Name: Terrence Jackson  
Date: 08-09-2024  
Course : CMSC 340 Web Programming  
Week: 1  
Assignment: Develop a PHP Script to Print out Information about You & about Earth Volume

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Rubric Criteria:  
Number of correctly implemented specifications using PHP scripting out of five (5) specifications   
(50%)  
  
Embed here (or submit separately) a copy of your PHP script file(s):

Copy and paste here the text of your PHP code:

<?php

/\*

Develop a PHP Script to Print out Information about You & about Earth Volume

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Terrence Jackson

CMSC 430

Last Edited: Aug 9 2024

Due: Aug 27 2024

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echo "My name is Terrence Jackson.<br>";

echo "My city is Sacramento in the state of California.<br>";

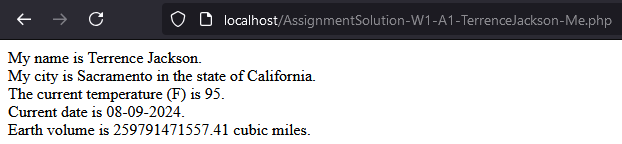
echo "The current temperature (F) is 95.<br>";

date\_default\_timezone\_set("America/Los\_Angeles");

echo "Current date is " . date("m-d-Y") . ".<br>";

echo "Earth volume is " . (4 / 3) \* 3.14 \* (3959 \*\* 3) . " cubic miles.<br>";

Insert here a screenshot(s) of the result of executing your PHP script:



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Rubric Criteria:  
Number of relevant explanations out of three (3) explanations of approach, design, and steps of completing the assignment  
(30%)

Your response here:

**Approach:** The approach I took was straightforward and based on the specifications provided. I started by carefully reading the assignment requirements to ensure I understood each task. I then wrote the PHP script with simplicity and clarity in mind, making sure to follow the specified format exactly.

**Design:** I began the script with a comment block that includes the title, my name, the course name, and the dates relevant to the assignment. This helps to keep the code organized and provides context for anyone reviewing it. The PHP script is structured using simple echo statements to output the required information. I used the built-in date() function to retrieve the current date and straightforward mathematical operations for the Earth's volume calculation. As the built-in date() function defaults to UTC, I also used the date\_default\_timezone\_set() function to set the timezone to "America/Los\_Angeles".

**Steps Taken:** I created the script file, ensuring the naming convention was followed: AssignmentSolution-W1-A1-TerrenceJackson-Me.php. Then, I wrote the header comment block, followed by a PHP tag. From there, I wrote out each specification as a separate echo statement in PHP, including functions and operators where they were needed. Once I was satisfied, I deployed the script to the AMPPS Apache web server and tested it using a web browser to ensure it worked as expected. I was surprised to find my header comment was printed out in the web browser, so I went back to check my code. Once I realized my mistake with the PHP tag, I moved that to the very top of the file. Finally, my code worked as expected, and I was able to take a screenshot of the browser displaying the output for submission. However, then I noticed that the date was incorrectly displaying tomorrow’s date. After looking through some PHP documentation online, I found a function that would allow me to set the timezone correctly. After this, my script displayed an accurate date.

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Rubric Criteria:  
Number of objective self-evaluations out of three (3) self-evaluations of strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement of self-performance on the assignment  
(10%)

Your response here:

**Strengths:** My strengths in this assignment were attention to detail and debugging. I paid close attention to the assignment's requirements, ensuring that each specification was met. Also, I quickly identified and resolved the issues with the placement of the PHP tag and the incorrect date, allowing the script to run correctly.

**Weaknesses:** As I am still new to PHP, I initially overlooked the requirement for the PHP tag to precede everything, including comments. This was a small mistake but could have been avoided with more careful attention.

**Areas of Improvement:** While the script is simple, it is still important to be thorough and double-check my work. Perhaps in future assignments I can do more rigorous testing.

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Rubric Criteria:  
Number of relevant reflections on the learning experience out of three (3) reflections of setbacks, triumphs, and lessons learned  
10%

Your Response here:

**Setbacks**: My first setback was the issue with the placement of the PHP opening tag. I mistakenly placed comments before the <?php tag, which caused some confusing behavior initially. My second setback was the timezone of the date function. Initially, the date function was displaying tomorrow’s date. Once I found a way to set the timezone, I was able to display the correct date. These setbacks, though minor, emphasized the importance of understanding the nuances of PHP syntax and reminded me that even small details can impact the functionality of the entire script.

**Triumphs:** The main triumph was successfully completing the script with all specifications met and seeing it run correctly after the initial debugging. It was gratifying to see the script output exactly what was required, especially after correcting the tag placement and date issues. Deploying the script to the server and having it work as intended without additional errors felt like a significant achievement, particularly since I am so new to PHP.

**Lessons Learned:** This assignment reinforced the importance of careful attention to detail in coding. I learned that even seemingly insignificant elements can have a critical impact on the functionality of a script. Another key lesson was the value of thorough testing and debugging. Identifying and resolving my bugs helped me understand the importance of testing code in different scenarios to ensure it functions correctly all the time.