**HypertextPreprocessor**

**PHP** is a [general-purpose](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General-purpose_programming_language) [server-side scripting](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Server-side_scripting) language originally designed for [Web development](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_development) to produce [dynamic Web pages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamic_Web_page). It is one of the first developed server-side scripting languages to be embedded into an [HTML](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTML) source document rather than calling an external file to process data. The code is [interpreted](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpreter_%28computing%29) by a Web server with a PHP processor module which generates the resulting Web page. It also has evolved to include a [command-line interface](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Command-line_interface) capability and can be used in [standalone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_software) [graphical applications](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graphical_user_interface).[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-1) PHP can be deployed on most Web servers and also as a standalone [shell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shell_%28computing%29) on almost every [operating system](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operating_system) and [platform](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computing_platform) free of charge.[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-foundations-2) A competitor to [Microsoft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft)'s [Active Server Pages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_Server_Pages) (ASP) server-side script engine[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-3) and similar languages, PHP is installed on more than 20 million Web sites and 1 million [Web servers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_server).[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-4) Software that uses PHP includes [MediaWiki](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MediaWiki), [Joomla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joomla), [Wordpress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wordpress), [Concrete5](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concrete5), [MyBB](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MyBB), and [Drupal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drupal).

PHP was originally created by [Rasmus Lerdorf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rasmus_Lerdorf) in 1995. The main implementation of PHP is now produced by [The PHP Group](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_PHP_Group) and serves as the formal reference to the PHP language.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-about_PHP-5) PHP is [free software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_software) released under the [PHP License](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP_License), which is incompatible with the [GNU General Public License](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GNU_General_Public_License) (GPL) due to restrictions on the usage of the term *PHP*.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP#cite_note-6)