

ADVANCED PHP CONCEPTS

Slides mostly adopted from Tufts University, Prof. Ming Chow

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SimpleXML

- Simple way to parse XML files (unless your XML document has namespaces (e.g., tags with "colons")
- □ Requires PHP 5
- Complete list of SimpleXML functions at:

http://us3.php.net/manual/en/ref.simplexml.php

SimpleXML: Example 1

Loading an XML file and print out elements

?>

```
<?php
  $xml = simplexml load file('twitter.xml');
  print r($xml);
  echo "****** End of printing entire XML object ******* \n";
  foreach ($xml as $item) {
       print r($item);
       echo "****** End of printing item id = " . $item->id . "
  ********\n";
       if ($item instanceof SimpleXMLElement) {
               echo "****** item is an instance of SimpleXMLElement
  ********\n";
       else {
               echo "****** item is not an instance of SimpleXMLElement
  ********\n":
```

SimpleXML: Example 2

Loading an RSS feed and printing the individual news elements:

```
<?php
    $articles = array();
    $rawFeed = file_get_contents('http://feeds.reuters.com/reuters/businessNews');
    $xml = new SimpleXmlElement($rawFeed);
    foreach ($xml->channel->item as $item) {
           $itemRSS = array (
                        'source' => 'Reuters',
                        'title' => $item->title,
                        'desc' => (string) trim($item->description),
                        'link' => $item->link,
                        'date' => $item->pubDate);
           array push ($articles, $itemRSS);
    if (!empty($articles)) {
            foreach ($articles as $entry) {
                        $atomDate = $entry['date'];
                        $dateTime = strtotime(substr($atomDate, 5, 11));
                        $formattedDate = date('F j, Y', $dateTime);
                        echo "" . $formattedDate . " (" . $entry['source'] . ") <a href=\"" . $entry['link'] .
"\" target=\" blank\">" . $entry['title'] . "</a>\n";
```

SimpleXML: Example 3

Using the Twitter Search API

```
<?php
 $xml =
 simplexml load file('http://search.twitter.com/sear
 ch.atom?q=watson');
 foreach ($xml->entry as $item) {
     echo "AUTHOR => " . $item->author->name . "\n";
     echo "AUTHOR'S URL=> " . $item->author->uri .
  "\n";
     echo "AUTHOR'S AVATAR => " . $item-
 >link[1]['href']. "\n";
     echo "CONTENT => $item->content\n";
     echo "UPDATED => $item->updated\n\n";
```

Variable Scoping: Three Scopes

- Local Default; only in this page or function
- Global Makes page variables available in functions. Unlike in C/C++ where using global variables is considered a cardinal sin, globals are used quite frequently in PHP
- Static Local to function, doesn't change between invocations

Variable Scoping: Example

```
<?php
    $a = "one";
   function var1()
            if (isset($a)) {
                        echo 'in var1, $a is ' . $a . '<br/>';
            else {
                        echo 'in var1, $a isn\'t set!<br/>';
    function var2()
           global $a;
            if (isset($a)) {
                        echo 'in var2, $a is ' . $a . '<br/>';
            else {
                        echo 'in var2, $a isn\'t set!<br/>';
    var1();
    var2();
?>
```

Result: in var1, \$a isn't set!

in var2, \$a is one

Static Variables

- Inside subroutines, normally variables start out unset
- Static variables retain their value between subroutine calls

Static Variables: Example

```
<?php
    function repeat1()
           if (!isset($a)) {
                       a = 0;
           $a++;
           echo 'in repeat1, $a is ' . $a . "<br/>";
    function repeat2()
           static $a;
           if (!isset($a)) {
                       a = 0;
           $a++;
           echo 'in repeat2, $a is ' . $a . "<br/>";
    for (\$i = 0; \$i < 5; \$i++) {
           repeat1(); }
    for (\$i = 0; \$i < 5; \$i++) {
           repeat2(); }
?>
```

Result:

```
in repeat1, $a is 1
in repeat2, $a is 1
in repeat2, $a is 2
in repeat2, $a is 3
in repeat2, $a is 4
in repeat2, $a is 5
```

Call by Value and Reference

- Call by value Default; changes to a subroutine's parameter don't matter
- Call by reference Allows a subroutine to change variables in the outside world; add a preceding & to a subroutine variable; same as in C/C++

Call by Value and Reference

```
<?php
   $b = "unchanged";
   $c = "unchanged";
   function var3($a)
        $a = 'hoho';
   function var4(&$a)
         $a = 'haha';
   echo 'before var3 $b is '.$b."<br/>";
   var3($b);
   echo 'after var3 $b is '.$b."<br/>";
   echo 'before var4 $c is '.$c."<br/>";
   var4($c);
   echo 'after var4 $c is '.$c."<br/>";
?>
```

Result:

before var3 \$b is unchanged after var3 \$b is unchanged before var4 \$c is unchanged after var4 \$c is haha

PHP Headers

- □ A way for you to control the HTTP header
- By default, a PHP script's output is HTML and its result code is 200
- Use header function to render content to different format (e.g., PDF, PNG), result code, or even locationurlencode
- □ Examples:

```
header("Content-type: application/xml");
header("HTTP/1.1 500 Server Error");
header("Content-type: image/jpg");
echo file_get_contents('facepalm.jpg');
header("Location: http://www.google.com/");
```

CAPTCHAs