



Atakan Demircioğlu

Follow

Nov 15, 2022 · 2 min read · [▶ List](#)

Sign in to Medium with Google



bouhani hamdi

bouhanihamdi@gmail.com

Continue as bouhani



Save



php-magic-methods

# PHP Magic Methods Explained

Here are my notes about PHP Magic methods.

## What are PHP Magic Methods?

- special methods that are called automatically when certain conditions are met
- start with a double underscore ( \_\_ )
- predefined
- neither can be created nor removed
- automatically called

- All magic methods, with the exception of `__construct()`, `__destruct()`, and `__clone()`, *must* be declared as `public`, otherwise an `E_WARNING` is emitted.

### **`__construct` Magic Method**

- automatically every time the object of a particular class is created
- useful to initialization what the object may need before going further

### **`__destruct` Magic Method**

- called when the object is destroyed

### **`__call` Magic Method**

- triggered when we call a method that doesn't define yet

### **`__callStatic` Magic Method**

- similar to the `__call()` method but this is for static context.

### **`__get` Magic Method**

- called when an inaccessible variable or non-existing variable is used

### **`__set` Magic Method**

- called when an inaccessible variable or non-existing variable is written

### **`__isset` Magic Method**

- triggered by calling `isset()` or `empty()` on inaccessible (protected or private) or non-existing properties.

### **`__unset` Magic Method**

- invoked when `unset()` is used on inaccessible (protected or private) or non-existing properties.

### **`__toString` Magic Method**

- called when we need to convert the object into a string

### **`__invoke` Magic Method**

- called when the object is being called as a function

### **`__clone` Magic Method**

- triggered where cloning objects is done by using the `clone` keyword

### **\_\_debugInfo Magic Method**

- triggered when the var\_dump function is called

### **\_\_sleep Magic Method**

- serialize() function triggers
- should return an array holding all the object's properties that should be included in the serialized version of that object.
- For resource types, PHP fails at serializing it

### **\_\_wakeup Magic Method**

- need to initialize the value whenever we get a new fresh instance from the unserialize function, and that's what we're doing inside the \_\_wakeup method.

### **\_\_serialize() and \_\_unserialize()**

- serialize() checks if the class has a function with the \_\_serialize() magic method. If yes, the function is executed first before any serialization operation.
- If there are both \_\_serialize and \_\_sleep in the same object, just serialize will be called.

**Note:** For a better understanding of what is happening in \_\_sleep and \_\_wakeup magic methods, you can read [this article](#).

### **Real Life Example**

(\_\_get, \_\_set, \_\_isset, \_\_unset)

```
1  <?php
2
3  class PSession
4  {
5      /**
6       * @var array
7       */
8      private array $options = [];
9      /**
10     * @var array|string[]
11     */
12     private array $phpSessionValidOptions = [
13         'save_path',
14         'name',
15         'save_handler',
16         'auto_start',
17         'gc_probability',
18         'gc_divisor',
19         'gc_maxlifetime',
20         'serialize_handler',
21         'cookie_lifetime',
22         'cookie_path',
23         'cookie_domain',
24         'cookie_secure',
25         'cookie_httponly',
26         'cookie_samesite',
27         'use_strict_mode',
28         'use_cookies',
29         'use_only_cookies',
30         'referer_check',
31         'cache_limiter',
32         'cache_expire',
33         'use_trans_sid',
34         'trans_sid_tags',
35         'trans_sid_hosts',
36         'sid_length',
37         'sid_bits_per_character',
38         'upload_progress.enabled',
39         'upload_progress.cleanup',
40         'upload_progress.prefix',
41         'upload_progress.name',
42         'upload_progress.freq',
43         'upload_progress.min-freq',
44         'lazy_write'
45     ];
46
47     /**
48     * @param array $options
```

```
48     return array_options;  
49     * @throws InvalidOption  
50     */
```

## What Are PHP Magic Methods & How They Work - Full PHP 8 Tutorial



```
68     }  
69  
70     /**  
71     * @return bool  
72     */  
73     public function destroy(): bool  
74     {  
75         return session_destroy();  
76     }  
77  
78     /**  
79     *  
80     */  
81     public function clear(): void  
82     {  
83         session_unset();  
84     }  
85  
86     /**  
87     * @return bool  
88     */  
89     public function regenerateId(): bool  
90     {  
91         return session_regenerate_id();  
92     }  
93  
94     /**  
95     * @return string
```

```
96     */
97     public function getId(): string
98     {
99         return session_id();
100     }
101
102     /**
103      * @param string $id
104      */
105     public function setId(string $id): void
106     {
107         session_id($id);
108     }
109
110     /**
111      * @return string
112      */
113     public function getName(): string
114     {
115         return session_name();
116     }
117
118     /**
119      * @param string $name
120      */
121     public function setName(string $name): void
122     {
123         session_name($name);
124     }
125
126     /**
127      * @return array
128      */
129     public function all(): array
130     {
131         return $_SESSION ?? [];
132     }
133
134     /**
135      * @return bool
136      */
137     public function isStarted(): bool
138     {
139         return $this->getStatus() === PHP_SESSION_ACTIVE;
140     }
141
142     /**
143      * @return int
```

```
144     */
145     public function getStatus(): int
146     {
147         return session_status();
148     }
149
150     /**
151      * @return bool
152      */
153     public function isNotStarted(): bool
154     {
155         return $this->getStatus() === PHP_SESSION_NONE;
156     }
157
158     /**
159      * @return bool
160      */
161     public function isDestroyed(): bool
162     {
163         return $this->getStatus() === PHP_SESSION_DISABLED;
164     }
165
166     /**
167      * @param string $key
168      * @return mixed|null
169      */
170     public function __get(string $key)
171     {
172         return $this->get($key, null);
173     }
174
175     /**
176      * @param string $key
177      * @param $value
178      */
179     public function __set(string $key, $value): void
180     {
181         $this->set($key, $value);
182     }
183
184     /**
185      * @param string $key
186      * @param null $defaultValue
187      * @return mixed|null
188      */
189     public function get(string $key, $defaultValue = null)
190     {
```

```
191 $keys = explode('.', $key);
192 $session = $_SESSION;
193 foreach ($keys as $key) {
194     // allow both object and array access
195     if (is_array($session) && isset($session[$key])) {
196         $session = $session[$key];
197     } elseif (is_object($session) && isset($session->$key)) {
198         $session = $session->$key;
199     } else {
200         return $defaultValue;
201     }
202 }
203
204 return $session ?? $defaultValue;
205 }
206
207 /**
208  * @param string $key
209  * @param null $value
210  */
211 public function set(string $key, $value = null): void
212 {
213     // both object and array access
214     $keys = explode('.', $key);
215     $session = &$_SESSION;
216     foreach ($keys as $key) {
217         if (is_array($session) && !isset($session[$key])) {
218             $session[$key] = [];
219         } elseif (is_object($session) && !isset($session->$key)) {
220             $session->$key = [];
221         }
222
223         if (is_array($session)) {
224             $session = &$session[$key];
225         } elseif (is_object($session)) {
226             $session = &$session->$key;
227         }
228     }
229
230     $session = $value;
231 }
232
233 /**
234  * @param string $key
235  * @return bool
236  */
237 public function __isset(string $key): bool
238 {
```



```
239         return $this->has($key);
240     }
241
242     /**
243      * @param string $key
244      * @return bool
245      */
246     public function has(string $key): bool
247     {
248         return isset($_SESSION[$key]);
249     }
250
251     /**
252      * @param string $key
253      */
254     public function __unset(string $key): void
255     {
256         $this->remove($key);
257     }
258
259     /**
260      * @param string $key
261      */
262     public function remove(string $key): void
263     {
264         unset($_SESSION[$key]);
265     }
266 }
```

Open in app ↗

Sign up

Sign In





Subscribe

By signing up, you will create a Medium account if you don't already have one. Review our [Privacy Policy](#) for more information about our privacy practices.

[About](#) [Help](#) [Terms](#) [Privacy](#)

Get the Medium app

