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PWA 1

Javascript & PHP

Javascript is one of the most common programming languages used in today’s society. When we generally think of Javascript we picture the underlying code in a website, the code which makes programs run and computes much of what we see on screen. Javascript is embedded into web pages and interpreted by the browser in order to improve website functionality. Javascript is widely used within the fields of website and mobile development. What many people don’t realize, however, is that there are many other programming languages that are used in combination with Javascript in order to truly enhance each user experience. One of these languages is PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor), a widely used scripting language especially suited for server-side web development.

PHP has three main uses: server-side scripting, command line scripting, and writing desktop applications. Usually, however, it is generally used internally in order to enhance HTML, embedding code that has a specific purpose. It is considered to be an extremely simple language for new coders, but is still appealing to seasoned programmers due to its many advanced features. Instead of entering an abundance of commands to output HTML, PHP pages contain their own HTML enclosed in special processing instructions. PHP allows programmers complete freedom of output, featuring the ability to have images, PDF files, Flash movies, and text generated (such as XHTML and any XML files). One of the most significant features of PHP is its ability to support a wide range of databases as well as services using protocols such as LDAP, IMAP, SNMP, NNTP, POP3, HTTP, and COM.

Javascript and PHP are commonly used together. PHP is often used to create Javascript variables and helps to protect processed information. For example, if a website is used to download software and generates a keycode the website will generate the code through PHP. This ensures that hackers will not be able to see the methodology behind the production of keycodes. This works because PHP is oblivious to the browser being used. PHP scripts are only activated when a request is made to the web server. This is where PHP differs from Javascript; PHP code is executed on the server that generates the HTML and is forwarded to the client. The client will receive the results of the script, but wouldn’t be aware of the underlying code. As long as your HTML files are processed through PHP it is generally impossible for a human to interpret. PHP should not be used exclusively because of its requirement for the page to be refreshed; users do not like to have pages submitted and refreshed constantly, particularly if scrolling is required on said page. Javascript allows for the elimination of the need to resubmit pages for basic validation.

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