Web Forms

Introduction

- Once an HTTP request arrives, the server decodes the data.
- If the request is for a PHP script, the server passes it on to the PHP engine.
- When the server sends back its reply, it first writes a set of response headers.
- The response headers include important information for the client (e.g. content type being returned etc.).

- ❖ In most cases, the PHP script will interact with the end users clients using one of the two HTTP methods: GET & POST.
- The primary different between GET & POST, is the way through which the additional data is sent by the client.

 When using GET the additional data is sent as a query string, and therefore its amount is limiedt. When using POST the additional data is sent as part of the request, and for that reason its amount is not limited.

When a form is submitted using GET, its values are encoded in the query string portion of the URL.

http://www.zindell.com/page.php?list=username&id=1212

When a form is submitted using POST, its values are part of the request.

- ❖ Each argument sent with the request (using GET method) is accessible through the \$ GET super global array.
- The key for each argument is the name of that argument.

```
<FORM ACTION=rectangle.php METHOD=GET>
    Width <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME=width>
    Height <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME=height>
    <INPUT TYPE=SUBMIT>
</FORM>
```

```
<?PHP
   echo $_GET['width'];
   echo "<BR>";
   echo $_GET['height'];
?>
```

Sending the PHP script parameters that include the array notation (brackets signs within their name) will create arrays.

```
http://jacado.com/smpl.php?id=12&book[author]=haim&book[title]=java
```

We can now write a PHP script that access these variables the following way:

```
echo $_GET['book']['author'];
echo $_GET['book']['title'];
```

The urlencode () Function

- When sending data via the query string there are specific characters we must exclude.
- Calling the urlencode() function takes away all problematic characters, replacing them with substitutes.

```
string urlencode (string $str)
```

This function encodes a given string and makes it feasible to include it within a query string as part of a URL address.

- ❖ Each argument sent with the request (using POST method) is accessible through the \$ POST super global array.
- The key for each argument is the name of that argument.
- As with GET, when using POST we can again use the array notation.

The \$ REQUEST Super Global Array

❖ When there is a need to write a script that works both with GET and POST, we can use the \$_REQUEST super global array.

Uploading Files

Uploading files can be done through a "multi-part" HTTP POST transaction.

Once the file upload completed, the file is stored in a temporary location. It is our PHP script responsibility to copy it to another location.

The \$ FILES Super Global Array

- Each element of this array includes a key which is the name of the HTML element that uploaded a file.
- Each element of this array includes a value which is an array with the following elements:

name The original file name

type The MIME type

size The file size

tmp_name The name of the file's temporary location

error The error code

Uploading File Demo

The following demo shows how a file is uploaded on the server and how the PHP script saves it with a new name.

You can download the files from the samples folder and you can find a short video clip that shows how does it work.



Uploading File Demo

Uploading File Demo

```
📙 uploader - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
<?php
if (!empty($_FILES["file_data"]["name"]))
       $folder = getcwd();
       echo "<br/>br>getcwd()=".getcwd();
       if(move_uploaded_file($_FILES["file_data"]["tmp_name"] ,"names.txt"))
               echo "<br>The file was successfully uploaded!";
       else
               echo "<br/>br>error with calling move_uploaded_file";
}
else
{
       echo "<br/>br>error with uploading the file";
```

- In order to cope successfully with hacker who try to harm our web application we better validate the data our PHP script receives.
- We cannot count on client side validation using Java Script. Hackers can easily remove it. Client side validation using JavaScript contributes to our web application usability. It doesn't contribute to its security.

❖ It is a common practice to define variables we can easily identify as variables that hold validated clean values. Including the word 'clean' or a similar one in the name of each and every clean variable will differentiate them from all others.

```
$email_address = $_GET['email'];
//validating email address
$email_address_clean = ...
```

❖ The function filter_var that exists in PHP as of version 5.2 provides us with the simplest way to validate our input.

```
<?php
$email_address_dirty = "haim.michael@gmail.com";
if(filter_var($email_address_dirty,FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL))
{
    $$email_address_clean = $$email_address_dirty;
}
echo $$email_address_clean;
?>
```



```
/usr/local/zend/bin/php /usr/local/zend/apache2/htdocs/something/fihaim.michael@gmail.com
Process finished with exit code 0
```

The password hash Function

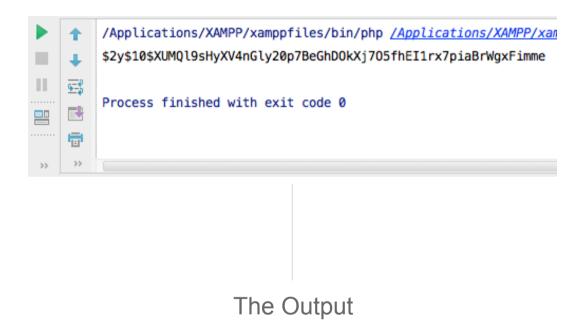
- This function receives the password that needs to be hashed and returns its hash value.
- The first argument is the password we need to hash. The second argument is an integer value that represents the specific algorithm we want to use.

The password hash Function

```
<?php
$str = "haimmichael";
echo password_hash($str, PASSWORD_DEFAULT)."\n";
?>
```



The password hash Function



This function calculates the hash value for the data we have.

Unlike the password_hash function, using the hash function we have more algorithms to choose from. PHP 5.6 adds the support for the gost-crypto algorithm.

```
<?php
$vec = hash_algos();
var_dump($vec);

$password = "abcjojo123";
echo "\n".hash("gost-crypto", $password);
echo "\n".hash("gost-crypto", $password);
?>
```



```
/usr/local/php5-5.6.0-20140828-140252/bin/php
      array(46) {
        [0] =>
        string(3) "md2"
₽ × × ?
        [1] =>
        string(3) "md4"
        [2] =>
        string(3) "md5"
        [3] =>
        string(4) "sha1"
        [4] =>
        string(6) "sha224"
        [5] =>
        string(6) "sha256"
        [6] =>
        string(6) "sha384"
        [7] =>
        string(6) "sha512"
        [8] =>
        string(9) "ripemd128"
        [9] =>
```

```
string(10) "haval192,4"
  [39] =>
  string(10) "haval224,4"
  [40] =>
  string(10) "haval256,4"
  [41] =>
  string(10) "haval128,5"
  [42] =>
  string(10) "haval160,5"
  [43] =>
  string(10) "haval192,5"
  [44] =>
  string(10) "haval224,5"
  [45] =>
  string(10) "haval256,5"
f7b6de354b0e6fa59eb6668cb515db12daed5284f25add32bdfbe4097e09f844
f7b6de354b0e6fa59eb6668cb515db12daed5284f25add32bdfbe4097e09f844
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<FORM ACTION=account.php METHOD=GET>
 Name: <INPUT TYPE=text name='name'>
 ID: <INPUT TYPE=text name='id'>
 <INPUT TYPE=SUBMIT>
</FORM>

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When a form is submitted using GET, its values are encoded in the query string portion of the URL.

http://www.zindell.com/page.php?list=username&id=1212

When a form is submitted using POST, its values are part of the request.

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- ❖ Each argument sent with the request (using GET method) is accessible through the \$_GET super global array.
- ❖ The key for each argument is the name of that argument.

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<FORM ACTION=rectangle.php METHOD=GET>
 Width <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME=width>
 Height <INPUT TYPE=TEXT NAME=height>
 <INPUT TYPE=SUBMIT>

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You can find these two sample files in the samples folder of this topic:

rectangle_form.html
rectangle.php

You can execute this sample browsing at http://www.abelski.com/courses/php/samples/webform/rectangle_form.html

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The \$_GET Super Global Array

```
<?PHP
   echo $_GET['width'];
   echo "<BR>";
   echo $_GET['height'];
?>
```

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```
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```
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```

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The \$_POST Super Global Array

- ❖ Each argument sent with the request (using POST method) is accessible through the \$ POST super global array.
- ❖ The key for each argument is the name of that argument.
- As with GET, when using POST we can again use the array notation.

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The \$_REQUEST Super Global Array

When there is a need to write a script that works both with GET and POST, we can use the \$_REQUEST super global array.

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Using the \$_REQUEST super global array has a potentially major security issue. This will be covered in the security topic.

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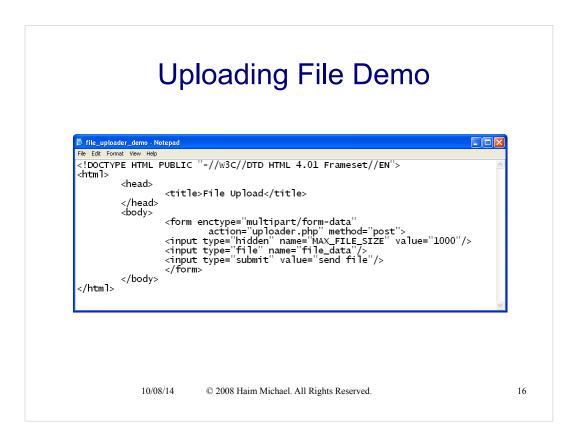
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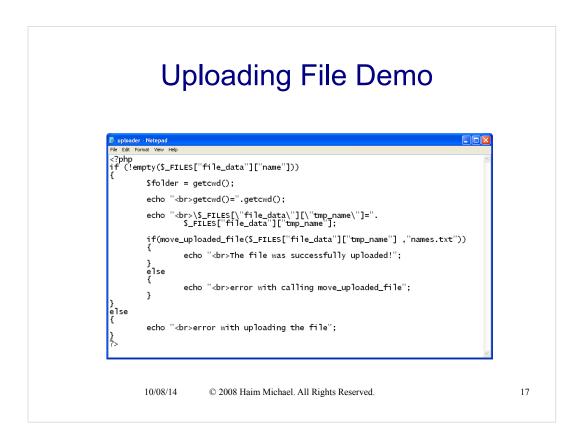


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$email_address_clean = ...
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```

The function filter_var that exists in PHP as of version 5.2 provides us with the simplest way to validate our input.

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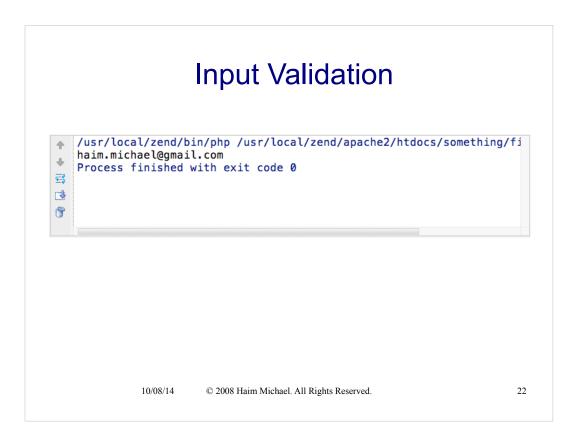
```
<?php
$email_address_dirty = "haim.michael@gmail.com";
if(filter_var($email_address_dirty,FILTER_VALIDATE_EMAIL))
{
    $email_address_clean = $email_address_dirty;
}
echo $email_address_clean;
?>
```



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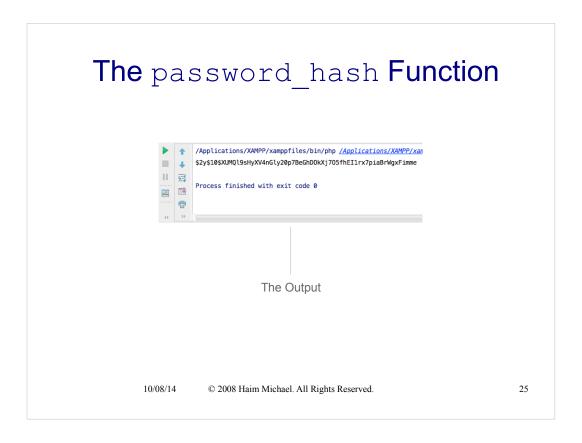
The password_hash Function

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