Basic Web Application

Back-end Web Development - 11058

Aim

The aim of this project is to build a practical web application using the skills and techniques acquired in modules 1 and 2.

Task

To create a web application that allows a user to log in and create a password and then enter, modify, delete and view data on webpages. I have chosen to create an inventory-style application.

Outcomes

After some consideration, I decided to investigate the possibility of creating an inventory type application as this achieved the set objectives of the assignment.

In the initial stages of developing the inventory application involved me understanding how to create a server-side database and then the ability to connect to them from a client-side web page using PHP and JavaScript. It was a very steep learning curve, and after some guidance and assistance, I achieved the basic requirements set out in the assignment.

I successfully built an early version of the application that had a user view, add, delete and update data functionality. I sought guidance to assist in getting my project to work, after which I found that I had a number of spelling mistakes and typos, and that I failed to include some required files thereby preventing my application from working effectively. After amending these the project worked well despite not having applied page styling. After this initial success, I used Bootstrap to quickly style the application and make it a little more presentable.

The next task of creating a log-in and password proved a little more difficult, but with some assistance, I was able to work through several online tutorials and YouTube videos to achieve an acceptable outcome and fully meet the assignment requirements.

After getting the basic functionality of the application working I tested my application considerably by adding, updating and deleting data. I constantly monitored and tested the site architecture to understand the user process to ensure the application worked seamlessly, and that it met all of the assignment's requirements.

I also spent a lot of time making sure there was no unnecessary duplication of code and each page was structured to its best potential. So, for example, making sure the header.php file was structured to be best utilised across the site. And making sure the required JavaScript files were added to the footer.php file so bootstrap worked correctly.

Once I was completely satisfied with the outcome, I duplicated the application to my web host and created the required tables within the database. Then I continually tested the application to ascertain if the site performed as it should, the structure of the application was fit for purpose and all information was being held and deleted as requested, in the database.

Conclusion

The application meets the requirements of the brief. A user can create a username and password. The username is also displayed within the application within the navigation area. Data can also be added, viewed, updated and deleted within the application. Getting the functionality and requirements was very difficult and took a considerable amount of time, focus and fault finding. This, unfortunately, took away time for styling the application and more work needs to be done on the layout. I would in the future also like to be able to sort data, for example, show all inventory items in the Living room or alphabetically or by price, and even to provide a total cost of items entered in the application.

Appendix

GitHub Files: https://github.com/Viper66Oz/basic-web-app

Web Application: http://www.skratch.design/basic-web-app/public/