

DVA231

Assignment 3 – Databases and AJAX

Part 1 – All your databases are belong to us!

In the previous assignments our fake-NASA website was not connected to any databases. Start with the login page, design a simple database table for your users, and fill it up with some usernames and passwords. Write the required code in the login page to check the validity of user logins.

In the same database, create a new table to contain the news data (title, content an image). Please also notice that the images that you upload could be saved either in a separate folder or directly in the database. It is your choice, but do not throw the files in the main directory of your website.

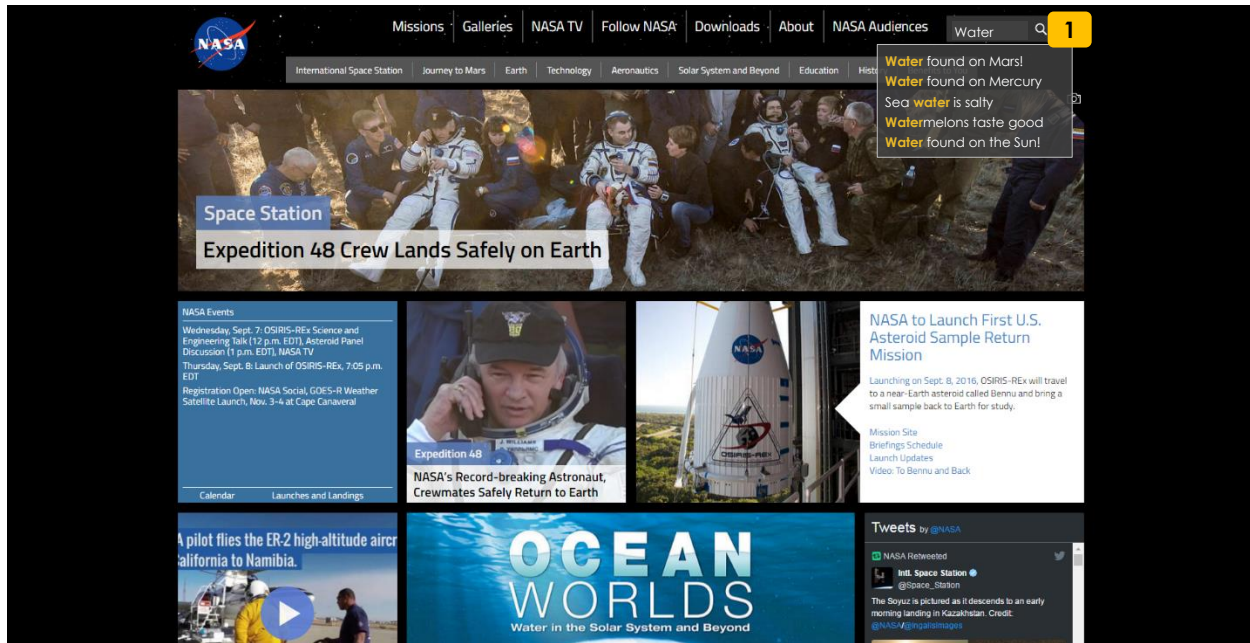
Write also required PHP or ASP.NET code to read the contents of all your news text files and store their content in the database:

- From this point on, the admin page stores the contents of the text file into database using the code that you just did. The main page also gets the news from database and not text file.
- Make sure to add more news to your text files before converting them to database records.

Change the main page so that the news pieces come from the database and not the text files anymore. The database should contain more news that can fit on the page. Pick the latest news pieces that you want to populate the main page.

Part 2 – AJAX to the rescue

The goal with this part is to practice some AJAX. In your first assignment you tried to create a NASA look-alike webpage. As part of it (on the top right part, marked as "1" in the image below), it contained a small search box. In this assignment, we will use AJAX to help the users with their search. When the user starts to type something into the search box, your program should send the information through AJAX to the server and receive up to 5 similar news headlines which will be then populated in a small box below the search box. The items in the list should be clickable and take the user to the page containing that piece of news.



Hints and Notes

1. The information that the server sends back to AJAX request should be in the form of text and contain information regarding the top 5 results. In order to do so you can use JSON, XML or your own string format.
2. Don't forget that you are asked to make the results of the search clickable. This means that you might want to send more info than just the news titles back to the client.

Extra – Just for your own good, No extra points

First, make sure that your database query for searching the keyword can find any piece of news that contains the text -not only those who start with the text – for example in the sentence "sea water is salty" the word "water" is what the user is searching for and is the second word in the sentence.

Now, try to highlight the search keyword (i.e. make it bold) in all the returned news pieces when they are populated in the list. The image shows a sample for searching the word "water".

"I have one major problem with the Internet: It's full of liars."

John Lydon