

PHP Includes

Use PHP server-side includes to put consistent content onto multiple web pages.



Create/Edit the .htaccess file to tell the server that html file will contain php code. Otherwise, you would need to use a .phtml extension on your web pages.

```
AddType php-cgi .html .htm
```

The .htaccess file is also used to provide custom 404 errors pages, server-side redirects, and prevent hotlinking of images.

The .htaccess file is a tool generally available to servers using Apache. Your web host should allow you to create .htaccess files for your root and sub-folders.



Create/Edit your html file(s) to include php variables and include functions.

Your HTML file may have multiple instances of include files that build the page piece by piece. Variables are used to provide the unique information pages may have in consistent areas. For instance, the head section of pages is pretty consistent, but each page should have its own set of keywords, description, etc.

```
<?php
$pagetitle = "Descriptive Title";
$description = "good description";
$keywords = "key, words, here";
include("head-info.inc");
?>
```

```
<body>
<h1>PHP Server-side Includes</h1>
<?php include("navmenu.inc"); ?>
```



Create an include file with .inc to contain the boilerplate content that will display on multiple web pages.

Use variable names to represent the sometimes unique content that is part of the consistent content.

head-info.inc

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html>
<head>
  <title><? echo $pagetitle; ?></title>
  <meta name="author" content="Your Name or company" />
  <meta name="description" content="<? echo $description; ?>" />
  <meta name="keywords" content="<? echo $keywords; ?>" />

  <!-- Link web page to an external stylesheet -->
  <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="yourstyle.css" />
</head>
```