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COP3813

Intro to Internet Computing

The sixth project asked to create a website where users can vote for their favorite baby names using a combination of HTML, Bootstrap, jQuery, PHP, and SQL. This was the most difficult project to date.

The first thing I did was to test how jQuery AJAX sends requests via POST/GET to the Apache server. This was probably the most difficult hurdle to do simply because of small problems that would trip me up. Testing passing data back and forth between client and server via AJAX was done using this jQuery code

```
var url = './' + $('#babyForm').attr("action");
var data= {
    'firstname':$(this).val(),
    'gender':$("input[name=gender]:checked").val()
};
$.post(url, data, function (response) {
    $('#results').html(response);
    $('#results').slideToggle(500);
}).fail(function (e) {alert("error" + e);})
```

I would first get the url by grabbing the forms action attribute and saving it to a variable to use later. The biggest issues I faced was because of 404 errors because of how utterly stupid it is to form a url and how Apache simply did not want to work properly on my computer. Towards the end I just stuck to putting my code on FAU's Lamp server to test PHP changes. The data was formed as an object with fields of firstname and gender given by the firstname input field and the check box for gender.

On the subject of the firstname input field, I faced my most daunting challenge yet. For the life of me I could not get the typeahead to work properly using the demos and suggestions in

the HW guidelines. It took me two days to get it to work. I got so angry I decided to make my own typeahead from scratch which was so much easier and simpler than the garbage code people used online. My code was made from the ground up (aside from the db\_connect.php.) The site took inspiration from too many websites to list all of which proved to be dead ends or poorly written code.

Importing the data was straight forward as I used phpMyAdmin to do it. The file given is structured in such a way that represents a CSV file. Phpmyadmin had a way to import data into the database, I just had to specify the columns to which they will be stored into.

I used brackets for designing my site. I also used two Brackets extensions that let me code faster and more efficient: <https://github.com/dingdong-io/brackets.beautify.io>, <http://www.oslibrary.in/other-information-code/brackets-php-syntax-hint>. I really like the live preview option it has. Also its minimal interface is just right for me. User extensions were also a nice feature. I'm utilizing a github extension for brackets to have source control. I used Firefox for the majority of my testing as I could see how my webpage can be responsive on different screens.

[http://www.w3schools.com/php/php\\_ajax\\_php.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/php/php_ajax_php.asp)