PHP Tutorial

Learn PHP

PHP is a server scripting language, and a powerful tool for making dynamic and interactive Web pages.

PHP is a widely-used, free, and efficient alternative to competitors such as Microsoft's ASP.

<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<body>

<?php

echo "My first PHP script!";

?>

</body>

</html>

What You Should Already Know

Before you continue you should have a basic understanding of the following:

HTML

CSS

JavaScript

If you want to study these subjects first, find the tutorials on our Home page.

What is PHP?

PHP is an acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor"

PHP is a widely-used, open source scripting language

PHP scripts are executed on the server

PHP is free to download and use

PHP is an amazing and popular language!

It is powerful enough to be at the core of the biggest blogging system on the web (WordPress)!

It is deep enough to run large social networks!

It is also easy enough to be a beginner's first server side language!

What is a PHP File?

PHP files can contain text, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP code

PHP code is executed on the server, and the result is returned to the browser as plain HTML

PHP files have extension ".php"

What Can PHP Do?

PHP can generate dynamic page content

PHP can create, open, read, write, delete, and close files on the server

PHP can collect form data

PHP can send and receive cookies

PHP can add, delete, modify data in your database

PHP can be used to control user-access

PHP can encrypt data

With PHP you are not limited to output HTML. You can output images or PDF files. You can also output any text, such as XHTML and XML.

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Why PHP?

PHP runs on various platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, etc.)

PHP is compatible with almost all servers used today (Apache, IIS, etc.)

PHP supports a wide range of databases

PHP is free. Download it from the official PHP resource: www.php.net

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

What's new in PHP 7

PHP 7 is much faster than the previous popular stable release (PHP 5.6)

PHP 7 has improved Error Handling

PHP 7 supports stricter Type Declarations for function arguments

PHP 7 supports new operators (like the spaceship operator: <=>)

What Do I Need?

To start using PHP, you can:

Find a web host with PHP and MySQL support

Install a web server on your own PC, and then install PHP and MySQL

Use a Web Host With PHP Support

If your server has activated support for PHP you do not need to do anything.

Just create some .php files, place them in your web directory, and the server will automatically parse them for you.

You do not need to compile anything or install any extra tools.

Because PHP is free, most web hosts offer PHP support.

Set Up PHP on Your Own PC

However, if your server does not support PHP, you must:

install a web server

install PHP

install a database, such as MySQL

The official PHP website (PHP.net) has installation instructions for PHP: http://php.net/manual/en/install.php

PHP Online Compiler / Editor

With w3schools' online PHP compiler, you can edit PHP code, and view the result in your browser.

Example

<?php

$txt = "PHP";

echo "I love $txt!";

?>

I love PHP!

Click on the "Try it Yourself" button to see how it works.

PHP Version

To check your php version you can use the phpversion() function:

ExampleGet your own PHP Server

Display the PHP version:

echo phpversion();

EXPLANATION BY W3 BOT ON PHP

Ask a question...

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Hello, I am kAI. How can I assist you today?

I want to start writing code in PHP as a beginner. Where am I expect to start ?

That's great! To start coding in PHP as a beginner, you can follow these steps:

Install PHP: First, make sure you have PHP installed on your computer. You can download and install it from the official PHP website (https://www.php.net/downloads.php).

Set up a development environment: You'll need a text editor or an integrated development environment (IDE) to write your PHP code. Some popular options include Visual Studio Code, Sublime Text, and PhpStorm.

Learn the basics: Start by learning the fundamentals of PHP, such as variables, data types, operators, control structures (if statements, loops), and functions. Understanding these concepts will give you a solid foundation for writing PHP code.

CODING PHP ON SMART PHONE

While it's more convenient to code PHP on a computer, you can still write and run PHP code on your smartphone. Here are a few options:

Online PHP editors: There are online platforms that provide web-based PHP editors where you can write and run PHP code directly from your smartphone's browser. Some popular options include:

Replit (https://replit.com/languages/php)

PHP Sandbox (https://phpsandbox.io/)

Mobile apps: There are mobile apps available for both Android and iOS that allow you to write and run PHP code on your smartphone. Some popular apps include:

AIDE (Android)

Coda (iOS)

Practice with examples: Once you have a grasp of the basics, practice writing small programs or scripts using PHP. You can find example projects and exercises online to help you practice and reinforce your knowledge.

Explore PHP documentation: The PHP documentation (https://www.php.net/docs.php) is a valuable resource for learning about PHP functions, syntax, and features. It provides detailed explanations and examples that can help you understand how to use different PHP functionalities.

Join a community: Engage with other PHP developers through forums, online communities, or local meetups. This can provide you with support, guidance, and opportunities to learn from experienced developers.

Build projects: As you gain more confidence and experience, start working on small projects to apply your PHP skills. Building projects will help you practice problem-solving, improve your coding abilities, and give you hands-on experience.

Remember, practice and patience are key when learning any programming language. Good luck with your PHP journey! If you have any specific questions, feel free to ask.

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Text editors and FTP: You can use a text editor app on your smartphone to write PHP code and then transfer the files to a web server using FTP (File Transfer Protocol). This way, you can run your PHP code on a remote server. Some recommended text editor apps for smartphones include:

Dcoder (Android)

Buffer Editor (iOS)

Remember that coding on a smartphone might have some limitations due to the smaller screen size and limited functionality compared to a computer. However, it can still be a useful way to practice and experiment with PHP coding when a computer is not available.

I hope this helps! Let me know if you have any further questions.