Juan Diaz

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CIS 344

Project 1

The Juan's Car Dealership Platform is a web-based project created to simulate a real car dealership experience. It allows users to explore available cars, view the services offered by the dealership, and submit inquiries through a contact form. The platform is designed to be user-friendly, providing a simple way for visitors to access all necessary information. It also uses PHP for handling form submissions and includes several pages that contribute to a functional and interactive website. The platform features a clean layout, divided into multiple pages with specific purposes. It includes a homepage, an inventory page for browsing cars, a services page for detailing what the dealership offers, and a contact page that allows users to get in touch with the dealership. Each of these pages is built using PHP and is styled with CSS to ensure a visually appealing and easy-to-navigate experience for users. The project combines various skills and techniques from my coursework to create a fully functional website.

The structure of the platform is straightforward, with PHP files handling the core functionality and a CSS file managing the design. The index.php file is the homepage that greets visitors and highlights featured cars. From here, users can navigate to other parts of the site through clearly labeled links. The inventory.php page displays the available cars, with filtering options that let users sort by car make and price. This helps users find cars that meet their preferences quickly and easily. The filtering feature was implemented using PHP and form input, making it dynamic and responsive to user selections.

The services.php page lists the dealership's services, such as trade-ins and financing options. This page gives users insight into what the dealership offers beyond just selling cars, which is an important aspect of the car-buying experience. The contact.php page holds a form for users to send inquiries. The form includes fields for the user's name, email, and message and is processed by processorder.php. Once the form is submitted, processorder.php checks the input for errors and provides a confirmation message if everything is correct, ensuring that inquiries are handled smoothly and efficiently.

Building this platform involved using various techniques from Chapters 1-7 of the coursework. I used HTML and PHP throughout the site, adapting and expanding on lessons from the course to create a more complex and functional project.

The layout and structure of the index.php file were based on the HTML principles learned in Chapter 1, which helped me create a welcoming and structured homepage. This includes basic elements such as headers, navigation links, and sections for featured content.

In inventory.php, I applied lessons from Chapter 2 to create a form that allows users to filter the list of cars by make and price. This form is processed using PHP, and the results are displayed dynamically based on the user's selections, offering a more personalized browsing experience.

The contact form on contact.php was inspired by Chapter 3, where I learned how to handle form submissions with PHP. I used PHP scripts in processorder.php to validate the user's input and provide feedback, ensuring that users submit all the required information correctly. Additionally, I implemented error checking to prevent incomplete or incorrect submissions, a skill I gained from Chapter 6.

Throughout the development process, I encountered several challenges that required careful problem-solving. One of the first hurdles was designing the contact form to be intuitive

and user-friendly. I wanted to make sure that users could easily submit their inquiries without confusion, so I focused on adjusting the form layout to make it clear and easy to fill out. Adding placeholder text in each field helped guide users, making the form more accessible.

Another challenge came when working on the inventory page. Initially, the car listings looked cluttered, and it wasn't easy for users to quickly browse through the available cars. To solve this, I made adjustments to the page's CSS, improving the layout and spacing to make it more visually appealing. I also tweaked the filtering system to ensure that it was simple and effective, allowing users to find cars that match their preferences quickly.

Overall, the development of Juan's Car Dealership Platform was a rewarding learning experience. It allowed me to apply the knowledge and skills I gained from my coursework, including HTML structure, PHP form handling, and error checking. The project also helped me develop problem-solving skills, as I had to tackle challenges such as designing a user-friendly contact form and improving the inventory page's layout. By combining these elements, I was able to create a functional and visually appealing website that effectively simulates a car dealership. The process of building this platform helped me grow as a developer, and I look forward to continuing to refine and enhance the project as I learn more. The platform serves as a strong foundation for future web development work, and I am proud of the final result.