

PHP

Self-referentially short for **PHP**: Hypertext Preprocessor, an open source, server-side, **HTML** embedded scripting language used to create dynamic Web pages.

In an **HTML** document, **PHP** script (similar syntax to that of **Perl** or **C**) is enclosed within special **PHP** tags. Because **PHP** is embedded within tags, the author can jump between **HTML** and **PHP** (similar to **ASP** and Cold Fusion) instead of having to rely on heavy amounts of code to output **HTML**. And, because **PHP** is executed on the server, the client cannot view the **PHP** code.

PHP can perform any task that any **CGI** program can do, but its strength lies in its compatibility with many types of databases. Also, **PHP** can talk across networks using **IMAP**, **SNMP**, **NNTP**, **POP3**, or **HTTP**.

PHP was created sometime in 1994 by Rasmus Lerdorf. During mid 1997, **PHP** development entered the hands of other contributors.

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