



PHP - Hypertext Preprocessor

Yaron Benita
De Paul University



PHP

- **Introduction**
- **History**
- **Language syntax**
- **Advantages**



What is PHP

An established server-side, cross-platform embedded HTML scripting language for creating dynamic Web pages.

PHP provides many features that commercial entities are looking for.



PHP Advantages

- **Exceptionally short learning curve**
- **Quick development time**
- **Very high performance**
- **supports all major platforms (UNIX, Windows and even mainframes).**
- **Features native support for most popular databases**



Intranet Design Magazine

"PHP was built with the needs of Web developers in mind... Unlike other cumbersome, overhead-laden approaches, PHP is lightweight and focused on the Web - where it can solve complex problem scenarios quicker and more easily than comparable technologies."



History of PHP

- **1994 - PHP was conceived sometimes in the Fall of 1994 by Rasmus Lerdorf**
- **1995 - PHP/FI Version 2. (Introducing mySql data base)**
- **1997 – approximately 50,000 web sites. Introducing PHP Version 3. (Zeev Suraski and Andi Gutmans)**
- **2000 – PHP 4 was introduced, using “Zend” scripting engine. (5.1 million web sites.)**



PHP-Enabled Web Pages

- **Treated just like regular HTML pages and you can create and edit them the same way you normally create regular HTML pages.**
- **As simple as HTML files with a whole new family of magical tags that let you do all sorts of things.**



Simple Example:

File name : Hello.php

```
<html> <head> <title> PHP
```

```
Test</title> </head>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<?php echo "Hello World<p>"; ?>
```

```
</body> </html>
```




PHP Language

- **Condition statements, loop statements, arrays ...**
- **Built in libraries. (sorting, list, queue..)**
- **Functions.**
- **Classes. (Objects, Inheritance ..)**
- **String Manipulation. (Perl)**
- **Built in support for encryption/Decryption functions.(MD5, DES, ...)**



More on PHP Language:

- **Text files manipulation. (Read, write, ..)**
- **Supports java objects, COM objects ...**
- **Sessions, cookies ...**

A More Useful Example

- `< ?php echo $HTTP_USER_AGENT; ?>`

Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.01; Windows NT 5.0)

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

A list of all the global variables.

Using if Statements

```
< ?php
if(strpos($_HTTP_USER_AGENT,"MS
IE")) { ?>
< center> < b> You are using
Internet Explorer< / b> < / center>
< ?} else { ?>
< center> < b> You are not using
Internet Explorer< / b> < / center>
< ?} ?>
```



Dealing with Forms

- **One of the most powerful features of PHP is the way it handles HTML forms**
- **Any form element in a form will automatically result in a variable with the same name as the element being created on the target page.**

FORM Example:

- **HTML Page:**

```
< form action= "action.php" method= "post">  
Your name: <input type= "text"  
name= "name">  
You age: <input type= "text" name= "age">  
<input type= "submit">  
< / form>
```

- **action.php.**

```
Hi < ?php echo $name; ?> .  
You are < ?php echo $age; ?> years old.
```



Database Support

- **mySQL** - PHP and MySQL work very well together, in addition to the speed and features of each individual tool.
- PHP is open-source, and offers excellent connectivity to most of today's common databases including Oracle, Sybase, MySQL, ODBC (and others).
- PHP also offers integration with various external libraries which enable the developer to do anything from generating PDF documents to parsing XML.



MySQL Example

- **Connect to MySQL.**
- **Send a query.**
- **Print a table heading.**
- **Print table rows until end of the table has been reached.**

MySQL Example

```
<?php
```

```
$conn = mysql_connect("localhost", "ya  
ron", "");
```

```
$res = mysql_query("SELECT * FROM user  
s", $conn);
```

```
$header_printed = false;
```

```
print "<TABLE>\n";
```

```
do {
```

```
    $data = mysql_fetch_array($res);
```

```
    // Retrieve the next row of data.
```

```
    if (!is_array($data)) {
```

```
        break;
```

```
    }
```

MySQL Example (continue)

```
if (!$header_printed) {
    print " <TR>";
    reset($data);
    while (list($name, $value) = each($data)) {
        print " <TH>$name</TH>\n"
    }
    print " </TR>\n";
    $header_printed = true;
}
print " <TR>\n";
print " <TD>";

    print implode("</TD>\n <TD>", $data);
    print " </TR>\n";
} while ($data);
print "</TABLE>\n";

?>
```



Reasons for Using PHP

- **Speed and robustness.**
- **Superior Memory Management**
- **No Hidden Costs with PHP**
- **Integration with MySQL database.**
- **Closer to Java/C++ Style of Programming.**
- **No Show Stopper Bugs.**
- **Cross Platform Migration Strategy.**



Where to Find More...

- **PHP Homepage: <http://www.php.net>**
- **PHP-to-MySQL database tutorial:
[http://www.devshed.com/
resource/advanced/php3/intro/index
.html](http://www.devshed.com/resource/advanced/php3/intro/index.html)**
- **Zend.com: <http://www.Zend.com/>**