

Handling E-mail with PHP

Session 22



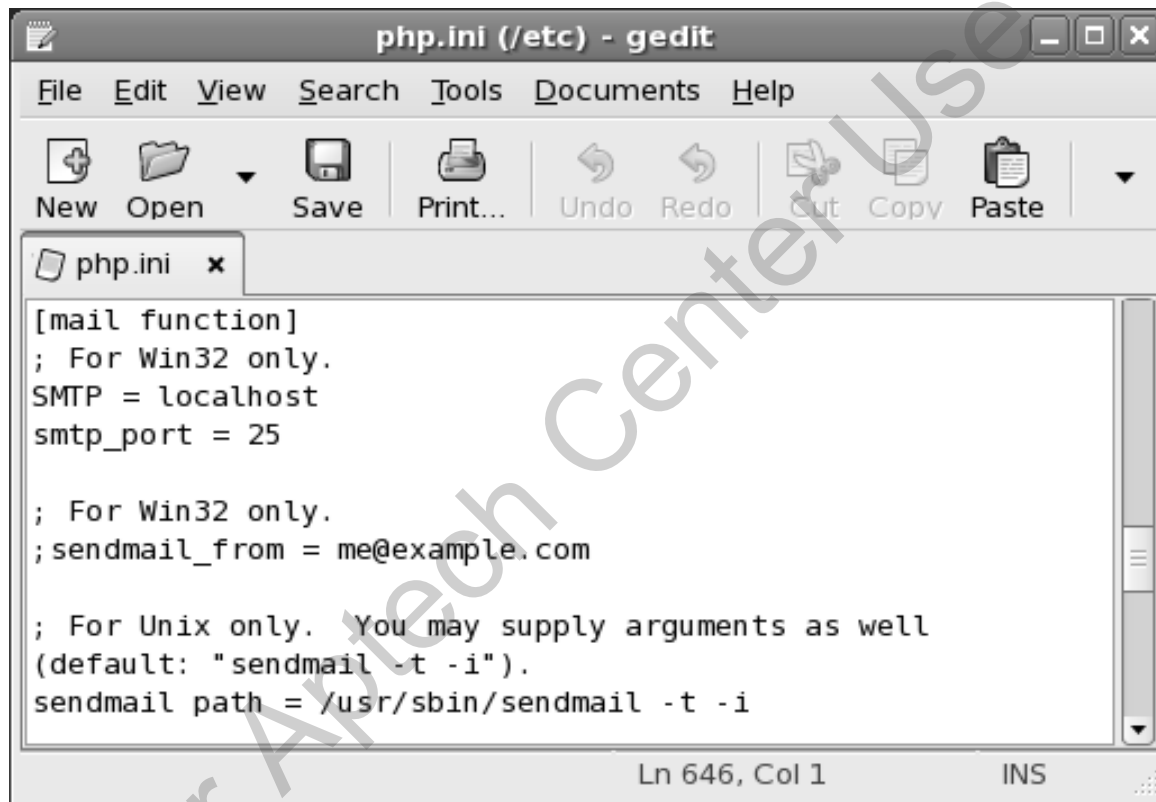
- ◆ *Describe the process of sending an e-mail using PHP*
- ◆ *Explain the process of attaching files with an e-mail using PHP*

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- ◆ E-mail are:
 - ◆ Fastest way of communicating with people across the world
 - ◆ It takes only few minutes to send and receive messages as compared to the usual hand written letters
- ◆ PHP provides the facility to send an e-mail

- ◆ In PHP, you can send an e-mail using the `mail()` function
- ◆ Location of the current local mail server must be specified in the `php.ini` configuration file to use the `mail()` function
- ◆ The `php.ini` file is located in the `/etc/` directory of the Linux operating system

The contents of the `php.ini` configuration are displayed as follows:



```
[mail function]
; For Win32 only.
SMTP = localhost
smtp_port = 25

; For Win32 only.
;sendmail_from = me@example.com

; For Unix only. You may supply arguments as well
(default: "sendmail -t -i").
sendmail_path = /usr/sbin/sendmail -t -i
```

- ◆ The `mail()` function is as follows:

Syntax

```
mail(to, subject, message , [additional_headers])
```

Where,

to - specifies the recipient's e-mail address

subject - specifies the subject for the e-mail

message - specifies the message that is to be written in the e-mail or the body of the e-mail

additional headers - specifies additional information such as the e-mail address of the sender and attachments

- ◆ **mail.php:** Sending an e-mail using the `mail()` function

Snippet

```
<HTML>

<BODY>

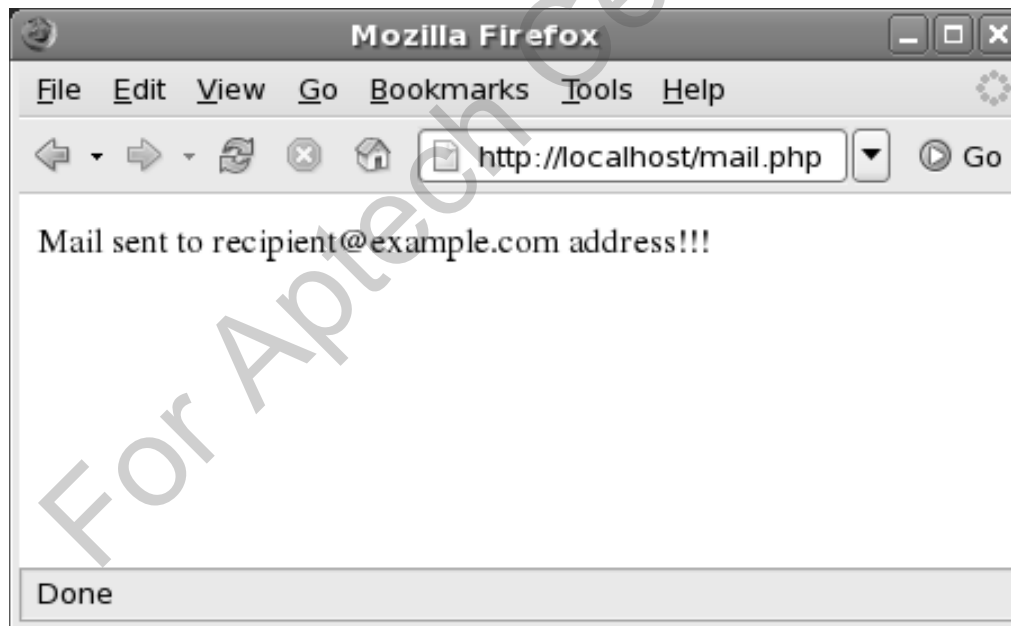
<?php
$to = "recipient@example.com";
$from = "yourname@example.com";
$subject = "Test e-mail";
$body = "This is an example for showing the usage of
the mail() function.";
$send = mail($to, $subject, $body, $from);
if($send)
{
    echo "Mail sent to $to address!!!";
}
```

```
else
{
    echo "Mail could not be sent to $to address!!!";
}
?>

</BODY>

</HTML>
```

The following output is displayed:



- ◆ The `mail()` function is also used for sending mails to more than one recipient
- ◆ A `comma (,)` symbol is used for separating the e-mail addresses of the recipients
- ◆ **`multi_rec.php`** - Sending an e-mail to multiple recipients

Snippet

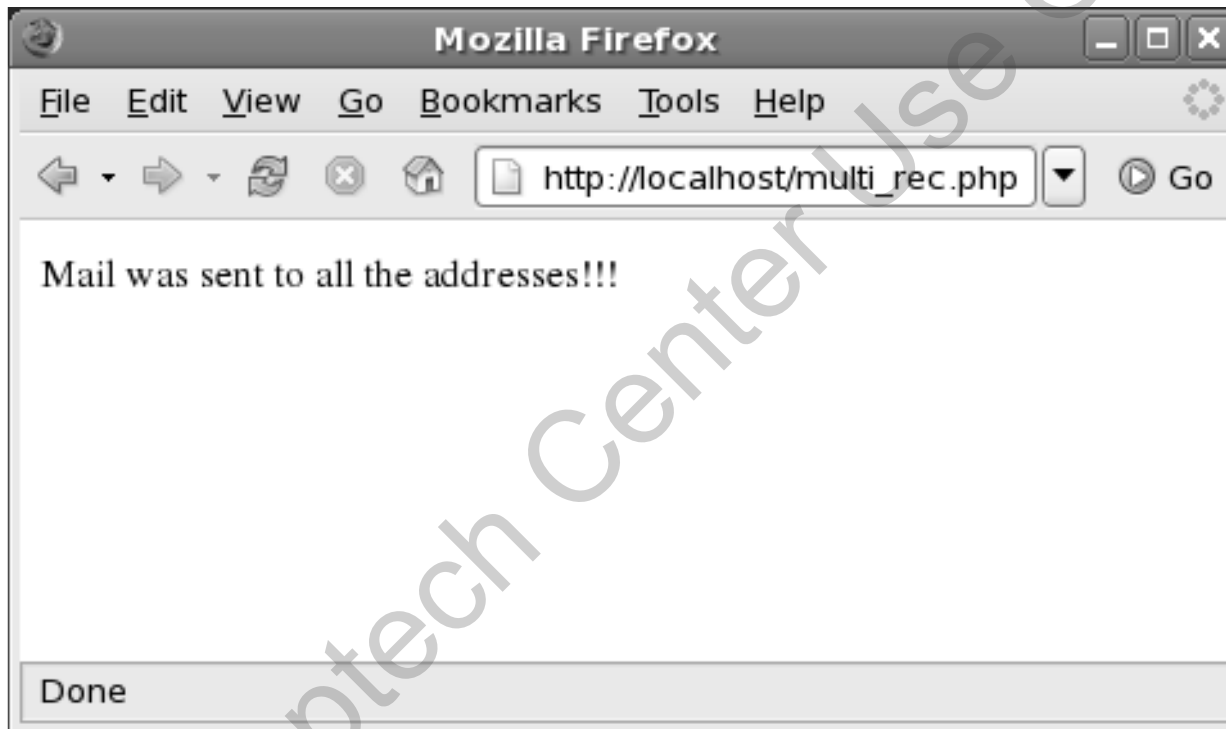
```
<HTML>

<BODY>

<?php
$to = "recipient1@example.com, recipient2@example.com,
recipient3@example.com";
$from = "yourname@example.com";
for ($i=0; $i<count($to); $i++)
{
    $to[$i] = trim($to[$i]);
```

```
$subject = "An example";  
  
$body = "This is an example for showing the usage of  
        the mail() function.";  
  
$send = mail($to, $subject, $body, $from);  
if($send)  
{  
    echo "Mail was sent to all the addresses!!!";  
}  
}  
?>  
</BODY>  
</HTML>
```

The following output is displayed:



The `mail()` function is used to send an e-mail.

The `trim()` function is used to remove blank spaces.

- ◆ PHP also enables to read the e-mail addresses of the recipients from the text file and send an e-mail to them
- ◆ Steps for sending e-mail to multiple recipients whose addresses are stored in a text file are as follows:
 1. Open a new file in the **gedit** text editor
 2. Enter the following text:

```
recipient1@example.com
```

```
recipient2@example.com
```

```
recipient2@example.com
```

3. Save the file as **email_list.txt** in the `/usr/local/apache2/htdocs` directory
4. Assign read, write, and execute permissions to the **email_list.txt** file
5. Open a new file in the **gedit** text editor

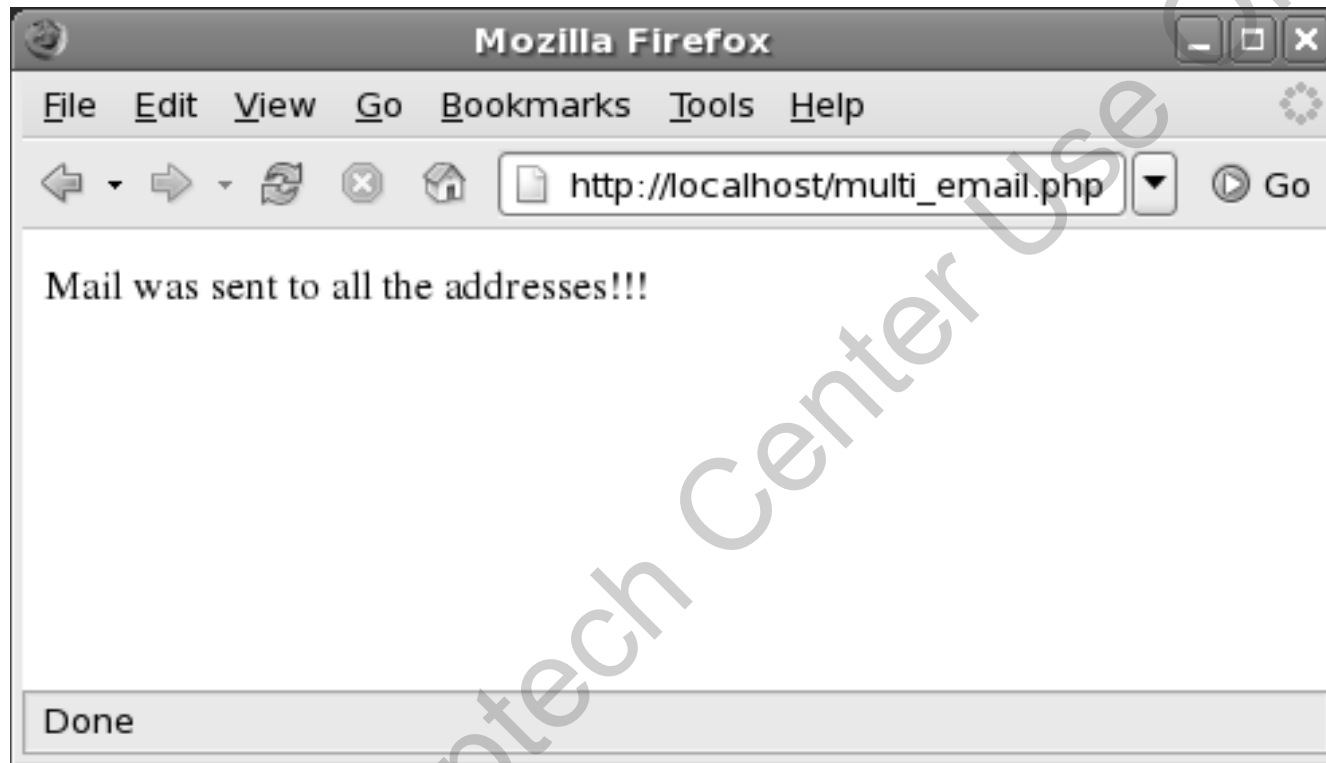
6. Enter the code as shown in the Snippet:

Snippet

```
<HTML>
<BODY>
<?php
error_reporting(0);
$multi = "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs/email_list.txt";
$to_mail = file('$email_list.txt');
$from = "yourname@example.com";
for($i=0;$i<count($to_mail);$i++)
{
$to_mail[$i] = trim($to_mail[$i]);
$to = implode(",",$to_mail);
$subject = "An example";
$body = "This is an example for the mail() function.";
mail($to, $subject, $body, $from);
echo "Mail was sent to all the addresses!!!";
}
```

7. Save the file as **multi_email.php** in the `/usr/local/apache2/htdocs` directory
8. Open the Mozilla Firefox Web browser
9. Enter **`http://localhost/multi_email.php`** in the Address bar and press **Enter**

The following output is displayed:



The functions, such as `file()`, `trim()`, and `implode()` are used.

- ◆ An attachment is
 - ◆ Any file that you want to send along with the e-mail
 - ◆ Attached with the e-mail by setting up the header

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- ◆ To send an e-mail with an attachment, perform the following steps:

1. Open a new file in the **gedit** text editor

2. Enter the following text:

This is a sample attachment file

3. Save the file as **example.txt** in the `/usr/local/apache2/htdocs` directory

4. Assign read, write, and execute permissions to the **example.txt** file

5. Open a new file in the **gedit** text editor

6. Enter the code as shown in the Snippet

Snippet

```
<?php

// filenames to be sent as attachment

$files = "/usr/local/apache2/htdocs/example.txt";

// e-mail fields: to, from, subject, and so on

$to = "recipient@example.com";

$from = "yourname@example.com";

$subject = "Test e-mail";

$message = "Sample message";

$headers = "From: $from";

// boundary

$semi_rand = md5(time());

$mime_boundary = "==Multipart_Boundary_x{$semi_rand}x";
```

```
// headers for attachment
$headers .= "\nMIME-Version: 1.0\n" . "Content-Type: multipart/mixed;\n" . " boundary=\"{$mime_boundary}\"";

// multipart boundary
$message = "This is an example for mail attachment in MIME format.\n\n" . "--{$mime_boundary}\n" .
"Content-Type: text/plain; charset=\"iso-9959-1\"\\n" .
$message . // "\n\n";
$message .= "--{$mime_boundary}\n";

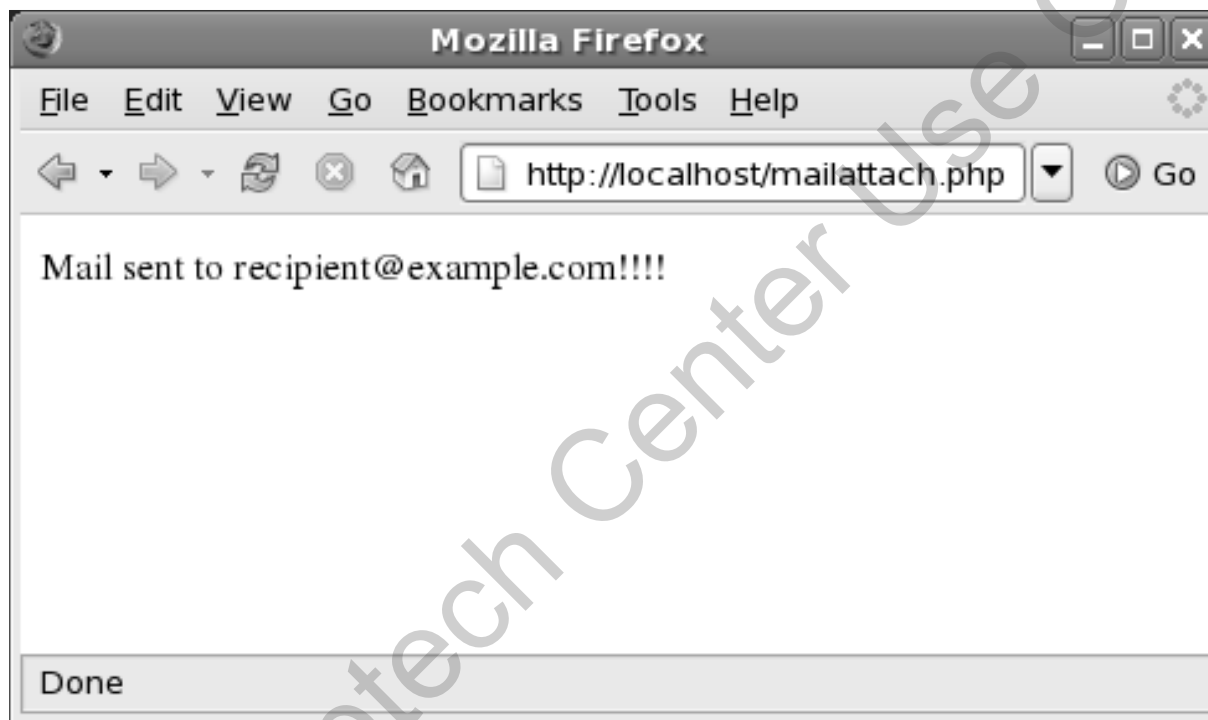
// preparing attachments
$file = fopen($files,"rb");
$content = fread($file,filesize($files));
fclose($file);

$message .= "Content-Type: {\"application/octet-stream\"};\n" . "
name=\"{$files}\"\\n" . "Content-Disposition: attachment;\n"
. " filename=\"{$files}\"\\n" . $content . "\n\n";
$message .= "--{$mime_boundary}\n";
```

```
// send
$send_mail = @mail($to, $subject, $message,
$headers);
if ($send_mail)
{
echo "<p>Mail sent to $to!!!!</p>";
}
else
{
echo "<p>Mail could not be sent to $to!!!!</p>";
}
?>
```

7. Save the file as **mailattach.php** in the `/usr/local/apache2/htdocs` directory
8. Open the Mozilla Firefox Web browser
9. Enter **`http://localhost/mailattach.php`** in the Address bar and press **Enter**

The following output is displayed:



A boundary is created between the actual e-mail and the attachments.

The `fopen()` function opens the file that is attached with the e-mail in the read mode.

- ◆ The two built-in PHP function are as follows:
 - ◆ `base64_encode()` - used for encoding the specified string
 - ◆ `chunk_split()` - used for splitting the data into a series of smaller parts

- ◆ The mail() function is used for sending an e-mail
- ◆ The trim() function removes blank spaces included in between two recipient e-mail addresses
- ◆ The implode() function is used to join all the addresses present in the array with a comma operator
- ◆ An attachment can also be sent with an e-mail by setting up the header of the mail() function
- ◆ The uniqid() function assigns a unique identifier to the original mail and creates a boundary between the e-mail and the attachment

- ◆ The `base64_encode()` function is used for accepting the data in the form of a string and returns the data in the original form to the user
- ◆ The `chunk_split()` function is used for separating the data into smaller parts

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