International Cybersecurity and Digital Forensic Academy

PROGRAMME: CYBERSECURITY AND ETHICAL HACKING INTERNSHIP

ASSIGNMENT

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IDEAS/24/28133

COURSE CODE: INT309

COURSE TITLE: Web Technologies and Database Security

COURSE FACILITATOR:

8th February 2024

INT309: Web Technologies and Database Security - Lab 1: Introduction to Web Technologies and Understanding HTTP and HTTPS

Introduction

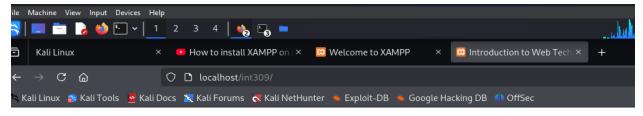
Web Technologies and Database Security encompass the measures and practices used to protect websites, web applications, and databases from cyber threats, ensuring data confidentiality, integrity, and availability.

What are Web Technologies: Web security refers to the measures taken to safeguard websites, web applications, and the underlying infrastructure from various cyber threats, including data breaches, malware, phishing attacks, and denial-of-service attacks.

Database Security: is a process of ensuring the right policies, measures and practice of used of database to protect database from unauthorized user or access, misuse, and data breaches in the data storage

Exercise 1: Creating a Simple Web Page

A web page created using html with file name index.php, the web page contains html structure such as the title, header that introduces the topic, the paragraph which explains the content of the website and link for further access external libraries.



Understanding Web Technologies

Web technologies are essential for creating and maintaining dynamic websites that facilitate user interaction.

Web Technologies

Learn more about web technologies here.

• Discuss what you learned about the structure of HTML documents. How do elements such as headers, paragraphs, and links contribute to a web page's content and usability?

Answer:

The HTML document structures contain both open tags and close tags such as DOCTYPE html, html lang = "en", head, body and header.

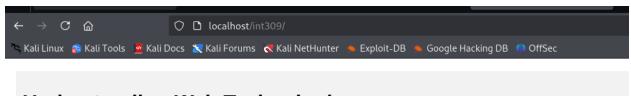
The header tags have both open and close **tags** (<header></header>) this is used for housing the heading in the web page in order to introduce a topic, the design which usually contains h1 to h6 tags depending on the desired heading front size.

Paragraph in the HTML document is another tag that is represented by tag , this differentiates one paragraph to the other and gives well arrange structure while navigation through the work.

Links contributed to easy navigating to an external resource for further learning or to accessing a page. This can be identified as < a >

```
File Actions Edit View Help
 $ cat index.php
!DOCTYPE html>
ntml lang="en">
head>
   <meta charset="UTF-8">
   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
   <title>Introduction to Web Technologies</title>
   <style>
       body { font-family: Arial, sans-serif; margin: 20px; }
header { background-color: #f2f2f2; padding: 10px; }
       img { max-width: 100%; height: auto; }
   </style>
 head>
body>
       <h1>Understanding Web Technologies</h1>
   Web technologies are essential for creating and maintaining dynamic we
sites that facilitate user interaction.
   Learn more about web technologies <a href="https://www.w3schools.com">
ere</a>.
/body>
 html>
 -(kali⊛kali)-[/opt/lampp/htdocs/int309]
```

Exercise 2: Analyzing HTTP Requests and Responses

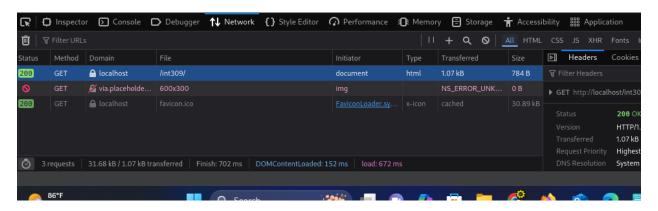


Understanding Web Technologies

Web technologies are essential for creating and maintaining dynamic websites that facilitate user interaction.

Web Technologies

Learn more about web technologies here.



Reflection:

Analyze the significance of each element. Why is it important to understand these
components when developing or securing web applications? Discuss the potential
vulnerabilities associated with improperly handled requests and responses.

Answer:

To analyses each http requests element observed on the developer tool, go network tab, the request URL is the address of the web page visited which show where the website is secure or not.

Request Method shows that GET which means the sever was able to request and get index file from the int309 folder.

Response status code is 200 OK, this means a successful response status code indicates that a request has succeeded, as this show in the above pictures.

Response Headers contain different such content-type: text/html; charset=UTF-8, cache-control and date: Sat, 05 Apr 2025 11:12:27 GMT.

Why is it important to understand these components when developing or securing web applications? Discuss the potential vulnerabilities associated with improperly handled requests and responses.

1. Request URL:

• Purpose:

The URL (Uniform Resource Locator) specifies the location of the resource being requested from the server.

• Importance:

Developers need to understand URLs for routing requests to the correct endpoints, ensuring that the server can find and serve the requested content.

• Security:

Malformed or malicious URLs can lead to vulnerabilities like path traversal or injection attacks, making it essential to validate and sanitize URLs.

2. Request Method:

• Purpose:

The request method (e.g., GET, POST, PUT, DELETE) indicates the type of action the client wants to perform on the resource.

Importance:

Developers need to use the correct method to ensure the server performs the intended operation, such as retrieving data (GET), creating a new resource (POST), updating an existing resource (PUT), or deleting a resource (DELETE).

• Security:

Misusing methods can lead to unintended consequences, such as deleting data when it shouldn't be deleted or allowing unauthorized access to resources.

3. Response Status Code:

• Purpose:

The status code (e.g., 200 OK, 404 Not Found, 500 Internal Server Error) informs the client about the outcome of the request.

• Importance:

Developers need to understand status codes to handle errors and provide meaningful feedback to users, such as displaying error messages or redirecting them to a different page.

• Security:

Certain status codes (like 403 Forbidden or 500 Internal Server Error) can indicate security issues or server problems, requiring developers to investigate and address them.

4. Response Headers:

• Purpose:

Response headers provide additional information about the response, such as the content type, server information, and catching instructions.

• Importance:

Developers need to understand headers to properly render the response, manage caching, and enforce security policies.

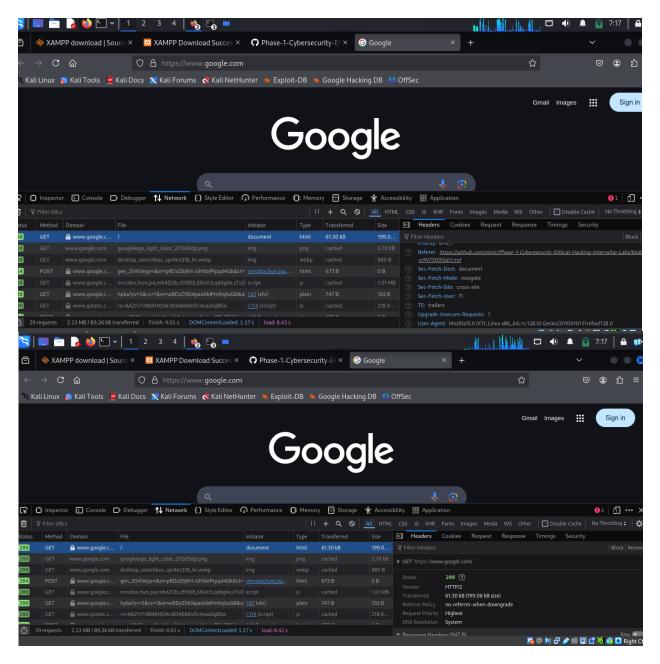
• Security:

Headers like Content-Security-Policy (CSP) are crucial for preventing XSS (Cross-Site Scripting) and other security vulnerabilities, while Cache-Control headers help manage caching and improve performance

Exercise 3: Understanding HTTPS and Its Importance

Reflection:

• Discuss the advantages of using HTTPS over HTTP, particularly in terms of data security and privacy. What protections does HTTPS provide against attacks such as eavesdropping and man-in-the-middle (MitM)?



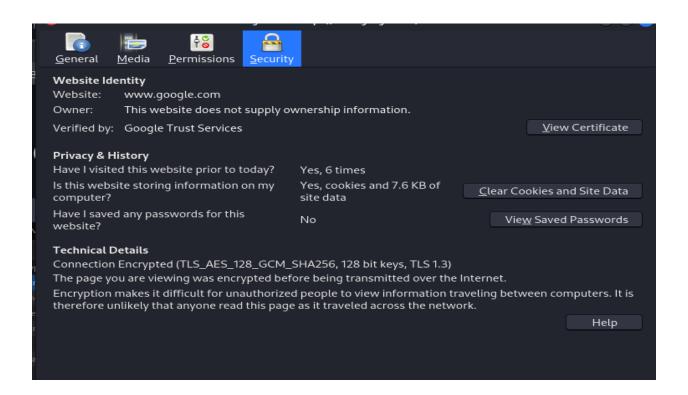
HTTPS offers superior data security and privacy compared to HTTP by encrypting data transmission, preventing eavesdropping and ensuring data integrity, while HTTP transmits data in plain text, making it vulnerable to interception and manipulation.

Encryption: HTTPS uses encryption (typically TLS/SSL) to scramble data during transmission, making it unreadable to anyone who intercepts the data, even if they have the tools to sniff network traffic.

Protection against eavesdropping: With HTTP, data is sent in plain text, which means anyone with the right tools can easily read the information being transmitted. HTTPS prevents this by encrypting the data.

Protection against man-in-the-middle attacks: A man-in-the-middle attack occurs when an attacker intercepts communication between a client and a server. HTTPS helps prevent this by verifying the identity of the server and encrypting the communication.

A padlock icon shows on the https address which indicates secure web address and safe to visit, when click on this, it allows to view security certificates of such website, the encryption method, date of registration, expiring date and issuer. As shown below.



Validity Not Before Not After	Thu, 20 Mar 2025 11:20:31 GMT Thu, 12 Jun 2025 11:20:30 GMT
Subject Alt Names	
222,22172	
DNS Name	www.google.com
Public Key Info	
Algorithm	Elliptic Curve
Key Size	256
Public Value	04:A7:A6:C6:52:A1:A8:42:77:8B:ED:D3:56:91:07:51:97:C0:7A:B0:19:AD:BF:CE:
Miscellaneous	
Serial Number	00:B9:32:9C:BD:A9:EF:7F:44:12:09:8E:72:2A:68:45:D3
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 with RSA Encryption
Version	3
Download	PEM (cert) PEM (chain)
Fingerprints	
SHA-256	AD:9D:B4:17:DF:C0:47:40:7D:91:19:84:E4:B1:37:69:03:80:70:BC:51:18:68:A2:
SHA-1	40:5C:81:99:DA:01:36:FE:E4:60:2B:67:51:3D:C2:62:8D:9A:38:47
Basic Constraints	
Certificate Authority	No
,	

INT309: Web Technologies and Database Security – Lab 2: Web Development Components and Security Threats.

Exercise 1: Exploring Front-End Development Components

1. Identify Front-End Technologies:

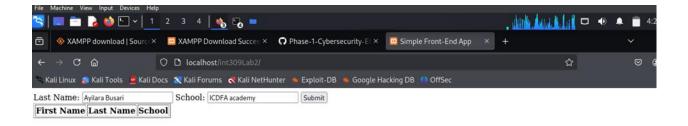
- Research and create a list of common front-end technologies used in web development, including:
 - HTML
 - CSS
 - JavaScript
 - Front-end frameworks (e.g., React, Angular, Vue.js)

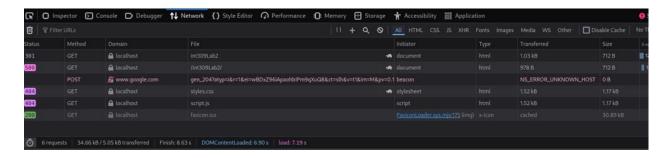
2. Create a Simple Front-End Application:

- Build a basic web application using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript that includes:
 - A header with a navigation menu.
 - A form for user input (e.g., contact form).
 - Interactive elements (e.g., a button that changes the text when clicked).

```
Actions Edit View Help
  GNU nano 8.1
                                                       ex1.php *
        <!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
        <head>
        <meta charset="UTF-8">
        <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial= scale=1.0">
<title>Simple Front-End App</title>
        <link rel="stylesheet" href="styles.css">
        </head>
<body>
<label for="lastname">Last Name:<input type="text" name="lastname" id="lastname" required>
<label for="school">School:</label>
<input type="text" name="school" id="school" required>
<button type="submit">Submit</button>
</form>
<script src="script.js"></script> <title>Form Submission Result</title>

First Name
Last Name
School
<?php while ($row = $result > fetch_assoc()): ?>
                   Write Out
                                   Where Is
                                                                    Execute
                                                                                                 M-U Undo
 G Help
                   Read File
                                    Replace
                                                   Paste
                                                                    Justify
                                                                                    Go To Line
                                                                                                 M-E Redo
   Exit
```





• Discuss how front-end technologies interact to create a cohesive user experience. What potential security issues arise from poorly implemented front-end code (e.g., XSS, CSRF)?

Front end technologies are an interface a user can interact with while making use of web pages and this will enhance the user experience if the design is good and user friendly.

- **HTML:** this is skeleton structure of web design; it is used for content write up and define element of web page.
- **CSS:** it is used as a style website for attractive user interface
- **JavaScript**: this is used for interactive and to build a responsive website.
- Front-end frameworks (e.g., React, Angular, Vue.js): these are frame that already contains inbuilt html, css and Javascript and its easy for building a website.

Security Issues from Poorly Implemented Front-End Code

Potential security issues may arise due to poor implementation of front-end code such as improper sanitization of user input in JavaScript code, this can cause problems such as cross site script (XSS) and Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF).

• Cross site script (XSS): where a malicious actor inject malicious script into website or stores it in the vulnerable code which are then executed by other users browsers, potentially compromising their data or action. If a website is not properly implemented it can also lead to CSRF where an attacker crafts a malicious website or clicks the link,

- their browser automatically includes their authentication cookies (or other session data) with the request to the target website.
- Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF): Exploits user sessions to execute unauthorized actions on trusted websites.
- **Clickjacking:** Embeds a malicious site within an invisible frame, tricking users into unintended actions.
- **Insecure JavaScript Libraries:** Using outdated or vulnerable libraries can expose websites to attacks.

Mitigation Strategies: Implement Content Security Policy (CSP), input validation, secure authentication, and regular updates to prevent these threats.

Exercise 2: Understanding Back-End Development Components

- 1. Identify Back-End Technologies:
- Programming Languages: PHP, Python, Java, Node.js, Ruby
- Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, SQLite
- Web Frameworks: Django (Python), Express.js (Node.js), Laravel (PHP), Spring Boot (Java)

Create a Simple Back-End Application:

• Using a chosen back-end technology, set up a basic server that responds to HTTP requests. For example, using Node.js:

```
File Actions Edit View Help

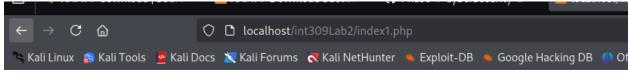
(kali® kali)-[/opt/lampp/htdocs/int309Lab2]

$ nano index1.php

(kali® kali)-[/opt/lampp/htdocs/int309Lab2]

$ cat index1.php

(**Power Code** Code*
```



404 - Page not found

• Analyze the role of back-end components in web applications. How do vulnerabilities in the back-end (e.g., SQL injection, insecure APIs) affect overall application security?

Ans

Back-end components are the foundation of web applications, handling data storage, processing, and core functionalities, so vulnerabilities in these areas can lead to severe security breaches, including data theft, unauthorized access, and system manipulation.

Role of Back-End Components:

• Data Storage and Management:

Back-end systems, including databases, store and manage sensitive user data, financial information, and other critical data.

• Application Logic and Functionality:

The back-end executes the core logic of the application, handling user requests, processing data, and interacting with external services.

Authentication and Authorization:

Back-end systems are responsible for verifying user identities and controlling access to resources, ensuring only authorized users can access sensitive information.

• API Management:

Back-end components often expose APIs, which are the interfaces that allow different applications to communicate and exchange data.

Vulnerabilities and Their Impact:

• SQL Injection:

A common vulnerability that allows attackers to manipulate database queries, potentially gaining unauthorized access to data, modifying data, or even gaining control of the database server.

• Insecure APIs:

APIs that lack proper authentication, authorization, or input validation can be exploited by attackers to gain unauthorized access to data or functionalities.

• Cross-Site Scripting (XSS):

An attacker can inject malicious scripts into a web application, allowing them to steal user data, redirect users to malicious sites, or compromise the user's session.

• Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF):

An attacker can trick a user into performing actions on a web application without their knowledge, such as making unauthorized changes to their account or data.

• Broken Authentication and Authorization:

Weak authentication mechanisms or insufficient authorization controls can allow attackers to bypass security measures and gain unauthorized access to sensitive data or functionalities.

• Data Breaches:

Compromised back-end systems can lead to data breaches, where sensitive information is stolen and exposed to unauthorized parties.

• Unauthorized Access:

Vulnerabilities can allow attackers to gain unauthorized access to the application, database, or underlying server.

• System Manipulation:

Attackers can exploit vulnerabilities to manipulate the application's functionality, potentially causing disruptions or even taking control of the system.

• Financial Loss:

Data breaches and system compromises can lead to significant financial losses for businesses, including costs associated with remediation, legal fees, and reputational damage.

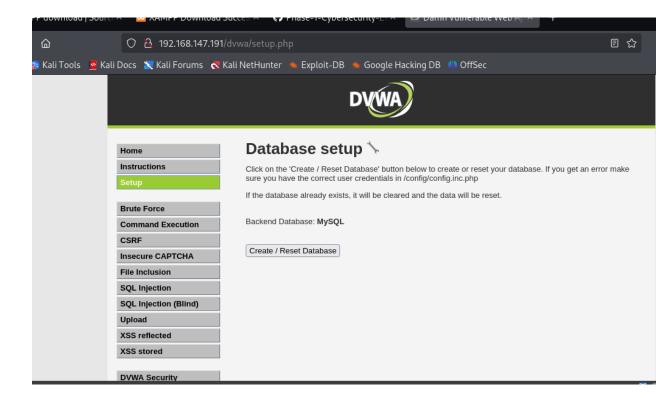
• Reputational Damage:

Security breaches can severely damage a company's reputation, leading to loss of customer trust and potential business losses.

Exercise 3: Identifying Security Threats

• Research Common Security Threats:

- Investigate the OWASP Top Ten list and identify at least five common security threats in web development. Focus on:
 - SQL Injection
 - Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)
 - Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)
 - Security Misconfiguration
 - Insecure Deserialization



O Discuss the impact of these security threats on user data and application integrity. What measures can developers implement to mitigate these risks?

Impact of Security Threats & Mitigation Strategies SQL Injection (SQLi)

Impact:

- Attackers can bypass authentication and gain unauthorized access.
- User data leakage, leading to identity theft.
- Attackers can delete, modify, or steal entire databases.
- Some SQLi attacks enable remote code execution, allowing full system control.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Use Prepared Statements (Parameterized Queries) to prevent injection.
- ✓ Use Web Application Firewalls (WAFs) to filter malicious requests.
- ✓ Limit database permissions for application users (least privilege).
- ✓ Sanitize and validate user input before processing it.

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

Impact:

- Attackers inject malicious JavaScript into web pages.
- Can steal cookies, session tokens, and login credentials.
- Redirect users to phishing sites or deface the website.
- Can spread malware through user interactions.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Escape user input to prevent JavaScript execution.
- ✓ Use Content Security Policy (CSP) to restrict script execution.

- ✓ Sanitize input fields to allow only safe characters.
- ✓ Implement HTTP-only and Secure cookies to prevent cookie theft.

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)

Impact:

- Attackers trick users into executing unwanted actions on their accounts.
- Can lead to unauthorized fund transfers, password changes, or account deletion.
- Exploits users who are already logged in to the target application.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Use CSRF tokens to verify request authenticity.
- ✓ Enforce SameSite cookie attributes to restrict cross-site requests.
- ✓ Implement Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for critical actions.
- ✓ Use Referrer and Origin headers to validate requests.

Security Misconfiguration

Impact:

- Default credentials (e.g., admin/admin) expose sensitive data.
- Excessive permissions can lead to privilege escalation.
- Unnecessary features or debug modes increase attack surface.
- Insecure error messages reveal system details to attackers.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Disable default accounts and change default passwords.
- ✓ Use the principle of least privilege for permissions.
- ✓ Regularly update and patch software to fix vulnerabilities.
- ✓ Disable unnecessary services and features in production.

Insecure Deserialization

Impact:

- Attackers can manipulate serialized objects to execute malicious code.
- Can lead to remote code execution (RCE) and system compromise.
- Can be used to elevate privileges or tamper with application data.

Mitigation Strategies:

- ✓ Avoid using serialized objects from untrusted sources.
- ✓ Use digital signatures to verify object integrity.
- ✓ Implement strong input validation before deserializing data.
- ✓ Use safer data formats like JSON instead of serialized objects.

Conclusion

Security threats like SQLi, XSS, CSRF, Security Misconfigurations, and Insecure Deserialization can compromise user data, application integrity, and system security. Developers should implement secure coding practices, input validation, least privileged principles, and security headers to mitigate these risks.

INT309: Web Technologies and Database Security – Lab 3: Introduction to Databases and SQL

Definition: SQL stands for Structured Query Language, SQL is a standard language for storing, manipulating and retrieving data in databases

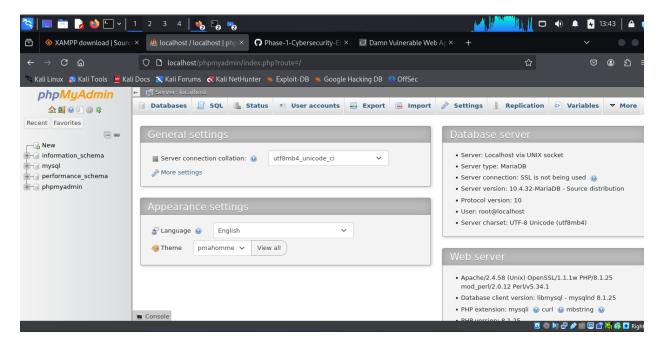
Exercise 1: Setting Up MySQL with XAMPP

Install and Run XAMPP:

- If you haven't already, download and install XAMPP from https://www.apachefriends.org/.
- Launch XAMPP and start the **Apache** and **MySQL** services from the XAMPP Control Panel.

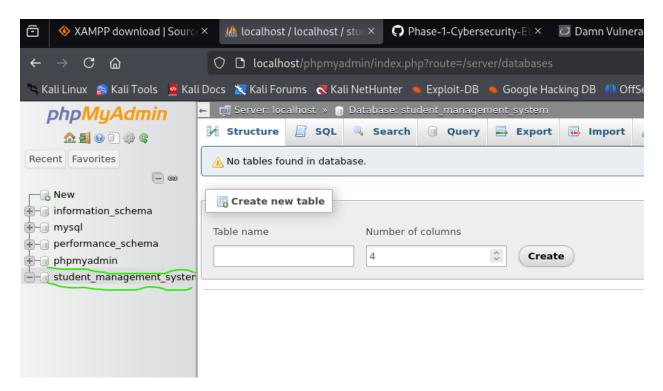
Access phpMyAdmin:

- Open your web browser and navigate to http://localhost/phpmyadmin/.
- phpMyAdmin is a web-based tool provided by XAMPP for managing MySQL databases



Create a New Database:

- In phpMyAdmin, click on the **Databases** tab.
- Enter the name student_management_system for your new database and click Create.
- This database will store information about students, courses, and enrollments.



• Explain why a web application like a Student Management System would need a relational database. What are the benefits of using MySQL in such applications?

ANSWER

Databases are essential for the role it play when come to data storage in web application such as student Management system, In the school environment the administration need to save student data e.g. student results, Bio data, Matric No, Blood-group etc. for easy access when allocate a student. And it is easy to navigate and query table for editing and deleting data.

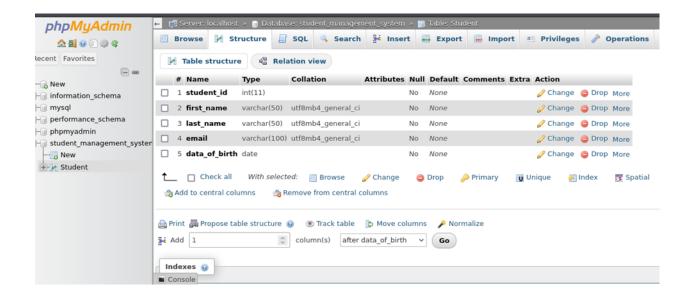
Benefits of MySQL in such Applications are:

- Manipulation of data: it can be used to add, delete and edit data from database.
- Store data: it can be used to store and query table from database
- **retrieving data in databases:** it can be used to recall data and search for any data on the database

Exercise 2: Creating Tables and Defining Columns

Create a students Table:

- After creating the database, click on the student management system database.
- Create a new table named students with the following columns:
 - o student id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
 - o first name (VARCHAR(50))
 - o last name (VARCHAR(50))
 - o email (VARCHAR(100), Unique)
 - o date of birth (DATE)
- Click **Save** to create the table.



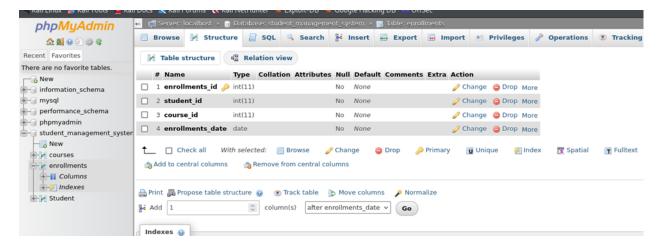
Create a courses Table:

- Create a second table named courses with the following columns:
 - o course id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
 - o course name (VARCHAR (100))
 - o credits (INT)
- Click Save.



Create an enrollments Table (Relationship Between Students and Courses):

- Create a third table named enrollments to track which students are enrolled in which courses. This table should have the following columns:
 - o enrollment id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
 - student id (INT, Foreign Key referencing students.student id)
 - o course id (INT, Foreign Key referencing courses.course id)
 - o enrollment date (DATE)
- Click **Save** to complete the table creation.



• Discuss how relationships are established between tables in a relational database. Why are **foreign keys** important in maintaining data integrity?

ANS

The relationship was established between tables using **primary key**, the primary key is unique identification that is common between two tables or more.

Foreign keys is important in maintaining data integrity, ensuring that the data link to the right owner of the data, for instance in the above table created student_id and course_id are foreign key that link the three table together and ensuring it link to the rightful owner of date in order to maintain data integrity without mix up the data.

Exercise 3: Inserting Data into the Tables

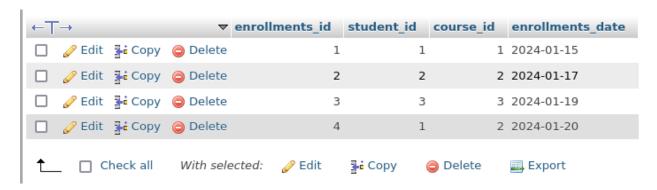
Insert Sample Data into the students Table:

- Open the SQL tab in phpMyAdmin and execute the following SQL statement to insert some students:
- INSERT INTO students (first name, last name, email, date of birth)
- VALUES
- ('John', 'Doe', 'john.doe@example.com', '1995-04-12'),
- ('Jane', 'Smith', 'jane.smith@example.com', '1998-09-05'),
- ('Tom', 'Brown', 'tom.brown@example.com', '1997-11-22').



Insert Sample Data into the courses Table:

- Insert some sample courses using the following SQL statement:
- INSERT INTO courses (course name, credits)
- VALUES
- ('Introduction to Databases', 3),
- ('Web Development', 4),
- ('Cybersecurity Fundamentals', 3).



Insert Sample Data into the enrollments Table:

- Enroll the students into different courses using this SQL statement:
- INSERT INTO enrollments (student id, course id, enrollment date)
- VALUES
- (1, 1, '2024-01-15'),
- (2, 2, '2024-01-17'),
- (3, 3, '2024-01-19'),
- (1, 2, '2024-01-20').



Explain how inserting data into tables allows the database to become useful for managing information. Why is **data consistency** crucial when inserting related data across tables?

ANS

Inserting data into table allows databases to become useful for managing information because the data will be arranged in such a way that it will be easy to query while searching for information and provide unique identification for each data on the database.

Why is **data consistency** crucial when inserting related data across tables?

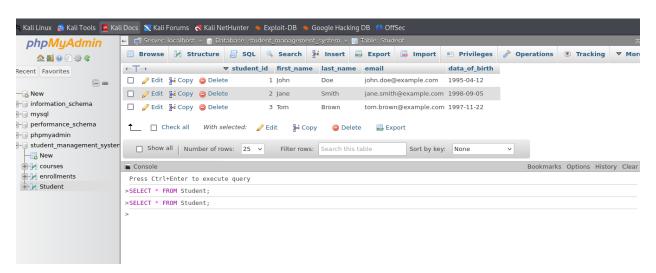
Data consistency is important to match one table to other related table if there is not consistency while inserting data there will mixed up while query the data or missed data.

Exercise 4: Querying the Database

Retrieve All Students:

• Use a SQL query to retrieve all records from the student's table:

SELECT * FROM students.



Retrieve Students Enrolled in a Specific Course:

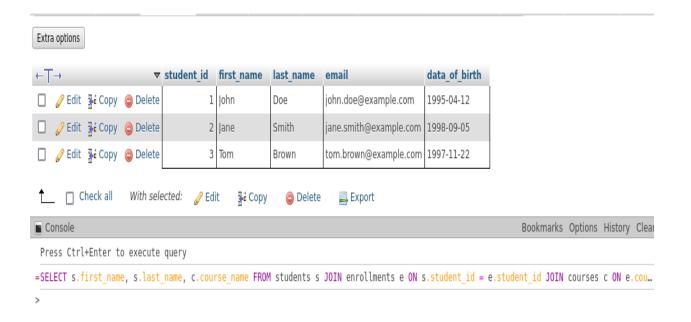
- Write a SQL query to retrieve students enrolled in "Web Development":
- SELECT s.first_name, s.last_name, c.course_name
- FROM students s

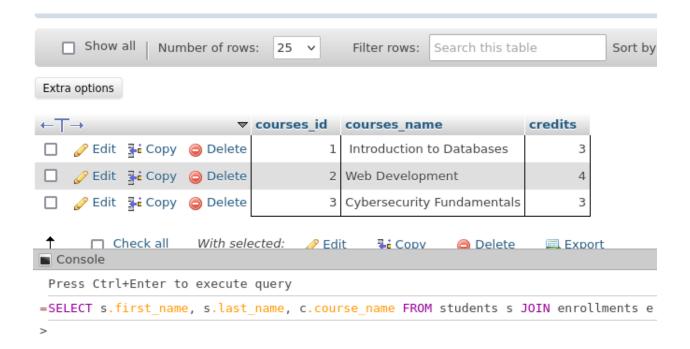
- JOIN enrollments e ON s.student id = e.student id
- JOIN courses c ON e.course id = c.course id

WHERE c.course name = 'Web Development'



Hide search results





Update a Student's Email Address:

- Update the email address for John Doe using the following SQL statement:
- UPDATE students
- SET email = 'john.newemail@example.com'

WHERE first name = 'John' AND last name = 'Doe';

Delete an Enrollment Record:

- Delete the enrollment record for Jane Smith from the enrollments table:
- DELETE FROM enrollments

WHERE student id = 2 AND course id = 2;

Reflection:

 Discuss how SQL allows you to query and manipulate data in a relational database. How do JOINs facilitate retrieving related information from multiple tables?

ANS

SQL allows us to manipulate and query data in the database by using primary key or foreign key, which is common identity that relates two or more table together, the relational database can also be query by using SQL structure statement such as WHERE, FROM, SELECT, JOIN, AND, OR etc.

JOINs facilitate retrieve of related data by checking the relationship between two tables. This can be done in different ways such as:

INNER JOIN: this will join only what common or overlap to the two table

OUTER JOIN: this will join what is not common to the two tables

FULL JOIN: this will join two tables irrespective of what common to bot.

LEFT AND RIGHT JOIN: this will only consider the left table and right will consider only the right table to join the table.