PHP: Getting Started

DIVING INTO PHP

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@chwenz

"I've never thought of PHP as more than a simple tool to solve problems."
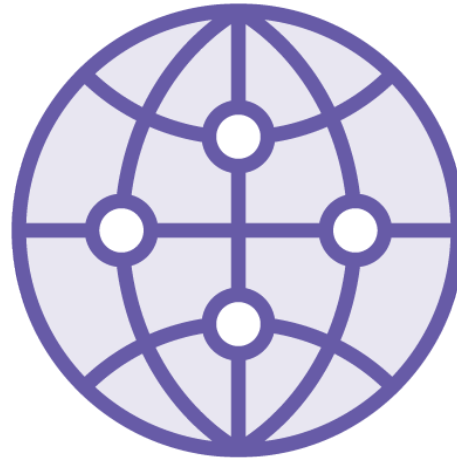
Rasmus Lerdorf

Installing PHP

Source & binaries

https://www.php.net/
downloads.php

https://windows.php.net/

All-in-one

https://apachefriends.org/

Instructions

https://php.net/install

```
;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;

; About php.ini   ;

;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;

; PHP's initialization file, generally called php.ini, is
responsible for

; configuring many of the aspects of PHP's behavior.
```

PHP Configuration
php.ini file

```php
<?php

    $text = 'Hello world!';

    echo $text;

?>
```

◄ Delimits PHP code block

◄ Code within code block

◄ End of PHP code block

Hello World,
PHP Style

```php
<?php

  phpinfo();

?>
```

Documentation

https://php.net/manual

https://php.net/phpinfo

https://php.net/install

https://php.net/install.windows

HTTP Verbs

GET

Data appended to URL

Size limit (~500-2000 characters)

PHP array $_GET

POST

Data in body of HTTP request

No size limit, file uploads possible
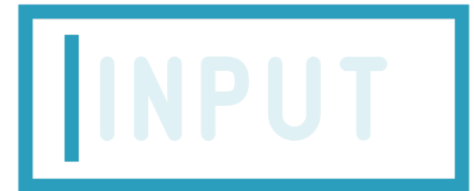
PHP array $_GET (and $_FILES for uploads)

Form Elements

```
<input type="text" name="txt">

<input type="password" name="pwd">

<textarea name="area"></textarea>
```

Form Elements

```html
<input type="checkbox" name="chb" value="on">

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option1">1

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option2">2
```

Form Elements

```
<select name="ddl">

    <option value="item1">one</option>

    <option value="item2">two</option>

    <option value="item3">three</option>

</select>
```
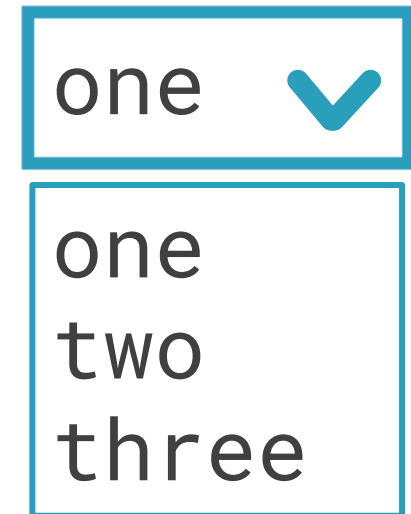
one ⌄

one
two
three

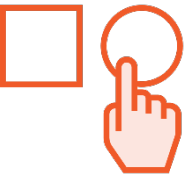# Processing Form Elements

Data is put in $_GET/$_POST arrays

Element´s name is array key

Value is value of text field, button

Special Cases

```
<input type="checkbox" name="chb" value="on">

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option1">1

<input type="radio" name="group" value="option2">2
```

$_GET/$_POST contains value of selected button/checkbox

Special Cases

Selection list

```
<select name="ddl">

    <option value="item1">one</option>

    <option value="item2">two</option>

    <option value="item3">three</option>

</select>
```

one ⌄
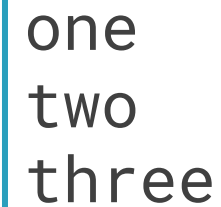
$_GET/$_POST contains value of selected list element

Special Cases

Multi-select list

```
<select multiple name="list[]" size="3">

    <option value="item1">one</option>

    <option value="item2">two</option>

    <option value="item3">three</option>

</select>
```

```
one
two
three
```

$_GET/$_POST contains array with values of all selected list elements

Escaping Form Output

User input is not trustworthy

- Might contains JavaScript -> Cross-site Scripting (XSS)

Use htmlspecialchars() to escape special characters

   <   >   "   &

Option ENT_QUOTES escapes ', too

Summary

PHP works everywhere

Form data is put in $_GET or $_POST, depending on HTTP verb