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TOP 100

PHP

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

QUESTION

What's PHP?

ANSWER

The PHP Hypertext Preprocessor is a programming language that allows web developers to create dynamic content that interacts with databases. PHP is basically used for developing web based software applications.

QUESTION

What Is a Session?

ANSWER

A session is a logical object created by the PHP engine to allow you to preserve data across subsequent HTTP requests.

There is only one session object available to your PHP scripts at any time. Data saved to the session by a script can be retrieved by the same script or another script when requested from the same visitor.

Sessions are commonly used to store temporary data to allow multiple PHP pages to offer a complete functional transaction for the same visitor.

QUESTION

What is meant by PEAR in PHP?

ANSWER

PEAR is short for "PHP Extension and Application Repository" and is pronounced just like the fruit. The purpose of PEAR is to provide:

A structured library of open-sourced code for PHP users, A system for code distribution and package maintenance

A standard style for code written in PHP , The PHP Foundation Classes (PFC),

The PHP Extension Community Library (PECL),

A web site, mailing lists and download mirrors to support the PHP/PEAR community. PEAR is a community-driven project with the PEAR Group as the governing body. The project has been founded by Stig S. Bakken in 1999 and quite a lot of people have joined the project since then.

QUESTION

What is the difference between \$message and \$\$message?

ANSWER

They are both variables. But \$message is a variable with a fixed name. \$\$message is a variable whose name is stored in \$message.

\$user = 'bob' is equivalent to

\$holder = 'user';

\$\$holder = 'bob';

QUESTION

What Is a Persistent Cookie?

ANSWER

A persistent cookie is a cookie which is stored in a cookie file permanently on the browser's computer. By default, cookies are created as temporary cookies which stored only in the browser's memory. When the browser is closed, temporary cookies will be erased. You should decide when to use temporary cookies and when to use persistent cookies based on their differences:

- *Temporary cookies can not be used for tracking long-term information.
- *Persistent cookies can be used for tracking long-term information.
- *Temporary cookies are safer because no programs other than the browser can access them.
- *Persistent cookies are less secure because users can open cookie files see the cookie values.

QUESTION

What does a special set of tags `<?=` and `?>` do in PHP?

ANSWER

The output is displayed directly to the browser.

QUESTION

How can we repair a MySQL table?

ANSWER

The syntax for repairing a mysql table is:

REPAIR TABLE tablename

REPAIR TABLE tablename QUICK

REPAIR TABLE tablename EXTENDED

This command will repair the table specified.

If QUICK is given, MySQL will do a repair of only the index tree.

If EXTENDED is given, it will create index row by row

QUESTION

What is the difference between `mysql_fetch_object` and `mysql_fetch_array`?

ANSWER

MySQL fetch object will collect first single matching record where `mysql_fetch_array` will collect all matching records from the table in an array

QUESTION

How can we encrypt the username and password using PHP?

ANSWER

You can use the MySQL PASSWORD() function to encrypt username and password. For example INSERT into user (password, ...) VALUES (PASSWORD(\$password"), ...);

QUESTION

What is the functionality of the function strstr and stristr?

ANSWER

strstr() returns part of a given string from the first occurrence of a given substring to the end of the string. For example: strstr("user@example.com", "@") will return "@example.com".

stristr() is identical to strstr() except that it is case insensitive.

QUESTION

Echo vs. print statement.

ANSWER

echo() and print() are language constructs in PHP, both are used to output strings. The speed of both statements is almost the same.

echo() can take multiple expressions whereas print cannot take multiple expressions.

Print return true or false based on success or failure whereas echo doesn't return true or false.

QUESTION

Explain the different types of errors in PHP.

ANSWER

Notices, Warnings and Fatal errors are the types of errors in PHP

Notices: Notices represents non-critical errors, i.e. accessing a variable that has not yet been defined. By default, such errors are not displayed to the user at all but whenever required, you can change this default behavior.

Warnings: Warnings are more serious errors but they do not result in script termination. i.e calling `include()` a file which does not exist. By default, these errors are displayed to the user.

Fatal errors: Fatal errors are critical errors i.e. calling a non-existent function or class. These errors cause the immediate termination of the script.

QUESTION

Explain the importance of the function htmlentities.

ANSWER

The htmlentities() function converts characters to HTML entities.

This function is identical to htmlspecialchars() in all ways, except with htmlentities(), all characters which have HTML character entity equivalents are translated into these entities.

QUESTION

What is MIME?

ANSWER

MIME - Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions.

MIME types represents a standard way of classifying file types over Internet.

Web servers and browsers have a list of MIME types, which facilitates files transfer of the same type in the same way, irrespective of operating system they are working in.

A MIME type has two parts: a type and a subtype. They are separated by a slash (/).

MIME type for Microsoft Word files is application and the subtype is msword, i.e. application/msword.

QUESTION

Why PHP is also called as Scripting language?

ANSWER

PHP is basically a general purpose language, which is used to write scripts. Scripts are normal computer files that consist of instructions written in PHP language. It tells the computer to execute the file and print the output on the screen. PHP is used for webpages and to create websites, thus included as scripting language.

QUESTION

Why many companies are switching their current business language to PHP? Where PHP basically used?

ANSWER

PHP is rapidly gaining the popularity and many companies are switching their current language for this language. PHP is a server side scripting language. PHP executes the instructions on the server itself. Server is a computer where the web site is located. PHP is used to create dynamic pages and provides faster execution of the instructions.

QUESTION

What is the difference between PHP and JavaScript?

ANSWER

The difference lies with the execution of the languages. PHP is server side scripting language, which means that it can't interact directly with the user. Whereas, JavaScript is client side scripting language, that is used to interact directly with the user..

QUESTION

What is difference between `require_once()`, `require()`, `include()`?

ANSWER

`require()` includes and evaluates a specific file, if the file is not found then it shows a Fatal Error.

`require_once()` includes only the file which is not being included before. It is used to be recommended for the files where you have lots of functions stored.

`include()` includes the file, even if the file is not found, but it gives a warning to the user to `include()`.

QUESTION

PHP being an open source is there any support available to it?

ANSWER

PHP is an open source language, and it is been said that it has very less support online and offline. But, PHP is all together a different language that is being developed by group of programmers, who writes the code. There is lots of available support for PHP, which mostly comes from developers and PHP users.

QUESTION

How can we increase the execution time of a php script?

ANSWER

By the use of void `set_time_limit(int seconds)`

Set the number of seconds a script is allowed to run. If this is reached, the script returns a fatal error. The default limit is 30 seconds or, if it exists, the `max_execution_time` value defined in the `php.ini`. If seconds is set to zero, no time limit is imposed.

When called, `set_time_limit()` restarts the timeout counter from zero. In other words, if the timeout is the default 30 seconds, and 25 seconds into script execution a call such as `set_time_limit(20)` is made, the script will run for a total of 45 seconds before timing out.

QUESTION

Who is the father of PHP ?

ANSWER

Rasmus Lerdorf is known as the father of PHP.

QUESTION

In how many ways we can retrieve the data in the result set Of MySQL using PHP?

ANSWER

We can do it by 4 Ways

1. `mysql_fetch_row` ,
2. `mysql_fetch_array` ,
3. `mysql_fetch_object`
4. `mysql_fetch_assoc`

QUESTION

What are the differences between Get and post methods.

ANSWER

There are some difference between GET and POST method

1. GET Method have some limit like only 2Kb data able to send for request

But in POST method unlimited data can be send

2. when we use GET method requested data show in url but Not in POST method so POST method is good for send sensitive Request

QUESTION

How can we create a database using PHP and MySQL?

ANSWER

We can create MySQL database with the use of `mysql_create_db("Database Name")`

QUESTION

What is use of header() function in php ?

ANSWER

The header() function sends a raw HTTP header to a client. We can use header() function for redirection of pages. It is important to notice that header() must be called before any actual output is seen..

QUESTION

What is meant by nl2br()?

ANSWER

Inserts HTML line breaks (
) before all newlines in a string.

QUESTION

How can we encrypt and decrypt a data present in a MySQL Table using MySQL?

ANSWER

AES_ENCRYPT ()
and
AES_DECRYPT ()

QUESTION

What are the differences between procedure-oriented languages and object-oriented languages?

ANSWER

There are lot of difference between procedure language and object oriented like below:

- a. Procedure language easy for new developer but complex to understand whole software as compare to object oriented model
- b. In Procedure language it is difficult to use design pattern mvc, Singleton pattern etc but in OOP you we able to develop design pattern
- c. IN OOP language we able to re-use code like Inheritance, polymorphism etc but this type of thing not available in procedure language on that our Fonda use COPY and PASTE.

QUESTION

What are the differences between public, private, protected, static, transient, final and volatile?

ANSWER

Public: Public declared items can be accessed everywhere.

Protected: Protected limits access to inherited and parent classes (and to the class that defines the item).

Private: Private limits visibility only to the class that defines the item.

Static: A static variable exists only in a local function scope, but it does not lose its value when program execution leaves this scope.

Final: Final keyword prevents child classes from overriding a method by prefixing the definition with final. If the class itself is being defined final then it cannot be extended.

transient: A transient variable is a variable that may not be serialized.

volatile: a variable that might be concurrently modified by multiple threads should be declared volatile. Variables declared to be volatile will not be optimized by the compiler because their value can change at any time.

QUESTION

Which programming language does PHP resemble to?

ANSWER

PHP syntax resembles Perl and C

QUESTION

What is the actually used PHP version and the latest version?

ANSWER

Version 5 is the actually used version of PHP. The latest stable version of PHP is 5.5.14 released at 27 June 2014.

QUESTION

What is the main difference between PHP 4 and PHP 5?

ANSWER

PHP 5 presents many additional OOP (Object Oriented Programming) features.

QUESTION

Is multiple inheritance supported in PHP?

ANSWER

PHP includes only single inheritance, it means that a class can be extended from only one single class using the keyword 'extended'.

QUESTION

How comparison of objects is done in PHP5?.

ANSWER

We use the operator '==' to test if two objects are instantiated from the same class and have same attributes and equal values. We can test if two objects are referring to the same instance of the same class by the use of the identity operator '==='.

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

imagetypes() gives the image format and types supported by the current version of GD-PHP.

QUESTION

How is it possible to set an infinite execution time for PHP script?

ANSWER

The `set_time_limit(0)` added at the beginning of a script sets to infinite the time of execution to not have the PHP error 'maximum execution time exceeded'. It is also possible to specify this in the `php.ini` file.

QUESTION

How can we get second of the current time using date function?

ANSWER

```
$second = date("s");
```

QUESTION

How can we access the data sent through the URL with the GET method?

ANSWER

In order to access the data sent via the GET method, we you use \$_GET array like this:

`www.url.com?var=value`

`$variable = $_GET["var"];` this will now contain 'value'

QUESTION

How can we access the data sent through the URL with the POST method?

ANSWER

To access the data sent this way, you use the `$_POST` array.

Imagine you have a form field called 'var' on the form, when the user clicks submit to the post form, you can then access the value like this:

```
$_POST["var"];
```


QUESTION

How is it possible to return a value from a function?

ANSWER

A function returns a value using the instruction 'return \$value;'.

QUESTION

How is the ternary conditional operator used in PHP?

ANSWER

It is composed of three expressions: a condition, and two operands describing what instruction should be performed when the specified condition is true or false as follows:

Expression_1 ? Expression_2 : Expression_3;

QUESTION

What does \$GLOBALS means?

ANSWER

\$GLOBALS is associative array including references to all variables which are currently defined in the global scope of the script.

QUESTION

What does \$_SERVER means?

ANSWER

\$_SERVER is an array including information created by the web server such as paths, headers, and script locations.

QUESTION

What does \$_FILES means?

ANSWER

\$_FILES is an associative array composed of items sent to the current script via the HTTP POST method.

QUESTION

How can we change the maximum size of the files to be uploaded?

ANSWER

We can change the maximum size of files to be uploaded by changing `upload_max_filesize` in `php.ini`.

QUESTION

What does \$_ENV means?

ANSWER

\$_ENV is an associative array of variables sent to the current PHP script via the environment method.

QUESTION

What does \$_COOKIE means?

ANSWER

\$_COOKIE is an associative array of variables sent to the current PHP script using the HTTP Cookies.

QUESTION

What the difference between the 'BITWISE AND' operator and the 'LOGICAL AND' operator?

ANSWER

`$a and $b:` TRUE if both `$a` and `$b` are TRUE.

`$a & $b:` Bits that are set in both `$a` and `$b` are set.

QUESTION

What is the difference between `ereg_replace()` and `eregi_replace()`?

ANSWER

The function `eregi_replace()` is identical to the function `ereg_replace()` except that it ignores case distinction when matching alphabetic characters.

QUESTION

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

ANSWER

'final' is introduced in PHP5. Final class means that this class cannot be extended and a final method cannot be overridden.

QUESTION

QUESTION

What is needed to be able to use image function?

ANSWER

GD library is needed to be able execute image functions.

QUESTION

QUESTION

Is it possible to destroy a cookie?

ANSWER

Yes, it is possible by setting the cookie with a past expiration time.

QUESTION

How is it possible to know the number of rows returned in result set?

ANSWER

The function `mysql_num_rows()` returns the number of rows in a result set.

QUESTION

Which function gives us the number of affected entries by a query?

ANSWER

`mysql_affected_rows()` return the number of entries affected by an SQL query.

QUESTION

How can we check the value of a given variable is alphanumeric?

ANSWER

It is possible to use the dedicated function, `ctype_alnum` to check whether it is an alphanumeric value or not.

QUESTION

What does the unlink() function means?

ANSWER

The unlink() function is dedicated for file system handling. It simply deletes the file given as entry.

QUESTION

What does the unset() function means?

ANSWER

The unset() function is dedicated for variable management. It will make a variable undefined.

QUESTION

What is the most convenient hashing method to be used to hash passwords?

ANSWER

It is preferable to use `crypt()` which natively supports several hashing algorithms or the function `hash()` which supports more variants than `crypt()` rather than using the common hashing algorithms such as md5, sha1 or sha256 because they are conceived to be fast. hence, hashing passwords with these algorithms can vulnerability.

QUESTION

Are Parent constructors called implicitly inside a class constructor?

ANSWER

No, a parent constructor have to be called explicitly as follows:

```
parent::constructor($value)
```

QUESTION

When sessions ends?

ANSWER

Sessions automatically ends when the PHP script finishes executing, but can be manually ended using the `session_write_close()`.

QUESTION

What is the difference between `Exception::getMessage` and `Exception::getLine` ?

ANSWER

`Exception::getMessage` lets us getting the Exception message and `Exception::getLine` lets us getting the line in which the exception occurred.

QUESTION

What is the difference between for and foreach?

ANSWER

for is expressed as follows:

```
for (expr1; expr2; expr3)
```

```
statement
```

The first expression is executed once at the beginning. In each iteration, expr2 is evaluated. If it is TRUE, the loop continues and the statements inside for are executed. If it evaluates to FALSE, the execution of the loop ends. expr3 is tested at the end of each iteration.

However, foreach provides an easy way to iterate over arrays and it is only used with arrays and objects.

QUESTION

Is it possible to submit a form with a dedicated button?

ANSWER

It is possible to use the `document.form.submit()` function to submit the form. For example: `<input type=button value="SUBMIT" onClick="document.form.submit()">`

QUESTION

QUESTION

Is it possible to protect special characters in a query string?

ANSWER

Yes, we use the `urlencode()` function to be able to protect special characters.

QUESTION

Is it possible to use COM component in PHP?

ANSWER

Yes, it's possible to integrate (Distributed) Component Object Model components ((D)COM) in PHP scripts which is provided as a framework.

QUESTION

Will comparison of string "10" and integer 11 work in PHP?

ANSWER

Yes, internally PHP will cast everything to the integer type, so numbers 10 and 11 will be compared.

QUESTION

When are you supposed to use endif to end the conditional statement?

ANSWER

When the original if was followed by : and then the code block without braces.

QUESTION

How do I find out the number of parameters passed into function?

ANSWER

`func_num_args()` function returns the number of parameters passed in.

QUESTION

QUESTION

What is the difference between characters 23 and x23?

ANSWER

The first one is octal 23, the second is hex 23.

QUESTION

What's the difference between `htmlentities()` and `htmlspecialchars()`?

ANSWER

`htmlspecialchars` only takes care of `<`, `>`, single quote `'`, double quote `"` and ampersand. `htmlentities` translates all occurrences of character sequences that have different meaning in HTML.

QUESTION

QUESTION

How can we display information of a variable that is human readable in PHP?

ANSWER

`print_r()` can be used to be able to display a human-readable result.

QUESTION

What is the function `file_get_contents()` used for?

ANSWER

The `file_get_contents()` function lets you read content from a file and store the content into a string variable.

QUESTION

QUESTION

How can we check if the value of a given variable is a number?

ANSWER

Using `is_numeric()` function this can be checked.

QUESTION

QUESTION

How do I escape data before storing it into the database?

ANSWER

`addslashes` function enables us to escape data before storage it into the database.

QUESTION

How is it possible to remove escape characters from a string?

ANSWER

The `stripslashes` function enables us to remove the escape characters before apostrophes in a string.

QUESTION

Is it possible to remove the HTML tags from data?

ANSWER

Yes. The `strip_tags()` function enables us to clean a string from the HTML tags.

QUESTION

What's the difference between `__sleep` and `__wakeup`?

ANSWER

`__sleep` returns the array of all the variables that needs to be saved, while `__wakeup` retrieves them.

QUESTION

How is it possible to propagate a session id?

ANSWER

It is possible to propagate a session id via cookies or URL parameters.

QUESTION

What is the default session time in php?

ANSWER

The default session time in php is until the browser is closed.

QUESTION

What is MVC?

ANSWER

MVC- Model, View, Controller - is simply a way of organizing your code into 3 separate layers each with their own job.

Model - Usually contains data access code and all of you business logic code.

View - Contains markup/design code, generally html,xml, json.

Controller - Usually contains very little code, just whatever is needed to call the Model code and render the View code.

QUESTION

What is Polymorphism?

ANSWER

It's simply the idea that one object can take on many forms. So in PHP OOP one class "cars" may have two classes that extend it, for example a "Honda" class and a "BMW" class.

QUESTION

What are the different types of CSS you can add in a page?

ANSWER

There are three types of CSS that can be added in a page.

1. External CSS.
2. Internal CSS.
3. Inline CSS.

QUESTION

What functions are used to get the image size, Width and Height?

ANSWER

getimagesize () to get the size of an image

Imagesx () to get width of an image

Imagesy () to get height of an image.

QUESTION

How do you upload videos using PHP & MySQL?

ANSWER

We just need to copy the path of stored videos in the database rather than storing the videos files itself. All videos will be saved on a different folder and videos can be called from that folder when ever required. Default size is 2 mb for video files but we can change that size from max_file size option in php.ini file.

QUESTION

Explain the changes in PHP versions?

ANSWER

Rasmus Lerdorf is known as the father of PHP. PHP/FI 2.0 is an early and no longer supported version of PHP. PHP 3 is the successor to PHP/FI 2.0 and is a lot nicer. PHP 4 is the current generation of PHP, which uses the Zend engine under the hood. PHP 5 uses Zend engine 2 which, among other things, offers many additional OOPs features.

QUESTION

How can we get the browser properties using PHP?

ANSWER

By using
\$_SERVER['HTTP_USER_AGENT'] variable.

QUESTION

How to find current date and time?

ANSWER

The `date()` function provides you with a means of retrieving the current date and time, applying the format integer parameters indicated in your script to the timestamp provided or the current local time if no timestamp is given. In simplified terms, passing a time parameter is optional - if you don't, the current timestamp will be used.

QUESTION

How can we know the total number of elements of Array?

ANSWER

`sizeof($array_var)`

`count($array_var)`

If we just pass a simple var instead of a an array it will return 1.

QUESTION

What is the maximum length of a table name, a database name, or a field name in MySQL?

ANSWER

Database name: 64 characters

Table name: 64 characters

Column name: 64 characters

QUESTION

What are magic methods?

ANSWER

Magic methods are the members functions that is available to all the instance of class Magic methods always starts with "__". Eg. __construct All magic methods needs to be declared as public To use magic method they should be defined within the class or program scope Various Magic Methods used in PHP 5 are: __construct() __destruct() __set() __get() __call() __toString() __sleep() __wakeup() __isset() __unset() __autoload() __clone()

QUESTION

How can we know the number of days between two given dates using PHP?

ANSWER

```
$date1 = date("Y-m-d");  
$date2 = "2006-08-15";  
$days = (strtotime($date1) - strtotime($date2)) / (60 * 60 * 24);
```

QUESTION

What is a PHP File?

ANSWER

Those files which contain text, HTML, JavaScript code, and PHP code are known as PHP files. The default file extension of PHP files is “.php

QUESTION

Why we use PHP over other languages?

ANSWER

We use PHP language over other languages because PHP language runs on different platforms like Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, etc. It is also compatible on all servers like Apache, IIS, etc.

QUESTION

What is the main problem arising when you assign a variable having value 0123 and it shows a different number (value)?

ANSWER

The number begins with 0 is treated as octal by the interpreter in PHP language. That's why it gives the different number.

QUESTION

If the variable \$b is equal to 5 and variable \$c is equal to character b, what's the value of \$\$a?

ANSWER

The value of \$\$a is equal to 100. It is the reference to existing variable.

QUESTION

With a heredoc syntax, do you get variable substitution inside the heredoc contents?

ANSWER

Yes, you get the variable substitution inside the heredoc contents with a heredoc syntax.

QUESTION

Explain mysql_error()?

ANSWER

The mysql_error() message will tell us what was wrong with our query, similar to the message we receive at the MySQL console

QUESTION

How do we define at Constant?

ANSWER

Constant in PHP are defined using `define()` directive, like `define("MYCONSTANT",100);`

QUESTION

What is the use of "ksort" in php?

ANSWER

It is used for sort an array by key in reverse order.

QUESTION

How to delete a file from the system?

ANSWER

Unlink() deletes the given file from the file system.

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