

Strings

Intro PHP

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Some useful string functions

`trim()` – trim whitespace or unwanted characters from strings

`rtrim()` – trim from the right side of a string

`ltrim()` – trim from the left side of a string

`htmlspecialchars()` – convert special characters to entities

`htmlspecialcharschars()` – convert limited set of characters to entities

`nl2br()` – convert new line characters to html '`
`' tags

`number_format()` – format numbers to specified decimal places

`sprintf()` – format a string and return the value

`strlen()` - get length of ascii string

`mb_strlen()` – get length of unicode string

`strpos()` – find position of substring within string

`strrpos()` – find position of substring within string in reverse

`substr()` – extract a substring from a string

`strtoupper()` – convert string to all upper case

`strtolower()` – convert string to all lower case

`ucwords()` – convert each word's first letter to upper case

`ucfirst()` – convert first letter of string to upper case

`str_replace()` – replace a substring within a string

Sanitizing with htmlentities()

It's important to understand the different options available for sanitizing.

```
<?php

$str = "Content copyright © 2021 by <strong>'WDD'</strong> &
<strong>PACE</strong>";

?>

<?=htmlentities($str , ENT_NOQUOTES); ?>
<?=htmlentities($str, ENT_QUOTES)?>
```

```
Content copyright &copy; 2021 by &lt;strong&gt;'WDD'&lt;/strong&gt; &amp;amp; &lt;strong&gt;PACE&lt;/strong&gt;\n
Content copyright &copy; 2021 by &lt;strong&gt;&#039;WDD&#039;&lt;/strong&gt; &amp;amp; &lt;strong&gt;PACE&lt;/strong&gt;
```

htmlentities() converts the following characters: `<` `>` `&` `'` `"` as well as any other character for which there is an entity.

Sanitizing with htmlspecialchars()

It's important to understand the different options available for sanitizing.

```
<?php

$str = "Content copyright © 2021 by <strong>'WDD'</strong> &
<strong>PACE</strong>";

?>

<?=htmlspecialchars($str); ?>
<?=htmlspecialchars($str, ENT_QUOTES)?>
```

```
Content copyright © 2021 by &lt;strong&gt;'WDD'&lt;/strong&gt; &amp;amp; &lt;strong&gt;PACE&lt;/strong&gt;\n
Content copyright © 2021 by &lt;strong&gt;&#039;WDD&#039;&lt;/strong&gt; &amp;amp; &lt;strong&gt;PACE&lt;/strong&gt;
```

htmlspecialchars() converts only the following characters: `<` `>` `&` `'` `"`

Length of unicode strings

Many of PHP's string functions are wrappers around C functions. C functions tend to count bytes when counting length.

```
$str1 = "dog";  
$str2 = "dög";  
$len1 = strlen($str1);  
$len2 = strlen($str2);  
$len3 = mb_strlen($str1);  
$len4 = mb_strlen($str2);
```

Using `strlen()`, the length of 'dog' is 3, while the length of 'dög' is 4

Using `mb_strlen()`, the length of 'dog' is 3, while the length of 'dög' is 3

Next:

Regular Expressions