Basic Web Application Rationale

# Inspiration

The idea for this web app came from my partner, who had been using an agenda app for work. Most of the items on the agenda were meetings, and so I thought to make an app dedicated solely to tracking meetings.

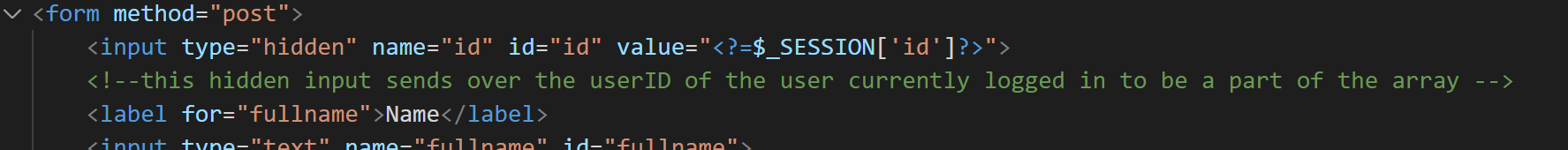
# Design choices

The functionality of the app relies mostly on the code provided in the workshops. Through manipulation of this code, and the use of my own, I was able to create functions that were necessary for the assignment criteria and appropriate for the design-goal. The styling of the website is rather basic and comes mostly from a style I use for all of my simple html websites – it was suitable here as the focus of the project was not the styling.

# Notable aspects

The first aspect that I was excited to get working was the app’s ability to display the data in order of time, only display the data created by the user, and then provide this for the “your next meeting is in…” on the welcome page, to ensure the next meeting would be displayed.

Here you can see the code used to achieve this:

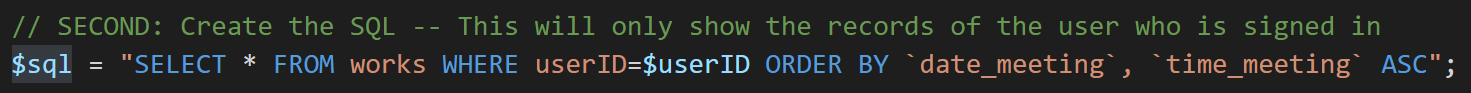


(*This code, which lives in ‘create.php’ allows a userID to be attached to the created meeting automatically, with no visualisation or input from the front end)*

Text

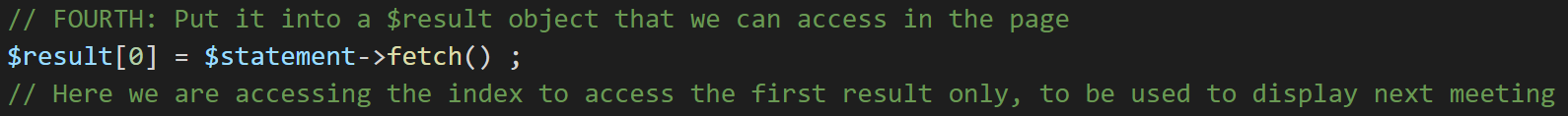
Description automatically generated

(*Here it is combined with the rest of the data to form the array which will be sent to the database)*



*(Lastly, in the ‘read.php’, the information is ordered by date first then time, which allows it to be displayed chronologically)*

The message that displays on the index page, which will only display when there are meetings booked, used the above code to ensure chronological order, and then used the following code to display the first record only, with the ‘[0]’ ensuring it fetches only one result:



The ‘date’ and ‘time’ functions are then combined using the ‘strtotime’ function to convert it to DATETIME format, which could then have the current time subtracted from it using the ‘diff’ function to display the exact amount of time until the next meeting:Text

Description automatically generated

# Development woes

I had immense difficulty getting the app to work online, despite it functioning perfectly when ran locally. When first setting up the files and database, I spent an entire day tackling one error:

*“ERROR: Could not connect. SQLSTATE[HY000] [1045] Access denied for user 'root'@'localhost' (using password: NO)”*

This stemmed from SiteGround caching the files I uploaded, which I discovered by deleting the files immediately after uploading, and reuploading the default.html, only to be met with the message again. When deleting the site entirely, new SQL issues would arise that would also be cached. From this, I decided to host my app somewhere else, and somewhere preferably free. I tested multiple options, and the one that worked with the least issues was InfinityFree. However, speeds on this host are quite slow, and I have read reviews of people whose sites were taken down at random, so this is an issue that I am aware of.