Building Dynamic Websites with PHP and MySQL

Introduction

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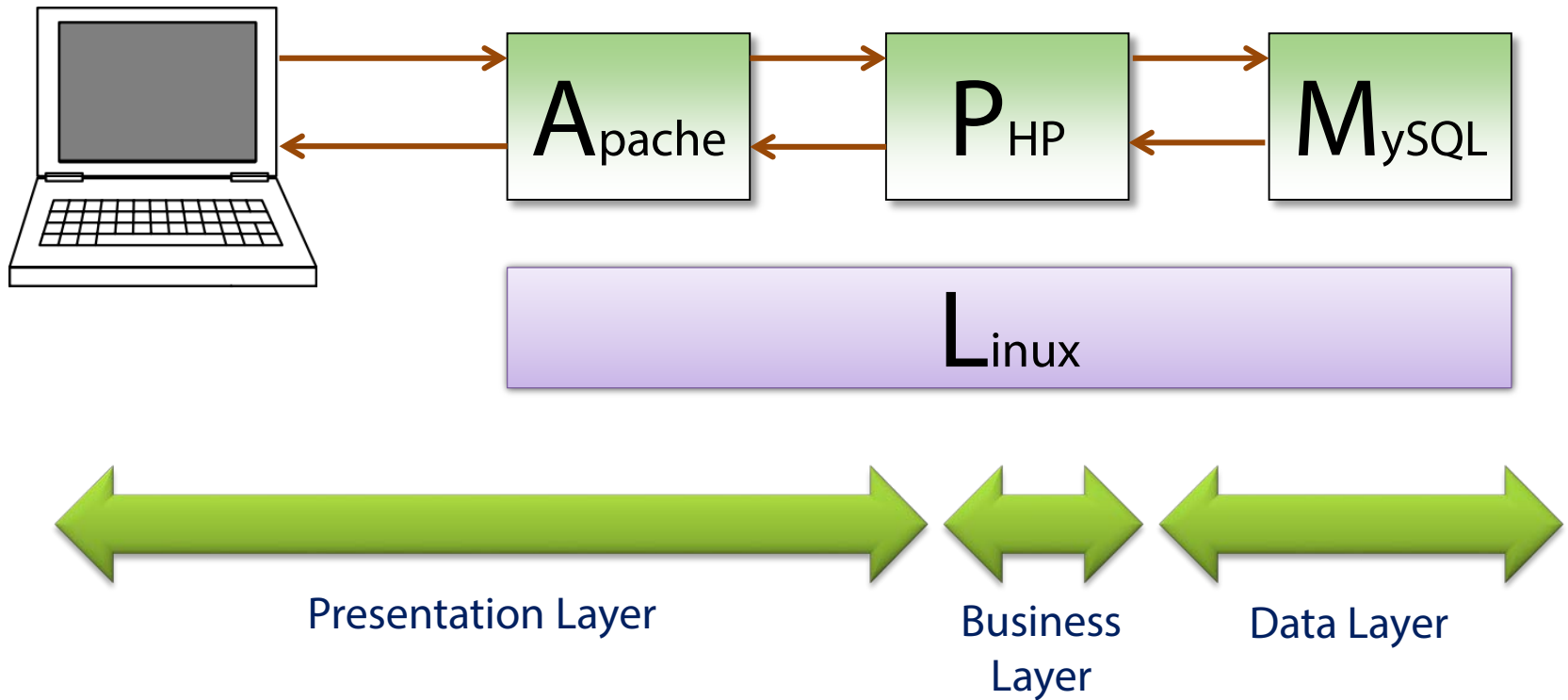
Lesson Objectives

In this lesson we will:

- Examine the overall structure and content of the course

- Understand the role of PHP and MySQL within a web application

- Introduce the course's case study

- Discuss the pre-requisite knowledge you need to take this course

- Outline the requirements to follow along with the demonstratations
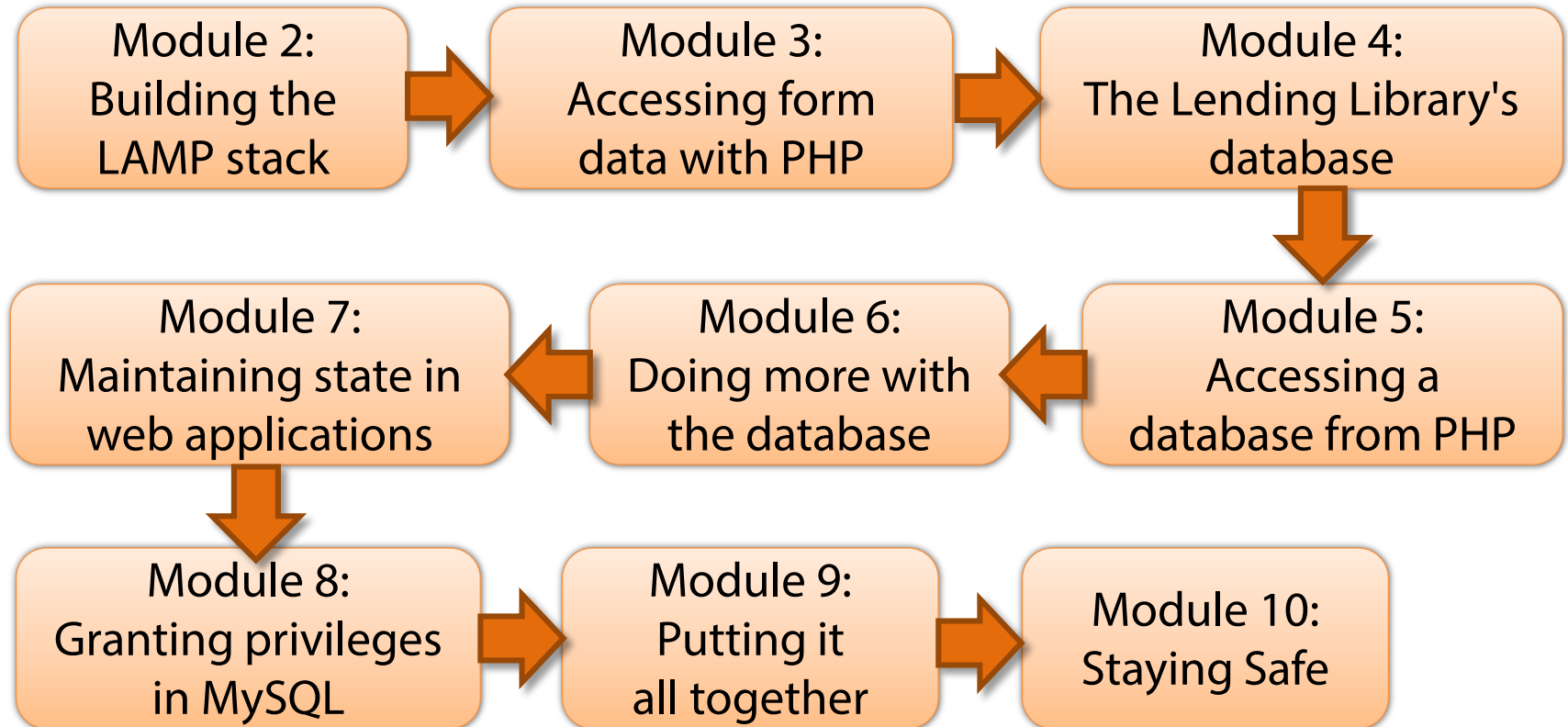
Web Application Architecture

The Case Study

- **A lending library needs a web site so that:**
  - Users ('borrowers") can browse the available books
  - Librarians can perform administrative tasks:
    - Check a book out to a borrower
    - Check a book back in
    - Add a new book
    - Add a new borrower

- **A database is needed to store information on the books and the borrowers**

Course Structure

Pre-requisite knowledge

- **You should ideally have basic knowledge of:**

  - HTML
    - Basic structure, and forms

  - Command line Linux
    - File and directory management,
    - Access permissions
    - Editing text files

  - Apache configuration

  - Relational databases and SQL

  - PHP
    - Program structure, loops and branches, arrays

Following Along

- **The demonstrations in this course build on a default installation of CentOS 6.4**
  - Could be in a virtual machine or on bare metal
  - Could be a cloud instance (e.g. AWS EC2)
  - Internet access will be needed
    for software installation
- **Other Linux distributions could be used; however:**
  - Installation details may be different
  - The out-of-the-box configuration may be different
- **Using Windows or Mac OS X may be more of a challenge!**
  - Core PHP and MySQL should be the same
  - Configuration will be considerably different
  - Installation will be completely different

Demonstration: The lending library case study