



User Input & Forms I

HFCC – CIS222

23 January 2012

Announcements:

✓ Part 1 of the Term Project due on 29 Feb

Interacting with the User

- Users need to be able to pass data to the program
- Use POST or GET methods with forms...
 - **GET** – information goes right in the URL and is passed in the header of the transfer
 - Data collected in the `$_GET` autoglobal variable
 - **POST** – information is passed in the packet itself and does not appear in the URL
 - Data collected in the `$_POST` autoglobal variable

Making Forms

```
<form action="formHandler.php" method="post">
  Username: <input type="text" name="user" /><br />
  Password: <input type="password" name="pass" /><br />
  Gender:
    <input type="radio" name="gender" value="male" /> Male
    <input type="radio" name="gender" value="female" /> Female<br />
  Courses:
    <input type="checkbox" name="course" value="cis100" /> CIS100
    <input type="checkbox" name="course" value="cis122" /> CIS122
    <input type="checkbox" name="course" value="cis222" /> CIS222<br />
  State:
    <select name="state">
      <option selected="yes" value="MI">MI</option>
      <option value="OH">OH</option>
      <option value="WI">WI</option>
    </select>
  <input type="hidden" name="idNumber" value="4858383" />
  <textarea cols="40" rows="5" name="notes">Enter notes.</textarea><br />
  <input type="submit" value="Log In" />
  <input type="reset" value="Clear Form" />
</form>
```

Let's Try It!

- Make an HTML form
- Create pizza ordering page called *InClass-Form.php*
 - Place a form on the page to take the following information
 - Allow them to type in a customer name
 - Allow them to enter the number of pizzas
 - Allow them to select their toppings
 - Allow them to enter an address
 - Provide a submit and reset button
 - The form should pass the information to a page called *InClass-Form-receiver.php*
 - Upload the file to the server and test
- Raise your hand if you have finished (or if you are stuck)

Collecting Form Data

- Form data is collected in the appropriate autoglobal variable
 - \$_POST or \$_GET
- Access the contents of each form element by name

```
<form action="formHandler.php" method="post">
  Username:
    <input type="text" name="user" />
  <br />
  Password:
    <input type="password" name="pass" />
  <br />
  <input type="submit" value="Log In" />
  <input type="reset" value="Clear Form" />
</form>
```



```
$user = $_POST['user'];
$pass = $_POST['pass'];
```

Let's Try It!

- Capture data from a form
- Capture and display the data from your pizza ordering form on a page called *InClass-Form-receiver.php*
 - Capture all of the data into variables
 - Use echo statements to display each item on the page (with labels)
- Raise your hand if you have finished (or if you are stuck)

Questions?



Passing Arguments in the URL

➤ GET sends values as variable/value pairs in the URL

```
<form action="formHandler.php" method="get">
  Username:
    <input type="text" name="user" />
<br />
  Password:
    <input type="password" name="pass" />
<br />
  <input type="submit" value="Log In" />
  <input type="reset" value="Clear Form" />
</form>
```



<http://cis.hfcc.edu/~jklance/formHandler.php?user=Jer&pass=abcd>

➤ There's no reason we can't cut out the middle-man

- Well...middle-form
- We can just put information right in the URL

Passing Arguments in the URL

- We format the link to pass the information in the URL

```
<a href="formHandler.php?user=Jer&pass=abcd">  
    Click here to log in  
</a>
```



<http://cis.hfcc.edu/~jklance/formHandler.php?user=Jer&pass=abcd>

- We can create “automatic” form submissions
- Some uses:
 - Menus for single driver-file sites
 - Links to specific inventory items in a catalog

Driver File Navigation

```
<div id="nav">
    <ul>
        <li><a href="index.php?page=home">Home</a></li>
        <li><a href="index.php?page=about">About</a></li>
        <li><a href="index.php?page=contact">Contact</a></li>
    </ul>
</div>
```

```
<?php
    // Collect the page requested via GET
    $pageName = $_GET['page'];

    // Use the requested page for the file name to include
    $fileName = "$pageName.inc";
    include($filename);
?>
```

Inventory Item Display

```
<table>
  <tr>
    <td><a href="index.php?id=12345">12345</a></td>
    <td>Rainbow Dash</td>
    <td>Mint Condition</td>
  </tr>
  <tr>
    <td><a href="index.php?id=56568">56568</a></td>
    <td>Moon Jumper</td>
    <td>Fair Condition</td>
  </tr>
</table>
```

```
<?php
  // Collect the item number requested via GET
  $idNum = $_GET['id'];

  // Use the requested item number to display the correct item file
  include("$idNum.inc");
?>
```

Questions?



Let's Try It!

- Make a driver file
- Create a basic page *InClass-DriverFile.php*
 - Make an empty page that validates, then add...
 - A menu that will point to three pages (home, page1, page2)
 - Retrieve the filename from GET
 - Use an include statement to display the correct file
 - Make include files for your page to display...
 - *home.inc*
 - *page1.inc*
 - *page2.inc*
 - Build iteratively!
- Raise your hand if you have finished (or if you are stuck)

Next Session

➤ Decisions in PHP

- (Read CH2, pp83-92)