CS526\_Advance web programming

https://www.virendrachandak.com/techtalk/php-isset-vs-empty-vs-is\_null/

**PHP isset() vs empty() vs is\_null()**

By Virendra Chandak on January 21, 2012Leave a commentGo to comments (50)

PHP has different functions which can be used to test the value of a variable. Three useful functions for this are **isset()**, **empty()** and **is\_null()**. All these function return a boolean value. If these functions are not used in correct way they can cause unexpected results.

isset() and empty() are often viewed as functions that are opposite, however this is not always true. In this post I will explain the differences between these functions.

**isset()**

From PHP manual – isset():

*isset — Determine if a variable is set and is not NULL*

In other words, it returns **true** only when the variable is **not null**.

**empty()**

From PHP Manual – empty():

*empty — Determine whether a variable is empty*

In other words, it will return **true** if the variable is an empty string, false, array(), NULL, “0?, 0, and an unset variable.

**is\_null()**

From PHP Manual – is\_null():

*is\_null — Finds whether a variable is NULL*

In other words, it returns **true** only when the variable is **null**. is\_null() is opposite of isset(), except for one difference that isset() can be applied to unknown variables, but is\_null() only to declared variables.

The table below is an easy reference for what these functions will return for different values. The blank spaces means the function returns **bool(false)**.

**Value of variable ($var)**

**isset($var)**

**empty($var)**

**is\_null($var)**

“” (an empty string)

bool(true)

bool(true)

” ” (space)

bool(true)

FALSE

bool(true)

bool(true)

TRUE

bool(true)

array() (an empty array)

bool(true)

bool(true)

NULL

bool(true)

bool(true)

“0” (0 as a string)

bool(true)

bool(true)

0 (0 as an integer)

bool(true)

bool(true)

0.0 (0 as a float)

bool(true)

bool(true)

*var $var;* (a variable declared, but without a value)

bool(true)

bool(true)

NULL byte (“\ 0”)

bool(true)

PHP support function overloading?

https://netbeans.org/kb/docs/ide/mysql.html#starting - imp link to use mysql and php connections