



Introduction to PHP & PDO

PHP stands for “PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor”.

PHP is a widely used open source scripting language.

PHP scripts are executed on the server.

PHP is free to download and use.

PHP is an amazing and popular language.

- It is powerful enough to be at the core of the biggest blogging system on the web (wordpress).
- It is deep enough to run the largest social network (Facebook).
- It is also easy enough to be a beginner’s first server side language.

Uses of PHP

1. PHP can generate dynamic page content.
2. PHP can create, open, read, write, delete and close files on the server.
3. PHP can collect form data.
4. PHP can send and receive cookies.
5. PHP can add, delete, and modify data in your database.
6. PHP can be used to control user access.
7. PHP can encrypt data.

With PHP you are not limited to output HTML; you can output images, PDF files and even flash movies.

PHP Data Objects (PDO)

PHP Data Object is a robust, easy-to-learn and easy-to-use object-oriented interface for interacting with databases.

Let's look at the query below:

```
"SELECT `Company` FROM acrs.cust_book_details WHERE `Cust_Name` = '$login' ORDER BY Time_Booked DESC LIMIT 1";
```

Assuming the database engine is MySQL, the complete query would be:

```
<?php
require '../connect/connect.inc.php';
$sql3 = "SELECT `Company` FROM acrs.cust_book_details WHERE `Cust_Name` = '$login' ORDER BY Time_Booked DESC LIMIT 1";
$row = mysql_query($sql3);
$data = mysql_fetch_assoc($row);
echo $data['Company'];
mysql_close();
?>
```

Assuming the database engine is MySQLi, the complete query would be:

```
<?php
$sql3 = "SELECT `Company` FROM acrs.cust_book_details WHERE `Cust_Name` = '$login' ORDER BY Time_Booked DESC LIMIT 1";
$row = mysqli_query($con, $sql3);
$data = mysqli_fetch_assoc($row);
echo $data['Company'];
mysqli_close();
?>
```

As you can see, the two database engines have some quite differences.

This is not a problem now, but if you used for instance a MySQL engine to develop your application and you **migrate** to a server having a MySQLi engine; you will have to **rewrite your scripts**.

PHP Data object (PDO) was introduced to solve this issue.

With PHP Data Object (PDO) you can write the query as:

```
<?php
$sql3 = $handler->query("SELECT `Company` FROM acrs.cust_book_details WHERE `Cust_Name` = '$login' ORDER BY Time_Booked DESC LIMIT 1");
while($row = $sql3->fetch()){
    $company = $row['company'];
    echo $company;
}
?>
```

And this will save you the cost of rewriting your whole script after migrating to server with a different database engine as yours.