

## 5-0007-EN-What is PHP?

Author:  
**ShopFactory**

Created On: 12 Jul 2007 12:00 AM

---

- » PHP stands for **PHP: 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**

Download PHP for free here: <http://www.php.net/downloads.php> [ShopFactory PHP Search](#)  
functionality requires PHP 4.4.7 or higher to be installed