

PW 4 : HTML Forms processed by PHP, INSERT queries

Topic of the practical work: Forms processing with PHP and INSERT queries

We proposed to create a form to register new customers.

First, a database table with fields and data types must be created, using the PHP MyAdmin GUI. An HTML form must be created, in order to enter data for a new customer.

As a second objective, the form data will be processed by a PHP script, in order to store the data in the table, using a MySQL INSERT query.

Finally, as a last objective, the data must be validated for security reasons, but also to process special characters.

mysqli_ procedural functions are used in this PW.

Objective N1: MySQL customer Database table

Create a database table with the following field and appropriate data type:

- Title (Mr or Mrs),
- Full name with a first name and a last name,
- Address, with a street address, a street address line 2, city, postal or Zip code,
- Phone and e-mail,
- The customer register date must also be saved.

You can test your table by inserting data using the PHP MyAdmin GUI (Insert tab). Try some special characters, such as simple or double quotes, in the address field, for instance. Browse your table, still from PHP MyAdmin GUI. How special characters are displayed? For each query, PHP MyAdmin gives you the MySQL query, so you can learn how to write it.

Objective N2: HTML form to enter customer data

Create the HTML forms, using radio buttons for the Title, input text type for string data. Give a PHP script name to the *action* attribute of the `<form>` element, and choose a post *method*.

Objective N3: PHP script for data processing

In which global variable are the form data available?

First, without considering the special characters, write an INSERT query, to store the customer's data.

Guidelines (see PW3): First remember to connect the MySQL server and select your database. Write you INSERT query in a variable, and the execute it. Use *mysqli_* procedural functions.

If time allows, write a PHP script to display customer data into an HTML table.

Objective N4: special characters and security issue

When you write data into a database table, you will be faced with some special characters that may be found in the strings, as well as security issues.

Try to enter, for an input text field (address for instance), simple or double quotes. To check for error during development step, change the initial settings to display errors. You can also use the *or die* statement to display a *mysqli* query error. Which function can help you to escape special characters? Try it, and solve the problem. Check the stored data in your table.