Introduction to PHP

Installation & Basics

Intervenant

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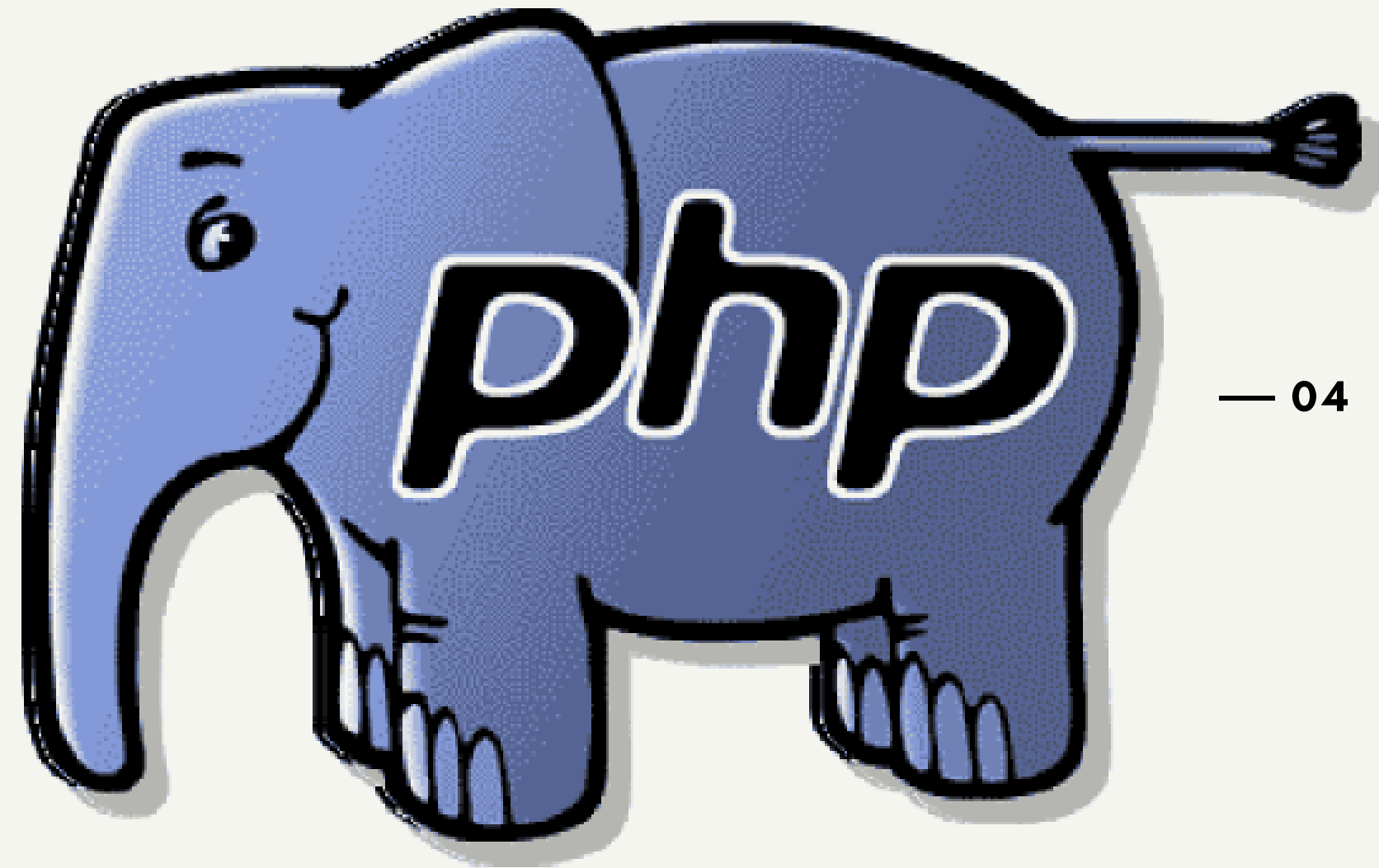
Software Engineer

Introduction to PHP

1st part

What is PHP ?

General Presentation

PHP (recursive acronym for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

Why PHP ?

Open Source

Hypertext Preprocessor is a free programming language, which mean that you have possibilities of free redistribution, access to the source code and creation of derivative works

Widely Used

As we will see further, PHP is used by A LOT of major companies, such as Facebook at start, and Wikipedia

Server Side

"Backend" technology, mostly used as a scripting language. What distinguished PHP from client-side JavaScript is that the code is executed on the server, generating HTML which is then sent to the client.

How to use it ?

```php
<?php
echo "Hello World!\n";
```

- Open the PHP tag
- Declaration of the variable
- Echo allows you to display a string of character

Exercice

Execute a PHP file

Create a file called hello_world.php

Insert in this file the code you've seen before

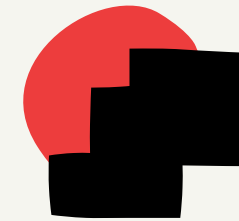Execute the file using the PHP CLI (command line interface)

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Hint: If you don't have PHP installed yet on your laptop, apt is your best friend

PHP Specificities

An interpreted language

PHP is not a compiled language (like C or C++ for example), but an interpreted one, that's why it's compiled in real time when it's run, and it's why it often uses simpler and more human-friendly syntax for coding.

Sought by companies

- Maintained
- Stable
- Easy to deploy
- Used in CMS

CMS

A CMS is a site allowing any user to create their own site (e-commerce, showcase, etc)
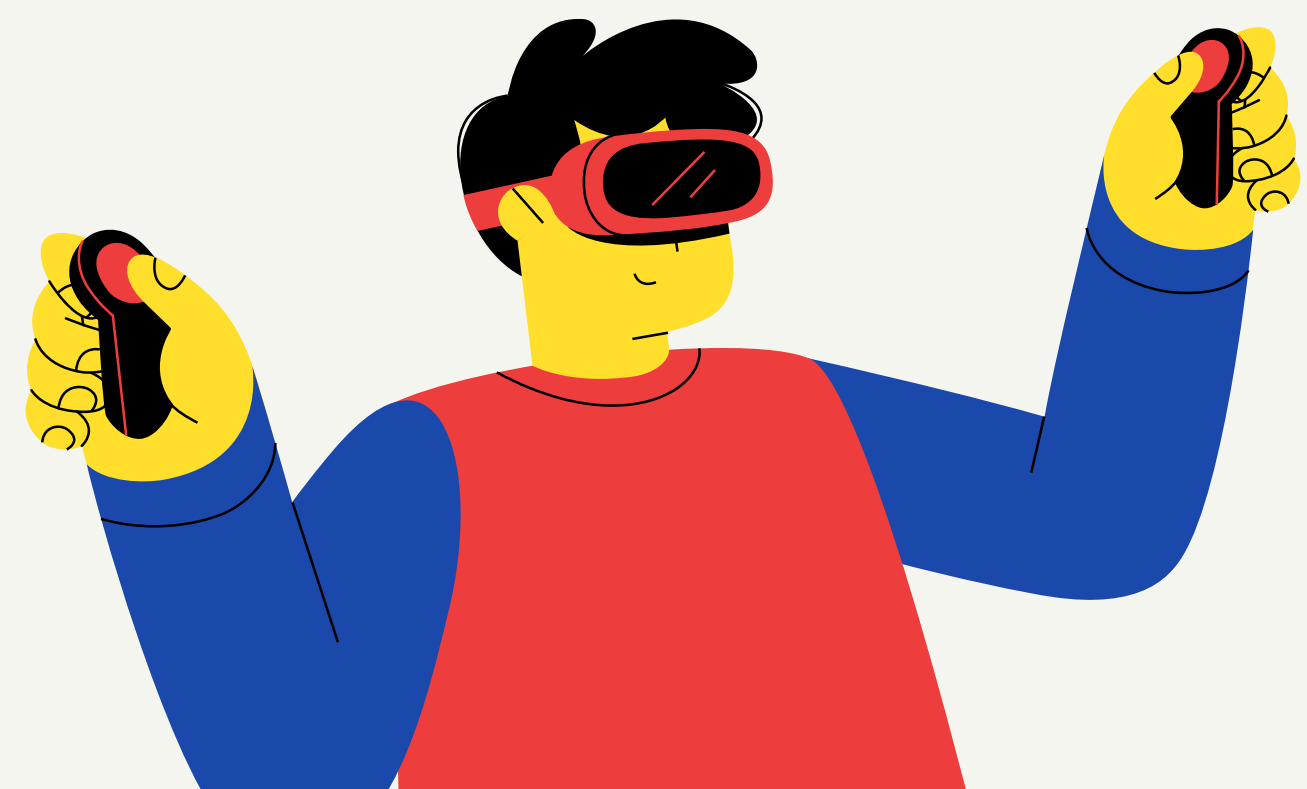
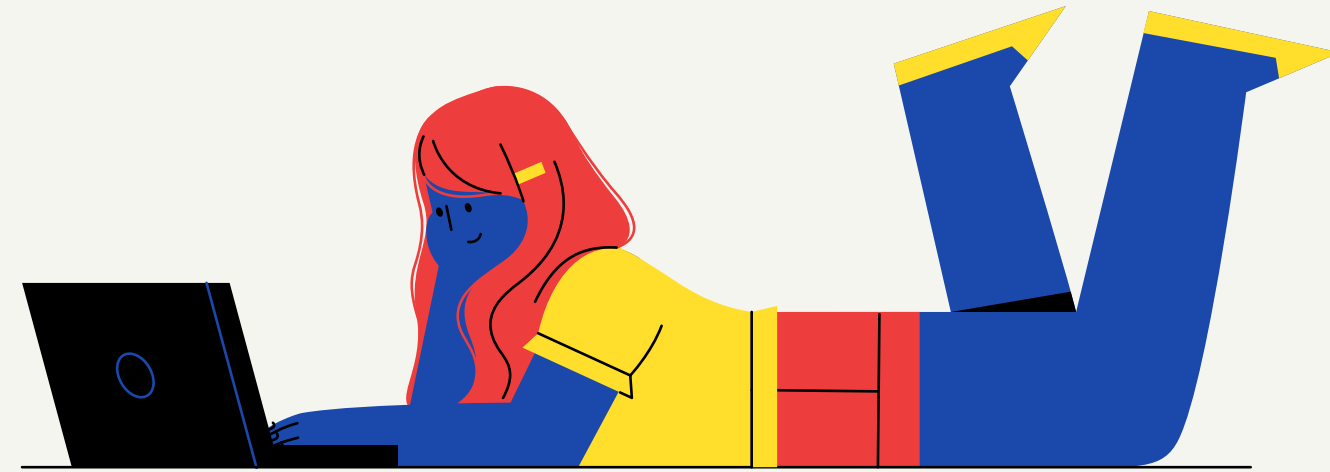Wordpress   PrestaShop   Magento

Most of plugins are also developed and design in PHP

Useful Fonctions

echo

_____

DISPLAYS A STRING OF CHARACTERS

https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.echo.php

var_dump

_____

DISPLAYS THE CONTENT OF ANY VARIABLES, VERY USEFUL FOR DEBUGGING

https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.var-dump

array

_____

CREATE AN ARRAY

https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.array

count

_____

RETURNS THE LENGTH OF AN ARRAY OR OF AN OBJECT

https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.count

strlen

_____

DISPLAYS THE LENGTH OF A STRING OF CHARACTERS

https://www.php.net/manual/en/function.strlen

READ THE DOC !

https://www.php.net/docs.php

Using Apache2

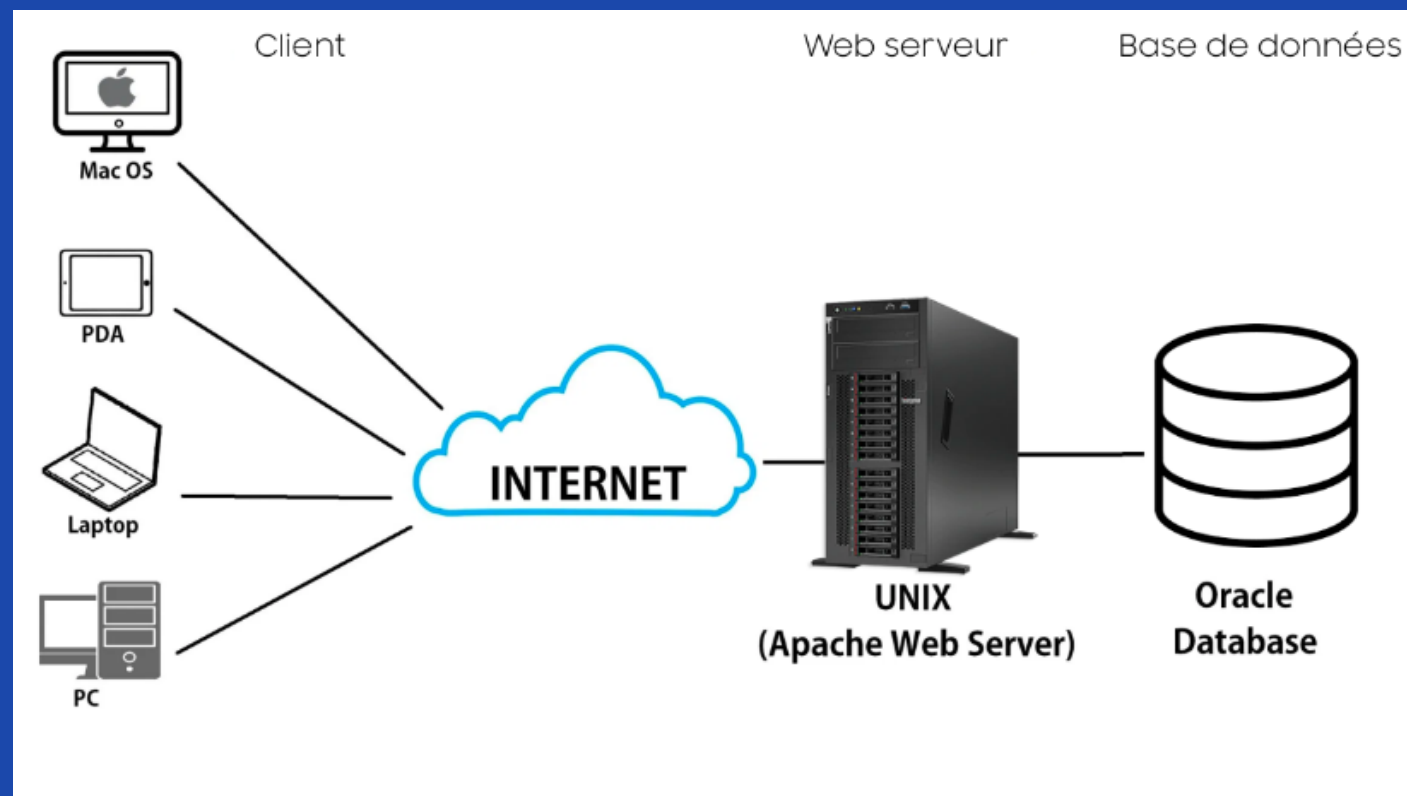## 2nd part

What is Apache ?

General Presentation

In April 2019, it was still the most popular HTTP server on the World Wide Web.

This web server allows to answer user requests made via a URL

Apache2 interprets several languages including PHP (which you will use during the training) to serve web pages in "plain" html

Web Server Example

An HTTP server is software that understands URLs and the HTTP protocol (the protocol used by the browser to display web pages).

At the simplest level, whenever a browser needs a file hosted on a web server, the browser requests (says it sends a request) the file via HTTP.

When the request reaches the correct web server (hardware), the HTTP server (software) returns the requested document, also via HTTP.
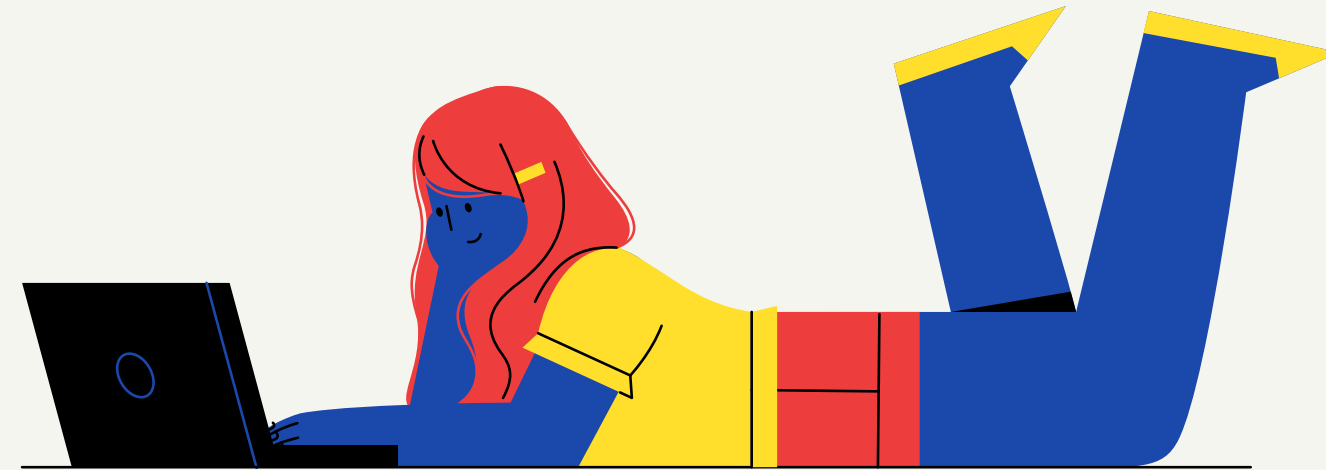
An alternative to Apache2: NGINX

Less consumer

NGINX is designed to offer low memory usage, according to the next point, through asynchronous method

Asynchronous

Rather than creating new processes for each Web request, NGINX uses an asynchronous approach.

Installation

Let's live-coding !