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Of course, that's not all. You will be tested on various other grounds such as general aptitude, management, and communication skills. So if you would like to know more about what it takes to break into this career, check out our in-depth guide on how to become a PHP developer.

The PHP interview questions and answers we're about to discuss are approved by our PHP Certification Training experts and will come in handy for beginners as well as those looking to upgrade their skills. So let's not wait anymore and dive right in.

Most Asked PHP Interview Questions

1. What is GET and POST method in PHP?
2. What is the use of session and cookies in PHP?
3. What are the characteristics of PHP variables?
4. What is PEAR in PHP?
5. What are PHP Magic Methods/Functions?
6. How do we set an infinite execution time for PHP script?
7. What is the difference between $message and $$message in PHP?
8. What are 'Traits'?
9. How many types of an array are there in PHP?
10. What is the difference between "echo" and "print" in PHP?

Beginner-Level PHP Interview Questions

Let us now begin with the basic PHP interview questions and answers.

1. Who do we know as the father of PHP?

Rasmus Lerdorf who created the language in 1994.

2. What did the acronym PHP originally stand for?

Initially, PHP stood for Personal Home Page, but it now stands for the recursive acronym for PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor.

3. What are some of the common applications of PHP?

PHP is commonly used to perform:

- system functions. It can create, open, read, write, and close to files on a system.
- handling forms. It can help. Collect data from files, save data to a file, send data through email, return data to the user, etc.
- tasks that involve adding, deleting, and modify elements within your database
- accessing cookies variables and set cookies.
- user restriction to access some pages of your website
- data encryption

4. What is the recommended PHP version?

The latest versions of PHP are 7.2.30, 7.3.17, and 7.4.5, which was released in April 2020

5. Which programming language is PHP similar to?

PHP is influenced by Perl and C. As such, PHP syntax resembles these languages.

6. What is the PHP scripting engine called?

PHP is powered by the scripting engine Zend Engine 2.

7. What is the main difference between PHP4 and PHP5?

PHP4 uses Zend Engine 1 and doesn't support the OOPs concept, while PHP5 supports the OOPs concept and uses Zend Engine 2.

8. Is PHP a case sensitive language?

Not fully. PHP is partly a case sensitive language where the variable names are case-sensitive but function names are not. Also, user-defined functions aren't case sensitive but the rest of the language is.

9. What are the popular frameworks in PHP?

Some popular PHP frameworks are:

- CodeIgniter
- CakePHP
- Symfony
- Zend Framework
- Yii 2

10. Name the popular Content Management Systems (CMS) in PHP.

- WordPress
- Joomla
- Magento
- Drupal

11. What is PEAR in PHP?

PEAR stands for PHP Extension and Application Repository and is an online repository of free, open-source PHP software packages. It was created as a centralized platform to manage, develop and distribute reusable PHP components. PEAR provides various packages and functions, from database and networking to file system access and remote process control. It also includes robust tools to help developers quickly and easily create web-based applications and services.

12. What is the difference between static and dynamic websites?

Static websites are stored in a file system and served as is to the user. These websites are not dynamic and cannot be changed without manually editing the files on the server. On the other hand, dynamic websites are content-rich and can be altered based on various external factors. For example, content may be changed on the fly based on user input, or the content may be generated with the help of a database.

13. What are the characteristics of PHP variables?

PHP variables are values stored in memory that the user can manipulate. They store data for a specific purpose and can be used in calculations and other processes. PHP variables can be declared with keywords such as 'var,' 'int,' 'float,' and' array.' After announcing a variable, it can then be used to store a value.

14. What are the rules for naming a PHP variable?

Naming a variable in PHP is simple, but some rules must be followed. Variable names must begin with a letter or an underscore, followed by any number of letters, numbers, or underscores. Additionally, PHP variable names are case sensitive, meaning that a variable named 'myVariable' is distinct from 'my variable.' Furthermore, variable names cannot use PHP keywords such as 'int,' 'float,' or 'array.'

15. What are the rules to determine the "truth" of any value not already of the Boolean type?

In PHP, the "truth" of any value is determined by the following rules: a value is considered "true" if it is a non-zero number or a non-empty string. Any other matters, such as an empty string or zero value, are considered false. Additionally, an array is considered accurate if it contains at least one element and false if it is open. Null is also regarded as wrong.

16. What is NULL?

NULL is a particular type of value in PHP. It represents a variable with no value and is usually used to denote the absence of a deal.

17. How do you define a constant in PHP?

A constant is a value in PHP that cannot be changed once it has been defined. Constants are defined using the define() function, which takes two arguments: the name of the constant and the value to assign it. Constants can be limited to storing numbers, strings, or arrays, and they are most often used to store configuration values that need to be accessible from different parts of a program.

18. What is the purpose of the constant() function?

The constant() function is a valuable tool that can be used to define a constant. This value remains unchanged throughout a script's lifetime and can be used as a reference for various calculations.

19. What are the differences between PHP constants and variables?

One of the most significant differences between PHP constants and variables is their scope. In PHP, constants are global, meaning they are accessible in all parts of an application, while variables are generally only accessible in the area where they were declared. Additionally, constants must be explicitly defined before they can be used, while variables can be said without initializing them.

20. What is the purpose of the break and continue statement?

Break and continue statements are two fundamental concepts of programming. A break statement is used to terminate a loop or switch statement immediately. In contrast, a continue statement is used to skip the current iteration of the loop and continue with the next iteration.

21. What are the two most common ways to start and finish a PHP code block?

When writing a PHP block of code, the two most common ways to start and finish it are by using the opening tag.

22. What is the meaning of a final class and a final method?

A final class is a class that cannot be extended or inherited. Any methods, instance variables, and constants inside the course cannot be modified or used in another category.

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23. How can you compare objects in PHP?

Comparing objects in PHP is a valuable way to determine if two things are equal. The comparison is made based on the properties of the object and the values of those properties. PHP offers a built-in function for comparing objects called var_dump().

24. What are constructors and destructors in PHP?

Constructors and destructors are two essential concepts in the PHP language. A constructor is a particular method automatically called when an object is created. This process allows the thing to initialize any necessary data and perform any setup required before use.

25. Explain the syntax for the 'for each' loop with an example.

The 'for each' loop is a loop in programming languages that allows for the iterative processing of elements. It is most commonly used when a program requires multiple parts in a list or array. To use the for each loop, the programmer must first declare the variable before the loop, which will store each element as the loop iterates through the list. For example, to loop through the array of integers called myArray, the following code can be used: for each (int i in myArray) { //your code }.

26. What is the difference between single quoted string and double quoted string?

The primary difference between single quoted strings and double-quoted strings is that single quoted strings are literal and do not allow for the evaluation of variables, while double-quoted strings do.

27. How to concatenate two strings in PHP?

Concatenating two strings in PHP is straightforward. To do so, use the concatenation operator, which is a period (.).

28. What is the difference between "echo" and "print" in PHP?

The primary difference between "echo" and "print" in PHP is that "echo" is a language construct, and "print" is a function. "echo" also has slightly better performance and is more succinct, making it preferable in situations where performance and size matter.

29. Name some of the functions in PHP.

Some of the most commonly used functions in PHP include strlen(), str_replace(), urlencode(), and md5(). These functions can perform various tasks, such as counting the number of characters in a string, replacing the contents of a string, encoding a URL string, and generating a hash value.

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Intermediate-Level PHP Interview Questions

Let us now go through the intermediate PHP interview questions and answers.

30. How can PHP interact with HTML?

PHP is designed to interact with HTML. It's possible to embed PHP scripts in an HTML page without a problem and transfer information from HTML to PHP.

31. How can you embed PHP code in an HTML page?

When embedding PHP code with an HTML file, we must use the .php file extension for that file. This allows your webserver to send the file to PHP for processing. If the webserver is configured to use a different extension for PHP files, that extension must be used instead.

We need to use PHP start and end tags to tell the web server where the PHP code starts and ends. There are three styles of start and end tags that PHP parser recognizes.

- XML style: Mostly used when when merging PHP with XML or HTML documents

<? php

PHP code

?>

- Short style: This is the simplest type, though it is not recommended to avoid interference with XML document declarations.

<?

PHP code goes here

?>

- Long style: This style is the longest and matches the tag style used with JavaScript.

<script language="php">

PHP code

</script>

32. How does PHP interact with Javascript?

Because PHP is a server-side language and Javascript is a client-side language, these two cannot interact. But we can exchange variables since it's possible to generate Javascript code via PHP, which can be executed by the browser and specific variables can be passed back to PHP via the URL.

33. Name the different types of variables in PHP.

There are eight data types used to construct variables in PHP:

- Integers: these are whole numbers without a decimal point, like 4195.
- Doubles: are floating-point numbers, like 3.14159 or 49.1.
- Booleans: come with only possible values of either true or false.
- NULL: is a special type with only one value: NULL.
- Strings: are sequences of characters.
- Arrays: are named and indexed set of other values.
- Objects: are f programmer-defined classes, which can include both other kinds of values and functions that are specific to the class.
- Resources: are special variables that refer to resources external to PHP (such as database connections).

34. List the main types of errors in PHP and explain their differences.

There are three main error types in PHP:

- Notices. These are non-critical errors that can occur during the script execution. These are not visible to users. Accessing an undefined variable is an example of a 'Notice'.
- Warnings. These are more critical than Notices, but just like them, Warnings don't interrupt the script execution. However, these are visible to the user by default. Example: include() a file that doesn't exist.
- Fatal. This is the most critical error type which, when occurs, immediately terminates the script execution. Accessing a property of a non-existent object or require() a non-existent file is an example of this error type

35. What are 'Traits'?

A mechanism that lets you create reusable code in PHP and similar languages where multiple inheritances are not supported is called Traits. It's not possible to instantiate it on its own.

36. Can the value of a constant change during the script's execution?

No, the value of a constant cannot be changed once it's declared during the PHP execution.

37. Name and define the three scope levels available in PHP.

- Private – Detectable only in its own class
- Public – Can be seen by any other code accessing the class
- Protected – Can be seen by classes parent(s) and classes that extend the current class

38. What do we mean by 'escaping to PHP'?

The PHP parsing engine must be able to distinguish PHP code from other page elements. The mechanism to achieve this is called 'escaping to PHP'.

39. How many types of an array are there in PHP?

Three types of an array are present in PHP:

- Indexed array, which is an array with a numeric key.

- An associative array is where each key has its specific value.
- A multidimensional array contains one or more arrays within itself.

Read more: Learn what are Arrays in PHP?

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40. What do we mean by a PSR standard? What is its importance?

Because varying coding standards exist between developers and companies, one may run into problems when trying to fix another developer's code which might have a different structure. That's where a PSR standard comes in. It standardizes how the code should look, which helps eliminate issues and even syntax errors in some cases.

Advanced-Level PHP Interview Questions

We will now look into some of the advanced PHP interview questions and answers.

41. What is the use of the function' imagetypes()'?

The imagetypes() function is an inbuilt PHP function which is used to give the image types supported by the current version of PHP inbuilt installed library.

42. What is needed to be able to use the image function?

GD library, which is the inbuilt installed library in PHP, is needed to execute image functions.

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43. How do you handle failures in execution with include() and require() functions?

If the function requires () fails to access the file, then it ends with a 'fatal' error. However, in case of the include() function, it gives a warning, and the PHP script continues to run.

44. What is the main difference between require() and require_once()?

require(), and require_once() basically perform the same task. The difference is that the latter checks whether the PHP script is already included or not before executing it.

45. What is the primary difference between include_once() and include()?

Same as above.

46. How do you display text with a PHP script?

There are two ways to do this:

<!--?php echo "Method 1"; print "Method 2"; ?-->

47. How do we use PHP to display information of a variable that's readable by a human?

To achieve this result, we need to use print_r().

48. How do we set an infinite execution time for PHP script?

We add a set_time_limit(0) at the start of a script to make the time of execution infinite. This helps to prevent the PHP error of 'maximum execution time exceeded.' We can also specify this in the php.ini file.

49. Explain the PHP error 'Parse error in PHP - unexpected T_variable at line x'.

This is a syntax error in PHP which tells us that a mistake at the line x stops parsing and executing the program.

50. How to export data into an Excel file?

Commonly, the data is obtained in a format supported by Excel. For instance, we can write a .csv file, select a separator between fields (a comma for example), and then proceed to open the file with Excel.

51. How to execute a PHP script from the command line?

To execute a PHP script, we can use the PHP Command Line Interface (CLI) and specify the file

To execute a PHP script, we can use the PHP Command Line Interface (CLI) and specify the file name of the script in this way:

PHP script.php

52. What is the main difference between asp net and PHP?

ASP.NET, a Microsoft technology, is a web application framework built on the .NET framework. It is an open-source server-side scripting language used to make dynamic webpages. Unlike PHP, ASP.NET is not a scripting language but allows developers to write code using any.

53. What is the use of session and cookies in PHP?

Sessions and cookies are essential in PHP, as they provide a way for the server to store information about a user's interaction with the website. Sessions are used to store information about a user's session, such as login status and other information that the website needs to know. Cookies store information that the server can use to identify a user, such as a username or a password.

54. What is overloading and overriding in PHP?

PHP is a powerful scripting language used to create websites and web applications. It has many features, one of which is overloading and overriding. Overloading is the ability to define multiple methods with the same name but with different parameters. Overriding is the ability to redefine an inherited way.

55. What is the difference between $message and $$message in PHP?

The difference between $message and $$message in PHP is that the first is a variable with a fixed value. In contrast, the second is a variable stored in another variable. For example, if the $message is set to "Hello World," $$message would be set to "Hello World."

56. What is GET and POST method in PHP?

GET, and POST are two of the most basic methods used in web communication between a server and a client. GET is a type of request that asks a server to send back a resource, while POST is a type of request that sends data to a server.

57. What is the difference between GET and POST method?

57. What is the difference between GET and POST methods?

The GET and POST methods are two distinct ways of sending information to the server. The GET method is used when requesting data, while the POST method is used to submit data such as form information.

58. What is the use of callback in PHP?

A callback is a PHP function used to execute other parts, and it is often used to add custom functionality to the code or to provide an alternative way to execute code.

59. What is a lambda function in PHP?

Lambda functions in PHP are special functions that can perform specific tasks. These functions are anonymous, meaning they are declared and used without a name.

60. What are PHP Magic Methods/Functions?

PHP Magic Methods are powerful functions that perform specific tasks within a program. These functions are unique as they are part of the core language and can be used to create custom functions that allow for complex operations.

61. How can you encrypt the password using PHP?

Encrypting passwords using PHP is a straightforward process. The most secure way to do this is to use the password_hash() function, which generates a random salt and creates a secure one-way hash of the password. When verifying a user's password, it is essential to use the password_verify() function.

62. How to connect to a URL in PHP?

For a basic introduction to connecting to a URL in PHP, the first step is to create a connection via the fsockopen() function. This function establishes an internet connection to a specified address, taking the address and port as parameters.

63. What is Type hinting in PHP?

Type hinting is a feature in PHP that allows developers to specify the expected data type of a variable or function parameter. This helps to ensure that the code behaves as expected when data of an unexpected type is passed in.

64. What is the difference between runtime exception and compile time exception?

Runtime exceptions occur during the execution of code and are caused by unexpected events, such as attempting to access an array index that does not exist. Compile-time exceptions, on the other hand, occur before the execution of code and are usually caused by code that does not compile correctly, such as syntax errors or attempting to use an undeclared variable.

65. Explain the use of include(), require(), include_once(), and require_once() functions.

- include() and require() are used to include and evaluate a specified file during script execution. The difference between them lies in error handling. include() generates a warning and continues script execution if the file is not found, while require() generates a fatal error and halts execution.
- include_once() and require_once() are similar to their counterparts but ensure that the file is included only once, preventing duplicate inclusions.

66. How do you declare a variable in PHP?

Variables in PHP are declared using the $ symbol followed by the variable name. For example: $name = "John";

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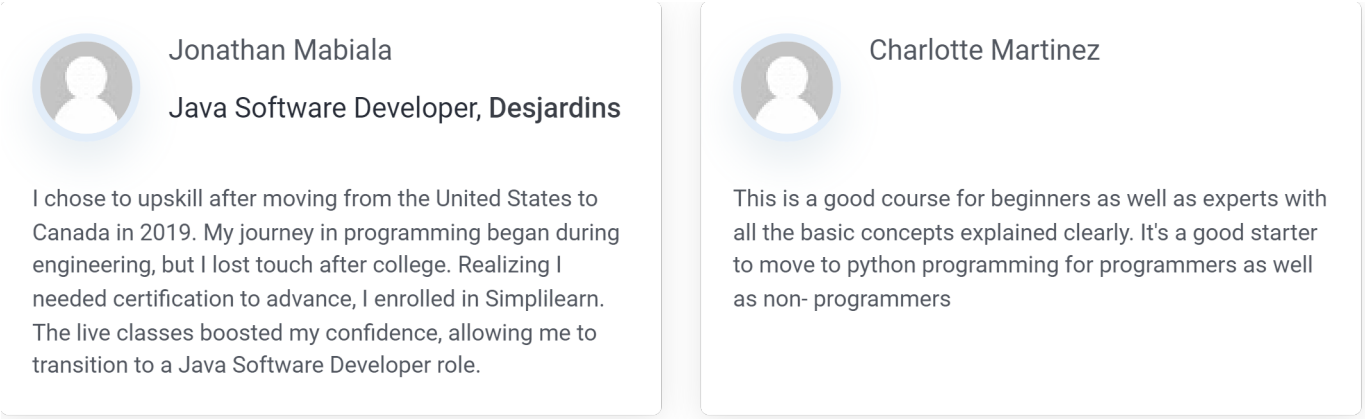

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67. How do you pass data from one PHP page to another?

Data can be passed from one PHP page to another using methods such as URL parameters, form submission, sessions, cookies, or by storing data in a database and retrieving it on the subsequent page.

68. How do you connect to a MySQL database in PHP?

To connect to a MySQL database in PHP, you can use the mysqli or PDO extensions. First, establish a connection using appropriate connection parameters, then select the database using mysqli_select_db() or PDO::exec() method.

69. What are PHP arrays and how are they different from other data types?

PHP arrays are versatile data structures used to store multiple values in a single variable. Unlike

other data types, arrays can hold an ordered collection of elements, including integers, strings, or even other arrays.

70. How do you handle errors in PHP?

Errors in PHP can be handled using the try, catch, and finally blocks for exceptions, and the error_reporting() and ini_set() functions for error reporting levels. Additionally, logging errors to a file or database is a common practice.

71. What are superglobals in PHP? Give examples.

Superglobals are predefined variables in PHP that are accessible from any scope. Examples include $_GET, $_POST, $_SESSION, $_COOKIE, $_SERVER, and $_FILES, among others.

72. How do you execute a MySQL query in PHP?

MySQL queries can be executed in PHP using mysqli_query() or PDO::query() functions. Pass the SQL query as a string argument to execute it against the connected database.

73. What is the difference between echo and print in PHP?

echo and print are both used to output data in PHP. The key difference is that echo can output multiple strings separated by commas, while print can only output a single string and returns a value of 1.

74. Explain the concept of sessions in PHP. How is it different from cookies?

Sessions in PHP are a way to persist data across multiple requests for a single user. Unlike cookies, which store data on the client-side, sessions store data on the server-side. Sessions are typically more secure than cookies as the data is not exposed to the client.

75. What is the role of namespaces in PHP?

Namespaces in PHP provide a way to encapsulate code and prevent naming collisions. They allow developers to organize code into logical groups and improve code readability and maintainability.

76. How does PHP handle multibyte characters?