### **Null Coalescing Assignment Operator**

Null Coalescing operator in PHP 7 made a huge difference in PHP development as it allows us to write ternary code in a simpler way as show in the example below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | $data['studnentName'] = isset($data['studentName']) ? $data['studentName'] : 'Guest'; |

simply as this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | $data['studentName'] = $data['studentName'] ?? 'Guest'; |

Now, we can just write the statement above in this form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | $data['studentName'] ??= 'Guest'; |

All of the examples above do the same job which is to check if the $data[‘’studentName] is set. If yes, get it. If not, get “Guest” and assigns to $data[‘studentName’]. In simple terms, if the value of the left-hand side is null (or not set), the value of the right-hand side will be assigned to the left. In short, PHP 7.4 update makes the syntax less verbose.