

Lecture Notes for Week 01 Jan 19th

Introduction to PHP -Notes from #Introduction of *PHP for the Web*-

- PHP - Hypertext Preprocessor
- An HTML embedded scripting language - PHP can be interspersed within HTML
- PHP is a scripting language, as opposed to a compiled language. This means that PHP is designed to do something only after an event occurs—for example, when a user submits a form or goes to a URL.
- PHP is a server-side, cross-platform technology. Server-side refers to the fact that everything PHP does occurs on the server (as opposed to on the client, which is the Web site viewer's computer). Its cross-platform nature means that PHP runs on most operating systems, including Windows, Unix, and Macintosh.
- When a visitor goes to a Web site written in PHP, the server reads the PHP code and then processes it according to its scripted directions. This differs from a static HTML site where, when a request is made, the server merely sends the HTML data to the Web browser and there is no server-side interpretation occurring.
- MySQL is the most popular open source database versus expensive corporate competitors such as Oracle and Microsoft SQL server.

Getting Started -Notes from #Chapter 1 of *PHP for the Web*-

What you will need to get started to use PHP on the web

1. FTP connect software (Dreamweaver, Cyberduck, Fetch(Mac), SmartFTP(Windows), etc
2. Editor (Dreamweaver, coda, text wrangler, and etc.)
3. Server (For now, you will be using the server space provided by the class. However, if you would like to own your server space, you would have to buy through companies such as dreamhost, bluehost, or etc)

PHP Syntax

General

Opening and Closing	<code><?php ?></code>
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Sending HTML to the browser

Print or Echo	<code>print " "; echo " ";</code>
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Print or Echo	<code><?php print "message you want to send to HTML goes here
" ;?></code>
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Escape Quotation Marks by \	<code>print "link";</code>
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Comments

HTML Comment Begins	<code><!--</code>
HTML Comment Ends	<code>--></code>

PHP Line Comment	<code>//</code>
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PHP Line Comment	<code>#</code>
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PHP Block Comment Begins	<code>/*</code>
PHP Block Comment Ends	<code>*/</code>

Variables -Notes from #Chapter 2 of *PHP for the Web*-

- A variable is a container for data.
Once data has been stored in a variable (or, stated more accurately, once a variable has been assigned a value), that data can be altered, printed to the Web browser, saved to a database, emailed, and so forth.
- All variable names must be preceded by a dollar sign (\$).
Following the dollar sign, the variable name must begin with either a letter (A–Z, a–z) or an underscore (_). It can't begin with a number.

Strings

String is a variable of a collection of characters enclosed within either single or double quotation marks. String is defined via starting with \$ and adding the string name

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$stringname = 'content ';  
or $stringname = "content ";
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Forms -Notes from #Chapter 3 of *PHP for the Web*-

HTML FORMS : HTML forms are used to pass data to a server

Forms are used when entering a search term into Google, registering for a web service or responding to an e-mail message. HTML forms can contain text fields, select lists (drop down), checkboxes, radio buttons, labels and submit buttons.

- from Prof John Kuiphoff's Social Syllabus-

FORMS METHODS : GET and POST

Get and post are different in how the information is passed from the form to the processing script

GET

GET method sends all the gathered information along as part of the URL.

Ex) http://www.example.com/page.php?some_var=some_value&age=20&...

- Something you could see in search
- With the GET method, a limited amount of information can be passed.
- The GET method sends the data to the handling script publicly

POST

POST method transmits the information invisibly to the user.

EX) <http://www.example.com/page.php>

- Something you could see in email forms or log-in forms.
- POST is more a secure way than GET

For more information on forms, refer to

<http://socialsyllabus.com/materials.php?material=302>