Developing Web Database Applications
Selected PHP & MySQL Resources
http://isaachunter.net/DatabaseDriven

PHP (http://www.php.net)
  • DevShed (PHP articles/tutorials) <http://www.devshed.com/c/a/PHP/>
  • PHP Builder (consult articles w/ user feedback; forums) <http://www.phpbuilder.com/>
  • PHP/MySQL Tutorial <http://webmonkey.wired.com/webmonkey/99/21/index2a.html>

MySQL (http://www.mysql.com)
  • MySQL Reference Manual (esp. searchable HTML version with user comments)
    <http://dev.mysql.com/doc/>
  • MySQL Tutorial (great way to learn basic concepts and commands)
  • DevShed (MySQL articles/tutorials) <http://www.devshed.com/c/a/MySQL/>
  • phpMyAdmin (very useful MySQL administrative interface)
    <http://www.phpmyadmin.net/>
  • MySQL Forums (help, troubleshooting ideas, and examples)
    <http://forums.mysql.com/>

Content Management Systems
  • OpenSourceCMS (try “live” systems) <http://www.opensourcecms.com/>

GENERAL RESOURCES


Yank, Kevin. Build Your Own Database Driven Website Using PHP & MySQL. 3rd ed. Norwood, MA: Sitepoint, 2004. 275pp. ($25). (Formerly free online, now only 1st four chapters on web). Great overview and code examples; covers tools and techniques to build your own db-driven site and CMS. If you're serious about developing a db-driven site, this is definitely worth pursuing.


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ANATOMY OF A Database Driven WEBPAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>gen_webdata_id</th>
<th>gen_webdata_title</th>
<th>gen_webdata_body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Curriculum Library Information</td>
<td>&lt;P&gt; The Curriculum Library, a branch of the Univer...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>&lt;P&gt; &lt;div class=regheader&gt;Library Instruction Prog...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

index.php
(a simple PHP/HTML script that creates a connection to the MySQL database, obtains some content, and displays a webpage)

```php
<?php // open (declare) PHP
//declare a variable for later use:
$ID = '135'; // (135 = row number of “Curriculum Library Information” data)

//make connection to your MySQL database:
mysql_connect("www.mysql.host.com:12345", "username", "password"); // connect (don’t forget the port #)
mysql_select_db(libweb) or die("Unable to select database!"); // select the “libweb” database

//query the database, grabbing data from the table (gen_webdata):
$Query = "SELECT * FROM gen_webdata WHERE gen_webdata_id = "$ID"; // query the database
$result = mysql_query($Query) or die("Error in query"); // obtain the data
$row = mysql_fetch_array($result); // organize the data (put into an array)

//for simplicity, assign the elements (“pieces of data”) of the array to variables (“data holders”) for later use:
$TITLE = ($row['gen_webdata_title']); // (the "title header" of the webpage)
$BODY = ($row['gen_webdata_body']); // (the "body" of the webpage)

//begin displaying webpage content:
print "$TITLE"; // display the title

?> // close PHP

<br/> // re-open PHP

if ($BODY) // if the data is available...
{
   print ("$BODY"); // ...then, display the body.
}
else // ...but if unavailable, then...
   print "Error: Please Notify Library Information Systems";

?> // close PHP
</span></body></html> // close HTML/CSS tags