**Revision Class Notes - 14\_05\_19**

**PHP Notes:**

**PhpInfo:**

The phpinfo(); function call returns all information about how php is set up on a server.

**echo:**

Echo is used to output data to the client browser. It can be used to place html values on screen after server side.

**Arrays:**

**Numerical Arrays:** This array type uses a numerical index to access it contents

**Associative Arrays:** These array types use a key/value pairing system to acces their contents. The key can come in the form of a string, we see this with the returned results from an sql query.

**Include and Require:**

The Include function is used to add another script and its functions and variables to our script. We have seen this used in our scripts to add the database connection script. The difference between “Include” and “Require” is that Include will produce a warning if the file fails to load where Require will actually produce an error.

**Define:**

We use the Define function to create a “Constant”. The difference between normal variables and constants is that a constant cannot be changed after it has been defined. We have seen this used when defining our database connection variables.

**Sessions:**

We use the “session\_start()” function to start a session on each script. We can then access or set session variables using $\_SESSION["VARIABLE\_NAME"]. Eg: creating a session variable called userID:

$\_SESSION["userID"] = 10;

**Cookies:**

Cookies are used to store information, for example “UserName” on the users machine. To set a cookie we use the setcookie() function. Cookies can have an expiration time assigned to them. For example, if we wanted to set a “username” cookie that expires after 60 seconds:

setcookie(“username”, “[jim@google.com](mailto:jim@google.com)”, time() + 60, ‘/’);

To determine if a cookie has been set we use the isset() function like this:

if(isset($\_COOKIE[“username”])) {

//Do something if the value has been set

}

**mysqli\_query():**

This function is used to make a connection to the database using connection credentials and also send the query string to your database. It returns a result variable that can be further processed by php.

**mysqli\_fetch\_array():**

This function takes the result from a mysqli\_query and processes it into an accessible array of results. This array can then be iterated over.

**header();**

Using the header() function we can change the location or redirect to another page: Eg:

header('Location: login.php');

**Post vs Get:**

The post request sends data through to the server which can then be retrieved on php script load. The Get function sends data trhough the url as string arguments.

**For Loops:**

A for loop executes a number of times over a start and end range. They cn be used to iterate over arrays and access information. For example:

for ($x = 0; $x <= 10; $x++) {

echo "The number is: $x <br>";

}

**While Loops:**

A while loop works much like a for loop but takes a true/false condition as the execution criteria. It will loop until the condition is false or null. For example:

while ($row\_users = mysqli\_fetch\_array($result)) {

//This will loop through all of the contents of the result from $result

}

**Server Request Method:**

Checking the request method on the server allows us to check if any data was passed to the server prior to data loading. For example:

if($\_SERVER["REQUEST\_METHOD"] == "POST") {

//This will execute if a Post request was sent to the server

}