PHP Form Validation

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Dept. of Computer Science
Faculty of Science and Technology

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Lecture Outline

1. **Learning Objectives**
2. **PHP Form Handling**
3. **PHP Form Validation**
4. **Books and References**

Learning Objectives

- In this lecture , we will learn more details about HTML form elements i.e. different type of form, designing different type of HTML form.
- We will also learn HTTP GET and POST.
- Handling form data using $_GET or $_POST methods and validations form data using PHP.

PHP Form Handling

- The PHP superglobals **$_GET** and **$_POST** are used to collect form-data.
- The example displays a simple HTML form with two input fields and a submit button using "get" and "post"
- And See the difference.

```
<html>
<body>
<form action="welcome.php" method="post">
Name: <input type="text" name="name"><br>
E-mail: <input type="text" name="ema:
<input type="submit">
</form>
</body>
</html>
```

PHP Form Handling

- The same result could also be achieved using the HTTP GET/POST method:
- Welcome_get.php file
- ```
  <html>
  <body>
  Welcome <?php echo $_GET["name"]; ?><br>
  Your email address is: <?php echo $_GET["email"]; ?>
  </body>
  </html>
  ```

PHP Form Validation

- Proper validation of form data is important to protect your form from hackers and spammers!
- Lets consider the example.

PHP Form Validation Example

* required field

Name: [   ] *

E-mail: [   ] *

Website: [   ]

Comment: [   ]

Gender: ○ Female ○ Male ○ Other *

[Submit]

PHP Form Validation

- The validation rules for the form above are as follows:

Field	Validation Rules
Name	Required. + Must only contain letters and whitespace
E-mail	Required. + Must contain a valid email address (with @ and .)
Website	Optional. If present, it must contain a valid URL
Comment	Optional. Multi-line input field (textarea)
Gender	Required. Must select one

- **$_SERVER["PHP_SELF"]** is a super global variable that returns the filename of the currently executing script and sends the submitted form data to the page itself, instead of jumping to a different page.

- ```
<form method="post" action="<?php echo htmlspecialchars($_SERVER["PHP_SELF"]);?>">
```

PHP Form Validation

- When your validation is passed, the hold the data in object.
- Now write a class for student using name, email, etc. attributes(See the form).
- Use this student object to hold the student data.

Books

- **W3Schools Online Web Tutorials; URL: http://www.w3schools.com**
- **PHP Documentation; URL: http://www.php.net/docs.php**
- **Sams Teach Yourself Ajax JavaScript and PHP All in One; Phil Ballard and Michael Moncur; Sams Publishing; 2010**
- **JavaScript Phrasebook; Christian Wenz; Sams Publishing; 2007**
- **PHP and MySQL Web Development, 4/E; Luke Welling and Laura Thomson; Addison-Wesley Professional; 2009**
- **JavaScript for Programmers Paul J. Deitel and Harvey M. Deitel; Prentice Hall; 2009**
- **Beginning PHP5, Apache, and MySQL Web Development; Elizabeth Naramore, Jason Gerner, Yann Le Scouarnec, Jeremy Stolz and Michael K. Glass; Wiley Publishing; 2005**
- **XML in a Nutshell, 3/E; Elliotte Rusty Harold and W. Scott Means; O'Reilly Media; 2004**

References

1. https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_forms.asp