Lesson 1-3. Introduction to PHP

Objectives

- To understand what PHP is and how a PHP script works with a Web Browser and a Web Server
- To learn what software and components you need to get started with PHP
- To create and run a simple PHP script

Content

1. What is PHP?
2. Develop and publish PHP scripts
3. PHP proper syntax
4. PHP comments

Content

⇨ 1. What is PHP?
2. Develop and publish PHP scripts
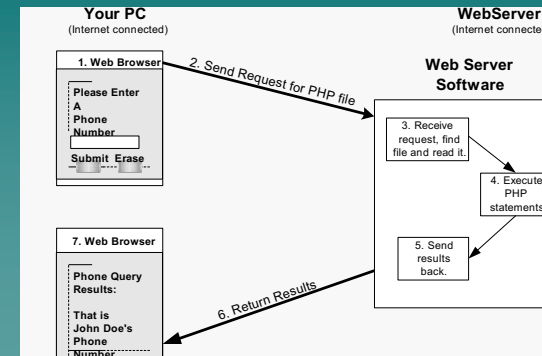3. PHP proper syntax
4. PHP comments

1. What is PHP?

◆ Advantages of Using PHP to enhance Web pages:

–*Easy to use*

–*Open source*

–*Multiple platform*

◆ What about JSP & Servlet, ASP.NET...?

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How PHP Pages are Accessed and Interpreted

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2. Develop and publish PHP script

To develop and publish PHP scripts all you need is:

– A Web server with PHP built into it

– A client machine with a basic text editor and Internet connection

– FTP or Telnet software

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Exploring the Basic PHP Development Process

The basic steps you can use to develop and publish PHP pages are:
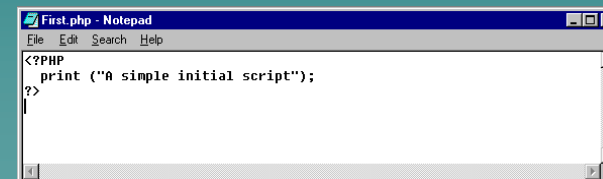
1. Create a PHP script file and save it to a local disk.
2. Use FTP to copy the file to the server.
3. Access your file using a browser.

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Creating a PHP Script File and Saving It to a Local Disk

You can use a number of different editors to create your PHP script files.

– The PHP script starts with a <?php tag and ends with ?>.
– Between these tags is a singlePHP print statement.


```
First.php - Notepad
File  Edit  Search  Help
<?PHP
  print ("A simple initial script");
?>
```

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Alternative PHP Delimiters

◆ You can alternatively start your PHP scripts with the <script> tag as follows:
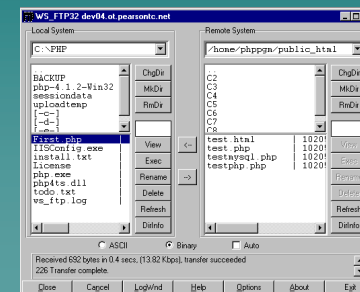
```
<script language="PHP">
print ("A simple initial script");
</script>
```

◆ If have short_open_tag enabled in its configuration file, you can use <? and ?>.

◆ If asp_tags is enabled in the PHP configuration file, you can use <% and %> as delimiters.
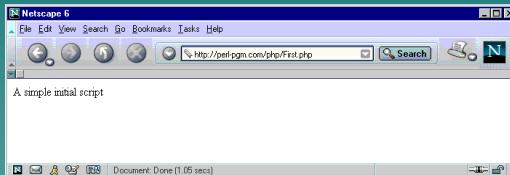
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Copying Files To A Web Server with FTP

1. Connect to the Internet and start FTP.
2. Connect to your Web server with FTP.
3. Copy files to the Web server.
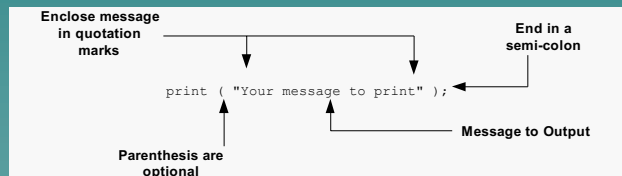

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Accessing Your File Using a Browser

Content

1. What is PHP?
2. Develop and publish PHP scripts
⇨ 3. PHP proper syntax
4. PHP comments

3. Proper Syntax

◆ If you have a syntax error then you have written one or more PHP statements that are grammatically incorrect in the PHP language.
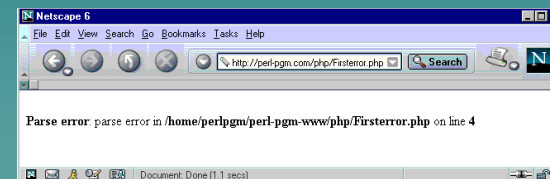◆ The `print` statement syntax:

Enclose message in quotation marks   End in a semi-colon

```
print ( "Your message to print" );
```

Parenthesis are optional   Message to Output

If Use Improper Syntax

◆ Suppose you use the wrong syntax:

```
1. <?php
2. print ( "A simple initial script);
3. ?>
```


Parse error: parse error in /home/perlpgm/perl-pgm-www/php/Firsterror.php on line 4

A Little About PHP's Syntax

◆ Some PHP Syntax Issues:
  – Be careful to use quotation marks, parentheses, and brackets in pairs.
  – Most PHP commands end with a semicolon (;).
  – Be careful of case.
  – PHP ignores blank spaces.
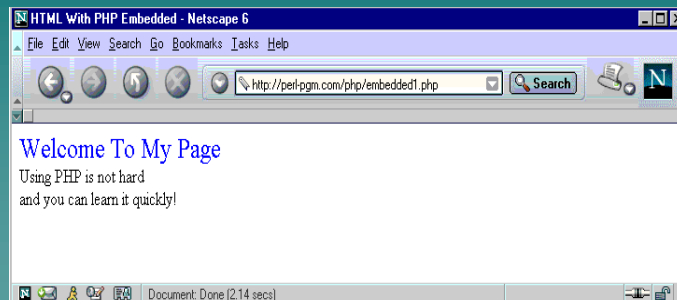

Embedding PHP Statements Within HTML Documents

◆ One way to use PHP is to embed PHP scripts within HTML tags in an HTML document.

```
1.<html>
2.<head>
3.<title>HTML With PHP Embedded</title> </head>
4.<body>
5.<font size=5 color="blue">Welcome To My Page</font>
6.<?php
7.    print ("<br> Using PHP is not hard<br>");
8.?>
9.and you can learn to use it quickly!
10. </body></html>
```

Would Output The Following ...

Using Backslash (\) to Generate HTML Tags with print()

◆ Sometimes you want to output an HTML tag that also requires double quotation marks.
  – Use the backslash ("\") character to signal that the double quotation marks themselves should be output:

```
print ("<font color=\"blue\">");
```
  – The above statement would output:

```
<font color="blue">
```

Content

1. What is PHP?
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⇨ 4. PHP comments

4. PHP Comments

- Comments enable you to include descriptive text along with the PHP script
  - Comment lines are ignored when the script runs; they do not slow down the run-time.
  - Comments have two common uses.
    - *Describe the overall script purpose.*
    - *Describe particularly tricky script lines.*

Using Comments with PHP Scripts

- Comment Syntax - Use //
  ```
  <?php
  // This is a comment
  ?>
  ```
- Can place on Same line as a statement:
  ```
  <?php
  //Output a line
  print ("A simple initial script");
  ?>
  ```

Example Script with Comments

```
1.  <html> <head>
2.  <title> Generating HTML From PHP</title> </head>
3.  <body> <h1> Generating HTML From PHP</h1>
4.  <?php
5.  //
6.  // Example script to output HTML tags
7.  //
8.  print ("Using PHP has <i>some advantages:</i>");
9.  print ("<ul><li>Speed</li><li>Ease of use</li>
<li>Functionality</li></ul>"); //Output bullet list
10. print ("</body></html>");
11. ?>
```

Alternative Comment Syntax

◆ PHP allows a couple of additional ways to create comments.

```php
<?php
phpinfo(); # This is a built-in function
?>
```

◆ Multiple line comments.

```php
<?php
/* A script that gets information about
   the PHP version being used. */
phpinfo(); ?>
```

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