

The example code provides explanations of the use of the function within the code itself by using comments (indicated by the // and gold color in Figure 1-8). The comments are not executable code. The executable code is color-coded to highlight strings (red), variables (blue), keywords (green), and the PHP opening and closing tags (blue). Color-coding helps make the code more readable. It also can make it easier to find syntax errors when creating programs. Many PHP editors provide similar color schemes.

## PHP 5.6+ and PHP 7+

With the release of the PHP 7 environment, great improvements have taken place. PHP 5.5+ has dramatically improved security. In this book, we will use the newest PHP encryption tool “password hash” instead of MD5 which many current books use. Over the last several years, MD5 has proven to be vulnerable to hacking.

*“PHP 7 is based on the PHPNG project (PHP Next-Gen), that was led by Zend to speed up PHP applications. The performance gains realized from PHP 7 are huge! They vary between 25% and 70% on real-world apps, and all of that just from upgrading PHP, without having to change a single line of code!” —www.zend.com*

PHP 7 also replaces fatal errors, which previously would crash a program, with exceptions that can be handled within the program itself.

If you are migrating from a previous version of PHP to PHP 7, please review the following link:

<http://php.net/manual/en/migration70.php>

The code used in the examples in this book is compatible with PHP 7. Most examples are also compatible with PHP 5.5 and PHP 5.6.

## Do It

1. Go to [www.php.net](http://www.php.net). Search for information on the `print` and `printf` functions. How are these functions similar? How are they different?
2. How do you “join the team” and help with the creation of the next version of PHP? Hint: Go to the “Get Involved” section of [www.php.net](http://www.php.net), select “Guide for Contributors,” and then find the “Join the team” link. Of course, the web site changes, so you may need to find a different route to the information.
3. Which ways can the [www.php.net](http://www.php.net) web site be useful for a beginning PHP programmer?
4. What language is used to create PHP? Hint: The answer is somewhere on the [www.php.net](http://www.php.net) web site.
5. Go to [www.php.net](http://www.php.net). Search for the list of improvements and changes with PHP 7. List those improvements and changes. Which of these do you think will affect a beginning level programmer?