

CEMC 2014: Intro to PHP Lesson 2

© 2014 Sam Scott, Sheridan College.

Readings

1. Sam Scott, *PHP for Sheridan Students*, 2014: Section 3.
2. For more details on PHP see w3Schools.
<http://www.w3schools.com/php>
3. For even more details, see the complete PHP Manual.
<http://www.php.net/manual/en/>

GET Parameters

GET parameters appear in the URL, which means you can type them directly into an address bar. The example below contains two GET parameters (in bold):

```
http://yourhost/test.php?myFirstParam=Sam&mySecondParam=44
```

In the above example, the ? marks the start of the parameter list. What follows is a list of parameter name and value pairs (name=value) separated by & characters.

GET parameters can be sent from forms:

```
<form action="myPHPFile.php" method="GET">
    <input type="text" name="myFirstParameter">
    <input type="submit">
</form>
```

The above form will send a request for the following URL when the submit button is clicked (where the ... is replaced with whatever the user typed into the text field.:

```
http://yourhost/test.php?myFirstParameter=...
```

Remember to include a name attribute on each <input> element or it won't send a parameter. Remember to also include a submit button.

The \$_GET SuperGlobal

To access a GET parameter in a php program, use the \$_GET "superglobal".

```
$userName = $_GET["name"]; ← This retrieves the "name" parameter from the HTTP
                           request and assigns it to the variable $userName.
```

To find out whether you received a given GET parameter, you can use the built in `isset` function:

```
if (!isset($_GET["name"])) {  
    echo "<p>ERROR: No name received.";  
} else {  
    ... code continues ...  
}
```

Exercises

Try some of the exercises in section 3.5 of *PHP for Sheridan Students*.

Data Validation (If Time)

Always validate on both the client side and the server side.

If you need a review, here is some stuff to look up in the HTML section of w3schools:

- HTML5 Input Types with auto-validation: number, range, email, url, color, date, time.
- HTML5 validation attributes: required, min, max, step, maxlength, title, pattern.

And here are some helpful PHP functions to look up in w3schools or the PHP manual:

- PHP validation functions: `isset`, `empty`, `is_numeric`.
- PHP data cleanup functions: `trim`, `stripslashes`, `htmlspecialchars`.
- PHP string functions that might be useful: `strpos`, `stripos`, `substr`, `strtolower`, `strtoupper`, `strlen`, `strcmp`, `preg_match`.

Exercises

Try some of the exercises in section 3.9 of *PHP for Sheridan Students*.