

PHP for Beginners - Episode 14: Superglobals and Current Page Styling

1. Problem:

Previously, we used `basename($_SERVER['PHP_SELF'])` to detect the current page, but it's not always reliable.

2. Superglobals in PHP:

We introduced `$_SERVER['REQUEST_URI']` to get the current URL path:

```
echo $_SERVER['REQUEST_URI'];
```

3. Accurate Comparison for Active Links:

Use `$_SERVER['REQUEST_URI']` to match exact URL and apply active class:

```
<a href="/about"
    class="<?= ($_SERVER['REQUEST_URI'] === '/about') ? 'bg-gray-900 text-white' :
'text-gray-300 hover:bg-gray-700 hover:text-white'; ?>">
    About
</a>
```

4. Cleaner Approach Using Helper Function:

```
function isCurrentPage(string $url): bool {
    return $_SERVER['REQUEST_URI'] === $url;
}

<a href="/about" class="<?= isCurrentPage('/about') ? 'bg-gray-900 text-white' : 'text-gray-300
hover:bg-gray-700 hover:text-white'; ?>">
    About
```


5. Summary:

- Reliable and precise method for active styling.
- Works with nested paths or query strings.
- Cleaner and maintainable code.