Using Dates with MySQL and PHP

Example: A database table with a date field:

CREATE TABLE order\_history {

username VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,

upc VARCHAR(20) NOT NULL,

quantity INT(4) NOT NULL,

purchase\_date DATETIME NOT NULL,

PRIMARY KEY (username, upc, purchase\_date)

);

A PHP insert query with the current date as the purchase\_date:

$query = "INSERT INTO order\_history (username, upc, quantity, purchase\_date)

VALUES (:username, :upc, :quantity, now())";

A PHP insert query with a specific date as the purchase\_date:

Create the date parameter like this:

$date1 = date('2021-3-20'); (date only)

$date2 = date('2021-3-20 14:25'); (with hours and minutes; use 24-hour time)

Use $date as a parameter to the function, then the function uses this query:

$query = "INSERT INTO order\_history (username, upc, quantity, purchase\_date)

VALUES (:username, :upc, :quantity, :date)";

with a bindValue statement for all parameters, including $date

Displaying dates within PHP that are returned from a query:

When you retrieve the date from the database, it is not in a form that can be directly displayed within html or by php. First, it must be converted to a string. Below are the 2 lines you may use to convert and display the date:

$phpDate = strtotime($order['purchase\_date']);

$dateString = date('F j' . ', ' . 'Y', $phpDate);

Or, with 24-hour time included in the output:

$dateTimeString = date('F j' . ', ' . 'Y' . ', ' . 'G:i', $phpDate);

Or, display time only in 12-hour format with am/pm:

$dateTimeString2 = date('g:i a', $phpDate);

More formatting options here: <https://www.php.net/manual/en/datetime.format.php>