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Assignment 4: ChitChat
Presented to Chris Joslin

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In this assignment I created a chat website using ajax to load information as it was obtained from the php in a different page, allowing users to continue browsing in a same window, without a reload of the page.

In the assignment description, the use of the following tables is described:

chatusers

| username | groupid |
|----------|---------|
| Text | Text |

chatchit

| receiverid | groupid | Time | msg |
|------------|---------|-----------|------|
| Text | Text | timestamp | text |

With this relation as a base, I decided the best way to set up my database was to allow users to pick a unique name that is not in use at the time, or to create an account using that name upon a new occurrence. I did this by using my ajax to retrieve existing usernames from the database.

After comparing the users, I allowed users to pick from a series of groups from a drop down menu, or to create a new group. These groups are selected from the “chatusers” table, and set so that only one instant of each is shown.

Once a user choses a group, the chat box allows users to send messages to the rest of their group, and receive chat messages. When sending, all users in the group are selected and the message is sent to each. Once the message is seen, it is destroyed. If a user switches groups, all of the messages they have missed will be logged until they return to that chat, to keep users from missing on important info in cases such a disconnects.