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Milestone 1

This milestone has been a great opportunity for me to learn more about how websites are made and how they work. I didn’t have time to work on any of the “Get Ahead” requirements but I have completed the base requirements. Everything’s passed by POST except one instance where I use the Question Number to navigate to the page that contains that question. Users can ask questions, answer them. The user who asked a question can pick an “answer”. The home page shows the most recent 5 unanswered questions.

My overall approach was function over form. I paid more attention to things working the way they are supposed to than how they look. I was stressing over writing a CSS file from scratch for my website until I found out about Bootstrap which made life very easy for me. I went through the W3 Schools Bootstrap examples and explanations. I also decided to put a user’s points (called KARMA\_POINTS in .sql) next to their name since that is a function I want to implement in the future.

After writing the sql connection once for the login page, I decided I didn’t want to write it anymore so I created thingsandstuff.php that contains functions I use across pages. It contains the sql connection function called sqlcommand and a function that cleans input and prevents sql injections. This input cleaner function I used wasn’t useful later when I was writing new questions and answers because my cleaner detected “ but not ‘. So I found mysql\_real\_escape\_string and started using that in addition to my original function and that solved the problem.

I made the logo so that it takes the user to index.php when clicked. The problem with that was that a little line shows up next to the image when the mouse is over it and I am not sure how to fix that issue.

I learned php while working on this assignment. I knew basic SQL commands and html from my old job. I tried to avoid using javascript at all costs because it scares me. I think there is 2-3 lines of javascript in there that I wrote, if that.

Last, I was having an issue with selecting the correct answer. I wanted to send it as a POST to question.php but I was already using POST for writing answers into the database. So after a lot of empty answers, I decided to just POST it to a different .php file that only deals with the correct answer and that fixed it.

I know the color scheme needs more work and it looks very bland since it’s black on white but like I mentioned before, how it looks wasn’t as important as how it works for me.

I tried to make it as funny and interesting as I could. I hope you enjoy it.