PHP Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP)

- PHP files are published just like html files
  - No compiling, special directories or anything
  - Typically have the .php extension instead of .html
- When a PHP file is requested:
  - The server retrieves the file from the filesystem
  - The file is executed (interpreted) by the PHP interpreter
  - The resulting output is sent back to the client

Embedded scripting

- PHP is an *embedded* scripting language
  - The code is put inside static HTML

```
<html>
<body>
<h1>Hello, I am HTML</h1>
<h2>
<?php
  print "Hello, I am PHP";
?>
</h2>
</body>
</html>
```

  - The HTML code is passed on to the client, line by line
  - The code inside the tags is interpreted, and the output sent to the client

Why PHP?

- Response headers are automatically generated
  - Just like for a static HTML page

- PHP is very popular because:
  - Familiar c-style syntax, similar to java, C#, javascript
  - Free and open source, active community
  - Supported by most popular web servers
  - Available on most web hosts
  - It's cool to bash Java (JSP) and microsoft (ASP.NET)
- PHP/JSP/ASP are so similar, prior knowledge and server availability should be the deciding factors

Remember, server-side

- PHP code never leaves the server
  - Only the output is sent
- PHP files cannot be directly opened by a web browser
  - The PHP interpreter is on the server