What is PHP?

- PHP is an acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor"
- PHP is a widely-used, open source scripting language
- PHP scripts are executed on the server
- PHP is free to download and use

PHP is an amazing and popular language!

It is powerful enough to be at the core of the biggest blogging system on the web (WordPress)!
It is deep enough to run large social networks!
It is also easy enough to be a beginner's first server side language!

What is a PHP File?

- PHP files can contain text, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP code
- PHP code is executed on the server, and the result is returned to the browser as plain HTML
- PHP files have extension "`.php`"

What Can PHP Do?

- PHP can generate dynamic page content
- PHP can create, open, read, write, delete, and close files on the server
- PHP can collect form data
- PHP can send and receive cookies
- PHP can add, delete, modify data in your database
- PHP can be used to control user-access
- PHP can encrypt data

With PHP you are not limited to output HTML. You can output images, PDF files, and even Flash movies. You can also output any text, such as XHTML and XML.

Why PHP?

- PHP runs on various platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix, Mac OS X, etc.)
- PHP is compatible with almost all servers used today (Apache, IIS, etc.)

- PHP supports a wide range of databases
- PHP is free. Download it from the official PHP resource: www.php.net
- PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side

What's new in PHP 7

- PHP 7 is much faster than the previous popular stable release (PHP 5.6)
- PHP 7 has improved Error Handling
- PHP 7 supports stricter Type Declarations for function arguments
- PHP 7 supports new operators (like the spaceship operator: `<=>`)

Basic PHP Syntax

A PHP script can be placed anywhere in the document.

A PHP script starts with `<?php` and ends with `?>`:

```
<?php
// PHP code goes here
?>
```

The default file extension for PHP files is "`.php`".

A PHP file normally contains HTML tags, and some PHP scripting code.

Below, we have an example of a simple PHP file, with a PHP script that uses a built-in PHP function "`echo`" to output the text "Hello World!" on a web page:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<h1>My first PHP page</h1>

<?php
echo "Hello World!";
?>
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

PHP Case Sensitivity

In PHP, keywords (e.g. `if`, `else`, `while`, `echo`, etc.), classes, functions, and user-defined functions are not case-sensitive.

In the example below, all three echo statements below are equal and legal:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
ECHO "Hello World!<br>";
echo "Hello World!<br>";
EcHo "Hello World!<br>";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Note: However; all variable names are case-sensitive!

Look at the example below; only the first statement will display the value of the `$color` variable! This is because `$color`, `$COLOR`, and `$coLOR` are treated as three different variables:

Example

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
$color = "red";
echo "My car is " . $color . "<br>";
echo "My house is " . $COLOR . "<br>";
echo "My boat is " . $coLOR . "<br>";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Comments in PHP

A comment in PHP code is a line that is not executed as a part of the program. Its only purpose is to be read by someone who is looking at the code.

Comments can be used to:

- Let others understand your code
- Remind yourself of what you did - Most programmers have experienced coming back to their own work a year or two later and having to re-figure out what they did. Comments can remind you of what you were thinking when you wrote the code

PHP supports several ways of commenting:

Example

Syntax for single-line comments:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// This is a single-line comment

# This is also a single-line comment
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Example

Syntax for multiple-line comments:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
/*
This is a multiple-lines comment block
that spans over multiple
lines
```

```
*/
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Example

Using comments to leave out parts of the code:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// You can also use comments to leave out parts of a code line
$x = 5 /* + 15 */ + 5;
echo $x;
?>

</body>
</html>
```

PHP Variables

Variables are "containers" for storing information.

Creating (Declaring) PHP Variables

In PHP, a variable starts with the `$` sign, followed by the name of the variable:

Example

```
<?php
$txt = "Hello world!";
$x = 5;
$y = 10.5;
?>
```

After the execution of the statements above, the variable `$txt` will hold the value `Hello world!`, the variable `$x` will hold the value `5`, and the variable `$y` will hold the value `10.5`.

Note: When you assign a text value to a variable, put quotes around the value.

Note: Unlike other programming languages, PHP has no command for declaring a variable. It is created the moment you first assign a value to it.

Think of variables as containers for storing data.

PHP Variables

A variable can have a short name (like x and y) or a more descriptive name (age, carname, total_volume).

Rules for PHP variables:

- A variable starts with the `$` sign, followed by the name of the variable
- A variable name must start with a letter or the underscore character
- A variable name cannot start with a number
- A variable name can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and _)
- Variable names are case-sensitive (`$age` and `$AGE` are two different variables)

Remember that PHP variable names are case-sensitive!

Output Variables

The PHP `echo` statement is often used to output data to the screen.

The following example will show how to output text and a variable:

Example

```
<?php
$txt = "Mccedu.co.in";
echo "I love $txt!";
?>
```

The following example will produce the same output as the example above:

Example

```php
<?php
$txt = "Mccedu.co.in";
echo "I love " . $txt . "!";
?>
```

The following example will output the sum of two variables:

Example

```php
<?php
$x = 5;
$y = 4;
echo $x + $y;
?>
```

Note: You will learn more about the `echo` statement and how to output data to the screen in the next chapter.

PHP is a Loosely Typed Language

In the example above, notice that we did not have to tell PHP which data type the variable is.

PHP automatically associates a data type to the variable, depending on its value. Since the data types are not set in a strict sense, you can do things like adding a string to an integer without causing an error.

In PHP 7, type declarations were added. This gives an option to specify the data type expected when declaring a function, and by enabling the strict requirement, it will throw a "Fatal Error" on a type mismatch.

PHP Variables Scope

In PHP, variables can be declared anywhere in the script.

The scope of a variable is the part of the script where the variable can be referenced/used.

PHP has three different variable scopes:

- local

- global
- static

Global and Local Scope

A variable declared **outside** a function has a GLOBAL SCOPE and can only be accessed outside a function:

Example

Variable with global scope:

```
<?php
$x = 5; // global scope

function myTest() {
  // using x inside this function will generate an error
  echo "<p>Variable x inside function is: $x</p>";
}
myTest();

echo "<p>Variable x outside function is: $x</p>";
?>
```

A variable declared **within** a function has a LOCAL SCOPE and can only be accessed within that function:

Example

Variable with local scope:

```
<?php
function myTest() {
  $x = 5; // local scope
  echo "<p>Variable x inside function is: $x</p>";
}
myTest();

// using x outside the function will generate an error
echo "<p>Variable x outside function is: $x</p>";
?>
```

You can have local variables with the same name in different functions, because local variables are only recognized by the function in which they are declared.

PHP The global Keyword

The `global` keyword is used to access a global variable from within a function.

To do this, use the `global` keyword before the variables (inside the function):

Example

```php
<?php
$x = 5;
$y = 10;

function myTest() {
  global $x, $y;
  $y = $x + $y;
}

myTest();
echo $y; // outputs 15
?>
```

PHP also stores all global variables in an array called `$GLOBALS[index]`.
The *index* holds the name of the variable. This array is also accessible from within functions and can be used to update global variables directly.

The example above can be rewritten like this:

Example

```php
<?php
$x = 5;
$y = 10;

function myTest() {
  $GLOBALS['y'] = $GLOBALS['x'] + $GLOBALS['y'];
}

myTest();
echo $y; // outputs 15
?>
```

PHP The static Keyword

Normally, when a function is completed/executed, all of its variables are deleted. However, sometimes we want a local variable NOT to be deleted. We need it for a further job.

To do this, use the `static` keyword when you first declare the variable:

Example

```
<?php
function myTest() {
  static $x = 0;
  echo $x;
  $x++;
}

myTest();
myTest();
myTest();
?>
```

Then, each time the function is called, that variable will still have the information it contained from the last time the function was called.

Note: The variable is still local to the function.

PHP echo and print Statements

`echo` and `print` are more or less the same. They are both used to output data to the screen.

The differences are small: `echo` has no return value while `print` has a return value of 1 so it can be used in expressions. `echo` can take multiple parameters (although such usage is rare) while `print` can take one argument. `echo` is marginally faster than `print`.

The PHP echo Statement

The `echo` statement can be used with or without parentheses: `echo` or `echo()`.

Display Text

The following example shows how to output text with the `echo` command (notice that the text can contain HTML markup):

Example

```
<?php
echo "<h2>PHP is Fun!</h2>";
echo "Hello world!<br>";
echo "I'm about to learn PHP!<br>";
echo "This ", "string ", "was ", "made ", "with multiple parameters.";
?>
```

Display Variables

The following example shows how to output text and variables with the `echo` statement:

Example

```
<?php
$txt1 = "Learn PHP";
$txt2 = "Mccedu.co.in";
$x = 5;
$y = 4;

echo "<h2>" . $txt1 . "</h2>";
echo "Study PHP at " . $txt2 . "<br>";
echo $x + $y;
?>
```

The PHP print Statement

The `print` statement can be used with or without parentheses: `print` or `print()`.

Display Text

The following example shows how to output text with the `print` command (notice that the text can contain HTML markup):

Example

```php
<?php
print "<h2>PHP is Fun!</h2>";
print "Hello world!<br>";
print "I'm about to learn PHP!";
?>
```

Display Variables

The following example shows how to output text and variables with the `print` statement:

Example

```php
<?php
$txt1 = "Learn PHP";
$txt2 = "Mccedu.co.in";
$x = 5;
$y = 4;

print "<h2>" . $txt1 . "</h2>";
print "Study PHP at " . $txt2 . "<br>";
print $x + $y;
?>
```

PHP Data Types

Variables can store data of different types, and different data types can do different things.

PHP supports the following data types:

- String
- Integer
- Float (floating point numbers - also called double)
- Boolean
- Array
- Object
- NULL
- Resource

PHP String

A string is a sequence of characters, like "Hello world!".

A string can be any text inside quotes. You can use single or double quotes:

Example

```
<?php
$x = "Hello world!";
$y = 'Hello world!';

echo $x;
echo "<br>";
echo $y;
?>
```

PHP Integer

An integer data type is a non-decimal number between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647.

Rules for integers:

- An integer must have at least one digit
- An integer must not have a decimal point
- An integer can be either positive or negative
- Integers can be specified in: decimal (base 10), hexadecimal (base 16), octal (base 8), or binary (base 2) notation

In the following example $x is an integer. The PHP var_dump() function returns the data type and value:

Example

```
<?php
$x = 5985;
var_dump($x);
?>
```

PHP Float

A float (floating point number) is a number with a decimal point or a number in exponential form.

In the following example $x is a float. The PHP var_dump() function returns the data type and value:

Example

```
<?php
$x = 10.365;
var_dump($x);
?>
```

PHP Boolean

A Boolean represents two possible states: TRUE or FALSE.

```
$x = true;
$y = false;
```

Booleans are often used in conditional testing. You will learn more about conditional testing in a later chapter of this tutorial.

PHP Array

An array stores multiple values in one single variable.

In the following example $cars is an array. The PHP var_dump() function returns the data type and value:

Example

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo","BMW","Toyota");
var_dump($cars);
?>
```

PHP String Functions

In this chapter we will look at some commonly used functions to manipulate strings.

strlen() - Return the Length of a String

The PHP `strlen()` function returns the length of a string.

Example

Return the length of the string "Hello world!":

```
<?php
echo strlen("Hello world!"); // outputs 12
?>
```

str_word_count() - Count Words in a String

The PHP `str_word_count()` function counts the number of words in a string.

Example

Count the number of word in the string "Hello world!":

```
<?php
echo str_word_count("Hello world!"); // outputs 2
?>
```

strrev() - Reverse a String

The PHP `strrev()` function reverses a string.

Example

Reverse the string "Hello world!":

```php
<?php
echo strrev("Hello world!"); // outputs !dlrow olleH
?>
```

strpos() - Search For a Text Within a String

The PHP `strpos()` function searches for a specific text within a string. If a match is found, the function returns the character position of the first match. If no match is found, it will return FALSE.

Example

Search for the text "world" in the string "Hello world!":

```php
<?php
echo strpos("Hello world!", "world"); // outputs 6
?>
```

Tip: The first character position in a string is 0 (not 1).

str_replace() - Replace Text Within a String

The PHP `str_replace()` function replaces some characters with some other characters in a string.

Example

Replace the text "world" with "Dolly":

```php
<?php
echo str_replace("world", "Dolly", "Hello world!"); // outputs Hello Dolly!
?>
```

PHP Numbers

One thing to notice about PHP is that it provides automatic data type conversion.

So, if you assign an integer value to a variable, the type of that variable will automatically be an integer. Then, if you assign a string to the same variable, the type will change to a string.

This automatic conversion can sometimes break your code.

PHP Integers

2, 256, -256, 10358, -179567 are all integers.

An integer is a number without any decimal part.

An integer data type is a non-decimal number between -2147483648 and 2147483647 in 32 bit systems, and between -9223372036854775808 and 9223372036854775807 in 64 bit systems. A value greater (or lower) than this, will be stored as float, because it exceeds the limit of an integer.

Note: Another important thing to know is that even if 4 * 2.5 is 10, the result is stored as float, because one of the operands is a float (2.5).

Here are some rules for integers:

- An integer must have at least one digit
- An integer must NOT have a decimal point
- An integer can be either positive or negative
- Integers can be specified in three formats: decimal (10-based), hexadecimal (16-based - prefixed with 0x) or octal (8-based - prefixed with 0)

PHP has the following predefined constants for integers:

- PHP_INT_MAX - The largest integer supported
- PHP_INT_MIN - The smallest integer supported
- PHP_INT_SIZE - The size of an integer in bytes

PHP has the following functions to check if the type of a variable is integer:

- is_int()
- is_integer() - alias of is_int()
- is_long() - alias of is_int()

Example

Check if the type of a variable is integer:

```php
<?php
$x = 5985;
var_dump(is_int($x));

$x = 59.85;
var_dump(is_int($x));
?>
```

PHP Floats

A float is a number with a decimal point or a number in exponential form.

2.0, 256.4, 10.358, 7.64E+5, 5.56E-5 are all floats.

The float data type can commonly store a value up to 1.7976931348623E+308 (platform dependent), and have a maximum precision of 14 digits.

PHP has the following predefined constants for floats (from PHP 7.2):

- PHP_FLOAT_MAX - The largest representable floating point number
- PHP_FLOAT_MIN - The smallest representable positive floating point number
- - PHP_FLOAT_MAX - The smallest representable negative floating point number
- PHP_FLOAT_DIG - The number of decimal digits that can be rounded into a float and back without precision loss
- PHP_FLOAT_EPSILON - The smallest representable positive number x, so that x + 1.0 != 1.0

PHP has the following functions to check if the type of a variable is float:

- is_float()
- is_double() - alias of is_float()

Example

Check if the type of a variable is float:

```php
<?php
$x = 10.365;
var_dump(is_float($x));
?>
```

PHP Infinity

A numeric value that is larger than PHP_FLOAT_MAX is considered infinite.

PHP has the following functions to check if a numeric value is finite or infinite:

- is_finite()
- is_infinite()

However, the PHP var_dump() function returns the data type and value:

Example

Check if a numeric value is finite or infinite:

```
<?php
$x = 1.9e411;
var_dump($x);
?>
```

PHP NaN

NaN stands for Not a Number.

NaN is used for impossible mathematical operations.

PHP has the following functions to check if a value is not a number:

- is_nan()

However, the PHP var_dump() function returns the data type and value:

Example

Invalid calculation will return a NaN value:

```
<?php
$x = acos(8);
var_dump($x);
?>
```

PHP Numerical Strings

The PHP is_numeric() function can be used to find whether a variable is numeric. The function returns true if the variable is a number or a numeric string, false otherwise.

Example

Check if the variable is numeric:

```
<?php
$x = 5985;
var_dump(is_numeric($x));

$x = "5985";
var_dump(is_numeric($x));

$x = "59.85" + 100;
var_dump(is_numeric($x));

$x = "Hello";
var_dump(is_numeric($x));
?>
```

Note: From PHP 7.0: The is_numeric() function will return FALSE for numeric strings in hexadecimal form (e.g. 0xf4c3b00c), as they are no longer considered as numeric strings.

PHP Casting Strings and Floats to Integers

Sometimes you need to cast a numerical value into another data type.

The (int), (integer), or intval() function are often used to convert a value to an integer.

Example

Cast float and string to integer:

```
<?php
// Cast float to int
```

```php
$x = 23465.768;
$int_cast = (int)$x;
echo $int_cast;

echo "<br>";

// Cast string to int
$x = "23465.768";
$int_cast = (int)$x;
echo $int_cast;
?>
```

PHP min() and max() Functions

The `min()` and `max()` functions can be used to find the lowest or highest value in a list of arguments:

Example

```php
<?php
echo(min(0, 150, 30, 20, -8, -200));  // returns -200
echo(max(0, 150, 30, 20, -8, -200));  // returns 150
?>
```

Exp

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>

<body>


<?php

echo(min(0, 150, 30, 20, -8, -200) . "<br>");

echo(max(0, 150, 30, 20, -8, -200));

?>


</body>

</html>
```

PHP abs() Function

The `abs()` function returns the absolute (positive) value of a number:

Example

```php
<?php
echo(abs(-6.7));  // returns 6.7
?>
```

PHP sqrt() Function

The `sqrt()` function returns the square root of a number:

Example

```php
<?php
echo(sqrt(64));  // returns 8
?>
```

PHP round() Function

The `round()` function rounds a floating-point number to its nearest integer:

Example

```php
<?php
echo(round(0.60));  // returns 1
echo(round(0.49));  // returns 0
?>
```

Random Numbers

The `rand()` function generates a random number:

Example

```
<?php
echo(rand());
?>
```

To get more control over the random number, you can add the optional *min* and *max* parameters to specify the lowest integer and the highest integer to be returned.

For example, if you want a random integer between 10 and 100 (inclusive), use `rand(10, 100)`:

Example

```
<?php
echo(rand(10, 100));
?>
```

PHP Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

PHP divides the operators in the following groups:

- Arithmetic operators
- Assignment operators
- Comparison operators
- Increment/Decrement operators
- Logical operators
- String operators
- Array operators
- Conditional assignment operators

PHP Arithmetic Operators

The PHP arithmetic operators are used with numeric values to perform common arithmetical operations, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication etc.

Operator	Name	Example	Result

+	Addition	$x + $y	Sum of $x and $y
-	Subtraction	$x - $y	Difference of $x and $y
*	Multiplication	$x * $y	Product of $x and $y
/	Division	$x / $y	Quotient of $x and $y
%	Modulus	$x % $y	Remainder of $x divided by $y
**	Exponentiation	$x ** $y	Result of raising $x to the $y'th power

PHP Assignment Operators

The PHP assignment operators are used with numeric values to write a value to a variable.

The basic assignment operator in PHP is "=". It means that the left operand gets set to the value of the assignment expression on the right.

Assignment	**Same as...**	**Description**
x = y	x = y	The left operand gets set to the value of the expression on the right

x += y	x = x + y	Addition
x -= y	x = x - y	Subtraction
x *= y	x = x * y	Multiplication
x /= y	x = x / y	Division
x %= y	x = x % y	Modulus

PHP Comparison Operators

The PHP comparison operators are used to compare two values (number or string):

Operator	Name	Example	Result
==	Equal	$x == $y	Returns true if $x is equal to $y
===	Identical	$x === $y	Returns true if $x is equal to $y, and they are of the same type
!=	Not equal	$x != $y	Returns true if $x is not equal to $y

<>	Not equal	$x <> $y	Returns true if $x is not equal to $y
!==	Not identical	$x !== $y	Returns true if $x is not equal to $y, or they are not of the same type
>	Greater than	$x > $y	Returns true if $x is greater than $y
<	Less than	$x < $y	Returns true if $x is less than $y
>=	Greater than or equal to	$x >= $y	Returns true if $x is greater than or equal to $y
<=	Less than or equal to	$x <= $y	Returns true if $x is less than or equal to $y
<=>	Spaceship	$x <=> $y	Returns an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero, depending on if $x is less than, equal to, or greater than $y. Introduced in PHP 7.

PHP Increment / Decrement Operators

The PHP increment operators are used to increment a variable's value.

The PHP decrement operators are used to decrement a variable's value.

Operator	Name	Description
++$x	Pre-increment	Increments $x by one, then returns $x
$x++	Post-increment	Returns $x, then increments $x by one
--$x	Pre-decrement	Decrements $x by one, then returns $x
$x--	Post-decrement	Returns $x, then decrements $x by one

PHP Logical Operators

The PHP logical operators are used to combine conditional statements.

Operator	Name	Example	Result
And	And	$x and $y	True if both $x and $y are true
Or	Or	$x or $y	True if either $x or $y is true

Xor	Xor	$x xor $y	True if either $x or $y is true, but not both
&&	And	$x && $y	True if both $x and $y are true
||	Or	$x || $y	True if either $x or $y is true
!	Not	!$x	True if $x is not true

PHP String Operators

PHP has two operators that are specially designed for strings.

Operator	**Name**	**Example**
.	Concatenation	$txt1 . $txt2
.=	Concatenation assignment	$txt1 .= $txt2

PHP Array Operators

The PHP array operators are used to compare arrays.

Operator	Name	Example	Result
+	Union	$x + $y	Union of $x and $y
==	Equality	$x == $y	Returns true if $x and $y have the same key/value pairs
===	Identity	$x === $y	Returns true if $x and $y have the same key/value pairs in the same order and of the same types
!=	Inequality	$x != $y	Returns true if $x is not equal to $y
<>	Inequality	$x <> $y	Returns true if $x is not equal to $y
!==	Non-identity	$x !== $y	Returns true if $x is not identical to $y

PHP Conditional Assignment Operators

The PHP conditional assignment operators are used to set a value depending on conditions:

Operator	Name	Example	Result

?:	Ternary	$x = *expr1* ? *expr2* : *expr3*	Returns the value of $x. The value of $x is *expr2* if *expr1* = TRUE. The value of $x is *expr3* if *expr1* = FALSE
??	Null coalescing	$x = *expr1* ?? *expr2*	Returns the value of $x. The value of $x is *expr1* if *expr1* exists, and is not NULL. If *expr1* does not exist, or is NULL, the value of $x is *expr2*. Introduced in PHP 7

PHP Conditional Statements

Very often when you write code, you want to perform different actions for different conditions. You can use conditional statements in your code to do this.

In PHP we have the following conditional statements:

- `if` statement - executes some code if one condition is true
- `if...else` statement - executes some code if a condition is true and another code if that condition is false
- `if...elseif...else` statement - executes different codes for more than two conditions
- `switch` statement - selects one of many blocks of code to be executed

PHP - The if Statement

The `if` statement executes some code if one condition is true.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
  code to be executed if condition is true;
}
```

Example

Output "Have a good day!" if the current time (HOUR) is less than 20:

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "20") {
  echo "Have a good day!";
}
?>
```

PHP - The if...else Statement

The `if...else` statement executes some code if a condition is true and another code if that condition is false.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
  code to be executed if condition is true;
} else {
  code to be executed if condition is false;
}
```

Example

Output "Have a good day!" if the current time is less than 20, and "Have a good night!" otherwise:

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "20") {
  echo "Have a good day!";
} else {
  echo "Have a good night!";
```

```
}
?>
```

PHP - The if...elseif...else Statement

The `if...elseif...else` statement executes different codes for more than two conditions.

Syntax

```
if (condition) {
  code to be executed if this condition is true;
} elseif (condition) {
  code to be executed if first condition is false and this condition is true;
} else {
  code to be executed if all conditions are false;
}
```

Example

Output "Have a good morning!" if the current time is less than 10, and "Have a good day!" if the current time is less than 20. Otherwise it will output "Have a good night!":

```
<?php
$t = date("H");

if ($t < "10") {
  echo "Have a good morning!";
} elseif ($t < "20") {
  echo "Have a good day!";
} else {
  echo "Have a good night!";
}
?>
```

PHP - The switch Statement

The PHP switch Statement

Use the `switch` statement to **select one of many blocks of code to be executed**.

Syntax

```
switch (n) {
  case label1:
    code to be executed if n=label1;
    break;
  case label2:
    code to be executed if n=label2;
    break;
  case label3:
    code to be executed if n=label3;
    break;
    ...
  default:
    code to be executed if n is different from all labels;
}
```

This is how it works: First we have a single expression *n* (most often a variable), that is evaluated once. The value of the expression is then compared with the values for each case in the structure. If there is a match, the block of code associated with that case is executed. Use `break` to prevent the code from running into the next case automatically.
The `default` statement is used if no match is found.

Example

```
<?php
$favcolor = "red";

switch ($favcolor) {
  case "red":
    echo "Your favorite color is red!";
    break;
  case "blue":
    echo "Your favorite color is blue!";
    break;
  case "green":
    echo "Your favorite color is green!";
    break;
  default:
    echo "Your favorite color is neither red, blue, nor green!";
}
?>
```

The PHP while Loop

The `while` loop executes a block of code as long as the specified condition is true.

Syntax

```
while (condition is true) {
  code to be executed;
}
```

Examples

The example below displays the numbers from 1 to 5:

Example

```
<?php
$x = 1;

while($x <= 5) {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x++;
}
?>
```

Example Explained

- $x = 1; - Initialize the loop counter ($x), and set the start value to 1
- $x <= 5 - Continue the loop as long as $x is less than or equal to 5
- $x++; - Increase the loop counter value by 1 for each iteration

This example counts to 100 by tens:

Example

```
<?php
$x = 0;

while($x <= 100) {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x+=10;
}
?>
```

Example Explained

- $x = 0; - Initialize the loop counter ($x), and set the start value to 0
- $x <= 100 - Continue the loop as long as $x is less than or equal to 100
- $x+=10; - Increase the loop counter value by 10 for each iteration

The PHP do...while Loop

The `do...while` loop will always execute the block of code once, it will then check the condition, and repeat the loop while the specified condition is true.

Syntax

```
do {
  code to be executed;
} while (condition is true);
```

Examples

The example below first sets a variable $x to 1 ($x = 1). Then, the do while loop will write some output, and then increment the variable $x with 1. Then the condition is checked (is $x less than, or equal to 5?), and the loop will continue to run as long as $x is less than, or equal to 5:

Example

```
<?php
$x = 1;

do {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x++;
} while ($x <= 5);
?>
```

Note: In a `do...while` loop the condition is tested AFTER executing the statements within the loop. This means that the `do...while` loop will execute its statements at least once, even if the condition is false. See example below.

This example sets the $x variable to 6, then it runs the loop, **and then the condition is checked**:

Example

```php
<?php
$x = 6;

do {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x++;
} while ($x <= 5);
?>
```

The PHP for Loop

The `for` loop is used when you know in advance how many times the script should run.

Syntax

```
for (init counter; test counter; increment counter) {
  code to be executed for each iteration;
}
```

Parameters:

- *init counter*: Initialize the loop counter value
- *test counter*: Evaluated for each loop iteration. If it evaluates to TRUE, the loop continues. If it evaluates to FALSE, the loop ends.
- *increment counter*: Increases the loop counter value

Examples

The example below displays the numbers from 0 to 10:

Example

```php
<?php
for ($x = 0; $x <= 10; $x++) {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
}
?>
```

Example Explained

- $x = 0; - Initialize the loop counter ($x), and set the start value to 0
- $x <= 10; - Continue the loop as long as $x is less than or equal to 10

- $x++ - Increase the loop counter value by 1 for each iteration

This example counts to 100 by tens:

Example

```php
<?php
for ($x = 0; $x <= 100; $x+=10) {
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
}
?>
```

Example Explained

- $x = 0; - Initialize the loop counter ($x), and set the start value to 0
- $x <= 100; - Continue the loop as long as $x is less than or equal to 100
- $x+=10 - Increase the loop counter value by 10 for each iteration

he PHP foreach Loop

The `foreach` loop works only on arrays, and is used to loop through each key/value pair in an array.

Syntax

```
foreach ($array as $value) {
  code to be executed;
}
```

For every loop iteration, the value of the current array element is assigned to $value and the array pointer is moved by one, until it reaches the last array element.

Examples

The following example will output the values of the given array ($colors):

Example

```php
<?php
$colors = array("red", "green", "blue", "yellow");

foreach ($colors as $value) {
  echo "$value <br>";
```

```
}
?>
```

The following example will output both the keys and the values of the given array ($age):

Example

```
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");

foreach($age as $x => $val) {
  echo "$x = $val<br>";
}
?>
```

PHP Break

You have already seen the `break` statement used in an earlier chapter of this tutorial. It was used to "jump out" of a `switch` statement.

The `break` statement can also be used to jump out of a loop.

This example jumps out of the loop when **x** is equal to **4**:

Example

```
<?php
for ($x = 0; $x < 10; $x++) {
  if ($x == 4) {
    break;
  }
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
}
?>
```

PHP Continue

The `continue` statement breaks one iteration (in the loop), if a specified condition occurs, and continues with the next iteration in the loop.

This example skips the value of **4**:

Example

```php
<?php
for ($x = 0; $x < 10; $x++) {
  if ($x == 4) {
    continue;
  }
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
}
?>
```

Break and Continue in While Loop

You can also use `break` and `continue` in `while` loops:

Break Example

```php
<?php
$x = 0;

while($x < 10) {
  if ($x == 4) {
    break;
  }
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x++;
}
?>
```

Continue Example

```php
<?php
$x = 0;

while($x < 10) {
  if ($x == 4) {
    $x++;
    continue;
  }
  echo "The number is: $x <br>";
  $x++;
}
?>
```

PHP Built-in Functions

PHP has over 1000 built-in functions that can be called directly, from within a script, to perform a specific task.

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PHP User Defined Functions

Besides the built-in PHP functions, it is possible to create your own functions.

- A function is a block of statements that can be used repeatedly in a program.
- A function will not execute automatically when a page loads.
- A function will be executed by a call to the function.

Create a User Defined Function in PHP

A user-defined function declaration starts with the word `function`:

Syntax

```
function functionName() {
  code to be executed;
}
```

Note: A function name must start with a letter or an underscore. Function names are NOT case-sensitive.

Tip: Give the function a name that reflects what the function does!

In the example below, we create a function named "writeMsg()". The opening curly brace ({) indicates the beginning of the function code, and the closing curly brace (}) indicates the end of the function. The function outputs "Hello world!". To call the function, just write its name followed by brackets ():

Example

```
<?php
function writeMsg() {
```

```
  echo "Hello world!";
}

writeMsg(); // call the function
?>
```

PHP Function Arguments

Information can be passed to functions through arguments. An argument is just like a variable.

Arguments are specified after the function name, inside the parentheses. You can add as many arguments as you want, just separate them with a comma.

The following example has a function with one argument ($fname). When the familyName() function is called, we also pass along a name (e.g. Jani), and the name is used inside the function, which outputs several different first names, but an equal last name:

Example

```
<?php
function familyName($fname) {
  echo "$fname Refsnes.<br>";
}

familyName("Jani");
familyName("Hege");
familyName("Stale");
familyName("Kai Jim");
familyName("Borge");
?>
```

The following example has a function with two arguments ($fname and $year):

Example

```
<?php
function familyName($fname, $year) {
  echo "$fname Refsnes. Born in $year <br>";
}

familyName("Hege", "1975");
```

```
familyName("Stale", "1978");
familyName("Kai Jim", "1983");
?>
```

PHP is a Loosely Typed Language

In the example above, notice that we did not have to tell PHP which data type the variable is.

PHP automatically associates a data type to the variable, depending on its value. Since the data types are not set in a strict sense, you can do things like adding a string to an integer without causing an error.

In PHP 7, type declarations were added. This gives us an option to specify the expected data type when declaring a function, and by adding the `strict` declaration, it will throw a "Fatal Error" if the data type mismatches.

In the following example we try to send both a number and a string to the function without using `strict`:

Example

```
<?php
function addNumbers(int $a, int $b) {
  return $a + $b;
}
echo addNumbers(5, "5 days");
// since strict is NOT enabled "5 days" is changed to int(5), and it
will return 10
?>
```

To specify `strict` we need to set `declare(strict_types=1);`. This must be on the very first line of the PHP file.

In the following example we try to send both a number and a string to the function, but here we have added the `strict` declaration:

Example

```
<?php declare(strict_types=1); // strict requirement

function addNumbers(int $a, int $b) {
  return $a + $b;
```

```
}
echo addNumbers(5, "5 days");
// since strict is enabled and "5 days" is not an integer, an error
will be thrown
?>
```

The `strict` declaration forces things to be used in the intended way.

PHP Default Argument Value

The following example shows how to use a default parameter. If we call the function setHeight() without arguments it takes the default value as argument:

Example

```
<?php declare(strict_types=1); // strict requirement
function setHeight(int $minheight = 50) {
  echo "The height is : $minheight <br>";
}

setHeight(350);
setHeight(); // will use the default value of 50
setHeight(135);
setHeight(80);
?>
```

PHP Functions - Returning values

To let a function return a value, use the `return` statement:

Example

```
<?php declare(strict_types=1); // strict requirement
function sum(int $x, int $y) {
  $z = $x + $y;
  return $z;
}

echo "5 + 10 = " . sum(5, 10) . "<br>";
echo "7 + 13 = " . sum(7, 13) . "<br>";
```

```
echo "2 + 4 = " . sum(2, 4);
?>
```

PHP Return Type Declarations

PHP 7 also supports Type Declarations for the `return` statement. Like with the type declaration for function arguments, by enabling the strict requirement, it will throw a "Fatal Error" on a type mismatch.

To declare a type for the function return, add a colon (`:`) and the type right before the opening curly (`{`)bracket when declaring the function.

In the following example we specify the return type for the function:

Example

```
<?php declare(strict_types=1); // strict requirement
function addNumbers(float $a, float $b) : float {
  return $a + $b;
}
echo addNumbers(1.2, 5.2);
?>
```

You can specify a different return type, than the argument types, but make sure the return is the correct type:

Example

```
<?php declare(strict_types=1); // strict requirement
function addNumbers(float $a, float $b) : int {
  return (int)($a + $b);
}
echo addNumbers(1.2, 5.2);
?>
```

Passing Arguments by Reference

In PHP, arguments are usually passed by value, which means that a copy of the value is used in the function and the variable that was passed into the function cannot be changed.

When a function argument is passed by reference, changes to the argument also change the variable that was passed in. To turn a function argument into a reference, the `&` operator is used:

Example

Use a pass-by-reference argument to update a variable:

```
<?php
function add_five(&$value) {
  $value += 5;
}

$num = 2;
add_five($num);
echo $num;
?>
```

PHP Arrays

An array stores multiple values in one single variable:

Example

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo "I like " . $cars[0] . ", " . $cars[1] . " and " . $cars[2] . ".";
?>
```

What is an Array?

An array is a special variable, which can hold more than one value at a time.

If you have a list of items (a list of car names, for example), storing the cars in single variables could look like this:

```
$cars1 = "Volvo";
$cars2 = "BMW";
$cars3 = "Toyota";
```

However, what if you want to loop through the cars and find a specific one? And what if you had not 3 cars, but 300?

The solution is to create an array!

An array can hold many values under a single name, and you can access the values by referring to an index number.

Create an Array in PHP

In PHP, the `array()` function is used to create an array:

```
array();
```

In PHP, there are three types of arrays:

- **Indexed arrays** - Arrays with a numeric index
- **Associative arrays** - Arrays with named keys
- **Multidimensional arrays** - Arrays containing one or more arrays

Get The Length of an Array - The count() Function

The `count()` function is used to return the length (the number of elements) of an array:

Example

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo count($cars);
?>
```

PHP Indexed Arrays

There are two ways to create indexed arrays:

The index can be assigned automatically (index always starts at 0), like this:

```
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
```

or the index can be assigned manually:

```
$cars[0] = "Volvo";
$cars[1] = "BMW";
$cars[2] = "Toyota";
```

The following example creates an indexed array named $cars, assigns three elements to it, and then prints a text containing the array values:

Example

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
echo "I like " . $cars[0] . ", " . $cars[1] . " and " . $cars[2] . ".";
?>
```

Loop Through an Indexed Array

To loop through and print all the values of an indexed array, you could use a `for` loop, like this:

Example

```
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
$arrlength = count($cars);

for($x = 0; $x < $arrlength; $x++) {
  echo $cars[$x];
  echo "<br>";
}
```

PHP Associative Arrays

Associative arrays are arrays that use named keys that you assign to them.

There are two ways to create an associative array:

```
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
```

or:

```
$age['Peter'] = "35";
$age['Ben'] = "37";
$age['Joe'] = "43";
```

The named keys can then be used in a script:

Example

```
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
echo "Peter is " . $age['Peter'] . " years old.";
?>
```

Loop Through an Associative Array

To loop through and print all the values of an associative array, you could use a `foreach` loop, like this:

Example

```
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");

foreach($age as $x => $x_value) {
  echo "Key=" . $x . ", Value=" . $x_value;
  echo "<br>";
}
?>
```

PHP - Multidimensional Arrays

A multidimensional array is an array containing one or more arrays.

PHP supports multidimensional arrays that are two, three, four, five, or more levels deep. However, arrays more than three levels deep are hard to manage for most people.

The dimension of an array indicates the number of indices you need to select an element.

- For a two-dimensional array you need two indices to select an element
- For a three-dimensional array you need three indices to select an element

PHP - Two-dimensional Arrays

A two-dimensional array is an array of arrays (a three-dimensional array is an array of arrays of arrays).

First, take a look at the following table:

Name	Stock	Sold
Volvo	22	18
BMW	15	13
Saab	5	2
Land Rover	17	15

We can store the data from the table above in a two-dimensional array, like this:

```
$cars = array (
  array("Volvo",22,18),
  array("BMW",15,13),
  array("Saab",5,2),
  array("Land Rover",17,15)
);
```

Now the two-dimensional $cars array contains four arrays, and it has two indices: row and column.

To get access to the elements of the $cars array we must point to the two indices (row and column):

Example

```
<?php
echo $cars[0][0].": In stock: ".$cars[0][1].", sold:
".$cars[0][2].".<br>";
echo $cars[1][0].": In stock: ".$cars[1][1].", sold:
```

```
".$cars[1][2].".<br>";
echo $cars[2][0].": In stock: ".$cars[2][1].", sold:
".$cars[2][2].".<br>";
echo $cars[3][0].": In stock: ".$cars[3][1].", sold:
".$cars[3][2].".<br>";
?>
```

We can also put a `for` loop inside another `for` loop to get the elements of the $cars array (we still have to point to the two indices):

Example

```
<?php
for ($row = 0; $row < 4; $row++) {
  echo "<p><b>Row number $row</b></p>";
  echo "<ul>";
  for ($col = 0; $col < 3; $col++) {
    echo "<li>".$cars[$row][$col]."</li>";
  }
  echo "</ul>";
}
?>
```

PHP - Sort Functions For Arrays

In this chapter, we will go through the following PHP array sort functions:

- `sort()` - sort arrays in ascending order
- `rsort()` - sort arrays in descending order
- `asort()` - sort associative arrays in ascending order, according to the value
- `ksort()` - sort associative arrays in ascending order, according to the key
- `arsort()` - sort associative arrays in descending order, according to the value
- `krsort()` - sort associative arrays in descending order, according to the key

Sort Array in Ascending Order - sort()

The following example sorts the elements of the $cars array in ascending alphabetical order:

Example

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
sort($cars);
?>
```

The following example sorts the elements of the $numbers array in ascending numerical order:

Example

```php
<?php
$numbers = array(4, 6, 2, 22, 11);
sort($numbers);
?>
```

Sort Array in Descending Order - rsort()

The following example sorts the elements of the $cars array in descending alphabetical order:

Example

```php
<?php
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");
rsort($cars);
?>
```

The following example sorts the elements of the $numbers array in descending numerical order:

Example

```php
<?php
$numbers = array(4, 6, 2, 22, 11);
rsort($numbers);
?>
```

Sort Array (Ascending Order), According to Value - asort()

The following example sorts an associative array in ascending order, according to the value:

Example

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
asort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Ascending Order), According to Key - ksort()

The following example sorts an associative array in ascending order, according to the key:

Example

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
ksort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Descending Order), According to Value - arsort()

The following example sorts an associative array in descending order, according to the value:

Example

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
arsort($age);
?>
```

Sort Array (Descending Order), According to Key - krsort()

The following example sorts an associative array in descending order, according to the key:

Example

```php
<?php
$age = array("Peter"=>"35", "Ben"=>"37", "Joe"=>"43");
krsort($age);
?>
```

PHP - A Simple HTML Form

The example below displays a simple HTML form with two input fields and a submit button:

Example

```php
<html>
<body>

<form action="welcome.php" method="post">
Name: <input type="text" name="name"><br>
E-mail: <input type="text" name="email"><br>
<input type="submit">
</form>

</body>
</html>
```

When the user fills out the form above and clicks the submit button, the form data is sent for processing to a PHP file named "welcome.php". The form data is sent with the HTTP POST method.

To display the submitted data you could simply echo all the variables. The "welcome.php" looks like this:

```php
<html>
<body>

Welcome <?php echo $_POST["name"]; ?><br>
Your email address is: <?php echo $_POST["email"]; ?>

</body>
</html>
```

The output could be something like this:

```
Welcome John
Your email address is john.doe@example.com
```

The same result could also be achieved using the HTTP GET method:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<form action="welcome_get.php" method="get">
Name: <input type="text" name="name"><br>
E-mail: <input type="text" name="email"><br>
<input type="submit">
</form>

</body>
</html>
```

and "welcome_get.php" looks like this:

```
<html>
<body>

Welcome <?php echo $_GET["name"]; ?><br>
Your email address is: <?php echo $_GET["email"]; ?>

</body>
</html>
```

The code above is quite simple. However, the most important thing is missing. You need to validate form data to protect your script from malicious code.

Think SECURITY when processing PHP forms!

This page does not contain any form validation, it just shows how you can send and retrieve form data.

However, the next pages will show how to process PHP forms with security in mind! Proper validation of form data is important to protect your form from hackers and spammers!

GET vs. POST

Both GET and POST create an array (e.g. array(key1 => value1, key2 => value2, key3 => value3, ...)). This array holds key/value pairs, where keys

are the names of the form controls and values are the input data from the user.

Both GET and POST are treated as $_GET and $_POST. These are superglobals, which means that they are always accessible, regardless of scope - and you can access them from any function, class or file without having to do anything special.

$_GET is an array of variables passed to the current script via the URL parameters.

$_POST is an array of variables passed to the current script via the HTTP POST method.

When to use GET?

Information sent from a form with the GET method is **visible to everyone** (all variable names and values are displayed in the URL). GET also has limits on the amount of information to send. The limitation is about 2000 characters. However, because the variables are displayed in the URL, it is possible to bookmark the page. This can be useful in some cases.

GET may be used for sending non-sensitive data.

Note: GET should NEVER be used for sending passwords or other sensitive information!

When to use POST?

Information sent from a form with the POST method is **invisible to others** (all names/values are embedded within the body of the HTTP request) and has **no limits** on the amount of information to send.

Moreover POST supports advanced functionality such as support for multi-part binary input while uploading files to server.

However, because the variables are not displayed in the URL, it is not possible to bookmark the page.

PHP Form Validation

Think SECURITY when processing PHP forms!

These pages will show how to process PHP forms with security in mind. Proper validation of form data is important to protect your form from hackers and spammers!

The HTML form we will be working at in these chapters, contains various input fields: required and optional text fields, radio buttons, and a submit button:

The validation rules for the form above are as follows:

Field	Validation Rules
Name	Required. + Must only contain letters and whitespace
E-mail	Required. + Must contain a valid email address (with @ and .)
Website	Optional. If present, it must contain a valid URL
Comment	Optional. Multi-line input field (textarea)
Gender	Required. Must select one

First we will look at the plain HTML code for the form:

Text Fields

The name, email, and website fields are text input elements, and the comment field is a textarea. The HTML code looks like this:

```
Name: <input type="text" name="name">
E-mail: <input type="text" name="email">
Website: <input type="text" name="website">
Comment: <textarea name="comment" rows="5" cols="40"></textarea>
```

Radio Buttons

The gender fields are radio buttons and the HTML code looks like this:

```
Gender:
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="female">Female
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="male">Male
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="other">Other
```

The Form Element

The HTML code of the form looks like this:

```
<form method="post" action="<?php echo htmlspecialchars($_SERVER["PHP_SELF"]);?>">
```

When the form is submitted, the form data is sent with method="post".

What is the $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] variable?

The $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] is a super global variable that returns the filename of the currently executing script.

So, the $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] sends the submitted form data to the page itself, instead of jumping to a different page. This way, the user will get error messages on the same page as the form.

What is the htmlspecialchars() function?

The htmlspecialchars() function converts special characters to HTML entities. This means that it will replace HTML characters like < and > with < and >. This prevents attackers from exploiting the code by injecting HTML or Javascript code (Cross-site Scripting attacks) in forms.

Big Note on PHP Form Security

The $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] variable can be used by hackers!

If PHP_SELF is used in your page then a user can enter a slash (/) and then some Cross Site Scripting (XSS) commands to execute.

Cross-site scripting (XSS) is a type of computer security vulnerability typically found in Web applications. XSS enables attackers to inject client-side script into Web pages viewed by other users.

Assume we have the following form in a page named "test_form.php":

```
<form method="post" action="<?php echo $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"];?>">
```

Now, if a user enters the normal URL in the address bar like "http://www.example.com/test_form.php", the above code will be translated to:

```
<form method="post" action="test_form.php">
```

So far, so good.

However, consider that a user enters the following URL in the address bar:

```
http://www.example.com/test_form.php/%22%3E%3Cscript%3Ealert('hacked')%3C/script%3E
```

In this case, the above code will be translated to:

```
<form method="post" action="test_form.php/"><script>alert('hacked')</script>
```

This code adds a script tag and an alert command. And when the page loads, the JavaScript code will be executed (the user will see an alert box). This is just a simple and harmless example how the PHP_SELF variable can be exploited.

Be aware of that **any JavaScript code can be added inside the <script> tag!** A hacker can redirect the user to a file on another server, and that file can hold malicious code that can alter the global variables or submit the form to another address to save the user data, for example.

How To Avoid $_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] Exploits?

$_SERVER["PHP_SELF"] exploits can be avoided by using the htmlspecialchars() function.

The form code should look like this:

```
<form method="post" action="<?php echo htmlspecialchars($_SERVER["PHP_SELF"]);?>">
```

The htmlspecialchars() function converts special characters to HTML entities. Now if the user tries to exploit the PHP_SELF variable, it will result in the following output:

```
<form method="post" action="test_form.php/&quot;&gt;&lt;script&gt;alert('hacked')&lt;/script&gt;">
```

The exploit attempt fails, and no harm is done!

Validate Form Data With PHP

The first thing we will do is to pass all variables through PHP's htmlspecialchars() function.

When we use the htmlspecialchars() function; then if a user tries to submit the following in a text field:

<script>location.href('http://www.hacked.com')</script>

- this would not be executed, because it would be saved as HTML escaped code, like this:

<script>location.href('http://www.hacked.com')</script>

The code is now safe to be displayed on a page or inside an e-mail.

We will also do two more things when the user submits the form:

1. Strip unnecessary characters (extra space, tab, newline) from the user input data (with the PHP trim() function)
2. Remove backslashes (\) from the user input data (with the PHP stripslashes() function)

The next step is to create a function that will do all the checking for us (which is much more convenient than writing the same code over and over again).

We will name the function test_input().

Now, we can check each $_POST variable with the test_input() function, and the script looks like this:

Example

```
<?php
// define variables and set to empty values
$name = $email = $gender = $comment = $website = "";

if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
  $name = test_input($_POST["name"]);
  $email = test_input($_POST["email"]);
  $website = test_input($_POST["website"]);
  $comment = test_input($_POST["comment"]);
  $gender = test_input($_POST["gender"]);
}

function test_input($data) {
  $data = trim($data);
  $data = stripslashes($data);
  $data = htmlspecialchars($data);
  return $data;
}
?>
```

Notice that at the start of the script, we check whether the form has been submitted using $_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"]. If the REQUEST_METHOD is POST, then the form has been submitted - and it should be validated. If it has not been submitted, skip the validation and display a blank form.

PHP - Required Fields

From the validation rules table on the previous page, we see that the "Name", "E-mail", and "Gender" fields are required. These fields cannot be empty and must be filled out in the HTML form.

Field	Validation Rules

Name	Required. + Must only contain letters and whitespace
E-mail	Required. + Must contain a valid email address (with @ and .)
Website	Optional. If present, it must contain a valid URL
Comment	Optional. Multi-line input field (textarea)
Gender	Required. Must select one

In the previous chapter, all input fields were optional.

In the following code we have added some new variables: $nameErr, $emailErr, $genderErr, and $websiteErr. These error variables will hold error messages for the required fields. We have also added an `if else` statement for each $_POST variable. This checks if the $_POST variable is empty (with the PHP `empty()` function). If it is empty, an error message is stored in the different error variables, and if it is not empty, it sends the user input data through the `test_input()` function:

```
<?php
// define variables and set to empty values
$nameErr = $emailErr = $genderErr = $websiteErr = "";
$name = $email = $gender = $comment = $website = "";

if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
  if (empty($_POST["name"])) {
    $nameErr = "Name is required";
  } else {
    $name = test_input($_POST["name"]);
  }

  if (empty($_POST["email"])) {
    $emailErr = "Email is required";
  } else {
    $email = test_input($_POST["email"]);
```

```
  }

  if (empty($_POST["website"])) {
    $website = "";
  } else {
    $website = test_input($_POST["website"]);
  }

  if (empty($_POST["comment"])) {
    $comment = "";
  } else {
    $comment = test_input($_POST["comment"]);
  }

  if (empty($_POST["gender"])) {
    $genderErr = "Gender is required";
  } else {
    $gender = test_input($_POST["gender"]);
  }
}
?>
```

PHP - Display The Error Messages

Then in the HTML form, we add a little script after each required field, which generates the correct error message if needed (that is if the user tries to submit the form without filling out the required fields):

Example

```
<form method="post" action="<?php echo htmlspecialchars($_SERVER["PHP_S
ELF"]);?>">

Name: <input type="text" name="name">
<span class="error">* <?php echo $nameErr;?></span>
<br><br>
E-mail:
<input type="text" name="email">
<span class="error">* <?php echo $emailErr;?></span>
<br><br>
Website:
<input type="text" name="website">
<span class="error"><?php echo $websiteErr;?></span>
<br><br>
```

```
Comment: <textarea name="comment" rows="5" cols="40"></textarea>
<br><br>
Gender:
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="female">Female
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="male">Male
<input type="radio" name="gender" value="other">Other
<span class="error">* <?php echo $genderErr;?></span>
<br><br>
<input type="submit" name="submit" value="Submit">

</form>
```

PHP - Validate Name

The code below shows a simple way to check if the name field only contains letters, dashes, apostrophes and whitespaces. If the value of the name field is not valid, then store an error message:

```
$name = test_input($_POST["name"]);
if (!preg_match("/^[a-zA-Z-' ]*$/",$name)) {
  $nameErr = "Only letters and white space allowed";
}
```

The preg_match() function searches a string for pattern, returning true if the pattern exists, and false otherwise.

PHP - Validate E-mail

The easiest and safest way to check whether an email address is well-formed is to use PHP's filter_var() function.

In the code below, if the e-mail address is not well-formed, then store an error message:

```
$email = test_input($_POST["email"]);
if (!filter_var($email, FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL)) {
  $emailErr = "Invalid email format";
}
```

PHP - Validate URL

The code below shows a way to check if a URL address syntax is valid (this regular expression also allows dashes in the URL). If the URL address syntax is not valid, then store an error message:

```
$website = test_input($_POST["website"]);
if (!preg_match("/\b(?:(?:https?|ftp):\/\/|www\.)[-a-z0-
9+&@#\/%?=~_|!:,.;]*[-a-z0-9+&@#\/%=~_|]/i",$website)) {
  $websiteErr = "Invalid URL";
}
```

PHP - Validate Name, E-mail, and URL

Now, the script looks like this:

Example

```
<?php
// define variables and set to empty values
$nameErr = $emailErr = $genderErr = $websiteErr = "";
$name = $email = $gender = $comment = $website = "";

if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
  if (empty($_POST["name"])) {
    $nameErr = "Name is required";
  } else {
    $name = test_input($_POST["name"]);
    // check if name only contains letters and whitespace
    if (!preg_match("/^[a-zA-Z-' ]*$/",$name)) {
      $nameErr = "Only letters and white space allowed";
    }
  }

  if (empty($_POST["email"])) {
    $emailErr = "Email is required";
  } else {
    $email = test_input($_POST["email"]);
    // check if e-mail address is well-formed
    if (!filter_var($email, FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL)) {
      $emailErr = "Invalid email format";
    }
  }
```

```
  if (empty($_POST["website"])) {
    $website = "";
  } else {
    $website = test_input($_POST["website"]);
    // check if URL address syntax is valid (this regular expression
also allows dashes in the URL)
    if (!preg_match("/\b(?:(?:https?|ftp):\/\/|www\.)[-a-z0-
9+&@#\/%?=~_|!:,.;]*[-a-z0-9+&@#\/%=~_|]/i",$website)) {
      $websiteErr = "Invalid URL";
    }
  }

  if (empty($_POST["comment"])) {
    $comment = "";
  } else {
    $comment = test_input($_POST["comment"]);
  }

  if (empty($_POST["gender"])) {
    $genderErr = "Gender is required";
  } else {
    $gender = test_input($_POST["gender"]);
  }
}
?>
```

Exp2

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html>
<head>
<style>
.error {color: #FF0000;}
</style>
</head>
<body>

<?php
// define variables and set to empty values
$nameErr = $emailErr = $genderErr = $websiteErr = "";
$name = $email = $gender = $comment = $website = "";

if ($_SERVER["REQUEST_METHOD"] == "POST") {
  if (empty($_POST["name"])) {
    $nameErr = "Name is required";
  } else {
    $name = test_input($_POST["name"]);
    // check if name only contains letters and whitespace
```

```
    if (!preg_match("/^[a-zA-Z-' ]*$/",$name)) {
      $nameErr = "Only letters and white space allowed";
    }
  }

  if (empty($_POST["email"])) {
    $emailErr = "Email is required";
  } else {
    $email = test_input($_POST["email"]);
    // check if e-mail address is well-formed
    if (!filter_var($email, FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL)) {
      $emailErr = "Invalid email format";
    }
  }

  if (empty($_POST["website"])) {
    $website = "";
  } else {
    $website = test_input($_POST["website"]);
    // check if URL address syntax is valid (this regular expression
also allows dashes in the URL)
    if (!preg_match("/\b(?:(?:https?|ftp):\/\/|www\.)[-a-z0-
9+&@#\/%?=~_|!:,.;]*[-a-z0-9+&@#\/%=~_|]/i",$website)) {
      $websiteErr = "Invalid URL";
    }
  }

  if (empty($_POST["comment"])) {
    $comment = "";
  } else {
    $comment = test_input($_POST["comment"]);
  }

  if (empty($_POST["gender"])) {
    $genderErr = "Gender is required";
  } else {
    $gender = test_input($_POST["gender"]);
  }
}

function test_input($data) {
  $data = trim($data);
  $data = stripslashes($data);
  $data = htmlspecialchars($data);
  return $data;
}
?>
```

```
<h2>PHP Form Validation Example</h2>
<p><span class="error">* required field</span></p>
<form method="post" action="<?php echo htmlspecialchars($_SERVER["PHP_S
ELF"]);?>">
  Name: <input type="text" name="name" value="<?php echo $name;?>">
  <span class="error">* <?php echo $nameErr;?></span>
  <br><br>
  E-mail: <input type="text" name="email" value="<?php echo $email;?>">
  <span class="error">* <?php echo $emailErr;?></span>
  <br><br>
  Website: <input type="text" name="website" value="<?php echo $website
;?>">
  <span class="error"><?php echo $websiteErr;?></span>
  <br><br>
  Comment: <textarea name="comment" rows="5" cols="40"><?php echo $comm
ent;?></textarea>
  <br><br>
  Gender:
  <input type="radio" name="gender" <?php if (isset($gender) &&
$gender=="female") echo "checked";?> value="female">Female
  <input type="radio" name="gender" <?php if (isset($gender) &&
$gender=="male") echo "checked";?> value="male">Male
  <input type="radio" name="gender" <?php if (isset($gender) &&
$gender=="other") echo "checked";?> value="other">Other
  <span class="error">* <?php echo $genderErr;?></span>
  <br><br>
  <input type="submit" name="submit" value="Submit">
</form>

<?php
echo "<h2>Your Input:</h2>";
echo $name;
echo "<br>";
echo $email;
echo "<br>";
echo $website;
echo "<br>";
echo $comment;
echo "<br>";
echo $gender;
?>

</body>
</html>
```

The PHP Date() Function

The PHP `date()` function formats a timestamp to a more readable date and time.

Syntax

`date(`*`format,timestamp`*`)`

Parameter	Description
format	Required. Specifies the format of the timestamp
timestamp	Optional. Specifies a timestamp. Default is the current date a

A timestamp is a sequence of characters, denoting the date and/or time at which a certain event occurred.

Get a Date

The required *format* parameter of the date() function specifies how to format the date (or time).

Here are some characters that are commonly used for dates:

- d - Represents the day of the month (01 to 31)
- m - Represents a month (01 to 12)
- Y - Represents a year (in four digits)
- l (lowercase 'L') - Represents the day of the week

Other characters, like"/", ".", or "-" can also be inserted between the characters to add additional formatting.

The example below formats today's date in three different ways:

Example

```
<?php
echo "Today is " . date("Y/m/d") . "<br>";
echo "Today is " . date("Y.m.d") . "<br>";
echo "Today is " . date("Y-m-d") . "<br>";
echo "Today is " . date("l");
?>
```

PHP Tip - Automatic Copyright Year

Use the `date()` function to automatically update the copyright year on your website:

Example

```
&copy; 2010-<?php echo date("Y");?>
```

Get a Time

Here are some characters that are commonly used for times:

- H - 24-hour format of an hour (00 to 23)
- h - 12-hour format of an hour with leading zeros (01 to 12)
- i - Minutes with leading zeros (00 to 59)
- s - Seconds with leading zeros (00 to 59)
- a - Lowercase Ante meridiem and Post meridiem (am or pm)

The example below outputs the current time in the specified format:

Example

```
<?php
echo "The time is " . date("h:i:sa");
?>
```

Note that the PHP date() function will return the current date/time of the server!

Get Your Time Zone

If the time you got back from the code is not correct, it's probably because your server is in another country or set up for a different timezone.

So, if you need the time to be correct according to a specific location, you can set the timezone you want to use.

The example below sets the timezone to "America/New_York", then outputs the current time in the specified format:

Example

```
<?php
date_default_timezone_set("America/New_York");
echo "The time is " . date("h:i:sa");
?>
```

Create a Date With mktime()

The optional *timestamp* parameter in the date() function specifies a timestamp. If omitted, the current date and time will be used (as in the examples above).

The PHP `mktime()` function returns the Unix timestamp for a date. The Unix timestamp contains the number of seconds between the Unix Epoch (January 1 1970 00:00:00 GMT) and the time specified.

Syntax

```
mktime(hour, minute, second, month, day, year)
```

The example below creates a date and time with the `date()` function from a number of parameters in the `mktime()` function:

Example

```
<?php
$d=mktime(11, 14, 54, 8, 12, 2014);
echo "Created date is " . date("Y-m-d h:i:sa", $d);
?>
```

Create a Date From a String With strtotime()

The PHP `strtotime()` function is used to convert a human readable date string into a Unix timestamp (the number of seconds since January 1 1970 00:00:00 GMT).

Syntax

```
strtotime(time, now)
```

The example below creates a date and time from the `strtotime()` function:

Example

```
<?php
$d=strtotime("10:30pm April 15 2014");
echo "Created date is " . date("Y-m-d h:i:sa", $d);
?>
```

PHP is quite clever about converting a string to a date, so you can put in various values:

Example

```
<?php
$d=strtotime("tomorrow");
echo date("Y-m-d h:i:sa", $d) . "<br>";

$d=strtotime("next Saturday");
echo date("Y-m-d h:i:sa", $d) . "<br>";

$d=strtotime("+3 Months");
echo date("Y-m-d h:i:sa", $d) . "<br>";
?>
```

However, `strtotime()` is not perfect, so remember to check the strings you put in there.

More Date Examples

The example below outputs the dates for the next six Saturdays:

Example

```
<?php
$startdate = strtotime("Saturday");
$enddate = strtotime("+6 weeks", $startdate);

while ($startdate < $enddate) {
  echo date("M d", $startdate) . "<br>";
  $startdate = strtotime("+1 week", $startdate);
}
?>
```

The example below outputs the number of days until 4th of July:

Example

```
<?php
$d1=strtotime("July 04");
$d2=ceil(($d1-time())/60/60/24);
echo "There are " . $d2 ." days until 4th of July.";
?>
```

PHP include and require Statements

It is possible to insert the content of one PHP file into another PHP file (before the server executes it), with the include or require statement.

The include and require statements are identical, except upon failure:

- `require` will produce a fatal error (E_COMPILE_ERROR) and stop the script
- `include` will only produce a warning (E_WARNING) and the script will continue

So, if you want the execution to go on and show users the output, even if the include file is missing, use the include statement. Otherwise, in case of FrameWork, CMS, or a complex PHP application coding, always use the require statement to include a key file to the flow of execution. This will help avoid compromising your application's security and integrity, just in-case one key file is accidentally missing.

Including files saves a lot of work. This means that you can create a standard header, footer, or menu file for all your web pages. Then, when the header needs to be updated, you can only update the header include file.

Syntax

```
include 'filename';

or

require 'filename';
```

Example 1

Assume we have a file called "vars.php", with some variables defined:

```
<?php
$color='red';
$car='BMW';
?>
```

Then, if we include the "vars.php" file, the variables can be used in the calling file:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>Welcome to my home page!</h1>
<?php include 'vars.php';
echo "I have a $color $car.";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

PHP include vs. require

The `require` statement is also used to include a file into the PHP code.

However, there is one big difference between include and require; when a file is included with the `include` statement and PHP cannot find it, the script will continue to execute:

Example

```
<html>
<body>
```

```
<h1>Welcome to my home page!</h1>
<?php include 'noFileExists.php';
echo "I have a $color $car.";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

If we do the same example using the `require` statement, the echo statement will not be executed because the script execution dies after the `require` statement returned a fatal error:

Example

```
<html>
<body>

<h1>Welcome to my home page!</h1>
<?php require 'noFileExists.php';
echo "I have a $color $car.";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Use `require` when the file is required by the application.

Use `include` when the file is not required and application should continue when file is not found.

PHP File Handling

File handling is an important part of any web application. You often need to open and process a file for different tasks.

PHP Manipulating Files

PHP has several functions for creating, reading, uploading, and editing files.

Be careful when manipulating files!

When you are manipulating files you must be very careful.

You can do a lot of damage if you do something wrong. Common errors are: editing the wrong file, filling a hard-drive with garbage data, and deleting the content of a file by accident.

PHP readfile() Function

The `readfile()` function reads a file and writes it to the output buffer.

Assume we have a text file called "webdictionary.txt", stored on the server, that looks like this:

```
AJAX = Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
CSS = Cascading Style Sheets
HTML = Hyper Text Markup Language
PHP = PHP Hypertext Preprocessor
SQL = Structured Query Language
SVG = Scalable Vector Graphics
XML = EXtensible Markup Language
```

The PHP code to read the file and write it to the output buffer is as follows (the `readfile()` function returns the number of bytes read on success):

Example

```php
<?php
echo readfile("webdictionary.txt");
?>
```

The `readfile()` function is useful if all you want to do is open up a file and read its contents.

PHP Open File - fopen()

A better method to open files is with the `fopen()` function. This function gives you more options than the `readfile()` function.

We will use the text file, "webdictionary.txt", during the lessons:

```
AJAX = Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
CSS = Cascading Style Sheets
HTML = Hyper Text Markup Language
PHP = PHP Hypertext Preprocessor
SQL = Structured Query Language
SVG = Scalable Vector Graphics
XML = EXtensible Markup Language
```

The first parameter of `fopen()` contains the name of the file to be opened and the second parameter specifies in which mode the file should be opened. The following example also generates a message if the fopen() function is unable to open the specified file:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("webdictionary.txt", "r") or die("Unable to open file!");
echo fread($myfile,filesize("webdictionary.txt"));
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

Tip: The `fread()` and the `fclose()` functions will be explained below.

The file may be opened in one of the following modes:

Modes	Description
R	**Open a file for read only**. File pointer starts at the beginning of the file
W	**Open a file for write only**. Erases the contents of the file or creates a new file if it doesn't exist. File pointer starts at the beginning of the file
A	**Open a file for write only**. The existing data in file is preserved. File pointer starts at the end of the file. Creates a new file if the file doesn't exist
x	**Creates a new file for write only**. Returns FALSE and an error if file already exists

r+	**Open a file for read/write**. File pointer starts at the beginning of the file
w+	**Open a file for read/write**. Erases the contents of the file or creates a new file if it doesn't exist. File pointer starts at the beginning of the file
a+	**Open a file for read/write**. The existing data in file is preserved. File pointer starts at the end of the file. Creates a new file if the file doesn't exist
x+	**Creates a new file for read/write**. Returns FALSE and an error if file already exists

PHP Read File - fread()

The `fread()` function reads from an open file.

The first parameter of `fread()` contains the name of the file to read from and the second parameter specifies the maximum number of bytes to read.

The following PHP code reads the "webdictionary.txt" file to the end:

```
fread($myfile,filesize("webdictionary.txt"));
```

PHP Close File - fclose()

The `fclose()` function is used to close an open file.

It's a good programming practice to close all files after you have finished with them. You don't want an open file running around on your server taking up resources!

The `fclose()` requires the name of the file (or a variable that holds the filename) we want to close:

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("webdictionary.txt", "r");
// some code to be executed....
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

PHP Read Single Line - fgets()

The `fgets()` function is used to read a single line from a file.

The example below outputs the first line of the "webdictionary.txt" file:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("webdictionary.txt", "r") or die("Unable to open
file!");
echo fgets($myfile);
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

Note: After a call to the `fgets()` function, the file pointer has moved to the next line.

PHP Check End-Of-File - feof()

The `feof()` function checks if the "end-of-file" (EOF) has been reached.

The `feof()` function is useful for looping through data of unknown length.

The example below reads the "webdictionary.txt" file line by line, until end-of-file is reached:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("webdictionary.txt", "r") or die("Unable to open
file!");
```

```
// Output one line until end-of-file
while(!feof($myfile)) {
  echo fgets($myfile) . "<br>";
}
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

PHP Read Single Character - fgetc()

The `fgetc()` function is used to read a single character from a file.

The example below reads the "webdictionary.txt" file character by character, until end-of-file is reached:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("webdictionary.txt", "r") or die("Unable to open
file!");
// Output one character until end-of-file
while(!feof($myfile)) {
  echo fgetc($myfile);
}
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

Note: After a call to the `fgetc()` function, the file pointer moves to the next character.

PHP Create File - fopen()

The `fopen()` function is also used to create a file. Maybe a little confusing, but in PHP, a file is created using the same function used to open files.

If you use `fopen()` on a file that does not exist, it will create it, given that the file is opened for writing (w) or appending (a).

The example below creates a new file called "testfile.txt". The file will be created in the same directory where the PHP code resides:

Example

```
$myfile = fopen("testfile.txt", "w")
```

PHP File Permissions

If you are having errors when trying to get this code to run, check that you have granted your PHP file access to write information to the hard drive.

PHP Write to File - fwrite()

The `fwrite()` function is used to write to a file.

The first parameter of `fwrite()` contains the name of the file to write to and the second parameter is the string to be written.

The example below writes a couple of names into a new file called "newfile.txt":

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("newfile.txt", "w") or die("Unable to open file!");
$txt = "Mccedu.co.in\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
$txt = "Jane Doe\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

Notice that we wrote to the file "newfile.txt" twice. Each time we wrote to the file we sent the string $txt that first contained "Mccedu.co.in" and second contained "Jane Doe". After we finished writing, we closed the file using the `fclose()` function.

If we open the "newfile.txt" file it would look like this:

```
Mccedu.co.in
Jane Doe
```

PHP Overwriting

Now that "newfile.txt" contains some data we can show what happens when we open an existing file for writing. All the existing data will be ERASED and we start with an empty file.

In the example below we open our existing file "newfile.txt", and write some new data into it:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("newfile.txt", "w") or die("Unable to open file!");
$txt = "Mickey Mouse\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
$txt = "Minnie Mouse\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

If we now open the "newfile.txt" file, both John and Jane have vanished, and only the data we just wrote is present:

```
Mickey Mouse
Minnie Mouse
```

PHP Append Text

You can append data to a file by using the "a" mode. The "a" mode appends text to the end of the file, while the "w" mode overrides (and erases) the old content of the file.

In the example below we open our existing file "newfile.txt", and append some text to it:

Example

```
<?php
$myfile = fopen("newfile.txt", "a") or die("Unable to open file!");
$txt = "Donald Duck\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
$txt = "Goofy Goof\n";
fwrite($myfile, $txt);
fclose($myfile);
?>
```

If we now open the "newfile.txt" file, we will see that Donald Duck and Goofy Goof is appended to the end of the file:

```
Mickey Mouse
Minnie Mouse
Donald Duck
Goofy Goof
```

PHP File Upload

With PHP, it is easy to upload files to the server.

However, with ease comes danger, so always be careful when allowing file uploads!

Configure The "php.ini" File

First, ensure that PHP is configured to allow file uploads.

In your "php.ini" file, search for the `file_uploads` directive, and set it to On:

```
file_uploads = On
```

Create The HTML Form

Next, create an HTML form that allow users to choose the image file they want to upload:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<form action="upload.php" method="post" enctype="multipart/form-data">
  Select image to upload:
  <input type="file" name="fileToUpload" id="fileToUpload">
  <input type="submit" value="Upload Image" name="submit">
</form>
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

Some rules to follow for the HTML form above:

- Make sure that the form uses method="post"
- The form also needs the following attribute: enctype="multipart/form-data". It specifies which content-type to use when submitting the form

Without the requirements above, the file upload will not work.

Other things to notice:

- The type="file" attribute of the <input> tag shows the input field as a file-select control, with a "Browse" button next to the input control

The form above sends data to a file called "upload.php", which we will create next.

Create The Upload File PHP Script

The "upload.php" file contains the code for uploading a file:

```php
<?php
$target_dir = "uploads/";
$target_file = $target_dir . basename($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["name"]);
$uploadOk = 1;
$imageFileType = strtolower(pathinfo($target_file,PATHINFO_EXTENSION));
// Check if image file is a actual image or fake image
if(isset($_POST["submit"])) {
  $check = getimagesize($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["tmp_name"]);
  if($check !== false) {
    echo "File is an image - " . $check["mime"] . ".";
    $uploadOk = 1;
  } else {
    echo "File is not an image.";
    $uploadOk = 0;
  }
}
?>
```

PHP script explained:

- $target_dir = "uploads/" - specifies the directory where the file is going to be placed
- $target_file specifies the path of the file to be uploaded
- $uploadOk=1 is not used yet (will be used later)
- $imageFileType holds the file extension of the file (in lower case)
- Next, check if the image file is an actual image or a fake image

Note: You will need to create a new directory called "uploads" in the directory where "upload.php" file resides. The uploaded files will be saved there.

Check if File Already Exists

Now we can add some restrictions.

First, we will check if the file already exists in the "uploads" folder. If it does, an error message is displayed, and $uploadOk is set to 0:

```
// Check if file already exists
if (file_exists($target_file)) {
  echo "Sorry, file already exists.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}
```

Limit File Size

The file input field in our HTML form above is named "fileToUpload".

Now, we want to check the size of the file. If the file is larger than 500KB, an error message is displayed, and $uploadOk is set to 0:

```
// Check file size
if ($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["size"] > 500000) {
  echo "Sorry, your file is too large.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}
```

Limit File Type

The code below only allows users to upload JPG, JPEG, PNG, and GIF files. All other file types gives an error message before setting $uploadOk to 0:

```
// Allow certain file formats
if($imageFileType != "jpg" && $imageFileType != "png" && $imageFileType
!= "jpeg"
&& $imageFileType != "gif" ) {
  echo "Sorry, only JPG, JPEG, PNG & GIF files are allowed.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}
```

Complete Upload File PHP Script

The complete "upload.php" file now looks like this:

```
<?php
$target_dir = "uploads/";
$target_file = $target_dir . basename($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["name"]);
$uploadOk = 1;
$imageFileType = strtolower(pathinfo($target_file,PATHINFO_EXTENSION));

// Check if image file is a actual image or fake image
if(isset($_POST["submit"])) {
  $check = getimagesize($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["tmp_name"]);
  if($check !== false) {
    echo "File is an image - " . $check["mime"] . ".";
    $uploadOk = 1;
  } else {
    echo "File is not an image.";
    $uploadOk = 0;
  }
}

// Check if file already exists
if (file_exists($target_file)) {
  echo "Sorry, file already exists.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}

// Check file size
if ($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["size"] > 500000) {
  echo "Sorry, your file is too large.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}
```

```php
// Allow certain file formats
if($imageFileType != "jpg" && $imageFileType != "png" && $imageFileType
!= "jpeg"
&& $imageFileType != "gif" ) {
  echo "Sorry, only JPG, JPEG, PNG & GIF files are allowed.";
  $uploadOk = 0;
}

// Check if $uploadOk is set to 0 by an error
if ($uploadOk == 0) {
  echo "Sorry, your file was not uploaded.";
// if everything is ok, try to upload file
} else {
  if (move_uploaded_file($_FILES["fileToUpload"]["tmp_name"],
$target_file)) {
    echo "The file ". htmlspecialchars(
basename( $_FILES["fileToUpload"]["name"])). " has been uploaded.";
  } else {
    echo "Sorry, there was an error uploading your file.";
  }
}
?>
```

What is a Cookie?

A cookie is often used to identify a user. A cookie is a small file that the server embeds on the user's computer. Each time the same computer requests a page with a browser, it will send the cookie too. With PHP, you can both create and retrieve cookie values.

Create Cookies With PHP

A cookie is created with the `setcookie()` function.

Syntax

`setcookie(`*`name, value, expire, path, domain, secure, httponly`*`);`

Only the *name* parameter is required. All other parameters are optional.

PHP Create/Retrieve a Cookie

The following example creates a cookie named "user" with the value "Mccedu.co.in". The cookie will expire after 30 days (86400 * 30). The "/" means that the cookie is available in entire website (otherwise, select the directory you prefer).

We then retrieve the value of the cookie "user" (using the global variable $_COOKIE). We also use the `isset()` function to find out if the cookie is set:

Example

```
<?php
$cookie_name = "user";
$cookie_value = "Mccedu.co.in";
setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (86400 * 30), "/"); //
86400 = 1 day
?>
<html>
<body>

<?php
if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name])) {
  echo "Cookie named '" . $cookie_name . "' is not set!";
} else {
  echo "Cookie '" . $cookie_name . "' is set!<br>";
  echo "Value is: " . $_COOKIE[$cookie_name];
}
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Note: The `setcookie()` function must appear BEFORE the <html> tag.

Note: The value of the cookie is automatically URLencoded when sending the cookie, and automatically decoded when received (to prevent URLencoding, use `setrawcookie()` instead).

Modify a Cookie Value

To modify a cookie, just set (again) the cookie using the `setcookie()` function:

Example

```
<?php
$cookie_name = "user";
$cookie_value = "Alex Porter";
setcookie($cookie_name, $cookie_value, time() + (86400 * 30), "/");
?>
<html>
<body>

<?php
if(!isset($_COOKIE[$cookie_name])) {
  echo "Cookie named '" . $cookie_name . "' is not set!";
} else {
  echo "Cookie '" . $cookie_name . "' is set!<br>";
  echo "Value is: " . $_COOKIE[$cookie_name];
}
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Delete a Cookie

To delete a cookie, use the `setcookie()` function with an expiration date in the past:

Example

```
<?php
// set the expiration date to one hour ago
setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600);
?>
<html>
<body>

<?php
echo "Cookie 'user' is deleted.";
```

```
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Check if Cookies are Enabled

The following example creates a small script that checks whether cookies are enabled. First, try to create a test cookie with the `setcookie()` function, then count the $_COOKIE array variable:

Example

```
<?php
setcookie("test_cookie", "test", time() + 3600, '/');
?>
<html>
<body>

<?php
if(count($_COOKIE) > 0) {
  echo "Cookies are enabled.";
} else {
  echo "Cookies are disabled.";
}
?>

</body>
</html>
```

PHP Sessions

A session is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages.

Unlike a cookie, the information is not stored on the users computer.

What is a PHP Session?

When you work with an application, you open it, do some changes, and then you close it. This is much like a Session. The computer knows who you are. It knows when you start the application and when you end. But on the internet there is one problem: the web server does not know who you are or what you do, because the HTTP address doesn't maintain state.

Session variables solve this problem by storing user information to be used across multiple pages (e.g. username, favorite color, etc). By default, session variables last until the user closes the browser.

So; Session variables hold information about one single user, and are available to all pages in one application.

Tip: If you need a permanent storage, you may want to store the data in a database.

Start a PHP Session

A session is started with the `session_start()` function.

Session variables are set with the PHP global variable: $_SESSION.

Now, let's create a new page called "demo_session1.php". In this page, we start a new PHP session and set some session variables:

Example

```php
<?php
// Start the session
session_start();
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// Set session variables
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "green";
$_SESSION["favanimal"] = "cat";
echo "Session variables are set.";
?>
```

```
</body>
</html>
```

Note: The `session_start()` function must be the very first thing in your document. Before any HTML tags.

Get PHP Session Variable Values

Next, we create another page called "demo_session2.php". From this page, we will access the session information we set on the first page ("demo_session1.php").

Notice that session variables are not passed individually to each new page, instead they are retrieved from the session we open at the beginning of each page (`session_start()`).

Also notice that all session variable values are stored in the global $_SESSION variable:

Example

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// Echo session variables that were set on previous page
echo "Favorite color is " . $_SESSION["favcolor"] . ".<br>";
echo "Favorite animal is " . $_SESSION["favanimal"] . ".";
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Another way to show all the session variable values for a user session is to run the following code:

Example

```
<?php
session_start();
```

```
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
print_r($_SESSION);
?>

</body>
</html>
```

How does it work? How does it know it's me?

Most sessions set a user-key on the user's computer that looks something like this: 765487cf34ert8dede5a562e4f3a7e12. Then, when a session is opened on another page, it scans the computer for a user-key. If there is a match, it accesses that session, if not, it starts a new session.

Modify a PHP Session Variable

To change a session variable, just overwrite it:

Example

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// to change a session variable, just overwrite it
$_SESSION["favcolor"] = "yellow";
print_r($_SESSION);
?>

</body>
</html>
```

Destroy a PHP Session

To remove all global session variables and destroy the session, use `session_unset()` and `session_destroy()`:

Example

```
<?php
session_start();
?>
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<?php
// remove all session variables
session_unset();

// destroy the session
session_destroy();
?>

</body>
</html>
```

The PHP Filter Extension

PHP filters are used to validate and sanitize external input.

The PHP filter extension has many of the functions needed for checking user input, and is designed to make data validation easier and quicker.

The `filter_list()` function can be used to list what the PHP filter extension offers:

Example

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <td>Filter Name</td>
    <td>Filter ID</td>
  </tr>
  <?php
  foreach (filter_list() as $id =>$filter) {
```

```
    echo '<tr><td>' . $filter . '</td><td>' . filter_id($filter)
. '</td></tr>';
  }
  ?>
</table>
```

Why Use Filters?

Many web applications receive external input. External input/data can be:

- User input from a form
- Cookies
- Web services data
- Server variables
- Database query results

You should always validate external data!
Invalid submitted data can lead to security problems and break your webpage!
By using PHP filters you can be sure your application gets the correct input!

PHP filter_var() Function

The `filter_var()` function both validate and sanitize data.

The `filter_var()` function filters a single variable with a specified filter. It takes two pieces of data:

- The variable you want to check
- The type of check to use

Sanitize a String

The following example uses the `filter_var()` function to remove all HTML tags from a string:

Example

```php
<?php
$str = "<h1>Hello World!</h1>";
$newstr = filter_var($str, FILTER_SANITIZE_STRING);
echo $newstr;
?>
```

Validate an Integer

The following example uses the `filter_var()` function to check if the variable $int is an integer. If $int is an integer, the output of the code below will be: "Integer is valid". If $int is not an integer, the output will be: "Integer is not valid":

Example

```php
<?php
$int = 100;

if (!filter_var($int, FILTER_VALIDATE_INT) === false) {
  echo("Integer is valid");
} else {
  echo("Integer is not valid");
}
?>
```

Tip: filter_var() and Problem With 0

In the example above, if $int was set to 0, the function above will return "Integer is not valid". To solve this problem, use the code below:

Example

```php
<?php
$int = 0;

if (filter_var($int, FILTER_VALIDATE_INT) === 0 || !filter_var($int,
FILTER_VALIDATE_INT) === false) {
  echo("Integer is valid");
} else {
  echo("Integer is not valid");
}
?>
```

Validate an IP Address

The following example uses the `filter_var()` function to check if the variable $ip is a valid IP address:

Example

```php
<?php
$ip = "127.0.0.1";

if (!filter_var($ip, FILTER_VALIDATE_IP) === false) {
  echo("$ip is a valid IP address");
} else {
  echo("$ip is not a valid IP address");
}
?>
```

Sanitize and Validate an Email Address

The following example uses the `filter_var()` function to first remove all illegal characters from the $email variable, then check if it is a valid email address:

Example

```php
<?php
$email = "john.doe@example.com";

// Remove all illegal characters from email
$email = filter_var($email, FILTER_SANITIZE_EMAIL);

// Validate e-mail
if (!filter_var($email, FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL) === false) {
  echo("$email is a valid email address");
} else {
  echo("$email is not a valid email address");
}
?>
```

Sanitize and Validate a URL

The following example uses the `filter_var()` function to first remove all illegal characters from a URL, then check if $url is a valid URL:

Example

```php
<?php
$url = "https://www.w3schools.com";

// Remove all illegal characters from a url
$url = filter_var($url, FILTER_SANITIZE_URL);

// Validate url
if (!filter_var($url, FILTER_VALIDATE_URL) === false) {
  echo("$url is a valid URL");
} else {
  echo("$url is not a valid URL");
}
?>
```