

CHAPTER 1



An Introduction to PHP 7

“PHP is a popular general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited to web development. Fast, flexible, and pragmatic, PHP powers everything from your blog to the most popular web sites in the world.” —www.php.net

Chapter Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this chapter, the student will be able to:

- Understand the differences between LAMP, WAMP, and MAMP
- Successfully install a version of LAMP, WAMP, or MAMP
- Search the Internet for troubleshooting problems
- Explain the difference between a programming language and a scripting language
- Create an error-free simple PHP program

PHP 5.5+, PHP 7+, and PHP.NET

Today, **PHP** (Hypertext Preprocessor) is one of the most popular languages used for web application development. The language has evolved to allow the programmer to quickly develop well-formed error-free programs using both **procedural** and **object-oriented** programming techniques. It provides the ability to use many preexisting libraries of code that either come with the basic installation or can be installed within the PHP environment. This gives you multiple ways to complete a particular task. It provides more flexibility than many other languages. The ease with which additional libraries of code can be added to the environment is one of the many driving forces in its popularity.

Procedural language—A procedural programming language includes functions/methods that can be called from the main flow of the program. The flow of the program jumps to the function/method, executes the code within the module, and then returns to the next statement in the main flow of the program. Some Procedural languages include a main function/method that automatically is called when the program is executed.

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this chapter (doi:[10.1007/978-1-4842-1730-6_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4842-1730-6_1)) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.