

what is the difference between GLOBALS and GLOBAL?

Asked 11 years, 2 months ago Modified 3 years, 1 month ago Viewed 8k times



In PHP I want to know the differences between the GLOBAL and GLOBALS.

8

Some example:



```
print_r($GLOBALS);
```



php global

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edited Nov 24, 2012 at 20:13

asked Nov 7, 2011 at 10:46



hakre

189k 50 424 813



balaphp

1,296 4 19 39



\$GLOBALS is an array, global is a PHP keyword. They essentially do the same thing but in a different way – Pekka Nov 7, 2011 at 10:47 ✎



but why we cant access the session and cookie variables by using \$GLOBAL? i can access the variables which i have created using \$GLOBAL. – balaphp Nov 7, 2011 at 10:50

3



Because that's not what \$GLOBALS is there for. \$GLOBALS is for variables defined in the global scope, no more no less. That's just the way it is. – Pekka Nov 7, 2011 at 10:50 ✎



See also: [Is there any differences between \\$GLOBALS\["test"\] and global \\$test?](#) – hakre Nov 24, 2012 at 20:15 ✎

5 Answers

Sorted by:

Highest score (default)



That are two different things related to the same: global variables.

14

[\\$GLOBALS](#) - PHP [superglobal](#) array representing the global variable table accessible as an array. Because it's a superglobal, it's available everywhere.



An associative array containing references to all variables which are currently defined in the global scope of the script. The variable names are the keys of the array.



[global](#) - Keyword to import a specific global variable into the local variable table.

Then you asked:

But why we cant access the session and cookie variables by using `$GLOBALS` ?

That's wrong, you can access session and cookie variables by using `$GLOBALS` :

```
$GLOBALS['_SESSION']['session_variable_name']
```

However `$_SESSION` is a superglobal as well, so you don't need to use either `$GLOBALS` nor `global` to access session variables from everywhere:

```
$_SESSION['session_variable_name']
```

Same applies to `$_COOKIE` .

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edited Nov 7, 2011 at 10:56

answered Nov 7, 2011 at 10:51



[hakre](#)

189k 50 424 813

They are two different things.

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`global` is a **keyword** which tells that the variable is from a global scope. E.g. if you're about to access a variable inside a function that's defined outside you'll need to use the `global` keyword to make it accessible in the function.



`$GLOBALS` is a **superglobal array**. Superglobal simply means that it is available in all scopes throughout a script without the need of using the `global` keyword.

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answered Nov 7, 2011 at 10:52



[Marcus](#)

12.1k 5 47 66

`$GLOBALS` is an array and `global` is a keyword to declare or use global variables

2

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answered Nov 7, 2011 at 10:51



[Gilles Quenot](#)

163k 38 215 213

1

`$GLOBALS` : An associative array containing references to all variables which are currently defined in the global scope of the script. The variable names are the keys of the array



GLOBAL/global is a keyword for setting a variable global.



References :

<http://php.net/GLOBALS>

<http://php.net/global>

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answered Nov 7, 2011 at 10:52



[Mob](#)

10.9k

6

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57



I think your confusion is in between \$GLOBAL and \$GLOBALS.

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\$GLOBALS is a superglobal array that it is available in all scopes throughout a script without the need of using the global keyword.



You are trying to access the session and cookie variables by using \$GLOBAL and that's wrong. Please use \$GLOBALS instead. \$GLOBAL is nothing.



But global is a keyword which tells that the variable is from a global scope.

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answered Nov 25, 2019 at 10:40



[Khalid Jubair](#)

11

4