

PHP Tutorial

Software / Tools Needed:

- PHP
- MySQL or any other database server
- Server to run your Application

If your going to use PHP, MYSQL and Apache server on local machine, I would recommend using WAMP for windows which stands for Windows Apache MySQL PHP or LAMP for linux which stands for Linux Apache MySQL PHP.

Here are some some basic scripts to get started on PHP.

CONFIGURATION FILE:

`config.php`

```
<?php
```

```
$dbhost = 'localhost'; // Enter the address of database server here
$dbuser = 'username';
$dbpass = '';
$dbname = 'databasename';

$conn = mysql_connect ($dbhost, $dbuser, $dbpass) or die ("I cannot connect
to the database because: " . mysql_error());
mysql_select_db ($dbname) or die ("Cannot Use Database '$dbname' because: " .
mysql_error());
?>
```

Include the above file in all the pages which are going to use the database. You can do that by including the following line on all those pages.

```
<?php
```

```
require_once 'config.php';
```

```
?>
```

SESSION VARIABLES:

You will most probably need session variables to handle the login.

You can set the session variable say username as `$_SESSION['username'] = "userid"`

For example:

```
<?php
    session_start();

    $_SESSION['USERNAME'] = "username";

?>
```

And then on every page you can check it by the following code

```
<?php
session_start();

if(isset($_SESSION['USERNAME']))
{
    header("Location: index.php");
}

?>
```

The header function above is used to redirect....You can redirect to the homepage / login page if somebody tries to access a page directly by entering the exact address.

FORM HANDLING:

If the form is passed using GET, use the following to retrieve the value:

```
$variableName = $_GET['form_field_name']
```

If the form is passed using POST, use the following to retrieve the value:

```
$variableName = $_POST['form_field_name']
```

QUERYING THE DATABASE AND RESULTSETS:

You can write the query as:

```
$attr_value = $_GET['form_field_name'];
```

```
$query = " SELECT a,b,c,d" .
        " FROM A " .
```

```
" where attr_name='$attr_value' "
```

. is a concatenation operator in PHP, similar to + in java.

```
$records = mysql_query($query) or die('Cannot Execute Query to add shared  
image ' . mysql_error());
```

```
$row = mysql_fetch_assoc($records);
```

\$row will contain the tuples in the result.

You will need to iterate over the \$row to do your tasks.

For eg:

To populate a select box in a form, you can do something like

```
<select name="name">
```

```
<?php
```

```
while($row = mysql_fetch_assoc($records))  
{
```

```
    $value = $row['column_name'];
```

```
    echo '<option value="' . $value . '">$value</option>';
```

```
}
```

```
</select>
```

You can find more PHP tutorials on the net. Here is a good place to start:

<http://www.w3schools.com/php/default.asp>