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PHP Cookbook: Solutions & Examples For PHP Programmers

David Sklar & Adam Trachtenberg

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Synopsis

Want to understand a certain PHP programming technique? Or learn how to accomplish a particular task? This cookbook is the first place to look. With more than 350 code-rich recipes revised for PHP 5.4 and 5.5, this third edition provides updated solutions for generating dynamic web content—“everything from using basic data types to querying databases, and from calling RESTful APIs to testing and securing your site. Each recipe includes code solutions that you can freely use, along with a discussion of how and why they work. Whether you’re an experienced PHP programmer or coming to PHP from another language, this book is an ideal on-the-job resource. You’ll find recipes to help you with:

Basic data types: strings, numbers, arrays, and dates and times
Program building blocks: variables, functions, classes, and objects
Web programming: cookies, forms, sessions, and authentication
Database access using PDO, SQLite, and other extensions
RESTful API clients and servers, including HTTP, XML, and OAuth
Key concepts: email, regular expressions, and graphics creation
Designing robust applications: security and encryption, error handling, debugging and testing, and performance tuning
Files, directories, and PHP’s Command Line Interface
Libraries and package managers such as Composer and PECL

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is not the beginning PHP book, this is intermediate to advanced book. If you understand other languages, use web resources and can read between the lines this is the only real book you need. This is THE book to change you from a newbie to a professional. Useful real world examples.
Format is problem, solution code then a discussion on what is going on. The examples are cut and paste, few modifications and you have working code.

Over the years my husband has worked in PHP on a number of projects; and on his very first PHP project, he purchased Edition 1 of the PHP Cookbook. While he doesn't program in PHP on a regular basis, he does occasionally have to modify existing PHP projects from time to time. He especially liked this newest edition of the book because it has almost 800 pages of examples that someone can easily read then use or modify to solve an immediate problem. For him, that usually means making modifications or additions to an existing Drupal website or something similar. He rarely writes something in PHP from scratch but being able to see examples and use them is an invaluable time saver to him. Edition 3 is significantly updated from his older edition. All examples in this edition work on the latest versions of PHP. There are now about 350 different recipes (his older copy had about 250) and those examples give you advice on RESTful APIs and many other topics needed in websites today. The introduction of this book suggests that this be your second PHP book if you have never used PHP. In my husband’s opinion, this book should be your first and perhaps only PHP book, especially if you are a programmer and you have experience in more than one programming language.

This book is for people who already have a fairly good working knowledge of PHP. It switches back and forth from procedural programming to object oriented without notice. So readers should have a good knowledge of both or it will be very confusing. Its a very dry read too, even for a programming book. My suggestion...get a few good Larry Ulman PHP books first to learn the language. Then have this one sitting around for a reference. Its not really a learning manual. More of a reference book.

'Reilly series of books are a valuable resource for all computer programmers and IT professionals. This one does not disappoint. PHP has become a ubiquitous server side programming language for the Internet. It draws inspiration from many other object oriented languages including Java, C++, C#, etc. This book is full of useful examples that can be taken directly from its pages and put to work in effective web pages. The first section is on strings, and this is a common area of confusion for programmers using PHP. It covered all the basics from how to extract specific parts of the string to manipulations that do everything from count characters to reverse the string if required. The book covers a lot of topics that I would have liked to have seen years earlier. For example it's always a
little confusing help PHP works with files on the native host's system. Disco Biscuits at least four different ways of accomplishing that, very useful. I had used PHP code before, but I will be much more effective using the phrases and snippets out of this book to accomplish some of the tasks that had five times as much code when I try to do it on my own. I highly recommend this book. In service, Rich

Overall, a good reference book, but not really a guide for learning. Use this if you want to have examples of implementations on hand. I think there is heavy reliance on procedural style, but it is mostly a good bet, as far as reference books go.

Having used PHP for my website, with the release of David Sklar and Adam Trachtenberg’s "PHP Cookbook: Solutions & Examples for PHP Programmers" comes a book from O'Reilly. The book is absolutely thorough of its coverage of PHP and covers the following chapters:

I. Strings (ie. accessing, extracting, replacing substrings)
II. Numbers (ie. floating-point numbers, random numbers)
III. Dates & Times
IV. Arrays
V. Variables (ie. Default Values, Dynamic Variable Name, etc.)
VI. Functions (ie. accessing function parameters, returning values by reference)
VII. Classes and Objects (Defining object destructors, cloning objects, class contants, etc.)
VIII. Web Fundamentals
IX. Forms
X. Database Access (DBM, SQLite, SQL, etc.)
XI. Sessions and Data Persistence
XII. XML
XIII. Web Automation
XIV. Consuming RESTful API’s
XV. Serving RESTful API’s
XVI. Internet Services
XVII. Graphics
XVIII. Security and Encryption
XIX. Internationalization and Localization
XX. Error Handling
XI. Software Engineering
XXII. Performance Tuning
XXIII. Regular Expressions
XXIV. Files
XXV. Directories
XXVI. Command-Line PHP
XXVII. Packages

The book is pretty much for those who know PHP, so this is NOT a beginner’s guide. "PHP Cookbook" literally is a book of solutions for programmers who are beyond basic PHP and because there are many challenges that PHP programmers face, it’s recommended that this book is utilized as a resource and goto book for those who are having problems with PHP. While the book is well-written and is quite thorough, once again, I emphasize this book is not for beginners. Overall, "PHP Cookbook: Solutions & Examples for PHP Programmers" is definitely one of the best books on PHP and while you may spend time looking over a few sections, once your PHP project requires more from you, this book works as a wonderful resource. Highly recommended!

Excellent PHP book for those that are experienced programmers. Good solutions that are explained thoroughly with examples and as a bonus you can download all the code. Helped me find a number
of ways to do new things or to make some things better.

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