## PHP Form Validation

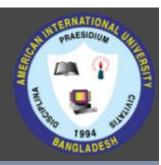


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## Lecture Outline



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- 3. PHP Form Validation
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# Learning Objectives



- In this Lab, we will learn more details about HTML form elements i.e. different type of form, designing different type of HTML form and form action.
- We will also learn HTTP GET and POST.
- Handling form data using \$\_GET or \$\_POST methods and validations form data using PHP.



- The PHP superglobals \$\_GET and \$\_POST are used to collect form-data.
- The example displays a simple HTML form with two input fields and a submit button:



#### **HTTP POST**

- When the user fills out the form and clicks the submit button, the form data is sent for processing to a PHP file named "welcome.php". The form data is sent with the HTTP POST method.
- welcome.php file



#### HTTP GET

- The same result could also be achieved using the HTTP GET method:
- Welcome\_get.php file



#### HTTP GET vs HTTP POST

- Both GET and POST create an array (e.g. array(key1 => value1, key2 => value2, key3 => value3, ...)). This array holds key/value pairs, where keys are the names of the form controls and values are the input data from the user.
- \$\_GET is an array of variables passed to the current script via the URL parameters.
- Information sent from a form with the GET method is visible to everyone (all variable names and values are displayed in the URL).
- \$\_POST is an array of variables passed to the current script via the HTTP POST method.
- Information sent from a form with the POST method is invisible to others

## PHP Form Validation



- Proper validation of form data is important to protect your form from hackers and spammers!
- Lets consider the example.

#### PHP Form Validation Example

* required field	
Name:	*
E-mail:	*
Website:	
Comment:	
Gender: Female Mal	e Other *
Submit	

## PHP Form Validation



Field	Validation Rules	
Name	Required. + Must only contain letters and whitespace	
E-mail	Required. + Must contain a valid email address (with @ and .)	
Website	Optional. If present, it must contain a valid URL	
Comment	Optional. Multi-line input field (textarea)	
Gender	Required. Must select one	

The **empty()** function checks whether a variable is empty or not. This function returns false if the variable exists and is not empty, otherwise it returns true.

The following values evaluates to empty:

- C
- 0.0
- "O"
- NULL
- FALSE
- array()

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func\_var\_empty.asp

- The **isset()** function checks whether a variable is set, which means that it has to be declared and is not NULL.
- This function returns true if the variable exists and is not NULL, otherwise it returns false.

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func\_var\_isset.asp

The **preg\_match()** function returns whether a match was found in a string.

```
<?php
$str = "Visit W3Schools";
$pattern = "/w3schools/i";
echo preg_match($pattern, $str);
?>
```

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func\_regex\_preg\_match.asp

#### **Books**



- W3Schools Online Web Tutorials; URL: <a href="http://www.w3schools.com">http://www.w3schools.com</a>
- PHP Documentation; URL: <a href="http://www.php.net/docs.php">http://www.php.net/docs.php</a>
- Sams Teach Yourself Ajax JavaScript and PHP All in One; Phil Ballard and Michael Moncur; Sams Publishing; 2010
- JavaScript Phrasebook; Christian Wenz; Sams Publishing; 2007
- PHP and MySQL Web Development, 4/E; Luke Welling and Laura Thomson; Addison-Wesley Professional; 2009
- JavaScript for Programmers Paul J. Deitel and Harvey M. Deitel; Prentice Hall; 2009
- Beginning PHP5, Apache, and MySQL Web Development; Elizabeth Naramore, Jason Gerner, Yann Le Scouarnec, Jeremy Stolz and Michael K. Glass; Wiley Publishing; 2005
- XML in a Nutshell, 3/E; Elliotte Rusty Harold and W. Scott Means;
   O'Reilly Media; 2004

#### References



1. <a href="https://www.w3schools.com/php/php">https://www.w3schools.com/php/php</a> forms.asp