Guiseppe Zielinski

CS1520

projectPart2 – Write-up

I feel that a lot of the site I made as changed going from part one to the second part of this project. The most immediate noticeable difference is that there is a navigation bar and footer on every single page. This was done by changing the entire site to PHP and using includes for each page. I created separate files for the header and footer allowing changes to occur in only one spot and effect the entire site. In the second part of this project, I feel that I have gotten much more comfortable with PHP and using MySQL.

In my opinion, the biggest change in the site is how the frame data is displayed for each character. The frame data for each character is now stored into separate tables for each character in a database. I was able to delete all of the old “construction” stuff and make a page for every character and call one function from a different file to fill and make the table. The exact layout of the tables and how it works can be found in the comments of the frame\_data\_table.php file located in the includes folder. Through programming this feature, I learned various different things with PHP and MySQL. I learned how to properly connect to a database, get info from a specified table, and finally how to make sense of the data received to fill the table.

On top of this, I now have my contact form actually get sent to a database using PHP and MySQL. I also have the JavaScript associated with the form work better and have it act more responsive. I also went through my code once again to make sure I was following the style guide properly, and I had noticed small things that should have been changed to match it. I also had the opportunity to work with PHP arrays by storing links into an array and then iterating through them to display them to the client.

Finally, I also ended up adding two small additional features. My site now no longer has file extensions at the end in the URLs, and I was able to accomplish by making a small .htaccess file and adding a rewrite rule. The last feature I created was a “light theme” for the website that the user could choose between by a click at the bottom in the footer. I made this by creating a cookie in JavaScript that acts as a Boolean whenever the user clicks for the light theme. The cookie goes to the value of 1, and adds a CSS file at the bottom of the other CSS files. When going to a new page, a script is run that checks if the cookie is “true,” and if so it adds that CSS file to the new page as well. Whenever the “dark theme” gets chosen, the value of the cookie goes to 0 and refreshes the page effectively removing the “light theme” CSS file. I chose to put the script in the head element because I wanted it to run before anything on the page was rendered because when it was in the body element, it often caused the screen to flicker from the “dark theme” to the “light theme” when the cookie was “true.” Overall, I learned a ton of stuff between these two parts that allowed me to really improve my site in all sorts of ways.