

Access PHP var from external javascript file

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I can access a PHP var with Javascript like this:

```
<?php
    $fruit = "apple";
    $color = "red";
?>

<script type="text/javascript">
    alert("fruit: " + "<?php echo $fruit; ?>"); // or shortcut "<?= $fruit ?>"
</script>
```

But what if I want to use an external JS file:

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="externaljs.js"></script>
```

externaljs.js:

```
alert("color: " + "<?php echo $color; ?>");
```

[php](#) | [javascript](#) | [variables](#) | [external](#)

asked May 28 '10 at 12:13



[FFish](#)

1,109 3 17 58

79% accept rate

1 You can **not** access a PHP var with Javascript. – [Your Common Sense](#) May 28 '10 at 12:17

Yes, you can. See my example. – [FFish](#) May 28 '10 at 12:20

get the value via Ajax. – [Sepehr Lajevardi](#) May 28 '10 at 12:20

5 You'd better learn that JS have no idea of the whole PHP existence, needless to say about single variable. It is not JS having access to PHP variable, It is whole JS being generated by PHP with all it's variables. Feel the difference. If you can – [Your Common Sense](#) May 28 '10 at 12:22

feedback

8 Answers

You don't really access it you insert it into the javascript code when you serve the page.

However if your other javascript isn't from an external source you can do something like:

```
<?php
    $color = "Red";
?>
<script type="text/javascript">var color = "<?= $color ?>";</script>
<script type="text/javascript" src="file.js"></script>
```

and then in the file.js use color like so:

```
alert("color: " + color);
```

edited May 28 '10 at 13:31

answered May 28 '10 at 12:16



Don

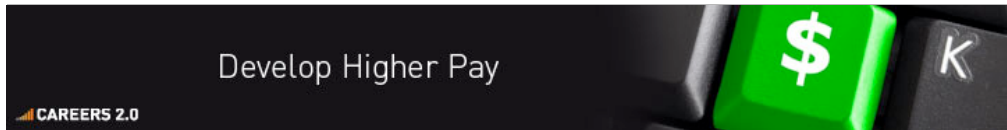
1,677 1 6 12

That is exactly what I just came up with as well,. and what I was after. +1 for Don – FFish May 28 '10 at 12:53

Should be var color = "<?= \$color ?>"; – Mark L May 28 '10 at 13:17

Sorry about that and thanks Mark L, I've corrected it in the post. – Don May 28 '10 at 13:34

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What I've seen done is let .js files run through the php interpreter. **Which I can not recommend.**

What I do recommend is fetching the values through AJAX and have the PHP file return the value to the JS file. Which is a much cleaner method.

edited May 28 '10 at 12:26

answered May 28 '10 at 12:17



Ólafur Waage

30.5k 3 50 115

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First of all you have to understand that no program can actually have access to the other program's variable.

When you realize that, the rest is simple.

You can either set up a js variable in the main file and then include your external js, or make this external js dynamic, generated by PHP as well

answered May 28 '10 at 12:19



Your Common Sense

1

Thanks for clarifying. I used your first solution. `<script type="text/javascript">_fruit = "<?= $fruit; ?>";</script>` than `<script type="text/javascript" src="externaljs.js"></script>` and inside externaljs.js I access with `alert(_fruit);`
– FFish May 28 '10 at 12:49

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What you likely want, is called Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX): <http://www.w3schools.com/ajax/default.aspa>

Basically, imagine being able to send messages from the clients JavaScript to your PHP scripts on the server. In the example you gave (externaljs.js), you would have the script ask the server what \$color is, via HTTP. You can also point the script tag at a PHP script that generates the JavaScript you want. It depends on what you need to do.

It helps to have some understanding of taint checking, data verification, and security ;)

answered May 28 '10 at 12:21



TerryP

514 3 11

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externaljs.js is a static file. Of course it can't access PHP data. The only way to pass PHP data to a js file would be to physically alter the file by writing to it in your PHP script, although this is a messy solution at best.

Edit in response to Ólafur Waage's answer: I guess writing to the js file isn't the *only* way. Passing the js through the PHP interpreter never crossed my mind (for good reason).

answered May 28 '10 at 12:16

 [Manos Dilaverakis](#)
3,140 6 31

feedback

You cant do that and dont try to as this is not a recommended approach, However you can pass php variables as a function parameters to function written in external js

answered May 28 '10 at 12:17

 [sushil bharwani](#)
5,634 1 8 33

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As the others are saying, javascript doesn't have access to php variables. However, it does have access to the DOM. So, you can use php to add attributes to some page element. And then you can access those attributes with javascript.

e.g. `<div id='apple' class='red'>` is completely available to javascript

answered May 28 '10 at 12:25

 [dnagirl](#)
7,796 2 17 38

also a good point here girl – [FFish](#) May 28 '10 at 12:54

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```
<script type="text/javascript" src="externaljs.js"></script>
```

You could change it to

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="externaljs.php"></script>
```

And the PHP script could just write JavaScript like that :

```
<?php
$fruit = "apple";
echo 'var fruit = '.json_encode($fruit);
...
```

Though using AJAX like said Sepehr Lajevardi would be much cleaner

answered May 28 '10 at 12:28

 [Serty Oan](#)
1,045 2 12

I think a header with proper Content-type should be added. – [Your Common Sense](#) May 28 '10 at 12:46

Classic JavaScript files don't have one, they are plain text files, the tag that reference their URL define their type of use in the browser. – [Serty Oan](#) May 28 '10 at 12:57

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