

PHP – A Review

Ipsita Vashista

Dronacharya College of Engineering

Abstract—PHP is a server-side scripting language designed for web development but also used as a general-purpose programming language. Originally PHP stood for *Personal Home Page*, but now it stands for *PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor*, which is a recursive backronym. PHP code can be simply mixed with HTML code, or it can be used in combination with various templating engines and web frameworks. PHP code can generate a web page's HTML code, an image, or some other data. PHP has also evolved to include a command-line interface (CLI) capability and can be used in standalone graphical applications.

Index Terms—PHP 3, PHP 4, PHP5, WAMP, XAMPP

I. INTRODUCTION

PHP development began in 1994 when Rasmus Lerdorf wrote a series of Interface Common Gateway (CGI) binaries in C—which he used to maintain his personal homepage. He extended them to add the ability to work with web forms and to communicate with databases, and called this implementation "Personal Home Page/Forms Interpreter" or PHP/FI. PHP/FI could be used to build simple, dynamic web applications. Lerdorf initially announced the release of PHP/FI as "Personal Home Page Tools (PHP Tools) version 1.0" publicly to accelerate bug location and improve the code. Early PHP was not intended to be a new programming language. A development team began to form and, after months of work and beta testing, officially released PHP/FI 2 in November 1997.

One criticism of PHP is that it was not originally designed, but instead it was developed organically among other things, this has led to inconsistent naming of functions and inconsistent ordering of their parameters. In some cases, the function names were chosen to match the lower-level libraries which PHP was "wrapping", while in some very early versions of PHP the length of the function names was used internally as a hash function, so names

were chosen to improve the distribution of hash values.

II. PHP 3 and 4

Zeev Suraski and Andi Gutmans rewrote the parser in 1997 and formed the base of PHP 3, changing the language's name to the recursive acronym *PHP: Hypertext Preprocessors*. Afterwards, public testing of PHP 3 began, and the official launch came in June 1998. Suraski and Gutmans then started a new rewrite of PHP's core, producing the Zend Engine in 1999. They also founded Zend Technologies in Ramat Gan, Israel.

On May 22, 2000, PHP 4, powered by the Zend Engine 1.0, was released.¹ As of August 2008 this branch reached version 4.4.9. PHP 4 is no longer under development nor will any security updates be released.

III. PHP 5

On July 13, 2004, PHP 5 was released, powered by the new Zend Engine II. PHP 5 included new features such as improved support for object-oriented programming, the PHP Data Objects (PDO) extension (which defines a lightweight and consistent interface for accessing databases), and numerous performance enhancements. In 2008 PHP 5 became the only stable version under development. [Late static binding](#) had been missing from PHP and was added in version 5.3. Many high-profile open-source projects ceased to support PHP 4 in new code as of February 5, 2008, because of the GoPHP5 initiative provided by a consortium of PHP developers promoting the transition from PHP 4 to PHP 5.

Over time, PHP interpreters became available on most existing 32-bit and 64-bit operating systems, either by building them from the PHP source code, or by using pre-built binaries. For the PHP versions 5.3 and 5.4, the only available Microsoft_Windows binary distributions were 32-bit x86 builds, requiring Windows 32-bit compatibility mode while using Internet Information Services (IIS) on a 64-bit Windows platform. PHP version 5.5 made the 64-bit x86-64 builds available for Microsoft Windows.

IV. WAMP

WAMP stands for "Windows, Apache, MySQL, and PHP." WAMP is a variation of LAMP for Windows systems and is often installed as a software bundle (Apache, MySQL, and PHP). It is often used for web development and internal testing, but may also be used to serve live websites.

The most important part of the WAMP package is Apache (or "Apache HTTP Server") which is used to run the web server within Windows. By running a local Apache web server on a Windows machine, a web developer can test webpages in a web browser without publishing them live on the Internet.

WAMP also includes MySQL and PHP, which are two of the most common technologies used for creating dynamic websites. MySQL is a high-speed database, while PHP is a scripting language that can be used to access data from the database. By installing these two components locally, a developer can build and test a dynamic website before publishing it to a public web server.

V. XAMPP

XAMPP is a free and open source cross-platform web server solution stack package developed by Apache Friends, consisting mainly of the Apache HTTP Server, MySQL database, and interpreters for scripts written in the PHP and Perl programming languages. The word XAMPP is actually an acronym. It stands for X (to be read as "cross", meaning cross-platform), Apache HTTP Server, MySQL, PHP, Perl. XAMPP is regularly updated to incorporate the latest releases of Apache, MySQL, PHP and Perl. It also comes with a number of other modules including OpenSSL, phpMyAdmin, MediaWiki, Joomla, WordPress and more. Self-contained, multiple instances of XAMPP can exist on a single computer, and any given instance can be copied from one computer to another. XAMPP is offered in both a full and a standard version.

REFERENCES

[1] Lerdorf, Rasmus (2007-04-26). "PHP on Hormones – history of PHP presentation by Rasmus Lerdorf given at the MySQL Conference in Santa Clara, California". The Conversations Network. Retrieved 2009-12-11.

[2] "News Archive – 2015: PHP 5.6.14 is available". php.net. 2015-10-01. Retrieved 2015-10-02.

[3] "News Archive – 2015: PHP 7.0.0 RC 5 Released". php.net.2015-10-15. Retrieved 2015-10-16.

[4] "History of PHP". php.net.

[5] PHP: The Complete Reference by Steven Holzner

[6] <http://www.phpchandigarh.com/future-scope-php-web-development/>

[7] www.wikipedia.com

[8] PHP Manual: Preface, www.php.net

[9] "Embedding PHP in HTML". O'Reilly. 2001-05-03. Retrieved 2008-02-25.

[10] Lerdorf, Rasmus (June 8, 1995). "Announce: Personal Home Page Tools (PHP Tools)". Retrieved 7 June 2011.

[11] "Problems with PHP". Retrieved 20 December 2010.