

Introduction to this Edition

Readers,

Wow, it's amazing that a little more than four years has already passed since *A Programmer's Introduction to PHP 4.0* published. Since its publication, PHP has continued to dominate as the world's most popular Web scripting language¹, and has further solidified its position as the most popular Apache module². Also, thanks to the work of countless volunteers and a dedicated core development team, we've all been able to take advantage of the wonderful new features in PHP 5, which was released on July 13, 2004.

Almost in conjunction with the new PHP release, my new book, "Beginning PHP 5 and MySQL: From Novice to Professional" was published in June, 2004. The response to the book has been tremendous, and I sincerely thank all of those readers for the emails, questions, comments, and suggestions thus far. Receiving email from my readers is indeed one of the most gratifying aspects of writing.

While I encourage you to take advantage of PHP 5, it's fair to say that many ISPs and organizations won't be upgrading immediately. That said for many of you, much of the material found in *A Programmer's Introduction to PHP 4.0* is as relevant as it was four years ago. I hope you find this free electronic edition useful, and invite you to email me with questions. Contact me anytime at jason@wjgilmore.com.

Happy Programming!

Sincerely,
Jason

W. Jason Gilmore
January 31, 2005

¹<http://www.php.net/usage.php>

²http://www.securityspace.com/s_survey/data/man.200305/apachemods.html