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[Build Your Own Database Driven Website Using PHP & MySQL](#)

Create database driven website and web application with this excellent book.

This book covers everything from installing PHP & MySQL to building a live Web-based content management system with example code.

Click the link above to learn more

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Install PHP and MySQL on Windows

Installing PHP is easy. You can install PHP on your computer easily with WAMP5. WAMP5 (www.wampserver.com) is an open source application which comes with PHP5, Apache web server, MySQL database and phpMyAdmin (MySQL database administration program).

Steps for installing PHP and MySQL on Windows

- Download the latest version of [WAMP5](#).
- Run the installation wizard and follow the easy instructions to install WAMP5.
- Once you're done installing WAMP5, go to your folder where you installed wamp5. If you didn't specify which folder to install wamp during the installation wizard, then it should be installed in your C:/ drive, i.e. C:/wamp.
- Next run the WAMP server file, **wampserver.exe** in your C:/wamp folder.
- Once you run the wamp server file, you will see a small icon on your windows tray.

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Right click on this icon and then click on “Start All Services”. This will start the apache web server along with everything we need to run PHP pages on our machine.



That it! You’re almost done.

- Now open up your web browser and type in <http://localhost>. You should see the WAMP welcome page.

Similarly, you can also install PHP/MySQL on UNIX, LINUX or Mac OS machines. I recommend reading “[Build PHP/MySQL Driven Websites](#)” by Kevin Yank, which covers how to install PHP/MySQL on various platforms with ease and much more.

PHP Variables

Variables

Variables are a mean to store values such as strings or integers so we can easily reuse those values in our code.

Every language has its own semantics of defining variables. In PHP, we define a variable starting with a \$ sign, then write the variable name and finally assign a value to it. Here is an example below.

```
$variable_name = value;
```

Let’s look at few example of how to declare different types of variables.

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Declaring Strings

```
<?php
$logo_text = "PHP-Learn-It.com! Learn PHP by examples";
echo $str;
?>
```

Declaring Integers

```
<?php
$number = 100;
echo $number;
?>
```

Declaring Floats and Decimals

```
<?php
$decimal_number = 100.01;
printf("%.2f", $decimal_number);
?>
```

Remember that, in PHP, we need not to worry about primitive types. In another words, strings and integers are declared the same way. You don't need to specify its type as shows above.

Strings

In programming, a string is a sequence of letters, symbols, characters and arithmetic values or combination of all tied together in single or double quotes.

Example of a String in PHP

```
<?php
$str = "I Love PHP";
echo $str
?>
```

Concatenating Strings in PHP

You can join two strings by using dot '.' in between them.

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Example 1 - Concatenating PHP Strings

```
<?php
$str1 = "I Love PHP.";
$str2 = "PHP is fun to learn.";
echo $str1." ".$str2;?>
```

Output

The above code will print out "I Love PHP. PHP is fun to learn."

Escaping Special Characters

We can *escape* special characters in a string using backslash. An example would be using quotes inside quotes in a string. Let's have a look.

```
<?php
$str = "\"This is a PHP string examples in double quotes\"";
echo $str;
?>
```

Notice the \". We escaped the double quote using a backslash. The above code will output "This is a PHP string example in double quotes" in double quotes.

PHP If...Else Statement

If...Else Conditions

Often in programming while writing code to solve problems, we require to perform certain actions based on certain conditions. To accomplish that, we make use of what's called **if...else** statements.

```
if (condition)
    perform action 1
else
    perform action 2
```

The above pseudo-code translates... if the first condition is true, then perform action 1, otherwise, and perform action 2.

As an example, let say we want to determine what day of the week it is. For that we would use if statement to determine what day it is.

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```
<?php
    $day = date("l");

    if ($day == "Saturday")
    {
        echo "It's party time :)";
    }
    else
    {
        echo "Ahhh! I hate work days.";
    }
?>
```

Notice the curly brackets, those indicate when the condition starts and ends. We need those when we write if...else statements.

PHP Loops

In PHP, we have 3 main types of loops.

- Foreach
- For
- While

Let's go through each one with examples.

Foreach

Foreach() loop is most often used to print elements in a array.

Foreach Syntax

```
foreach (array as $value)
{
    //code block to be run inside loop
}
```

Example of using foreach to print values in an array

```
<?php
    $browsers = array ("Firefox", "Internet Explorer",
"Opera");
    echo "<select>";
```

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```
foreach($browsers as $browser)
{
    echo "<option name='$browser'>$browser</option>";
}
echo "</select>";
?>
```

The above code will output our drop down box containing three select options, Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera.

For Loop

A **for()** loop is used when we want to execute a block of code for certain number of times. For example, printing a value 5 times.

For Loop Syntax

```
for(initialize counter; condition until counter is reached;
increment counter)
{
    //execute block of code
}
```

Example of for loop to print number through 0 to 5 with PHP For Loop

```
<?php

for($i=0; $i<=5; $i=$i+1)
{
    echo $i." ";
}

?>
```

While Loop

Just like the for loop, **while()** loop is used to execute a block of code for certain number of times until the condition in the while evaluate to true.

While Loop Syntax

```
while(condition)
{
    //execute block of code
}
```

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Example - Print number through 1 to 5 with PHP While Loop

Example below prints integers through 1 to 5

```
<?php
$i = 1;
while ($i <= 5 )
{
    echo $i . "<br>";

    $i = $i + 1;
}
?>
```

Summary

In this guide we covered the basic concepts in PHP. My hope is that this will help you understand the concepts much more clearly and help you get started with PHP programming. As I was new to PHP sometime ago, I learned PHP and MySQL much more efficiently by going through example codes of Kevin's book "Build PHP/MySQL Driven Websites". The book not only taught me the basics of PHP programming but also how to create database driven websites using MySQL database. I

Highly Recommend you to check out a copy of :



["Build Your Own Database Driven Websites Using PHP/MySQL"](#)

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This book will show you how to:

- Build a working Content Management System
- Add, edit and delete Web content without using HTML
- Set up automatic backups of your database
- Increase your database security
- Optimize the loading time of your Website
- Build an ecommerce shopping cart
- Handle file uploads using HTML forms
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