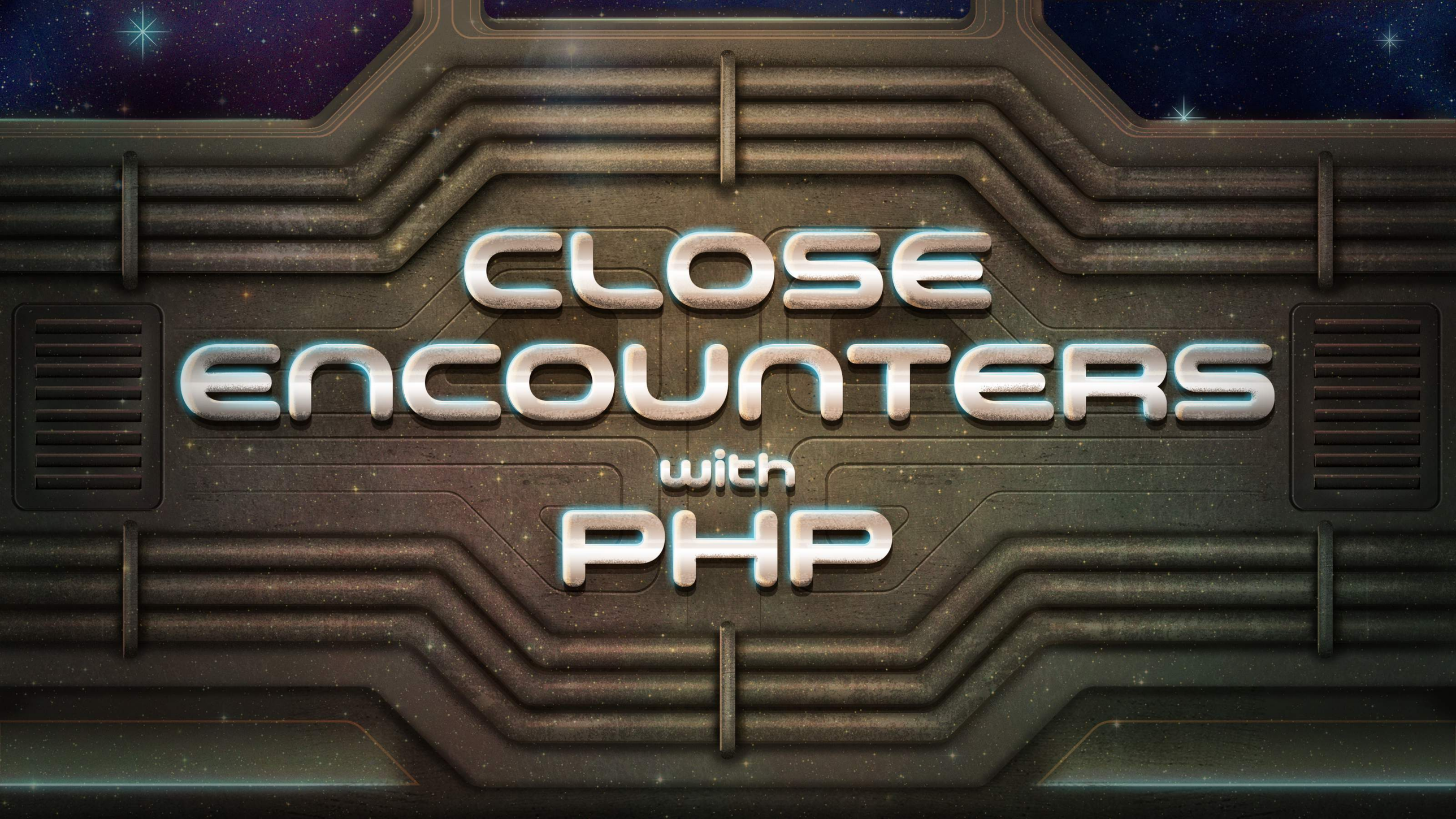

CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
with
PHP

Level 1

# Requests & Forms

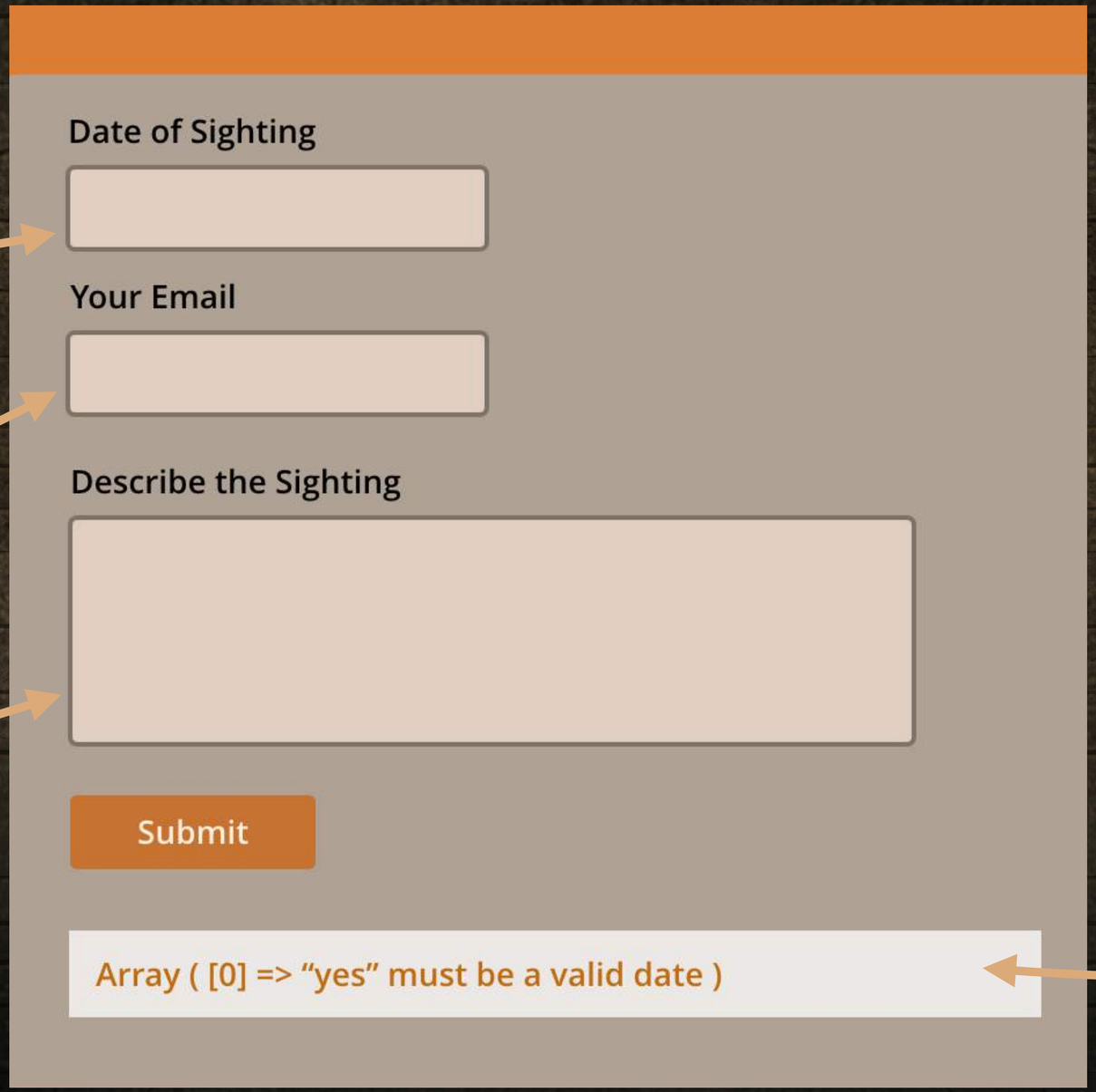
## Working With Form Data

# What Are We Going to Build?

A date (16-11-1977)

A valid email address

A block of descriptive text

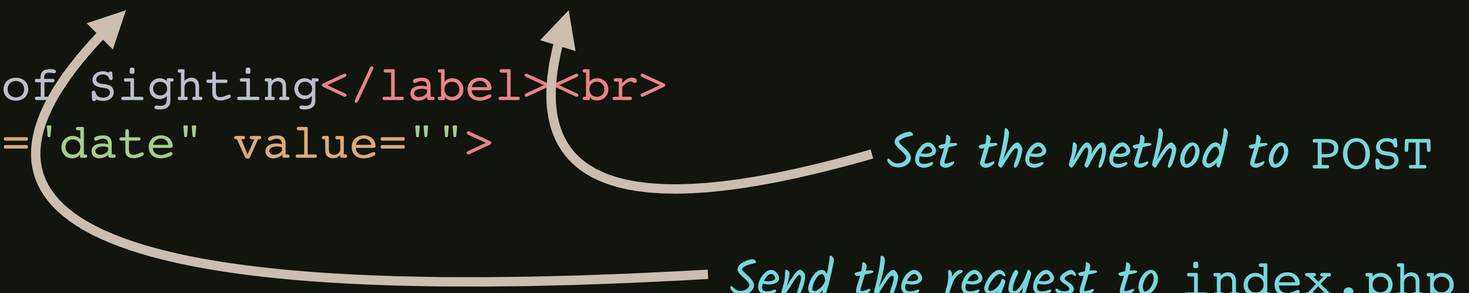



We will also need an area for errors or messages

# 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>
```



# POST Data Returned From Form Submission

We need to access this data in PHP

# How Do We Access the POST Data?

**index.php**

```php
<?php

//Print All Data in POST
var_dump($_POST);

?>

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

# Viewing the Output

**index.php**

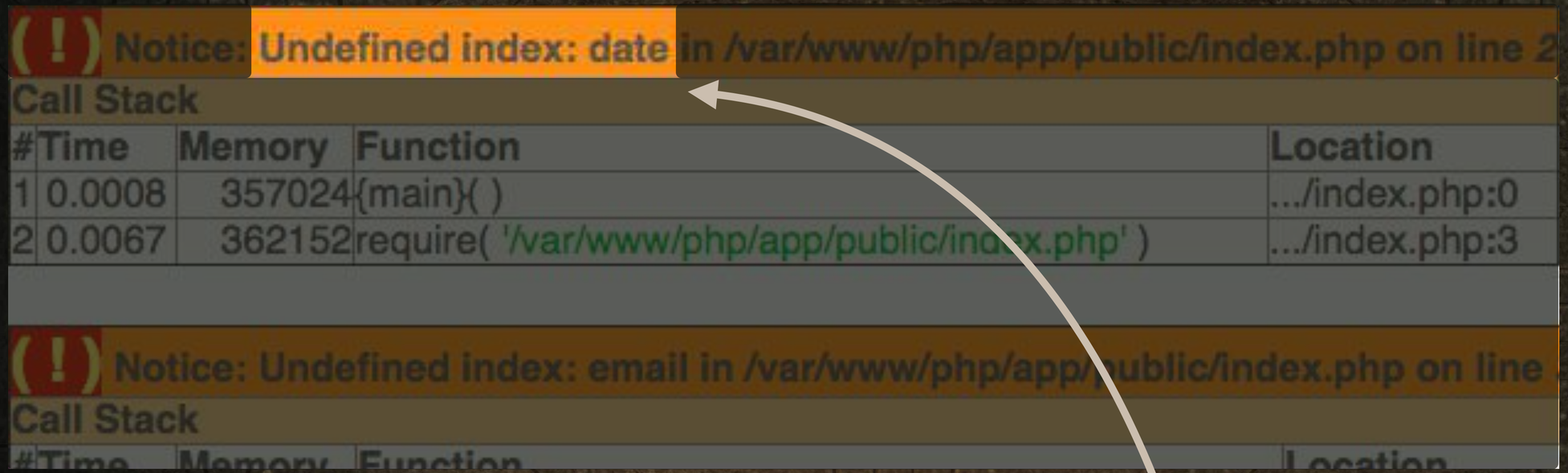
```
/var/www/php/public/index.php:8:
array (size=3)
  'date' => string '2016-01-01' (length=10)
  'email' => string 'you@example.com' (length=15)
  'desc' => string 'Ancient alien choral castle ancient alien clearly
extraterrestrial, vimana extraterrestrial helicopter heiroglyph
contend DNA manipulation, legendary times Mayan space time worm hole.
Foo fighter electromagnetic Puma Punku earth mound mystery Annunaki
vimana, burmuta triangle Vymaanika-Shaastra 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
<?php
//Echo each item in POST
echo $_POST['date'];
echo $_POST['email'];
echo $_POST['desc'];
?>

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

# Errors on Refresh?!




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

# Does POST Data Exist?

**index.php**

```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
<?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>";
}
?>

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

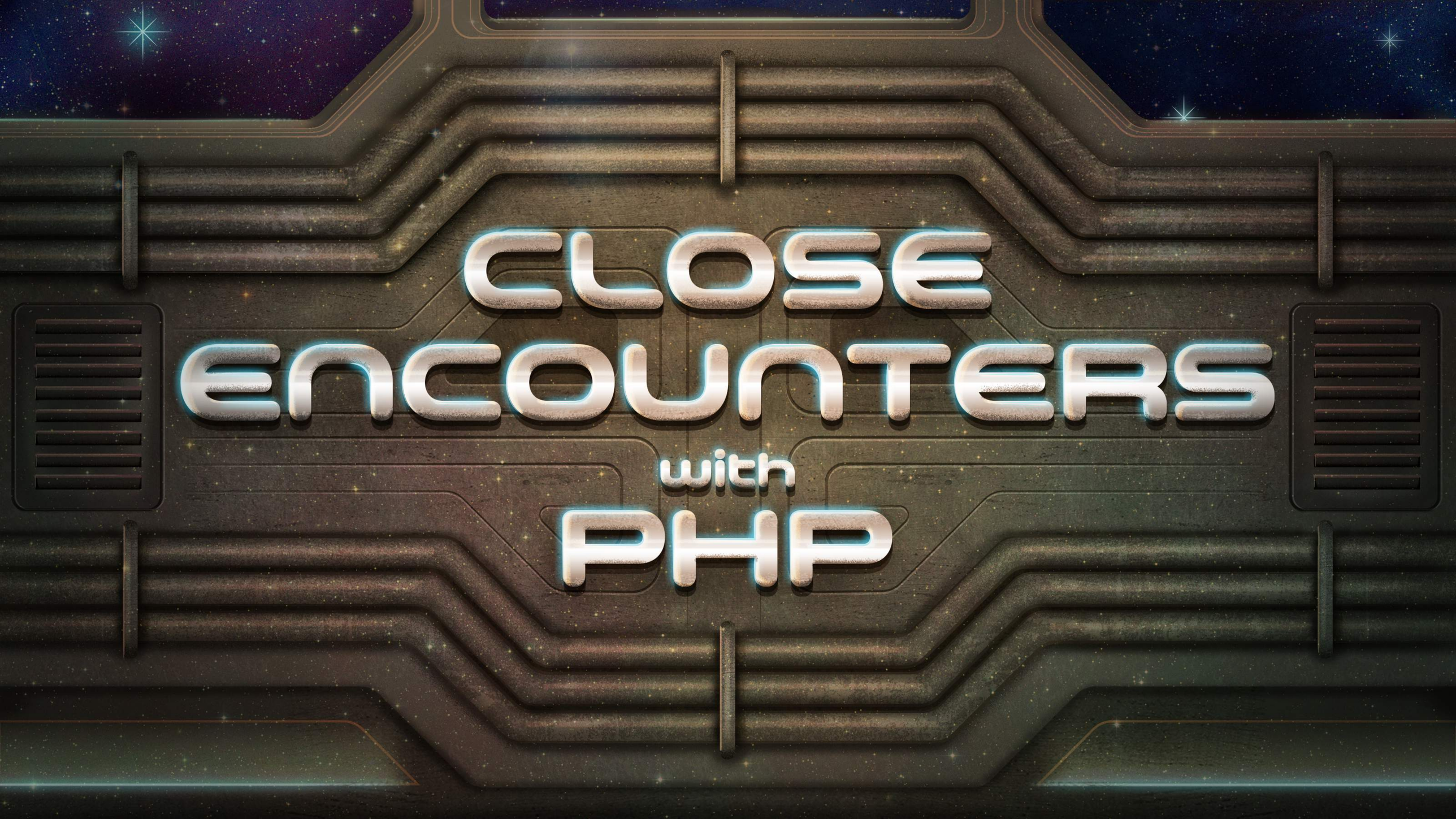
*For now, we will just print the data to the page*

# 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
burmuta triangle Vymaanika-Shaastra sun disc anti-gravity magnetic current, ancie
up.'


CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS
with
PHP