

# Introduction to PHP

## Origins of PHP

- Personal Home Page at first, then Hypertext Preprocessor
- Used for form handling, file processing, and database access

The web server acts 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 – Apache + MariaDB + PHP + Pearl

## General Syntactic Characteristics

- PHP can be linked to HTML
  - o Internally using `<?php` tag matching a closing `?>`
  - o Externally by including: `include ("somefile.php")`
- 3 kinds of comments: `//`, `#`, `/* */`