

# Using PHP and MySQL (SQL database server) to Generate XML Documents

Generating XML documents in PHP is just as easy as creating HTML files, because after all basic XML code is just text, and PHP is a great tool to this.

This short tutorial will show you how to create XML documents using PHP and a MySQL database. The only requirements are a web server with PHP and MySQL installed.

## The PHP code:

```
<?php
header("Content-type: text/xml");

$host = $_POST["host"];
$username = $_POST["username"];
$password = $_POST["password"];

if ($host != "" && $username != "" && $password != "") {
    $link = mysql_connect($host, $username, $password) or die("Cannot connect to database server.");
}
else {
    $link = mysql_connect("HOST", "USERNAME", "PASSWORD") or die("Cannot connect to database server.");
}

$db = mysql_list_dbs($link);

echo "<?xml version='1.0'?>\n";
echo "<dbxml xmlns:dbxml=http://xmlns.xmlmania.com/dbxml/
xmlns:xsi=http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance\
xsi:schemaLocation=http://xmlns.xmlmania.com/dbxml/schema.xsd\>";

while ($database = mysql_fetch_row($db)) {
    echo "\n\t<database id=\"$database[0]\">";

    $tables = mysql_list_tables($database[0]);

    while ($table = mysql_fetch_row($tables)) {
        echo "\n\t\t<table id=\"$table[0]\">";

        $fields = mysql_list_fields($database[0], $table[0], $link);
        $columns = mysql_num_fields($fields);

        for ($i = 0; $i < $columns; $i++) {
            $fieldName = mysql_field_name($fields, $i);
            $fieldType = mysql_field_type($fields, $i);
            $fieldLength = mysql_field_len($fields, $i);
            $fieldFlags = mysql_field_flags($fields, $i);

            echo "\n\t\t\t<field id=\"$fieldName\" type=\"$fieldType\" length=\"$fieldLength\" flags=\"$fieldFlags\" />";
        }

        echo "\n\t\t</table>\n";
    }

    echo "\t</database>\n";
}

mysql_free_result;
mysql_close;

echo "</dbxml>";
?>
```

## [Download Source](#)

No database or tables need to be inputted by the user, the PHP code does all this with the **mysql\_list\_dbs()**, **mysql\_list\_tables()** and **mysql\_list\_fields()** functions.

The outputted XML code from this example is formatted and indented by the use of **\n** (line breaks) and **\t** (tab indents).

This example can be easily modified to suit many different situations, e.g. accessing a news database to dynamically produce RSS/RDF news feeds, or NewsML source.