Explanation of interfaces to external systems in PHP:

- APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) are commonly used in PHP to interface with external systems and services.
- APIs are a set of protocols, routines, and tools for building software applications that allow different systems to communicate with each other.
- To use an API in PHP, the developer needs to obtain an API key or access token from the external system to authenticate requests made to the API.
- PHP's built-in functions like cURL, file_get_contents, and fopen can be used to make HTTP requests to the API and send/receive data from the external system.
- Third-party libraries like GuzzleHTTP provide advanced functionality for working with APIs, including handling of HTTP requests, responses, and authentication.
- APIs can be used to integrate PHP applications with a wide range of external systems and services, including social media platforms, payment gateways, and third-party services.
- The use of APIs ensures that data is being sent and received securely between the PHP application and the external system.
- PHP developers can also build custom interfaces to external systems using SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) or REST (Representational State Transfer) APIs.
- SOAP and REST APIs allow PHP applications to exchange data and interact with external systems using a set of predefined rules and protocols.
- Overall, APIs are an essential component of modern web development, allowing PHP applications to interface with external systems and services in a secure and efficient manner.

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