

# PHP: Get Started

What is PHP?


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# Agenda

- **Why PHP?**
- **Installing PHP**
- **PHP Quick Start**



I've never thought of PHP as more  
than a simple tool to solve  
problems.



— Rasmus Lerdorf

# Why PHP?

- PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (<http://php.net/>)
- Scripting language, mostly used on web servers
- Market share: approximately 40% (!)
- In the TIOBE Programming Community Index Top 10 since 1999
- Runs on virtually any web server and platform
- Supports virtually any database
- Open-source, actively maintained
- Great supply of talent

# History of PHP

- 1994: Rasmus Lerdorf started working on what would later become PHP
- 1995: Release of version 1.0, named “Personal Home Page Tools (PHP Tools)”
- 1998: Release of PHP 3 with parser rewritten by Zeev Suraski and Andi Gutmans
- 2000: Release of PHP 4, powered by new core, “Zend Engine”
- 2004: Release of PHP 5 (including improved OOP support)
- 2009: Release of PHP 5.3 (instead of PHP 6)

# Installing PHP

- <http://php.net/downloads.php> provides access to the source code and external links to binary packages
- Official Windows binaries: <http://windows.php.net/>
- All-in-one installer: <https://www.apachefriends.org/>
  - Sets up PHP, Apache, MySQL, and more
- Detailed installation instructions in the online manual: <http://php.net/install>

# Configuring PHP

- **php.ini configuration file (usually in the PHP installation directory)**
- **Used for PHP settings, and to load extensions**
- **Usually a server restart is required for changes to take effect**

# PHP Quick Start

- PHP code is (usually) embedded into HTML files, or in its own PHP file
- File extension: .php (unless configured otherwise)
- `<?php` and `?>` as delimiters
  - Other options exist, but are not recommended
- Code output appears exactly where the code was



# **“Hello World”**

- **PHP provides the luxury version of “Hello World”**
- **phpinfo()**
- **Outputs a lot of data about the PHP installation**
  - Version information
  - Configuration options and settings
  - Installed extensions
  - Server environment variables
- **Can also be used to find out what the hosting partner has provided**

# Documentation

- Available at <http://php.net/manual>
- Shortcut: <http://php.net/abc>, e.g.
  - <http://php.net/phpinfo>
  - <http://php.net/install>
  - <http://php.net/install.windows>
- Also available for download (and offline browsing)

# Summary

- PHP is the most popular server language for the web
- PHP runs on all relevant server operating systems
- `phpinfo()` provides all information about the current PHP installation
- The PHP manual at <http://php.net/manual> provides a great documentation of the language and its extensions