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## What is PHP?

Merliza N. - 2021-12-08 - [Publishing your website](#)

- PHP stands for **P**hp: Hypertext Preprocessor
- PHP is a server-side scripting language, like ASP
- PHP scripts are executed on the server
- PHP supports many databases (MySQL, Informix, Oracle, Sybase, Solid, PostgreSQL, Generic ODBC, etc.)
- PHP is an open source software ( OSS )
- PHP is free to download and use

### **What is a PHP File?**

- PHP files may contain text, HTML tags and scripts
- PHP files are returned to the browser as plain HTML
- PHP files have a file extension of ".php", ".php3", or ".phtml"

### **Why PHP?**

- PHP runs on different platforms (Windows, Linux, Unix, etc.)
- PHP is compatible with almost all servers used today (Apache, IIS, etc.)
- PHP is FREE to download from the official PHP resource: [www.php.net](http://www.php.net)
- PHP is easy to learn and runs efficiently on the server side

### **What do You Need?**

This tutorial will not explain how to install PHP, MySQL, or Apache Server.

If your server supports PHP - you don't need to do anything! You do not need to compile anything or install any extra tools - just create some .php files in your web directory - and the server will parse them for you. Most web hosts offer PHP support.

However, if your server does not support PHP, you must install PHP. Below is a link to a good tutorial from PHP.net on how to install PHP5:

<http://www.php.net/manual/en/install.php>

Download PHP for free here: <http://www.php.net/downloads.php>

**ShopFactory** PHP Search functionality requires PHP 5.7 or higher to be installed