PHP –

* PHP is an acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor"
* PHP is a widely-used, open source scripting language
* PHP scripts are executed on the server
* PHP is free to download and use

What Can PHP Do?

* PHP can generate dynamic page content
* PHP can create, open, read, write, delete, 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 be used to control user-access
* 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.

Variable:

In PHP, a variable starts with the $ sign, followed by the name of the variable:

Example

<?php

$txt = "Hello world!";

$x = 5;

$y = 10.5;

?>

A variable can have a short name (like x and y) or a more descriptive name (age, carname, total\_volume).

Rules for PHP variables:

A variable starts with the $ sign, followed by the name of the variable

A variable name must start with a letter or the underscore character

A variable name cannot start with a number

A variable name can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and \_ )

Variable names are case-sensitive ($age and $AGE are two different variables)

## PHP is a Loosely Typed Language

In the example above, notice that we did not have to tell PHP which data type the variable is.

PHP automatically converts the variable to the correct data type, depending on its value.

In other languages such as C, C++, and Java, the programmer must declare the name and type of the variable before using it.

Functions

Var\_dump(expression)

Example:

$x = 10;

Var\_dump($x);

Output:

int(10)

## PHP Constants

A constant is an identifier (name) for a simple value. The value cannot be changed during the script.

A valid constant name starts with a letter or underscore (no $ sign before the constant name).

**Note:** Unlike variables, constants are automatically global across the entire script.

Example:

<?php  
define("GREETING", "Welcome to W3Schools.com!");  
echo GREETING;  
?>

PHP Conditional Statements

Very often when you write code, you want to perform different actions for different conditions. You can use conditional statements in your code to do this.

In PHP we have the following conditional statements:

* **if statement** - executes some code if one condition is true
* **if...else statement** - executes some code if a condition is true and another code if that condition is false
* **if...elseif....else statement** - executes different codes for more than two conditions
* **switch statement** - selects one of many blocks of code to be executed

**if...elseif....else**

if (*condition*) {  
    *code to be executed if this condition is true;*} elseif (*condition*) {  
  *code to be executed if this condition is true;*} else {  
    *code to be executed if all conditions are false;*}