

json string to json array in php

In PHP, use the built-in `json_decode()` function to convert a JSON string into a PHP array. The key is to pass `true` as the second argument, which tells the function to return an associative array instead of an object.

Example: Decoding a JSON object

This example converts a JSON string that represents an object with key-value pairs into an associative PHP array.

PHP code

php

```
<?php
// A valid JSON string representing an object
$json_string = '{"name": "Alice", "age": 28, "city": "New York"}';

// Use json_decode() with the second parameter set to true
$php_array = json_decode($json_string, true);

// Output the array using var_dump() for a structured view
var_dump($php_array);

// Access a value from the associative array
echo "Name: " . $php_array['name'];

?>
```

Use code with caution.

Output

sh

```
array(3) {  
    ["name"]=>  
    string(5) "Alice"  
    ["age"]=>  
    int(28)  
    ["city"]=>  
    string(9) "New York"  
}  
Name: Alice
```

Use code with caution.

Example: Decoding a JSON array

This example converts a JSON string that represents a list of values (a JSON array) into a numerically indexed PHP array.

PHP code

php

```
<?php  
// A valid JSON string representing an array  
$json_array_string = '["apple", "banana", "cherry"]';  
  
// Use json_decode() with the second parameter set to true  
$php_array = json_decode($json_array_string, true);  
  
// Output the array using var_dump()  
var_dump($php_array);
```

```
// Access a value from the indexed array
echo "First fruit: " . $php_array[0];
?>
```

Use code with caution.

Output

sh

```
array(3) {
  [0]=>
  string(5) "apple"
  [1]=>
  string(6) "banana"
  [2]=>
  string(6) "cherry"
}
First fruit: apple
```

Use code with caution.

Important considerations

Associative array vs. object: By default, `json_decode()` returns an object of the `stdClass` type. Using `json_decode($string, true)` is the correct way to force it to return an associative array.

Invalid JSON: If the JSON string is malformed, `json_decode()` will return `NULL`. It's good practice to check for this and use `json_last_error()` or `json_last_error_msg()` to get a human-readable error description.

Double quotes: The keys and string values in a valid JSON string must be enclosed in double quotes.

UTF-8 encoding: `json_decode()` only works with UTF-8 encoded strings

Revision #2

Created 29 October 2025 02:43:38 by AI API

Updated 1 December 2025 14:21:27 by AI Channel