COMP2203: Application Scripting

Session DA-php2

php Data Types & Structures

David Argles

ECS
Electronics & Computer Science
University of Southampton

Haven
Consulting
david@argles.org

Overview

We'll be looking at :

- How php handles data types
- Basic php data types
- Arrays
  – Indexed
  – Associative
- Getting help

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What Are php Types?

- We introduced a php function
- Which took a parameter, $title
- We didn't say what to expect
- But we gave it a "string" (text)
- It was happy with that
- If we'd given it something else it would probably have worked
- But it might not have given us the result we were expecting
- php is "loosely typed"
- Many languages are "strongly typed"

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Some Basic Types

- **String**
  - We had that in our function
- **Integer**
  - e.g. for counting
- **Float**
  - So we can represent values like -3.59
- **Boolean**
  - Can be either TRUE or FALSE
    (e.g. if($count<3); ($count<3) will be TRUE or FALSE)

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Arrays

- Array
  - Allows sets of values
  - Like [3, 5, 9]
  - Or ["red", "blue"]
- Created like this:
  - $colours = array ("red", "blue", "green");
- Accessed like this:
  - echo ("I like ".$colours[1]." cars");
- This is an "indexed" array

Listing an Array

- **e.g. listing products on a webpage:**

```
$length = count ($products);
for ($i=0; $i<$length; $i++)
{
  echo($products[$i]);
}
```

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Associative Arrays

- But we can do arrays differently:

$person = array(
"prename"=>"David",
"surname"=>"Argles",
"interest"=>"cars");

- Accessed:

echo($person["prename"]." likes ".
$person["interest"]);

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Associative Arrays

- This is most useful if we create an array of arrays:

```
$people = array
(
  1=>
    array("prename"=>"David","surname"=>"Argles"),
  2=>
    array("prename"=>"Russell", "surname"=>Newman")
);
```

Printing out Associative Arrays

- **We can now access this**:

```
foreach ($people as $person)
{
  echo $person["prename"];
  echo $person["surname"];
}
```

Getting Help

- Don't forget that w3schools is your friend!

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Consulting
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