

Simple E-Commerce Website
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Assignment #2

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Introduction

For this assignment, we were required to create a PHP e-commerce website for multiple products.

Objectives

This PHP website reads from a simple text document with values separated by commas and products separated by lines, then performs calculations and outputs the data based on which function is called from the product page.

Methodology

After reading the text file into an array (one key per line), a 2D array is created using the PHP `explode()` function, creating a key before every comma. Once this is created, all of the data in the text file needed for products is accessible from this global array.

A global array was chosen over processing the file inside each function because the calculation time and memory usage is much more sensical in this format. Otherwise, the file must be read six times over and processed into an array before the page renders correctly.

salePrice();

Global array is included and the function checks if the end-date of the sale has passed. If it hasn't passed, the sale price is returned, otherwise the regular price is.

checkCookie();

Checks if a cookie is already made; if not, a cookie with name, "user" will be created.

saleDate();

Global array is used to check if the sale has started yet; if not, return how many days until it starts. Otherwise, see if it has ended as well. If it's ongoing, return how many days remain until the end of the sale.

accessories();

Uses the global array too see if the promotional time for the accessories page has passed. If it hasn't, return a link to the accessories page. Otherwise, return NULL, so the product page knows not to create a link.

itemsRemaining();

Uses the global array too see if the quantity of an item is greater than 0; if so, return the number of items in stock. Otherwise, return the notice that the item is on backorder.

getRating();

Returns the rating as a number, which is used as the limit inside a for-loop to print the stars in HTML.

References / Citations

php.net - file() function - <http://ca.php.net/manual/en/function.file.php>