

Introduction to PHP & MySQL for Non Programmers

Course Summary

Description

This class shows non-programmers who have some web coding experience how to create dynamic web pages that interact with a UNIX web server store data in a MySQL database. It includes basic syntax, built-in functions, and branching logic conditions. The emphasis of this class is to develop and validate web-based forms to pass data in and out of a database.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Use all basic features of PHP
- Create PHP-based dynamic web pages
- Use the PHP language to create custom functions
- Create error checking routines
- Build modular code for reuse with HTML PHP-enabled pages
- Create and use MySQL databases and tables
- Query and update MySQL tables

Topics

- A Gentle Introduction to MySQL
- PHP Overview
- Language Syntax
- Variables, expressions, and output
- Adding Logic and Iteration to HTML Pages
- Arrays
- Interacting with the Operating System
- Working with Forms
- User-defined Functions
- Forms & Sessions
- Accessing MySQL
- Enhancing the web page
- Regular expressions

Audience

This course is designed for experienced HTML Web coders without programming experience.

Prerequisites

Students need to have knowledge of UNIX from a command line level (file permissions, directory/file management, using the vi editor or equivalent to post files on a web server) and experience programming in a programming language using logic statements, functions, and advanced variables. They must also know basic HTML coding, especially with FORMS.

Duration

Four days

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Course Outline

I. A Gentle Introduction to MySQL

- A. MySQL Overview
- B. Creating Databases
- C. Defining Tables
- D. Inserting/Updating fields in a record
- E. Creating and executing queries
- F. Adding/Updating/Deleting Records

II. PHP Overview

- A. History
- B. Purpose
- C. Benefits
- D. Documentation and Support

III. Language Syntax

- A. Placement of PHP in HTML documents
- B. Commands Syntax and coding layout

IV. Variables, expressions, and output

- A. Constants
- B. Creating and Using variables
- C. Outputting data to an HTML page

V. Adding Logic and Iteration to HTML Pages

- A. Using the "if", "for", "while" and "switch" commands
- B. Adding conditional output to page interaction
- C. Arrays
- D. Numeric-indexed arrays
- E. Associative (text-indexed) array
- F. Multidimensional arrays
- G. Sorting

VI. Interacting with the Operating System

- A. Determining file (read/write/& type) status
- B. Reading and writing files
- C. Running external (Unix or Windows) commands

VII. Working with Forms

- A. Creating HTML Page Templates using variables
- B. Passing form data to PHP enabled page/programs
- C. Validating passed form data & variables
- D. Reading variable values in the URL

VIII. User-defined Functions

- A. Defining a Function
- B. Calling a Function
- C. Variable Scope
- D. Function Parameters
- E. Return Values

IX. Forms & Sessions

- A. Reading URL variable values & Validating passed form data
- B. Maintaining State
- C. PHP sessions
- D. Working with cookies
- E. Recursive and sequential forms processing

X. Accessing MySQL

- A. There's More than One Way to Do it!
- B. Connecting a web page to the MySQL server
- C. Executing MySQL queries
- D. Updating tables

XI. Enhancing the web page

- A. Including other PHP pages
- B. Including JavaScript in PHP enabled pages
- C. Opening new windows
- D. Security issues

XII. Regular expressions

- A. Reading files
- B. MDB2
- C. PEAR

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