

there are no Dumb Questions

Q: What does PHP stand for?

A: PHP is an acronym that originally stood for **P**ersonal **H**ome **P**ages. Somewhere along the way the acronym was changed to mean **P**HP: **H**ypertext **P**rocessor. The latter is considered a recursive acronym because it references itself—the acronym (PHP) is inside the acronym. Clever? Confusing? You decide!

Q: Even though my web browser shows that a web page has a name that ends in `.php`, it's still pure HTML? How is that?

A: It's possible because the page **originates** as PHP code on the server but is **transformed** into HTML code before making its way to the browser. So the server runs the PHP code and converts it into HTML code before sending it along to the browser for viewing. This means that even though a `.php` file contains PHP code, the browser never sees it—it only sees the HTML code that results from running the PHP code on the server.

Q: But don't all web pages originate on the server, even pure HTML pages in `.html` files?

A: Yes. All of the files for a web site are stored on the server—`.html`, `.css`, `.php`, etc. But they aren't all **processed** by the server. HTML and CSS files, as well as image files, are sent directly to the client browser without worrying about what's actually inside them. PHP files are different because they contain code that's processed and **run** on the web server. It's not the PHP code that's sent to the browser, it's the **results** of running the PHP code that are sent, and these results are pure HTML and CSS.