BUILDING DYNAMIC WEB APPLICATIONS

COURSE: CIS1054

PART 1 (15%)

Section A

- 1. Pick a web application/website of your choice and provide an assessment of technologies used for this site, including:
 - a. Server details
 - b. Protocol(s) used
 - c. Server-side programming language(s)
 - d. Media delivery network(s) (if any)

If you are not sure about certain aspects, you can instead provide an educated guess with proper justification. Need some inspiration? Consider https://www.alexa.com/topsites/category

- 2. Give actual examples of different HTTP request and associated responses as used throughout the site, including the different HTTP methods and request bodies (where applicable).
- 3. Using actual examples, discuss the URL strategy used by the site of your choice (e.g. SEO, path variables, query parameters etc...)
- 4. Examine and discuss the site's HTTP headers for GET requests and their respective responses (excluding requests to third parties).
- 5. List all the resources required by the landing page (including CSS, JS and fonts) and their origin (i.e. who is serving these resources).

Section B

- 1) Set up an HTTP server to support PHP scripts (outline the entire process and technologies used).
- 2) Write a simple script which returns the current date and time on the server back to the client
- 3) Write a simple script which stores, for each user, the date and time of the first time the page is loaded. On subsequent interactions, the script should return something on the lines of: "You first used this page x seconds ago". Outline the techniques used to achieve this.
- 4) Write two scripts that (a) read a set of parameters sent by the client and (b) store these request parameters in session variables. One script should handle GET requests and the other POST requests.
- 5) Write a simple script that reads session variables stored by the scripts above and echoes them neatly back to the client. Explain how sessions work, and how PHP scripts can differentiate between different user sessions.

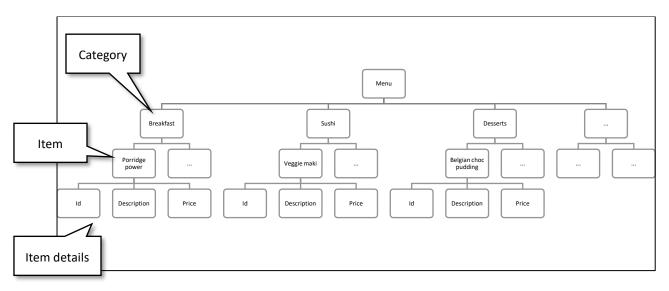
PART 2 (85%)

Based on the principles discussed throughout this course as well as on knowledge gained through individual online-learning, you are asked to build a dynamic website for a restaurant of choice. This website should provide:

- a) generic information about the restaurant (including address and opening hours),
- b) information about the people running it,
- c) a way to allow users to contact the restaurant (to book a table, send a query or file a complaint),
- c) information about the current menu being served at the restaurant (i.e. list of dishes) and
- d) a detailed description of each item on the menu (separate from the list provided in c).
- e) users should be able to add individual dishes to a "favourites" list (from within the dish details page),

f) which list can then be accessed from a dedicated page, listing all the marked dishes (and their details), while allowing users to remove dishes from the list or send the entire list to an email address of their choice.

The menu page as well as menu-item detail pages should be dynamically generated based on a separate structured data file or a simple database containing a hierarchal representation of dishes served by the restaurant. XML, CSV as well as relational databases are all acceptable formats to represent the necessary data structure (as shown below). This strategy would allow non-technical users to modify their site content independently.



GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PART 1 AND PART 2

Each team is to submit a signed teamwork declaration, including:

- 1) An attendance log for each team member (i.e. team meetings)
- 2) Responsibilities taken up by each team member at any point in time
- 3) Detailed description of contributions made by each team member towards the project's deliverables
- 4) An overview of group dynamics throughout the project (i.e. overall experience, issues encountered, how these were resolved etc...).

Each team member may also be asked to explain any aspect of the project during the final interview. This means that team members must be closely involved throughout the project's various activities, from design to implementation.

OTHER DETAILS FOR PART 1 AND PART 2

- Work is to be carried out in group (2 to 3 students per group).
- Assessment will include a 15-minute demo/interview (in group) at the end of the course (dates TBD).
 Please note that this assignment contributes towards 100% of the final grade.
- The write up should include the teamwork and plagiarism declaration form. This document should be split in two parts according (Part 1 and Part 2). For Part 2 you are expected to provide a technical overview of the project including the site's architecture and how it works (files/scripts used, data structure, site behaviour, validation and so forth). This document (accompanied with the code-base) should be submitted in the respective VLE area (which will be available closer to submission date).

- You are to build **everything from the ground up** (*no boilerplate or copied PHP code, CSS themes or front- end frameworks*). Patterns, best-practices and technologies necessary to complete this assignment will be discussed in depth in-class.
- Don't worry if the result is not polished. This is a learning exercise and as such plagiarism will not be tolerated.
- Client-side code must be tested on at least two major browsers for appearance and behaviour.
- Free PHP reference manual: http://php.net/manual/en/index.php

MARKING FOR PART 1 AND PART 2

- 1) Style readability of the code, including comments, indentation and proper application of naming conventions.
- 2) Requirements coverage the extent of your solution with regards to the given requirements (does your solution cover all the requirements)
- 3) Architectural elegance what design decisions were taken: Is the solution maintainable? Is rigorous validation implemented? Has the group adopted DRY principles? Can new functionality be added effortlessly? Is the solution efficient in terms of bandwidth consumption, client and server-side resource consumption?
- 4) Theoretical understanding questions will be asked about your understanding of protocols used, performance considerations, efficiency, standards as well as best practices as discussed in class.