PHP Conditional Statements

Very often when you write code, you want to perform different actions for different conditions. You can use conditional statements in your code to do this.

In PHP we have the following conditional statements:

- **if statement** - executes some code if one condition is true
- **if...else statement** - executes some code if a condition is true and another code if that condition is false
- **if...elseif....else statement** - executes different codes for more than two conditions
- **switch statement** - selects one of many blocks of code to be executed

PHP – The if Statement

The if statement executes some code if one condition is true.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
    code to be executed if condition is true;
}
```

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "20") {
    echo "Have a good day!";
}
?>
```

PHP – The if...else Statement

The if....else statement executes some code if a condition is true and another code if that condition is false.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
    code to be executed if condition is true;
} else {
```

```
    code to be executed if condition is false;
}
```

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "20") {
    echo "Have a good day!";
} else {
    echo "Have a good night!";
}
?>
```

PHP – The if...elseif....else Statement

The if....elseif...else statement executes different codes for more than two conditions.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
    code to be executed if this condition is true;
} elseif (condition) {
    code to be executed if this condition is true;
} else {
    code to be executed if all conditions are false;
}
```

The example below will output "Have a good morning!" if the current time is less than 10, and "Have a good day!" if the current time is less than 20. Otherwise it will output "Have a good night!":

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "10") {
    echo "Have a good morning!";
} elseif ($t < "20") {
    echo "Have a good day!";
} else {
    echo "Have a good night!";
}
?>
```

PHP – The switch Statement

Use the switch statement to **select one of many blocks of code to be executed**.

Syntax

```
switch (n) {
    case label1:
        code to be executed if n=label1;
        break;
    case label2:
        code to be executed if n=label2;
        break;
    case label3:
        code to be executed if n=label3;
        break;
    ...
    default:
        code to be executed if n is different from all labels;
}
```

PHP If...Else...ElseifPHP SwitchPHP While LoopsPHP For LoopsPHP FunctionsPHP ArraysPHP Sorting ArraysPHP SuperglobalsPHP Form HandlingPHP Form ValidationPHP Form RequiredPHP Form URL/E-mailPHP Form CompletePHP Arrays MultiPHP Date and TimePHP IncludePHP File HandlingPHP File Open/ReadPHP File Create/WritePHP File UploadPHP CookiesPHP SessionsPHP FiltersPHP Filters AdvancedPHP Error HandlingPHP ExceptionMySQL DatabaseMySQL ConnectMySQL Create DBMySQL Create TableMySQL Insert DataMySQL Get Last IDMySQL Insert MultipleMySQL PreparedMySQL Select DataMySQL Delete DataMySQL Update DataMySQL Limit DataPHP XML ParsersPHP SimpleXML ParserPHP SimpleXML - GetPHP XML ExpatPHP XML DOMAJAX IntroAJAX PHPAJAX DatabaseAJAX XMLAJAX Live SearchAJAX RSS ReaderAJAX PollPHP ExamplesPHP QuizPHP CertificatePHP ArrayPHP CalendarPHP DatePHP DirectoryPHP ErrorPHP FilesystemPHP FilterPHP FTPPHP HTTPPHP LibxmlPHP MailPHP MathPHP MiscPHP MySQLiPHP SimpleXMLPHP StringPHP XMLPHP ZipPHP Timezones

PHP 5 switch Statement

« Previous

Next Chapter »

The switch statement is used to perform different actions based on different conditions.

The PHP switch Statement

Use the switch statement to **select one of many blocks of code to be executed**.

Syntax

```
switch (n) {
    case label1:
        code to be executed if n=label1;
        break;
    case label2:
        code to be executed if n=label2;
        break;
    case label3:
        code to be executed if n=label3;
        break;
    ...
    default:
        code to be executed if n is different from all labels;
}
```

This is how it works: First we have a single expression *n* (most often a variable), that is evaluated once. The value of the expression is then compared with the values for each case in the structure. If there is a match, the block of code associated with that case is executed. Use **break** to prevent the code from running into the next case automatically. The**default** statement is used if no match is found.

```
<?php
$favcolor = "red";

switch ($favcolor) {
    case "red":
        echo "Your favorite color is red!";
        break;
```

```
    case "blue":
        echo "Your favorite color is blue!";
        break;
    case "green":
        echo "Your favorite color is green!";
        break;
    default:
        echo "Your favorite color is neither red, blue, nor green!";
}
?>
```

PHP 5 while Loops

PHP Loops

Often when you write code, you want the same block of code to run over and over again in a row. Instead of adding several almost equal code-lines in a script, we can use loops to perform a task like this.

In PHP, we have the following looping statements:

- **while** - loops through a block of code as long as the specified condition is true
- **do...while** - loops through a block of code once, and then repeats the loop as long as the specified condition is true
- **for** - loops through a block of code a specified number of times
- **foreach** - loops through a block of code for each element in an array

The PHP while Loop

The while loop executes a block of code as long as the specified condition is true.

Syntax

```
while (condition is true) {
    code to be executed;
}
```

The example below first sets a variable $x to 1 ($x = 1). Then, the while loop will continue to run as long as $x is less than, or equal to 5 ($x <= 5). $x will increase by 1 each time the loop runs ($x++):

```
<?php
$x = 1;

while($x <= 5) {
    echo "The number is: $x <br>";
    $x++;
}
?>
```

The PHP do...while Loop

The do...while loop will always execute the block of code once, it will then check the condition, and repeat the loop while the specified condition is true.

Syntax

```
do {
    code to be executed;
} while (condition is true);
```

The example below first sets a variable $x to 1 ($x = 1). Then, the do while loop will write some output, and then increment the variable $x with 1. Then the condition is checked (is $x less than, or equal to 5?), and the loop will continue to run as long as $x is less than, or equal to 5:

```
<?php
$x = 1;

do {
    echo "The number is: $x <br>";
    $x++;
} while ($x <= 5);
?>
```

Notice that in a do while loop the condition is tested AFTER executing the statements within the loop. This means that the do while loop would execute its statements at least once, even if the condition is false the first time.

The example below sets the $x variable to 6, then it runs the loop, **and then the condition is checked**:

```
<?php
$x = 6;

do {
    echo "The number is: $x <br>";
    $x++;
} while ($x <= 5);
?>
```

PHP 5 for Loops

The PHP for Loop

The for loop is used when you know in advance how many times the script should run.

Syntax

```
for (init counter; test counter; increment counter) {
    code to be executed;
}
```

Parameters:

- *init counter*: Initialize the loop counter value
- *test counter*: Evaluated for each loop iteration. If it evaluates to TRUE, the loop continues. If it evaluates to FALSE, the loop ends.
- *increment counter*: Increases the loop counter value

The example below displays the numbers from 0 to 10:

```
<?php
for ($x = 0; $x <= 10; $x++) {
    echo "The number is: $x <br>";
}
?>
```

The PHP foreach Loop

The foreach loop works only on arrays, and is used to loop through each key/value pair in an array.

Syntax

```
foreach ($array as $value) {
    code to be executed;
}
```

For every loop iteration, the value of the current array element is assigned to $value and the array pointer is moved by one, until it reaches the last array element.

The following example demonstrates a loop that will output the values of the given array ($colors):

```
<?php
$colors = array("red", "green", "blue", "yellow");

foreach ($colors as $value) {
    echo "$value <br>";
}
?>
```

PHP 5 Functions

PHP User Defined Functions

Besides the built-in PHP functions, we can create our own functions.

A function is a block of statements that can be used repeatedly in a program.

A function will not execute immediately when a page loads.

A function will be executed by a call to the function.

Create a User Defined Function in PHP

A user defined function declaration starts with the word "function":

Syntax

```
function functionName() {
    code to be executed;
}
```

Note: A function name can start with a letter or underscore (not a number).

Tip: Give the function a name that reflects what the function does!

Function names are NOT case-sensitive.

In the example below, we create a function named "writeMsg()". The opening curly brace ({) indicates the beginning of the function code and the closing curly brace (}) indicates the end of the function. The function outputs "Hello world!". To call the function, just write its name:

```
<?php
function writeMsg() {
    echo "Hello world!";
}

writeMsg(); // call the function
?>
```

PHP Function Arguments

Information can be passed to functions through arguments. An argument is just like a variable.

Arguments are specified after the function name, inside the parentheses. You can add as many arguments as you want, just separate them with a comma.

The following example has a function with one argument ($fname). When the familyName() function is called, we also pass along a name (e.g. Jani), and the name is used inside the function, which outputs several different first names, but an equal last name:

```
<?php
function familyName($fname) {
    echo "$fname Refsnes.<br>";
}
```

```
familyName("Jani");
familyName("Hege");
familyName("Stale");
familyName("Kai Jim");
familyName("Borge");
?>
```

```
<?php
function familyName($fname, $year) {
    echo "$fname Refsnes. Born in $year <br>";
}

familyName("Hege", "1975");
familyName("Stale", "1978");
familyName("Kai Jim", "1983");
?>
```

PHP Default Argument Value

The following example shows how to use a default parameter. If we call the function setHeight() without arguments it takes the default value as argument:

```
<?php
function setHeight($minheight = 50) {
    echo "The height is : $minheight <br>";
}

setHeight(350);
setHeight(); // will use the default value of 50
setHeight(135);
setHeight(80);
?>
```

PHP Functions - Returning values

To let a function return a value, use the return statement:

```php
<?php
function sum($x, $y) {
    $z = $x + $y;
    return $z;
}

echo "5 + 10 = " . sum(5, 10) . "<br>";
echo "7 + 13 = " . sum(7, 13) . "<br>";
echo "2 + 4 = " . sum(2, 4);
?>
```

PHP 5 Arrays

An array stores multiple values in one single variable:

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo "I like " . $cars[0] . ", " . $cars[1] . " and " . $cars[2] . ".";
?>
```

What is an Array?

An array is a special variable, which can hold more than one value at a time.

If you have a list of items (a list of car names, for example), storing the cars in single variables could look like this:

```
$cars1 = "Volvo";
$cars2 = "BMW";
$cars3 = "Toyota";
```

However, what if you want to loop through the cars and find a specific one? And what if you had not 3 cars, but 300?

The solution is to create an array!

An array can hold many values under a single name, and you can access the values by referring to an index number.

Create an Array in PHP

In PHP, the array() function is used to create an array:

```
array();
```

In PHP, there are three types of arrays:

- **Indexed arrays** - Arrays with a numeric index
- **Associative arrays** - Arrays with named keys
- **Multidimensional arrays** - Arrays containing one or more arrays

PHP Indexed Arrays

There are two ways to create indexed arrays:

The index can be assigned automatically (index always starts at 0), like this:

```
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
```

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo "I like " . $cars[0] . ", " . $cars[1] . " and " . $cars[2] . ".";
?>
```

Get The Length of an Array – The count() Function

The count() function is used to return the length (the number of elements) of an array:

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo count($cars);
?>
```

Loop Through an Indexed Array

To loop through and print all the values of an indexed array, you could use a for loop, like this:

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
$arrlength = count($cars);

for($x = 0; $x < $arrlength; $x++) {
```

```
    echo $cars[$x];
    echo "<br>";
}
?>
```

PHP Associative Arrays

Associative arrays are arrays that use named keys that you assign to them.

There are two ways to create an associative array:

```
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
```

or:

```
$age['Peter'] = "35";
$age['Ben'] = "37";
$age['Joe'] = "43";
```

The named keys can then be used in a script:

```
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
echo "Peter is " . $age['Peter'] . " years old.";
?>
```

Loop Through an Associative Array

To loop through and print all the values of an associative array, you could use a foreach loop, like this:

```
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");

foreach($age as $x => $x_value) {
    echo "Key=" . $x . ", Value=" . $x_value;
    echo "<br>";
}
?>
```

Multidimensional Arrays

Multidimensional arrays will be explained in the PHP advanced section.

PHP 5 Sorting Arrays

The elements in an array can be sorted in alphabetical or numerical order, descending or ascending.

PHP – Sort Functions For Arrays

In this chapter, we will go through the following PHP array sort functions:

- sort() - sort arrays in ascending order
- rsort() - sort arrays in descending order
- asort() - sort associative arrays in ascending order, according to the value
- ksort() - sort associative arrays in ascending order, according to the key
- arsort() - sort associative arrays in descending order, according to the value
- krsort() - sort associative arrays in descending order, according to the key

---

Sort Array in Ascending Order – sort()

The following example sorts the elements of the $cars array in ascending alphabetical order:

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
sort($cars);
?>
```

The following example sorts the elements of the $numbers array in ascending numerical order:

```php
<?php
$numbers = array(4, 6, 2, 22, 11);
sort($numbers);
?>
```

Sort Array in Descending Order – rsort()

The following example sorts the elements of the $cars array in descending alphabetical order:

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
rsort($cars);
?>
```

The following example sorts the elements of the $numbers array in descending numerical order:

```php
<?php
$numbers = array(4, 6, 2, 22, 11);
rsort($numbers);
?>
```

Sort Array (Ascending Order), According to Value – asort()

The following example sorts an associative array in ascending order, according to the value:

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
asort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Ascending Order), According to Key – ksort()

The following example sorts an associative array in ascending order, according to the key:

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
ksort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Descending Order), According to Value – arsort()

The following example sorts an associative array in descending order, according to the value:

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
arsort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Descending Order), According to Key – krsort()

The following example sorts an associative array in descending order, according to the key:

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
krsort($age);
?>
```

or the index can be assigned manually:

```
$cars[0] = "Volvo";
$cars[1] = "BMW";
$cars[2] = "Toyota";
```

The following example creates an indexed array named $cars, assigns three elements to it, and then prints a text containing the array values:

PHP 5 Global Variables – Superglobals

PHP Global Variables – Superglobals

Several predefined variables in PHP are "superglobals", which means that they are always accessible, regardless of scope - and you can access them from any function, class or file without having to do anything special.

The PHP superglobal variables are:

- $GLOBALS
- $_SERVER

- $_REQUEST
- $_POST
- $_GET
- $_FILES
- $_ENV
- $_COOKIE
- $_SESSION

This chapter will explain some of the superglobals, and the rest will be explained in later chapters.

PHP $GLOBALS

$GLOBALS is a PHP super global variable which is used to access global variables from anywhere in the PHP script (also from within functions or methods).

PHP stores all global variables in an array called $GLOBALS[*index*].
The *index* holds the name of the variable.

The example below shows how to use the super global variable $GLOBALS:

```
<?php
$x = 75;
$y = 25;

function addition() {
    $GLOBALS['z'] = $GLOBALS['x'] + $GLOBALS['y'];
}

addition();
echo $z;
?>
```

In the example above, since z is a variable present within the $GLOBALS array, it is also accessible from outside the function!

PHP $_SERVER

$_SERVER is a PHP super global variable which holds information about headers, paths, and script locations.

The example below shows how to use some of the elements in $_SERVER:

```php
<?php
echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_SERVER['SERVER_NAME'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_SERVER['HTTP_HOST'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_SERVER['HTTP_REFERER'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_SERVER['HTTP_USER_AGENT'];
echo "<br>";
echo $_SERVER['SCRIPT_NAME'];
?>
```

PHP $_REQUEST

PHP $_REQUEST is used to collect data after submitting an HTML form.

The example below shows a form with an input field and a submit button. When a user submits the data by clicking on "Submit", the form data is sent to the file specified in the action attribute of the <form> tag. In this example, we point to this file itself for processing form data. If you wish to use another PHP file to process form data, replace that with the filename of your choice. Then, we can use the super global variable $_REQUEST to collect the value of the input field:

```php
<html>
<body>

<form method="post" action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF'];?>">
  Name: <input type="text" name="fname">
  <input type="submit">
</form>

<?php
if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
    // collect value of input field
    $name = $_REQUEST['fname'];
    if (empty($name)) {
        echo "Name is empty";
    } else {
        echo $name;
    }
}
?>
```

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

PHP $_POST

PHP $_POST is widely used to collect form data after submitting an HTML form with method="post". $_POST is also widely used to pass variables.

The example below shows a form with an input field and a submit button. When a user submits the data by clicking on "Submit", the form data is sent to the file specified in the action attribute of the <form> tag. In this example, we point to the file itself for processing form data. If you wish to use another PHP file to process form data, replace that with the filename of your choice. Then, we can use the super global variable $_POST to collect the value of the input field:

```
<html>
<body>

<form method="post" action="<?php echo $_SERVER['PHP_SELF'];?>">
  Name: <input type="text" name="fname">
  <input type="submit">
</form>

<?php
if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
    // collect value of input field
    $name = $_POST['fname'];
    if (empty($name)) {
        echo "Name is empty";
    } else {
        echo $name;
    }
}
?>

</body>
</html>
```

PHP $_GET

PHP $_GET can also be used to collect form data after submitting an HTML form with method="get".

$_GET can also collect data sent in the URL.

Assume we have an HTML page that contains a hyperlink with parameters:

```
<html>
<body>

<a href="test_get.php?subject=PHP&web=W3schools.com">Test $GET</a>

</body>
</html>
```

When a user clicks on the link "Test $GET", the parameters "subject" and "web" are sent to "test_get.php", and you can then access their values in "test_get.php" with $_GET.

The example below shows the code in "test_get.php":

```
<html>
<body>

<?php
echo "Study " . $_GET['subject'] . " at " . $_GET['web'];
?>

</body>
</html>
```