Easy Learning with "Show PHP"

Our "Show PHP" tool makes it easy to learn PHP, it shows both the PHP source code and the HTML output of the code.

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<?php  
echo "My first PHP script!";  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>

What is PHP?

* PHP stands for **P**HP: **H**ypertext **P**reprocessor
* PHP is a widely-used, open source scripting language
* PHP scripts are executed on the server
* PHP is free to download and use

What is a PHP File?

* PHP files can contain text, HTML, JavaScript code, and PHP code
* PHP code are executed on the server, and the result is returned to the browser as plain HTML
* PHP files have a default file extension of ".php"

What Can PHP Do?

* PHP can generate dynamic page content
* PHP can create, open, read, write, and close files on the server
* PHP can collect form data
* PHP can send and receive cookies
* PHP can add, delete, modify data in your database
* PHP can restrict users to access some pages on your website
* PHP can encrypt data

With PHP you are not limited to output HTML. You can output images, PDF files, and even Flash movies. You can also output any text, such as XHTML and XML.

Why PHP?

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* PHP runs on different platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, etc.)
* PHP is compatible with almost all servers used today (Apache, IIS, etc.)
* PHP has support for a wide range of databases
* PHP is free. Download it from the official PHP resource: [www.php.net](http://www.php.net/)
* PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side

# PHP Installation

What Do I Need?

To start using PHP, you can:

* Find a web host with PHP and MySQL support
* Install a web server on your own PC, and then install PHP and MySQL

Use a Web Host With PHP Support

If your server has activated support for PHP you do not need to do anything.

Just create some .php files, place them in your web directory, and the server will automatically parse them for you.

You do not need to compile anything or install any extra tools.

Because PHP is free, most web hosts offer PHP support.

Set Up PHP on Your Own PC

However, if your server does not support PHP, you must:

* install a web server
* install PHP
* install a database, such as MySQL

The official PHP website (PHP.net) has installation instructions for PHP: <http://php.net/manual/en/install.php>

# PHP Syntax

Basic PHP Syntax

A PHP script can be placed anywhere in the document.

A PHP script starts with **<?php** and ends with **?>**:

<?php  
// PHP code goes here  
?>

The default file extension for PHP files is ".php".

A PHP file normally contains HTML tags, and some PHP scripting code.

Below, we have an example of a simple PHP file, with a PHP script that sends the text "Hello World!" back to the browser:

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<h1>My first PHP page</h1>  
  
<?php  
echo "Hello World!";  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>

Each code line in PHP must end with a semicolon. The semicolon is a separator and is used to distinguish one set of instructions from another.

With PHP, there are two basic statements to output text in the browser: **echo** and **print**.

Comments in PHP

Example

<!DOCTYPE html>  
<html>  
<body>  
  
<?php  
//This is a PHP comment line  
  
/\*  
This is  
a PHP comment  
block  
\*/  
?>  
  
</body>  
</html>