CIS 4004: Web-Based Information Technology Spring 2011

Introduction to PHP – Part 1

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- PHP was created by Rasmus Lerdorf in 1994, He first used it to build extensions into HTML documents to enhance his personal home page.
- In fact, PHP was originally called Personal Home Page. As Lerdorf freely distributed the program source, PHP gained popularity and became an Apache Software Foundation project. Eventually, PHP's name was changed to PHP Hypertext Preprocessor.
- In late 2010 there were slightly more than 1 trillion websites registered globally. PHP estimates that more than 230 million websites are PHP enabled to some extent.



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- PHP scripts can be created with any text editor, although Notepad++ is quite convenient for PHP scripting. I'll primarily use it in the examples. NetBeans also provides a fairly decent environment for PHP development including a debugger.
- PHP script files should be saved with a .php extension.
- When PHP is embedded inside XHTML documents, as it commonly is, several different delimiters can be used. These are illustrated on the next page.



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- As with any programming language, good practice in writing scripts would require comments to be included within the script.
- In-line comments in PHP are indicated with two forward slashes (//).
- Comments can appear any where in the script file and can appear in any position on any line.
- Multiple line comments are delimited with /* and */
- Most PHP implementations also allow # to delimit in-line comments.



Variables In PHP

- You can select just about any set of characters for a variable name in PHP, but they must:
 - Use a dollar sign (\$) as the first character.
 - Use a letter or an underscore character (_) as the second character.
- As with any programming/scripting language, good practice would suggest selecting variable names that help describe their function. For example <code>\$counter</code> is more descriptive than <code>\$c</code> or <code>\$ctr</code>.
- You can use the echo statement or the print() function to output data in PHP. Which you use is more a matter of personal taste or style than anything else.



Variables In PHP

- To print out the value of a variable \$x, write the following PHP statement: print ("\$x");
- The following code will output "Candice is 26 years old".
 \$age=26;

```
print ("Candice is $age years old.");
```

• The next page illustrates a full example using PHP variables.

Note: Constants are defined in PHP using the built-in define () function. As its name would imply a constant's value cannot be changed once it is set.



Variables In PHP

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Data Types In PHP

- PHP is a dynamically typed language. This basically means that variables are not assigned a type when the variable is declared. Variable type is determined through assignment.
- The standard data types in PHP are shown in the table below:

Data Type	Example	Description
Boolean	true	Either true or false
Integer	5	A whole number
Float or Double	3.14159	A floating-point number
String	"Hello"	A collection of characters
Object		An instance of a class
Array		An ordered set of keys and values
Resource		Reference to a 3 rd party resource (e.g. a database)
NULL		An uninitialized variable



Data Types In PHP

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Data Types In PHP

- Technically speaking, there are two types of strings in PHP: parsed and unparsed.
- Parsed strings are defined using double quotes and are parsed by PHP.
- Unparsed strings are defined using single quotes and are taken as is (they are not parsed).
- What's the difference? Within a parsed string, any references to variables within that string will be automatically replaced with their respective values, whereas within an unparsed string nothing is replaced.
- The example on the next page will clarify the differences.



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14 /* The next echo statement includes a reference	e to \$myInt in an unparsed string '	*/
15 echo 'The integer variable \$myInt = '. \$myInt.	" ";	
16 /* The next echo statement prints an unparsed a	string with no variable references	*/
17 echo \$myString1. " ";		
18 /* The next echo statement prints an unparsed a	string with a variable reference *	/
19 echo \$myString2. " ";		
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Arithmetic Operations In PHP

• PHP supports all normal arithmetic operators, with the normal semantic associated with each operator.

Operator	Effect	Example	Result
+	Addition	x = 2 + 2;	$x \times x$ is assigned 4.
-	Subtraction	\$y = 3; \$y = \$y - 1;	s_y is assigned 2.
/	Division	\$y = 14 / 2;	\$y is assigned 7.
*	Multiplication	\$z = 4; \$y = \$z * 4;	\$y is assigned 16.
olo	Remainder	\$y = 14 % 3;	s_y is assigned 2.

- PHP supports automatic increment and decrement operations in both prefix and postfix form, i.e., -and ++.
- Using an unassigned variable in an expression does not generate an error, the value is simply assumed to be null.

<?php \$y = 3; \$y = \$y + \$x + 1; print("x=\$x y=\$y"); ?>

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```
The output is: x=y=4
```

•



- PHP supports character string variables and this is a widely used aspect of PHP in handling form data.
- Be careful in PHP not to mix numeric and string types together in an expression.
- For example, you might expect the following statements to generate an error message, but they will not. Instead, they will output "y=1''.

```
<?php
   $x = "banana";
   $sum = 1 + $x'
   print("y=$sum");
?>
```

• The string concatenation operator in PHP is the period as shown below:

<?php
 \$firstname = "Megan";
 \$lastname = "Fox"
 \$fullname = \$firstname . \$lastname;
 print("Full name = \$fullname");
?>

The output of this script would be: Fullname=MeganFox

You can also use double quotation marks to create concatenation directly. Using the above example you could do the following: \$fullname2 = "\$firstname \$lastname"; This would have the same effect as: \$fullname2 = \$firstname . \$lastname;



- PHP supports a large variety of string handling functions. A few of the more commonly used ones are illustrated on the next few pages.
- Most string functions require you to send them one or more arguments.
- Arguments are input values that functions use in the processing they do.
- Often functions return a value to the script based on the input arguments. For example:



strlen() function:

• This function returns the number of characters in the string argument to the function. Consider the following script:

```
<?php
$comments = "Good Job";
$len = strlen($comments);
print ("Length=$len");
?>
```

This PHP script would output "Length=8".



trim() function:

• This function removes any blank characters from the beginning and end of a string. For example, consider the following script:

```
<?php
$in_name = " Megan Fox ";
$name = trim($in_name);
print ("name=$name$name");
?>
```

This PHP script would output "name=Megan FoxMegan Fox".



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strtolower() and strtoupper functions:

• These functions return the argument string in all uppercase or all lowercase letters, respectively. For example, consider the following script:

```
<?php
```

```
$inquote = "Now Is The Time";
$lower = strtolower($inquote);
$upper = strtoupper($inquote);
print("upper=$upper lower=$lower");
?>
```

This PHP script would output "upper=NOW IS THE TIME lower = now is the time"



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substr() function:

• This function enables a PHP script to extract a portion of the characters in a string variable. The general syntax is:





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substr() function:

- The substr() function enumerates character positions starting with 0 (not 1),
 - For example, in the string "Homer", the "H" would be position 0, the "o" would be position 1, the "m" position 2, and so on.
- For example, the following would output "Month=12 Day=25".

```
<?php
$date = "12/25/2002";
$month = substr($date, 0, 2);
$day = substr($date, 3, 2);
print ("Month=$month Day=$day");
?>
```



substr() function:

• This example does not include the third argument (and thus returns a substring from the starting position to the end of the search string).

```
<?php
$date = "12/25/2010";
$year = substr($date, 6);
print ("Year=$year");
?>
```

• The above script segment would output "Year=2010".



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- PHP contains the normal control statements that handle decision making and iteration within a script.
- Normal logical operators are all supported with their standard semantic.
- As with many modern programming and scripting languages remember to use == in a logical comparison operation and not =. The single equal sign is an assignment operator and as such is always true. No syntax error is generated.
- The table on the following page illustrates the common logical operators in PHP.

Note: PHP also contains a === logical comparison operator (called the identical operatior). This binary operator returns true iff its two operands are equal in value and also have the same type.

Test Operator	Effect	Example	Result
==	Equal to	<pre>if (\$x == 6) { \$x = \$y + 1; \$y = \$x + 1; }</pre>	Run the second and third statements if the value of x <i>is equal to</i> 6.
!=	Not equal to	if (\$x != \$y) { \$x = 5 + 1; }	Run the second statement if the value of x <i>is not equal to</i> the value of y .
<	Less than	if (\$x < 100) { \$y = 5; }	Run the second statement if the value of $\$ x$ <i>is less than</i> 100.
>	Greater than	if (\$x > 51) { print "OK"; }	Run the second statement if the value of x is greater than 51.
>=	Greater than or equal to	<pre>if (16 >= \$x) { print "x=\$x"; }</pre>	Run the second statement if 16 <i>is greater than or equal to</i> the value of \$x.
<=	Less than or equal to	<pre>if (\$x <= \$y) { print "y=\$y"; print "x=\$x"; }</pre>	Run the second and third statements if the value of x is less than or equal to the value of y .



- PHP includes several different forms of logical control statements (decision statements).
- The if statement has the form:

```
if (expression) {
    //code to execute if expression evaluates to true
}
```

• The if-else statement has the form:

```
if (expression) {
    //code to execute if expression evaluates to true
} else {
    //code to execute when expression evaluates to false
}
```

• There is also an elseif clause that can be used with if statements for a nested stack of if statements. The basic syntax for this clause is:

```
if (expression) {
    //code to execute if expression evaluates to true
} elseif (another expression) {
    //code to execute when expression evaluates to false
    //and another expression evaluates to true
} else {
    //code to execute if all expressions evaluate to false
}
```



• PHP includes a switch statement which allows for multiple options for a single evaluation of an expression. The basic syntax for the switch statement is:



- The following example uses an input form (XHTML) and two values are extracted from the form (grade1 and grade2), passed to a PHP script which determines the average score, the maximum score and assigns a grade to the average for the student's scores.
- We'll get much more into forms and form handling in PHP later, but this simple example will illustrate several of the common threads that appear in form handling in PHP (and server side scripting in general).



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Executing decisions.html User enters two scores, clicks submit button.





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- PHP supports three types of iterative constructs:
 - the while loop (both top and bottom tested versions are supported)
 - the for loop
 - and the foreach loop.
- The for and while loops act as you would expect given your knowledge of other programming languages. The foreach loop applies specifically to arrays in PHP. We'll look at the foreach loop later.
- The next couple of pages show the basic syntax for each of the iterative constructs in PHP.



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• The syntax for the top tested version of the while loop is:

```
while (expression) {
    //statements to execute
}
```

• The syntax for the bottom tested version of the while loop is:

```
do {
```

```
//statements to execute
```

```
} while (expression);
```



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• The basic syntax for the for statement is:

• The next couple of pages illustrates some of the nuances of dealing with counted loops in PHP.









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Nested Loop Example -Output

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• The example on the next couple of pages illustrates a while loop. Again, I've used a form to extract user input. This time the user input sets the lower and upper limit on the loop.



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📒 dec	isions.html	늘 decisionsWithGlobals.php 📄 whileloop.php 📄 whileloop.html		
2	L	http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">	whileloop html	
3		l xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">		
4		d>		
5		<title>While Loop Demo</title>		
6		<meta content="text/html' cha</td><td>arset=iso-8859-1" http-equi="content-type"/>		
7	- <td>ad></td> <td></td> <td></td>	ad>		
8	<bod< td=""><td>y style = "font-family: arial, sans-serif;</td><td></td><td></td></bod<>	y style = "font-family: arial, sans-serif;		
9	白	<pre>background-color: #856363" background=image1.jpg></pre>		
10	白	<form action="whileloop.php" method="post"></form>		
11		Select Starting Number		
12	白	<pre><select name="start"><option>0</option> <option>1</option></select></pre>	<option>2</option>	
13		<pre><option>3</option> <option>4</option> <option)< pre=""></option)<></pre>	>5 <option>6</option>	
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20	-	 		
21		<input type="submit" value="Submit"/>		
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24	- <td>dy></td> <td></td> <td>-</td>	dy>		-
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CIS 4004: PHP – Part 1

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3	9	27		and invokes the
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- Now that we've seen most of the control structures in PHP, we need to see how these control structures can be used more effectively to produce XHTML elements (or any other output).
- PHP is an embedded language that enables you to code both your XHTML and the supporting script in the same document.
- PHP takes this concept a bit further by allowing you to "turn off" the PHP parser during a control structure and embed non-PHP output without losing the logic provided by the control structure.
- The following example, illustrates this concept by displaying an image in your XHTML document only when a variable is set to true.



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1 [- <html></html>					
2	- <pre>chead></pre>				
3	<title>Embedding Control Stuctures</title>				
4	-				
5	<pre><body background="image1.jpg" style="font-family: arial, sans-serif;</pre></td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td colspan=4><pre>background-color: #856363"></body></pre>				
7	<h3> Embedding Control Structures - Version 1</h3>				
8	e php</td				
9	<pre>\$displayKart = true;</pre>				
10	<pre>\$displayBike = false;</pre>				
11	if (\$displayKart) {				
12	<pre>echo "";</pre>				
13	- }				
14	if (\$displayBike) {				
15	<pre>echo "";</pre>				
16	- }				
17	- ?>				
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CIS 4004: PHP – Part 1

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- Although the previous solution works and for novice PHP programmers it seems to be the most obvious technique, PHP provides an alternate syntax that is actually allows the embedding of the control structure into the markup.
- This alternative syntax is:

```
<?php . . .
if (conditional): ?>
    - text/whatever that should be output but not parsed
<?php endif;
?>
```

• This is shown in the next version of this example on the following page.





