Utilizing Php for Event Scheduling

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Chapter 1

SECTION 1.1 PROJECT CONTEXT

I wanted to take the opportunity to be more involved in the Web Development. Web development has been a long interest of mine and I wanted to improve my skill set with this capstone. I did some research in the web development field to ready myself for the tasks that I would have to undertake. I wanted to expand my knowledge with the coding languages HTML, CSS, PHP, and Javascript. Working with these languages has improved my understanding of the how much work goes into web development. I wanted to do a project that wasn't so large in scale, that I wouldn't be able to finish the project on time. I knew that producing a complete website would consume a lot of my time and I wanted to be as specific as possible when choosing what type of website that I would produce. Websites have multiple pages, multiple languages used for many different purposes. Limiting all that, I could produce a website that had one specific purpose, one specific function that I could produce. My project had many different influences, but Facebook was the main influence. Facebook has many functions, you can plan events, make friends, and message people. I took one of those functions and dedicated a website to a specific function, the event planning. I also wanted my project to be user friendly. People could leave comments and get in contact with the people who run the website for a better experience. This project will help me improve my skills as a programmer. Designing a complete website with a specific function will take a lot of my time.

1.2 PURPOSE AND DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the project is so that users can have a simple and efficient way to plan events for their personal and professional lives. People would create a account on the website and then have the permission to create a event. The user would fill in a form, with the fields of First Name, Last Name, Email Address, Type of event, Date, Time, and comments or additional information that the user would feel like adding. That data is stored and can be accessed anytime by the user. The user could also leave comments for other users to be involved in the event that they are planning and it also gives information about the experience that they have had using the site. These comments would be reviews on how the event went.The project has a straightforward purpose. The events would be stored in a database and users can see what events that they have scheduled. The choice of events that the users have come in event packages and if additional needs are required, a additional details box is provided for the users to enter information. The packages would be Birthday, Wedding, and Seminar packages. Each package has a description of what it features. The events would have a simple description. The user would select one of these packages, fill out the information and be done with that portion. Users can also be updated on current events with a news section on the site. There is a Contact Us page where users contact the company and send in comments and concerns that they want to be addressed. The users fills out First Name, Last Name, Email Address, and comments they want to add. The home page is a introductory page on what the website on what's purpose and it works.

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is to construct a easy to use website that has the capability to store user information in the correct format. Individuals who enter information on the website

should only see their information being entered and no one else's. Users should interact with the website with minimal error and if a user does encounter a error, contacting the company or administrators to fix that problem should be a simple process. If the user can't schedule a event, there is a contact page users can use.The website should be easily navigated by users. The users should be able to find information about the website in a easy manner. Each section of the website should be consistent in user interaction. The scheduling portion of the website should be a simple process for users. Users shouldn't have any issues with scheduling or logging in to see their account information. When first seeing the website, users should experience a introduction to what the website purpose. Visitors would then see descriptive information about events that they can plan for themselves or for business purposes. During this process users should be able to fill out information about the events that they want to plan, without any error. Event planning for the users can be helpful. Users can use this system to be more organized in their lives. The news feed of the project also helps with the organization. The visitors of the website can plan around the current events. The website connects users through mutually event themes and designs, it can act as a social network. Users can share their experience with certain event packages and give information to users to make informed choices on which events to chose. Interacting with this website should be a easy, error free experience and if there are errors, contact should be made to the administrators to fix that. Navigation through the website, users should be able to find all the information that they need and initial contact if needed.

1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

The scope of the project is to be able to create a database that information from users can be stored in a organized manner. The database portion of the project is the backend. Users will

not be able to interact with the database in regard to changing any tables or columns for security reasons. When scheduling, users will have pre-made choices to schedule events with additional options if needed. The project objective was focused on functional and simplicity of the system, instead of the event planning. Users should have a simple, error free experience. Event packages are the standard options to give the user a simple process of selection. Additional options are available to the user if they want to add something specific to their event.

Chapter 2

SECTION 2.1 PROJECT PLAN

The influences for my project was essential Facebook, but on a significantly smaller scale. This project solves many problems that come with event scheduling. This project make event planning simple as possible without the hassle of not knowing what you want. The website would have the capabilities of scheduling events for the users and the user would be able to create, delete, read and update those events. There would be a login implementation, so that each user can see their own events. The login information would be username and password. The signup portion, so that users can have a login would be First Name, Last Name, Email Address, username, and password. The information would be stored in the database.The user would be instructed to fill out these fields and then the account would be created. Any additional information would be stored as well if needed. The website would be designed in html, css, php, and sql. Xampp would be used to test database connection to the website. The php, and sql portion of the website would be the backend of the website, while the html and css is the frontend of the website. Sublime text editor would be used for all coding purposes. Using php is

a common language and can connect to several databases including MYSQL. Users can leave comments as well. There is also a contact page for the users to interact with. Users can ask questions about services or just to tell their experience with the website. They would fill out a form and that form would be stored into the database.

Chapter 3

SECTION 3.1 DESIGN OF SOFTWARE, PRODUCT, AND PROCESS

The design process wasn't difficult. I wanted to create a simple, user friendly website that had little error. The target audience for this website is the people who want a simple experience in event planning, particularly the older generation who just want simplicity, people who are over 30.Problems with other event planning websites is that they lack the simplicity that people do want.Event planning websites sometimes charge their clients for planning and organization services on their websites. I wanted to create a open, free service to everyone .Simplicity is the main objective of this website. the first part of the website is a introduction slide that was made in a cascading style sheet(Css). The code for the instruction is so slides are shown of pictures, to entice the user to continuing to the website and exploring more about the website capabilities. Css animations don't require any javascript of flash. I used animation tags to time the animations that I wanted. The animations control three pictures and three sets of paragraph tags that introduce the user to the website. The animations are timed and transitioned in a fade out transition. The user is then redirected to a homepage where there is a introduction to what the website is about. This will display reviews, past events, and other relevant information for the

user.The reviews, past events, and other relevant information will be in a column tag in the homepage css. Each column will have a description of the events and see other people who have used this event planning website. The user can schedule events but they must create a account first. The sign up portion of the process will on a different page of the website. The user will fill out necessary information and then have account. The user will then login and the login portion of the website will also have it's own pagel. Users can see their events and plan accordingly. Each website tab is consistent in color and nothing changed except the layout of the items being presented on each webpage.

3.2 DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

I first downloaded xampp to create a connection to a web server.Using phpmyadmin to test the database creation. I created the database CAPSTONE, then create the tables with the user information.The user information will be First_Name, Last_Name, Email_Address, Username, and password. These fields will be stored. .I then created a php script to test the connection from the frontend to the backend of the project.That php code will test the connection to the database on the web server that I created. I tested the connection by writing: if (!$conn) {

die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error()); } echo "Connected successfully";. This message will appear if the localhost can connect to the database on the server. I created the connection to the database by writing: $conn = mysqli_connect($dbhost, $dbuser, $dbpass); mysqli_select_db($conn,$dbname) or die ('Error connecting to mysql');. This takes the login information to the phpmyadmin, where I created the database and makes the connection. I tested variations of connection code, for example I use mysql instead of mysqli. The mysqli extension is a improved version of mysql. I tested both version and when I used mysql I got errors when

trying to connect to the database. Since mysqli is a improved version, I used that version instead because I didn't get any errors. When designing the website all the main webpages were written and saved as html files. I changed them to php files so that any information that was entered, it would go to the php file that handles database connection and information gathering.

Chapter 4

SECTION 4.1 DESCRIPTION OF PROTOTYPE

My project did have a semblance of a prototype. When first designing this website, simplicity was the first attribute I wanted for this website. The prototype had a white background and only the navigation links done. When designing this project I didn't know what direction I wanted to go when concerning theme or font. I wanted simplicity, but I also wanted something unique as well. The navigations links didn't work and the links that were listed were irrelevant to what I wanted to do with the project. The prototype also had the original css page that I used for the final version of the project. The only difference is that there's more stuff. The code that I added were the animations,modals, containers, and columns. The prototype had no database connection or testing done. The prototype that I had, I didn't base my final version on. I restarted the entire project.

4.2 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

My project implementation was to use phpmyadmin for all database and connection issues. The first step in my implementation for the database was to code everything in Mysql server and research how to use Mysql server to connect to the website. After some research, I found that downloading Xampp was the easiest way to have all the database goals met. The

project implementation plan was to code everything in a text editor and preview it in a web browser. Once the design was what I wanted, I created a local web server so that information can be stored I created test databases to make sure that the program processed the creation of the databases correctly..The website will be on that local web server .The security aspect of the website would be that the users could interact with the website, with certain limitations. Users can't access the database or change any of the table names. Users have no control over how things are presented, users can only interact what is their. The security plan was to research POST versus GET POST information is sent from the form to the database is invisible while GET information is visible to everyone. My plan was to implement POST for the login information because POST is used for sensitive information.

4.3 IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

When finishing the project I did encounter a handful of errors. The most common errors were database errors. The database errors were information going into the wrong field or the database not connecting anymore. There were errors of the login information not being stored or the sign up information not being stored. I also had errors of the web server not being started. That was a phpmyadmin error and a file location error. I also had errors where information couldn't be entered in the fields for the user. When these errors happened, it was usually a syntax error. I sometimes forget to erase a certain line of code that interferes with connection. For example I labeled the database wrong in the php code and it was trying to connect to a database that didn't exist. The one error that I couldn't fix was the login redirect error. When logining in, I couldn't get the web page to recognize the whole web page, and not just the user login.

Chapter 5

SECTION 5.1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this project was to not only create a simple event scheduling website, but to enhance my skills in web development. One of the influences for my project was facebook and the event scheduling attribute that it had. The project used languages such as html, css, php,sql, and javascript. The programs I used were Xampp for the database portion of the project. Xampp is a open source web server solution that was developed by apache. When designing the website, the prototype was very basic. I tried to follow a blueprint of what I ad drawn but I restarted the entire project.. The prototype had a basic white background with just the nav links. The nav links didn't have any css attributes. I restarted the project and continued with the css page that I had written and add more code to it. When entering the website, users are shown a introductory presentation to the website. The slides end and then goes to the homepage where the user will see information about the site.There will be information about the event planning website and other relevant information. I wanted a organized view of information for users. I wanted the information on the website to be clear. The goals for this project where to design a working website, connect to a database successfully, create, read, update, and delete information from that database. I used phpmyadmin to create the databases and other administrative functions for the database.

5.2 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall this project was a lot of work and I learned more about web development and the amount of work that goes into creating a website, even as small as mine. Construing a website on a massive scale would have taken much more time. My website has one specific function and that function is event planning. There are things I would change about certain aspects of the project, like how adding hashing to passwords. Password Hashing is taking the size of data and transforming it into a fixed length of data. Hashing functions stop collisions and makes data easily retrievable. Hashing gives a index and retrieves the data in the database. It's faster to use hashed passwords because of the shorter hashed key to find the original password. Hashing is the first step in password security. Hashing passwords make it impossible for any hacker to determine the original password. I didn't use any type of hashing for the passwords, so the passwords can be stolen or compromised from the database. The hashing algorithms I could have implemented are the MD5, SHA1, SHA2, and SHA3. MD5 hashing is commonly used but it is prone to collision. SHA(Secure Hashing Algorithm) was published by NAtional Institute of Standards and Technology and is used as a U.S Federal Information Processing Standard(FIPS). SHA1 was designed by the NSA and is used for digital signature algorithms. SHA2 is the same, the only difference is how many bits can be used. SHA 3 is not defined. NIST is working on.