

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [A List Of Project Ideas](#)

AppleJuice - July 4, 2014, 2:35 pm

If you have been learning PHP recently, it can be a bit difficult to figure out what you want to build to try out your new skills. I've decided to create a list of possible project ideas to inspire you, and help you improve your PHP knowledge. Any suggestions of projects to add to this list, would be greatly appreciated.

Easy Projects

Dynamic WebsiteBuild a dynamic website in PHP. Every page should include a header and footer.

Example Source:

<http://pastebin.com/qAjRAvJ7>

Steps to improve:Allow each page to modify the title tag for that page

Make it so the navigation bar shows you what page you are on

Todo/Tasks ListCreate a Todo/Task list that allows you to see tasks on that list. You should also be able to modify and complete the tasks.

Steps to improve:Add a feature where you can assign tasks to a person

Contacts ListCreate a contacts lists that stores information of people, as well as contact methods.

Steps to improve:Add a way to assign a picture to that person

Create a way to search contacts based on a search query

QuizCreate a simple multiple choice quiz, then give the user's results. Allow the user to see which questions they got wrong and show the correct answer.

Steps to improve:Give the user a score out of 100%

Time the user from start to finish

RatingCreate a way for users to rate things out of 5 stars. The user should only be able to rate once.

Photo GalleryCreate a simple photo gallery that allows you to display photos. The photo gallery should use small thumbnails, upon clicking a photo it should show a larger version of the photo (using a Javascript popup, or on a separate page.)

Steps to improve:Implement a method to upload images (admin panel, member feature?)

Allow guests to comment, rate or share images

Make a feature that allows you to create albums/folders that can store other albums/folder or images.

Shoutbox/GuestbookCreate a shoutbox/guestbook that allows people to say something. It should store the user's name, email and message in a database or flat file.

Steps to improve:Ensure that it is secure from XSS and SQLi (Do NOT use mysql_* functions, instead use PDO with prepared statements!)

Show a certain amount of messages per page

Allow smilies/emoticons

Add a word filter (ie, replace AppleJuice to A*****)

Add some sort of message moderation system, only approved messages can be displayed

Allow users to register their accounts, so other cannot login into them (users cant go on admin accounts w/o authentication)

Contact FormCreate a contact form that allows people to contact you. The contact form should have fields that are reasonable (ie, name, email address, subject, message). When the user clicks "send" it should send an email to your desired email address.

Steps to improve:Add a Captcha to prevent spam and abuse (make your own, or use an existing one such as reCaptcha)

Add a recipient field that allows the user to choose where the email should go to (ie, Webmaster,

Billing, Support, Abuse, etc)

Make sure you are NOT using the PHP mail() function, use a PHP mailing library such as [PHP Mailer](#)

Calendar/Event SchedulerCreate a calendar that allows you to switch to different months and years. Your calendar should display different events on a specific day or days. Make a way that allows you to add, modify and delete events. Events should be able to have detailed information.

Steps to improve:Make events happen all day, or a time range (ie, 6AM to 9PM)

Make events happen over multiple days (ie, from May 1st to July 4th)

HangmanMake a hangman games that chooses a random word. You can make the game use actual images or ASCII art. The user should have limited guesses. You should be able to guess individual letters or a word/phrase.

Steps to improve:Download a dictionary and make the game choose a random word from that list

Allow the player to get a hint (single letter or description of the word)

Keep track of the player's wins and losses

Make Your RSS/Atom Feed ReaderMake a script that can fetch and parse an RSS/Atom feed. It should display a short summary of the article, and be able to link to the original location.

Intermediate Projects

Make a GameRecreate an existing game you like, into PHP. Build a card game, a Pokemon clone, multiplayer connect4, or a virtual pet game.

Steps to improve:Create minigames, you can incorporate other languages (such as Actionscript)

Membership SystemCreate a membership system that allows people to register an account, and login into their account. You can add other features such as resetting password, required to be logged in to post a comment on a shoutbox/guestbook or to participate in a poll or to rate something.

Steps to improve:Require the user to activate their account (via email)

Allow users to have their own profile

Allow users to interact with other users

Take a challenge, make this into your own small social network and see where it takes you!

Make Your Own CaptchaMake your own captcha. Use different techniques to distort the image, while making it eligible to still read the captcha. Take a look into [PHP GD extension](#)

Make Your Own Template EngineMake your own template engine that allows you to separate your HTML and PHP. Templates should be able to have logic (compare data, etc) and should be able to display data from variables passed from a database.

Make Your Own PastebinMake your own application that allows you to paste in code, and to share it with others. Offer syntax highlighting, and possibly password protected pastes.

Support SystemBuild a system that allows users to receive support, whether it is a list of common questions, or a ticketing system.

Steps to improve:Allow users to have a real-time conversation for support with agents

Allow users to receive notifications when an agent has replied to them

Create a GUI in a language of your choice, to allow agents to support others (ie: C#, Java, C/C++)

Malicious Content ScannerCreate a script that allows you to scan files in a specific directory for malicious content. You can use common functions such as: exec, system, or eval to determine if a file may contain malicious content.

Steps to improve:Incorporate an anti-virus software to scan files for any malware

Advanced Projects

ChatroomCreate a PHP based chatroom, and use MySQL (or a different database engine) to store the messages. Use AJAX to periodically fetch new messages along with the current users, and use

AJAX to send messages.

See an example:

<http://frug.github.io/AJAX-Chat/>

Steps to improve: Allow multiple rooms (ie, Main, Help, Developers, etc)

Allow administration and moderator features to kick and ban people for a certain amount of time

Create a permission base system with groups. Assign users to groups to allow/deny them from doing certain actions

Create a spam filter (only post X number of messages in a certain period of time)

Build Your Own CMS Build your own CMS, and design it how you want it to. It's a great learning experience, and you will be able to try lots of different things out.

Ideas for your CMS: Database dynamic pages (all pages are stored in a database)

Have a revision history, with the ability to undo changes to pages/blog posts

Allow guests to comment on pages/blog posts

Create a customisable sidebar with widgets, that allows you to move, add and edit widgets in an admin panel.

Build Your Own Search Engine If you have knowledge with another language such as Java, C/C++ or Python you can incorporate it with PHP and create your own search engine. Using another language, create a website crawler that follows links to other websites, indexes the pages of websites and stores it into a database. Then using PHP, allow the user to search through that database and show them results to websites that best results their query.

Build Your Own Forum Don't like other forum CMSes out there? Build your own forum CMS! Store boards in categories, allow users to register accounts, allow users to create their own threads and reply to other users' threads.

Steps to improve: Create a group or permission based system ([check out ACL](#)) that chooses which users/groups can do certain actions (ie, members and above can create posts, moderators and above can remove spammy posts, and admins can delete members)

Add functionality to lock, move and delete threads/posts

Add functionality to allow staff to merge threads together

Image/Video Hosting Service Allow users to upload videos or images. Allow users to put their images into albums.

Notice:

If you truly want to do this, do NOT use a free webhosting service, and to be aware of illegal/copyrighted content that may be uploaded.

Steps to improve: Give the user a limited amount of space to upload content, and can extend it by upgrading accounts

e-Commerce Shopping Cart Build your own e-Commerce Shopping Cart where administrators can create products to sell. Allow customers to purchase products with different methods of payments (PayPal, Bitcoin, etc)

Notice:

If you are going to handle bank details or credit card information DO NOT store any of the information on your server, and use SSL.

Steps to improve: Allow customers to rate products

Allow customers to purchase the items as gifts

Webmail Create your own webmail application that allows you to login into an email account, send and receive emails.

Steps to improve: Allow functionality to upload attachments

Allow a way to search for emails

Make a filter that can move emails (or delete)

Make A Proxy Script Make your own proxy using cURL in PHP. It should allow you to GET and POST information.

Steps to improve: Prevent proxying other computers on the same network

Compress (and cache?) images, styles, and scripts

Make Your Own Uptime CheckerMake your own website that checks the uptime of websites. It should ping websites periodically, and check their response to see their uptime.

Make A MySQL Backup ScriptMake a PHP script that will periodically backup a MySQL database. It should support being called from CRON jobs

Steps to improve:Allow backups of multiple databases

Allow backups of different database engines (SQLite, Mongoddb, etc)

Allow options to split tables into different files

Traffic Tracking/AnalysesBuild a tool that will track traffic to a website, determines who visits your website most, and other information about their system and browser (language, screen size, browser info, etc) you will most likely need to use Javascript to grab this sort of information, then use PHP to store and compile the data into a user friendly readable format.

Advertisement SystemCreate an advertisement system that allows advertisers to create advertisements for products, website, and businesses. Allow web-developers to add advertisements on their website and earn revenue. You can support a wide variety of payment methods: PayPal, Credit Card (use stripe), or Crypto-Currencies.

MarketplaceCreate a marketplace that allows people to give, receive, and trade items. You can allow people give things for free, trade for greater or equal value, or trade for money. You can make your marketplace based on physical goods, services (ie: programming, design, etc), or for a community such as Steam Games, or similar.

Cloud ServiceCreate a cloud service for website hosting, file hosting, or communication. You can improve other languages to create apps for other platforms.

Project RepositoryCreate a service that allows you to create repositories for a version control (GIT, SVN, HG, etc.) You can create a control panel to manage repositories and see revision history.

Universal Authentication PlatformCreate a platform that allows you to authenticate into multiple website, allow developers to incorporate your platform into their website to register and login into websites.

Website BuilderCreate a website builder, that gives the ability to create and manage websites with

little-to-no coding experience. You can make it so you can drag and drop widgets, modify widgets and content. you can even hook this up with your own CMS.

Nothing Interesting?

If none of these projects interest you then there are some alternatives. Make your own plugin/modification for your favourite CMS.

Make your own framework, a great learning experience! Look into OOP, MVC, DRY, and REST design patterns to improve your framework.

Make a PHP extension.

Learn how to use a larger framework such as Laravel, Kohana, Zend Framework, CakePHP, or Symfony

Contribute to an open source project, such as WordPress, myBB, etc. Checkout [Github to find an open source project](#)

Build a website for something you are interested! This will allow you to practice your design skills and HTML/CSS. You can write it from scratch with PHP, or use a CMS and expand it

Cathal - July 4, 2014, 3:24 pm

Good thread, I can think of a few people looking for just this *looks at VipVince*.. Regarding credit cards, look into Stripe, though I don't think its available in the US yet.

VipVince - July 5, 2014, 3:12 am

(Jul 4, 2014 03:24 PM)Cathal Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good thread, I can think of a few people looking for just this *looks at VipVince*.. Regarding credit cards, look into Stripe, though I don't think its available in the US yet.

You got that right mate.

Awesome tutorial. Definitely has given me a lot of ideas to practice with.

This thread will sure keep me busy.

Knar. - July 5, 2014, 7:03 am

(Jul 4, 2014 03:24 PM)Cathal Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good thread, I can think of a few people looking for just this *looks at VipVince*.. Regarding credit cards, look into Stripe, though I don't think its available in the US yet.

Stripe is available in the US! I'm using it now :)

Nice thread OP, should definitely help out some people.

Tonio - July 5, 2014, 7:24 am

Yes, really nice thread ! Thank you, you gave me some ideas to develop !

Marshall Mathers - July 24, 2014, 12:03 pm

Thanks for this bro, could use this :)

Kind regards,
[?Kenny](#)

Hidden™ - July 24, 2014, 12:04 pm

Great thread, thank you for posting this. Bookmarked.

AppleJuice - July 24, 2014, 12:13 pm

Thank you guys, I'm glad you find this thread useful.

If anyone is interested, I could add more to the list and maybe some example projects you can play around with to improve your experience.

Infinite' - August 5, 2014, 1:19 pm

Could you possibly create a private message, inbox system and integrate it into my admin panel?

AppleJuice - August 5, 2014, 1:57 pm

(Aug 5, 2014 01:19 PM)?Infinite Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Could you possibly create a private message, inbox system and integrate it into my admin panel?

It's possible, but please PM me if you want me to do work for you.

This thread is probably not very appropriate to ask me such things :P

Wireframe - August 5, 2014, 2:39 pm

Thanks for this thread.

I always run out of ideas and then I got bored.

SIM-1073426 - August 5, 2014, 5:17 pm

Nice project ideas man, wouldn't mind seeing more of these. :)

Imperious1 - August 7, 2014, 2:28 pm

None of these are very unique, but I like the captcha and pastebin ideas, as well as a few from the advanced section.

AppleJuice - August 7, 2014, 2:39 pm

(Aug 7, 2014 02:28 PM)WoWoX Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) None of these are very unique, but I like the captcha and pastebin ideas, as well as a few from the advanced section.

Not unique? So what? It's simply a list for people who want to improve their PHP experience by creating small projects. I've created this, since people often ask for project ideas, to save time.

I will be adding more to the list, when I get the chance to.

Gozzy - November 13, 2014, 10:37 am

I like these. Definitely gonna try some of these later today.

W00dyLoI - December 24, 2014, 10:49 am

Saw you link this topic in a reply to somebody's topic;

This is simply great, will help a lot of people out there with learning their code :)

I am not leet or uber; but if I was, I would give you some rep :P

AppleJuice - December 24, 2014, 12:33 pm

Okay, I finally had the time to update the thread. I have added more projects to the list, and have done some formatting changes, in an attempt to make it easier to read.

Thank you to everyone for their suggestions, as always, any suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Sommmen - December 24, 2014, 12:56 pm

if only this existed the very moment i started coding..

Typeconor - December 27, 2014, 6:47 am

Haha, At first i thought this was going to just be some basic PHP - There's actually a few things on here i wouldn't mind trying what i've not tried before. Thanks!

ovac - December 27, 2014, 10:57 pm

Good thread, gave me a few good ideas for websites.

Geiizanityy - December 28, 2014, 12:29 am

Nice thread! :)) Many ideas for my capstone. Thank you AppleJuice

Exclusive - December 28, 2014, 3:34 am

Nice thread, if people want to apply learning to a real life situation you've supplied great examples. Those wanting to further their learning in PHP or just apply what they've learned AppleJuice has provided some good projects to develop.

kevindl - December 28, 2014, 4:57 am

This is great, gonna bookmark this for when I try PHP again.

SREE - December 28, 2014, 5:16 am

wow! ur gre8 bro, thanks for the share, if u have time will you share more

stackoverflowin - December 28, 2014, 7:06 am

This is one hefty list, nice job Apple.

Maxiim - December 29, 2014, 11:26 am

I like your tutorial, combined with this - it's pure gold

I will start learning PHP in a couple of days (when I get the time) and both of your contributions(at least those that I've read so far) are excellent

Thank you :)

Dragon. - December 29, 2014, 12:21 pm

Quote:Build Your Own Search EngineIf you have knowledge with another language such as Java, C/C++ or Python you can incorporate it with PHP and create your own search engine. Using another language, create a website crawler that follows links to other websites, indexes the pages of websites and stores it into a database. Then using PHP, allow the user to search through that database and show them results to websites that best results their query.

I'd say this is more like an expert project. Fulltext searching and LIKE statements only go so far you know...

AppleJuice - December 29, 2014, 1:04 pm

Thank you guys for your compliments and suggestions! I'm glad many of you are finding great use to this list, good luck with your projects!

(Dec 28, 2014 06:16 AM)badboy999 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) wow! ur gre8 bro, thanks for the share, if u have

time will you share more

Hah, that's my plan, to keep adding more to this list. I feel this list is no-where close to where I'd like it to be.

(Dec 29, 2014 01:21 PM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'd say this is more like an expert project. Fulltext searching and LIKE statements only go so far you know...

That's true, although you could also build some smaller/basic search engines for certain information instead of crawled website, such as registered users. I'll probably improve that, thanks for the suggestion!

Totally Not A Fed - January 2, 2015, 5:19 am

MR. AppleJuice asks that i comment on this (for obvious but unmentionable reasons). That's the problem with knowing people IRL...

i384 ~ - January 2, 2015, 8:29 am

Thanks alot AppleJuice! Many useful and fun projects here. Going to try some of them later!

+iPokemon - January 2, 2015, 3:31 pm

This should be stickied for all those people that are always asking for things to do! Nice job AppleJuice, keep on rockin' it.

xSploit™ - January 3, 2015, 6:53 am

(Jul 4, 2014 03:24 PM)Cathal Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good thread, I can think of a few people looking for just this *looks at VipVince*.. Regarding credit cards, look into Stripe, though I don't think its available in the US yet.Although the two brothers who setup Stripe are from my homeland here in Ireland, it is an American based company. So I highly doubt this.

N110c - January 3, 2015, 3:28 pm

Thanks for this thread. Gonna try some stuff.

DPR™ - February 20, 2015, 8:02 am

Awsome thread.

Loved it man. It will help me and some more members!

#Kat - May 10, 2015, 2:32 pm

Code Universal Authentication Platform

Create a platform that allows you to authenticate into multiple website, allow developers to incorporate your platform into their website to register and login into websites.

great idea however big business crowds it ... ie. Google,Microsoft ... also holding intellectual properties on it

AppleJuice - May 10, 2015, 2:41 pm

(May 10, 2015 02:32 PM)Google These Nuts Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Code Universal Authentication Platform

Create a platform that allows you to authenticate into multiple website, allow developers to incorporate your platform into their website to register and login into websites.

great idea however big business crowds it ... ie. Google,Microsoft ... also holding intellectual properties on it

Yea, that's true. Although it was primarily intended to experienced developers who are interested in creating a startup outside of the community.

Wojtku - May 10, 2015, 3:34 pm

Nice! Tips are still actual? I'm beginner in PHP & these informations will be useful for me ;)

hostvilla - May 10, 2015, 8:49 pm

Thanks for this very helpful

Dyst0pia - May 11, 2015, 12:33 pm

Thank you for this I'll be making some of these to improve!

farux - October 22, 2015, 8:28 pm

Awsome list! This will come in handy for sure. Thanks OP

charli - May 3, 2016, 1:06 pm

amazing, it would help many people including me

newQuery - May 3, 2016, 6:01 pm

I started my own pastebin tonight, so far how it looks:

hax0rlif3 - November 5, 2016, 4:08 am

Thanks dude this might help my friend

Bluffer - April 26, 2017, 8:30 pm

I think this is a useful bump.

I was searching for some beginner projects and found a link from 2015 to this thread. I hope it can be of use to some others as well.

newQuery - April 26, 2017, 8:36 pm

(Apr 26, 2017 08:30 PM)?luffer Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I think this is a useful bump.

I was searching for some beginner projects and found a link from 2015 to this thread. I hope it can be of use to some others as well.

When I'm bored, I always find something to do when coming on this thread, I love it ?

Lumbridge - April 26, 2017, 8:38 pm

Definitely going to bookmark this, appreciate it.

Bluffer - October 3, 2017, 2:55 pm

Seriously such a great thread right here.

Berry White - October 12, 2017, 9:35 pm

You who made this, thank you very very veeeeeeeery much man, this is what i was looking for

rainbowman - October 15, 2017, 8:55 pm

This is super nice dude, should keep anyone going for at least a few months. I've done the search engine already though and think it belongs in intermediate

Nyctophilic - October 16, 2017, 9:03 am

I have completed 3 things form the expert section

Now feeling like a pro (not really)

Nice thread OP

JAS - October 31, 2017, 2:57 pm

Im about to work on the pet game i think, sounds cool!

KillingStuff - *December 13, 2017, 9:07 am*

wow mate thanks a lot !! this is serious hardwork and contribution ,,, great help mate

Indelible - *April 5, 2021, 10:55 am*

Super useful list of ideas. Leaving a comment to save it for later, thanks a bunch!