PHP, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, and Apache Web Server

PHP is a scripting language. A **scripting language** is different than an actual programming language. **Programming languages** (such as Java) are written by the programmer in an English-like syntax. The program is compiled, which means it's converted from the English syntax into machine code (0s and 1s). This code is then executed (run) within a compatible operating system and hardware. Scripting languages do not use a compiler. The first time the code is accessed it is interpreted line by line as the program is executed.

You may wonder if this causes the code to be slower than compiled code. The answer is no. Once the code has been executed once, the interpreted code stays in the memory of the computer, or server, for other executions. If the programmer changes this code, a new version will replace the previous version in memory.

JavaScript is also a scripting language. As you may be aware, JavaScript code can be seen within a **web browser** by viewing the source, as shown in Figure 1-9.



Figure 1-9. JavaScript, HTML, and CSS code from yahoo.com (11/11/14)