PHP Command-line interpreter

CONCEPTS

The CLI is its own build with its own php.ini: settings you change for FPM or Apache may not apply to php on the command line.

php.ini main config
↓ scan dir
conf.d/*.ini per extension
↓ -d
-d key=value this run only

Later sources win: a -d flag overrides conf.d files, which override php.ini.

php --ini lists the files; -n skips all of them for a clean baseline.

RUN CODE

php *<file>* **[args]**
Run a script, args land in $argv

php -r '*<code>*'
Run code without <?php tags

php -r '*<code>*' **-- -x**
Pass args that look like options

php -f *<file>*
Parse and execute a file

php < *<file>*
Run a script from stdin

php -d *<key>*=*<value>* *<file>*
Override an ini setting for this run

php -d memory_limit=-1 *<file>*
Lift the memory cap for one run

php -c *<path>* *<file>*
Use another php.ini file or dir

php -n *<file>*
Ignore php.ini entirely

CHECK AND INSPECT

php -l *<file>*
Lint: parse only, do not run

php -v
Show PHP version and SAPI

php -m
List loaded modules

php -i
Print phpinfo()

CHECK AND INSPECT (cont.)

php --ini
Show loaded ini files

php --ini=diff
Show ini values changed from default

php --ri *<ext>*
Show one extension's settings

php --ri main
Show core settings

php -h
List all CLI options

BUILT-IN SERVER

php -S localhost:8000
Serve the current directory

php -S localhost:8000 -t *<dir>*
Serve a given docroot

php -S 0.0.0.0:8000
Reachable from other machines

php -S localhost:8000 *<router.php>*
Run a router script per request

PHP_CLI_SERVER_WORKERS=4 php -S localhost:8000
Handle requests in parallel

The built-in server is for development and demos only; use nginx with php-fpm in production.

Without a router it serves index.php or index.html for unknown paths, walking up to the docroot.

CONFIGURATION

display_errors=1
Show errors on screen (dev)

error_reporting=E_ALL
Report every error level

memory_limit=512M
Raise the memory cap

max_execution_time=0
No time limit (CLI default)

date.timezone=UTC
Silence timezone warnings

opcache.enable_cli=1
Enable the opcache for CLI runs

CONFIGURATION (cont.)

Put these lines in php.ini or a conf.d/*.ini file, or pass them as -d key=value on the command line.

REFLECTION

php --rf *<function>*
Show a function's signature

php --rc *<class>*
Show a class's methods and constants

php --re *<ext>*
Show an extension's functions and classes

PROCESS INPUT LINES

php -R '*<code>*'
Run code per stdin line ($argn)

php -B '*<code>*' **-R** '*<code>*' **-E** '*<code>*'
Begin, per line, end

INTERACTIVE

php -a
Open the interactive shell

In the shell write code without <?php, end each statement with ; and press Tab twice to list completions.

RECIPES

Lint every file in a tree

```
find src -name '*.php' -print0 |
xargs -0 -n1 php -l
```

Quick data one-liners

```
php -r 'echo PHP_VERSION,
PHP_EOL;'
php -r 'echo json_encode(
array_slice(
get_loaded_extensions(), 0, 3));'
echo 'a b' | php -R 'echo
strtoupper($argn), PHP_EOL;'
```

Dev server with a front controller

```
php -S localhost:8000 -t public
public/index.php
# open http://localhost:8000
```

Debug a missing extension

```
php -m | grep -i <ext>
php --ini
php --ri <ext>
```