

MODULE 4: SOFTWARE CODING

1. Software Coding Standards in PHP

What Are Coding Standards?

Coding standards are a set of **rules and guidelines** that developers follow to write **clean, readable, secure, and maintainable** code.

PHP Coding Standards Examples:

PHP Standard Recommendation

a) PSR-1: Basic Coding Standard

- File must start with `<?php`
- Class names must be in **PascalCase**: `UserProfile`
- Method names in **camelCase**: `getUserDetails()`
- Constants in **UPPERCASE**: `MAX_ATTEMPTS`

b) PSR-12: Extended Coding Style

- **Indentation**: Use 4 spaces (no tabs)
 - **Line length**: Max 120 characters
 - **No closing `?>` tag** in pure PHP files
 - Proper **namespace** and **import** usage
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Example – Bad Code:

```
class user{public function Getname($N){return $N;}}
```

Example – Good Code (PSR-12 Compliant):

```
<?php

namespace App\Models;

class User
{
```

```
public function getName(string $name): string
{
    return $name;
}
}
```

Helpful Tools:

- **PHP_CodeSniffer:** Automatically checks your code for PSR violations.

```
composer require --dev squizlabs/php_codesniffer
./vendor/bin/phpcs --standard=PSR12 yourfile.php
```

2. Testing and Debugging in PHP

A. Software Testing

Purpose:

Testing ensures that **code behaves as expected**, and helps catch bugs early.

Types of Tests in PHP:

Type	Description	Tool Example
Unit Testing	Test individual functions/classes	PHPUnit
Integration	Test multiple components together	Codeception
Functional	Test user interface and flow	Behat, Selenium

Example – PHPUnit Test (Unit Testing):

1. Install PHPUnit:

```
composer require --dev phpunit/phpunit
```

2. Write Function to Test:

```
function multiply(int $a, int $b): int
{
    return $a * $b;
}
```

3. Write Test Case:

```
use PHPUnit\Framework\TestCase;

class MathTest extends TestCase
{
    public function testMultiply()
    {
        $this->assertEquals(20, multiply(4, 5));
    }
}
```

4. Run Test:

```
./vendor/bin/phpunit tests/MathTest.php
```

B. Debugging in PHP

Common Debugging Techniques:

Technique	Example
<code>var_dump()</code>	<code>var_dump(\$data);</code> – Shows type and value of variable
<code>print_r()</code>	Prints arrays/objects
<code>error_log()</code>	Logs message to server log: <code>error_log("Issue here");</code>
Xdebug	Advanced debugger: breakpoints, step-through, profiling
Browser Dev Tools	Inspect network calls, console logs (for frontend issues)

Example Debugging Code:

```
$user = ['name' => 'John', 'email' => 'john@example.com'];
var_dump($user);
```

Enabling Error Reporting:

```
ini_set('display_errors', 1);
error_reporting(E_ALL);
```

Xdebug Example:

- Setup with VSCode or PhpStorm
 - Add breakpoints and watch variable values live
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3. Code Review in PHP

What is Code Review?

Code review is a **peer evaluation of code** to ensure it meets standards, is free from bugs, and is efficient.

Code Review Checklist:

Criteria	Example/Explanation
Readability	Is code easy to understand?
Security	Is user input sanitized? SQL injection protected?
Efficiency	Is the logic optimized? Any redundant code?
Compliance	Does code follow PSR-12 or project standards?
Test Coverage	Are there sufficient tests for new code?

Example Feedback:

- *Bad:* `mysqli_query($conn, "SELECT * FROM users WHERE id=$id");`
 - *Feedback:* Use prepared statements to prevent SQL injection.
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Tools for Code Review:

- **GitHub/GitLab/Bitbucket** – Pull requests and inline comments.
 - **PHP_CodeSniffer** – Automated coding standard checks.
 - **SonarQube** – Advanced static code analysis.
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Example Git Workflow:

1. Developer pushes code to `feature-branch`.
 2. Creates Pull Request to `main`.
 3. CI/CD runs tests and `PHP_CodeSniffer`.
 4. Reviewer suggests changes.
 5. Code merged after approval.
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4. CASE Tools in PHP Development

What Are CASE Tools?

CASE (Computer-Aided Software Engineering) tools **automate and support software development** tasks such as coding, testing, documentation, deployment, and project management.

Categories and Examples:

Category	Tool Example	Purpose
IDE	PhpStorm, VS Code	Code editing, syntax highlighting, debugging
Version Control	Git, GitHub, GitLab	Track changes, collaborate, pull requests
Testing	PHPUnit, Codeception	Unit and integration testing
Debugging	Xdebug, PHP Debug Bar	Trace code, inspect variables, profiling
Documentation	phpDocumentor	Generate API documentation from code
CI/CD	Jenkins, GitHub Actions	Automate testing, building, and deployment
Project Mgmt	Jira, Trello	Manage tasks, track issues

Example CASE Workflow:

1. **PhpStorm IDE** – Write code.
 2. **GitHub** – Push code; pull request triggers CI.
 3. **GitHub Actions** – Run PHPUnit, PHP_CodeSniffer.
 4. **Xdebug** – Debug failed test locally.
 5. **phpDocumentor** – Generate docs for API endpoints.
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phpDocumentor Example:

```
composer require --dev phpdocumentor/phpdocumentor
phpdoc run -d src -t docs
```

Summary Table

Concept	Tools/Examples
Coding Standards	PSR-1, PSR-12, PHP_CodeSniffer
Testing	PHPUnit (unit tests), Codeception, Behat
Debugging	var_dump(), error_log(), Xdebug
Code Review	GitHub PRs, Bitbucket, GitLab CI/CD
CASE Tools	PhpStorm, Git, Jenkins, phpDocumentor, Jira

Final Thoughts:

- **Consistency** in coding (via standards) saves time and prevents errors.
 - **Testing and debugging** ensure reliability and confidence in your software.
 - **Code reviews** enhance collaboration, security, and maintainability.
 - **CASE tools** automate tasks, streamline workflows, and boost productivity.
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