

## Project #1 Reflection

For this project, I wanted to expound upon an intro project that I did in CSIS 2025. I chose to focus on the way that the information from the database is displayed for the client. The project involves a database of vehicles with four different fields, "make," "model," "year," and "review." The premise of the project was to be able to gather the information from the database and have it displayed in a way that would be more readable for the user, with clear demarcations for each field and a way to edit and/or delete each review.

Key points of the project were to properly escape out any sql injection that could potentially harm the database and properly insert the pulled information into correctly formatted and cleanly styled columns and rows. Being able to implement php into html documents in the right places was a challenge for me. At first, I came up with a lot of different and incomplete tables with half of the data still outside of the tables. I also received some errors when first trying this with improper php syntax.

I was unsure about whether I should use the `fetch_array` command or just `fetch_assoc` command, but ended up getting it to work with the `fetch_assoc`. I am fairly certain that you can get it to function still with `fetch_array`, which may leave you with a little cleaner code. However, I could not get it to work with that command so I stuck with `fetch_assoc`.

Styling a page with php and html is difficult, especially when working with tables. It forces you to understand exactly what is going on with your php at what point. I didn't need to insert any breakpoints fortunately, but after much trial and error, it came out how I wanted it to. Working with tables and php, you have a lot of different elements to work with: `thead`, `tbody`, `tr`, `td`, etc. So, the use of double quotes was essential in creating strings that included both html and php that was pulling from the database.

I tried using the heredoc method, which allows you to do away with the double quotes. This would allow you to be able to clean up your code a little and have something that was easier to look at - not in just a visual literacy sense but something that would allow you to understand what is going on in a quicker manner. Unfortunately, I couldn't get this method to function so I stuck with using double quotes. I spaced everything out quite a bit in order to see things more clearly.

Even though this project doesn't have a user login or account management, this could be used as a small review site for vehicles. Testimonials are a very powerful tool. Given, you'll have always some have reviews and feedback which isn't germane or helpful to the subject, but being able to get advice from others just like you is a lot more convincing than other sources. It's a much more personal level. There are already sites like this of course, but you can never have too many and you can always improve on what others have done poorly or what isn't working for them.

My knowledge of a CRUD database was solidified and strengthened my skills and confidence with being able to create, read, update and delete any information that you could throw into a database. My familiarity with php variables and conditional statements was a big improvement with this project.