**CST8285 – Assignment 2: Database**

Functionality Guide

Upon receiving the CST8285\_Gr5 files, navigate to the Private folder within CST8285\_Gr5. Here, you will find a subfolder named database containing two essential files: DataDefintion.sql and Inserts.sql.

In the CST8285\_Gr5 directory, you will notice two main folders: Public and Private.

Public: This folder houses our primary webpage, index.php, serving as the landing page. Additionally, you will find an Imagines folder containing images directly displayed on the webpage or accessed through our database. Moreover, there is a CSS folder with our CSS.css file.

Private: Inside this folder, all backend PHP scripts reside, along with a js folder containing JavaScript files.

Database Setup: Begin by creating the blog database using the information provided in DataDefintion.sql. This file outlines the necessary tables, including authors, blogs, blogs\_tags, comments, pictures, tags, and users. Once the database and tables are created, populate them with data from Inserts.sql.

Ensure the database is fully populated before proceeding and consider clearing your cache for optimal performance.

You can now access CST8285\_Gr5 through Apache and navigate to the Public folder. The landing page index.php will automatically display.

Homepage (Landing Page): The landing page features a header, called from header.php, and a footer from footer.php. These elements persist across all pages. Additionally, the landing page includes an about section and displays three images displaying Chihuahuas of the week.

The header contains the site title, navigation buttons to other pages (Blogs, Sign up, Login, Blog Search), and dynamically personalized greetings for logged-in users.

User Authentication: Clicking the Sign up button directs users to a page where they can create a login. This page utilizes Signup.php, create\_user.php, and login\_script.js for client-side validation. Users have the option to view terms and conditions and reset filled-in textboxes.

Upon successful sign-up, users are redirected to the landing page (index.php), where the header updates to display a personalized greeting and a Sign out button. Alternatively, users can log in using existing credentials, with error messages displayed for incorrect submissions.

Commenting: Logged-in users can comment on individual blogs, with functionality for adding, editing, and deleting comments. Commenting operations are handled by create\_comment.php, retrieve\_blogs.php, and Edit\_comment.php.

Blog Search: All users can search blogs by keyword, tag, or a combination of both. The search page utilizes Blog.php, BlogPage.php, and database.php. Search results display blog titles linked to the full blog, along with content previews, author information, and relevant images.

Random Blogs Display: Another page, called "Blogs," auto displays eight random blogs, like the search page these blogs will be displaying the blog title, a single line of blog content, author, and an image.