



UNIVERSITY
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CS-3305

Web Programming 2

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Learning Journal Unit 5
3/3/25

ECOMMERCE APPLICATIONS

SUMMARY OF CONTENT

This week focused on eCommerce applications, covering installation, configuration, and security practices. The readings emphasized online payment systems, regulatory compliance, and protective measures for eCommerce stores. I reviewed materials on multi-factor authentication, tokenization of card data, PCI DSS compliance requirements, and strategies for staying current with payment regulations. The practical component involved creating an actual eCommerce website using Mozello (Three Brothers shop), which allowed me to apply theoretical concepts to a real-world scenario.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

IMPLEMENTING THE ECOMMERCE SITE

Building the Three Brothers store was far more complex than I initially anticipated. What surprised me most was how many small decisions influenced the overall customer experience. Choosing product categories, writing descriptions, setting prices, and selecting images all required careful consideration. I found myself constantly asking, "Would I feel comfortable purchasing from this site if I were a customer?"

The Mozello platform offered a good balance between functionality and ease of use, though I encountered challenges with customizing certain elements. I spent several hours tweaking the layout to make navigation intuitive, which gave me newfound appreciation for well-designed online stores I've used in the past.

SECURITY INSIGHTS

The readings on payment security were particularly eye-opening. Before this week, I viewed payment security vaguely as "encryption" without understanding the comprehensive approach required. Learning about tokenization - where sensitive card data is replaced with unique tokens - made me realize why major retailers can process payments securely on scale.

I was challenged by the complexity of PCI DSS compliance requirements. The extensive checklist covering network security, encryption techniques, and access control policies seemed overwhelming at first. This made me wonder how small businesses manage to stay compliant with limited resources and technical expertise.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

During our group discussion, a classmate mentioned their experience with an online store that suffered data breach. This personal anecdote reinforced the real-world importance of the security measures we were studying. It wasn't just theoretical - inadequate security directly impacts people's lives and businesses' reputations.

I found myself applying concepts from readings when evaluating other websites as a consumer. I started noticing security indicators I previously overlooked - HTTPS connections, trust badges, and payment verification steps. This awareness has already changed how I assess the trustworthiness of online stores.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

I recognize that I'm developing both technical and analytical skills through this exploration of eCommerce. Technically, I've learned to implement basic eCommerce functionality, configure payment options, and understand security protocols. Analytically, I'm better able to evaluate the effectiveness and security of online stores.

What remains challenging is balancing security with user experience. Implementing numerous verification steps improves security but can frustrate customers and lead to abandoned purchases. Finding that balance requires understanding both technical security and human psychology.

FUTURE APPLICATIONS

As online shopping continues to dominate retail, these skills feel increasingly relevant regardless of my future career path. Whether I work directly in eCommerce or simply need to evaluate digital solutions as a manager, understanding the fundamentals of online stores and their security will be valuable.

Going forward, I want to explore more advanced aspects of eCommerce, particularly analytics and personalization. How do successful online retailers track customer behavior to improve their offerings while respecting privacy? This question feels like the next logical step in my learning journey.
