**PHP**is known as a server-sided language. That's because the **PHP**doesn't get executed on your computer, but on the computer you requested the page from. The results are then handed over to you, and displayed in your browser. Other scripting languages you may have heard of are ASP, Python and Perl.

What is PHP?

* PHP is an acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor"
* PHP is a widely-used, open source scripting language
* PHP scripts are executed on the server
* PHP is free to download and use

What is a PHP File?

* PHP files can contain text, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP code
* PHP code are executed on the server, and the result is returned to the browser as plain HTML
* PHP files have extension ".php"

What Can PHP Do?

* PHP can generate dynamic page content
* PHP can create, open, read, write, delete, and close files on the server
* PHP can collect form data
* PHP can send and receive cookies
* PHP can add, delete, modify data in your database
* PHP can be used to control user-access
* PHP can encrypt data

With PHP you are not limited to output HTML. You can output images, PDF files, and even Flash movies. You can also output any text, such as XHTML and XML.

Why PHP?

* PHP runs on various platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, etc.)
* PHP is compatible with almost all servers used today (Apache, IIS, etc.)
* PHP supports a wide range of databases
* PHP is free. Download it from the official PHP resource: [www.php.net](http://www.php.net/)
* PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side

## Basic PHP Syntax

A PHP script can be placed anywhere in the document.

A PHP script starts with **<?php** and ends with **?>**:

<?php  
// PHP code goes here  
?>

The default file extension for PHP files is ".php".

A PHP file normally contains HTML tags, and some PHP scripting code.

Example php script that outputs “Hi, I’m a PHP script!” in a webpage

<!DOCTYPE HTML>  
<html>  
    <head>  
        <title>Example</title>  
    </head>  
    <body>  
  
        <?php  
            echo "Hi, I'm a PHP script!";  
        ?>  
  
    </body>  
</html>

## Comments in PHP

A comment in PHP code is a line that is not read/executed as part of the program. Its only purpose is to be read by someone who is looking at the code.

Comments can be used to:

* Let others understand what you are doing
* Remind yourself of what you did - Most programmers have experienced coming back to their own work a year or two later and having to re-figure out what they did. Comments can remind you of what you were thinking when you wrote the code

PHP supports several ways of commenting:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<?php  
// This is a single-line comment  
  
# This is also a single-line comment  
  
/\*  
This is a multiple-lines comment block  
that spans over multiple  
lines  
\*/  
  
// You can also use comments to leave out parts of a code line  
$x = 5 /\* + 15 \*/ + 5;  
echo $x;  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>

References:

<https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_syntax.asp>

<http://php.net/manual/en/intro-whatis.php>

<https://www.quora.com/What-Is-PHP>