

## Welcome to PHP

PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (**PHP**) is a free, highly popular, open source scripting language. PHP scripts are executed on the **server**.

Just a short list of what PHP is capable of:

- Generating dynamic page content
- Creating, opening, reading, writing, deleting, and closing files on the server
- Collecting form data
- Adding, deleting, and modifying information stored in your database
- controlling user-access
- encrypting data
- and much more!

Before starting this tutorial, you should have a basic understanding of **HTML**.

PHP has enough power to work at the core of **WordPress**, the busiest blogging system on the web. It also has the degree of depth required to run **Facebook**, the web's largest social network!

## Why PHP

PHP **runs** on numerous, varying platforms, including Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, and so on. PHP is **compatible** with almost any modern server, such as Apache, IIS, and more. PHP **supports** a wide range of databases. PHP is **free**!

PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side.

## PHP Syntax

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

```
<?php
// PHP code goes here
?>
```

Here is an example of a simple PHP file. The PHP script uses a built in function called "**echo**" to output the text "Hello World!" to a web page.

```
<html>
<head>
<title>My First PHP Page</title>
</head>
<body>
<?php
  echo "Hello World!";
?>
</body>
</html>
```

PHP statements end with **semicolons (;)**.

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## PHP Syntax

Alternatively, we can include PHP in the HTML **<script>** tag.

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>My First PHP Page</title>
</head>
<body>
  <script language="php">
    echo "Hello World!";
  </script>
</body>
</html>
```

However, the latest version of PHP removes support for **<script language="php">** tags. As such, we recommend using **<?php ?>** exclusively.

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## PHP Syntax

You can also use the shorthand PHP tags, **<? ?>**, as long as they're supported by the server.

```
<?
  echo "Hello World!";
?>
```

Try It Yourself

However, **<?php ?>**, as the official standard, is the recommended way of defining PHP scripts.

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## Echo

PHP has a built-in **"echo"** function, which is used to output text. In actuality, it's not a function; it's a **language construct**. As such, it does not require parentheses.

Let's output a text.

```
<?php
  echo "I love PHP!";
?>
```

Try It Yourself

The text should be in single or double **quotation marks**.

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## PHP Statements

Each PHP statement must end with a **semicolon**.

```
<?php
echo "A";
echo "B";
echo "C";
?>
```

Try It Yourself

Forgetting to add a semicolon at the end of a statement results in an **error**.

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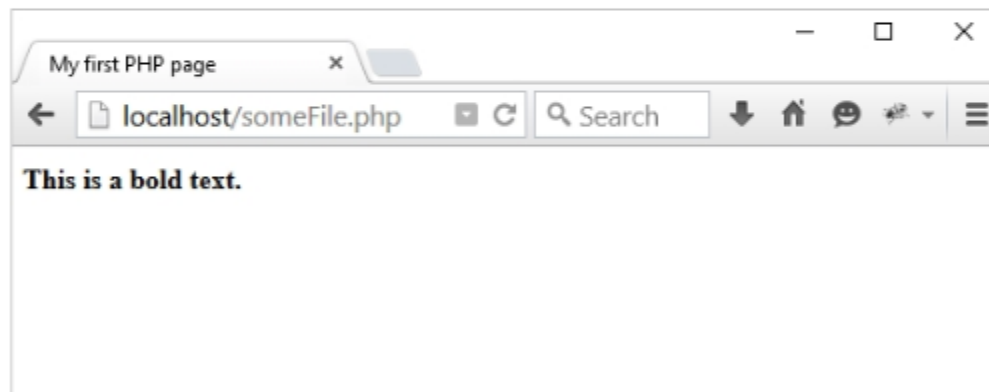
## Echo

HTML markup can be added to the text in the **echo** statement.

```
<?php
echo "<strong>This is a bold text.</strong>";
?>
```

Try It Yourself

Result:



Tap Try It Yourself to play around with the code!

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## Comments

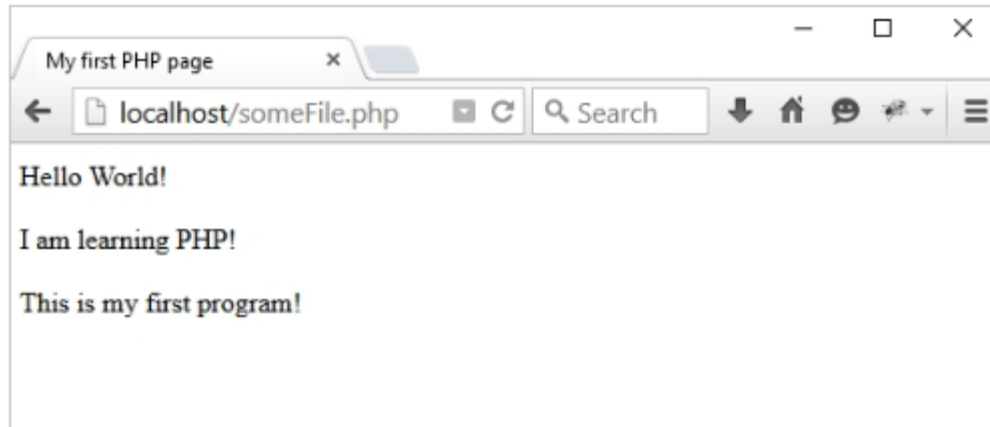
In PHP code, a **comment** is a line that is not executed as part of the program. You can use comments to communicate to others so they understand what you're doing, or as a reminder to yourself of what you did.

A **single-line** comment starts with `//`:

```
<?php
echo "<p>Hello World!</p>";
// This is a single-line comment
echo "<p>I am learning PHP!</p>";
echo "<p>This is my first program!</p>";
?>
```

Try It Yourself

Result:



Tap **Try It Yourself** to play around with the code!

# End.