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PHP: Server-Side Technology

PHP is an acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor." It is an open-source, server-side

scripting language. PHP code executes on a server, and the results are then returned to the

browser or application. It is utilized in three main areas, including server-side scripting,

command-line scripting, and writing desktop applications. PHP files can contain text, HTML,

CSS, JavaScript, and PHP code. These files end in the extension ".php." PHP can be used on all

major operating systems, as well as most web servers. Any web server that can utilize the

FastCGI PHP binary will be compatible with PHP. PHP's output is not limited to HTML; rather,

you can output anything from text to Flash movies.

PHP is extremely popular among developers, with a usage rate of 78.9% across all

websites with a known server-side programming language. Examples of websites and

applications utilizing PHP include Wikipedia, Yahoo!, Slack, and Facebook. Facebook created a

derivative language of PHP, called Hack, that allowed them to utilize PHP features at a larger

scale.

PHP is utilized on the server-side alongside HTML. It allows for interactive features on

webpages that would not be possible with HTML alone. For example, PHP can be utilized to

create hit counters, shopping carts, and other features that encourage visitor interaction. PHP also

supports a wide range of databases, allowing for the creation of database-enabled web pages.

Additionally, PHP offers many text-processing features to work with XML documents. With the

wide array of extensions available, PHP's functionality is vast. An alphabetical list of all the

extensions available can be found on PHP's website at

https://www.php.net/manual/en/extensions.alphabetical.php.

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