

Preface

Welcome to **Secure PHP Development: Building 50 Practical Applications**. PHP has come a long way since its first incarnation as a Perl script. Now PHP is a powerful Web scripting language with object-oriented programming support. Slowly but steadily it has entered the non-Web scripting arena often reserved for Perl and other shell scripting languages. Arguably, PHP is one of the most popular Web platforms. In this book you will learn about how to secure PHP applications, how to develop and use an application framework to develop many useful applications for both Internet and intranet Web sites.

Is This Book for You?

This is not a PHP language book for use as reference. There are many good PHP language books out there. This book is designed for intermediate- to advanced-level PHP developers who can review the fifty PHP applications developed for this book and deploy them as is or customize them as needed. However, it is entirely possible for someone with very little PHP background to deploy the applications developed for this book. Therefore, even if you are not currently a PHP developer, you can make use of all the applications with very little configuration changes.

If you are looking for example applications that have defined features and implementation requirements, and you want to learn how applications are developed by professional developers, this book a great starting point. Here you will find numerous examples of applications that have been designed from the ground up using a central application framework, which was designed from scratch for this book.

The book shows developers how PHP applications can be developed by keeping security considerations in focus and by taking advantage of an object-oriented approach to PHP programming whenever possible to develop highly maintainable, extensible applications for Web and intranet use.

How This Book Is Organized

The book is organized into seven parts.

Part I: Designing PHP Applications

Part I is all about designing practical PHP applications while understanding and avoiding security risks. In this part, you learn about practical design and implementation considerations, best practices, and security risks and the techniques you can take to avoid them.