

# PHP version history

Version	Release date	Supported until	Notes
1.0	8 June 1995		Officially called "Personal Home Page Tools (PHP Tools)". This is the first use of the name "PHP".
2.0	1 November 1997		Officially called "PHP/FI 2.0". This is the first release that could actually be characterised as PHP, being a standalone language with many features that have endured to the present day.
3.0	6 June 1998	20 October 2000	Development moves from one person to multiple developers. Zeev Suraski and Andi Gutmans rewrite the base for this version.
4.0	22 May 2000	23 June 2001	Added more advanced two-stage parse/execute tag-parsing system called the Zend engine.
4.1	10 December 2001	12 March 2002	Introduced "superglobals" ( <code>\$_GET</code> , <code>\$_POST</code> , <code>\$_SESSION</code> , etc.)
4.2	22 April 2002	6 September 2002	Disabled <code>register_globals</code> by default. Data received over the network is not inserted directly into the <u>global</u> namespace anymore, closing possible security holes in applications.
4.3	27 December 2002	31 March 2005	Introduced the <u>command-line interface</u> (CLI), to supplement the CGI
4.4	11 July 2005	7 August 2008	Fixed a memory corruption bug, which required breaking binary compatibility with extensions compiled against PHP version 4.3.x.
5.0	13 July 2004	5 September 2005	Zend Engine II with a new object model.
5.1	24 November 2005	24 August 2006	Performance improvements with introduction of compiler variables in re-engineered PHP Engine. <sup>[73]</sup> Added PHP Data Objects (PDO) as a consistent interface for accessing databases.
5.2	2 November 2006	6 January 2011	Enabled the filter extension by default. Native <u>JSON</u> support.
5.3	30 June 2009	14 August 2014	<u>Namespace</u> support; <u>late static bindings</u> , jump label (limited <u>goto</u> ), <u>anonymous functions</u> , <u>closures</u> , PHP archives (phar), <u>garbage collection</u> for circular references, improved <u>Windows</u> support, sqlite3, mysqlnd as a replacement for libmysql as underlying library for the extensions that work with <u>MySQL</u> , fileinfo as a replacement for mime_magic for better <u>MIME</u> support, the Internationalization extension, and deprecation of ereg extension.
5.4	1 March 2012	3 September 2015	<u>Trait</u> support, short array syntax support. Removed items: <code>register_globals</code> , <code>safe_mode</code> , <code>allow_call_time_pass_reference</code> , <code>session_register()</code> , <code>session_unregister()</code> and <code>session_is_registered()</code> . Built-in web server. <sup>[75]</sup> Several improvements to existing features, performance and reduced memory requirements.
5.5	20 June 2013	10 July 2016	Support for <u>generators</u> , <code>finally</code> blocks for exceptions handling, OpCache (based on Zend Optimizer+) bundled in official distribution.
5.6	28 August 2014	31 December 201	Constant scalar expressions, <u>variadic functions</u> , argument unpacking, new exponentiation operator, extensions of the <code>use</code> statement for functions and constants, new <code>phpdbg</code> debugger as a SAPI module, and other smaller improvements.
6.x	Not released	N/A	Abandoned version of PHP that planned to include native Unicode support.
7.0	3 December 2015	3 December 2018	Zend Engine 3 (performance improvements and 64-bit integer support on Windows), uniform variable syntax <u>AST</u> -based compilation process, added <code>Closure::call()</code> , <sup>[84]</sup> bitwise shift consistency across platforms, <code>??</code> ( <u>null coalesce</u> ) operator, <u>Unicode</u> code point <u>escape syntax</u> , <sup>[87]</sup> return type declarations, scalar type (integer, float, string and boolean) declarations, <code>&lt;=&gt;</code> "spaceship" <u>three-way comparison</u> operator, <u>generator</u> delegation, <u>anonymous classes</u> , simpler and more consistently available <u>CSPRNG</u> API, replacement of many remaining internal PHP "errors" with the more modern <u>exceptions</u> , and shorthand syntax for importing multiple items from a namespace.
7.1	1 December 2016	1 December 2019	<u>void return type</u> , class constant <u>visibility modifiers</u>
7.2	30 November 2017	30 November 2020	Object parameter and return type declaration, Libsodium extension, Abstract method overriding, Parameter type widening