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Activity 7 Part 3 - Differences between MySQLi and PDO

MySQLi is an Open Source Relational Database Management System (RDBMS). And in MySQLi, the ‘i’ stands for improved version of MySQL (GeeksforGeeks). MySQLi utilizes the open source AMP Stack of Apache MySQL and PHP. PDO (PHP Data Object), is a common interface for accessing databases utilizing PHP through a data access abstraction layer to perform queries and fetch results regardless of the database type being used (Basil, 2017).

Both MySQLi and PDO have their advantages, both support prepared statements and queries preventing SQL injection security issues, and both are objected-oriented. One difference is that MySQLi also includes a procedural API (W3Schools). While the main advantage of PDO is that it supports and provides access to 12 different databases, whereas MySQLi will only work with MySQL databases. In PDO you only need to change the connection string and a few queries to change databases. But with MySQLi, you will need to rewrite the entire project code and queries. Another advantage of PDO is the handling of an exception with the use of the try-catch block. In MySQLi, general programming loops such as for, or while loop can be used to fetch data, but PDO already has many in-built statements like fetchAll(), fetchObject(), and fetchColumn() (GeeksforGeeks). Another difference is that MySQLi provides a procedural way to approach API support, while PDO provides an object-oriented approach.

In conclusion, object-oriented programmers prefer PDO due to compatibility to several databases and built in statements to fetch data. While developers with previous backgrounds as MySQL programmers prefer MySQLi due to the similarities. Ultimately, determining which is better comes down to whom you ask and what situation they may need MySQLi or PDO.

References:

Basil, Haseeb Ahmad. (2017). MySQL vs MySQLi vs PDO Performance Benchmark, Difference and Security Comparison in 2016 and 2017 - Find Converter Wrapper and ORM Packages. Retrieved from: <https://www.phpclasses.org/blog/post/521-mysqli-vs-pdo-vs-mysql.html>.

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