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Very quick guide to PHP for Java programmers

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Basics

- Dynamic typing => no type statements
- Often interacts with forms
 - form data processed by PHP
 - often stores data in a database
- Can be used for simple dynamic pages
- Like C++ => is used for separating parts of a variable e.g. *object=>field* not .

Basics

- All variables must start with a \$ e.g. \$name
- Control structures (if, while, for) much the same but with additional *foreach*
- Strings are concatenated with `.` (unlike Java and JavaScripts neat use of `+`)
- `"""` strings can contain variables, e.g.
 `echo "<p>Hello $name</p>\n"`
- Helps to finish echos with `\n`
- remember you are outputting HTML



Functions

- Like JavaScript
 - Functions replace methods in typical PHP these are non-OO
 - They do not specify a return type nor the type of parameters
 - Return clauses are optional



Function Example

```
function addHello($myName){  
    if ($myName=="")  
        return ("Hello friend");  
    else  
        return ("Hello $myName");  
}
```

Simple user interaction

- **All you can do is return HTML – you are in the server remember!**
- Errors are OK but YouSures are tricky since you need to produce a new page and handle from PHP and handle submissions from it.
- Simple solution is use JavaScript for error checking plus YouSures and PHP only for error checking (assuming most people have JavaScript)
- Better solution is to have PHP produce the form with error notification (and blank as special case)

