

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

with
PHP

Level 1

Requests & Forms

Working With Form Data

What Are We Going to Build?

A date (16-11-1977)

Date of Sighting

Your Email

Describe the Sighting

Submit

Array ([0] => "yes" must be a valid date)

We will also need an area for errors or messages

Looking at the Sighting Form

index.php

```
<form class="" action="index.php" method="post">

<label for="date">Date of Sighting</label><br>
<input type="text" name="date" value="">
<hr>

<label for="email">Your Email</label><br>
<input type="text" name="email" value="">
<hr>

<label for="desc">Describe the Sighting</label><br>
<textarea name="desc" rows="8" cols="40"></textarea>
<br>

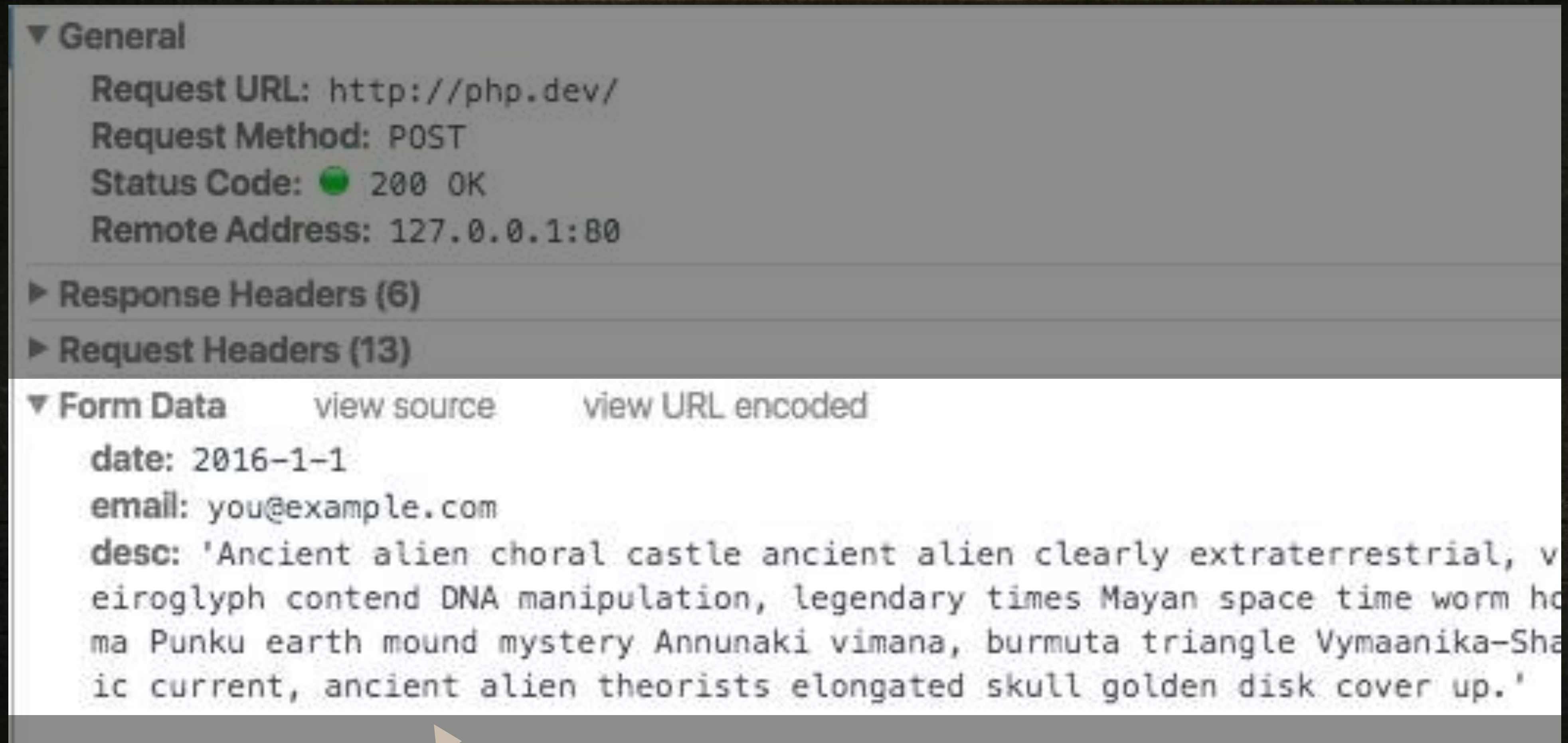
<input type="submit" value="submit">

</form>
```

Set the method to POST

Send the request to index.php

POST Data Returned From Form Submission



The screenshot shows a web browser's developer console with the following sections:

- General**
 - Request URL: `http://php.dev/`
 - Request Method: `POST`
 - Status Code: ● `200 OK`
 - Remote Address: `127.0.0.1:80`
- Response Headers (6)**
- Request Headers (13)**
- Form Data** (with links for `view source` and `view URL encoded`)
 - `date: 2016-1-1`
 - `email: you@example.com`
 - `desc: 'Ancient alien choral castle ancient alien clearly extraterrestrial, v
eiroglyph contend DNA manipulation, legendary times Mayan space time worm ho
ma Punku earth mound mystery Annunaki vimana, burmuta triangle Vymaanika-Sha
ic current, ancient alien theorists elongated skull golden disk cover up.'`

We need to access this data in PHP

How Do We Access the POST Data?

index.php

```
<?php
```

```
//Print All Data in POST
```

```
var_dump($_POST);
```

\$_POST is a PHP superglobal variable



```
?>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<html>
```

```
...
```

```
<form> ... </form>
```

```
...
```

```
</html>
```

Viewing the Output

index.php

```
/var/www/php/public/index.php:8:
array (size=3)
  'date' => string '2016-01-01' (length=10)
  'email' => string 'you@example.com' (length=15)
  'desc' => string 'Ancient alien choral castle ancient alien clearly
extraterrestrial, vimana extraterrestrial helicopter heiroglyph
contend DNA manipulation, legendary times Mayan space time worm hole.
Foo fighter electromagnetic Puma Punku earth mound mystery Annunaki
vimana, burmuta triangle Vymaanika-Shaashtra sun disc anti-gravity
magnetic current, ancient alien theorists elongated skull golden disk
cover up.' (length=397)
```


Accessing Each Post Variable Independently

index.php

```
<?php
//Echo each item in POST
echo $_POST['date'];
echo $_POST['email'];
echo $_POST['desc'];
?>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
...
  <form>...</form>
...
</html>
```


Errors on Refresh?!

(!) Notice: Undefined index: date in /var/www/php/app/public/index.php on line 2

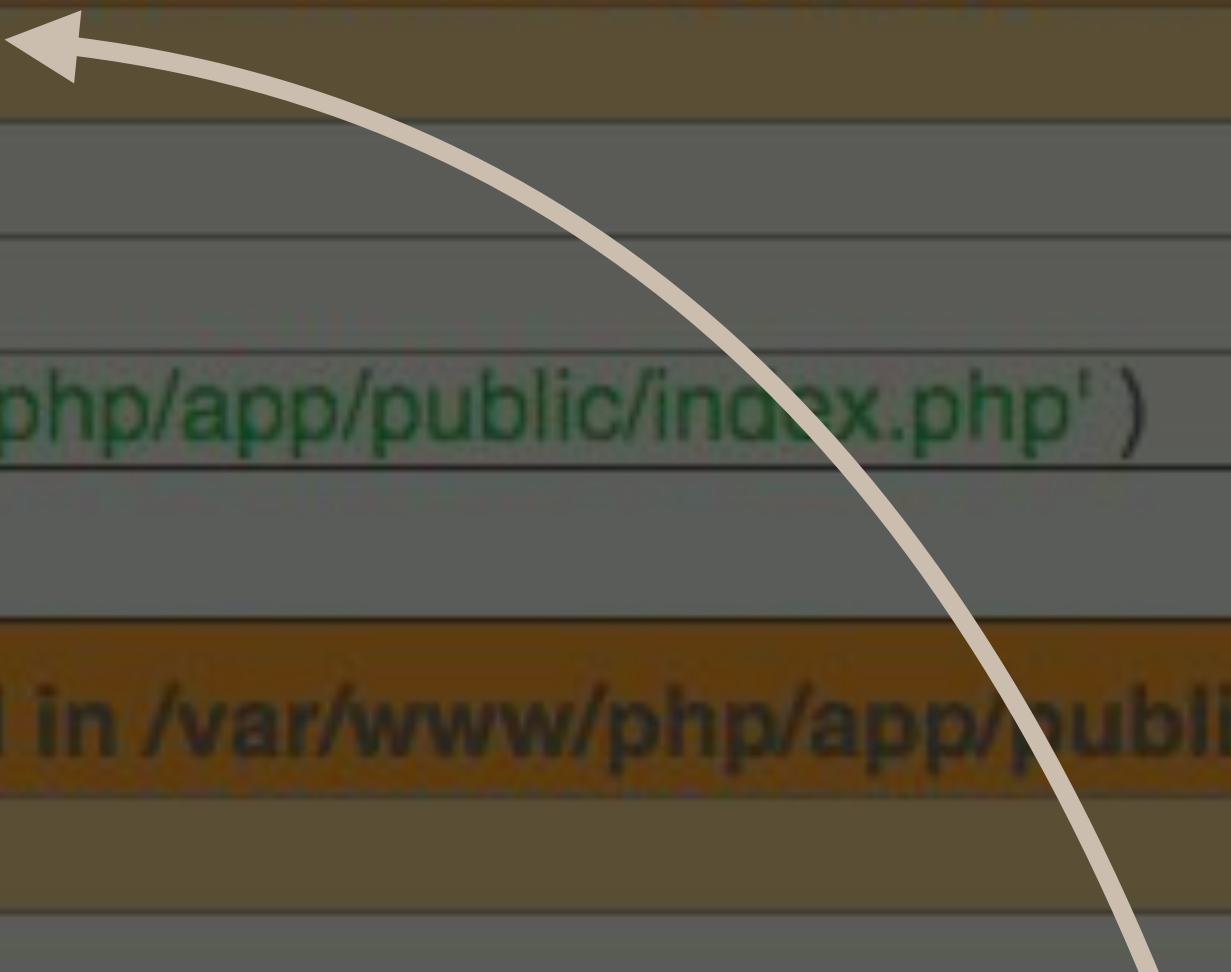
Call Stack

| # | Time | Memory | Function | Location |
|---|--------|--------|--|-----------------|
| 1 | 0.0008 | 357024 | {main}() | .../index.php:0 |
| 2 | 0.0067 | 362152 | require('/var/www/php/app/public/index.php') | .../index.php:3 |

(!) Notice: Undefined index: email in /var/www/php/app/public/index.php on line

Call Stack

| # | Time | Memory | Function | Location |
|---|------|--------|----------|----------|
|---|------|--------|----------|----------|



This tells us that `$_POST['date']` does not exist!

Does POST Data Exist?

index.php

```
<?php
if($_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] === 'POST') {

    // Echo each item in POST
    echo $_POST['date'];
    echo $_POST['email'];
    echo $_POST['desc'];
}
?>
```

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
...
<form>...</form>
...
</html>
```



First, check if the server request method is POST

Cleaning Up a Bit

index.php

```
<?php
if($_SERVER['REQUEST_METHOD'] === 'POST') {
    $date = $_POST['date'];
    $email = $_POST['email'];
    $description = $_POST['desc'];

    echo "<p>Date: $date</p>";
    echo "<p>Email: $email</p>";
    echo "<p>$description</p>";
}
?>
```

For now, we will just print the data to the page

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
...
<form>...</form>
...
```


Viewing the Results

Date: 2016-1-1

Email: you@example.com

'Ancient alien choral castle ancient alien clearly extraterrestrial, vimana extraterres
legendary times Mayan space time worm hole. Foo fighter electromagnetic Puma I
burmuta triangle Vymaanika-Shaashtra sun disc anti-gravity magnetic current, ancie
up.'

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