

Project Part 2 Changes - CS1520

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Changes

The primary changes from Part 1 of this project involved modifying my existing site files to switch to PHP and adding a database connection. Switching over to PHP was actually a lot more straightforward than I expected, especially after working on assignment 3 and getting a good feel for how PHP is supposed to work on a website. In particular, I added significant PHP modifications to my website's contact page, which in part 1 just looked nice but didn't actually do anything. This is where I added functionality with PHP by connecting the contact information submission to a database so that someone could actually leave me their information and a message if they visited the site. On this page, I also added cookie functionality that, given a person fills out the contact form, would remember their name and change the home page welcome message to a personal greeting next time they visited. Minor style changes were also made to make my website match up better with my resume's style.

What I Learned

As was the case with pretty much everything in this class, this was my first time using PHP as well as my first time setting up a database connection on a website. I also liked being able to apply something that we did in class (the PHP cookie functionality from the in-class coding quiz) to my website, though I can't quite decide if a personal greeting message is actually cool or a little bit creepy (or maybe a bit of both). From part 1, I also learned that reengineering a website can be a little tricky. There were definitely bits of my site that could have been more elegantly done in PHP had I written it from the beginning with PHP capabilities in mind.