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Javascript VS. PHP

Javascript (js) and Hypertext PreProcessor (php) are languages primarily used to develop dynamic web pages. Both languages can be embedded in html files using special tags or be executed separately. The primary difference between the two is that php runs server-side and outputs html to a client request. Alternatively, js runs directly in the browser.

Based on the experience developing the programs for this project, PHP is much less accessible for simple development. PHP requires setting up and running a local server to execute code, whereas js can simply be run in a browser's development console.

The logic and control structures for the two languages are very similar. A peculiar feature of some functions in php is that they can return 0, 1, or false. In this case, 0 would mean the function executed correctly but there was no value to return, 1 would be the same as 0 except there was a value to return, and false means the function failed to execute appropriately. This behavior is useful for debugging and setting up error handling, but can lead to confusion since by convention using 0 or 1 as conditionals for an 'if' statement would mean false or true respectively. Comparing this to the return value options in js, debugging the return values is simplistic but doesn't provide much flexibility. Though, providing extra options requires the developer to be aware of the possible return values and how to deal with them should unexpected behavior occur.

I would rather continue to do simple web development using js. PHP isn't especially difficult to learn but there are too many differences in syntax that make it unappealing.