

Introduction

Learn PHP 7: Object-Oriented Modular Programming using HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, XML, JSON, and MySQL is intended for use as a beginning level programming book. It is not the goal of this book to cover advanced techniques in the current versions of the PHP programming language. Some knowledge of general programming concepts is expected but no actual programming experience or education is assumed.

All code examples in this book are compatible with PHP 7. Most examples are compatible with PHP 5.6. The newest (as of the publication date) methods (functions) available in PHP have been used to provide the reader with the most current coding techniques. The examples use core methods provided in the PHP language. PHP includes many additional methods to accomplish similar tasks. The reader may, and should, research additional ways of improving security, performance, and other techniques. It is the goal of this book to prompt users to always consider using the most secure and efficient methods of program development. The code in this book provides some examples of using these techniques. The user should remember that *no program is 100% secure*. The programmer can only strive to make an application as secure as possible. It takes a team of developers, network personnel, security administrators, data center personnel, and others working together to provide the safest environment.

A Different Approach

There are quite a number of PHP books on the market today. What makes this book any different than any other?

- This book uses the concept of “learning by doing,” which shows the reader how to develop applications with conditional statements, loops, arrays, and methods. Over 70 PHP methods (functions) are introduced and demonstrated in coding examples.
- From the very first examples, the reader is introduced to object-oriented programming techniques. Many other books only briefly cover OO programming (if at all) in the final chapters.
- Object-oriented set methods are used to verify and filter user input. Many other books simply show a set method accepting data and storing it.
- A major objective of the book is to convince the reader to create all programs as secure and efficient as possible. The newest password encryption techniques (`password_hash`) are demonstrated.
- The try and catch methods are introduced to capture exceptions and some errors. The newest versions of PHP have been created to handle exceptions and errors using this approach. Many other books use die or other techniques to shut down a program.
- Multi-tier program design is introduced in the early chapters. This allows the reader to discover what logic and coding should take place in each tier. Many PHP books do not even cover this topic.