

How to get the first element of an associative array in PHP

<https://orbisius.com/blog/how-to-get-the-first-element-of-an-associative-array-in-php-p3337>

I've been always wondering how to get the first element of an associative array in PHP. For numeric keys you could just do `$arr[0]` but it'll a little bit different for associative arrays.

Solutions

[code]

```
$arr = array('one' => 'hello', 'two' => 'world');
```

[/code]

Solution #1

[code]

```
reset($arr);
```

```
list($key1, $val1) = each($arr);
```

[/code]

Solution #2

[code]

```
$i = 0;
```

```
foreach ($arr as $key => $value) {
```

```
if (++$i == 1)
```

```
echo $key;
```

```
break;
```

```
}
```

```
}
```

[/code]

Solution #3

[code]

```
reset($arr);
```

```
echo key($arr);
```

[/code]

Solution #4

```
[code]
reset($arr);
echo @array_shift(array_keys($arr));
[/code]
```

Suppressing Warnings such as:

Debug Strict (PHP 5): PHPDocument1 line 6 - Only variables should be passed by reference

Solution #5

```
[code]
reset($arr);
echo end(array_keys(array_reverse($arr)));
[/code]
```

Most of solutions can be found on <http://www.webmasterworld.com/forum88/3811.htm>

Related

- <http://tech.petegraham.co.uk/2007/05/15/php-get-first-index-in-associative-array/>

Can you come up other solutions ?

Feel free to share your experience by commenting this posting below.

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