CHAPTER 1

Introducing PHP

Reference: Beginning PHP 5.3 by Matt Doyle

What is PHP?

- PHP
  - a programming language for building dynamic, interactive Web sites.
  - PHP programs run on a Web server, and serve Web pages to visitors on request.
  - One of the key features of PHP:
    - embed PHP code within HTML Web pages, making it very easy to create dynamic content quickly.
  - A dynamic web page:
    - whose contents can change automatically each time the page is viewed.
  - An interactive web site:
    - responds to input from its visitors.

What is PHP?

- Hypertext Preprocessor:
  - to process information and produce hypertext (HTML) as a result.

- a server-side scripting language:
  - PHP scripts, or programs, usually run on a Web server.

 (a client-side scripting language like JavaScript: which commonly runs within a Web browser)

- an interpreted language:
  - a PHP script is processed by the PHP engine each time it's run.

- a high-level language

Why use PHP?

- One of the best things about PHP is the large number of Internet service providers (ISPs) and Web hosting companies that support it.

- Today hundreds of thousands of developers are using PHP.

- Another great feature of PHP is that it's cross-platform — you can run PHP programs on Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, Mac OS X, and Solaris, among others.

- The PHP engine can integrate with all common Web servers, including Apache, Internet Information Server (IIS), Zeus, and lighttpd.

- You can develop and test your PHP Web site on one setup, then deploy it on a different type of system without having to change much of your code.

Taking a look at PHP

- PHP is one of the easiest programming languages to understand.

- The best language for your new Web application project, because PHP is well suited for writing dynamic Web applications.

- PHP is easy to get started with, if you know C because PHP syntax is similar to C syntax.

Getting Familiar with PHP

- PHP is a widely used open source, general-purpose *scripting language*.

- It was originally designed for using in Web site development.

- PHP started life as Personal Home Page tools, developed by Rasmus Lerdorf to assist users with Web page tasks.

- PHP proved so useful and popular, it rapidly grew to become the full-featured language.

Features of PHP

- **Interact with HTML forms:** PHP can display an HTML form and process the information that the user types in.

- **Communicate with databases (sql, mysql,..):** PHP can interact with databases to store information from the user or retrieve information that is displayed to the user.

- **Generate secure Web pages**: PHP allows the developer to create secure Web pages that require users to enter a valid user name and password before seeing the Web page content.

Thank You!