

Web Applications Development ITSE 3302

تطوير تطبيقات الشبكة العالمية

Dr. Moamar Elyazgi

PHP

Introduction & Syntax Overview

Dr. Moamar Elyazgi

1.1 Introduction

- PHP is a server side scripting language that is used to develop *Static websites* or *Dynamic websites* or *Web applications*.
- PHP stands for ***Hypertext Pre-processor***, that earlier stood for ***Personal Home Pages***. PHP scripts can only be interpreted on a server that has PHP installed.
- PHP scripts can only be interpreted on a server that has PHP installed.
- A PHP file contains PHP tags and ends with the extension ".php".
- PHP code may be embedded into HTML code, or it can be used in combination with various web template systems, web content management system and web frameworks.

1.2 Common Uses of PHP

- ❑ PHP performs system functions, i.e. from files on a system it can create, open, read, write, and close them. The other uses of PHP are:
 1. PHP can handle forms, i.e. gather data from files, save data to a file, thru email you can send data, return data to the user.
 2. You add, delete, modify elements within your database thru PHP.
 3. Access cookies variables and set cookies.
 4. Using PHP, you can restrict users to access some pages of your website.
 5. It can encrypt data.

1.3 Characteristics of PHP

• **Five important characteristics make PHP's practical nature possible:**

- 1 Simplicity
- 2 Efficiency
- 3 Security
- 4 Flexibility
- 5 Familiarity

1.4 Script in PHP

- To get a feel of PHP, first start with simple PHP scripts.
- Since "Hello, World!" is an essential example, first we will create a friendly little "Hello, World!" script.
- As mentioned earlier, PHP is embedded in HTML. That means that in amongst your normal HTML (or XHTML if you're cutting-edge) you'll have PHP statements like this:

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Hello World</title>
<body>
    <?php
        echo "Hello, World!";
    ?>
</body>
</html>
```

It will produce the following result:

Hello, World!

1.4 Script in PHP

- A PHP file can also contain tags such as HTML and client side scripts such as JavaScript.
- HTML is an added advantage when learning PHP Language. You can even learn PHP without knowing HTML but it's recommended you at least know the basics of HTML.
- Database management systems DBMS for database powered applications.
- For more advanced topics such as interactive applications and web services, you will need JavaScript and XML.

1.5 Escaping to PHP

- Escape sequences are used for escaping a character during the string parsing.
- It is also used for giving special meaning to represent line breaks, tabs, alert and more.
- The escape sequences are interpolated into strings enclosed by double quotations or heredoc syntax.
- If a string is within the single quotes or in nowdocs, then the escape sequence will not work to get the expected result.
- Escape sequences are started with the escaping character backslash (\) followed by the character which may be an alphanumeric or a special character.

1.5 Escaping to PHP

- Widely used Escape Sequences in PHP
- In this section, I have listed some of the widely used escape sequences and describe how they are used to escape the special character or to give meaning by combining with some alphanumeric characters.
- \’ – To escape ‘ within single quoted string.
- \” – To escape “ within double quoted string.
- \\ – To escape the backslash.
- \\$ – To escape \$.
- \n – To add line breaks between string.
- \t – To add tab space.
- \r – For carriage return.

1.6 Commenting PHP Code

- A comment is the portion of a program that exists only for the human reader and stripped out before displaying the programs result. There are two commenting formats in PHP:
 1. Single line comment used for quick notes about complex code or to temporarily disable a line of PHP code. You need to add // or # before the code.

```
<?php
# This is a comment, and
# This is the second line of the
  comment
// This is a comment too. Each
  style comments only
print "An example with single
  line comments";
?>
```

1.6 Commenting PHP Code

2. Multi-line comment used to comment out large blocks of code or writing multiple line comments. You need to add `/*` before and `*/` after the code.

```
<?php
```

```
/* This is a comment with multiline  
   Author : Mohammad Saed  
   Purpose: Multiline Comments Demo  
   Subject: PHP
```

```
*/
```

```
print "An example with multi line  
comments";
```

```
?>
```

The
End