

PHP

In order to execute code, it must be requested as a web page. This requires a webserver to process the code when it is served to a client, this means we need to install and run a webserver for you to execute any PHP code as a means to learn it.

XAMPP Web Server

The easiest package I've found to get everything you should need up and running is the XAMPP development stack. It features Apache web server, MySQL, PHP 5, phpMyAdmin (for MySQL management gui), as well as several other features that probably won't see much use.

XAMPP is available from: <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html>

If you follow the default installation and then run Apache from the XAMPP control panel app, you can access webpages by going to <http://localhost>. This (by default) grabs pages from C:\xampp\htdocs, so any files we put in that location can be called for (i.e. <http://localhost/index.php> == C:\xampp\htdocs\index.php)

As a heads up, if you are running Skype, it can have conflicts with Apache (they use the same port), so you'll want to close Skype while you are using Apache.

Tutorials

Once you have Apache running, I'd like you to start by running through the PHP tutorials available through W3 Schools (http://w3schools.com/php/php_intro.asp). Get a feel for the basics of the language and come up with questions. You are welcome to email me, and I'm wanting to set up a couple times we can meet up in a study room or something and clear up any issues/nail down basics that you need to know).

Feel free also to reference the language API manual at <http://www.php.net/manual/en/>.