Summary

CIS243 Web Development III – PHP

PHP was the follow-up class to Javascript, and it was my first introduction to using a programming language with a web server (Apache) and MySQL to provide access to a server-side database. I had taken SQL (CIS251) the quarter before, so I was familiar with the latter two, but all of the database content was on my own system. I was looking forward to learning how to tie a database directly to a website.

PHP built upon things that I had learned in Javascript, such as using variables, functions, loops, arrays, strings, etc. It also added a lot of new functionality. A majority of the time I spent on this class was focused on using MySQL and PHP to create and connect to a database, and then to change/update/delete the information in it, which was fundamental to being able to complete the final project in the class.

Our final project was a content management system (CMS) using a third party editor and varying levels of permissions attached to a database for a craft shop website. The site included editable content and timed, rotating images, as well as a way to upload new images, for those users with appropriate levels of access. That last feature was something that was beyond the scope of the assignment, but something else I really wanted to know how to do. Eventually, it will be something that I tie into my portfolio page so that I don't have to hardcode a new image (or content) every time I want to add it.