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PHP Find / Extract Substrings

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Q. How do I find out if a string stored in a variable contains a particular substring using PHP?
How do I find out (extract) first 5 character of a particular string using Apache and PHP?

A. You need to use the following php functions:

- a) **strpos()** : Find position of first occurrence of a string
- b) **substr()** : Return part of a string
- c) **substr_replace()** : Replacing a substring

Find position of first occurrence of a string with strpos()

Find out if \$input contains a # symbol or not:

```
<?php
if (strpos [2] ($input, '#') === true ) {
    print [3] '# symbol found in input';
}
else{
    print [3] 'There was no # symbol found in input';
}
?>
```

Extracting a substring with substr()

```
<?php
$input = "nixCraft blog";
// substr syntax
// $substring = substr($string,$start,$length);
// Get first 5 chars of $input
$data = substr [4] ($input,0,5);
print [3] $data;
?>
```

This is useful for finding out usernames and other data.

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[2] strpos: <http://www.php.net/strpos>

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