



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

KF6012 - Web Application Integration
2020

What is PHP?

Lecture Overview

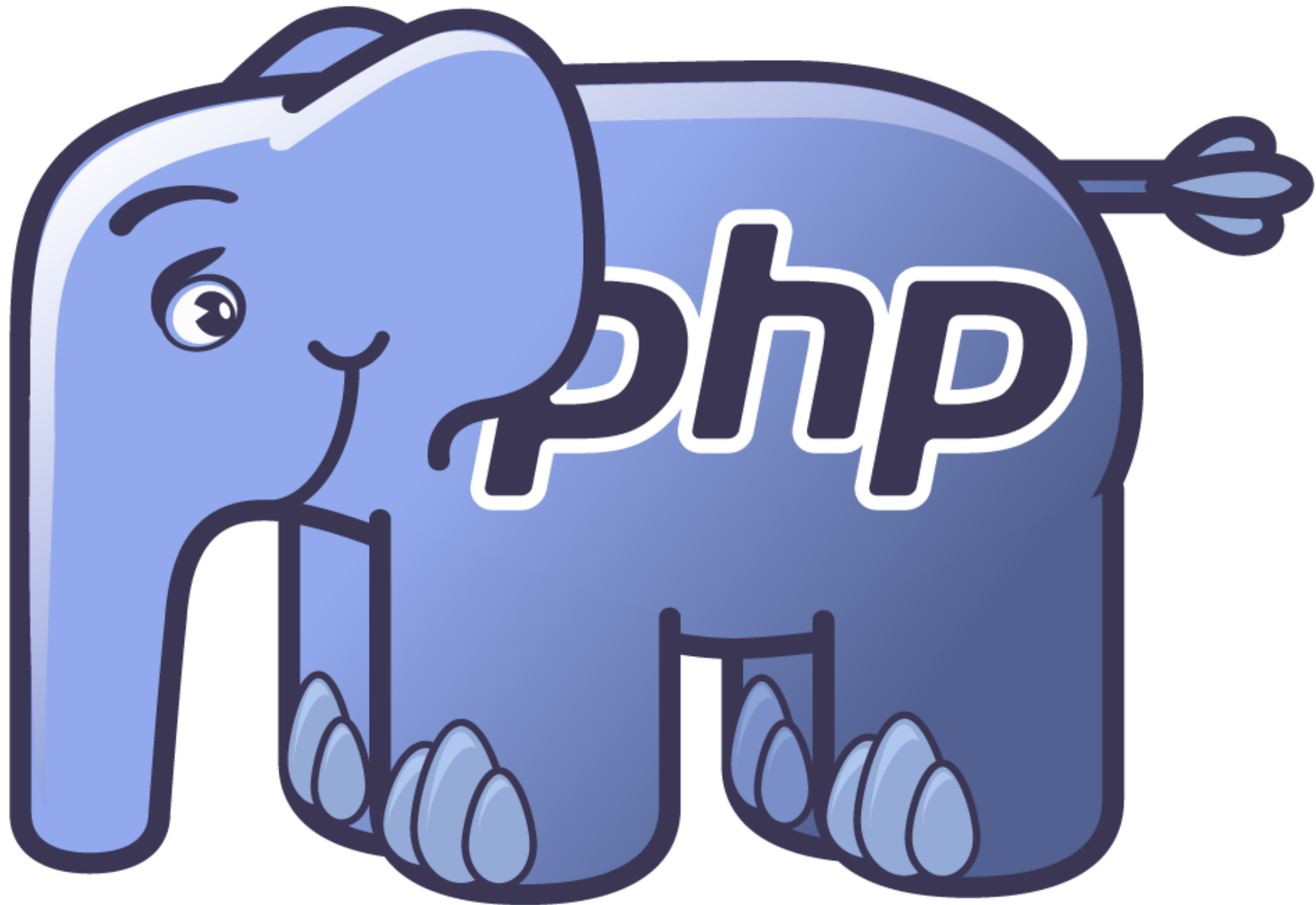
- What is PHP?

PHP

- PHP is a general purpose scripting language
 - A general purpose language is one that can be used for any purpose
 - A scripting language is typically interpreted and acts as 'glue' between other components and languages

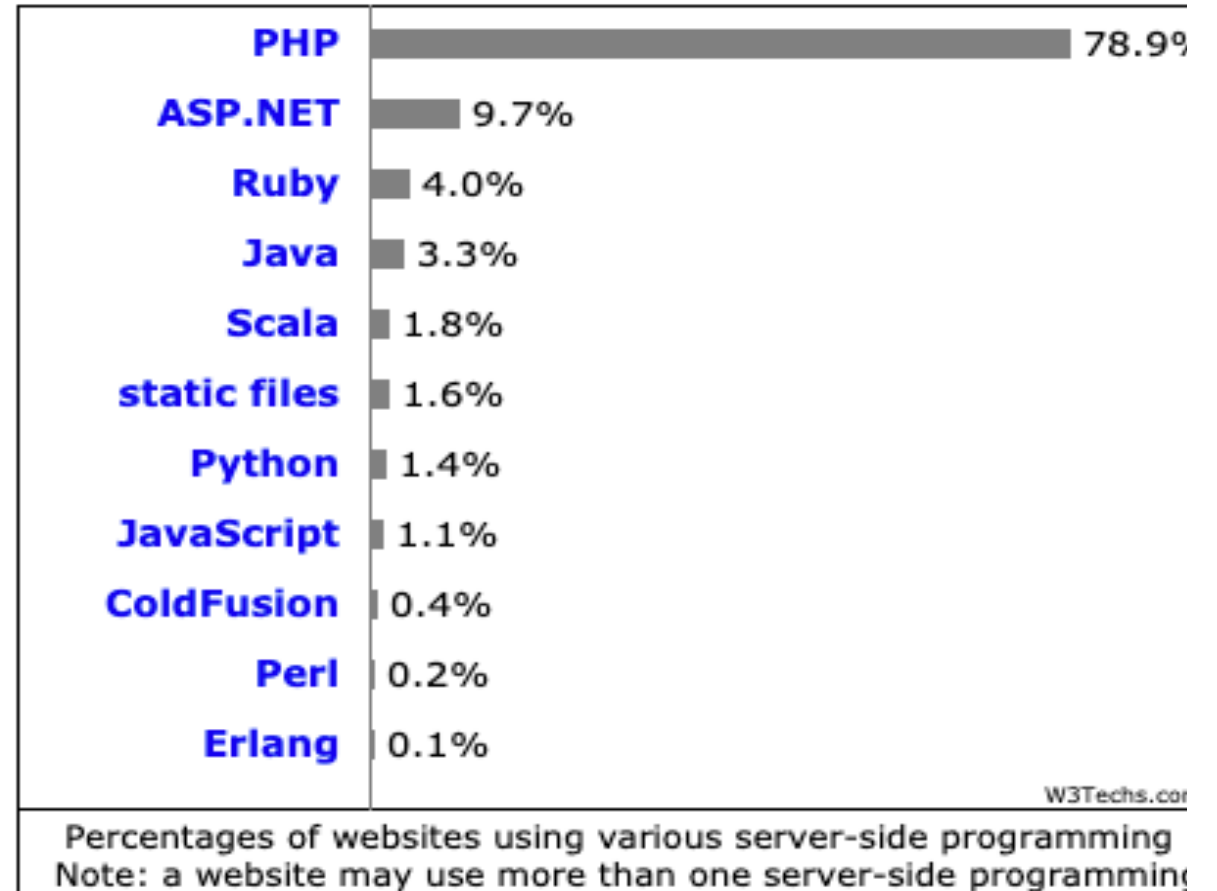
PHP

- PHP is mainly used as a web development language
 - PHP code is usually processed on a web server
 - However, it can be used in other contexts including the command line
- PHP is interpreted by "The Zend Engine" which is written in C and forms the "language core"



PHP Popularity

- As of August 2019, ~80% of websites use PHP on the server side.
 - Much of this is down to CMS software such as Wordpress, Joomla, Drupal, Moodle and others being written in PHP
- Source:
https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/programming_language



Use in industry

- Facebook
- Slack
- Wikipedia
- Tesla
- Vimeo



PHP Vulnerabilities

- PHP has historically been associated with security vulnerabilities
 - These are now Infrequently these are to do with flaws in the language
 - Frequently they are to do with poor development practices
 - Arguably to do with a lack of 'taint checking' in the language
 - Poor PHP installations are also to blame
- Because of the popularity of PHP it is intensely scrutinized

Thanks

- john.rooksby@northumbria.ac.uk