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A background image showing a laptop on a desk with a small potted plant. The laptop screen displays code in a dark-themed editor. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Introduction to PHP

A Server-Side Scripting Language


Write by /Youssef Khaled

PHP Setup

- The first step in installing PHP is to download the latest version from the official PHP website (<https://www.php.net/downloads.php>). Choose the appropriate version for your operating system (Windows, macOS, or Linux) and architecture (32-bit or 64-bit).
- **Step 2: Choose a Web Server:**
- PHP is often used in conjunction with a web server. Two popular choices are Apache and Nginx. For beginners, XAMPP (<https://www.apachefriends.org/index.html>) is an excellent option as it bundles Apache, MySQL, PHP, and Perl in an easy-to-install package. Alternatively, you can use MAMP for macOS or WampServer for Windows.
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Step 3: Configure PHP:

- Once the web server is installed, locate the PHP configuration file (php.ini). This file is crucial for customizing PHP settings. Common configurations include adjusting the maximum file upload size, enabling error reporting, and configuring the date.timezone setting.
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Test this
installations

To verify that PHP is installed correctly, create a simple PHP file and run it in your web browser. For example, create a file named "test.php" with the following content:

```
<?php  
    phpinfo();  
?>
```

Data types in php

- **Integer:** Represents whole numbers without a decimal point. Example: **\$count = 42;**
- **Float (or Double):** Represents numbers with a decimal point. Example: **\$price = 19.99;**
- **String:** Represents sequences of characters. Example: **\$name = "John Doe";**
- **Boolean:** Represents true or false values. Example: **\$isReady = true;**

Array

An ordered, indexed collection of values. Arrays in PHP can hold different data types. Example:

```
$fruits = array("Apple", "Orange", "Banana");
```

Object

- `class Car {`
- `public $model;`
- `public $color;`
- `}`

- `$myCar = new Car();`
- `$myCar->model = "Toyota";`
- `$myCar->color = "Blue";`



NULL

- Represents the absence of a value or a variable without a value. Example:
- **`$result = null;`**

Resource

- Represents a special type that holds a reference to an external resource (like a database connection).
- `$file = fopen("example.txt", "r");`