

Polytechnic University of Cartagena



Higher Technical School of Telecommunications Engineering

APPLICATIONS ON THE INTERNET

Lab 3: HTML FORMS AND PHP

Teachers:

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1. Goals

- Practice creating HTML forms.
- Understand the basics of PHP
- Practice with basic PHP language

2. Lab work

The aim of this lab session is to understand the fundamentals and syntax of PHP language. You have slides with an introduction to PHP. In addition, **use extensively the online PHP documentation (ww.php.net)**. You must do the following exercises:

1) Program a "Hello World" in PHP.

To do this, open with a text editor a file called *hello.php* and save it in the user document folder or the root folder of your server. Why? Request your file to the server. **Does it work if you open the file as a local file with your browser?** Remember that you can mix HTML and PHP. Do it here.

2) Provide a PHP program that displays the current date and time.

Create a new file *date.php* and search for the function you need in the PHP documentation.

3) Provide a program that shows all server environment variables (those that appear in \$_SERVER).

In this exercise you will use one of the standard variables (arrays) that PHP provides to interact with the server. In this case, the server stores all the information about the request and its context in said variable and makes it available for the script to use. How can you know, for example, the port the client is using?

4) Provide a PHP program to welcome a user and display their personal data. For that:

- a) Create a form in which the user will enter his name, surname, ID and if he is a student or teacher. Use the fields that you think are convenient. The form will be sent using the GET method.

To do this, create the *form.html* file. This will be an HTML document exclusively, with a <form> element and additional <input> input elements for the user to submit their information.

- b) Create a PHP program that will process the form. The program will display a message "Hello user X, your data is:" where the X will be replaced by the name and then it will show all the personal data in the form of an HTML table. If the user is not identified, it will display an error message.

How will you call the script that is going to process the form? What is the relationship between the name and the <form> element in section a)? This script has to make use of the \$_GET array, which is where the server puts the information that has come with the request for it to process.

- c) **Repeat the exercise for a form with the POST method. Compare the GET and POST methods.**