Server Side Include (SSI) vs. PHP Include

I had some needs to turn redundant HTML codes, and some other files into SSI or PHP includes. I won't explain why there is a need to do so, for this info is available online. However, the critical technical information about performance in SSI vs. PHP include really is not available anywhere online. Is there any benefit to use SSI at all?

I was aware of PHP performance not being flawless, so I wanted to use SSI methods to call those redundant codes into HTML files. I have never tried SSI before also, so I wanted to try out of curiosity. When I researched about the details, I realized SSI methods are almost all useless and I couldn't think of any reason where a SSI method is absolutely necessary over PHP Include to turn redundant codes in web page files to call over and over from different files. PHP parse time isn't as good as lower level languages like C++, Java, and C. This is the reason why CGI, J2EE, and other programming languages are needed for web applications. I thought SSI from Apache server would definitely make the speed much faster than using PHP Include.

Apache stupidly parse all the codes in files, which extensions are specified for SSI purposes like .shtml or .html. It has methods like XBitHack to prevent from doing it, but it is just another impractical method that I don't want to get into explaining. This reading through the whole file's codes (parsing) will slow down the server performance a great deal. The same goal can be achieve via a line or two of PHP codes. PHP interpreter isn't reading all the codes in the file but only that one or two lines of codes where it supposed to read and interpret. In short, take the advice from AAW Programmer/Software Engineer on this. Don't ever bother with SSI. This is a waste of time. If your server SSI feature is turned on, especially to parse all .html files instead of .shtml, you better turn it off and fix it. To turn off the Apache or other server's SSI and turn .shtml files back to .html and regain your server's performance, AAW Programmer Chris can handle this project for you.

If anyone knows, please tell me a scenario where SSI is absolutely necessary and that PHP cannot do that job.

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