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CS 2300
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Project 3 Milestone 3: Design Rationale

Configuration:

DB_HOST: localhost
DB_USER: info230_SP16_ac962sp16
DB_PASS: ac962sp16
DB_NAME: ac962cs2300

Login Username and Password:

Username: acheng
Password: ac_cs2300

Aesthetic Design Choices:

My website theme is Worldwide Wonders, so I wanted to convey the concept that my website showcases breathtaking pictures from all around the world. As a result, I decided to set the background of my website to be one of those photos. Design-wise, my overall goal was to create a website with a clean and simple look. In particular, I gained design inspiration from a Chrome extension I use daily called Momentum. Since the background photo was relatively dark and not a solid color, I chose to use white text and put most of the content on top of semi-translucent boxes for easier readability. I also rounded the corners of many page elements like form boxes to give the website a softer feel, which made the website more pleasing to the eye. For navigation, I chose to have a standard navigation menu at the top that did not clutter the website and could be easily accessed. For the general layout, I chose to display the photos and albums in a linear fashion for a minimalistic design.

Functionality Design Choices:

The Home page is simply the welcome screen that users first see upon visiting the site, and it introduces the users to the common theme of the website. The Gallery page displays the list of albums from the database with their relevant information (i.e. album_title, date_created... etc.). Clicking on the album cover photo would lead the user to a page displaying all the photos in that specific album. Clicking on a photo in an album would then lead to a page displaying that specific photo and its relevant information (including which albums it is in).

In order to add, edit, or delete photos and albums, a user must log in with the correct credentials through the login form on the Login page. Once logged in, the user will be able to see underlined edit options on the specific album and photo pages (i.e. [gallery.php?album_id=1](#); [gallery.php?photo_id=1](#)). For a specific album page, the user has the option to add an existing image to the album, edit the

album title, delete the album, or delete a specific photo from the album. For a specific photo page, the user has the option to edit the photo name and caption or to delete the photo from all albums.

The Add page includes an Add Album Form and an Add Photo Form to allow users to add an empty album as well as add a photo to 0 or more albums. The Search page allows users to search for photos by album title, photo name, and photo location (caption). Users can search on a single field or multiple fields but at least one field must be filled to conduct a search. Overall, all forms have some type of input validation, and navigation throughout the website is implemented so that it should be easy and straightforward to navigate back to a page after form submission.

Milestone Feedback Improvements:

In Milestone 1, my grader suggested that I add a primary key to my PhotoInAlbum table. However, while working with the database, I realized that an album can contain multiple photos and a photo can be in multiple albums. This meant that neither the album_id field nor the photo_id field in the PhotoInAlbum table could be unique, so neither field could be a primary key. In addition, I found it unnecessary to add an additional field as the primary key since any record of album_id and photo_id should already be unique; I have discussed this implementation with multiple TAs, who all agreed that it would be fine to not include a primary key in my PhotoInAlbum table.

In Milestone 2, my grader found a bug in my code where a user was unable to add a photo to 0 albums. I have since fixed this issue in Milestone 3 by adding the new photo to the Photos table, regardless of the number of albums the user chose to add the photo to. I did not alter the PhotoInAlbum table for photos added to 0 albums.

WOW Features:

The main WOW features I implemented were my website design, some image resizing, and handling of user access to non-existent photos and albums. In general, I believe that my website has a clean, consistent design that fits in well with the overall theme and content of the website. In addition, I displayed the photos in different sizes, with a smaller square photo in the main view and a larger photo with the correct aspect ratio in the detail view. Finally, I added error handling for situations in which a user attempts to access a photo or an album that doesn't exist. For instance, attempting to visit the page (gallery.php?album_id=id) would result in an error message.