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```
add_option( string $option, mixed $value = "", string $deprecated = "",
string|bool $autoload = 'yes' ): bool
```

Adds a new option.

### Description

You do not need to serialize values. If the value needs to be serialized, then it will be serialized before it is inserted into the database.

Remember, resources cannot be serialized or added as an option.

You can create options without values and then update the values later.

Existing options will not be updated and checks are performed to ensure that you aren't adding a protected WordPress option.

Care should be taken to not name options the same as the ones which are protected.

### Parameters

**\$option** string required

Name of the option to add. Expected to not be SQL-escaped.

**\$value** mixed optional

Option value. Must be serializable if non-scalar.

Expected to not be SQL-escaped.

Default: ''

**\$deprecated** string optional

Description. Not used anymore.

Default: ''

**\$autoload** string|bool optional

Whether to load the option when WordPress starts up.

Accepts 'yes'|true to enable or 'no'|false to disable.

Autoloading too many options can lead to performance problems, especially if the options are not frequently used. For options which are accessed across several places in the frontend, it is recommended to autoload them, by using 'yes'|true .

For options which are accessed only on few specific URLs, it is recommended to not autoload them, by using 'no'|false .

Default 'yes' .

Default: 'yes'

## Return

**bool** True if the option was added, false otherwise.

## Source

wp-includes/option.php

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```
function add_option( $option, $value = '', $deprecated = '', $autoload = 'yes' ) {
    global $wpdb;

    if ( ! empty( $deprecated ) ) {
        _deprecated_argument( __FUNCTION__, '2.3.0' );
    }

    if ( is_scalar( $option ) ) {
        $option = trim( $option );
    }

    if ( empty( $option ) ) {
        return false;
    }
}
```

[View all references](#)·[View on Trac](#)·[View on GitHub](#)

## Hooks

`do_action( 'added_option', string $option, mixed $value )`

Fires after an option has been added.

`do_action( 'add_option', string $option, mixed $value )`

Fires before an option is added.

`do_action( "add_option_{$option}", string $option, mixed $value )`

Fires after a specific option has been added.

`apply_filters( "default_option_{$option}", mixed $default_value, string $option, bool $passed_default )`

Filters the default value for an option.

## Related

### Uses

[wp\\_installing\(\)](#)

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[sanitize\\_option\(\)](#)

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Changelog

| Version               | Description |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| <a href="#">1.0.0</a> | Introduced. |

User Contributed Notes

Codex8 years ago

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Basic Example

Copy

```
<?php add_option( 'myhack_extraction_length', '255', '', 'yes' ); ?>
```

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Marius L. J.1 year ago

1

The `autoload` option means that WordPress will automatically fetch this option and its value on every page request.

If your code relies on the option value on every, or close to every, page request, setting this value to `yes` will save a database query from being triggered when you request the option.

Take note that the value of your option entry will add to the overall memory consumed by the website, so keep this in mind

when autoloading large datasets.

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CODE IS POETRY

