

Unit-IV

String Manipulation and Regular Expression

Lecture 4.2: String (heredoc Method)

PHP heredoc syntax allows creating multiple lines of string without using quotations i.e. heredoc is a method of declaring a string of PHP that doesn't require the use of quotes, making it easier to read and maintain.

Syntax:

The heredoc starts with `<<<` operator and the multiple lines are followed.

`<<<identifier_name` is used as an identifier making the start of heredoc.

To end the heredoc, the identifier_name is written again.

identifier_name can be any name you want e.g. in example 1, we have taken the name :**Sample**.

In example 2, we have taken the name: **HERE**

Everything in between these identifiers is treated as string, including line breaks and whitespace. You can also include PHP code within the heredoc by enclosing them in curly braces {} as shown in Example 3.

Example 1:

```
<?php
$str= <<<Sample
This is an example string
to show the use of heredoc
Sample;
echo $str;
?>
```

Example 2:

```
<?php
$text= <<<HERE
PHP is a general purpose scripting language
especially suited to web development.
It was created by Rasmus Lerdorf.
HERE;
echo $txt;
?>
```

Example 3:

```
<?php
$name = "ADEVEN";
$my_text = <<<EOT
This is heredoc string. It can
span multiple lines. You can
also include variables, like this: {$name}.
EOT;
echo $my_text;
```

?>

Output:

This is heredoc string. It can span multiple lines. You can also include variables, like this: ADEVEN.

Benefits of using PHP heredoc:

- It makes it easier to write and read large blocks of text, particularly when that text includes variables or other PHP code.
- Heredoc allows you to maintain the formatting of the string, including indentation and line breaks, which can be particularly useful for generating HTML or other formatted text.
- It avoids the need to use escape characters or concatenation, which can make the code harder to read and maintain.
- It allows you to embed variables directly into the string, which makes the code more concise and easier to read.

The heredoc implements all of the features of double quotes and allows you to create multi-line string values without using PHP string concatenation. When you use double quotes to build strings of several lines, you will get an error. It can also use double quotes without escaping them on the inside.