

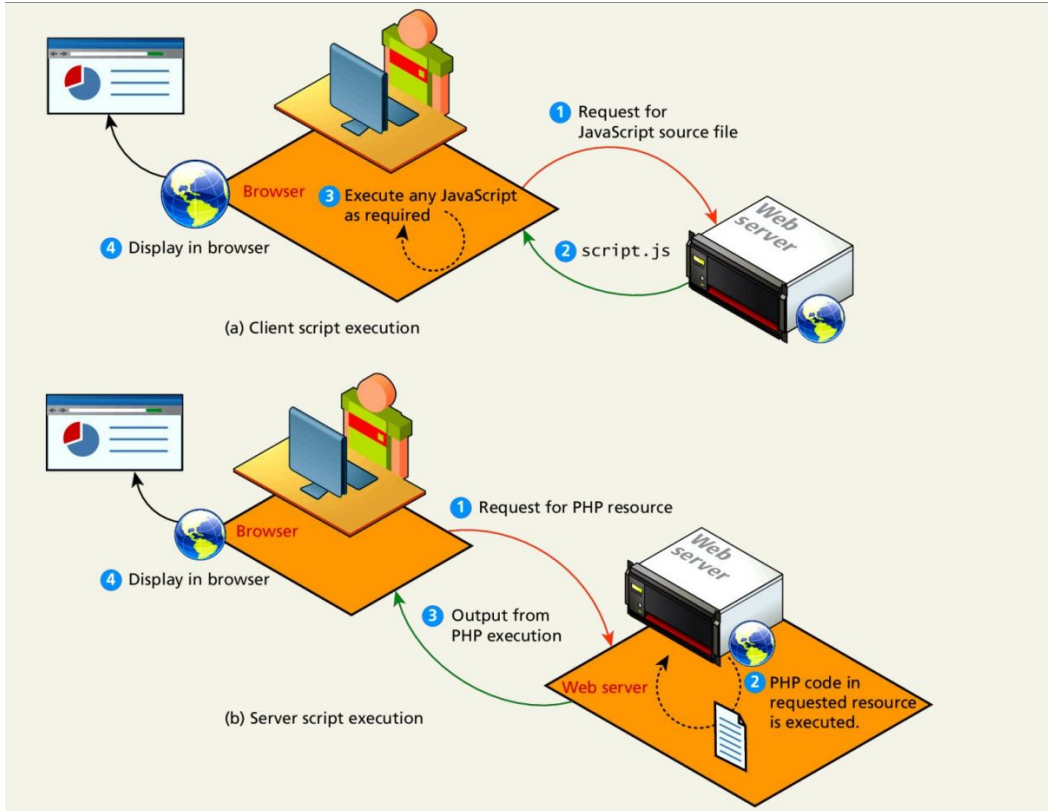
Internet Computing

Introduction to PHP

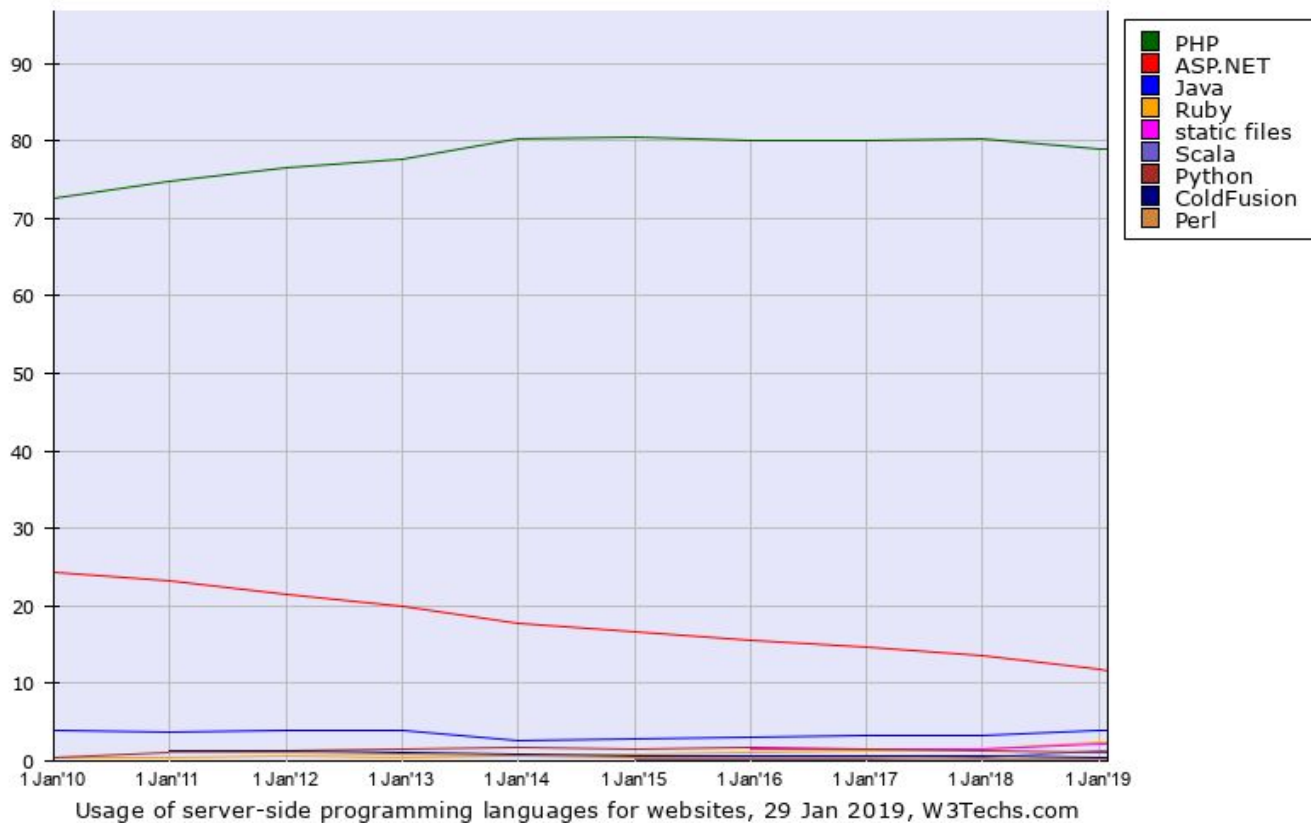
Origins of PHP

- Developed by Rasmus Lerdorf - 1994
 - To allow him to track visitors to his Web site
- PHP was originally an acronym for Personal Home Page, but later it became
- PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor
 - that means we're processing the hypertext or the HTLM before providing that to the user's browser.
- PHP is used for form handling, file processing, and database access

Comparing client and server scripts



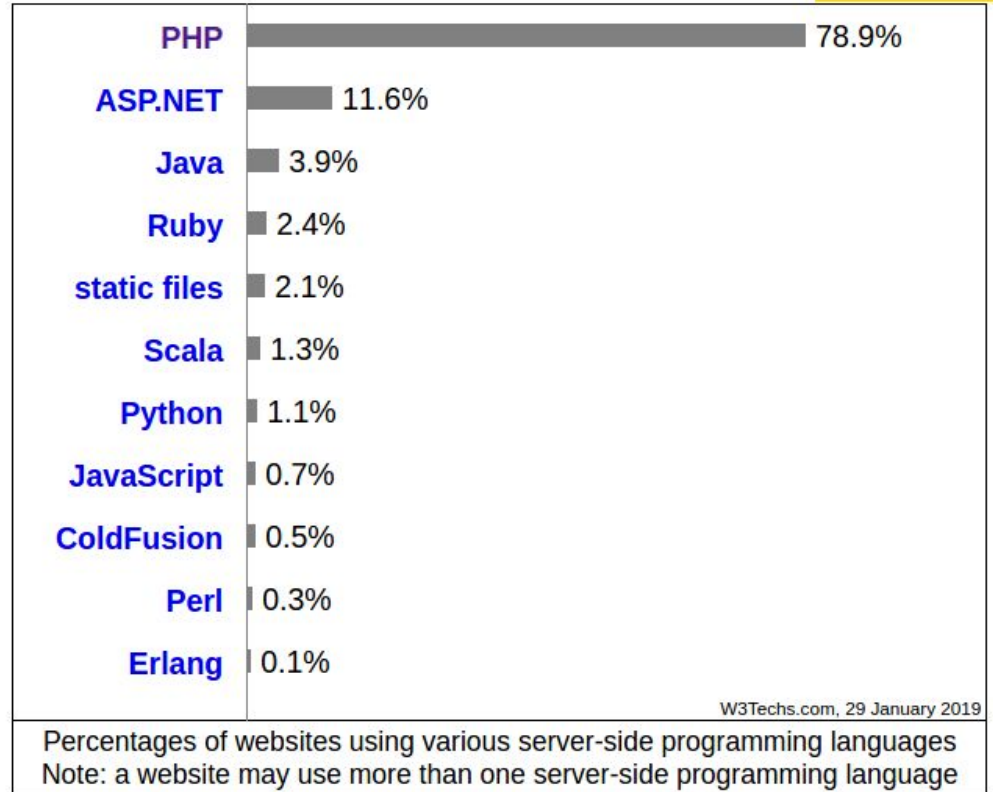
Comparing Server-side technologies



<https://w3techs.com/>

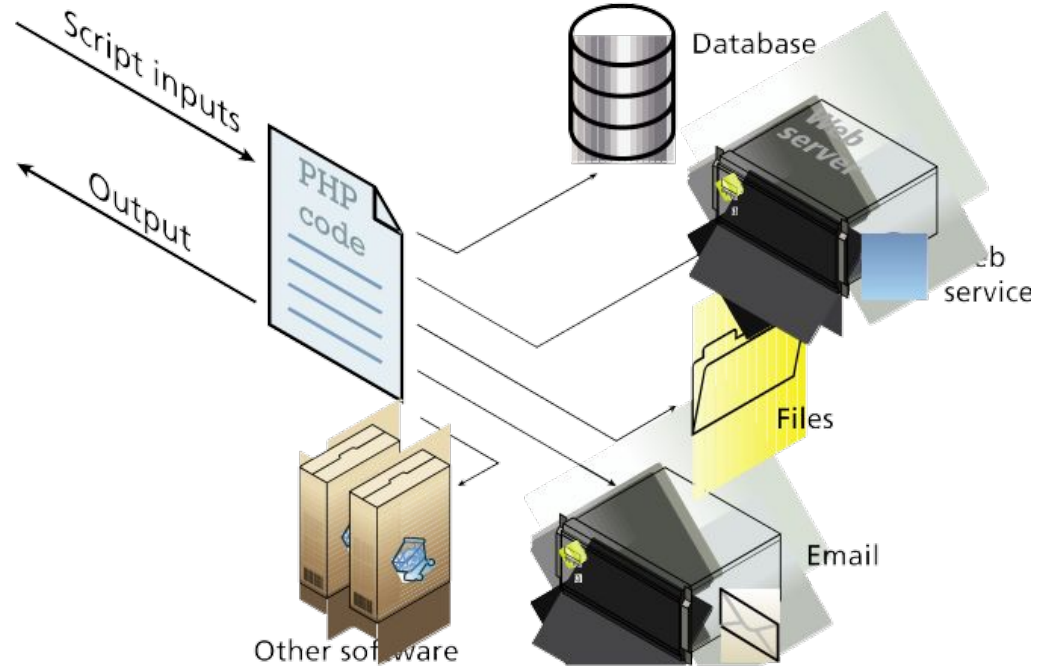
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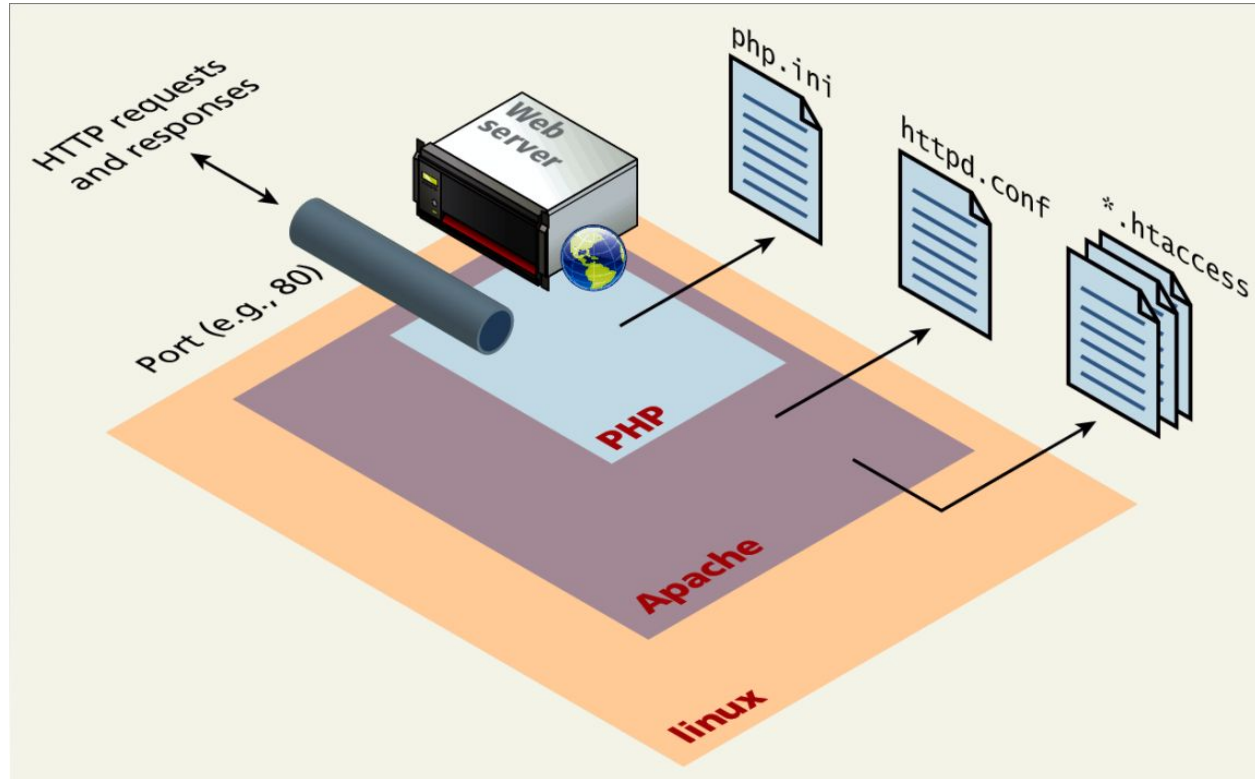
Server-side development

The web server act as the intermediary that interprets HTTP requests that arrive through a network port and decides how to handle the request, which often requires working in conjunction with PHP.



LAMP Stack

- Linux Operating System
- Apache web server
- MySQL DBMS
- PHP scripting language



XAMPP

- Stands for "XAMPP Apache + MariaDB + PHP + Perl"
- PHP file should be located on a web server.
- To run a php file:
 - Put it on a web server
 - To work on your computer locally
 - Download and install XAMPP from the following link:
 - <https://www.apachefriends.org/index.html>
 - https://www.apachefriends.org/faq_linux.html

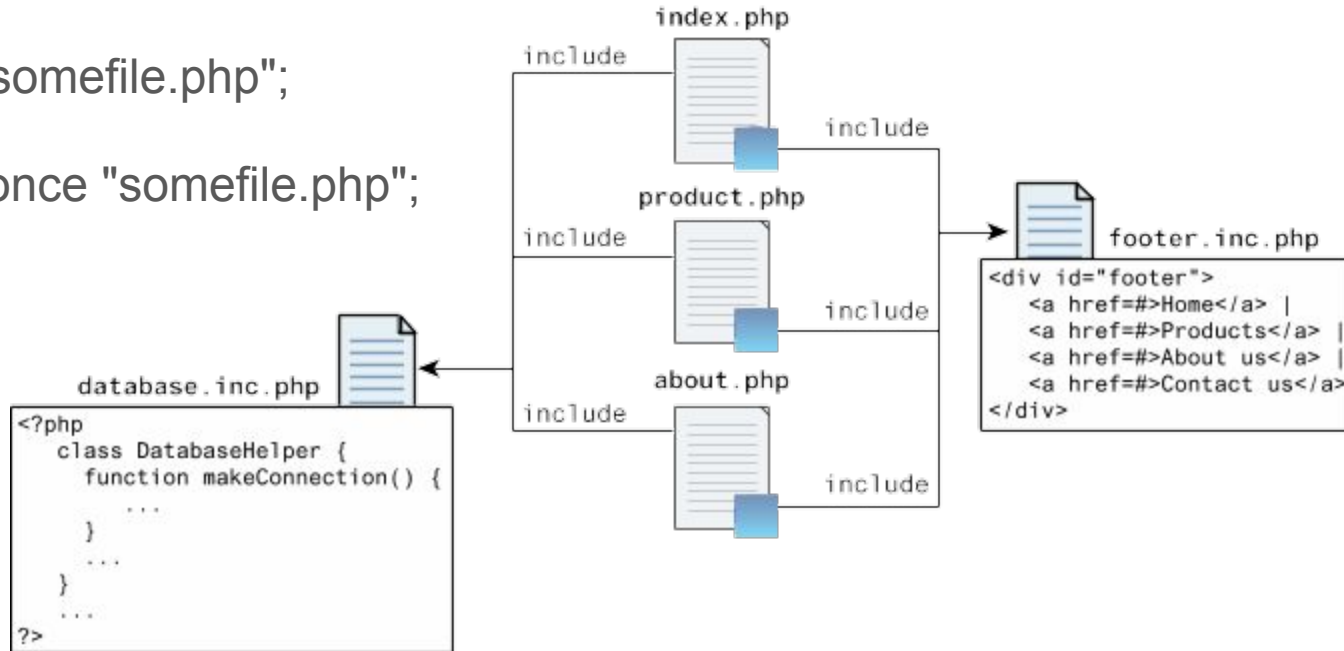
General Syntactic Characteristics

- PHP code can be linked to an HTML document in two ways:
 - internally
 - `<?php` tag and a matching closing `?>`
 - Inside is code to execute, outside is HTML to echo directly
 - Externally: `include ("somefile.php")`
 - the file can have both PHP and HTML
 - If the file has PHP, the PHP must be in `<?php .. ?>`, even if the include is already in `<?php .. ?>`
 - `include` runs code from another php file. It works the same as if you just copied the code from the other file and pasted it where the include was.

Include files

`include "somefile.php";`

`include_once "somefile.php";`



General Syntactic Characteristics

- Comments - three different kinds (Java and C)
 - `// ...`
 - `# ...`
 - `/* ... */`
- Compound statements are formed with braces
- Compound statements cannot be blocks

Variables

- Every variable name begin with a **\$** on both declaration and usage
- Names are case-sensitive; separate multiple words with **_** (as in `$user_name`)
- Implicitly declared by assignment
 - There are no type declarations: a "loosely-typed" language
- An unassigned (unbound) variable has the value, **NULL**
- The **unset** function sets a variable to **NULL**
- The **isset** function is used to determine whether a variable is **NULL**
 - `error_reporting(15);` - prevents PHP from using unbound variables
- PHP has many predefined variables, including the environment variables of the host operating system
 - You can get a list of the predefined variables by calling `phpinfo()` in a script
-

Arithmetic Operations

+ - * / %

. ++ --

= += -= *= /= %= .=

Many operators auto-convert types: 5 + "7" is 12

Data Types

- There are eight primitive types:
 - Four scalar types: `Boolean`, `integer`, `double`, and `string`
 - `Integer` & `double` are like those of other languages
 - Two compound types: `array` and `object`
 - Two special types: `resource` and `NULL`

Scalar Type conversions

- Determining type of the value of a variable
 - Test what type a variable is with `is_type` functions
 - `is_string`, `is_int`, `is_integer`, `is_long`, `is_double`, `is_float`, `is_real`, `is_bool`
 - **`gettype`** function returns a variable's type as a string
 - not often needed
- Implicit type conversion
 - PHP converts between types automatically in many cases:
- Explicit type conversion
 - Type-cast with `(type):variable_name`: `$sum = 4.77; (int)$sum;`
 - Use of the `intval`, `doubleval`, `strval`
 - Using `settype` function: `settype($sum, "integer");`

Example: Implicit type conversion

string to integer auto-conversion

`("1" + 1 == 2)` is true

`5 + "2 beautiful birds"` produces 7

integer to string auto conversion

`5 . "2 beautiful birds"` produces "52 beautiful birds"

int to float auto-conversion on /

`(3 / 2 == 1.5)` is true

Data Types: strings

- Can be specified with "" or "
 - 0-based indexing using [] bracket notation
 - String Concatenation
 - Important note! String concatenation is . (period) not +
Characters are single bytes

0-based indexing using [] bracket notation

```
$favorite_food = "Pizza";  
print $favorite_food[2]; #prints z
```


Data Types: strings

- String literals use single or double quotes
 - Single-quoted string literals
 - Embedded variables are NOT interpolated
 - Embedded escape sequences are NOT recognized
 - Double-quoted string literals
 - Embedded variables ARE interpolated
 - Variables that appear inside them will have their values inserted into the string
 - If there is a variable name in a double-quoted string but you don't want it interpolated, it must be backslashed
 - **Embedded escape sequences** ARE recognized

Escaping Strings
\n Line feed
\t Horizontal tab
\ Backslash
\\$ Dollar sign
\ Double quote

Data Types: strings: Examples

```
$sum = 16;  
$age=20;  
print "The value of sum is: \n" . $sum ; #The value of sum is: 16  
NOT RECOMMENDED  
print "The value of sum is: $sum \n"; # The value of sum is: 16  
print 'The value of sum is: $sum \n'; # The value of sum is: $sum  
print "Today is your $ageth birthday.\n"; # ageth not found..error  
print "Today is your {$age}th birthday.\n"; Today is your 20th  
birthday
```

Data Types: Strings : functions

Name	Java Equivalent
strlen	length
strpos	indexOf
substr	substring
strtolower, strtoupper	toLowerCase, toUpperCase
trim	trim
explode, implode	split, join

Data Types: Strings: Concatenation Examples

DEMO: concatenation.php

1 `echo "";`
↓
outputs
``

2 `echo "";`
↓
``

3 `echo "";`
↓
``

4 `echo '';`
↓
``

5 `echo ' . $firstName . ' ' . $lastName . '';`
↓
`Pablo Picasso`

Data Types: Boolean

- Values are true and false
- Values are case insensitive: `false`, `False`, `TRUE`, `true`
- The following values are `FALSE`; others are true
 - `0` , `0.0`, `""` , `"0"` , and `NULL` (include unset variable)
 - Arrays with `0` elements
- Can cast to boolean using `(bool)`
- `FALSE` prints as an empty string (no output); `TRUE` prints as a `1`
- Boolean operators: `and`, `or`, `xor`, `!`, `&&`, `||`
 - `&&` and `||` work the same way as in Java or JavaScript
 - The precedence of `and` and `or` is lower than that of `&&` and `||`.

Data Types: NULL

- A variable is `NULL` if
 - It has been assigned the constant `NULL`
 - It has not been set to any value yet (undefined)
 - It has been deleted using the `unset` function
- `NULL` prints as an empty string (no output)
- Use the `isset()` function to test if a variable is set and not `NULL`
- If a variable is `unset()`, `isset()` will return `FALSE`

Data Types: Constant

- **Use** `define()`
 - uppercase for constants is a programming convention
 - Then use the word without quotes (or \$)

```
define("DATABASE_LOCAL", "localhost");  
echo DATABASE_LOCAL;
```

Output

- Output from a PHP script is HTML that is sent to the browser
- There are multiple ways to produce output:
 - `print` and `printf` and `echo`
 - `print/echo` takes a string, but will coerce other values to strings
 - `printf` is exactly as in C
- DEMO: `today.php`

output

`printf`

```
$product = "box";  
$weight = 1.56789;
```

```
printf("The %s is %.2f pounds", $product, $weight);
```



outputs ↓

Placeholders

Precision specifier

The box is 1.57 pounds.

Control Statements

- Control Expressions

- Relational operators - same as JavaScript, (including `===` and `!==`)
- Boolean operators - same as C (two sets, `&&` and `and`, etc.)
- Selection statements
 - `if`, `if-else`
 - Can use `elseif` instead of `else if`
 - `switch` - as in C
 - The `switch` expression type must be integer, double, or string
 - `while` - just like C
 - `do-while` - just like C
 - `break` and `continue` keywords also behave as in Java
 - `for` - just like C
 - `foreach`

Arrays

- All arrays in PHP are generally referred to as **Associative Arrays**
 - Associative arrays are arrays that use named keys that you assign to them
- The array in PHP replaces many other data structures in Java
e.g. list, stack, queue, set, map, ...

Arrays

- Creating Arrays
- Accessing Elements
- Output arrays: `print_r`

Creating Arrays format

```
$name = array(); # create  
$name = array(value0, value1, ..., valueN);  
$name = [value0, value1, value2, ...,  
valueN];
```

Access Array's elements format

```
$name[index] # get element value  
$name[index] = value; # set element value
```

Arrays

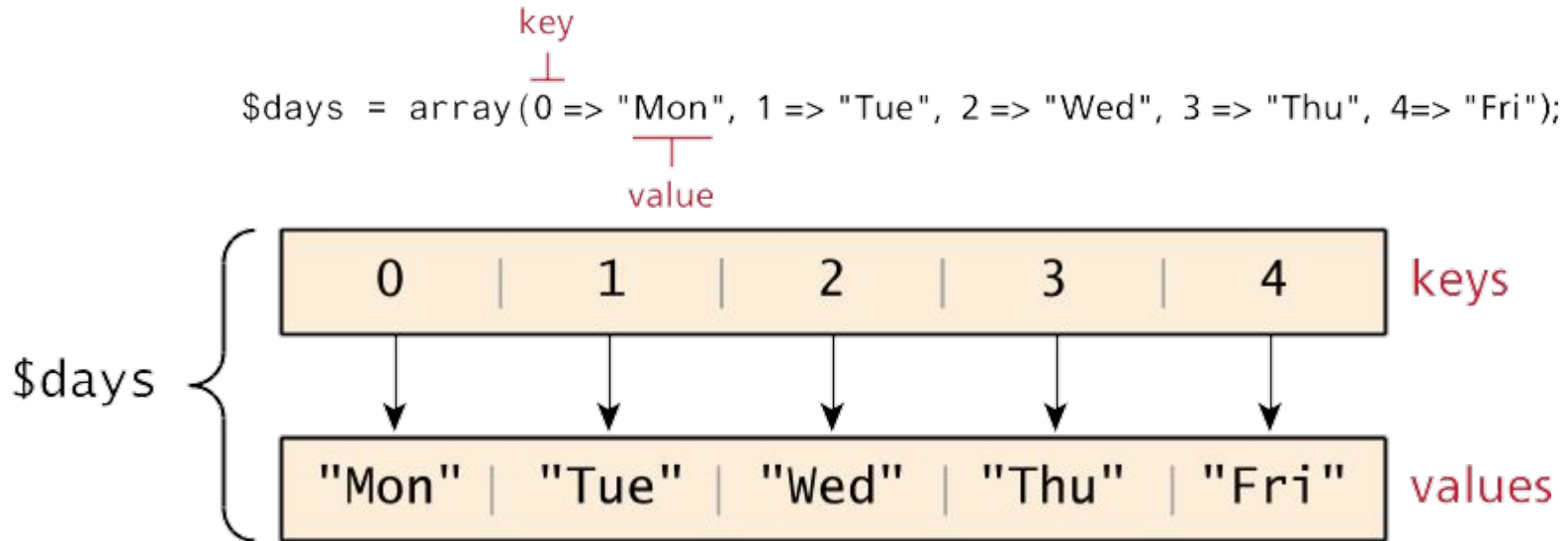
- Creating an Array

Example: four different ways to create an array

```
$days = array(); #creates an empty array
$days = array("Mon", "Tue", "Wed", "Thu", "Fri");
$days = ["Mon", "Tue", "Wed", "Thu", "Fri"]; //
$days=array(0 => "Mon", 1 => "Tue", 2 => "Wed", 3 =>
"Thu", 4 => "Fri");
    ■ $days[5]= "Sat";
    ■ $days[]= "Sun";
```

Arrays

- Associative arrays



Arrays

- Adding and Deleting Elements

- An element can be added to an array simply by using a key/index that hasn't been used

- `$days[5]= "Sat";`

- As an alternative to specifying the index, a new element can be added to the end of any array using empty square brackets after the array name

- `$days[]= "Sun";`

- Delete with `unset()`

```
$a = array(); # empty array (length 0)
$a[0] = 23; # stores 23 at index 0 (length 1)
```

```
$a2 = array("some", "strings", "in", "an",
12, True); #don't need to have the same
values
```

```
$a2[] = "Ooh!"; # add string to end (at
index 5)
```

```
$age = array("Spot"=>16, "Whitney"=>16,
"Jack"=>12); # create
$age["Mowgli"] = 1;
$age["Whitney"] = 17; # stores 17 at the
location where "Whitney" is stored
```

Array functions

- Count
 - number of elements in the array
- print_r
 - print array's contents
- array_pop, array_push, array_shift, array_unshift
 - using an array as a stack/queue
- in_array, array_search, array_reverse sort, rsort, shuffle
 - searching and reordering
- array_fill, array_merge, array_intersect, array_diff, array_slice, range
 - creating, filling, filtering
- array_sum, array_product, array_unique, array_filter, array_reduce
 - processing elements

Arrays: Iterating through an Array

- for loop, while loop, do-while loop
- foreach
 - A convenient way to loop over each element of an array without indices

```
foreach ($array as variableName)
{
    ...
}
```

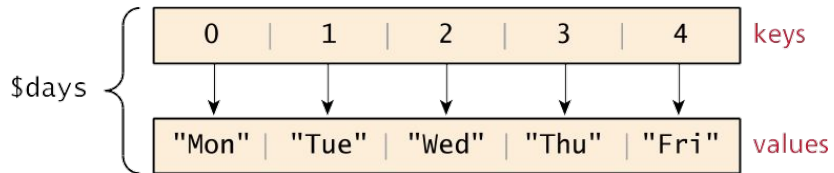
```
<?php
$forecast= array("Mon" => 40, "Tue" => 47, "Wed" => 52, "Thu" => 40, "Fri" =>
37);
```

```
// foreach: iterating through the values
foreach ($forecast as $value) {
    echo $value . "<br>";
}
// foreach: iterating through the values AND the keys
foreach ($forecast as $key => $value) {
    echo "day" . $key . "=" . $value;
}
?>
```

Array functions: Examples

```
$provinces = array("ON", "QC", "MB", "BC", "NL", "PE", "AB");  
for ($i = 0; i < count($provinces); $i++) {  
    $provinces[$i] = strtolower($provinces[$i]);  
    # $provinces: Array ( [0] => on [1] => qc [2] => mb [3] => bc [4] => nl [5] => pe [6] => ab )  
}  
$conner = array_shift($provinces);    # $provinces: Array ( [0] => qc [1] => mb [2] => bc [3] => nl [4] => pe [5] => ab )  
array_pop($provinces);                # $provinces: Array ( [0] => qc [1] => mb [2] => bc [3] => nl [4] => pe )  
array_push($provinces);                # $provinces: Array ( [0] => qc [1] => mb [2] => bc [3] => nl [4] => pe [5] => nt )  
$rarray = array_reverse($provinces);   # $rarray: Array ( [0] => nt [1] => pe [2] => nl [3] => bc [4] => mb [5] => qc )  
sort($provinces);                     # $provinces: Array ( [0] => bc [1] => mb [2] => nl [3] => nt [4] => pe [5] => qc )  
$ks = array_slice($tas, 2, 3);         # $ks = Array ( [0] => nl [1] => nt [2] => pe )
```

Arrays



```
$days = array("Mon", "Tue", "Wed", "Thu", "Fri");
```

```
sort($days);
```

As the values are all strings, the resulting array would be:

```
Array ([0] => Fri [1] => Mon [2] => Sat [3] => Sun [4] => Thu  
[5] => Tue [6] => Wed)
```

```
asort($days);
```

The resulting array in this case keeps associations so is:

```
Array ([4] => Fri [0] => Mon [5] => Sat [6] => Sun [3] => Thu  
[1] => Tue [2] => Wed)
```

More examples: Look at `arrays.php`

The functions

- parameter types and return types are not written
 - a function with no return statements is implicitly "void"
- Calling functions
 - If the wrong number of parameters are passed, it's an error

#function definition

```
function name(parameterName, ...,  
parameterName) {  
    statements;  
}
```

```
function bmi($weight, $height) {  
    $result = 703 * $weight /  
$height / $height;  
    return $result;  
}
```

#calling a function

```
name(expression, ..., expression);  
$w = 163; # pounds  
$h = 70; # inches  
$my_bmi = bmi($w, $h);
```

The functions : parameters

- Default values
 - In PHP you can set parameter default values for any parameter in a function. However, once you start having default values, all subsequent parameters must also have defaults.
 - If no value is passed, the default will be used (defaults must come last)

```
function getNiceTime($showSeconds=true) {  
    if ($showSeconds==true)  
        return date("H:i:s");  
    else  
        return date("H:i");  
}
```

The functions : parameters passing

- Pass-by-value
 - Default behavior
 - By default, arguments passed to functions are passed by value in PHP.
- Pass-by-reference
 - Add an ampersand (&) to the beginning of the name of the formal parameter that you want to be passed by reference
 - Add an ampersand to the argument in the function call

The functions

Parameters Passing

```
$initial=15;
```

```
echo "initial=" . $initial;
```

```
changeParameter($initial);
```

```
echo "initial=" . $initial;
```

```
changeParameter($initial);
```

```
echo "initial=" . $initial;
```

Memory and Output

```
$initial | 15
```

```
initial=15
```

```
$initial | 15
```

```
$arg | 15
```

```
$arg | 315
```

```
initial=15
```

```
$initial | 15
```

```
$arg | 15
```

```
$initial | 315
```

```
$arg | 315
```

```
initial=315
```

Functions

```
// passing by value  
function changeParameter($arg) {  
    $arg += 300;  
}
```

```
// passing by reference  
function changeParameter(&$arg) {  
    $arg += 300;  
}
```

Challenge: Expression in PHP

Test the following expressions in PHP:

`5 + 19 / 4 + 3 * -2`

`1 + 1 . "(1 + 1)" . 1 + 1`

`13 / 2 - 35 / 5 / 2.0 + (15 / 10.0)`

`11 < 2 + 4 || !(5 / 2 == 2)`

`20 % 6 + 6 % 20 + 6 % 6`

Variable Scope: global

- Variables declared in a function are local to that function
- variables defined in the main script have global scope
 - these global variables are not by default, available within functions.
- To access variables with global scope within a function use the **global** keyword,
 - don't abuse this; mostly you should use parameters

```
$big_sum = 0;  # global

function summer ($list) {
    global $big_sum;
    foreach ($list as $value)
        $sum += $value;
    big_sum += $sum;
    return $sum;
}

$ans1 = summer($list1);
$ans2 = summer($list2);
```

PHP Error Mode

```
error_reporting(E_ALL);
```

This command makes PHP report more errors

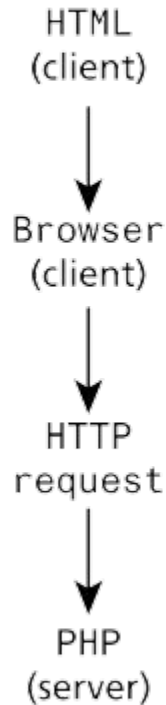
Superglobal Arrays

- PHP uses special predefined associative arrays called superglobal variables that allow the programmer to easily access HTTP headers, query string parameters, and other commonly needed information
 - `$GLOBALS` Array for storing data that needs superglobal scope
 - `$_COOKIE` Array of cookie data passed to page via HTTP request
 - `$_ENV` Array of server environment data
 - `$_FILES` Array of file items uploaded to the server
 - `$_GET` Array of query string data passed to the server via the URL
 - `$_POST` Array of query string data passed to the server via the HTTP header
 - `$_REQUEST` Array containing the contents of `$_GET`, `$_POST`, and `$_COOKIE`
 - `$_SESSION` Array that contains session data
 - `$_SERVER` Array containing information about the request and the server



\$_GET

Relating sent
query string
elements in
PHP



```
<form action="processLogin.php" method="GET">
  Name <input type="text" name="uname" />
  Pass <input type="text" name="pass" />
  <input type="submit">
</form>
```

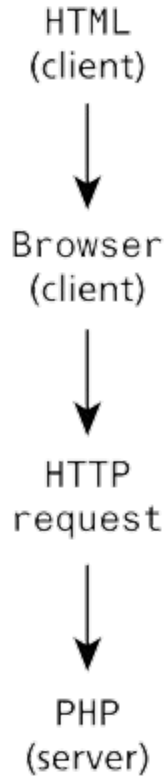
Name Pass

GET processLogin.php?uname=ricardo&pass=pw01

```
// within processLogin.php
echo $_GET["uname"]; // outputs ricardo
echo $_GET["pass"];  // outputs pw01
```

\$_POST

Relating sent
query string
elements in
PHP (POST)



```
<form action="processLogin.php" method="POST">
  Name <input type="text" name="uname" />
  Pass <input type="text" name="pass" />
  <input type="submit">
</form>
```

Name Pass

POST processLogin.php

HTTP POST request body:

uname=ricardo&pass=pw01

```
//File processLogin.php
echo $_POST["uname"]; //outputs "ricardo";
echo $_POST["pass"]; //outputs "pw01";
```

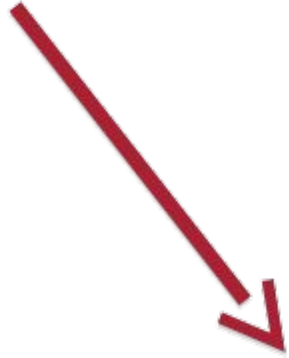
- Form display and processing on same page: `login.php`
- Form display and processing on separate pages:
 - `login.html`
 - `processLogin.php`
- Determining If Any data Sent
 - use the `isset()` function in PHP to see if there is any value set for a particular expected key
 - `if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {`
 - `if (isset($_POST["uname"]) && isset($_POST["pass"])) {`
 - `// handle the posted data.`
 - DEMO: `superglobals_SERVER_2.php`

Accessing Form array data

DEMO: [superglobals_GET_formarray.php](#) and [superglobals_GET_form_checkbox.html](#)

Monday <input type="checkbox" name="day[]" value="Monday">

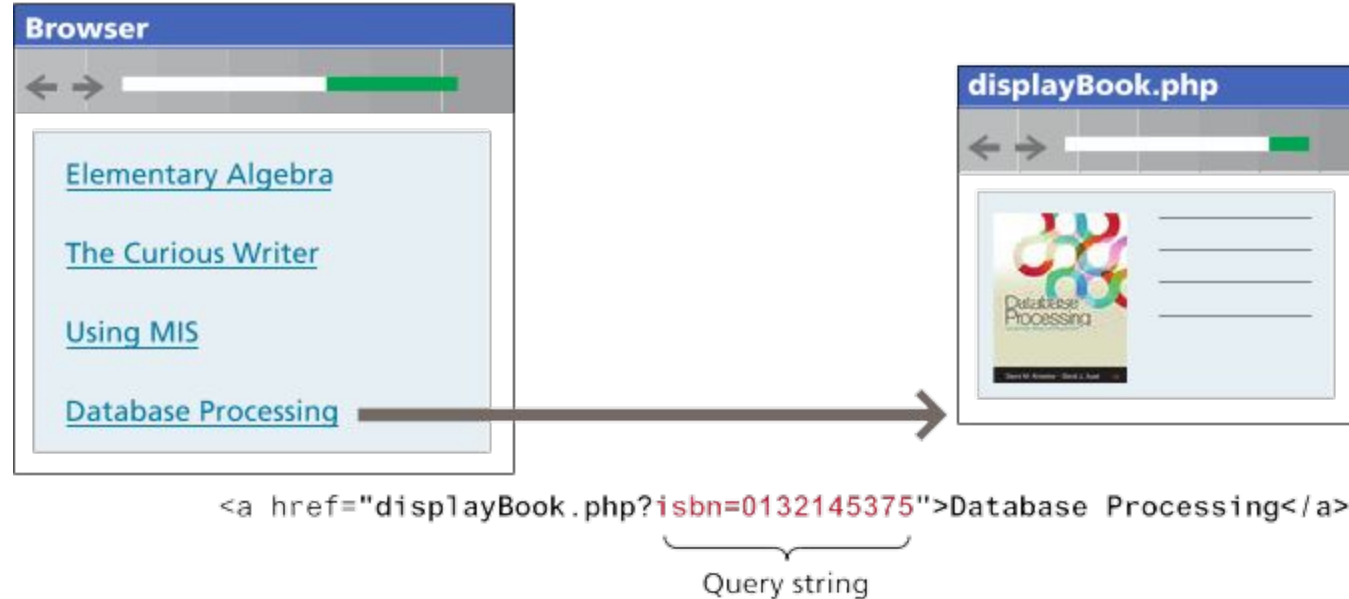
Tuesday <input type="checkbox" name="day[]" value="Tuesday">



```
<?php
    echo "You submitted " . count($_GET['day']) . "values";
    foreach ($_GET['day'] as $d) {
        echo $d . " <br>";
    }
?>
```

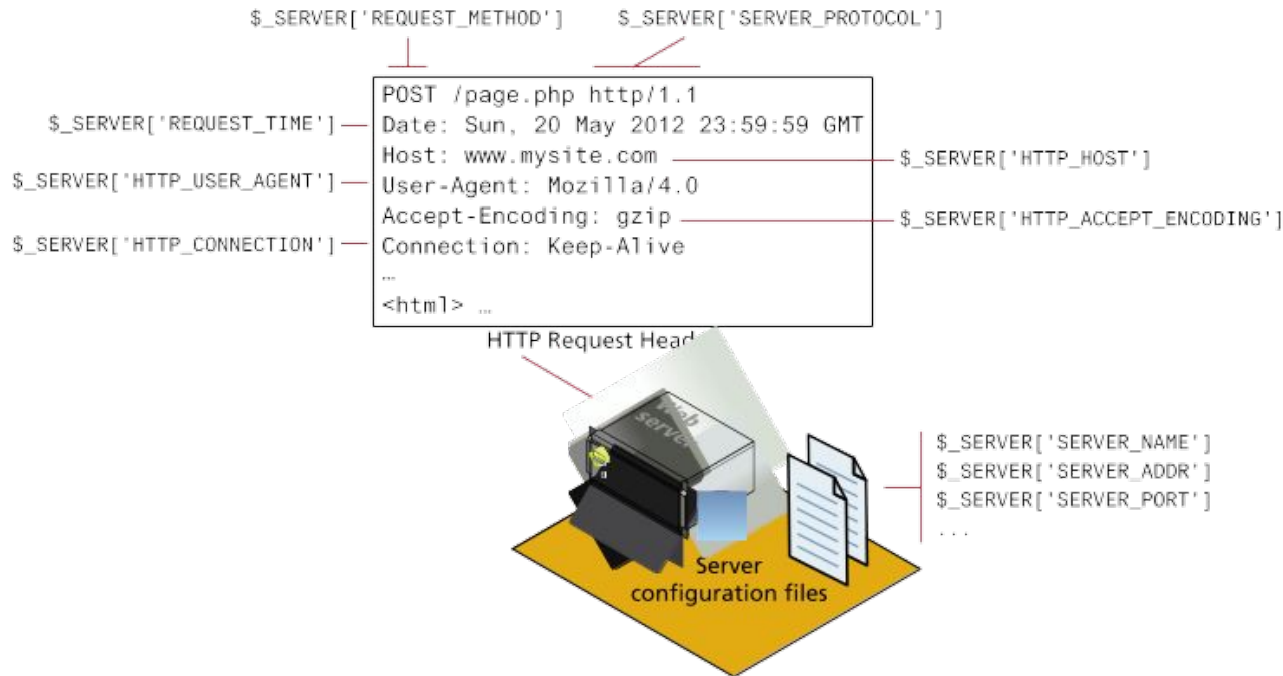
Using query strings in hyperlinks

DEMO:
extended-example.php



\$_SERVER Array

Server Information Keys



\$_FILES

HTML
(client)

↓

Browser
(client)

↓

HTTP
request

↓

PHP
(server)

```
<form enctype='multipart/form-data' method='post' action='upFile.php'>
  <input type='file' name='file1'>
  <input type='submit' value="Submit Query">
</form>
```

C:\Users\ricardo\Pictures\Sample1.png Browse... Submit Query

POST upFile.php

HTTP POST multipart/form-data

```
file1%PNG "t»°İ ! %ç0káFÊ+İ$29%úÄ;Šrá vÜ„yİn üc/(-Ä Ä Z)/vê\Ä(=—%i± %6_E/Hi,+"" _ÄÉA') .p/
_évŒoá~™ B%u0aGçèN"00?0Y·i°m %E2hç ¶·~|QÄóçD"W)MiÜü_9ß9nY02'Ä² km'Nyph $Z"~Y° d08i~\
j0h»)>'±¥[ 0B°0èè[ ‡¥uè|YxRXXL)à£>[0Zlpâ Xç k0 >0 °cÜÿ)=‡ Ä0t@Q°iÜ±¥<3%003 ×1'0;¶1~W+4èè
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æSÜ°8%tèy"">qäiÜ0iÜ0p İ=07Bú< ‡$8Ä, Bè0'?-ÄiİX±æil%×80 ?¿ nÜLòopİ Ü7~i!;¶i>d$éa >
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...
```

```
echo $_FILES["file1"]["name"]           // "Sample1.png"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["type"]           // "image/png"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["tmp_file"]       // "/tmp/phpJ08pVh"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["error"]          // 0
echo $_FILES["file1"]["size"]           // 1219038
```

\$_FILES examples

- Uploading a file: **superglobals_FILES_0.php**
- checking for errors: **superglobals_FILES_1.php**
- File Size restriction
 - HTML form attributes in inputs (browser): **superglobals_FILES_2.php**
 - JavaScript (browser): **superglobals_FILES_3.php**
 - Php validation (server): **superglobals_FILES_4.php**
- Limiting the Type of File Upload: **superglobals_FILES_5.php**
- Moving the file: **superglobals_FILES_6.php**

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 - `// handle the posted data.`
 - DEMO: `superglobals_SERVER_2.php`

\$_FILES

HTML
(client)

↓

Browser
(client)

↓

HTTP
request

↓

PHP
(server)

```
<form enctype='multipart/form-data' method='post' action='upFile.php'>
  <input type='file' name='file1'>
  <input type='submit' value="Submit Query">
</form>
```

C:\Users\ricardo\Pictures\Sample1.png

Browse...

Submit Query

POST upFile.php

HTTP POST multipart/form-data

```
file1%PNG "t»°İ ! %ç0káFÊ+İ$29%úÄ;Šrá vÜ„yİn üc/(-Ä Ä Z)/vè\Ä(=—%i± %6_E/Hi,+"" _ÄÉA') .p/
_évÇoá~™ B%u0aGçèN"00?0Y·i°m %E2hç ¶·~|QÄóçD"W)MiÜü_9B9nY02'Ä° km'Nyph $Z°~Y° d08i~\
j0h»)>'±¥[ 0B°0èè[ ‡¥uè|YxRXXL)à£>[0Zlpâ Xç k0 >0 °cÜÿ)=‡ Ä0t@Q°iÜ±¥<3%ü03 ×1'0;¶1~W+4èè
eà,009'taEC @iÜ11Eèm°B>{Üèà$@ @00[¶ip%soiz°VydÜÊp'ÄaÄ_ Ä °Ç jñz0ce@%Y-B '=àà'-Äİİ'jüü 5%$1 "
Z°N 0e Ä¶ £...hÉGÄ ç°+¥i>É/ŽİE:ÜT ...Ä| -0E[0Ä±çE_°nú»B00ü0mYa i ¿0{?üö+i™ Ü_iè?İEÄ /
æsÜ°8%tèy"">qäiÜöİ0øp İ=ó7Bú< ‡$8Ä, Bø0'?-ÄiİX±æil%xB0 ?¿ nÜLòopİ Ü7~i!;¶i>d$éa >
@¶Ä:K{°GÈ0±xÄ Üsx °wnÜ%o×¶ñ±yX]1İi\ ^°fÄèuèL6>yEÄÇÇDUÜ'ý#+×e00ää° EW°0<wESè°ÇGf&ÇaiQ&?eà
...
```

```
echo $_FILES["file1"]["name"]           // "Sample1.png"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["type"]           // "image/png"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["tmp_file"]       // "/tmp/phpJ08pVh"
echo $_FILES["file1"]["error"]          // 0
echo $_FILES["file1"]["size"]           // 1219038
```

Mixing HTML and PHP in one file

The login.html and login.html example

\$_FILES examples

- Uploading a file: **superglobals_FILES_0.php**
- checking for errors: **superglobals_FILES_1.php**
- File Size restriction
 - HTML form attributes in inputs (browser): **superglobals_FILES_2.php**
 - JavaScript (browser): **superglobals_FILES_3.php**
 - Php validation (server): **superglobals_FILES_4.php**
- Limiting the Type of File Upload: **superglobals_FILES_5.php**
- Moving the file: **superglobals_FILES_6.php**
 - **The owner of the folder to move the file to should be the same as the owner of httpd process**
 - **<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/8103860/move-uploaded-file-gives-failed-to-open-stream-permission-denied-error-after>**

Reading/Writing Files

- There are two basic techniques for read/writing files in PHP:
 - **All-In-Memory access** . In this technique, we can read the entire file into memory (i.e., into a PHP variable). While not appropriate for large files, it does make processing of the file extremely easy.
 - **file()** Reads the entire file and returns an array, with each array element corresponding to one line in the file.
 - **file_get_contents()** Reads the entire file and returns a string variable.
 - **file_put_contents()** Writes the contents of a string variable out to a file.
- Example: streamAccess.php

Types of error

- Expected errors
- Warnings
 - Problems that generate a php warning message but will not halt the execution of the page.
 - e.g., Calling a function without a required parameter
- Fatal Error
 - The execution of page will terminate

How to deal with expected Errors?

Example query string:

Notice that this parameter has no value.

`id=0&name1=&name2=smith&name3=%20`

This parameter's value is a space character (URL encoded).

`isset($_GET['id'])` returns **true**

`isset($_GET['name1'])` returns **true**

Notice that a missing value for a parameter is still considered to be `isset`.

`isset($_GET['name2'])` returns **true**

`isset($_GET['name3'])` returns **true**

`isset($_GET['name4'])` returns **false**

Notice that only a missing parameter name is considered to be not `isset`.

`empty($_GET['id'])` returns **true**

`empty($_GET['name1'])` returns **true**

`empty($_GET['name2'])` returns **false**

`empty($_GET['name3'])` returns **false**

Notice that a value of zero is considered to be empty. This may be an issue if zero is a "legitimate" value in the application.

`empty($_GET['name4'])` returns **true**

Notice that a value of space is considered to be **not** empty.

PHP error reporting

- **error_reporting** specifies which type of errors are to be reported
 - `error_reporting (E_ALL)`
- The **display_error** setting specifies whether error messages should or should not be displayed in the browser
 - `ini_set('display_errors','0');`
 - It can also be set within the `php.ini` file:
 - `display_errors = Off`
- The **log_errors** setting specifies whether error messages should or should not be sent to the server error log.
 - `ini_set('log_errors','1');`
 - It can also be set within the `php.ini` file:
 - `log_errors = On`

Regular Expression

- A regular expression is a set of special characters that define a pattern.
- Use regular expressions to ensure that input data follows a specific format.
 - PHP, JavaScript, Java, the .NET environment, and most other modern languages support regular expressions (each slightly different)

Pattern Matching in PHP

- PHP has two functions:
 - `preg_match(regex, str)`
 - Returns a Boolean value
 - `preg_split(regex, str)`
 - Returns an array of the substrings
- SHOW `word_table.php`

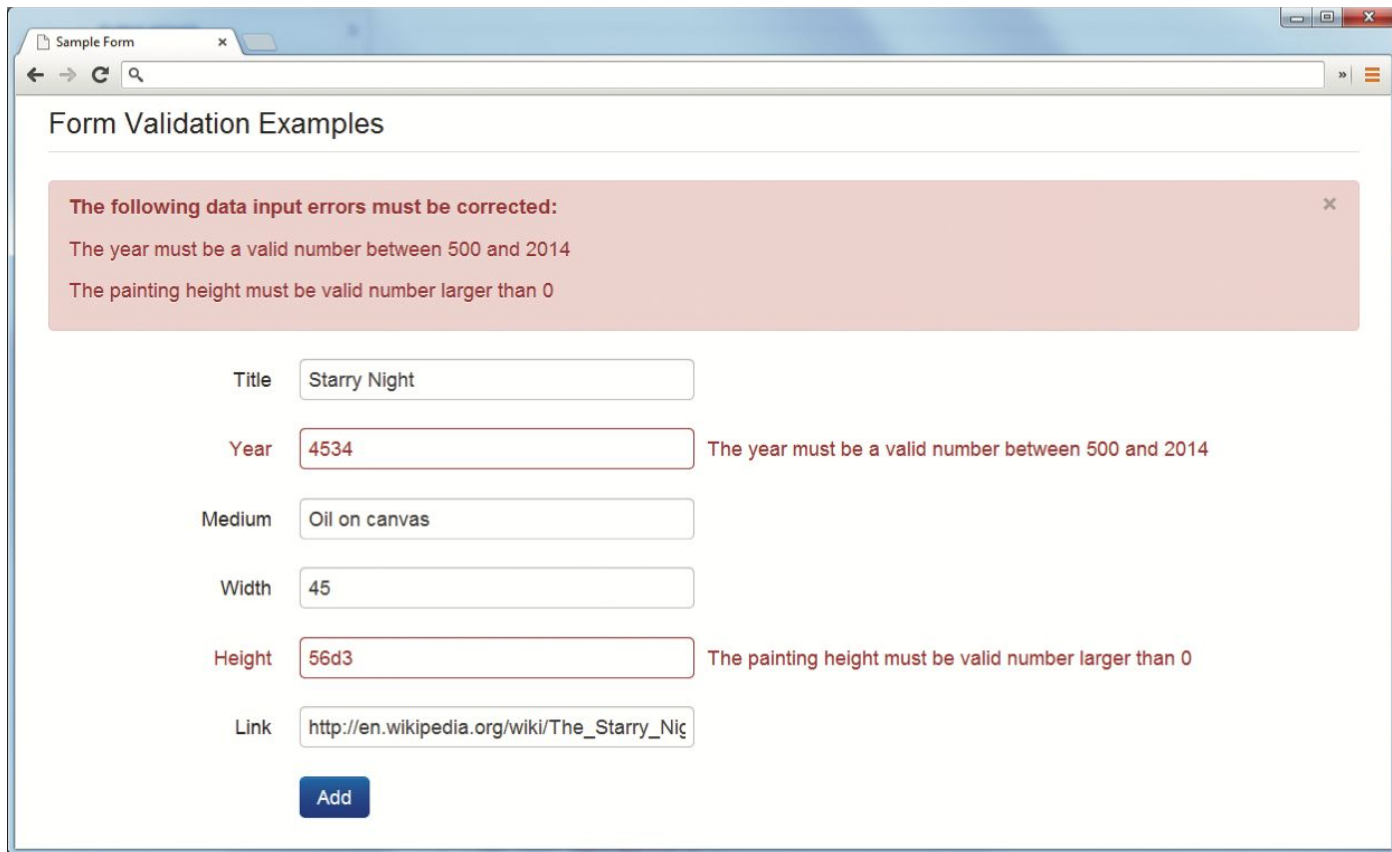
Validating User Input

- Types of Input Validation
 - Required information: email
 - Correct data type: date
 - Correct format: phone-number
 - Comparison
 - Range Check: numbers
 - Custom

Validating User Input

Validating User
Input

Notifying the
user



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a single tab titled "Sample Form". The address bar is empty. The page content is titled "Form Validation Examples". A prominent red error message box at the top states: "The following data input errors must be corrected:" followed by two specific errors: "The year must be a valid number between 500 and 2014" and "The painting height must be valid number larger than 0". Below this, the form contains several input fields: "Title" (containing "Starry Night"), "Year" (containing "4534" with a red border), "Medium" (containing "Oil on canvas"), "Width" (containing "45"), "Height" (containing "56d3" with a red border), and "Link" (containing "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Starry_Nig"). To the right of the "Year" and "Height" fields, the corresponding error messages are repeated. At the bottom of the form is a blue "Add" button.

Sample Form

Form Validation Examples

The following data input errors must be corrected:

- The year must be a valid number between 500 and 2014
- The painting height must be valid number larger than 0

Title:

Year: The year must be a valid number between 500 and 2014

Medium:

Width:

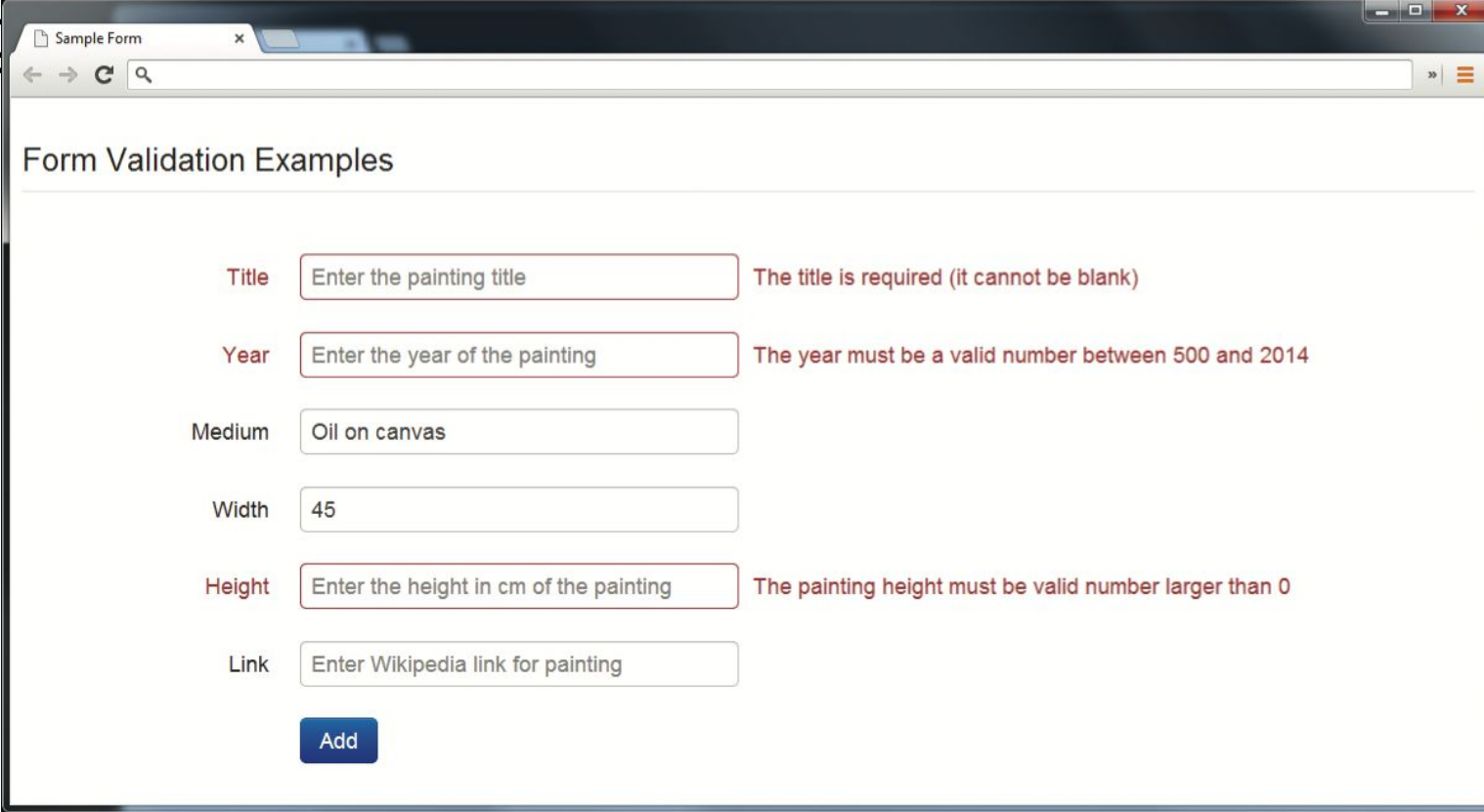
Height: The painting height must be valid number larger than 0

Link:

Add

Validating

How to Reduce
Validation
Errors – show
where error
located



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a single tab titled 'Sample Form'. The address bar is empty. The page content is titled 'Form Validation Examples' and contains a form with the following fields and validation messages:

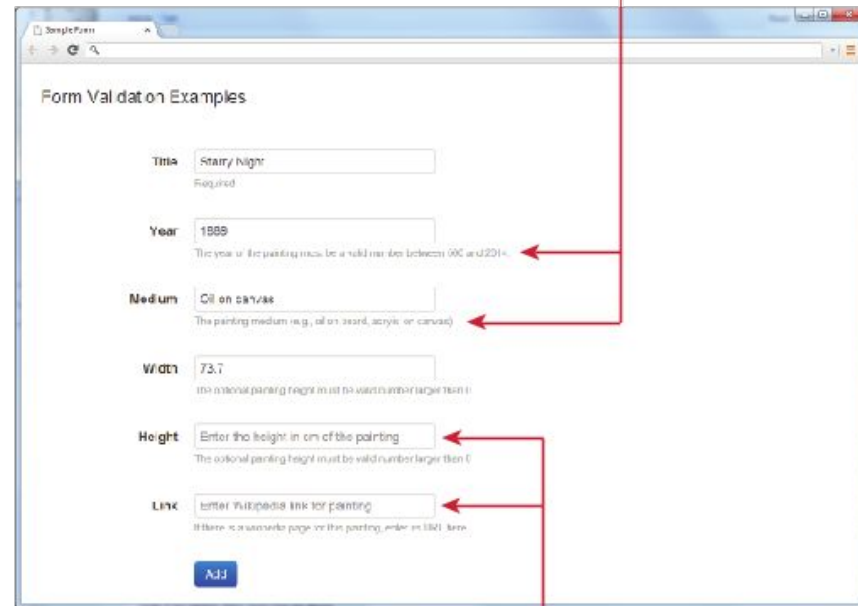
- Title:** The input field contains 'Enter the painting title'. A red error message to the right states: 'The title is required (it cannot be blank)'.
- Year:** The input field contains 'Enter the year of the painting'. A red error message to the right states: 'The year must be a valid number between 500 and 2014'.
- Medium:** The input field contains 'Oil on canvas'.
- Width:** The input field contains '45'.
- Height:** The input field contains 'Enter the height in cm of the painting'. A red error message to the right states: 'The painting height must be valid number larger than 0'.
- Link:** The input field contains 'Enter Wikipedia link for painting'.

At the bottom of the form is a blue button labeled 'Add'.

Validating User Input

How to Reduce Validation Errors – providing textual hints

Static textual hints



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a form titled "Form Validation Examples". The form contains several input fields with associated static textual hints:

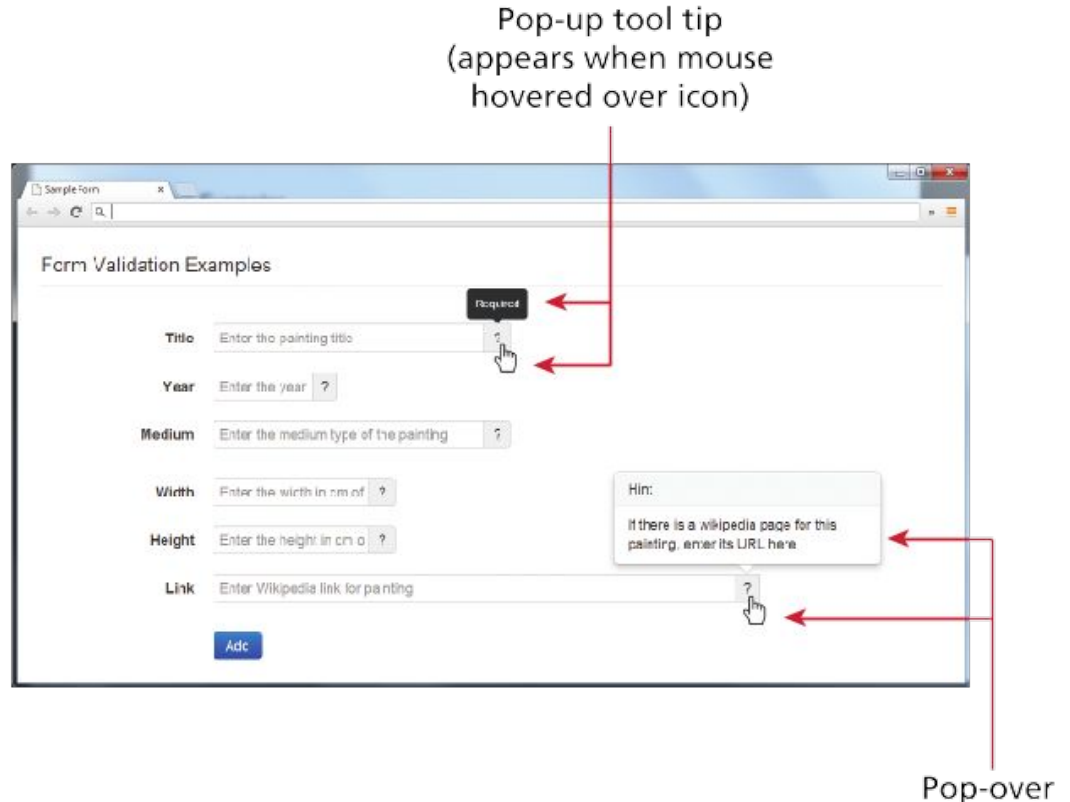
- Title:** Input field contains "Starry Night". Hint: "Required".
- Year:** Input field contains "1889". Hint: "The year of the painting must be a valid number between 900 and 2291".
- Medium:** Input field contains "Oil on canvas". Hint: "The painting medium (e.g., oil on board, acrylic or canvas)".
- Width:** Input field contains "73.7". Hint: "The optional painting height must be a valid number larger than 0".
- Height:** Input field contains "Enter the height in cm of the painting". Hint: "The optional painting height must be a valid number larger than 0".
- Link:** Input field contains "Enter Wikipedia link for painting". Hint: "If there is a website page on the painting, enter its URL here".

Placeholder text (visible until user enters a value into field)

```
<input type="text" ... placeholder="Enter the height ...">
```

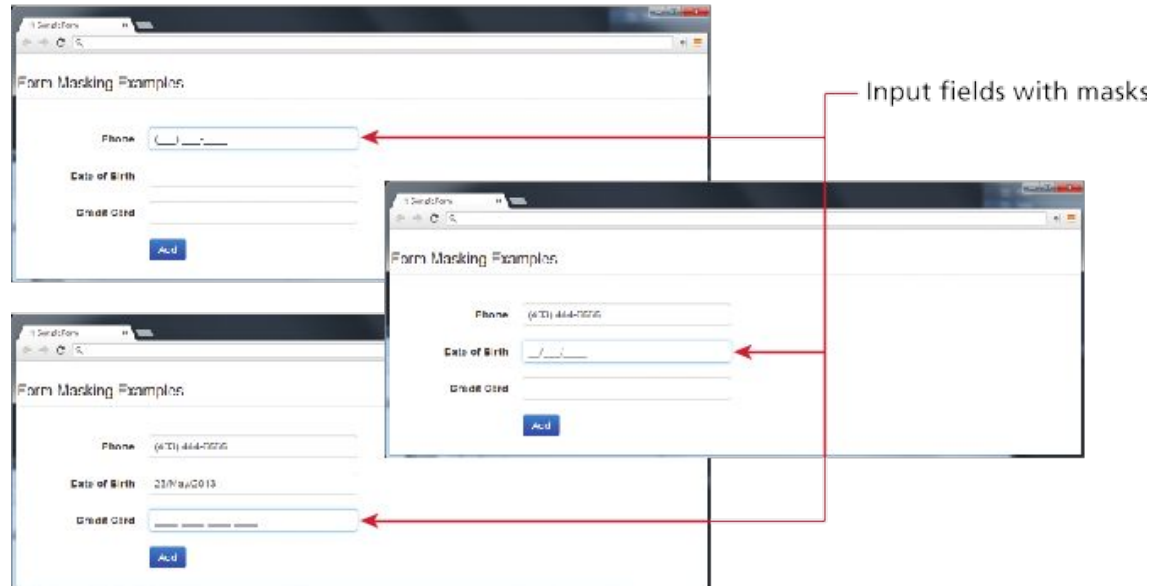
Validating User Input

How to Reduce Validation
Errors – use tool tips

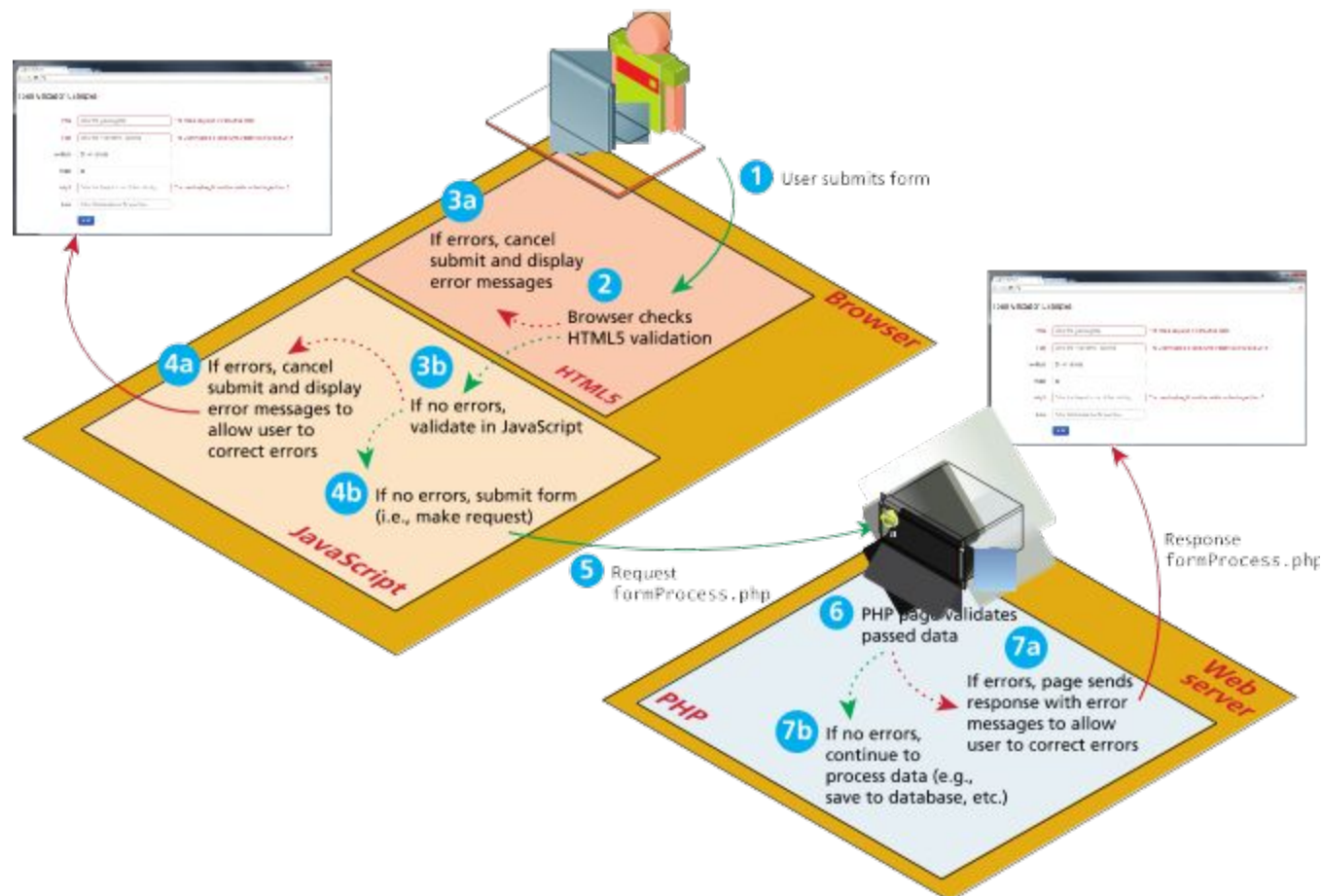


Validating User Input

How to Reduce Validation Errors – use input masks



Where to Perform Validation?



Where to Perform Validation

- Validation at the JavaScript Level: HTML5, JavaScript
 - Client process
 - Can reduce server load
 - Can be bypassed
- Validation at the PHP Level
 - Validation on the server side using PHP is the most important form of validation and the only one that is absolutely essential.
-

Form Handling

- Forms could be handled by the same document that creates the form, but that may be confusing
- PHP particulars:
 - It does not matter whether GET or POST method is used to transmit the form data
 - PHP builds an array of the form values (`$_GET` for the GET method and `$_POST` for the POST method – subscripts are the widget names)
- SHOW popcorn3.html & popcorn3.php