Read Me File

### ****Requirements****

To run the project, ensure you have the following installed:

1. **XAMPP (or an alternative PHP environment)**: This tool provides Apache, PHP, and MySQL required for the project. You can get XAMPP online, or use WAMP or MAMP, depending on your system.
2. **Web Browser**: Any up-to-date browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox, Safari) will work.
3. **Code Editor (optional but recommended)**: Use editors like Visual Studio Code or Sublime Text to view or modify the code.
4. **PHP**: Version 7.4 or higher is required. XAMPP generally includes PHP by default.
5. **MySQL**: The project uses MySQL for storing user and product data, and XAMPP comes with MySQL (MariaDB) included.

### ****Getting Started****

* 1. **Download the Project**: Place the project folder in XAMPP’s "htdocs" directory or WAMP's "www" directory.

1. **Database Setup**:
   1. Open phpMyAdmin by visiting http://localhost/phpmyadmin.
   2. Create a new database called **ClothingStore.sql** (or use the provided name).
   3. Import the SQL structure and sample data from the **loadClothingStore.sql** file by selecting it under the "Import" tab. If any issues arise, switch to MySQL40 compatibility mode.
2. **Configure the Database Connection**:
   1. Open **DBConn.php** in your editor and adjust the database credentials as needed.
   2. In **createTable.php**, the script deletes and recreates the tblUser table, inserting 30 sample records. Adjust it as necessary based on your setup.
3. **Start XAMPP Services**:
   1. Open XAMPP Control Panel, and start Apache and MySQL by clicking the "Start" buttons.
4. **Run the Application**:
   1. Open a browser and visit <http://localhost/WEDE6021_POE%20Part2> pastimes/login\_register\_selection.php to access the homepage.

### ****Features of the Application****

* **Home Page**: Displays highlighted clothing items and site details.
* **Catalog Page**: Users can browse the collection and add items to their shopping cart.
* **User Authentication**: Allows users to register, log in, and log out.
* **Cart Functionality**: Users can add products to their cart, with prices displayed.
* **Admin Features**: Administrators can manage the inventory and view customer orders.

### ****Additional Notes****

* **Database Credentials**: Ensure the credentials in **DBConn.php** match your local MySQL configuration.
* **File Permissions**: If file uploads or access fail, check and update the file or folder permissions on the server.
* **External Libraries**: The project uses FontAwesome (icons) and Google Fonts (typography). A stable internet connection is required when loading these elements.

### ****Future Enhancements****

* Integrating a checkout system with payment options.
* Expanding the admin panel to include product and user management.
* Adding a messaging system for buyers, sellers, and administrators.
* Creating a seller’s dashboard for product submissions.
* Introducing a seller login.
* Updating the catalog page with filters and other features.
* Improving the cart to show more details.

### ****Troubleshooting****

* **XAMPP Issues**: If XAMPP services fail to start, check if other programs are using ports 80 (Apache) or 3306 (MySQL), and adjust the ports in XAMPP settings if needed.
* **Blank Pages**: Check the Apache error log for possible syntax errors or missing files if pages are blank.
* **Database Problems**: Double-check that the database has been correctly imported and matches the project’s SQL structure.