

Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

## Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2007-04/msg00268.html>

---

- *From:* Toby A Inkster <[usenet200703@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:usenet200703@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 4 Apr 2007 09:42:24 +0100
- 

K.J.Williams wrote:

I needed the CSS book because I don't know how to use CSS in HTML ,  
I know HTML but not the integration CSS which is now a standard among  
many businesses

If you've not been using CSS, then the chances are, you've not been using  
HTML properly either.

as for PHP , *php in a nutshell* was chosen as reference, and the  
other book published by wrox is to teach me.

I agree that it's usually a good idea to have several books on a  
programming language to be able to learn it. PHP is the exception though.

Firstly, PHP changes so often — normally in backwards compatible ways,  
true, but I don't think I've ever used a language where new features and  
new functions are being added on such a frequent basis. Books become  
obsolete very quickly. If you take a look at these two books you've got,  
I'd bet that at least one of them teaches you the old PHP4 method for  
object-oriented programming. Although that still works, PHP5 objects are  
vastly more powerful.

HTML is a pseudo-programming language

HTML is not a programming language at all — it's a data format, much like  
JPEG or MP3 is.

ditto for Javascript.

Javascript is a fully featured programming object-oriented language. And

Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

## Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

(browser compatibility problems aside) is actually rather pleasant to work with. It's a bit like C or C++ in syntax, but without the need to worry about pointers and memory locations; it has a good object orientation model, but isn't militant about making you use it like Java is.

If and when Sunsoft develops a compiler that produce a independent machine code program from JAVA code, I might reconsider that language – that language is junk.

Consider it this way: a compiled C program will only run on the platform it was compiled for. Say, for example, that you have a C program compiled for Linux on the DEC Alpha processor. If you want to run it, you need to buy a DEC Alpha processor — they don't come cheap.

A compiled Java program will also only run on the platform that it was compiled for. That platform is normally the Java virtual machine. So if you want to run the program, then you need to buy a Java virtual machine. Fortunately, they're free!

Whatsmore, there *\*is\** a true compiler for Java — it's part of the GCC suite. See <http://gcc.gnu.org/java/>.

Java has many drawbacks, but device–independence is normally quoted as one of its best features!

But the most useful of all the programming languages is assembly

Nonsense. A programming language is only as useful as what people can do with it. Given a week, and experienced, say, C programmer can do a lot more in C than an experienced assembly programmer can do in assembly.

Sure, it's fast, and at certain times it's worth the programmer time to drop down into assembly and eek a bit of extra speed out of the program. But those situations are very rare; unless you're working on compression, encryption, high–end 3D graphics or kernel development, you're unlikely to encounter such a situation.

And that basically proves that there can be no such thing as copyright protection scheme or anything to prevent software duplication.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trusted\\_Computing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trusted_Computing)

Summary: TC processors can be designed so that they refuse to run an operating system unless it has been digitally signed. If you modify your operating system, the signature will break, and you'll be unable to run

Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

Re: What is the learning curve for PHP?

it; so for all intents and purposes, the OS cannot be modified. The TC operating system similarly refuses to run a program unless it has been signed; so for all intents and purposes, no programs can be modified.

--

Toby A Inkster BSc (Hons) ARCS

Contact Me ~ <http://tobyinkster.co.uk/contact>

Geek of ~ HTML/SQL/Perl/PHP/Python\*/Apache/Linux

\* = I'm getting there!

.