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Week 1

PHP Scripts Fundamentals

Lecture Notes:

Creating Basic PHP Scripts

Like JavaScript, PHP is an embedded scripting language that you type directly into your Document within specific sections. Web pages that contain PHP must have a file extension of .php. This alerts the Web server to the presence of PHP code and sends the file to the scripting engine, which processes the PHP code. The resulting code is typically database records, formatted in HTML. Therefore, PHP code is never sent directly to the client browser.

Creating PHP Code Blocks

There are several ways in which to include PHP code into your Web page. They are:

- Standard PHP script delimiters
- The <script> element
- Short PHP script delimiters
- ASP-style script delimiters

Standard PHP Script Delimiters

The most common method of writing PHP code declaration blocks is to use standard PHP script delimiters. A delimiter is a character or sequence of characters used to mark the beginning and end of a code statement, for example, <?php statements ?>.

The PHP Group recommends using the standard PHP script delimiter method to write PHP code declaration blocks for two reasons:

- Standard PHP script delimiters are guaranteed to be available on any Web server that supports PHP.
- Standard PHP script delimiters are the only method compliant with XML.

Like JavaScript, each line of code in a PHP script is referred to as a statement. Each statement, like a sentence in a paragraph has ending punctuation. In PHP, that punctuation is a semicolon (;). For example, here is a two-statement PHP script:

```
<?php echo "This is the beginning "; echo "and end of the statement." ; ?>
```

The <script> Element

You can use the <script> element in your Web pages to create a PHP code block. This element is used by most client-side scripting languages like JavaScript to partition the code from HTML within a Web page.

If you decide to use this method, be sure that the value of the script attribute, "language," is set to "PHP." For example,

```
<script language="php">
echo "This is the beginning ";
</script>
```

Keep in mind that this method has the following drawbacks:

- The <script> element's attribute "language" is depreciated in XHTML.
- Since the scripting engine ignores the <script> element and its attributes, you cannot validate your documents that include PHP <script> elements.

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Short PHP Script Delimiters

There is a shorthand version of standard PHP script delimiters known as short PHP script delimiters. This method simply leaves out the “php” in the opening delimiter. For example,

```
<? echo “This is the beginning ”; ?>
```

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