

Back-end Web Design – Project 1 Rationale

The task of this assessment was to create a web application which allows for a user to monitor a given topic. As a university student it seemed best fitting to create an assignment due date tracker. The assignment tracker would include register and login/logout, and, adding, viewing, editing, and deleting assignments while being sorted by date so the user could see what assignments were due next.

Register and login/logout

There were not many changes to the register, login and logout.php as we had already been given the code for them during the example in the tutorial. The only main change was the appearance, to make it in the centre rather than the top left and larger, so that it was more natural to view.

Adding assignment

The adding assignments function is found on the navigation bar as well as the welcoming homepage for users to have multiple direction to get to the one page and for users who are new to the application. This section includes:

- Class
- Assignment Name
- Due Date
- Weighting

These form sections are simply basic information which university students use when planning out assignments, excluding unnecessary information when viewing the assignment detail which reduces in feeling overwhelmed. The form is displayed inline to clearly show the user which step to fill out next, as well as a required function added so that they do not miss important information before submitting. The “due date” includes a date picker, making it easier for users to have a rough understanding of how far away the due date is. This function also allows for consistency when viewing the assignment details, reducing the way which users can enter the due date (a crucial part of assignment details). Once submitted, a success message pop up giving the user feedback on their input.

Viewing existing assignment

Once the assignment is added, we can find it in existing assignments, where it will be placed in order by due date. Ordering by due date allows for users to see what their next upcoming assignment is in relation to the rest of their assignments.

Edit / delete assignment

On separate pages, the user can edit assignment details or delete assignments once finished. The edit button links to a form the same as “adding assignment” with the addition of the information already filled out. Once the information is changed and submitted the user is given feedback on their input, so they do not continuously make the same changes. Deleting assignments will pop up with a message asking the user whether they actually want to delete the assignment in the case it was an accident.

Development issues

The first major issue for the application was the fact that all users would view the same data despite being in a different login. The solution to this was to create `$_SESSION` and link them to user IDs, by doing this the computer was able to know who the user was and when they started using the application and stopped. Therefore, the data created in the session lasted until the user closed the browser.

Another issue, although not a major one, was that the edit function was not working once making changes from the example done in class. While being able to have access to editing information, the data was never update. Simply the issue was that I had gotten rid of the ID in the form which the code was trying to find. Rather than including `$_POST => [ID]`, it had to be changed to `$_GET=> [ID]`.