
Class 252

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Why everyone hate PHP

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Introduction

There have been two rumors in the computing industry that PHP is both the best language and the worst language in the world. I have many years of experience in writing PHP, but I have never felt that PHP is the best or worst language. Just like other languages, PHP has its own unique syntax and method. The most important thing is that currently more than half of the website backends are supported by PHP. I have found a lot of debates about PHP on the Internet, and no one can give a specific academic reason. Many people just said that PHP is too old and has too much historical burden. Javascript certainly has more historical burden than PHP, but not too many people criticize it like PHP. I have seen someone write a front-end API with javascript + JQuery + Angular1, that is the combination of real chaos and free style. So I always wanted to find an opportunity to learn more about the difference between PHP and other languages, and why everyone hates it.

Objective

According to previous experience, the main points of the PHP debate are the following points. Vulnerability, speed, security, framework, dynamic. For each point, I have found the corresponding conference papers as a reference. Finally, I will make a summary report. Whether the bad of PHP is exaggerated, or The language PHP is indeed on the verge of death, so bad that it cannot be repaired.

Vulnerabilities

A. Ibrahim, M. El-Ramly and A. Badr, "Beware of the Vulnerability! How Vulnerable are GitHub's Most Popular PHP Applications?," 2019 IEEE/ACS 16th International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications (AICCSA), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2019, pp. 1-7, doi: 10.1109/AICCSA47632.2019.9035265.

Comparison with other languages

H. K. Dhalla, "A Performance Analysis of Native JSON Parsers in Java, Python, MS.NET Core, JavaScript, and PHP," 2020 16th International Conference on Network and Service Management (CNSM), Izmir, Turkey, 2020, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.23919/CNSM50824.2020.9269101.

Speed

K. Bounnady, K. Phanthavong, S. Pathoumvanh and K. Sihalath, "Comparison the processing speed between PHP and ASP.NET," 2016 13th International Conference on Electrical Engineering/Electronics, Computer, Telecommunications and Information Technology (ECTI-CON), Chiang Mai, Thailand, 2016, pp. 1-5, doi: 10.1109/ECTICon.2016.7561484.

Framework

S. I. Adam and S. Andolo, "A New PHP Web Application Development Framework Based on MVC Architectural Pattern and Ajax Technology," 2019 1st International Conference on Cybernetics and Intelligent System (ICORIS), Denpasar, Indonesia, 2019, pp. 45-50, doi: 10.1109/ICORIS.2019.8874912.

Security

L. Eshkevari, F. Dos Santos, J. R. Cordy and G. Antoniol, "Are PHP applications ready for Hack?," 2015 IEEE 22nd International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution, and Reengineering (SANER), Montreal, QC, Canada, 2015, pp. 63-72, doi: 10.1109/SANER.2015.7081816.

Dynamic

M. Hills, "Evolution of dynamic feature usage in PHP," 2015 IEEE 22nd International Conference on Software Analysis, Evolution, and Reengineering (SANER), Montreal, QC, Canada, 2015, pp. 525-529, doi: 10.1109/SANER.2015.7081870.