Dept. of Computer Science
Faculty of Science and Technology

Lab No:	3	Week No:	3	Semester:	
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Lecture Outline

1. **Learning Objectives**
2. **PHP Form Handling**
   - I.   **HTTP POST**
   - II.   **HTTP GET**
   - III.   **HTTP GET vs HTTP POST**
3. **PHP Form Validation**
4. **Books and References**

Learning Objectives

- In this Lab, we will learn more details about HTML form elements i.e. different type of form, designing different type of HTML form and form action.
- We will also learn HTTP GET and POST.
- Handling form data using $_GET or $_POST methods and validations form data using PHP.

PHP Form Handling

- The PHP superglobals **$_GET** and **$_POST** are used to collect form-data.
- The example displays a simple HTML form with two input fields and a submit button:

```html
<html>
<body>
<form action="welcome.php" method="post">
Name: <input type="text" name="name"><br>
E-mail: <input type="text" name="email"><br>
<input type="submit">
</form>
</body>
</html>
```

PHP Form Handling

- When the user fills out the form and clicks the submit button, the form data is sent for processing to a PHP file named "welcome.php". The form data is sent with the HTTP POST method.

- welcome.php file

- ```
  <html>
  <body>
  Welcome <?php echo $_POST["name"]; ?><br>
  Your email address is: <?php echo $_POST["email"]; ?>
  </body>
  </html>
  ```

PHP Form Handling

- The same result could also be achieved using the HTTP GET method:
- Welcome_get.php file
-
```
<html>
<body>
Welcome <?php echo $_GET["name"]; ?><br>
Your email address is: <?php echo $_GET["email"]; ?>
</body>
</html>
```

PHP Form Handling

- Both GET and POST create an array (e.g. array(key1 => value1, key2 => value2, key3 => value3, ...)). This array holds key/value pairs, where keys are the names of the form controls and values are the input data from the user.
- $_GET is an array of variables passed to the current script via the URL parameters.
- Information sent from a form with the GET method is **visible to everyone** (all variable names and values are displayed in the URL).
- $_POST is an array of variables passed to the current script via the HTTP POST method.
- Information sent from a form with the POST method is invisible to others

PHP Form Validation

- Proper validation of form data is important to protect your form from hackers and spammers!
- Lets consider the example.

PHP Form Validation Example

* required field

Name: [   ] *

E-mail: [   ] *

Website: [   ]

Comment: [   ]

Gender: ○ Female ○ Male ○ Other *

[Submit]

PHP Form Validation

Field	Validation Rules
Name	Required. + Must only contain letters and whitespace
E-mail	Required. + Must contain a valid email address (with @ and .)
Website	Optional. If present, it must contain a valid URL
Comment	Optional. Multi-line input field (textarea)
Gender	Required. Must select one

PHP Functions

The **empty()** function checks whether a variable is empty or not. This function returns false if the variable exists and is not empty, otherwise it returns true.

The following values evaluates to empty:

- 0

- 0.0

- "0"

- ""

- NULL

- FALSE

- array()

```php
<?php
$a = 0;

// True because $a is empty
if (empty($a)) {
  echo "Variable 'a' is empty.<br>";
}

?>
```

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func_var_empty.asp

↗ The **isset()** function checks whether a variable is set, which means that it has to be declared and is not NULL.

↗ This function returns true if the variable exists and is not NULL, otherwise it returns false.

```php
<?php
$a = 0;
// True because $a is set
if (isset($a)) {
  echo "Variable 'a' is set.<br>";
}

$b = null;
// False because $b is NULL
if (isset($b)) {
  echo "Variable 'b' is set.";
}
?>
```

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func_var_isset.asp

PHP Functions

The **preg_match()** function returns whether a match was found in a string.

```php
<?php
$str = "Visit W3Schools";
$pattern = "/w3schools/i";
echo preg_match($pattern, $str);
?>
```

https://www.w3schools.com/php/func_regex_preg_match.asp

Books

- **W3Schools Online Web Tutorials; URL: http://www.w3schools.com**
- **PHP Documentation; URL: http://www.php.net/docs.php**
- **Sams Teach Yourself Ajax JavaScript and PHP All in One; Phil Ballard and Michael Moncur; Sams Publishing; 2010**
- **JavaScript Phrasebook; Christian Wenz; Sams Publishing; 2007**
- **PHP and MySQL Web Development, 4/E; Luke Welling and Laura Thomson; Addison-Wesley Professional; 2009**
- **JavaScript for Programmers Paul J. Deitel and Harvey M. Deitel; Prentice Hall; 2009**
- **Beginning PHP5, Apache, and MySQL Web Development; Elizabeth Naramore, Jason Gerner, Yann Le Scouarnec, Jeremy Stolz and Michael K. Glass; Wiley Publishing; 2005**
- **XML in a Nutshell, 3/E; Elliotte Rusty Harold and W. Scott Means; O'Reilly Media; 2004**

References

1. https://www.w3schools.com/php/php_forms.asp