PHP - $_ENV

$_ENV is a superglobal variable in PHP. It is an associative array that stores all the environment variables available in the current script. **$HTTP_ENV_VARS** also contains the same information, but it is not a superglobal, and it has now been deprecated.

The environment variables are imported into the global namespace. Most of these variables are provided by the shell under which the PHP parser is running. Hence, the list of environment variables may be different on different platforms.

This array ($_ENV) also includes CGI variables in case PHP is running as a server module or a CGI processor.

We can use the **foreach** loop to display all the environment variables available −

```php
<?php
   foreach ($_ENV as $k=>$v)
   echo $k . " => " . $v . "<br>";
?>
```

On a Windows OS and with XAMPP server, you may get the list of environment variables as follows −

Variable	Value
ALLUSERSPROFILE	C:\ProgramData
APPDATA	C:\Users\user\AppData\Roaming
CommonProgramFiles	C:\Program Files\Common Files
CommonProgramFiles(x86)	C:\Program Files (x86)\Common Files
CommonProgramW6432	C:\Program Files\Common Files
COMPUTERNAME	GNVBGL3
ComSpec	C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
DriverData	C:\Windows\System32\Drivers\DriverData
HOMEDRIVE	C −
HOMEPATH	\Users\user

LOCALAPPDATA	C:\Users\user\AppData\Local
LOGONSERVER	\\GNVBGL3
MOZ_PLUGIN_PATH	C:\Program Files (x86)\ Foxit Software\ Foxit PDF Reader\plugins\
NUMBER_OF_PROCESSORS	8
OneDrive	C:\Users\user\OneDrive
OneDriveConsumer	C:\Users\user\OneDrive
OS	Windows_NT
Path	C:\Python311\Scripts\; C:\Python311\; C:\WINDOWS\system32; C:\WINDOWS; C:\WINDOWS\System32\Wbem; C:\WINDOWS\System32\WindowsPowerShell\ v1.0\; C:\WINDOWS\System32\OpenSSH\; C:\xampp\php; C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Microsoft\ WindowsApps; C:\VSCode\Microsoft VS Code\bin
PATHEXT	.COM;.EXE;.BAT;.CMD;.VBS;.VBE;.JS;.JSE; .WSF;.WSH;.MSC;.PY;.PYW
PROCESSOR_ARCHITECTURE	AMD64
PROCESSOR_IDENTIFIER	Intel64 Family 6 Model 140 Stepping 1, GenuineIntel
PROCESSOR_LEVEL	6
PROCESSOR_REVISION	8c01
ProgramData	C:\ProgramData
ProgramFiles	C:\Program Files
ProgramFiles(x86)	C:\Program Files (x86)
ProgramW6432	C:\Program Files
PSModulePath	C:\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules;

	C:\WINDOWS\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\Modules
PUBLIC	C:\Users\Public
SystemDrive	C —
SystemRoot	C:\WINDOWS
TEMP	C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Temp
TMP	C:\Users\user\AppData\Local\Temp
USERDOMAIN	GNVBGL3
USERDOMAIN_ROAMINGPROFILE	GNVBGL3
USERNAME	user
USERPROFILE	C:\Users\user
windir	C:\WINDOWS
ZES_ENABLE_SYSMAN	1
__COMPAT_LAYER	RunAsAdmin Installer
AP_PARENT_PID	10608

You can access the value of individual environment variable too. This code fetches the PATH environment variable −

```php
<?php
   echo "Path: " . $_ENV['Path'];
?>
```

It will produce the following **output** −

```
Path:
C:\Python311\Scripts\;C:\Python311\;C:\WINDOWS\system32;
C:\WINDOWS;C:\WINDOWS\System32\Wbem;
C:\WINDOWS\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\;
C:\WINDOWS\System32\OpenSSH\;C:\xampp\php;
C:\Users\mlath\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps;
C:\VSCode\Microsoft VS Code\bin
```

Note − The $_ENV array may yield empty result, depending on "php.ini" setting "variables_order". You may have to edit the "php.ini" file and set **variables_order="EGPCS"** instead of **variables_order="GPCS"** value.

The getenv() Function

The PHP library provides the getenv() function to retrieve the list of all the environment variables or the value of a specific environment variable.

The following script displays the values of all the available environment variables −

```php
<?php
   $arr=getenv();
   foreach ($arr as $key=>$val)
   echo "$key=>$val";
?>
```

To obtain the value of a specific variable, use its name as the argument for the getenv() function −

```php
<?php
   echo "Path: " . getenv("PATH");
?>
```

The putenv() Function

PHP also provides the putenv() function to create a new environment variable. The environment variable will only exist for the duration of the current request.

Changing the value of certain environment variables should be avoided. By default, users will only be able to set the environment variables that begin with "**PHP_**" (e.g. PHP_FOO=BAR).

The "safe_mode_protected_env_vars" directive in "php.ini" contains a comma-delimited list of environment variables that the end user won't be able to change using putenv().

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```php
<?php
   putenv("PHP_TEMPUSER=GUEST");
   echo "Temp user: " . getenv("PHP_TEMPUSER");
?>
```

The browser will display the following **output** −

Temp user: GUEST