String comparison in PHP is the process of comparing two strings to determine whether they are equal, or which one is greater or less than the other. In PHP, there are several string comparison functions available, including strcmp(), strcasecmp(), and strncmp().

1. strcmp() function:

The strcmp() function is used to compare two strings in a case-sensitive manner. It returns 0 if the strings are equal, a positive integer if the first string is greater than the second, and a negative integer if the second string is greater than the first.

For example:

```
$string1 = "apple";
$string2 = "banana";
$result = strcmp($string1, $string2);
if ($result == 0) {
    echo "The strings are equal";
} elseif ($result > 0) {
    echo "String 1 is greater than string 2";
} else {
    echo "String 2 is greater than string 1";
}
```

In this example, the strcmp() function compares the strings “apple” and “banana”. Since “apple” is less than “banana” in alphabetical order, the function returns a negative integer (-1) and the output is “String 2 is greater than string 1”.

2. strcasecmp() function:

The strcasecmp() function is similar to strcmp(), but it performs a case-insensitive comparison.

For example:

```
$string1 = "Apple";
$string2 = "apple";
$result = strcasecmp($string1, $string2);
if ($result == 0) {
    echo "The strings are equal";
} elseif ($result > 0) {
    echo "String 1 is greater than string 2";
} else {
    echo "String 2 is greater than string 1";
}
```

In this example, the strcasecmp() function compares the strings “Apple” and “apple”. Since the function is case-insensitive, it returns 0 and the output is “The strings are equal”.

3. strncmp() function:

The strncmp() function is used to compare a specified number of characters in two strings. It works similarly to strcmp(), but takes a third argument that specifies the number of characters to compare. For example:

```
$string1 = "apple";
$string2 = "apricot";
```

```
$result = strncmp($string1, $string2, 3);
if ($result == 0) {
    echo "The first 3 characters of the strings are equal";
} elseif ($result > 0) {
    echo "String 1 is greater than string 2";
} else {
    echo "String 2 is greater than string 1";
}
```

In this example, the strncmp() function compares the first three characters of the strings “apple” and “apricot”. Since both strings start with “ap”, the function returns 0 and the output is “The first 3 characters of the strings are equal”.

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