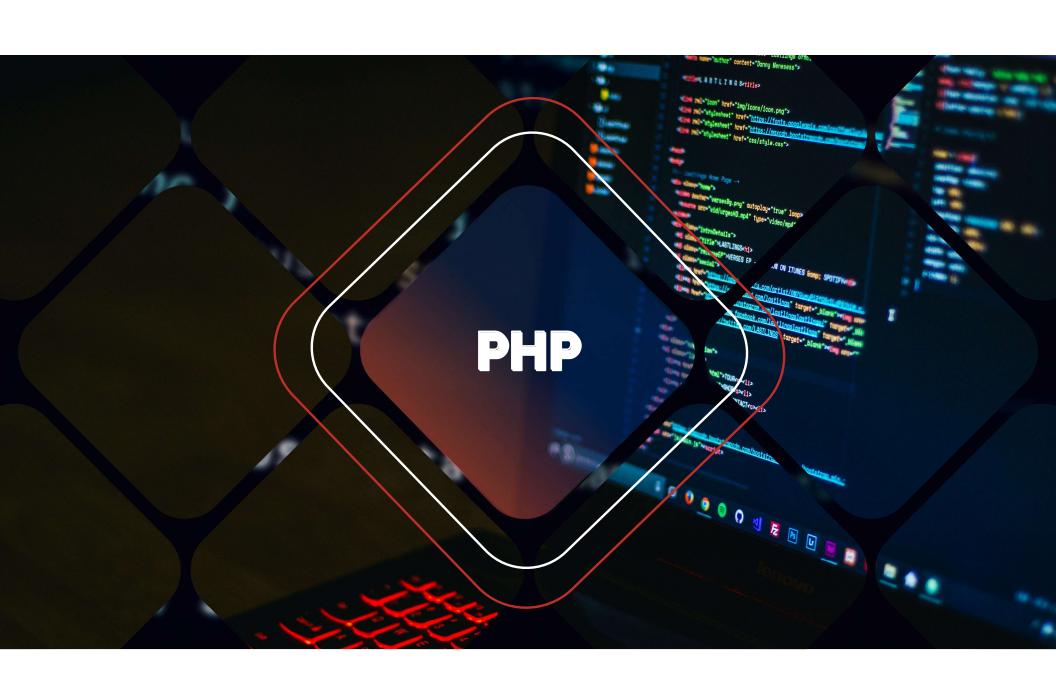


Chapter 4

Introduction to PHP







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PHP is a recursive acronym for "PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor" -- It is a widely-used open source general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

- PHP is a server-side scripting language
- PHP scripts are executed on the server
- PHP supports many databases (MySQL, Informix, Oracle, Sybase, Solid, PostgreSQL, Generic ODBC, etc.)
- PHP is open source software
- PHP is free to download and use





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
- PHP can add, delete, modify data in your database
- PHP can be used to control user-access
- PHP can encrypt data



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





Basic PHP Syntax

A PHP script can be placed anywhere in the document.

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

I love PHP!

- <html>
- <body>
- <?php
- \$txt = "PHP";
- echo "I love "\$txt!
- ?>
- </body>
- </html>

Echo acts as a statement that is used to show the output

```
### April | Ap
```

```
<html>
<body>
<?php
$a = "red";
$b= "black";
$c= "blue";
echo "My car is " . $a . "<br>";
echo "My house is " . $c . "<br>";
echo "My boat is " . $b . "<br>";
?>
</body>
</html>
            My car is red
            My house is blue
            My boat is black
```





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
- Leave out some parts of your code







disanguadient x1-1902 y1-15 y2 y2 y2 (stop stop-color-medial): offset w15 (stop stop-color-medial): offset w15 (y1memGradient)

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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)







Variable Types

PHP supports the following data types:

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

To get the data type of a variable, use the var_dump()

