Essential PHP Security

By Chris Shiflett

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Being highly flexible in building dynamic, database-driven web applications makes the PHP programming language one of the most popular web development tools in use today. It also works beautifully with other open source tools, such as the MySQL database and the Apache web server. However, as more web sites are developed in PHP, they become targets for malicious attackers, and developers need to prepare for the attacks.

Security is an issue that demands attention, given the growing frequency of attacks on web sites. *Essential PHP Security* explains the most common types of attacks and how to write code that isn't susceptible to them. By examining specific attacks and the techniques used to protect against them, you will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the safeguards you are about to learn in this book.

In the much-needed (and highly-requested) *Essential PHP Security*, each chapter covers an aspect of a web application (such as form processing, database programming, session management, and authentication). Chapters describe potential attacks with examples and then explain techniques to help you prevent those attacks.

Topics covered include:

- Preventing cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerabilities
- Protecting against SQL injection attacks
- Complicating session hijacking attempts

You are in good hands with author Chris Shiflett, an internationally-recognized expert in the field of PHP security. Shiflett is also the founder and President of Brain Bulb, a PHP consultancy that offers a variety of services to clients around the world.

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Essential PHP Security By Chris Shiflett Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #844965 in Books
- Published on: 2005-10-23
- Released on: 2005-10-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.19" h x .28" w x 7.00" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 130 pages
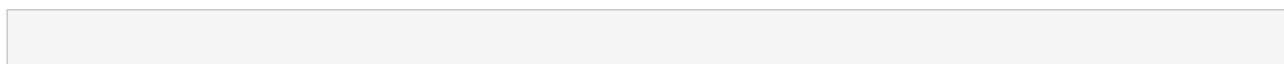
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Editorial Review

Review
You've heard the nasty stories about PHP sites being wiped off the web by evil hackers? Sadly it's not scare-mongering as it does happen, and as much as we love PHP it needs proper security to keep your site safe from harm. Plenty of PHP books have the odd chapter on security but at last O'Reilly have published a whole volume dedicated to the cause, with all the code you'll need to keep everything in order. Each chapter covers a different aspect of the application, from form processing to database programming and session management. Written in a straight forward style, it's ideal for every PHP user, but at GBP20 you might expect a little more than just 100 pages." .NET, November 2005 "If you write PHP scripts, get a copy" - Alain Williams, news@UK, March 2006

About the Author

Chris Shiflett, an internationally recognized expert in the field of PHP security, is the founder and President of Brain Bulb, a PHP consultancy. Chris has been developing web applications with PHP for several years and regularly speaks at OSCON, ApacheCon, and PHP users conferences in North America. He is the author of the HTTP Developer's Handbook (Sams) and writes frequently about web application security. As an open source advocate, he maintains several open source projects and is a member of the PHP development team.

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