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AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION



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PHP Data Types

Variables can store data of different types, and different data types can do different things.

PHP supports the following data types:

- String
- Integer
- Float (floating point numbers - also called double)
- Boolean
- Array
- Object
- NULL
- Resource

Getting the Data Type

You can get the data type of any object by using the `var_dump()` function.

The `var_dump()` function returns the data type and the value:

```
$x = 5;
```

```
var_dump($x);
```

PHP String

A string is a sequence of characters, like "Hello world!".

A string can be any text inside quotes. You can use single or double quotes:

Example

```
$x = "Hello world!";  
$y = 'Hello world!';  
var_dump($x);  
echo "<br>";  
var_dump($y);
```

PHP Integer

An integer data type is a non-decimal number between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647.

Rules for integers:

- An integer must have at least one digit
- An integer must not have a decimal point
- An integer can be either positive or negative
- Integers can be specified in: decimal (base 10), hexadecimal (base 16), octal (base 8), or binary (base 2) notation

In the following example `$x` is an integer. The PHP `var_dump()` function returns the data type and value:

Example

```
$x = 5985;  
var_dump($x);
```

PHP Float

A float (floating point number) is a number with a decimal point or a number in exponential form.

In the following example `$x` is a float. The PHP `var_dump()` function returns the data type and value:

Example

```
$x = 10.365;  
var_dump($x);
```

PHP Boolean

A Boolean represents two possible states: TRUE or FALSE.

Example

```
$x = true;  
var_dump($x);
```

PHP Array

An array stores multiple values in one single variable.

Example

```
$cars = array("Volvo", "BMW", "Toyota");  
var_dump($cars);
```

PHP Object

Classes and objects are the two main aspects of object-oriented programming.

A class is a template for objects, and an object is an instance of a class.

If you create a `__construct()` function, PHP will automatically call this function when you create an object from a class.

Example

```
class Car {  
    public $color;  
    public $model;  
    public function __construct($color, $model) {
```

```
$this->color = $color;
$this->model = $model;
}
public function message() {
    return "My car is a " . $this->color . " " . $this->model . "!";
}
}
$myCar = new Car("red", "Volvo");
var_dump($myCar);
```