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Simple search MySQL database using php

I currently have a small php script that searches a database based on user input. There is an html file that has one field that is used for entry of search strings into the database. Essentially, you can search for employees.

It is supposed to retrieve the employee result, if found, and a 'no employee found' message, if not.

For some reason, however, no matter the search, the query returns every employee in the database.

I've been working on this for over an hour, and I am honestly stumped. It may be a simple error but I could do with some help.

```
<?php
$con= new mysqli("localhost","root","","Employee");
$name = $_post['search'];
// $query = "SELECT * FROM employees
// WHERE first_name LIKE '%{$name}%' OR last_name LIKE '%{$name}%'";

// Check connection
if (mysqli_connect_errno())
{
    echo "Failed to connect to MySQL: " . mysqli_connect_error();
}

$result = mysqli_query($con, "SELECT * FROM employees
WHERE first_name LIKE '%{$name}%' OR last_name LIKE '%{$name}%'");

while ($row = mysqli_fetch_array($result))
{
    echo $row['first_name'] . " " . $row['last_name'];
    echo "<br>";
}

mysqli_close($con);
?>
```

Any help appreciated.

Thanks.

php

edited Feb 29 '16 at 13:08



Your Common Sense
123k 18 119 215

asked Apr 11 '14 at 23:19



TimelordViktorious
169 2 3 11

- 2 Check the variable being posted from your form. Note `search != Search`, and if you get it wrong your query will contain `LIKE '%"'`, which matches everything. – user1864610 Apr 11 '14 at 23:22

When you have problems like this, it's time to use `var_dump()`. For example, in this case, just after you get your `$name` variable, I would `var_dump($name);` to see what it contains. If it's empty, then you know why you're getting all results - because *everything* matches `LIKE "%%"`! – cale_b Apr 11 '14 at 23:25

Thank you both - never knew you could use `var_dump` like that. Great to know. It was simply the POST not being capatilized. :P – TimelordViktorious Apr 12 '14 at 0:14

5 Answers

You need to use `$_POST` not `$_post`.

edited Feb 29 '16 at 11:57



David Medenjak
15.5k 9 42 73

answered Apr 11 '14 at 23:23



Jacob
795 6 13

- 1 Well spotted!!! – user1864610 Apr 11 '14 at 23:24

First add HTML code:

```
<form action="" method="post">
<input type="text" name="search">
<input type="submit" name="submit" value="Search">
</form>
```

Now added PHP code:

```
<?php
$search_value=$_POST["search"];
$con=new mysqli($servername,$username,$password,$dbname);
if($con->connect_error){
    echo 'Connection Failed: '.$con->connect_error;
}else{
```

```

$sql="select * from information where First_Name like '%$search_value%'";

$res=$con->query($sql);

while($row=$res->fetch_assoc()){
    echo 'First_name: ' . $row["First_Name"];

}

}

?>

```

answered Sep 4 '16 at 12:36



TARIK BILLAH

21 4

This is a better code that will help you through.
With your database, but rather, I have used mysql not mysqli
Enjoy it.

```

<body>

<form action="" method="post">

    <input name="search" type="search" autofocus><input type="submit" name="button">

</form>

<table>
    <tr><td><b>First Name</td><td></td><td><b>Last Name</td></tr>

<?php

$con=mysql_connect('localhost', 'root', '');
$db=mysql_select_db('employee');

if(isset($_POST['button'])){    //trigger button click

    $search=$_POST['search'];

    $query=mysql_query("select * from employees where first_name like '%{$search}%'
    || last_name like '%{$search}%' ");

    if (mysql_num_rows($query) > 0) {
        while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($query)) {
            echo "<tr><td>".$row['first_name']. "</td><td></td><td>".$row['last_name']. "
        </td></tr>";
        }
    }else{
        echo "No employee Found<br><br>";
    }

}

}else{    //while not in use of search returns all the
values
    $query=mysql_query("select * from employees");

    while ($row = mysql_fetch_array($query)) {
        echo "<tr><td>".$row['first_name']. "</td><td></td><td>".$row['last_name']. "
    </td></tr>";
    }
}

```

```

    }
}

mysql_close();
?>

```

answered Mar 16 '16 at 12:38



Ssekiziyivu Godfrey

2 6

```

require_once('functions.php');

$errors = FALSE;
$errorMessage = "";

if(mysqli_connect_error()){
    $errors = TRUE;
    $errorMessage .= "There was a connection error <br/>";
    errorDisplay($errorMessage);
    die($errors);
} else if($errors != "TRUE"){
    $errors .= FALSE;
}

if(isset(mysqli_real_escape_string($_POST['search']))) {
    $search = mysqli_real_escape_string($_POST['search']);
    search($search);
}

?>
<?php
//This is functions.php
function search($searchQuery){
    echo "<div class='col-md-10 col-md-offset-1'>";
    $searchTerm
    $query = query("SELECT * FROM `index` WHERE `keywords` LIKE '". $searchTerm. "'");
    while($row = mysqli_fetch_array($query)){
        $results = <<< DELIMITER
        <div class='result col-md-12'>
            <a href='index.php?search={$row['id']}'> {$row['Title']} </a>
            <p class='searchDesc'>{$row['description']}</p>
        </div>
    DELIMITER;
    echo $results;
    }
    echo "</div>";
}

function errorDisplay($msg){
    if(!isset($_SESSION['errors'])){
        $_SESSION['errors'] = $msg;
        showError($msg);
    } else if() {
        $_SESSION['errors'] .= $msg . "<br>";
        showError($msg);
    }
}

function showError($msg) {

```

```
return $msg;
unset($_SESSION['errors']);
}
```

?>`
Perhaps That Helps?

answered Jan 6 at 21:19



[CarbonCoding](#)
1

Just with the above answer I hope it was the problem.

`$_POST['search']` instead of `$_post['search']`

And again use `LIKE '%$name%'` instead of `LIKE '%{$name}%'`

edited Mar 1 '16 at 16:23



[maytham-weyalew](#)
7,023 7 26 62

answered Feb 29 '16 at 14:04



[Ssekiziyivu Godfrey](#)
2 6

1 Hi, welcome to StackOverflow. You already answered this question, so please edit your previous answer if you wish to add some information. Thanks. – [Cthulhu](#) Feb 29 '16 at 14:29