

PHP request data

- PHP provides *superglobal* variables
 - Global, automatic associative arrays
 - Hold relevant external data

```
$_SERVER      # request and server info
```

```
$_ENV        # unix environment vars
```

```
$_GET        # GET query string data
```

```
$_POST       # POST form data
```

```
$_REQUEST    # $_GET and $_POST together
```

Accessing data

- HTML query string elements have a name and a value
 - Name is the key in `$_GET` or `$_POST`
- For example:

```
friends/people.php?name=bob&age=13
```

```
($_GET['name'] == "bob")           # is TRUE  
($_GET['age'] == 13)               # is TRUE
```

Accessing data

- HTML form elements must have a name and a value
 - Name is the key in \$_GET or \$_POST
- For example:

```
<input type="text" name="info" />
```

```
<input type="radio" name="type" value="A" />A
```

```
<input type="radio" name="type" value="B" />B
```

```
<select name="dept">
```

```
  <option value="CSCI">CSCI</option>
```

```
  <option value="CMPE">CMPE</option>
```

```
</select>
```

Accessing data

- What is the value of an empty text box?

`""`

- What is the value of an unchecked checkbox?

`FALSE`

- What is the value of a variable not in the form?

`NULL`

- This is one reason why PHP treats these values the same
- You can also use `isset()` to check if a key exists

Arrays of Data

- Input may involve multi-valued data
 - E.g. multiple recipients of an email, multiple tags on a post
 - Can take a delimited list and parse on the server
 - E.g. “red, blue, green”
 - Could use separate input boxes for each
 - Would like that data to end up in an array
 - E.g. [“red”, “blue”, “green”]
- PHP shortcut: group multiple input elements
 - Give them all the same name, with array indicator
 - E.g. color[]
 - Access as a single array in `$_POST`, named w/o the array indicator
 - E.g. `$colors = $_POST['color']`