- PHP reserves all function names starting with `__` as magical. It is recommended that you do not use function names with `__` in PHP unless you want some documented magic functionality.

What are magic methods?

- Magic methods in php are **some predefined function by php compiler which executes on some event.**
- PHP functions that start with a double underscore – a “__” – are called magic functions (and/or methods) in PHP. E.g. __call, __get, __set.
- They are functions always **defined *inside* classes**, and are **not** stand-alone (outside of classes) functions.
- __construct is a magic method which will be automatically called on creating object of the classes.
- There are various magic methods in php.

Why no Function Overloading?

- In the context of a loosely-types language like PHP, function-overloading is basically irrelevant because an argument can have any datatype.
- Even now, though PHP has type hinting for objects and arrays, scalars can't be type-hinted (this is being considered at the moment) so it simply isn't practical to have function-overloading.