**PHP tags**

The opening tag of php is <?php and ending tag is ?> which tells the PHP to start and stop executing the code between them. It allows PHP to be embedded in all sort of different document and outside this pair of tags is already ignored by the PHP.

For a pure PHP code, it is preferred that closing tags are placed at the end so that there will be no unwanted effects that will buffer while the program is executing.

<?php   
echo "Hello world";  
  
// ... more code  
  
echo "End";  
  
?>

| **Changelog** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Description** |
| 7.0.0 | The ASP tags <%, %>, <%=, and the script tag <script language="php"> are removed from PHP. |
| 5.4.0 | The tag <?= is always available regardless of the short\_open\_tag ini setting. |

**Escaping from HTML**

Every code outside the PHP tag is ignored which allows PHP to have a mixed content. PHP can be embedded to an HTML file.

<p> Ignored by PHP and displayed by the browser.</p>  
<?php echo 'While this is going to be parsed.'; ?>  
<p> Ignored by PHP and displayed by the browser.</p>

After the PHP interpreter hits the closing tag, it will start outputting the code next to it.

**Advanced escaping using conditions**

<?php if ($expression == true): ?>  
  This will show if the expression is true.  
<?php else: ?>  
  Otherwise this will show.  
<?php endif; ?>

* PHP will skip the block where the condition is not met.

**PHP Opening and Closing Tags**

1.  <?php echo 'if you want to serve PHP code in XHTML or XML documents,  
                use these tags'; ?>  
  
2.  You can use the short echo tag to <?= 'print this string' ?>.  
    It's always enabled in PHP 5.4.0 and later, and is equivalent to  
    <?php echo 'print this string' ?>.  
  
3.  <? echo 'this code is within short tags, but will only work '.  
            'if short\_open\_tag is enabled'; ?>  
  
4.  <script language="php">  
        echo 'some editors (like FrontPage) don\'t  
              like processing instructions within these tags';  
    </script>  
    This syntax is removed in PHP 7.0.0.  
  
5.  <% echo 'You may optionally use ASP-style tags'; %>  
    Code within these tags <%= $variable; %> is a shortcut for this code <% echo $variable; %>  
    Both of these syntaxes are removed in PHP 7.0.0.