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Professor Mark Pranger

ITD 3253 Server Side Programming

Grade: 100

Correct header is used

The link to the webinar or directions to webinar were sufficient to bring the webinar up to view.

No Grammar or spelling issues to note

The summary of the webinar was sufficient to cover the material of the webinar

The mapping section of the document mapped the topics discovered in the webinar to topics that are related to class in a sufficient manner

The review of the presentation and the presenter was sufficient to give the reader of the report a good feel for the training value of the presentation

February 28, 2018

HTML Forms and PHP Programming

**Webinar Location:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ5NctZrX74>

The video was recorded by Eli the Computer Guy and this was the fifth recording of a series called PHP Programming. I found this series and I wanted to watch it to have a deeper of understanding how the form data from HTML is transferred to a PHP script file.

**Webinar Summary**

The PHP Programming series was designed to help a person know how the data from a HTML file is sent to a PHP script file. The demonstration started with explaining that HTML code is static which means that the value is consistent which means the values do not change on the page. Eli explained that the PHP script file is used to create a dynamic web page. He explained that when the information changes on a form that a script file is used for this purpose. He explained that PHP can be used to print, write information to a database file or send an email of a text file. He started the demonstration coding with HTML which explained how to code three different input types which were a text box, drop down list and radio buttons. After creating a form, he demonstrated how to create the PHP script file and how the PHP file is tied to the HTML form data. At the end of the demonstration he presented how to use the print statement which will display the data entered on the form from the text box and the selections from the user to display on the form. The following will be explained in more detail how to create a form for HTML input tags, how a PHP script file is created and what is its functionality and how to use a print statement to display the form data.

The first section of the video introduced how to create a HTML form. He demonstrated using a white board with a black marker and wrote the code to create a form within HTML. The code to create a form in HTML uses the form code which is coded between the open and closed brackets < form action = “form\_script.php” method = “POST”>. (Eli, 2012) This code will create a form and the name of the PHP script file is form\_script.php and it will accept the form data that is entered by the user. The method POST which is how the form data is being sent to the script file. Then Eli explained how to close a form with a submit button. The code to close a form is <input type= “submit” name= “submit” value= “Submit”/> (Eli, 2012) The input type submit will submit the form data to the script file. The value which is Submit will be the text displayed on the button. Then Eli explained how to create the HTML input tags which are coded between the form action and the submit button. The input control tags that he demonstrated were the textbox, drop down list and radio buttons were used to select data on the form introduced. The form that he created started with a text box which some one enters their name. Then he coded a drop-down list to allow the person to select their shirt size and the radio buttons allowed the person to select their gender. Eli explained how to create the text box using the input control tags. The code to create a text box started with a paragraph tag. <p>Name: <input type= “text” name= “name” size= “30”/></p> (Eli, 2012) Eli explained that the input type = “text” indicates that this is a text box. The name= “name” which means the name is the variable name which will be passed to the PHP script file. The size = “30” is the length of the text box. After explaining on the white board, he went to the computer and typed in the text box code using Note Pad + + used for his text editor. Then he would upload the HTML code to the server and display the text box on the form. After demonstrating the text box, he introduced the drop-down list. The drop-down list is used for the user to select one option from the list. The code for the drop-down list. He started with a paragraph tag. <p>Shirt Size: <select name = “size” >

<option value = “small”>Small</option>

<option value = “medium”>Medium</option>

<option value = “large”>Large</option></p>

</select>(Eli, 2012) The select name which is “size” creates the drop-down box. The option value name which are small, medium and large are the drop-down list options and the value that is selected will be passed to the PHP script file. The names that are Small, Medium and Large are the text values that will be displayed in the drop-down list box. After Eli explained how the drop-down list is created and how it is coded, he coded the drop-down list in the form file next to the text box data he coded earlier. The last HTML input tag Eli explained was the radio buttons. The radio buttons allow only one button to be selected from a group of options. The radio button input type has the same name which groups the radio button selection for the same group. The code to format a radio button begins with a paragraph tag.

<p> Gender:

<input type = “radio” name = “gender” value = “girl” />Girl

<input type = “radio” name = “gender” value = “boy” />Boy

</p> (Eli, 2012) The input type radio means that radio buttons will be created. The name which is gender is used as the same name so the radio buttons will be grouped together. The value name of girl or boy will be passed to the PHP script file. The Girl and Boy will be the text values that are displayed by the radio button. Eli after explaining the radio buttons would type the code in the computer and then upload to the server and display the radio buttons on the form.

After the form data is entered on the screen, the form data needs to be displayed using the PHP script file. When the submit button is clicked this will pass the data from the form to the PHP script file. The PHP script file needs to be named form\_script.php. The PHP script file receives the data in a post method which is stated in the form action tag. Eli explained how to create the PHP script code that will receive the form data. All PHP code starts with the <? and ends with?>.

<? PHP

$name = $\_POST[‘name’];

$size =$\_POST[‘size’];

$gender=$\_POST[‘gender’];

?>(Eli, 2012) This code will retrieve the values from the text box which was the value name. The size was the select name value for the drop-down list. The value that is selected is passed in the select name value. The radio button name was gender and the value that is selected will be passed in the gender name. The variables that are created using PHP begin with $. The values $name, $size and $gender will have values from the form data from the HTML input tags. After he had all the variables created he needed to print the values on the displayed form. The print statement is used to display the values from the text box entered and the selected drop-down box and radio button selection. The print statement is coded in the PHP script file. The PHP script file can read HTML code. This code is a variety of PHP and HTML. The code uses the print statement first instead of a paragraph tag. This code is inside the PHP code.

print“<p>Name: $name</br>Size: $size</br>Gender: $gender</p> ”; (Eli, 2012) The print PHP code and the code that is between quotes is HTML code. The values that are referenced with $ are the PHP code variables. This code will display the values on the screen with break statements between each variable. The <br> statement will not appear but the values will have hard returns. This completes Eli’s demonstration of how HTML form data is transferred to PHP script file video.

**Webinar and Course Coverage Comparison**

Eli explains that the post method is how the form data is being sent to the script file. Eli demonstrates the use of the post method in the form action tag in the HTML code. The book goes into much more detail about the post method. The book explains that post method creates a built-in array that contains the values entered or selected from the user. The values placed in the post method array are from the HTML input name tags or selected values from the option values. The book explains that the post method does not display the values in the array in the url when the data values are being passed to the php script file. The book also introduces the get method and compares the get and post methods. The book explains that the get method displays the values being passed in the browser’s url when transferring the data to the php script file. The more secure method is the post method which does not display the array values in the url. The post method is the method that is preferred.

Eli explains that the submit button closes the form. The book does not explain this concept. The book explains how to pass control to another page with the include function which passes control usually from the index.php file to another php.file which displays the information of the data the user entered from the form.

Eli’s explanation of how to create a text box compared to the book were the same. Eli demonstrated that the input type “text” means that the input type is a text box. The book explains the same concept. The book went into more detail and demonstrated the different types of input tags which are the text, password, hidden, email, url and tel for telephone. The book explained how and when to use these different types of input tags. The book explains that a password type of input tag allows the user to type data into the box but it obscures the characters that are typed in by the user. The password input type tag prevents the data from being displayed on the screen. The book went into detail when and how to use the different input type tags.

Eli’s explanation of the drop-down list which uses the select tag with option values. The option values name which is small, medium and large are the drop-down list values. The selected value which is size will retrieve the option value that is selected. The book teaches the same concept. The book goes into much greater detail of a drop-down list and introduces arrays that can be used to display a drop-down list. The book introduces the concept that an array that is used for a drop-down list uses a name/value pair the name would be considered the key value and the option values would be considered the value that is displayed for an option value. For example, if the drop-down list used an array the key value would be size and the value pairs would be the option values which would be small, medium and large. Eli explained that in the drop-down list one value can be only selected and the book explains this concept as well. The book introduces a list box which allows a user to have multiple selections.

Eli presented the radio buttons and explained that a radio button allows only one button to be selected at a time. He compared the drop-down list and radio buttons and explained that the radio buttons have the same group name which this allows the radio buttons to be grouped in the same group. The name value is the same in the radio buttons and the value is the name that is displayed by the radio button. The example Eli gave was the gender radio buttons. The name gender is the group name of the radio buttons and the value which is selected is passed in the gender name when the user selects his or her gender. The book explains the same concept with the radio buttons that the name is the same for the group of the buttons. The book explains that the user is only allowed to select one option from a group of options. If none of the radio buttons are selected the name/value pair for the group is not submitted to the server and the filter\_input function which uses the global post array will return the value of NULL. The book also demonstrates how to display a default value in the radio button which is the value checked which will have a radio button value selected when the form is displayed.

Eli demonstrated how to combine the PHP and HTML code to use the print statement to display the values that the user entered in the text box, the selected value from the drop-down list and the selected value from the radio buttons. The print statement is demonstrated outside the paragraph tags. The HTML code is inside the paragraph tags. Eli explains how to combine the PHP and HTML code. The HTML code is read with the use of the paragraph tag. The print statement since it is PHP code has to reside outside the paragraph tags. The book introduces the print statement and the echo statement together. The book teaches that the print statement is not a function it is part of the PHP language definition. The book does not combine the print statement with the HTML code. The book introduces the print statement which is demonstrated with the use of a php script file. I liked Eli’s demonstration combining the PHP and HTML code together in a print statement and explaining how to combine the print statement with the HTML. This demonstration allowed me to understand how the HTML and PHP are coded together at a deeper level of understanding.

**Presenter and Presentation Critique**

The presenter of this video was Eli the Computer Guy. I felt Eli did a tremendous job with this video. He used a marker board and would explain each concept very thoroughly on the marker board. Then he would type in the code on his computer using a text editor which was Note Pad ++. He would repeat each concept he was introducing twice. Once on the marker board then he would type in the code and explain the concepts again. The repetition of the concepts helps someone that is learning the concepts to remember and understand better. I understood how HTML code it transferred to the PHP scripting file. After watching this video, I feel I have a deeper understanding of how HTML and PHP code function together. I understand how PHP code accepts the HTML values. I also understand how the HTML code can be coded inside the PHP scripting file and how the HTML and PHP code are combined in a print statement.

**Works Cited**

Eli the Computer Guy (2012, 05). HTML Forms and PHP Programming [Webinar]. PHP Programming Series. Retrieved from [https://*www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ5NctZrX74*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQ5NctZrX74).

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