ICP 3046
Web Based Applications
Lab 2: Getting Started

Exercise 1: Getting Started with PHP

Write a script called *hello.php* to display the well-known message 'Hello, World!'. The output generated by the script should resemble the following:
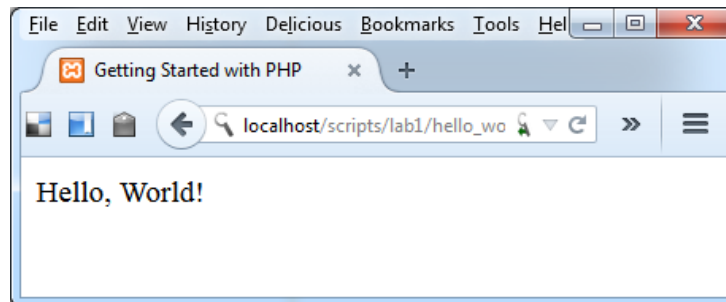

Figure 1 A First PHP Script

To get this display you should *embed* the PHP code inside a standard HTML document. Do not worry that the HTML is in a file with a .php extension, the browser doesn't worry so neither should you. Your script should be based on the code stub below

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML>
<html>
    <head>
        <title> ... </title>
    </head>
    <body>
        <?php
            ... PHP code here
        ?>
    </body>
</html>
```

To display the welcome message use the PHP **echo** function together with a quoted string. Does it make any difference whether you use single or double quotes? What happens if there are no quotes? Finally, modify your script so that the following message appears. Save the modification as *hello_goodbye.php*.
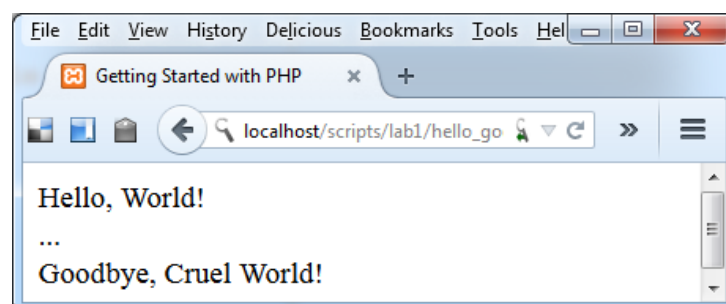

Figure 2 Output From hello_goodbye.php

Exercise 2: Preparing your web space

To complete exercise 1, you will have uploaded a file called *hello.php* to your web space on the departmental server (or to a document root on your own laptop). We will now create a file structure that you may use for the rest of the laboratory exercises.

Create the following sub-directories under your document root:

css/
images/
images/icons/
images/products/
includes/
includes/classes
includes/functions
js/

Exercise 3: using requires and includes

Create six new files:
includes/application_top.php
includes/application_bottom.php
includes/configure.php
includes/site_header.php
includes/site_footer.php
index.php

Note that when editing files you must not copy and paste code that is provided in Word Documents such as this and simply expect it to work. Word will use special quotes and other such characters that will not be recognised by the PHP interpreter, hence you will get errors. It is safest to type the code yourself (being careful to avoid typos).

In the file includes/configure.php use the fragment of PHP code below to define a constant called DEBUG which will be set to 1 when you are developing code.

define("DEBUG",1);

In your *application_top.php* file include the *configure.php* file, and then turn on error reporting in PHP if the DEBUG constant is set to 1. You may use the code fragment below to do this.

if(DEBUG)
{
….insert code to turn on error reporting here….
}

Now edit *site_header.php* and put in the HTML code that will appear at the top of all HTML documents, such as the header tags and opening body tags.

Edit *site_footer.php* and put in the HTML code that will appear at the bottom of all HTML documents, such as the closing body tag. Also include a copyright notice in this file so the copyright will appear at the bottom of all pages.

Edit your index.php file to include the application_top.php and site_header.php at the start. The files site_footer.php and application_bottom.php should be included at the end of index.php. In between these includes put some content that will be specific to your index file (use the hello world code you developed earlier). If any of the files do not exist, an error must be shown.

Visit the index page you have developed in web browser. Ensure the output is as expected. View the page source and ensure the appropriate header and footer have been included.