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PHP Core

Set(raw)cookie accepts $option Argument

`setcookie` and `setrawcookie` now also support the following signature: `bool`setcookie `string``name` `string``value`"" `array``options`[] where `$options` is an associative array which may have any of the keys `"expires"`, `"path"`, `"domain"`, `"secure"`, `"httponly"` and `"samesite"`.

New Syslog ini Directives

The following ini Directives have been added to customize logging, if error_log is set to `syslog`:

syslog.facility
Specifies what type of program is logging the message.

syslog.filter
Specifies the filter type to filter the logged messages, with the supported filter types - `all`, `no-ctrl` and `ascii`. Starting with PHP 7.3.8, `raw` is also available, restoring the way syslog behaved in previous PHP versions. This filter will also affect calls to `syslog`.

syslog.ident
Specifies the ident string which is prepended to every message.

Garbage Collection

The cyclic GC has been enhanced, which may result in considerable performance improvements.

Miscellaneous

`var_export` now exports `stdClass` objects as an array cast to an object (`(object) array( ... )`), rather than using the nonexistent method stdClass::__setState.

`debug_zval_dump` was changed to display recursive arrays and objects in the same way as `var_dump`. Now, it doesn't display them twice.

`array_push` and `array_unshift` can now also be called with a single argument, which is particularly convenient wrt. the spread operator.

Interactive PHP Debugger

The unused constants `PHPDBG_FILE`, `PHPDBG_METHOD`, `PHPDBG_LINENO` and `PHPDBG_FUNC` have been removed.

FastCGI Process Manager

The `getallheaders` function is now also available.

Client URL Library

libcurl ≥ 7.15.5 is now required.

Data Filtering

`FILTER_VALIDATE_FLOAT` now also supports a `thousand` option, which defines the set of allowed thousand separator chars. The default (`"',."`) is fully backward compatible with former PHP versions.

`FILTER_SANITIZE_ADD_SLASHES` has been added as an alias of the `magic_quotes` filter (`FILTER_SANITIZE_MAGIC_QUOTES`). The `magic_quotes` filter is subject to removal in future versions of PHP.

FTP

The default transfer mode has been changed to `binary`.

Internationalization Functions

`Normalizer::NONE` is deprecated, when PHP is linked with ICU ≥ 56.

Introduced `Normalizer::FORM_KC_CF` as Normalizer::normalize argument for `NFKC_Casefold` normalization; available when linked with ICU ≥ 56.

JavaScript Object Notation

A new flag has been added, `JSON_THROW_ON_ERROR`, which can be used with `json_decode` or `json_encode` and causes these functions to throw the new `JsonException` upon an error, instead of setting the global error state that is retrieved with `json_last_error` and `json_last_error_msg`. `JSON_PARTIAL_OUTPUT_ON_ERROR` takes precedence over `JSON_THROW_ON_ERROR`.

Multibyte String

The configuration option `--with-libmbfl` is no longer available.

ODBC (Unified)

Support for `ODBCRouter` and `Birdstep` including the `birdstep.max_links` ini directive has been removed.

OPcache

The `opcache.inherited_hack` ini directive has been removed. The value has already been ignored since PHP 5.3.0.

OpenSSL

The `min_proto_version` and `max_proto_version` ssl stream options as well as related constants for possible TLS protocol values have been added.

Regular Expressions (Perl-Compatible)

The PCRE extension has been upgraded to PCRE2, which may cause minor behavioral changes (for instance, character ranges in classes are now more strictly interpreted), and augments the existing regular expression syntax.

`preg_quote` now also escapes the `'#'` character.

Microsoft SQL Server and Sybase Functions (PDO_DBLIB)

The attribute `PDO::DBLIB_ATTR_SKIP_EMPTY_ROWSETS` to enable automatic skipping of empty rowsets has been added.

The `PDO::DBLIB_ATTR_TDS_VERSION` attribute which exposes the TDS version has been added.

DATETIME2 columns are now treated like DATETIME columns.

SQLite Functions (PDO_SQLITE)

SQLite3 databases can now be opened in read-only mode by setting the new `PDO::SQLITE_ATTR_OPEN_FLAGS` attribute to `PDO::SQLITE_OPEN_READONLY`.

Session Handling

`session_set_cookie_params` now also supports the following signature: `bool` session_set_cookie_params `array``options` where `$options` is an associative array which may have any of the keys `"lifetime"`, `"path"`, `"domain"`, `"secure"`, `"httponly"` and `"samesite"`. Accordingly, the return value of `session_get_cookie_params` now also has an element with the key `"samesite"`. Furthermore, the new `session.cookie_samesite` ini option to set the default of the SameSite directive for cookies has been added. It defaults to `""` (empty string), so no SameSite directive is set. Can be set to `"Lax"` or `"Strict"`, which sets the respective SameSite directive.

Tidy

Building against tidyp is now also supported transparently. Since tidyp offers no API to get the release date, `tidy_get_release` and tidy::getRelease return `'unknown'` in this case.

XML Parser

The return value of the `xml_set_external_entity_ref_handler` callback is no longer ignored if the extension has been built against libxml. Formerly, the return value has been ignored, and parsing did never stop.

Zip

Building against the bundled libzip is discouraged, but still possible by adding `--without-libzip` to the configuration.

Zlib Compression

The zlib/level context option for the compress.zlib wrapper to facilitate setting the desired compression level has been added.

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