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## Get \$\_POST from multiple checkboxes

I have 1 form in with multiple checkboxes in it (each with the code):

```
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list" value="<? echo $row['Report ID'] ?>">
```

Where `$row['Report ID']` is a primary key in a database -so each value is different.

How would I be able to tell which checkboxes have been checked? (Maybe multiple)

(In context:) Its for an inbox system and I have a button below that I want (when clicked) to delete all messages (id's of: `$row['Report ID']`) which have the checkbox's checked...

How would I do this?

Thanks alot...

[php](#) [html](#) [forms](#) [checkbox](#)

edited May 28 '13 at 11:17



[Pete](#)

29.9k 18 59 91

asked Feb 14 '11 at 21:04



[James Rattray](#)

2,307 12 33 53

### 6 Answers

Set the name in the form to `check_list[]` and you will be able to access all the checkboxes as an array( `$_POST['check_list']` ).

Here's a little sample as requested:

```
<form action="test.php" method="post">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="value 1">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="value 2">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="value 3">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="value 4">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="value 5">
<input type="submit" />
</form>
<?php
if(!empty($_POST['check_list'])) {
    foreach($_POST['check_list'] as $check) {
        echo $check; //echoes the value set in the HTML form for each checked
checkbox.
//so, if I were to check 1, 3, and 5 it would echo value 1, value
3, value 5.
//in your case, it would echo whatever $row['Report ID'] is
equivalent to.
    }
}
?>
```

edited Jan 30 '12 at 22:20

answered Feb 14 '11 at 21:06



[Sean Walsh](#)

6,105 2 18 36

2 Can you give me an example of echo(ing) one `check_list[]` checkbox? (And would it be similar for two selected?) Thanks. — [James Rattray](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:09

3 Edited my original answer. — [Sean Walsh](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:22

- 
- 2 I should also specify that if no value is set in the HTML, `$check` will equal `on` . – [Sean Walsh](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:26
- 
- 9 `if($_POST)` - useless, `$_POST` will always be true. You should check if `!empty($_POST['check_list'])` instead. – [Mārtiņš Briedis](#) Feb 14 '11 at 23:08
- 
- 3 @MārtiņšBriedis that would cause an array index out of bounds if it didn't exist. A better check would be `array_key_exists('check_list', $_POST) && !empty($_POST['check_list'])` – [Tyzoid](#) Aug 1 '13 at 20:13
- 

**Edit** To reflect what @Marc said in the comment below.

You can do a loop through all the posted values.

HTML:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="<?=$rowid?" />
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="<?=$rowid?" />
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="<?=$rowid?" />
```

PHP:

```
foreach($_POST['check_list'] as $item){
    // query to delete where item = $item
}
```

edited Aug 30 '15 at 14:11



[Nikunj Madhogaria](#)  
825 9 28

answered Feb 14 '11 at 21:10



[Scone](#)  
423 2 9

- 
- 1 Weird error: Warning: Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in /home1/mountgam/public\_html/zombiewrath/reports.php on line 30 =/ – [James Rattray](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:13
- 
- 2 That would only work if you use the `[]` syntax in the field definition, which makes PHP create that `$_POST` value as an array. Otherwise it'll be a single non-array value, causing the `foreach()` loop to blow up. – [Marc B](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:20
- 
- 1 I tried both, but ok i'll try again (Without `[]` in form/name) – [James Rattray](#) Feb 14 '11 at 21:21
- 

you have to name your checkboxes accordingly:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[]" value="..." />
```

you can then access all checked checkboxes with

```
// Loop over checked checkboxes
foreach($_POST['check_list'] as $checkbox) {
    // do something
}
```

ps. make sure to properly escape your output ( `htmlspecialchars()` )

edited Jul 9 '15 at 9:42

answered Feb 14 '11 at 21:08



[knittl](#)  
124k 31 195 254

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Shouldn't you use `check_list` in PHP code ? – [Pratik C Joshi](#) Jul 9 '15 at 9:34

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- 1 @PratikCJoshi: 4 years after ... good catch! :) – [knittl](#) Jul 9 '15 at 9:42
- 

```
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[<? echo $row['Report ID'] ?>]" value="<? echo $row['Report ID'] ?>" />
```

And after the post, you can loop through them:

```
if(!empty($_POST['check_list'])){
    foreach($_POST['check_list'] as $report_id){
        echo "$report_id was checked! ";
    }
}
```

Or get a certain value posted from previous page:

```
if(isset($_POST['check_list'][$report_id])){
    echo $report_id . " was checked!<br/>";
}
```

edited Mar 13 '13 at 17:04

Mikeys4u  
645 9 17

answered Feb 14 '11 at 21:07

Mārtiņš Briedis  
11.7k 2 32 56

Sorry, old topic but this is one important piece to mention for this, which @JamesRatray and others were having issues with.

Do NOT self close the `input` tag (using `</>`) when you are trying to post multiple values to the PHP script. When you self close the tag, it ends the array definition and you will only have a single value posted to your script on submission. In effect @Scone's answer may not work until the `</>` is changed.

This is what causes the Warning: Invalid argument supplied for foreach() in /home1/... PHP error in this case.

EDIT: As noted in the comments below, further research suggests that this is dependent on DOCTYPE. If you have the DOCTYPE set for XHTML, it will require that the input tag be closed. If you have DOCTYPE set of HTML5, it will require that the input tag not be closed. There is also a chance that this could be dictated by what browser the user is viewing the page in and how well it follows the DOCTYPE specified in the code.

edited Aug 7 '15 at 15:08

answered Feb 23 '15 at 16:59

Jon Gallup  
156 1 9

Incorrect. Self-closing input tag won't affect the values that passes to PHP. – Raptor Jul 14 '15 at 7:20

@Raptor On further research, Yes it can affect AND as you say, no it doesn't, but on further research, it is only affected if the DOCTYPE is set. HTML5 does not recognize the tag as being closed (and would be invalid if it is closed), whereas XHTML does require the tag to be closed. See the W3Schools info page on it here: [link](#) – Jon Gallup Jul 21 '15 at 18:52

Never trust W3Schools. It's full of errors. Read [w3fools.com](#) – Raptor Jul 22 '15 at 2:19

@Raptor While the W3Schools may be full of errors, it is important to note that information that it (and other websites) may provide is cogent to the question. I'm merely stating that in the process of troubleshooting something ANY information to try and fix an issue is better than NO information. In this case, if you would like another reference, the W3 specifies that the input tag must not be closed in any way as it will be non-compliant. I will edit my original answer to reflect DOCTYPE. – Jon Gallup Aug 7 '15 at 15:05

It's pretty simple. Pay attention and you'll get it right away! :)

You will create a html array, which will be then sent to php array. Your html code will look like this:

```
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[1]" alt="Checkbox" value="checked">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[2]" alt="Checkbox" value="checked">
<input type="checkbox" name="check_list[3]" alt="Checkbox" value="checked">
```

Where [1] [2] [3] are the IDs of your messages, meaning that you will echo your `$row['Report ID']` in their place.

Then, when you submit the form, your PHP array will look like this:

```
print_r($check_list)
```

```
[1] => checked
```

```
[3] => checked
```

Depending on which were checked and which were not.

I'm sure you can continue from this point forward.

edited Sep 10 '13 at 4:38

Thusitha Sumanadasa  
903 1 11 21

answered Feb 14 '11 at 21:08

Richard Rodriguez  
3,629 8 47 81

5 Remember that `check_list[]` would start with `check_list[0]` rather than `check_list[1]`. – Arbiter May 28 '14 at 8:01

value="checked" is counter-productive. If no value is specified you get 'on'. The advantage of specifying the values you want to submit in the value attributes is that you can send almost arbitrary data that doesn't have to become a PHP array index. Iterating over array values with foreach is also easier than iterating over the keys. – Rudiger W. Jan 25 '16 at 8:44

**protected** by [Community](#) ♦ Aug 7 '15 at 12:26

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