**Displaying Images**

So far in your project, you've been able to write the code that allows the store manager to create categories and products, including providing fancy pictures for each product. Now it's time to figure out how you can display that information for the store manager to see.

Extracting and displaying images is somewhat complicated in PHP. You have to go from a BLOB database object to a normal image displaying on your Web page. You need to perform a couple of steps to get from one to the other.

In the normal HTML world, you display images on a Web page using the <img> tag. This tag defines a source location for the image and often a size for the browser to use to display the image.

<img src="myimage.jpg" width="80" height="60">

That's fine if your image is stored on the server hard drive, but your images are stored as BLOB objects in the database table. That makes things somewhat tricky. You can't just point the *src* attribute to your database object.

Instead, you need to create a small PHP program that'll display your image, and then point the <img> tag to that program. Since this is a PHP program, you can spice things up a bit and make it dynamic. You'll use the HTML GET method to pass along the product ID number of the image you want to see, then use that in your program to display the proper image. Your <img> tag will look like this:

<img src="showimage.php?id=1" width="80" height="60">

This will show the image for the product with productid equal to one. When we get into the programming, you'll use PHP to generate this value as well.

Now you need to create the showimage.php program that'll display your image. Follow these steps to do that:

1. Create a file called *showimage.php* in the *admin* folder under the store area.
2. Use a text editor to add the following code to the file:

<?php

header("Content-type: image/jpeg");

$prodid = $\_GET['id'];

$con = mysql\_connect("localhost", "test", "test") or die('');

mysql\_select\_db("store", $con);

$query = "SELECT picture from products WHERE prodid = $prodid";

$result = mysql\_query($query);

$row = mysql\_fetch\_array($result, MYSQL\_ASSOC);

$picture = $row['picture'];

echo $picture;

?>

* 1. Save the file and exit the editor.
  2. Copy the *showimage.php* code file to the *store* folder so it appears in both the *admin* and *store* folders.

That's all there is to it! Two keys make this code work. The most important piece is the header() function:

header("Content-type: image/jpeg");

This function sends an HTTP header to your browser. The *Content-type:* header indicates that the data following the header is a JPEG image. When your browser sees this, it knows to display it as an image and not as normal data. Without it, your browser would just display the binary data of your image.

After sending the HTTP header, you need to send the raw image data. That's just a matter of retrieving the correct record from the table and using the *echo* statement to send it to the browser. The echo statement is capable of sending the binary data contained in the BLOB object to the browser.

Now all you need to do is make a program that uses this technique to display the image along with the product information.

**Testing It Out**

Before you get too deep in your code, it's always a good idea to test out routines in a simpler environment. This helps prevent the "looking for a needle in a haystack" syndrome you get trying to debug features in a program that has hundreds of modules.

To test out the image display, we'll just create a simple Web page that shows all of the images stored in the database. Once you get this working, you can move on to creating the official Web page that the store manager will use to edit product data. First, let's create our test program:

* 1. Create a file called *imagetest.php* in the store folder.
  2. Open the file with a text editor, and enter the following code:

<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.dtd">

<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">

<title>Image Test</title>

<body>

<?php

include("mylibrary/login.php");

login();

$query = "SELECT prodid, description FROM products";

$result = mysql\_query($query) or die(mysql\_error());

echo "<table width=\"50%\" cellpadding=\"1\" border=\"1\">\n";

echo "<tr><td>Product ID</td><td>Description</td><td>Image</td></tr>\n";

while($row=mysql\_fetch\_array($result, MYSQL\_ASSOC))

{

$prodid = $row['prodid'];

$description = $row['description'];

echo "<tr><td>$prodid</td><td>$description</td>\n";

echo "<td><img src=\"showimage.php?id=$prodid\" width=\"80\" height=\"60\"></td></tr>\n";

}

echo "</table>\n";

?>

</body>

</html>

This simple test program shows how you can use an HTML table in your output to help organize the data you present to your Web site visitors. Notice the <img> tag uses the new showimage.php file to display the image and passes the product ID value for the current product. To view your creation, just use the URL:

http://localhost/store/imagetest.php.

You should see something like this:

Viewing images stored in the database

Now you're ready to build the code to present the product data to your store manager. Continue on to Chapter 3 to see how that's done.