**VolunteerConnect README**

**Front-end changes**

* Renamed all static .html files to .php to enable server-side session handling.
* Added <?php session\_start(); ?> at the top of each PHP page for session management.
* Updated the <div class="auth-buttons"> block in the navbar to use PHP conditional statements: shows **Log In / Sign Up** when not logged in and **Profile / Log Out** when logged in.
* Adjusted asset paths in every page to reference CSS and JS in their respective folders:
  + <link rel="stylesheet" href="css/style.css">
  + <script src="js/script.js"></script>
* Created profile.php to display user details (first name, last name, email, member since) fetched from the database.
* Added logout.php to destroy the session with session\_unset() and session\_destroy(), then redirect to index.php.
* Added inline comments in PHP, JavaScript, and CSS files to explain functionality and improve maintainability.

**AJAX and jQuery usage**

* **Mobile Navigation**: toggling the mobile menu open/close on .mobile-menu-btn clicks.
* **Footer Year**: dynamically sets the current year in the footer (#current-year).
* **Contact Form** (contact.php): submitted via AJAX ($.post('api/contact\_submit.php')), shows a loading spinner and success message without page reload.
* **Newsletter Subscription** (index.php and opportunities.php): form submission via $.post('api/subscribe.php') with client-side email validation.
* **Signup Form** (signup.php): client-side validation (first name, last name, email format, password length, password match, terms agreement) and AJAX submission ($.post('api/signup.php')), then redirects to profile.php on success.
* **Login Form** (login.php): client-side validation and AJAX submission ($.post('api/login.php')), shows error message on failure and redirects to index.php on success.
* **Auth Buttons Toggle**: swaps **Log In/Sign Up** ↔ **Profile/Log Out** by showing/hiding elements based on login state stored in session (PHP rendering) and reinforced in JS.
* **Logout**: clears session state on button click and redirects to index.php.
* **Password Visibility Toggle**: toggles password fields between password and text types on .password-toggle clicks.
* **Opportunities Loading** (index.php and opportunities.php): AJAX fetching of opportunities via $.getJSON('api/get\_opportunities.php'), supports search query and filter parameters, and renders cards dynamically.
* **Favorite Toggle**: AJAX call to $.post('api/toggle\_favorite.php') to add/remove favorites, with UI update.
* **View Switch**: toggles between grid and list layouts for opportunity cards via click handlers.

## References

* jQuery API Documentation: https://api.jquery.com/
* Font Awesome CDN: https://cdnjs.com/libraries/font-awesome
* PHP Manual (session\_start, PDO): https://www.php.net/manual/