

```

if (get_magic_quotes_gpc())
    {
        $value = stripslashes($value); // Gets rid of unwanted quotes
    }
return $value;
}

```

■ **Note** `set_magic_quotes_runtime` and `magic_quotes_runtime` has been removed since PHP 5.4. Magic quotes (since PHP 5.4) can no longer be set at runtime.

For more information on the `str_ireplace` method, visit

<http://php.net/manual/en/function.str-ireplace.php>

The `clean_input` method creates an array `$bad_chars` that contains a list of all special characters you want to remove from the string (you will look at arrays in more detail later in this chapter and future chapters). The `str_ireplace` method (`$value = str_ireplace($bad_chars, "", $value);`) will replace all these characters with "" (nothing, it removes them) from the `$value` property and place what is left into `$value`. There may be occasions that you do want some of these special characters (for example in an SQL statement). However, you do not need any of these for the input in this example, so you can remove them.

■ **Note** It would be effective and efficient for this example to just remove the characters that are not valid. In a real-world situation, you would not need to also include the `stripslashes`, `htmlentities`, and `strip_tags` methods (shown in the method). They are included here to demonstrate their use and why, in other situations, you might use them.

The three PHP methods (`stripslashes`, `htmlentities`, and `strip_tags`) are used to convert harmful code so it cannot be executed. The `stripslashes` method removes backslashes from quotes (which actually can also be done by the `str_ireplace` method). The `htmlentities` method converts HTML characters to their equivalent HTML entity (for example a is converted to `'`). The `strip_tags` method removes any PHP or HTML tags. If you were using SQL to update a database, you need to add additional functions to disable any harmful SQL statements.

For more information on `stripslashes`, `htmlentities`, and `strip_tags`, visit

Examples – `stripslashes`: <http://php.net/manual/en/function.stripslashes.php>

Examples – `htmlentities`: <http://php.net/manual/en/function.htmlentities.php>

Examples – `strip-tags`: <http://php.net/manual/en/function.strip-tags.php>

Video – magic quotes and `stripslashes`: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUqkUjbGuPY>

Video – `htmlentities`: <https://www.thenewboston.com/videos.php?cat=11&video=17058>

Video – `strip_tags`: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rn_dnQFLt3U