

PHP Form Processing

*referenced from <http://www.homeandlearn.co.uk/php/php1p1.html>

PHP Form Processing

- PHP is probably the most popular scripting language on the web. It is used to enhance web pages. With PHP, you can do things like create username and password login pages, check details from a form, create forums, picture galleries, surveys, and a whole lot more. If you've come across a web page that ends in PHP, then the author has written some programming code to liven up the plain, old HTML.
- PHP is known as a server-sided language. That's because the PHP doesn't get executed on your computer, but on the computer you requested the page from. The results are then handed over to you, and displayed in your browser.

Need A Server

- Before you can write and test your PHP scripts, there's one thing you'll need - a server!
- You can use your access to mrcomputers.info or you can set up and use portable web server that runs off your flash drive (may not work off your flash drives on the school computers)

Writing PHP Scripts

- These are written using simple text editors and saved with the extension .php

PHP Variables

- A variable is just a storage area. You put things into your storage areas (variables) so that you can use and manipulate them in your programs. Things you'll want to store are numbers and text.
- In php we declare a variable as follows:
- `$name;`
- That's it!

Assigning Values to Variables

- Again, easy stuff here: `$name=value;`
- Example: `$age=25;`
- `$name="John";`
- `$passed=true;`
- Notice there's no need to declare variables with type i.e. integers, doubles, strings etc...

Writing the Script

- To write a script, open your text editor and add the base block as follows:

```
<?php
```

```
    //all code goes here
```

```
?>
```

Sample

```
<?php
    $number1=5;
    $number2=10;
    $answer=$number1*$number2;
    echo "The product of ".$number1. " and
    ".$number2. " is ".$answer;
?>
```


- Save the code you just wrote as test.php
- Upload to your server space
- Write the URL to the file in your web browser and see what happens!
- If all goes well you should see:

The product of 5 and 10 is 50

Operators

- Symbols that perform actions on data
- In php we used the following so far:
- =, *, .
- = is the assignment operator
- * is the multiplication operator
- . is the concatenate operator

Process Forms Using PHP

- To process form data in php all we need are variables to hold the data and a way to gather the data
- We gather the data by referencing an array that is automatically passed to your script by the web server hosting it: `$_POST["name"]`

Example

- Create a very simple form that asks some for their name
- The user clicks a Submit button and the name is sent to the php script which turns greets the user

HTML

```
<html>
  <body>
    <form method="POST" action="greetings.php">
      Enter your name please:<input type="text"
name="person">
      <br>
      <input type="submit" value="Process Script">
      <br>
    </form>
  </body>
</html>
```

Save this file as **greetings.html**

PHP

```
<?php
    $user=$_POST["person"];
    echo "Hello there ".$user."<BR>";
?>
```

Save this file as **greetings.php**

Final Instructions

- Upload both files to a folder on your web server and then test by loading the web page first

Practice

If you can install and use your own personal web server then I recommend this (ask your teacher for help with this):

Each of the following 3 exercises must be included under the **proper lesson folder of Unit 1** in your class website.

1. Create a form that asks a user for their first and last names separately. When submitted have a php script greet the user with their name in the format:
lastname, firstname

Example: Hello Smith, John

2. Create a form that asks a user for two numbers. Create a php script that takes these numbers, adds them and then displays the result.

3. Create a form that asks a user for the radius of a circle. When submitted a php script will calculate the area of the circle and display this answer. Include a picture of a circle on the results page. Note, php can be combined with html. Just make sure the html is outside the php code block, either above or below.

4. List at least 4 sites with tutorials on using php. Include these as a list of links under the **myWork** section of your **Unit 1** web page.

5. Create a form asking the user for the marks to their four report card classes. Upon submission calculate and display the average of those marks. Include a percentage sign at the end of the average

Class Website Update

Include links to all powerpoints that have been assigned to you.

Include links to all the forms created as part of your exercises in this powerpoint.