

After the web design and development class, we took the PHP class. In this class we were taught on how to execute codes to the server and not to the client. PHP is a server-side scripting language and stands for Hypertext Preprocessor and uses an Apache server. PHP is different from other scripting languages such as JavaScript as those are client-side scripting language and requires application such as TomCat. Since PHP needs an Apache server, we must have the XAMPP, (Cross-Platform, Apache, MySQL, PHP and Perl), a free opensource webserver package that consists of Apache, MySQL, and interpreters for PHP and Perl.

We also use php to create a dynamic webpage. When a user sends a request for a dynamic webpage, the web server determines how to process it via the extension of the file. If the request is for a .php then the interpreter processes the request and uses the database server. When the interpreter is done processing the request it sends the web browser a HTML file which then sends the HTML file to the browser. The browser does not know if the file is static or dynamically obtained and displays it as a HTML file.

In this class, we learnt the basics of php and we also learnt that the PHP script is a loosely typed language and can be placed anywhere in the document. We start the PHP script with a “<?php” tag and ends with “?>” tag. Similar to how HTML and C# has keywords, PHP also has some keywords, however, they are not case-sensitive. Unlike the keywords, the variable names in PHP are case sensitive.

When we declare a variable name, we have to start with the dollar sign and we cannot have a number as the starting character in the variable's name. For example, a variable name in PHP would look like \$name. Like we put quotes around string values in C#, we do the same in PHP. PHP has three different scopes of variables: the local, global and static. Global variables are assigned outside a function and has a global scope which can be accessed only outside a

function. If the variable is inside the function, it has a local scope and can be accessed only within the function. When a function is completed or executed, all the variables are deleted but sometimes we need a local variable to be available even after the function is executed. At such times we use static keyword to declare such variable.

To create a dynamic text we use the “echo” statement in PHP. The echo statement is similar to that as a print statement as they are used to give the output, however, the ‘echo’ can hold multiple parameter without a return values whereas the ‘print’ can use only one argument with a return value of 1. The other content we learnt were similar to those in C# such as Booleans, strings, integers, floats, arrays and null values. The artifact I used for this class a basic application to calculate a person’s net salary.

I chose this project because apart from using html and css for the website, we used php to do the calculations.. We also learnt that the two HTTP request methods, the post method and the get method. The get method requests data from a specified resource whereas the post method submits data to be processed to a specified resource. We used the post method in this project since we are asking for the user’s credentials to calculate their net salary and display it on another page. Additionally, we also learnt how to handle special characters and prevent dangerous injections during a user input which are vulnerable to hackers with malicious intent