

LECTURE 2: WHAT IS PHP?

Hey everybody! Welcome to Code Dynamic Websites with PHP. This lecture is called "What is PHP"?

PHP is one of the most (if not the most popular) server-side programming language on the web today, with more than 240 million websites using it (as of January 2013 — according to [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org)).

Websites like Google, Apple, Facebook and YouTube utilize PHP. Popular Content Management Systems (CMS) like Wordpress, Drupal, Joomla and Expression Engine all rely on PHP.

PHP stands for "Hypertext Preprocessor" — I know, right? I don't get it either...

PHP can be used as a stand-alone programming language to create robust applications, or it can be used within HTML code to create dynamic websites (which is the goal of this course).

PHP runs on a "server", and in order to use PHP on your own computer when developing a website, you'll need to have a server installed on your machine — don't worry about this part, it's quick & painless to get set up, and it doesn't cost you a penny.

I'll be covering the tools you'll need in an upcoming lecture.

Also, I will be frequently referencing PHP.net throughout the duration of this course, and I recommend you bookmark it for easy access.

Stay tuned, because in the next lecture I'll give you a quick rundown of some of the cool things PHP can do!

See you there!