

Project Log:

First, I researched php and its built-in libraries to make my life easier (mysqli, xml parser, how to access the content of a POST/GET, etc.). I haven't really used php before now, so I'm following a learn-as-I-go approach. Most valuable assets were the php documentation and the w3schools examples.

Once that's done, I'm spending a good amount of time in trying to picture a general skeleton of how I would want my code to look like (HTML at top, php under it. Inside the php the class, constructors, getters, etc. must be the first thing to be done. After that I need to have an if block for when it's a form request and if block for when it's an xml request. Then fill each out and assignment should be done.

Train of thought as I'm working on each step.

- HTML:
 - o First set up a simple hello world page and test that my xampp setup is working, then add an HTML5 form. Since these same fields form the POST request that injects the information to the Contact object, I'm just going to use HTML5 for the form validation (check that required fields have been added, check valid email, don't delete fields if something is missing, etc.). I'll do php scripting validation for the GET request, since it's URL injection.
- Object Oriented Design:
 - o I need to create a Contact class with two separate constructors. I need two constructors because when it's a POST request I will access the information through `$_POST[VARIABLENAME]` whereas when it's a GET Request I will access the info through `simpleXMLLoadfile` and then assign the content of each node by passing arguments.
 - o The key here is that when it's a POST request I don't pass any arguments, whereas with GET I do. At this point I wonder why PHP didn't include method overloading like Java , C#, etc. so that I could simply do `__construct` overloading.
 - o Once I got this done, all that is left is to move on to the processing of the form/file.
- MySQLi
 - o Set up the connection.
- Post Request
 - o Retrieve content of the post request when I create the object. Grab each variable from the object and assign it to another variable. Because I can't do `Contact->GetFirst` in `bind_param`. Execute the query. It works. Good.
- Get Request
 - o Researched `simplexmlloadfile` and how to load files stored locally, so that I can inject test.xml when I write the url `http://localhost/delger_francisco.php?xml=test.xml`. Test that I can retrieve the content of the xmlfile from the `simplexml` object. Ok now I can create the object. Need to check that the required fields are included, and that it's a valid email address. I'm using a code snippet from w3schools that uses `filter_var` and I adapted myself for this. Ok validation works. Just execute query same way as before now. Ok. It works. Everything is done, take screenshots, upload to GitHub and done.

Total work time: Coding around 4 hours. However, the prior studying I did of php, libraries, parsers, etc took me a good 3 hours at least. Would have been able to skip this if I knew the language beforehand. It's okay though, learned some new skills and I'm glad I did this.