PHP

PHP is both an open-source server-side scripting language used for web development and a general-purpose language for a lot of projects, including graphical user interfaces (GUIs).

The abbreviation PHP initially stood for Personal Homepage, but now it is a recursive acronym• for PHP Hypertext Preprocessor.

PHP runs on the Zend Engine••, which is the most popular implementation. There are some other implementations like HPVM (Hip Hop Virtual Machine), and Hip Hop.

PHP is mostly used for making web servers.

■ Advantages of PHP

PHP has some advantages that have made it so popular.

- **Cross-platform**: PHP is platform-independent, i.e. it can work with different operating systems.

- **Open source**: the original code is available to everybody on the Internet.

- **Easy to learn**: PHP is not hard to learn for absolute beginners.

- **Synchronisation with all databases**: PHP can easily be connected to any database, relational or non-relational.

- **Supportive community**: PHP has a very supportive online community. The official documentation provides guides on how to use its features.
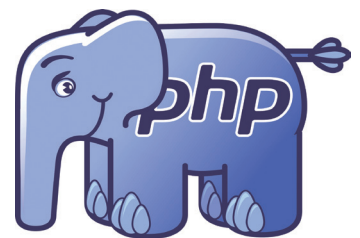
■ Who uses PHP?

A number of established companies and tech giants use PHP to run their servers.

Here are some examples:

- Facebook; the company contributed to the community by creating an implementation known as Hip Hop.

- WordPress, one of the most popular content management systems.

Other examples are Wikipedia, Joomla and Spotify.

In terms of job availability, PHP ranks better in the job market than a lot of other programming languages because of its diffusion.

Top **php** Alternatives

A recursive acronym is an acronym where the first letter is the acronym itself.

The Zend Engine is a compiler and runtime environment for the PHP scripting language.

fledged: *sviluppato*
implementation: *realizzazione, attuazione*
model-view controller (MVC): *modello di architettura del software*
to rank: *posizionarsi, classificarsi*

1 Decide if the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones.

		T	F
1.	PHP is a client-side scripting language.	☐	☐
2.	The Zend Engine is a PHP implementation.	☐	☐
3.	Cross-platform can be used to mean platform-independent.	☐	☐

		T	F
4.	PHP can work with any database.	☐	☐
5.	PHP has created Hip Hop for Facebook.	☐	☐
6.	PHP programmers have difficulty finding a job.	☐	☐

2 Use the following information to compare programming and scripting languages.

Programming language	Scripting language
It has all the features needed to develop complete programs and applications.	It is mostly used for routine tasks.
The code has to be compiled before it can be executed.	The code is usually interpreted.
It does not need to be embedded into other languages.	It is usually embedded into other software environments.

COM AND BINARY REUSE

COM is a model base on binary reuse. This means that software components adhering to COM can be reused without any dependencies on source code. Developers can ship their code as binary files without revealing their proprietary algorithms. The use of COM eliminates compile-time problems. The binary reuse makes it possible to build COM-based applications using language-independent components.

When several teams are building components for a single system, each team can choose its programming language independently.