Pura Vida Apps (index.php)   **Snippets (snippets.php)**   **Tutorials (tutorials.php)**

Extensions (extensions.php)   **Links (links.php)**   **Search (search.php)**   **Privacy Policy (privacy-policy.php)**

Contact (contact.php)

(./index.php) Post a file to your server in the Internet

How to use the block in App Inventor

You probably also might be interested in my ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐ **App Inventor FTP Extension (./ftp.php)** └─────────────────────────────────────┘ , which does not require anything on the server side, it "just works"...

Scott already put together a nice example to   post any file to a php server (https://groups.google.com/d/topic/app-inventor-developers-library/Sc4a1wZHL-Q/discussion). Precondition to get this working is, to set the flag **always_populate_raw_post_data to on** on your server. Unfortunately some web hoster do not offer to change that flag. You can find it out with the following script how this is set on your server:

```
<?php phpinfo(); ?>
```

I also had this problem with my server, but then I found   this solution on stackoverflow.com (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/9907896/what-are-the-alternatives-for-php-input-and-http-raw-post-data-when-file-get/10320453#10320453) provided by   powtac (http://stackoverflow.com/users/22470/powtac), which uses the   PEAR::PHP_Compat package (https://pear.php.net/package/PHP_Compat). I just copied the unzipped package to my server and modified the php script, see below to get this working. Woo Hoo! **Thank you powtac and Scott!**

If you can set the flag always_populate_raw_post_data to on, just use   Scott's example (https://groups.google.com/d/topic/app-inventor-developers-library/Sc4a1wZHL-Q/discussion), in this case there is no need for this workaround.

With this example you can pick an image from your device and upload it to my server.

Install the PEAR package

1. Download the   PEAR::PHP_Compat package (https://pear.php.net/package/PHP_Compat), I used the file   PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3.tgz (https://download.pear.php.net/package/PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3.tgz), which will be stored on your computer

2. Unzip the package (you can use any unzip program, for example   7 zip (http://www.7-zip.org/)), a directory PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3 will be created containing another zipped file PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3.tar

3. Unzip that file and another PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3 directory and a file package.xml will be created

4. Copy that inner directory PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3 to your server into the same directory of the postfile.php script. This directory contains the 2 subdirectories Compat and tests and a file package-test.php

> For questions about 🐝 App Inventor, please ask in the **App Inventor forum (https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/mitappinventortest)**.Thank you.

App Inventor Blocks

Pura Vida Apps (index.php)

```
the php script

initialize global strPath to  ? " http://puravidaapps.netne.net/php "

add a random key here and in the php script

? initialize global strACCESSKEY to " secret "

initialize global strFilename to " "

when ImagePicker1 .AfterPicking
do set imgThumbnail . Picture to ImagePicker1 . Selection
   initialize local list to split text ImagePicker1 . Selection
                                  at " / "
   in set global strFilename to ? select list item list get list
                                      index length of list list get list
      set lblFilename . Text to join get global strFilename
                                     " selected "

when btnPost .Click
do if is empty get global strFilename
   then set lblResult . Text to " Please pick an image first! "
   else ? set Web1 . Url to join get global strPath
                                  " /postfileV2.php?filename= "
                                  get global strFilename
                                  " &p= "
                                  get global strACCESSKEY
(append destination file name to URL)
        set lblResult . Text to " trying to post file, please wait ... "
(upload data stream)
        ? call Web1 .PostFile
              path ImagePicker1 . Selection

when Web1 .GotText
url responseCode responseType responseContent
do set lblResult . Text to get responseContent
   if get responseCode = 200
   then ? set imgServer . Picture to join get global strPath
                                        " / "
                                        get global strFilename
(display uploaded image)
```

PHP Script

Version 2

I updated   Scott's php script (https://groups.google.com/d/topic/app-inventor-developers-library/Sc4a1wZHL-Q/discussion) and added some basic security functionality from the script of Shival Wolf. Feel free to adjust it to your needs. **Precondition to get this working on your server**: The   PEAR::PHP_Compat package (https://pear.php.net/package/PHP_Compat) is available there.

```php
<?php
/*
 * Written By: Taifun
 * using parts from the "Web2SQL example" from ShivalWolf
 * and parts from the "POST any local file to a php server example" from Scott
 *
 * Date: 2013/Mar/05
 * Contact: info@puravidaapps.com
 *
 * Version 2: 'dirname(__FILE__)' added to avoid problems finding the complete path to the script
 */

/**********************************CONFIG**************************************/

//SETTINGS//
//This code is something you set in the APP so random people cant use it.
$ACCESSKEY="secret";

/**********************************CONFIG**************************************/

//these are just in case setting headers forcing it to always expire
header('Cache-Control: no-cache, must-revalidate');

if($_GET['p']==$ACCESSKEY){
  // this is the workaround for file_get_contents(...)
  require_once (dirname(__FILE__).'/PHP_Compat-1.6.0a3/Compat/Function/file_get_contents.php');
  $data = php_compat_file_get_contents('php://input');

  $filename = $_GET['filename'];
  if (file_put_contents($filename,$data)) {
    if (filesize($filename) != 0) {
      echo "File transfer completed.";
    } else {
      header("HTTP/1.0 400 Bad Request");
      echo "File is empty.";
    }
  } else {
    header("HTTP/1.0 400 Bad Request");
    echo "File transfer failed.";
  }
} else {
  header("HTTP/1.0 400 Bad Request");
  echo "Access denied";      //reports if accesskey is wrong
}
?>
```
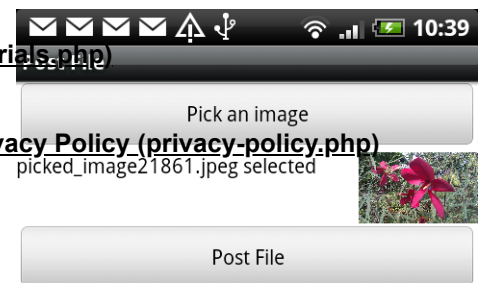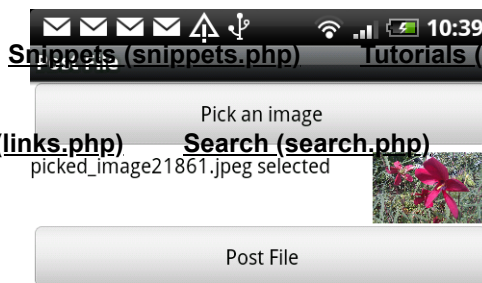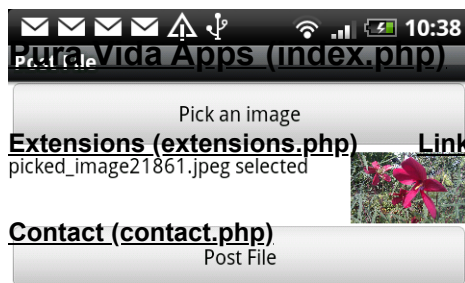
Screenshots

Pura Vida Apps (index.php)

Post File

Pick an image

picked_image21861.jpeg selected

Post File

Snippets (snippets.php)

Post File

Pick an image

picked_image21861.jpeg selected

Post File

trying to post file, please wait ...

Tutorials (tutorials.php)

Post File

Pick an image

picked_image21861.jpeg selected

Post File

File transfer completed.

Pura Vida Apps   Pura Vida Apps   Pura Vida Apps

Questions and Answers

Q1:I follow your tutorial but I have an error "500 internal server error" while "post file".

A: Are you using GoDaddy? They are very restrictive about their settings. Let me recommend **000webhost.com** as web host, see banner below. It is very easy to work with them: just ftp the script and the PEAR package to a directory and it works without a hassle, and the best is: **their service is free!** You have to use **php://input** instead of **php://stdin** with them, see also Q2 below.

ABSOLUTELY **FREE** HOSTING!
No Advertising or Banners
→ 1500 MB storage
 (https://www.000webhost.com/)

Q2:I changed web hosting and now app response "File transfer failed." without error.

A:As you can see from the php script, this is one of our own error messages. **Please check the log file on your server for php error messages.** You can try to change the following line

```
$data = php_compat_file_get_contents('php://stdin');
```

by the following

```
$data = php_compat_file_get_contents('php://input');
```

Q3:I am getting error 1104 everytime I click on the Post button (seems an error from android, before enter in PHP). If I click by the second time, I get the file sent via php. Does anybody know how to get rid of error 1104?

A: This seems to be an issue with Samsung devices, see also   this thread in the forum (https://groups.google.com/forum/#!category-topic/mitappinventortest/dIStAZeRndI). You also can find a workaround there. **Thank you Kelson!**

Q4: I found this project in which you can upload an image to your server. Is this free or do I have to change the code to my own server?

A: You can use my server for your tests, but should use your own server for permanently use. I will delete the images from time to time from my server.

Q5: I want to know how to send an image from the app to a database in my web host server. I don't understand if the image is finally going to the ftp or something else, because the page shows me "Access denied"
A: Yes, you can use this solution to send an image to your server. In the database just add the link to your uploaded image. If you follow the steps and install the php script on your web server, the image will be stored on your web server in the same directory you install the php script. If you call the php script which is used to upload the image to the server (https://puravidaapps.com/php/postfile.php) using a browser, you get the "Access denied" message. This is, because it actually does not make sense to open that page with a browser. Hope that helps!

Q6: I build this code, but when I want to test it, I get the error message "411 Length required. A request of the requested method POST requires a valid Content-length."
A: You are right, it does not work anymore on Strato. I now moved the example to **000webhost**, see also Q1 above in case you like to use that free web host, too.
Btw. meanwhile I prepared an App Inventor extension, which can provide the length of a file, for more information   see here (file.php).

Q7: I have downloaded "Post a file to your server in the internet". It works fine with your server. With my server if I choose a png or jpg file I get error 503. My server is at One.com.
A: The error normally means "Service temporarily unavailable". See your web host support help about which server settings need to be changed.   Also this page might help (https://www.drupal.org/node/300789) to adjust your settings or others, just do a Google search.

Download

Developing and maintaining snippets, tutorials and extensions for App Inventor takes a lot of time. I hope it saved some of your time. If yes, then you might consider to donate a small amount!

Donation amount: 5 USD ▾

or donate some mBTC to ₿bitcoin Address:

1Jd8kXLHu2Vkuhi15TWHiQm4uE9AGPYxi8 (bitcoin:1Jd8kXLHu2Vkuhi15TWHiQm4uE9AGPYxi8?amount=0&message=donation)

Thank you! Taifun

Download aia file for App Inventor (https://downloads.sourceforge.net/project/puravidaapps/postfile.aia)
Download php script Version 2 (https://downloads.sourceforge.net/project/puravidaapps/postfileV2.php)

Back to top of page ...

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