

## What Does My Website Need?

Certain web programming languages and tools help add functionality to a website that HTML alone cannot accomplish. Here is a list of what some of these languages and tools can accomplish.

## **PHP**

### **Send E-mail From a Form**

You can use PHP to send e-mail from a form on your website. Giving users this method of contacting you can help cut down on spam you might receive from directly placing an e-mail link on your site. It also lets you choose the fields you want a user to fill in, so you know you are getting all the information you need in the e-mail.

### **Have a Member Login**

You can use PHP to create a special area of your website for members. You can allow users to register, and then use the registration information to login to your site. All of the users' information is stored in a MySQL Database, with encrypted passwords.

### **Rotate Banners**

If you host banner advertisements on your website, you can use PHP to rotate them randomly. You can also apply this same principal to add things like a rotating page header, or rotating random quotes.

### **Create a Calendar**

You can use PHP to find today's date, and then build a calendar for the month. You can also generate a calendar around a specified date. A calendar can be used as a stand alone script, or incorporated into other scripts where dates are important.

### **Last Visited**

You can tell users the last time they visited your website. PHP can do this by storing a cookie in the user's browser. When they come back, you can read the cookie and remind them that the last time they visited was two weeks ago!

### **Redirect Users**

Whether you want to redirect users from an old page on your site that no longer exists to a new page on your site, or you simply want to give them a shorter URL to remember, PHP can be used to redirect users. All of the redirection information is done server side, so it is smoother than redirecting with HTML.

### **Host a Web Forum**

PHP is one of the most popular languages to create a web forum in. You can use a forum that already exists and modify it for your needs, or you can write a new one from scratch. PHP will usually store forum information in a MySQL database. This allows large quantities of information to be stored, and accessed quickly as needed.

### **Add a Poll**

You can use PHP to let your visitors take part in a poll. You can also use the GD Library with PHP to display the results of your poll visually instead of just listing the results in text.

### **Template Your Site**

If you like to redesign the look of your site often, or just keep the content fresh on all the pages, then this is for you. By keeping all of the design code for your site in separate files, you can have all of your PHP files access the same design. This means that if you make a change, you only need to update one file and all of your pages will change.

Source: <http://php.about.com/od/finishedphp1/tp/tencoolphp.htm>

## JavaScript

### **Display information based on the time of the day**

JavaScript can check the computer's clock and pull the appropriate data based on the clock information.

### **Detect the visitor's browser**

JavaScript can be used to detect the visitor's browser, and load another page specifically designed for that browser.

### **Control Browsers**

JavaScript can open pages in customized windows, where you specify if the browser's buttons, menu line, status line or whatever should be present.

### **Validate forms data**

JavaScript can be used to validate form data at the client-side saving both the precious server resources and time.

### **Create Cookies**

JavaScript can store information on the visitor's computer and retrieve it automatically next time the user visits your page.

### **Add interactivity to your website**

JavaScript can be set to execute when something happens, like when a page has finished loading or when a user clicks on a button.

## CSS

CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets. With just HTML, the look and feel of a website is very limited. CSS brings vast flexibility to website design without compromising programming integration. The result is a perfectly functional and beautiful website. Check out the examples below of CSS designed websites.

### **What is CSS?**

<http://webdesign.about.com/od/beginningcss/a/aa021607.htm>

### **Examples of CSS Design**

<http://www.mezzoblue.com/zengarden/alldesigns/>