

PHP On Windows

Michael Kimsal
Web Dev Publishing



What is PHP?

- Server side scripting language
- Started in 1994
 - one of the original scripting languages
 - PHP3 in 1998
 - PHP4 in 2000
 - PHP5 in 2004
- Similar to JSP and classic ASP

What is PHP?

- One of the most widely used languages
- Yahoo, Facebook, Digg, Wikipedia and many more
 - Over 20 million sites using PHP
- Very low barrier to entry
 - Included in most hosting packages
 - Free and open source

What does PHP look like?

- Curly braces
- Semicolons
- Whitespace is not significant

```
<?php
function hello($person) {
    return "hello " . $person;
}

echo hello("mike");
?>
```

What does PHP look like?

Embeddable in HTML - “made for the web”

```
<?php
$name = "titus";
$date = date("m/d/Y");
?>

<h2>Hello <?=$name;?> it's <?=$date;?></h2>
<form>
<input type='text' name='name'
      value='<?=$name;?>' />
</form>
```

Why would I use PHP?

- Many great free programs
 - Easy install from MS app gallery
 - Wordpress, Drupal, Moodle
 - SugarCRM, Gallery, more
- MVC frameworks
 - Symfony, Zend Framework, CakePHP
- Large number of resources, both free and paid.
- Active community

Why would I use PHP?

- Object oriented
 - Object support is advancing, though not at the level of Java or C#
 - Namespacing only recent added
- Procedural
- “Quick n dirty” or “complex framework”

But why would I use PHP on Windows?

- Historically, it's been a hard slog
 - Performance issues
 - Lacking integration and support
- Work between MS, Zend and PHP community has improved PHP greatly
 - MS Web Installer
 - COM integration
- Third party apps

But why would I use PHP on Windows?

- Microsoft pushing more support
 - So far they're at the 'embrace' stage ;)
- Donated SQL Server driver code years ago
- More recently
 - cache extension for PHP
 - Azure SDK for PHP
- Multiple PHP projects on codeplex

What are my options?

- For IIS (installed as FastCGI)
 - MS Web Installer
 - “By hand” - see windows.php.net
- For Apache (CGI or Apache Module)
 - XAMPP
 - Zend Server CE
 - “By hand”



Options - IIS

- Visit <http://php.iis.net>

Options – Zend Server CE

- Community Edition – free to use
- Apache, MySQL, control panel bundle
 - Includes Java bridge
 - Code caching
 - Data caching
- Paid version (Pro Edition) offers support, load balancing and more

Options - XAMPP

- apachefriends.org
- Apache, Perl, PHP, Python, MySQL, webalizer, ftp server, smtp server

Editors

- Visual Studio
 - Commercial add-on VS.PHP
- Zend Studio
 - Commercial IDE, based on Eclipse
- PDT
 - Free add ons for Eclipse
- Aptana
 - Eclipse-based editor for PHP and JS
- Netbeans
 - PHP support in 6.7 and higher

Resources

- <http://php.iis.net>
- <http://windows.php.net>
- <http://zend.com>
- <http://apachefriends.org/en/xampp>
- <http://misfitgeek.com/blog/> (search for php)
- <http://microsoft.com/php>