

Find Your Dream Hostel using HTML and PHP

Team Blah Blah Blah

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Introduction

Hostel is the main accommodation for students who need to stay inside campus.

Unfortunately, due to the quota and filter system, not every student gets to choose to stay at their desired hostel. Annually, students tend to exchange hostels through social media platforms like Telegram, Facebook and etc. It is a very inefficient way for students who want to exchange their hostel. Hence, our group came up with an idea to help these students to match with others to get their desired college. For example, students from college A who want to change to college B, our website will cater the service to match them with students from college B who want to change to college A.

Requirements and Steps to Recreate

To build a website, there are three imperative parts which are front-end development, back-end development, and database. To create a functional website, connecting the front-end and back-end is one of the most crucial steps. First of all, html and css are used mainly for front-end development. HTML is used to structure the website and css is used to paint and style up the website. There's no big ordeal for the front-end as we build a very simple and minimalist style for the website.

For a website involving information collection and information processing, a well designed database is required. We have chosen SQL database as we think that it would be easier to construct tables for the information collected. We initially used MySQL to learn SQL and test out the queries and connection between databases that can be executed to have a smooth flow of create, retrieve, update and delete the data as required. Later, we included the queries into PHP and used PHPMyAdmin for the database monitoring.

Backend development is crucial for the functionality and performance of a website. The backend is responsible for the behind-the-scenes operations that enable the website to function. Backend development involves handling data storage, retrieval, and management. This includes interactions with databases, ensuring data integrity, and managing user information. Our members initially chose Node.js to learn and do the project using it. Without foreseen circumstances, she changed it to PHP because it is easier and user-friendly for beginners. With big help from other team members, we still managed to complete the back-end development including linking to the SQL database in time.

Last but not least, we only can access our website on one of our member's laptop due to the localhost state. We succeeded in changing the localhost to a public URL by configuring the IP address, but the users must use the same LAN as the website developer uses. Hence, we use UTM Wifi at school and we configured the IP address so everyone can access to the website.

Progress Record

2/11/2023

Discussed and submitted the idea for the project proposal.

5/11/2023

Distribute tasks for each team member to learn front-end, back-end, and database. We agreed to use HTML for front-end development, Node.js for back-end development, and MySQL for learning purposes.

19/11/2023

The front-end sketch design is ready.

23/11/2023

Start to do the project.

26/11/2023

Change the backend to PHP.

8/12/2023

The final version of the website and code is ready. We also managed to submit the documentation right in time.

Conclusion

During the project, we faced a lot of challenges and problems, such as the short timeframe and lack of technical skills. The internship program occurs during the test week for one of our members and before the test week for the other two members. This piles up the difficulties that we are facing now. We did learn a lot of programming knowledge because of this beneficial Airost internship program. We will recommend others to join this internship program in the future.

Reference

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