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Visibility

Visibility

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Private and protected properties of classes are not about security, but provide information about the code for users, to let them know how to use them.

<http://php.net/manual/en/language.oop5.visibility.php>

Private and protected properties can be read by converting objects to arrays, closures, or by reverse-engineering using the reflection API.

```
class Foo { private $private = "private"; protected $protected = "protected"; }
```

Retrieving the private property value directly results in a fatal error:

```
$foo = new Foo(); var_dump($foo->private); // PHP Fatal error: Uncaught Error: Cannot access private property Foo::$private in 7.php: 17
```

Converting to an array:

```
$foo = (array) $foo; var_dump($foo["\0Foo\0private"]); var_dump($foo["\0*\0protected"]); // string(7) "private" // string(7) "protected"
```

Using the reflection API:

```
$foo = new Foo(); $reflection = new ReflectionObject($foo); $private = $reflection->getProperty('private'); $private->setAccessible(true); var_dump($private->getValue($foo)); // string(7) "private" $protected = $reflection->getProperty('protected'); $protected->setAccessible(true); var_dump($protected->getValue($foo)); // string(7) "protected"
```

Using a closure:

```
$foo = new Foo(); var_dump((function(){return $this->private;})->bindTo($foo, $foo)());  
var_dump((function(){return $this->protected;})->bindTo($foo, $foo)()); // string(7) "private" // string(7) "protected"
```

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