

Cloning functions, a different approach dealing with classes. - Developer News

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Learn how to clone your methods inside classes. A great way to pass and retrieve data.

This and other tutorials are also available at my site: www.kaotik.biz

This tutorial was originally written by:Hitesh Agrawal. Since it's no longer available online and such a good tutorial, I copied it to my site.

Cloning functions, a different approach dealing with classes.

In PHP 5 when you assign one object to another object, it creates a reference copy and does not create a duplicate copy. This would create a big mess as all the object will share the same memory defined for the object. To counter this PHP 5 has introduced clone method which creates a duplicate copy of the object. __clone magic method automatically gets called whenever you call clone methods in PHP 5.

Example – Without Object Cloning

Output:

Kangaroo—2

Kangaroo—2

Explanation:

Here I have created a \$tiger object of Animal class

Created another variable \$kangaroo and assigned \$tiger to \$kangaroo

After echo it prints the details entered last because both the variables are referring to the same memory location

Example – Above Example With clone Function

Output:

Object Cloning in Progress

Tiger—4

Kangaroo—2

Explanation:

Here i have created an \$tiger object of Animal class

Then created another variable \$kangaroo having clone of \$tiger. This calls the __clone magic method

After echo it prints the details entered by individual object as both of them are referring to separate object and memory location

The above technique of cloning discussed is called shallow copy. There are other techniques called Deep Copy wherein you create duplicate copy of objects referring to other objects etc.

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