

Return a PHP page as an image

Asked 11 years ago Active 25 days ago Viewed 90k times



65



17



I am trying to read a image file (.jpeg to be exact), and 'echo' it back to the page output, but have is display an image...

my index.php has an image link like this:

```
<img src='test.php?image=1234.jpeg' />
```

and my php script does basically this:

1) read 1234.jpeg 2) echo file contents... 3) I have a feeling I need to return the output back with a mime-type, but this is where I get lost

Once I figure this out, I will be removing the file name input all together and replace it with an image id.

If I am unclear, or you need more information, please reply.

[php](#) [image-processing](#) [http-headers](#) [mime-types](#)

edited May 30 '09 at 15:22



[Martin Geisler](#)

67.6k 22 159 220

asked May 22 '09 at 22:10



[MichaelICE](#)

9,052 19 63 102

1 Just add some security so that attacks like `` can be avoided – [mixdev](#) Nov 29 '15 at 16:01

5 Answers

Active	Oldest	Votes
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112



The PHP Manual has [this example](#):

```
<?php
// open the file in a binary mode
$name = './img/ok.png';
$fp = fopen($name, 'rb');

// send the right headers
header("Content-Type: image/png");
header("Content-Length: " . filesize($name));

// dump the picture and stop the script
fpassthru($fp);
exit;
\`
```

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The important points is that you must send a Content-Type header. Also, you must be careful not include any extra white space (like newlines) in your file before or after the `<?php ... ?>` tags.

As suggested in the comments, you can avoid the danger of extra white space at the end of your script by omitting the `?>` tag:

```
<?php
$name = './img/ok.png';
$fp = fopen($name, 'rb');

header("Content-Type: image/png");
header("Content-Length: " . filesize($name));

fpassthru($fp);
```

You still need to carefully avoid white space at the top of the script. One particularly tricky form of white space is a [UTF-8 BOM](#). To avoid that, make sure to save your script as "ANSI" (Notepad) or "ASCII" or "UTF-8 without signature" (Emacs) or similar.

edited Jan 13 '12 at 12:56

answered May 22 '09 at 22:17



[Martin Geisler](#)

67.6k 22 159 220

-
- 14 To that end, some (including Zend, PEAR, or both -- I forget) recommend omitting the closing `?>`. It's perfectly syntactically valid, and guarantees no issues with trailing whitespace. – [Frank Farmer](#) May 22 '09 at 22:20
-
- 12 But, but... it's weird not to close what one open's :-). – [Martin Geisler](#) May 22 '09 at 22:46
-
- 2 Don't omit the `?>`. "Easier" doesn't mean "better". – [Jared Farrish](#) May 22 '09 at 23:24
-
- 3 Totally agree with Frank Farmer, a code without the ending `?>` will be easier to debug. It's just a really useful tip. And to answer to Jared Farrish, easier here do mean better, it's right, and it should be used everywhere, since your code should not be bugged or anything, if you don't put it, it will advert you if there are some errors. It saves a lot of debugging times. – [Boris Guéry](#) May 22 '09 at 23:30
-
- 1 Agreed, omit the closing `?>`. @Jared Farrish; why do you think it is better not to? – [MikeSchinkel](#) May 15 '11 at 18:09
-

I feel like we can make this code a little bit easier by just getting the mime type from `$image_info`:

24

```
$file_out = "myDirectory/myImage.gif"; // The image to return
```

```
if (file_exists($file_out)) {
```

```
    $image_info = getimagesize($file_out);
```

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```
//Set the content-length header
header('Content-Length: ' . filesize($file_out));

//Write the image bytes to the client
readfile($file_out);
}
else { // Image file not found

    header($_SERVER["SERVER_PROTOCOL"] . " 404 Not Found");

}
```

With this solution any type of image can be processed but it is just another option. Thanks *ban-geoengineering* for your contribution.

edited Apr 26 at 19:44

Bryan P. R.

3 3

answered Nov 7 '14 at 22:59



ban-geoengineering

13.8k 14 117 203

- 1 The `fpasssthru` docs page says "If you just want to dump the contents of a file to the output buffer, without first modifying it or seeking to a particular offset, you may want to use the `readfile()`, which saves you the `fopen()` call." so [readfile](#) is better than `fpasssthru` as it is more efficient in this case. – Edward May 8 '16 at 8:28
- 2 The code `header($_SERVER["SERVER_PROTOCOL"]." 404 Not Found");` can be used if the file does not exist and a notification of this in the response is required. – Edward May 8 '16 at 9:06
- 1 The variable `$fileOut` should contain the file name: `$fileOut = "your_file_name.png";` – metatron Nov 29 '17 at 18:27

@Edward and metatron, thanks for your responses. I've now updated my answer and code accordingly. – [ban-geoengineering](#) May 11 '18 at 18:20

Note that this requires PHP being compiled with GD (because of `getimagesize()`). – Gwyneth Llewelyn Jan 1 '19 at 18:33

This should work. It may be slower.

4

```
$img = imagecreatefromjpeg($filename);
header("Content-Type: image/jpeg");
imagejpeg($img);
imagedestroy($img);
```



answered Sep 30 '13 at 15:41



Drew LeSueur

14.9k 24 77 93

- 1 This requires PHP having GD compiled in. – Gwyneth Llewelyn Jan 1 '19 at 18:31



I worked without Content-Length . maybe reason work for remote image files

2

```
// open the file in a binary mode
$name = 'https://www.example.com/image_file.jpg';
$fp = fopen($name, 'rb');

// send the right headers
header('Cache-Control: no-cache, no-store, max-age=0, must-revalidate');
header('Expires: January 01, 2013'); // Date in the past
header('Pragma: no-cache');
header("Content-Type: image/jpg");
/* header("Content-Length: " . filesize($name)); */

// dump the picture and stop the script
fpassthru($fp);
exit;
```

answered Mar 2 '18 at 18:31



Berk

35 8

Another easy Option (not any better, just different) if you aren't reading from a database is to just use a function to output all the code for you... Note: If you also wanted php to read the image dimensions and give that to the client for faster rendering, you could easily do that too with this method.

-5

```
<?php
function insertImage( $fileName ) {
    echo '';
}
?>

<html>
<body>
    This is my awesome website.<br>
    <?php insertImage( '1234.jpg' ); ?><br>
    Like my nice picture above?
</body>
</html>
```

edited May 22 '09 at 23:20

answered May 22 '09 at 23:11



Joe Bubna

302 1 2 7

This "answer" would work, but **does not address this page's question stated above. Answers should always answer the original question.** – Edward May 8 '16 at 10:24

Imho if you want hide location of picture, put base64 encrypted source into img tag. **But this is not what he asked.** src="data:image/png;base64,[...]" – 3ED Feb 16 '19 at 18:06

