

# PHP

Web Development Language

## Introduction

- Back in 1994, Rasmus Lerdorf unleashed the very first version of PHP. However, now the reference implementation is now produced by The PHP Group. The term PHP originally stood for Personal Home Page but now it stands for the recursive acronym: Hypertext Preprocessor. PHP 4 and PHP 5 are distributed under the PHP Licence v3.01, which is an Open Source licence certified by the Open Source Initiative.

## Where is PHP used?

Three are the main areas where PHP scripts are used:

- **Server-side scripting** - This is the most used and main target for PHP. You need three things to make this work the way you need it. The PHP parser (CGI or server module), a web server and a web browser. You need to run the web server where. You can access the PHP program output with a web browser, viewing the PHP page through the server. All these can run on your home machine if you are just experimenting with PHP programming.
- **Command line scripting** - You can make a PHP script to run it without any server or browser. You only need the PHP parser to use it this way. This type of usage is ideal for scripts regularly executed using cron (on Linux) or Task Scheduler (on Windows). These scripts can also be used for simple text processing tasks.
- Writing desktop applications - PHP may not be the very best language to create a desktop application with a graphical user interface, but if you know PHP very well, and would like to use some advanced PHP features in your client-side applications you can also use PHP

GTK to write such programs. You also have the ability to write cross-platform

applications this way

# Why PHP?

There stand convincing arguments for all those who wonder why PHP is so popular today:

- **Compatible with almost all servers used nowadays** - A web server is an information technology that processes requests via HTTP, the basic network protocol used to distribute information on the World Wide Web. There exist many types of web servers that servers use. Some of the most important and well-known are: Apache HTTP Server, IIS (Internet Information Services), lighttpd, Sun Java System Web Server etc. As a matter of fact, PHP is compatible with all these web servers and many more.

# Why PHP?

- **PHP will run on most platforms** - Unlike some technologies that require a specific operating system or are built specifically for that, PHP is engineered to run on various platforms like Windows, Mac OSX, Linux, Unix etc)
- **PHP supports such a wide range of databases** - An important reason why PHP is so used today is also related to the various databases it supports (is compatible with). Some of these databases are: DB++, dBase, Ingres, Mongo, MaxDB, MongoDB, mSQL, Mssql, MySQL, OCI8, PostgreSQL, SQLite, SQLite3 and so on.

## Why PHP?

- **PHP is free to download and open source** - Anyone can start using PHP right now by downloading it from [php.net](http://php.net). Millions of people are

using PHP to create dynamic content and database-related applications that make for outstanding web systems. PHP is also open source, which means the original source code is made freely available and may be redistributed and modified.

- **Easy to learn & large community** - PHP is a simple language to learn step by step. This makes it easier for people to get engaged in exploring it. It also has such a huge community online that is constantly willing to help you whenever you're stuck (which actually happens quite a lot).

The graphic below shows a basic workflow of dynamic content being passed to and from the client using PHP:



Figure 1.1: PHP Dynamic Content Interaction

# XAMPP Setup

- XAMPP is a free and open source cross-platform web server solution developed by Apache Friends, consisting mainly of the Apache HTTP Server, MariaDB database, and interpreters for scripts written in the PHP and Perl programming languages. In order to make your PHP code execute locally, first install XAMPP.
- Download XAMPP <https://www.apachefriends.org/download.html> •  
Install the program (check the technologies you want during installation)
- Open XAMPP and click on "Start" on Apache and MySQL (when working with databases)

## XAMPP Setup



Figure 1.2: XAMPP window after a successful installation with Apache and MySQL enabled

# XAMPP Setup

- Place your web project inside the htdocs directory. In the common case, if you installed XAMPP directly inside the C: drive of your PC, the path to this folder would be: C:xampphtdocs

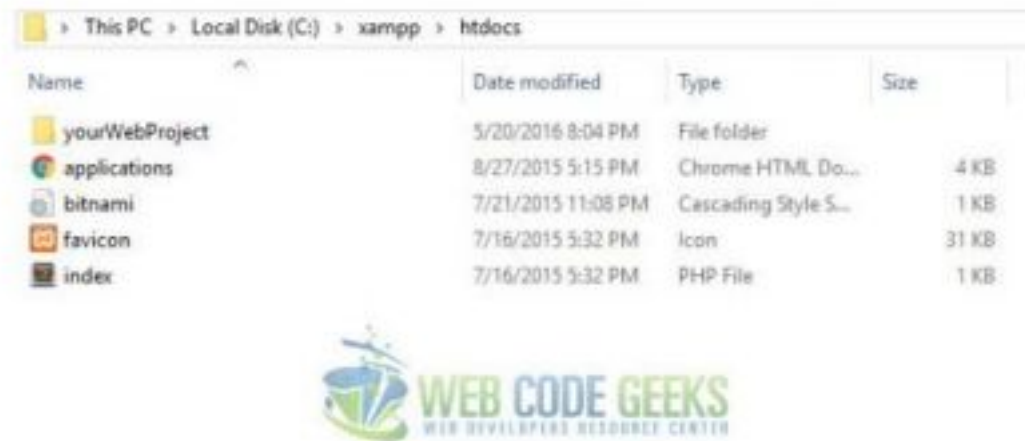


Figure 1.3: XAMPP Directory for Web Projects

To test the services are up and running you can just enter **localhost** in your address bar and expect the welcoming page.