Grabbing Images from the Filesystem

Perhaps you are creating a photo gallery, allowing the user to upload their images for display. What is the appropriate way to grab those photos and display them? PHP has file-system modification and accessing functionality, such as **mkdir**, **file_exists**, and **scandir**, which allow us to access these uploaded files, as well as create our own directories and whatnot.

Grabbing all Images

Let's assume that we want to grab all images from the `images/bob/` directory.

Using the **scandir** function will return an array of strings – the strings being the file names.

```
$files = scandir( "images/bob/" );
```

Then, we can look at all of these file names and see if they have the correct extension:

```
$imageArray = array();
$validExtentions = array( ".jpg", ".jpeg", ".png", ".gif" );
foreach( $files as $file )
{
      foreach( $validExtentions as $ext )
      {
            if ( strpos( $file, $ext ) )
            {
                  array_push( $imageArray, "images/bob/" . $file );
            }
      }
}
```

We are iterating through all the files in the $files array, which stores a bunch of strings which are all file names.

Then, we're iterating through all the valid extentions. If ".jpg", for instance, exists in the name of the current **$file**, we are going to push it onto the **$imageArray** to be displayed.

Once this is done, we can display the images on a webpage with another for-each loop:

```
<div class="gallery">
    <? foreach( $imageArray as $path ) { ?>
        <img src="<?=$path?>" />
    <? } ?>
</div>
```

You can also set links (with the <a> tag) to the path, if it were a text file or audio file.