

PRESENTED BY: Craig Francis

The `literal-string` Type



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $_GET['id'];
```



`$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = $_GET['id'];`

`SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = 123`



`$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = $_GET['id'];`

`SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = -1 UNION SELECT * FROM admin`



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?';
```

```
$db->query($sql, $_GET['id']);
```





```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $_GET['id'];
```

```
$db->query($sql);
```



Database Abstractions:

Doctrine

Laravel DB

Propel ORM

RedBean

CakePHP

Mistakes with Database Abstractions:

<https://eiv.dev/>


```
1  <?php
2
3  $qb->select(array('u'))
4      ->from('User', 'u')
5      ->where($qb->expr()->orX(
6          $qb->expr()->eq('u.id', '?1'),
7          $qb->expr()->like('u.nickname', '?2')
8      ))
9      ->orderBy('u.surname', 'ASC');
```



```
$qb->select('u')
```

```
->from('User', 'u')
```

```
->where('u.id = :identifier')
```

```
->setParameter('identifier', $_GET['id']);
```

```
$qb->select('u')
```

```
->from('User', 'u')
```

```
->where('u.id = ' . $_GET['id']); // INSECURE
```

```
$articles->where('author_id', $id);
```

```
$articles->where('author_id IS NULL');
```

```
$articles->where('DATE(published)', $date);
```



```
$articles->where('author_id', $id);
```

```
$articles->where('author_id IS NULL');
```

```
$articles->where('DATE(published)', $date);
```

```
$articles->where('word_count > 1000');
```

```
$articles->where('word_count > ', $count);
```

```
$articles->where('word_count > ' . $count);
```

↑
'word_count > word_count UNION SELECT * FROM admin'



```
$html = '<p>Hi {{ name }}</p>';
```

```
$template->render($html, ['name' => $name]);
```



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>';
```



```
$template->render($html);
```

```
'<p>Hi <script>alert();</script></p>'
```



Context aware?



```
$html = '<a href="{{ url }}">Link</a>';
```

```
$template->render($html, ['url' => $url]);
```



```
'<a href="javascript:alert()">Link</a>'
```




```
$exec = 'grep "" . $search . "" /path/to/file';
```



```
grep "" /path/to/secrets; # "" /path/to/file
```



**"Distinguishing strings from a trusted developer,
from strings that may be attacker controlled"**

Mike Samuel - 27th March 2019

Christoph Kern

Preventing Security Bugs through Software Design

USENIX Security 2015

AppSec California 2016

<https://youtu.be/ccfEu-Jj0as>

O'REILLY®

Building Secure & Reliable Systems

Best Practices for Designing, Implementing
and Maintaining Systems



Heather Adkins, Betsy Beyer,
Paul Blankinship, Piotr Lewandowski,
Ana Oprea & Adam Stubblefield

Building Secure and Reliable Systems

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Common Security Vulnerabilities

Page 266

Taint Checking?

Where variables note if they are **Tainted**, or **Untainted**.

Untainted



```
$html = '<p>Hello Everybody,</p>';
```



Untainted

Untainted Tainted Untainted



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>';
```



Tainted



Untainted



Tainted Untainted



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . htmlspecialchars($name) . '</p>';
```



Untainted



Escaped, to make it Safe :-)

```
<p>Hello &lt;script>alert()&lt;/script></p>
```


Unfortunately Taint Checking incorrectly assumes escaping makes a value “safe” for *any* context.

Untainted



Tainted Untainted



```
$html = "<a href='" . htmlspecialchars($url) . "'>Link</a>";
```



Escapes & ' " < > ... Is this Safe?

```
<a href='javascript:alert()>Link</a>
```



Untainted



Tainted Untainted



```
$html = "";
```

Missing Quotes



Escapes & ' " < > ... Is this Safe?

```
<img src=/ onerror=alert() />
```



Untainted



Tainted Untainted



```
$html = "<img src='' . htmlspecialchars($url) . '' />";
```



Before PHP 8.1, single
quotes were not
encoded by default :-)

Is this Safe?

```
<img src='/' onerror='alert()' />
```



Untainted



Tainted



```
$sql = "WHERE id = " . mysqli_real_escape_string($link, $id);
```

Missing Quotes



Escaped ... Is this Safe?



WHERE id = -1 UNION SELECT * FROM admin



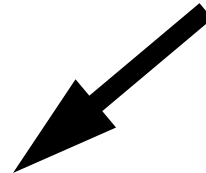
**Taint Checking is close,
but escaping should be done by a Library.**

We can simplify this, by checking for:

"strings from a trusted developer"

Safe* vs Unsafe

**When talking about
Injection Vulnerabilities**



Safe*

**A developer defined string.
(in the source code)**

Unsafe

Everything else.

Safe*



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?';
```

```
$db->query($sql, $id);
```



Unsafe



Safe*



Unsafe



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = ' . $id;
```

```
$db->query($sql);
```

???



Safe*



Unsafe



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = ' . $id;
```

```
$db->query($sql);
```

Unsafe



```
$sql = 'SELECT * FROM users WHERE id = ' . $id;
```

```
$db->query($sql);
```



Safe*



```
$html = '<p>Hi {{ name }}</p>';
```

```
$template->render($html, ['name' => $name]);
```



Unsafe

Safe*



Unsafe



Safe*



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>';
```

```
$template->render($html);
```

???



Safe*



Unsafe



Safe*



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>';
```

```
$template->render($html);
```

Unsafe



```
$html = '<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>';
```

```
$template->render($html);
```



Safe*



```
$command = 'grep ? /path/to/file';
```

```
shell_exec($command, [$search]);
```



Unsafe



Safe*



Unsafe



Safe*



```
$command = 'grep "' . $search . '" /path/to/file';
```

```
shell_exec($command);
```

???



Safe*



Unsafe



Safe*



```
$command = 'grep "' . $search . '" /path/to/file';
```

```
shell_exec($command);
```

Unsafe



```
$command = 'grep "' . $search . '" /path/to/file';
```

```
shell_exec($command);
```



Remember, only "Safe"
when talking about
Injection Vulnerabilities.



Safe*

\$path = "/";
rm -rf /



\$command = 'rm -rf ?';

shell_exec(\$command, [\$path]);



Unsafe



Special Cases

Did you remember to
ensure all were integers?

`$sql = 'WHERE id IN (' . implode(',', $ids) . ')';`

`$db->query($sql);`

`'WHERE id IN (1, 7, 9)'`

`WHERE id = (-1) UNION SELECT * FROM admin WHERE id IN (2)`



```
$sql = 'WHERE id IN (' . in_parameters(count($ids)) . ')';
```

```
$db->query($sql, $ids);
```

```
'WHERE id IN (?, ?, ?)'
```




```
$sql = 'WHERE id IN (' . in_parameters(count($ids)) . ')';
```

```
function in_parameters($count) {  
    $sql = '?';  
    for ($k = 1; $k < $count; $k++) {  
        $sql .= ',?';  
    }  
    return $sql;  
}
```

Could try to escape the field...
But should *any* field be allowed?



```
$sql = 'ORDER BY ' . $order_field;
```

```
$fields = [  
    'name',  
    'email',  
    'created',  
];
```

← List of Allowed fields

```
$order_id = array_search($order_field, $fields);
```

```
$sql = 'ORDER BY ' . $fields[$order_id];
```

↑
Array of "developer defined strings"

```
$fields = [  
    'name' => 'u.full_name',  
    'email' => 'u.email_address',  
    'created' => 'DATE(u.created)',  
];
```

← List of Allowed fields

```
$sql = 'ORDER BY ' . ($fields[$order_field] ?? 'u.full_name');
```

↑
Array of "developer defined strings"

What about config values?

e.g. table names, set in an INI/JSON/YAML file.

This will be covered after the next section :-)

But in short, the library needs to handle these (safely).

Checking in PHP, with Static Analysis

Using Psalm

Thanks to Matthew Brown

```
composer require --dev vimeo/psalm  
./vendor/bin/psalm --init
```


Check Psalm is at level 3 or stricter.
(level 1 is the most strict)

Use 'literal-string'
type for \$sql

```
1 <?php
2
3 $id = (string) ($_GET['id'] ?? '');
4
5 class db {
6
7     /**
8      * @psalm-param literal-string $sql
9      */
10
11     public function query(string $sql, array $parameters = []): void {
12
13         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
14
15     }
16
17 }
18
19 $db = new db();
20
21 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?', [$id]);
22
23 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $id);
24
```

```
1 <?php
2
3 $id = (string) ($_GET['id'] ?? '');
4
```

Terminal

```
craig$ ./vendor/bin/psalm
Scanning files...
Analyzing files...
```

```
ERROR: ArgumentTypeCoercion - public/index.php:23:12 - Argument 1 of db::query expects literal-string, parent type non-empty-string provided
(see https://psalm.dev/193)
```

```
$db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $id);
```

```
-----
1 errors found
-----
```

```
Checks took 0.00 seconds and used 4.375MB of memory
No files analyzed
Psalm was able to infer types for 100% of the codebase
craig$
```



```
19 $db = new DB();
20
21 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?', [$id]);
22
23 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $id);
24
```

Using PHPStan

Thanks to Ondřej Mirtes

```
composer require --dev phpstan/phpstan
```

Check PHPStan is at level:

5 or stricter when an argument uses a **single type.**
7 or stricter when an argument uses **multiple types.**

(level 9 is the most strict)

Use 'literal-string'
type for \$sql

```
1 <?php
2
3 $id = (string) ($_GET['id'] ?? '');
4
5 class db {
6
7     /**
8      * @phpstan-param literal-string $sql
9      * @phpstan-param array<int, string> $parameters
10     */
11
12     public function query(string $sql, array $parameters = []): void {
13
14         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
15
16     }
17
18 }
19
20 $db = new db();
21
22 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?', [$id]);
23
24 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $id);
```

```
1 <?php
2
3 $id = (string) ($_GET['id'] ?? '');
4
5 class db {
```

Terminal

```
craig$ vendor/bin/phpstan analyse --level 9 public
1/1 [████████████████████████████████████████] 100%
```

```
-----
Line   index.php
```

```
-----
24     Parameter #1 $sql of method db::query() expects literal-string, non-empty-string given.
-----
```

```
[ERROR] Found 1 error
```

```
craig$ █
```

```
20 $db = new db();
21
22 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ?', [$id]);
23
24 $db->query('SELECT * FROM user WHERE id = ' . $id);
25
```



How about Identifiers in SQL?

If you cannot use an "allow list" of developer defined strings...

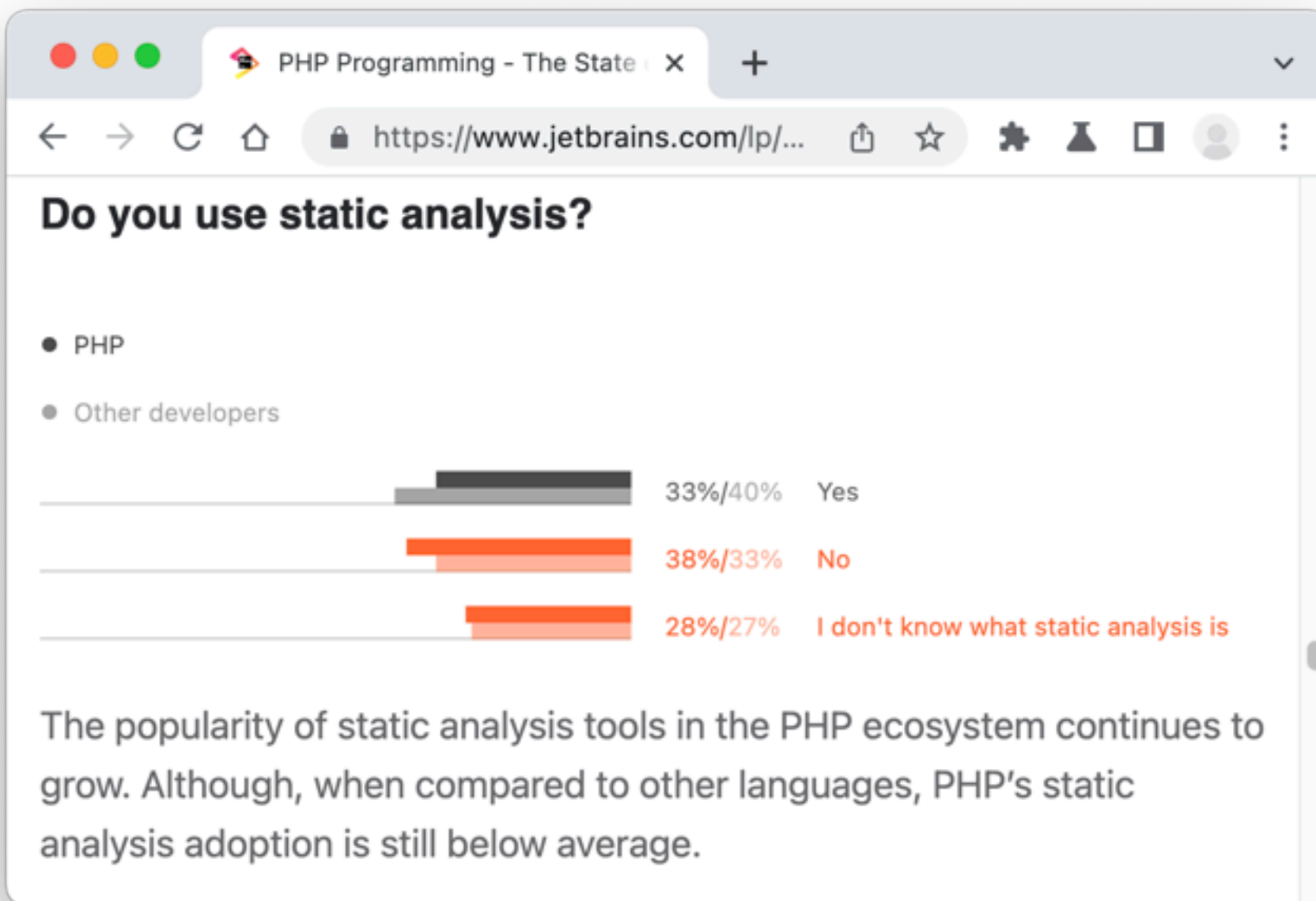
Using Identifiers

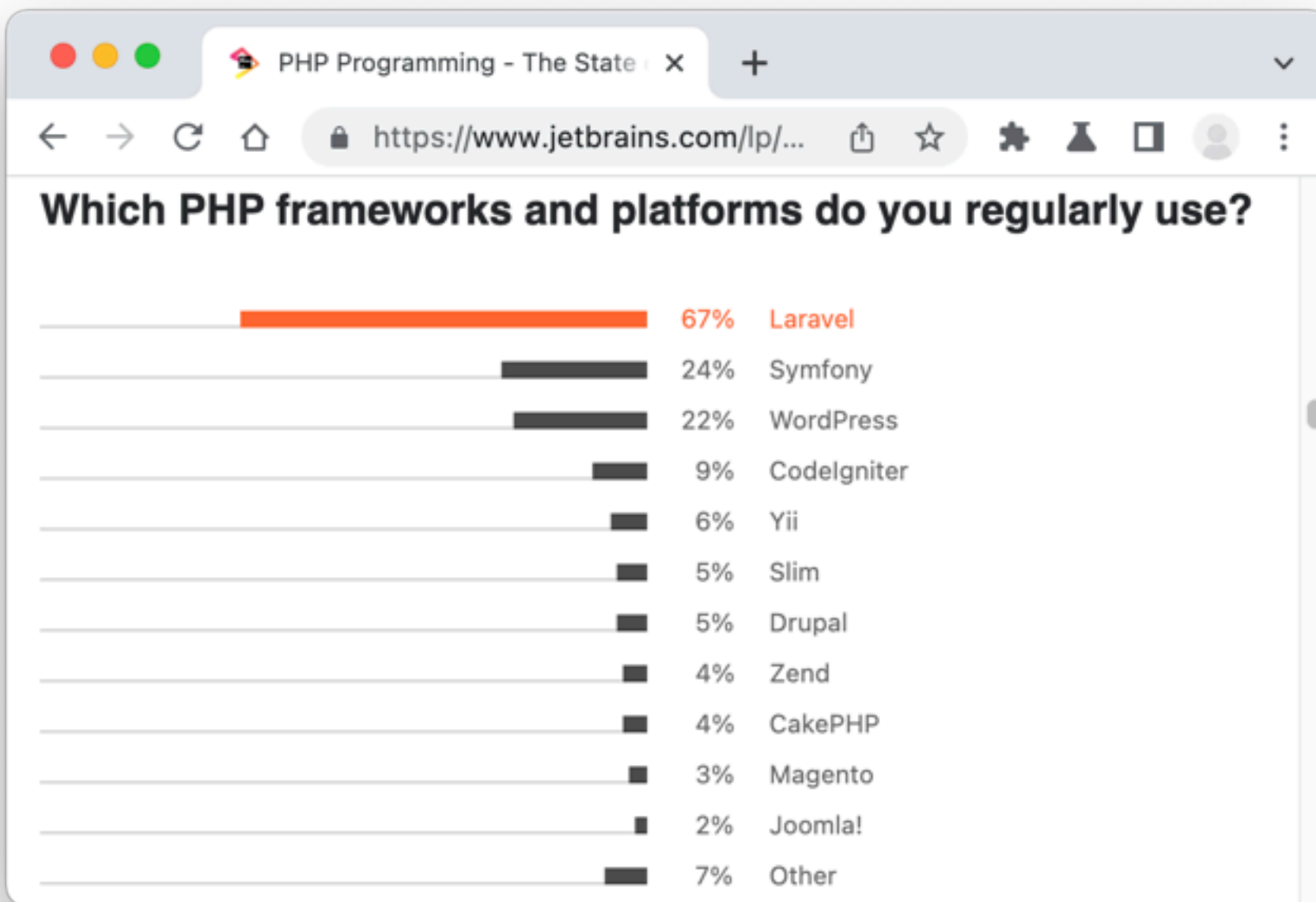
```
1 <?php
2
3 $db = new db();
4
5 $db->query('SELECT name FROM {table}', [], ['table' => $table]);
6
7 $db->query('SELECT name FROM ' . $table); // REJECTED
8
9 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols



The Future





Make it a key part of the Programming Language

In Go, you can use an un-exported string type



This is how "go-safe-html" works.

In Rust, you can use a Procedural Macro



Thanks Geoffroy Couprie

In C++, you can use a **consteval** annotation



Thanks Jonathan Müller

In Java, you can use **@CompileTimeConstant** annotation



Thanks to ErrorProne from Google

In Node, you can use `goog.string.Const`



Thanks to Google's Closure Library

In Node, you can use **isTemplateObject**



From the polyfill package "is-template-object"
Thanks Mike Samuel

In JavaScript, hopefully one day you can use:
isTemplateObject
or
TrustedHTML.fromLiteral

Thanks to Krzysztof Kotowicz

PHP, and the `is_literal()` RFC

Thanks to Joe Watkins and Máté Kocsis

PHP: rfc:is_literal

https://wiki.php.net/rfc/is_literal

php

Edit this pageAdminLogoutCraig Francis (craigfrancis)

Search

start > rfc > is_literal

PHP RFC: Is_Literal

- Version: 1.1
- Voting Start: 2021-07-05 19:30 BST / 18:30 UTC
- Voting End: 2021-07-19 19:30 BST / 18:30 UTC
- RFC Started: 2020-03-21
- RFC Updated: 2021-07-04
- Author: Craig Francis, craig#at#craigfrancis.co.uk
- Contributors: Joe Watkins, Máté Kocsis
- Status: Voting
- First Published at: https://wiki.php.net/rfc/is_literal
- GitHub Repo: <https://github.com/craigfrancis/php-is-literal-rfc>
- Implementation: <https://github.com/php/php-src/compare/master...krakjoe:literals>

Introduction

Add the function `is_literal()`, a lightweight and effective way to identify if a string was written by a developer, removing the risk of a variable containing an Injection Vulnerability.

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 - Non-Literal Values
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No dependencies.

Easy to use.

No *need* to use Static Analysis,

But works very well with it.

Works with existing code / libraries.

e.g. No need to re-write everything to use a query builder.

You can choose how to handle mistakes.

Log to a file/db/api, throw an exception, do nothing, etc.

**Libraries won't need everyone to read/understand
all of their documentation.**

Libraries won't rely on developers never making a mistake.

Backwards Compatibility

```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private function literal_check($var) {
6
7         if (function_exists('is_literal') && !is_literal($var)) {
8             throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
9         }
10
11     }
12
13     public function query($sql, $parameters = []) {
14
15         $this->literal_check($sql);
16
17         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
18
19     }
20
```



```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private function literal_check($var) {
6
7         if (function_exists('is_literal') && !is_literal($var)) {
8             throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
9         }
10
11     }
12
13     public function query($sql, $parameters = []) {
14
15         $this->literal_check($sql);
16
17         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
18
19     }
20
```

Run the check


```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private function literal_check($var) {
6
7         if (function_exists('is_literal') && !is_literal($var)) {
8             throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
9         }
10
11     }
12
13     public function query($sql, $parameters = []) {
14
15         $this->literal_check($sql);
16
17         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
18
19     }
20
```

Too Strict?

```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private $protection_level = 1;
6     // 0 = No checks, could be useful on the production server.
7     // 1 = Just warnings, the default.
8     // 2 = Exceptions, for anyone who wants to be absolutely sure.
9
10    public function enforce_injection_protection() {
11        $this->protection_level = 2;
12    }
13
14    public function unsafe_disable_injection_protection() {
15        $this->protection_level = 0; // Not recommended, try `new unsafe_value('XXX')`
16    }
17
18    private function literal_check($var) {
19        if (!function_exists('is_literal') || is_literal($var)) {
20            // Fine - This is a programmer defined string (bingo), or not using PHP 8.X
21        } else if ($var instanceof unsafe_value) {
22            // Fine - Not ideal, but at least they know this one is unsafe.
23        } else if ($this->protection_level === 0) {
24            // Fine - Programmer aware, and is choosing to disable this check everywhere.
25        } else if ($this->protection_level === 1) {
26            trigger_error('Non-literal value detected!', E_USER_WARNING);
27        } else {
28            throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
29        }
30    }
```

Protection Level

```

1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private $protection_level = 1;
6     // 0 = No checks, could be useful on the production server.
7     // 1 = Just warnings, the default.
8     // 2 = Exceptions, for anyone who wants to be absolutely sure.
9
10    public function enforce_injection_protection() {
11        $this->protection_level = 2;
12    }
13
14    public function unsafe_disable_injection_protection() {
15        $this->protection_level = 0; // Not recommended, try `new unsafe_value('XXX')`
16    }
17
18    private function literal_check($var) {
19        if (!function_exists('is_literal') || is_literal($var)) {
20            // Fine - This is a programmer defined string (bingo), or not using PHP 8.X
21        } else if ($var instanceof unsafe_value) {
22            // Fine - Not ideal, but at least they know this one is unsafe.
23        } else if ($this->protection_level === 0) {
24            // Fine - Programmer aware, and is choosing to disable this check everywhere.
25        } else if ($this->protection_level === 1) {
26            trigger_error('Non-literal value detected!', E_USER_WARNING);
27        } else {
28            throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
29        }
30    }

```

**Private function,
Used by the library**

```

1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     private $protection_level = 1;
6     // 0 = No checks, could be useful on the production server.
7     // 1 = Just warnings, the default.
8     // 2 = Exceptions, for anyone who wants to be absolutely sure.
9
10    public function enforce_injection_protection() {
11        $this->protection_level = 2;
12    }
13
14    public function unsafe_disable_injection_protection() {
15        $this->protection_level = 0; // Not recommended, try `new unsafe_value('XXX')`
16    }
17
18    private function literal_check($var) {
19        if (!function_exists('is_literal') || is_literal($var)) {
20            // Fine - This is a programmer defined string (bingo), or not using PHP 8.X
21        } else if ($var instanceof unsafe_value) {
22            // Fine - Not ideal, but at least they know this one is unsafe.
23        } else if ($this->protection_level === 0) {
24            // Fine - Programmer aware, and is choosing to disable this check everywhere.
25        } else if ($this->protection_level === 1) {
26            trigger_error('Non-literal value detected!', E_USER_WARNING);
27        } else {
28            throw new Exception('Non-literal value detected!');
29        }
30    }

```

Special Cases?



```
1 <?php
2
3 class unsafe_value {
4
5     private $value = '';
6
7     function __construct($unsafe_value) {
8         $this->value = $unsafe_value;
9     }
10
11     function __toString() {
12         return $this->value;
13     }
14
15 }
16
17 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols


**A Stringable
Value Object.**

Should not be needed.

```
$unsafe = new unsafe_value('Something ' . $weird);
```

Easy for Auditor to find :-)

WTF???



```
$unsafe = new unsafe_value('WHERE id ' . $comparison . ' ?');  
$db->query($unsafe, [$id]);
```

How about Identifiers in SQL?

If you cannot use an "allow list" of developer defined strings...

Using Identifiers

```
1 <?php
2
3 $db = new db();
4
5 $db->query('SELECT name FROM {table}', [], ['table' => $table]);
6
7 $db->query('SELECT name FROM ' . $table); // REJECTED
8
9 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols



```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     // ...
6
7     function query($sql, $parameters = [], $identifiers = []) {
8
9         $this->literal_check($sql);
10
11         foreach ($identifiers as $name => $value) {
12             if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $name)) {
13                 throw new Exception('Invalid identifier name "' . $name . '"');
14             } else if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $value)) {
15                 throw new Exception('Invalid identifier value "' . $value . '"');
16             } else {
17                 $sql = str_replace('(' . $name . ')', '(' . $value . ')', $sql);
18             }
19         }
20
21         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
22
23     }
```

Variable Identifiers can still be risky (see the ORDER BY example).

But this shows how special values (e.g. from INI/JSON/YAML files) can be used safely *after* checking the SQL has been written by the programmer.

```
<?php
class db {
    // ...

    function query($sql, $parameters = [], $identifiers = []) {
        $this->literal_check($sql);

        foreach ($identifiers as $name => $value) {
            if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $name)) {
                throw new Exception('Invalid identifier name "' . $name . '"');
            } else if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $value)) {
                throw new Exception('Invalid identifier value "' . $value . '"');
            } else {
                $sql = str_replace('{ ' . $name . '}', ' ' . $value . ' ', $sql);
            }
        }

        // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
    }
}
```

```
1 <?php
2
3 class db {
4
5     // ...
6
7     function query($sql, $parameters = [], $identifiers = []) {
8
9         $this->literal_check($sql);
10
11         foreach ($identifiers as $name => $value) {
12             if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $name)) {
13                 throw new Exception('Invalid identifier name "' . $name . '"');
14             } else if (!preg_match('/^[a-z0-9_]+$/', $value)) {
15                 throw new Exception('Invalid identifier value "' . $value . '"');
16             } else {
17                 $sql = str_replace('{ ' . $name . '}', ' ' . $value . ' ', $sql);
18             }
19         }
20
21         // Send $sql and $parameters to the database.
22
23     }
```

Over to you :-)

`$articles->where('field', $value);`

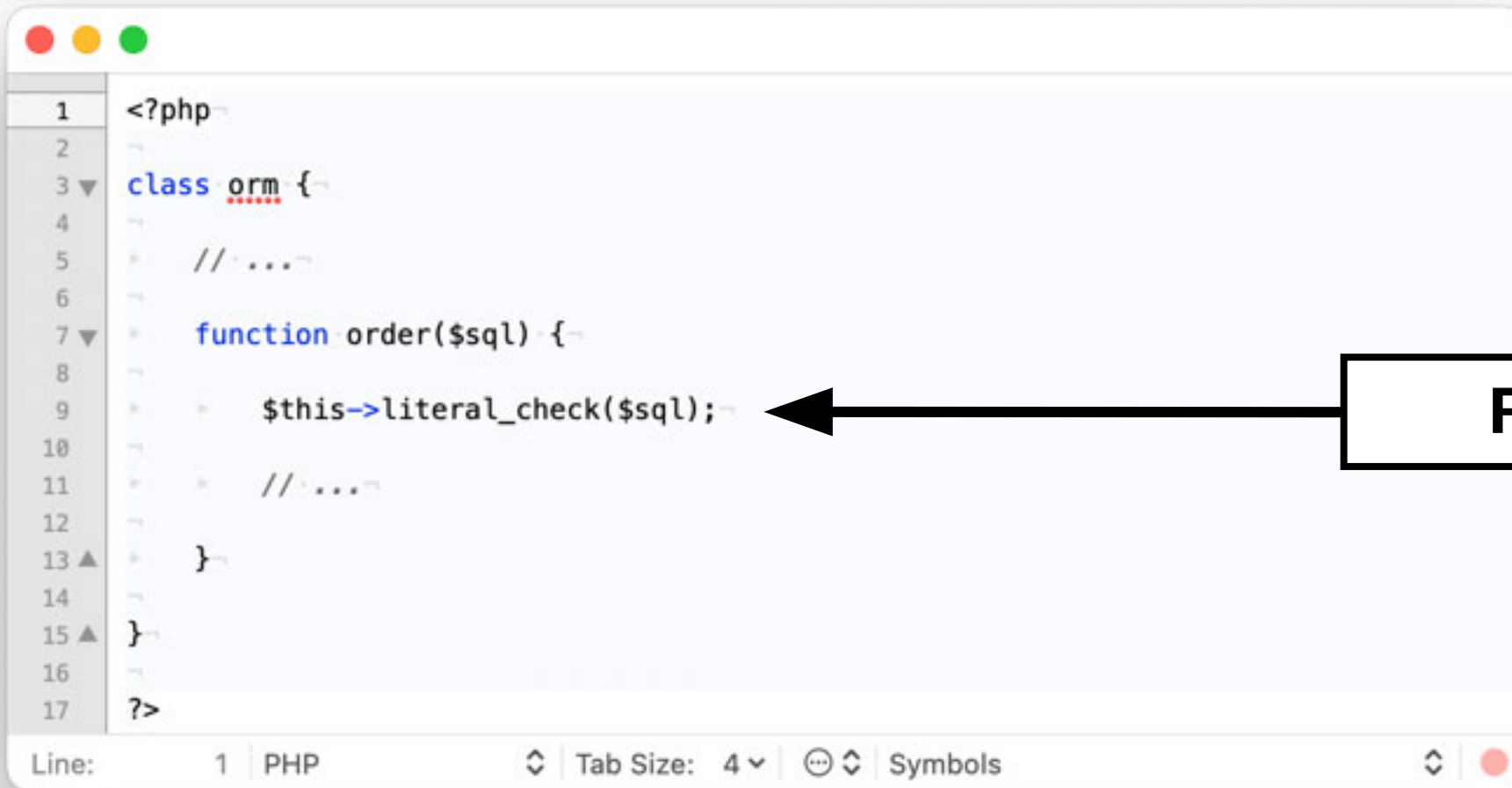


```
1 <?php
2
3 class orm {
4
5     // ...
6
7     function where($field, $value = NULL) {
8
9         > $this->literal_check($field);
10
11         > // ...
12
13     }
14
15 }
16
17 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols

Run the check

`$users->order($order);`



```
1 <?php
2
3 class orm {
4
5     // ...
6
7     function order($sql) {
8
9         $this->literal_check($sql);
10
11         // ...
12
13     }
14
15 }
16
17 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols

Run the check



CLI

```
parameterised_exec('grep ? /path/to/file', [$search]);
```



First argument is checked




```
parameterised_exec('grep "' . $search . '" /path/to/file');
```



First argument is checked



```
1 <?php
2
3 function parameterised_exec($cmd, $parameters = []) {
4
5     if (!is_literal($cmd)) {
6         throw new Exception('The first argument must be a literal');
7     }
8
9     $offset = 0;
10    $k = 0;
11    while (($pos = strpos($cmd, '?', $offset)) !== false) {
12        if (!isset($parameters[$k])) {
13            throw new Exception('Missing parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
14            exit();
15        }
16        $par = escapeshellarg($parameters[$k]);
17        $cmd = substr($cmd, 0, $pos) . $par . substr($cmd, ($pos + 1));
18        $offset = ($pos + strlen($par));
19        $k++;
20    }
21    if (isset($parameters[$k])) {
22        throw new Exception('Unused parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
23        exit();
24    }
25
26    return exec($cmd);
27
28 }
```

Strict Check

Escaping all values

Apply \$parameters

```
1 <?php
2
3 function parameterised_exec($cmd, $parameters = []) {
4
5     if (!is_literal($cmd)) {
6         throw new Exception('The first argument must be a literal');
7     }
8
9     $offset = 0;
10    $k = 0;
11    while (($pos = strpos($cmd, '?', $offset)) !== false) {
12        if (!isset($parameters[$k])) {
13            throw new Exception('Missing parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
14            exit();
15        }
16        $par = escapeshellarg($parameters[$k]);
17        $cmd = substr($cmd, 0, $pos) . $par . substr($cmd, ($pos + 1));
18        $offset = ($pos + strlen($par));
19        $k++;
20    }
21    if (isset($parameters[$k])) {
22        throw new Exception('Unused parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
23        exit();
24    }
25
26    return exec($cmd);
27
28 }
```

```

1 <?php
2
3 function parameterised_exec($cmd, $parameters = []) {
4
5     if (!is_literal($cmd)) {
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12        if (!isset($parameters[$k])) {
13            throw new Exception('Missing parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
14            exit();
15        }
16        $par = escapeshellarg($parameters[$k]);
17        $cmd = substr($cmd, 0, $pos) . $par . substr($cmd, ($pos + 1));
18        $offset = ($pos + strlen($par));
19        $k++;
20    }
21    if (isset($parameters[$k])) {
22        throw new Exception('Unused parameter "' . ($k + 1) . '"');
23        exit();
24    }
25
26    return exec($cmd);
27
28 }

```

Run \$cmd



HTML

```
$template->render('<p>Hi {{ name }}</p>', ['name' => $name]);
```



First argument is checked



```
$template->render('<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>');
```



First argument is checked





About 300 Lines :-)



Protection Level

Allowed tags, attributes, and attribute values

HTML Parsing... in XML mode :-)

Node walking, to find "?" for parameters

Return HTML with (checked) parameters

The `unsafe_value` object (should not be needed)

```
$html = ht('<p>Hi <span>?</span></p>', [$name]);
```



```
$template = ht('<p>Hi <span>?</span></p>');
```

```
$html_1 = $template->html([$name_1]);
```

```
$html_2 = $template->html([$name_2]);
```

```
$html_3 = $template->html([$name_3]);
```



```
$html = ht('<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>');
```

```
$html = ht('<p>Hi ' . $name . '</p>');
```



```
$url = 'https://example.com';
```

```
$html = ht('<a href="?">Link</p>', [$url]);
```



```
$url = 'javascript:alert()';
```

```
$html = ht('<a href="#">Link</p>', [$url]);
```



And in ~10 years time...

Native functions,
like `mysqli::prepare()` and `PDO::prepare()`...

**Accept everything,
but warn if not given a "developer defined string"...**

**But there would need to be a way for
special cases to be trusted...**

e.g. strings created by a library.



```
1 <?php
2
3 class unsafe_value {
4
5     private $value = '';
6
7     function __construct($unsafe_value) {
8         $this->value = $unsafe_value;
9     }
10
11     function __toString() {
12         return $this->value;
13     }
14
15 }
16
17 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols

Maybe a "stringable value-object"?

```
1 <?php
2
3 class db_trusted_sql {
4
5     private $sql = '';
6
7     function __construct($sql) {
8         $this->sql = $sql;
9     }
10
11     function __toString() {
12         return $this->sql;
13     }
14
15 }
16
17 ?>
```

Line: 1 PHP Tab Size: 4 Symbols

Some way to trust the stringable value object

What it can be trusted for.

Accepted by the native function

```
3 class db {
4
5     //...
6
7     function __construct() {
8
9         //...
10
11         spl_trust_object('db_trusted_sql', 'sql');
12
13     }
14
15     function query($sql, $parameters = []) {
16
17         //...
18
19         $trusted_sql = new db_trusted_sql($sql);
20
21         mysqli_query($this->link, $trusted_sql);
22
23     }
24 }
```

**There would be a way to
disable the check.**

At least the developer is then aware their code is unsafe.

**There would be a way to
enforce the check.**

For developers, confident in their system, to enforce this protection.

**"Distinguishing strings from a trusted developer,
from strings that may be attacker controlled"**

Mike Samuel - 27th March 2019

Thank You

Questions?

<https://eiv.dev/>

@craigfrancis