## HW3: Use PHP and MySQL to Create a Facebook-like Application

SEIS 752: Advanced Web Application Engineering

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**Summary**

Using PHP and MySQL in a WAMP implementation I was able to create a rudimentary Facebook-like application that meets the requirements established for the Homework #3 deliverable.

I had no previous experience with PHP or Apache and limited experience working with MySQL. I am able to compare them to my previous experience with web development (HTML, JavaScript, .Net), relational databases (SQL Server), and web servers (IIS). I found the combination of PHP and MySQL to be robust and the learning curve to be less steep than other languages that I’ve studied.

I would give the cost/speed/quality analysis of Apache 2.4.7, MySQL 5.6.16, and PHP 5.5.9 on Windows 7 an 8 out of 10 based on my limited exposure. I found that, after getting over the initial hump, I was able to make good progress with implementing functionality without getting stuck for more than a ½ hour on any problem.

The benefits of WAMP are significant and include the robustness of the language, the ease of implementing a development environment, the stability of the stack, the cost, the availability of resources including tutorials, code samples, and user community, and the widespread use of the stack. The challenges include the absence of a dedicated PHP IDE on the scale of Eclipse or NetBeans for Java or Visual Studio for .Net. Also, after some research, I suspect that if I were to really push the limits of PHP I would discover that it falls short of the full-blown OOP languages of Java and C#.Net for web application development.

Dave