

56. PHP 5 SimpleXML Functions

56.1. PHP SimpleXML Introduction

The SimpleXML extension provides a simple way of getting an XML element's name and text, if you know the XML document's layout.

SimpleXML converts an XML document into a SimpleXMLElement object.

This object can then be processed, like any other object, with normal property selectors and array iterators.

Tip: Compared to DOM or the Expat parser, SimpleXML just takes a few lines of code to read text data from an element.

56.2. Installation

The SimpleXML extension requires PHP 5.

As of PHP 5, the SimpleXML functions are part of the PHP core. No installation is required to use these functions.

56.3. PHP 5 SimpleXML Functions

Function	Description
__construct()	Creates a new SimpleXMLElement object
addAttribute()	Adds an attribute to the SimpleXML element
addChild()	Adds a child element the SimpleXML element
asXML()	Formats the SimpleXML object's data in XML (version 1.0)
attributes()	Returns attributes and values within an XML tag
children()	Finds the children of a specified node
count()	Counts the children of a specified node
getDocNamespaces()	Returns the namespaces DECLARED in document
getName()	Returns the name of the XML tag referenced by the SimpleXML element
getNamespaces()	Returns the namespaces USED in document
registerXPathNamespace()	Creates a namespace context for the next XPath query
saveXML()	Alias of asXML()
simplexml_import_dom()	Returns a SimpleXMLElement object from a DOM node
simplexml_load_file()	Converts an XML file into a SimpleXMLElement object
simplexml_load_string()	Converts an XML string into a SimpleXMLElement object
xpath()	Runs an XPath query on XML data

56.4. PHP 5 SimpleXML Iteration Functions

Function	Description
current()	Returns the current element
getChildren()	Returns the child elements of the current element
hasChildren()	Checks whether the current element has children
key()	Return the current key
next()	Moves to the next element
rewind()	Rewind to the first element
valid()	Check whether the current element is valid