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PHP

PHP Json_encode: How To Convert PHP Array To JSON

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JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation. It is data saved in the .json file and consists of a series of key/value pairs. JSON is used to transfer the data between the server and the browser. Here is a primary example of what might be in a .json string.

Arrays in PHP will also be converted into JSON when using the PHP function json_encode(). You can find the example of covert PHP Array to JSON.

If you're passing JSON data to a javascript program, make sure your program begins with:

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```php
<?php
    header('Content-Type: application/json');
?>
```

PHP json_encode()

PHP json_encode() is a built-in function that converts a PHP value to JSON value. Objects in PHP can be converted into JSON by using a function called json_encode(). The json_encode() function returns the string, if the function works.

Syntax

The syntax of json_encode() function is following.

```
json_encode(value, options)
```

Arguments

The value parameter is required and of type mixed.

The options Bitmask comprising of JSON_HEX_QUOT, JSON_HEX_TAG, JSON_HEX_AMP, JSON_HEX_APOS, JSON_NUMERIC_CHECK, JSON_PRETTY_PRINT, JSON_UNESCAPED_SLASHES, JSON_FORCE_OBJECT.

Return Value

The json_encode() function returns a string, if the function works.

Example
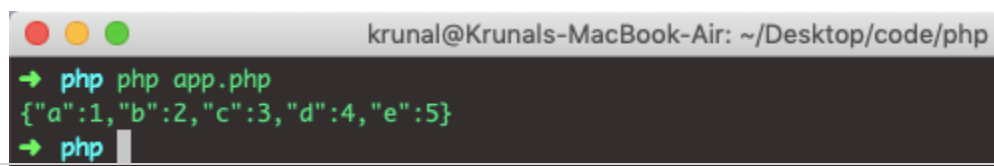
Let's see the following example.

```php
<?php

// app.php

$arr = array('a' => 1, 'b' => 2, 'c' => 3, 'd' => 4, 'e' => 5);
echo json_encode($arr)."\n";
```

The output is the following.

PHP Object to JSON

To convert PHP Object to JSON, use the json_encode() function. The json_encode() method can convert PHP Object to JSON. So objects can easily convert into JSON using the json_encode() method.

```php
<?php

// app.php

class App {

}
$app = new App();
$app->title = 'Harry Potter Game';
$app->price = 20;

$jsonData = json_encode($app);
echo $jsonData."\n";
```
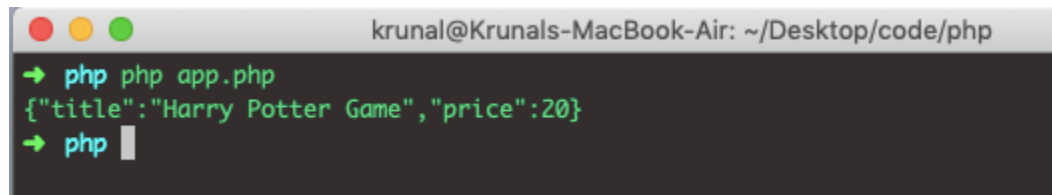
So, we have defined one class App and then created an object and set the properties and convert the object to JSON, and print that JSON output. The output is the following.

PHP String to JSON

To convert String to JSON in PHP, use the json_encode() function. PHP json_encode() function is useful to convert String to JSON object.

```php
// app.php

$str = "hello AppDividend";
echo json_encode($str)."\n";
```

The output will be the same as the string.

You can use the json_encode() in any PHP Framework.

If the array keys in your PHP array are not consecutive numbers, json_encode() must make the other construct an object since JavaScript arrays are always consecutively numerically indexed.

Use array_values() on the outer structure in PHP to discard the original array keys and replace them with zero-based consecutive numbering.

PHP is a server-side programming language and should be used for operations that can only be performed by a server, like accessing a database.

PHP array to JSON

To convert an array to json in PHP, use the json_encode() function. The json_encode() function is used to encode a value to JSON format.

The json_encode() function converts PHP-supported data type into JSON formatted string to be returned due to JSON encode operation.

See the following code.

```php
<?php

// app.php

$arr = array('Millie' => 'Eleven',
             'Mike' => 'Finn',
             'Gaten' => 'Dustin',
             'Noah' => 'Will');
echo json_encode($arr)."\n";
```

See the output.

```
➜   pro php app.php
{"Millie":"Eleven","Mike":"Finn","Gaten":"Dustin","Noah":"Will"}
➜   pro
```

Convert Multidimensional PHP Array into JSON

To convert multi-dimensional array into json in PHP, use the json_encode() function. Let's see an example where we can encode the multidimensional array.
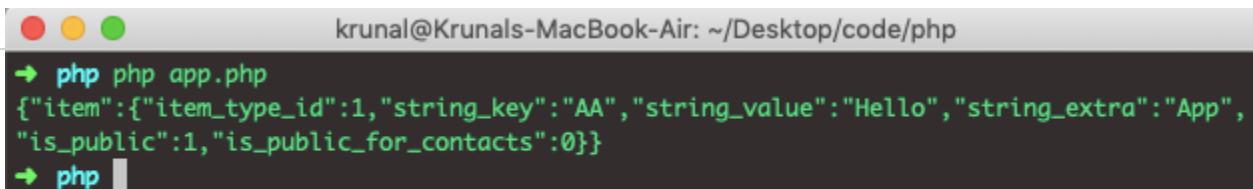
```php
<?php

// app.php

$post_data = array(
  'item' => array(
    'item_type_id' => 1,
    'string_key' => 'AA',
    'string_value' => 'Hello',
    'string_extra' => 'App',
    'is_public' => 1,
    'is_public_for_contacts' => 0
  )
);

echo json_encode($post_data)."\n";
```

The output of the above code is following.


```
→ php php app.php
{"item":{"item_type_id":1,"string_key":"AA","string_value":"Hello","string_extra":"App",
"is_public":1,"is_public_for_contacts":0}}
→ php
```

Generally, you have to use json_encode() function when you need to send an AJAX request to the server because JSON data is useful to transfer between client and server.

So converting PHP to JSON, Javascript to JSON is easy. That is why the JSON object contributes to a significant role in today's web development.

The reverse process of json_encode is json_decode().

Decoding JSON data is as simple as encoding it. You can use a PHP json_decode() function to convert a JSON encoded string into the appropriate PHP data type.

That's it for this tutorial.

See also

PHP array_key_exists()

PHP array_fill_keys()

PHP array_column()

PHP Object to Associative array

PHP ksort()

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Krunal Lathiya is an Information Technology Engineer. By profession, he is a web developer with knowledge of multiple back-end platforms (e.g., PHP, Node.js, Python) and frontend JavaScript frameworks (e.g., Angular, React, and Vue).

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2 COMMENTS

Santosh Says   📅 *2 years ago*

Nice Explanation, I was doubt about JSON but now clear.

Michael Hochleitner Says   📅 *2 years ago*

Thank you Krunal!

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