

Dynamic website

The learning objectives of this brief are:

- To plan, design and create a dynamic website that queries and updates a database using best practices
- To design and create a database for use in a web application
- To create and implement a detailed testing plan
- To use authentication techniques to display restricted content

The brief

You are to build a dynamic web application. This could be, though is not limited to, one of the following:

- Web site with content management system (CMS) that focuses on providing an intuitive user experience for the customer
- User forum that allows user to follow threads, add new threads and select/ order by various criteria
- Multi-user blogging system with registered users able to add 'comments' on other users blogs
- Simple intranet framework (CMS)

OR, if you want to pursue an alternative idea discuss this with your tutor and make sure they think it is feasible before you start.

The site must include the following

User sign up and authentication tracking between relevant pages (using sessions)

Relevant contents search(es)

Add/ Edit /Delete ability for relevant alphanumeric and image content

MySQL database using tables with appropriate normalization for the specific project. Part of your project should require tables to be joined.

Logout pages, meaningful error notifications and “thank you” pages as required

The site must adhere to the following best practices

All code (HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, SQL, etc) must be hand coded and error free. Plugins are allowed to add functionality, eg JQuery, PHPMail, PHPThumbs.

All code should use a standard indenting technique and include sufficient commenting for another developer (such as your tutor) to easily understand the project.

A consistent naming convention must be used when naming files, functions, variables, etc

Good design & usability principles must be applied to layout, fonts, use of white space, colours, etc

Copyright issues must be addressed as necessary

Use of PHP5 Classes/ object based code structure

Separation of ‘business logic’ and ‘presentation’ layers in your code

Project planning & documentation requirements

A project plan including timetable (Gantt chart or similar)

A data flowchart or similar detailing the interaction between pages

User case scenarios

A detailed testing schedule

An outline of the database design

Before you start, write a scope document explaining what you are going to make, why, who for and what techniques you will use. This should include a detailed site map, showing the relationship between the pages of the site and the database. You must present this to your tutor as if they were your clients,

before you proceed with the next design stage of the project.

In a normal commercial project, at this stage you would proceed by producing detailed design concepts, but for this assignment all that is required is enough design and HTML structure to display your project “reasonably attractively”. We would rather you concentrated on the server side code this time. All of this paperwork should be of a standard suitable to present to a client.

As usual, the website must function on different browsers and it must have an appropriate file management structure. Copyright must be appropriately acknowledged on the site. Use all of the skills you have already applied to previous projects to build this one.

Handin

Your scope document, site map, creative brief and sketches, including several concept drawings and the chosen design to completion

Your site must be published to your Natcoll.net.nz site as follows

Fname.lname.natcoll.net.nz/

_Assignments/

serverside/

docs/ - Proposal

Testing documentation

Final documentation (changes from original plan, passwords for admin area etc

SQL dump of the database

public_html/

index.php

Other site files

Files containing sensitive information should be stored above the web root (public_html)

Diploma of Web Development

WE03 – Server side brief



You will be expected to present your work to the class when you have finished.