# PHP Lab 5 Flow Control

## Loops

Edit your php script from Lab 4 (shows n, n^2 and n^3) so that it uses a loop (for or while) to compute the powers an arbitrary number of times. Use a new variable to set how many times it runs.

When your script is working, use View Page Source in your browser to compare the instructions sent to the browser with your php script. What happened to the php commands?

## User Input with GET

Now we'll put up a page that explains we're printing out powers and asks the user how many they would like to see (what number to stop at.) It ask the user for input, and then call your php script with the number the user has entered.

Rename the file, "html blank form get.txt", to something descriptive with an html extension (numpowers.html or whatever you like.) Then, modify the html to have a proper title, and the h4 heading to explain what's going on. Change <form action="textbox.php" ... to replace textbox.php with the name of your script that computes powers. "Textbox:" is the label that will go by the spot where the user enters the number to stop at. Change it to something descriptive. <input name="textname" ... determines the name of the variable that will be passed to your program. Change it to something you like.

Change the line in your powers script where you determine how many times to run the loop. Your line may be something like:

$stop = 5;

Replace it with something like this:

$stop = $\_GET['name']; where 'name' is what you chose for <input name="textname".

When you run your new form, input a number, and click submit, it should call your powers script. Can you see the parameter for number of times being passed in the URL? That is how the GET method works.

Watch the network traffic using Wireshark while your page is opened. The simplest way is to use Wireshark and a browser on your CentOS machine, and view the page with http://localhost/yourfilename.html. On Wireshark, capture input from the loopback interface instead of eth0. You should see the stopping number being passed in the URL.

## User Input with POST

Now, change your web page so it uses the POST method instead of GET (html blank form post.txt). Your parameter is not being passed in the URL this time, so use Wireshark to see how the parameter for number of times is passed to your php script.