

Multimedia im Netz

Wintersemester 2013/2014

Part I

Web Technologies for Interactive Multimedia

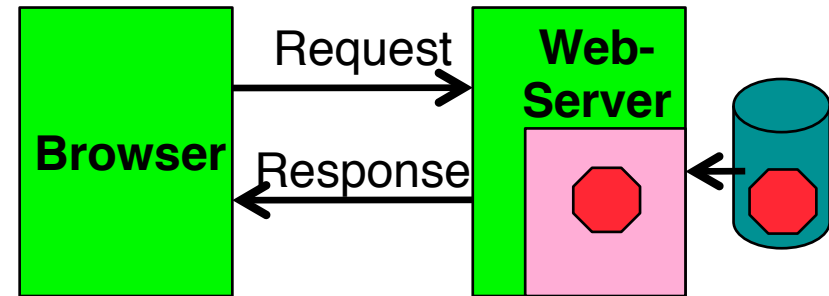
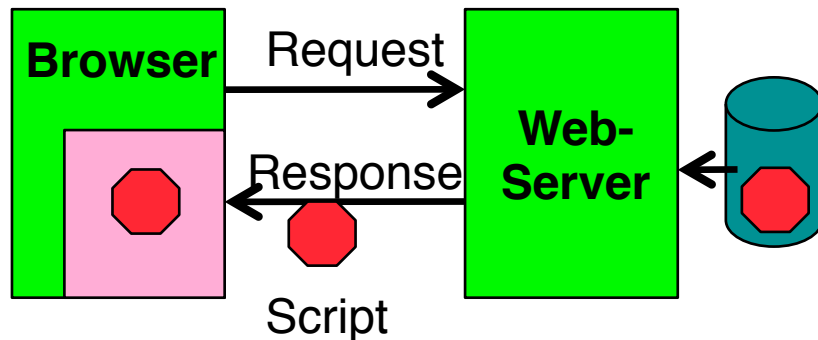
Chapter 2: Interactive Web Applications

- 2.1 Interactivity and Multimedia in the WWW architecture
- 2.2 Interactive Client-Side Scripting for Multimedia
(Example HTML5/JavaScript)
- 2.3 Interactive Server-Side Scripting (Example PHP)
- 2.4 Data Storage in Web Applications
(Example Database Access in PHP)
- 2.5 Integrated Server/Client-Side Scripting
(Example jQuery/AJAX)

Dynamic Web Contents

- Content shown to user in browser is dependent on some external variables
- Examples of external variables:
 - Date and time
 - Contents of an information archive (e.g. recent news)
 - Actions of the user
 - » Pointing to elements
 - » Clicking at a certain position
 - » Filling out forms
- Wide-spread applications:
 - E-Commerce
 - Interpersonal communication media (forums, discussion boards)
 - Mass media (news and other information services)

Server-Side vs. Client-Side Realisation



- Client-side realisation:
 - Browser contains execution engine for scripts
 - Web server does not need to execute scripts
 - Script is sent to client as part of server response
 - Example: JavaScript

- Server-side realisation:
 - Web server contains execution engine for scripts
 - Browser does not need to execute scripts
 - Script is executed on server and computes response to client
 - Example: PHP

Server Scripts vs. Client Scripts

Client-Side Scripts (e.g. JavaScript)

Fast reaction times – **good for fluid interaction**
Works also without network connectivity
Independent of server software

Computation of page contents
dependent on external variables

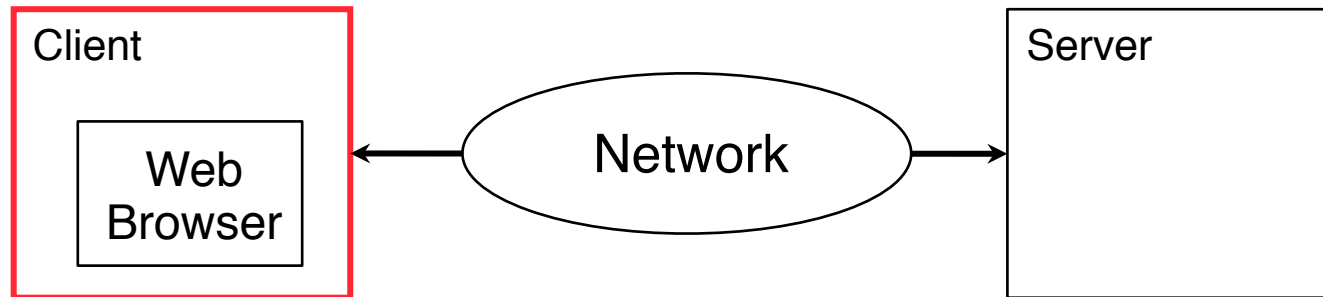
Server-Side Scripts (e.g. PHP)

Data storage on server – **good for accessing media archives**
Access to central resources (e.g. for request processing)
Independent of browser software

Web Architectures for Interactivity

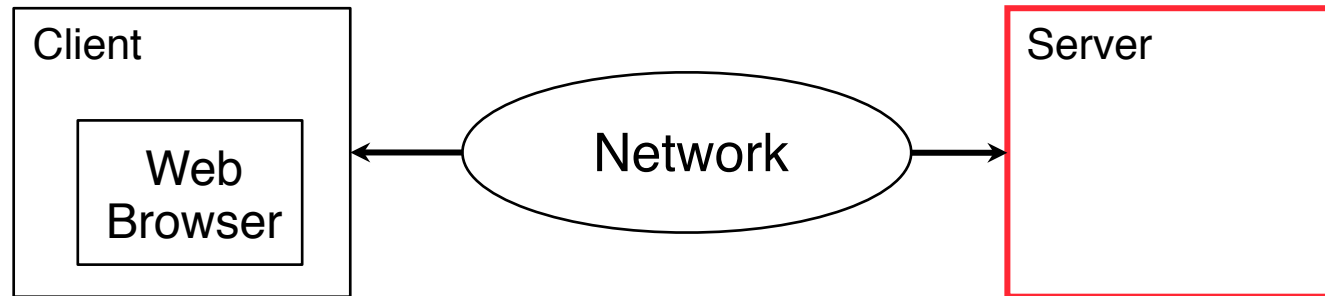
- Early approaches: “Common Gateway Interface (CGI)”
 - Informally defined, programs invoked to create HTML code
 - Drawbacks: Security problems, high processor load (separate process)
- Nowadays: Web server software add-ons
 - Interfaces to common scripting and programming languages
 - e.g. Perl, Ruby, Java
- Web server software integrated with specific execution environments (“Application Server”)
 - Highly optimized for good throughput
 - Complex, many configuration options
 - e.g. Servers for Java Enterprise Edition, Microsoft .NET framework
- Scripting languages specifically designed for Web application development
 - e.g. PHP
 - see later

Media Support – Functions of Client Only



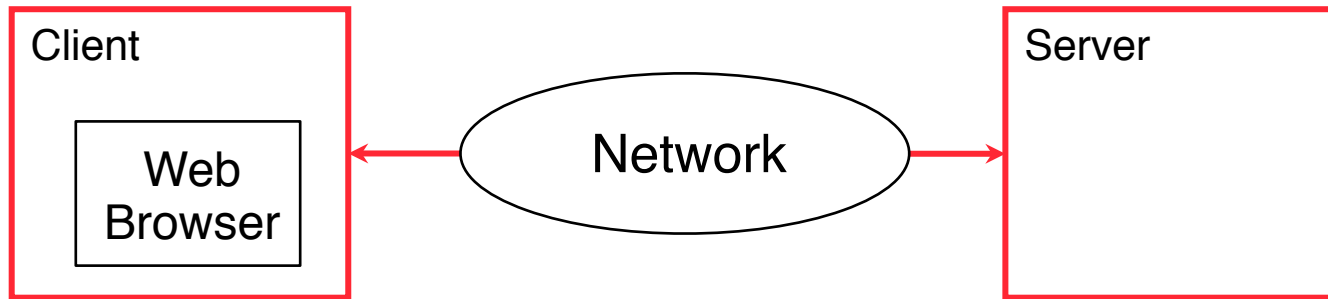
- Media rendering:
 - Recognition of media file types
 - » MIME registry of browser
 - Local media playing software
 - » Plugins or separate programs
- Interactivity:
 - Local interactions
 - » Highlighting, dynamic menus etc.

Media Support – Functions by Server Only



- Media rendering:
 - Storage of media files and meta-information
 - Indexing and querying
- Interactivity:
 - Interactions with server-side effect
 - » E.g. database updates (registration, buying, ...)
 - Interactions with global effect for all users
 - » E.g. adding a comment, uploading a video

Media Support – Functions by Client & Server



- Media streaming:
 - Playback of incomplete content in client
 - Playout in defined order from server
 - Synchronization, rate control, buffering
 - Flow control (stop, start, pause)
 - Adaptation to network conditions
- Interactivity:
 - Near real-time interactions
 - » E.g. status notifications, data ticker

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Embedding Media in HTML

- Media embedding requires:
 - Media data (a file)
 - Player software
- Typical media data:
 - Sound files (e.g. .wav, .mp3, .ogg, .midi)
 - Movie files (e.g. .avi, .mov, .ogv, .flv)
 - Programs to be executed on a virtual machine (“universal player”), e.g.:
 - » Java applets
 - » Flash runtime code (Shockwave Flash, .swf)
 - » Silverlight application packages (.xap)
- Browser integration:
 - Built-in: Browser "knows" about player for media type
 - Plug-in: Flexible association between player and media type
- Incompatibilities in older versions of HTML
 - `embed` by Netscape, `object` by W3C & Microsoft, strange combinations!

HTML 5

- HTML Version 5
 - Draft W3C standard (most recent draft 19 October 2010!)
 - Developed in parallel to XHTML 1.0
 - » XHTML 2.0 development has been stopped
- HTML 5 is partially supported already by many modern browsers
- HTML 5 contains standardized and simple media embedding tags
 - audio
 - video
 - embed

Audio Embedding in HTML 5

- Example:

```
<html> ...
  <body>
    ...
    <audio src="nightflyer.ogg" autoplay>
      Your browser does not support the <code>audio</code> element.
    </audio>
```

- Attributes (examples):
 - autoplay: Playback starts automatically
 - controls: Control UI elements are made visible
 - loop: Plays in an endless loop
 - preload: Hints about preloading expectations
- Subelement <source>:
 - Alternative way to specify data source
 - Multiple occurrence is possible, first supported version is taken

Video Embedding in HTML 5

- Example:

```
<html>
  <body>
    <video controls>
      Your browser does not support the <code>video</code> element.
      <source src="big_buck_bunny_480p_stereo.ogg" type="video/ogg">
      <source src="big_buck_bunny_480p_surround-fix.avi">
    </video>
```

- Additional Attributes compared to <audio> (examples):
 - height, width: Dimensions of video image
 - poster: Image to be shown until first frame becomes available
- Events (can be handled e.g. with JavaScript, examples):
 - empty
 - canplay
 - ended
 - abort
 - volumechange

<embed> in HTML 5

- HTML 5 contains a standardized version of the `<embed>` element
- Purpose:
 - Embed arbitrary content played back via plug-in software
- Examples:
 - Flash content
 - Java applets
- Not intended for media playback

Video Codecs and HTML5 Video

- HTML5 Working Group: All browsers should support at least one common video format
 - Good quality & compression, hardware-supported, royalty-free!
- Problems with mainstream formats:
 - Patents on H.264 and its successor HEVC/H.265
 - Fear of hidden patents for Ogg Theora
- Google:
 - Release of WebM to the public (after purchase of On2)
 - WebM container format based on Matroska container
 - VP8 video format with Vorbis audio (current)
 - VP9 video format with Opus audio (in preparation), open, royalty-free
- Patent battle between Google and Nokia on VP8
- Still no simple common solution for the key manufacturers available
 - Neither H.264 nor VP8 supported by all browsers on all platforms

Client-Side Interactivity with HTML5

- Browser-executed scripting languages
 - JavaScript, mainly
- Processing of user input
 - Event handling for mouse and keyboard input
 - Additional controls
- 2D graphics drawing
 - `canvas` element
- Animations
 - JavaScript frameworks, e.g. jQuery or JSCreate

HTML5 Interactive Controls

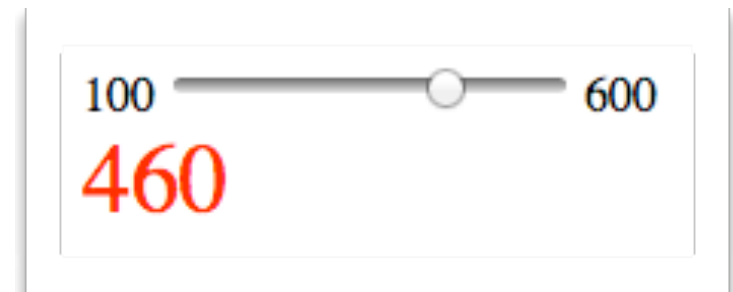
- Standard controls for interactive applications have been integrated into HTML5
 - “range” element (slider control)
 - “color” element (interactive color picker)
- Potential:
 - Higher client-side (stand-alone) interactivity
 - Typical applications: Drawing, image editing
 - See discussion of “canvas” element below

Example: Slider in HTML5

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html> ...
  <body>
    <output id="min_val"></output>
    <input type="range" id="slider" min="100" max="600" step="10"/>
    <output id="max_val"></output></br>
    <output id="cur_val" style="color:red; font-size:200%;"></output>

    <script type="text/javascript">
      document.addEventListener("DOMContentLoaded",
        function(){
          min_val.value = slider.min; max_val.value = slider.max;
        }, false);
      slider.addEventListener("change",
        function(){
          cur_val.value = slider.value;
        }, false);
    </script>
  </body>
</html>
```

slider.html



HTML5 Canvas

- “HTML5 Canvas is an *immediate mode* bitmapped area of the screen that can be manipulated with JavaScript.” (Fulton/Fulton)
- *2D Drawing Context*:
 - Object associated with a Canvas object
 - Used as handler in JavaScript to address the canvas (drawing API)
- Typical drawing primitives:
 - Draw shapes
 - Render text
 - Display images
 - Apply colors, rotations, transparency, pixel manipulations, fills, strokes
- (Pure) Canvas works on (low) pixel level
 - Browser redraws whole canvas each time the Canvas is modified using JavaScript
 - “Retained mode” rendering is provided by JavaScript libraries (e.g. EaselJS, part of CreateJS, see <http://www.createjs.com>)

Example: Drawing on the Canvas

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Canvas Hello World</title>

  <script type="text/javascript">
    window.addEventListener("load", drawScreen, false);
    function drawScreen() {
      var c = document.getElementById("theCanvas");
      var ctx = c.getContext("2d");
      ctx.fillStyle = "lightgrey";
      ctx.fillRect(0, 0, c.width, c.height);
      ctx.font = "italic bold 32px sans-serif";
      ctx.fillStyle = "red";
      ctx.fillText("Hello World!", 50, 50);
    }
  </script>
</head>
<body>
  <canvas id="theCanvas" width=300 height=80>
    Your browser does not support Canvas!
  </canvas>
</body>
</html>
```



canvashello.html

Example: Interactive Gradient (1)

```
<!doctype html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Canvas Gradient Fill</title>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <script type="text/javascript">
    window.addEventListener("mousemove", drawScreen, false);
    function drawScreen(event) {
      var c = document.getElementById("theCanvas");
      var ctx = c.getContext("2d");
      var mx = Math.min(event.clientX,c.width);
      var my = Math.min(event.clientY,c.height);
      var grad =
        ctx.createRadialGradient(mx, my, 0, mx, my, c.width*1.5);
      grad.addColorStop(0,"#f00");
      grad.addColorStop(1,"#00f");
      ctx.fillStyle = grad;
      ctx.fillRect(0, 0, c.width, c.height);
    }
  </script>
</head>
```

gradient.html

Example: Interactive Gradient (2)

...

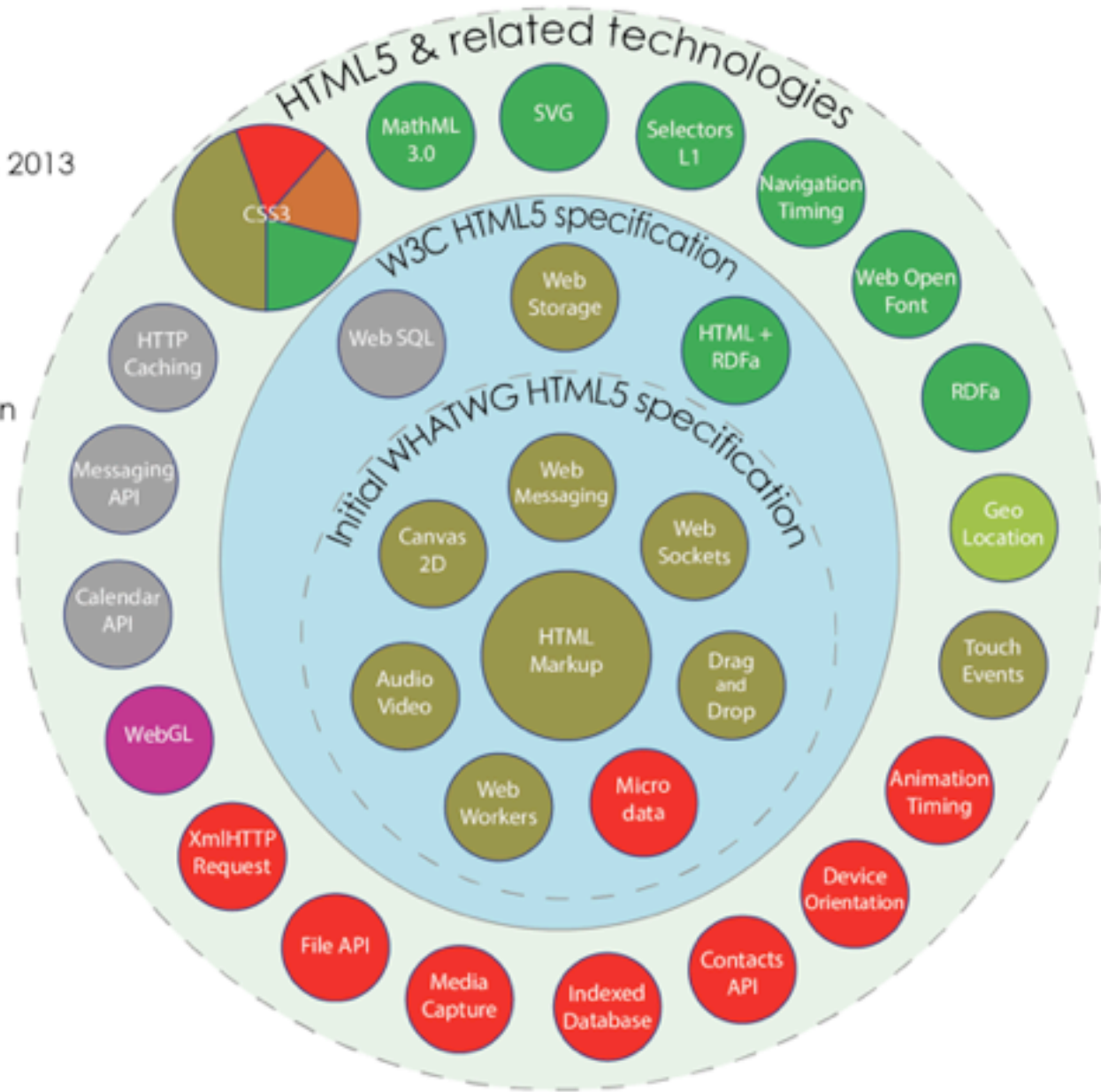
```
<body>  
  <canvas id="theCanvas" width=500 height=500>  
    Your browser does not support Canvas!  
  </canvas>  
</body>  
</html>
```



HTML5

Taxonomy & Status on January 20, 2013

- W3C Recommendation
- Proposed Recommendation
- Candidate Recommendation
- Last Call
- Working Draft
- Non-W3C Specifications
- Deprecated



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Server-Side Script Language PHP



(Only an example for a server-side script language!)

- PHP:
 - **P**ersonal **H**ome **P**age Toolkit
 - » 1995, Rasmus Lerdorf
 - » 2003, new by Zeev Suraski, Andi Gutmans
 - **P**HP **H**ypertext **P**reprocessor (recursive acronym, backronym)
- Current version: 5.5.4 (September 2013) [version 6 has been stopped]
- OpenSource project:
 - see www.php.net
 - Can be used and modified freely (PHP license)
- Syntax loosely oriented towards C
 - Variations of possible syntax
- Extensive function library
 - being extended by community

Prerequisites for Using PHP in Practice

- Always (even if using just one computer)
 - Installation of a Web server
 - » OpenSource: *Apache*
 - » Microsoft *Internet Information Server*
 - Invocation of PHP always indirectly by loading pages from server (<http://...>)
 - » Loading from local computer: <http://localhost/...>
- Installation of PHP software as plug-in for used Web server
- Very often also installation of a data base system (e.g. MySQL)
- Frequently used acronyms for specific configurations:
 - LAMP: Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP
 - WIMP: Windows, Internet Information Server, MySQL, PHP
 - MOXAMP: MacOS X, Apache, MySQL, PHP

Activation of PHP Module in Apache

- Example (MacOS 10.8):
 - Apache + PHP module are pre-installed
 - Apache server needs to be started...
 - Configuration needs to be updated (remove a comment sign)
- /etc/apache2/httpd.conf:

```
# This is the main Apache HTTP server configuration file.  It contains the
# configuration directives that give the server its instructions.
# See <URL:http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2> for detailed information.
...
LoadModule  bonjour_module      libexec/apache2/mod_bonjour.so
LoadModule  php5_module         libexec/apache2/libphp5.so
#LoadModule fastcgi_module     libexec/apache2/mod_fastcgi.so
```

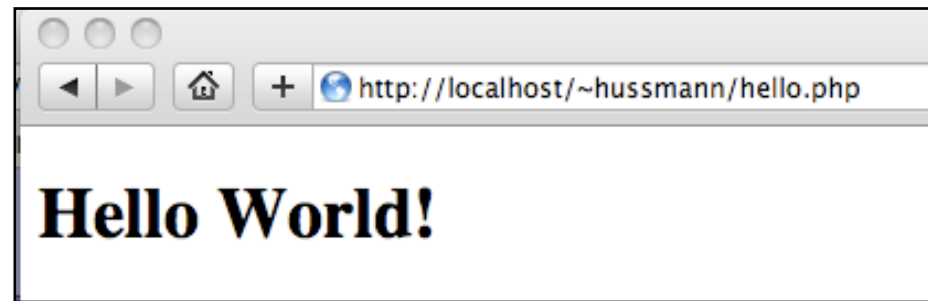
Hello World in PHP

```
<!DOCTYPE html>

<html>
<head>
  <title>Hello World with PHP</title>
</head>

<body>
  <h1>
    <?php echo "Hello World!"; ?>
  </h1>
</body>
</html>
```

File hello.php
in Web server directory



Embedding of PHP into HTML

- XML style (used here):
 - Like *Processing Instructions* in XML

```
<?php PHP Text ?>
```
- SGML style:
 - Widely used in older scripts
 - Not really recommendable: PHP language not specified

```
<? PHP Text ?>
```
- HTML style:
 - Using HTML tag:

```
<script language="php"> PHP Text </script>
```

PHP Syntax (1)

- Inheritance from shell scripts
 - Variables start with "\$"
 - Some UNIX commands part of the language, e.g.:
- Control statements exist in different versions, e.g.:

```
echo "Hello";
```

```
if (bedingung1)
```

```
    anw1
```

```
elseif (bedingung2)
```

```
    anw2
```

```
else anw3;
```

```
if (bedingung1):           anwfolge1
```

```
elseif (bedingung2):      anwfolge2
```

```
else:                      anwfolge3
```

```
endif;
```

PHP Syntax (2)

- Various comment styles:
 - One-line comment, C style:
`echo "Hello"; // Hello World`
 - One-line comment, Perl style / Unix shell style:
`echo "Hello"; # Hello World`
 - "One line" ends also at end of PHP block
 - Multi-line comment, C-style:
`echo "Hello"; /* Comment
spreads over multiple lines */`
 - Do not create nested C-style comments!
- Instruction must always be terminated with ";"
 - Exception: end of PHP block contains implicit ";"

PHP Type System

- Scalar types:
 - boolean, integer, float (aka double), string
- Compound types:
 - array, object
- Special types:
 - resource, NULL
 - Resource type: refers to external resource, like a file

- "The type of a variable is not usually set by the programmer; rather, it is decided at runtime by PHP depending on the context in which that variable is used."
(PHP Reference Manual)