

# isset

WMPRO, WMMINI FW >= 1.0 WMMEGA FW >= 2.0

Check if a variable exists

## Description

`int` `isset ( mixed $variable )`

Determine if a variable is set

## Parameter

**\$variable**: Variable to check for existence<sup>1)</sup>

## Return Value

**Integer**: 1 (true) if variable exists, 0 (false) if variable does not exist

## Examples

```
<?
print(isset($x)); // outputs 0, the variable doesn't exist yet
$x=0;
print(isset($x)); // outputs 1

$y='';
print(isset($y)); // outputs 1, $y exists (although it is an empty string)

$z=chr(0);
print(isset($z)); // outputs 1, $z exists with a single character (ASCII
code 0 or NUL)

$array=array();
print(isset($array)); // outputs 1, $array exists (an empty array)

$array[1]="test";
print(isset($array[0])); // outputs 0, the first element in the array does
not exist
print(isset($array[1])); // outputs 1, the second element in the array
exists
```

```
?>
```

## Notes

There is no way to unset a variable once it has been set (except to exit the local scope or script where it was defined). Unlike mainline PHP, uPHP does not have a construct `unset()` or the constant `null`. Unlike many other programming languages, you cannot simply remove a variable by setting it equal to nothing, such as by trying the statement `$x=;`<sup>2)</sup>.

Also note that the uPHP `isset()` does not always generate a parsing error if the parameter is not a variable<sup>3)</sup>. All of these examples will return 0:

```
<?
print(isset(1));
print(isset("123"));
print(isset(array(1,2,3)));
print(isset(2+3));
?>
```

Although maybe useful in some situations, it is better not to use `isset()` for expressions or values instead of variables, because in some cases it *will* generate a parsing error. Example:

```
<?
print(isset(z));
?>
```

For the above example the parser answers:

```
Error on line 1: Undefined constant z
Error on line 1: Invalid function
```

Also note that in many situations where using `if` to test for the existence of a variable it is possible to simplify the conditional test by using `if($x)` instead of `if(isset($x))` but only if you are certain that `$x` does not contain the value 0 (false). Unlike mainline PHP, uPHP does not generate an error for using `if($x)` on an undefined variable. Nevertheless, this is not a good practice even though this hack *is* commonly used *somewhat successfully* by Wattmon uPHP programmers. It is much better to use `isset()` if you are not certain that the variable has been initialized, and the code will be easier to understand later on.

## See Also

[is\\_int\(\)](#) - Check if a variable is an **integer**

[is\\_float\(\)](#) - Check if a variable is a **float**

[is\\_numeric\(\)](#) - Check if a value is numeric (**int**, **float** or numeric **string**)

[is\\_array\(\)](#) - Check if a variable is an **array**

[is\\_string\(\)](#) - Check if a variable is a **string**

## uPHP Variable Types and Limits

1)

Multiple parameters are not supported as in mainline PHP

2)

As tested on a Wattmon Pro with firmware 1.1051 the statement `$x=;` causes a Watchdog Timeout error and a reboot of the Wattmon

3)

See <http://php.net/manual/en/function.isset.php> where it says "Warning: isset() only works with variables as passing anything else will result in a parse error."

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