

Re: database lookup

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/alt.php/2006-10/msg00079.html>

- *From:* "Dano" <dan@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 5 Oct 2006 06:19:41 -0700
-

Yep, I think that's how you'll have to go. Display the "top level" data, like this, in PHP:

```
<?
echo "<a
href=\"link_to_page.php?identifying_data=".$row["data_field"]."\">Councilman</a>";
?>
```

The link takes them to the "link_to_page.php," and the appended data ("?identifying_data=".\$row["data_field"]."") is the data to be used in an SQL query on the page. You can re-use the code I showed before to do the query on the subsequent page, and display the "drill down" data.

The thing with PHP and MySQL is that you need the user to do an action – either click a form button or click a "loaded" link as in my example above – before the code will do something. It hasn't yet evolved to the stage where it "knows" what the user wants, and "pre-serves" that information – a fact some former un-tech-savvy bosses of mine never seemed to understand. ;) You need to "lead" the user along a logical PHP/MySQL functionality path.

Hope that helps!

sk wrote:

Thanks Dano, but I have all that done. My question/problem is displaying either or both "Commissions" / "Councilpeople" from the database. This I can do at this time, however, how do I let the user select say a councilperson, that that data and query the database for the commissions they are on OR select a commission and then get a list of all councilpersons on that commission.

I tried to state that I have the database designed and implemented but I do not know (at this time) how to display the above, take the answer and query the database again and display.

Dano wrote:

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OK, I'll take a stab at answering.

First, you have to connect to the database. I use a separate file, which I call "connect.php." I use a single file which I reference as an "include" on all the pages I have. That way, if something in the connection changes – such as a change in server name, username, or password – I only have to make the change in ONE file, and not in the hundreds of files on my sites. Here's the code for the "connect.php" file:

```
<?
$db = mysql_connect("server_name", "database_username",
"database_password");
if (!$db)
{
echo "error!";
}
mysql_select_db("database_name");
?>
```

Of course, substitute your own values for server name, username, password and database name. Save it in a separate file, with a ".php" file extension.

Now comes the code for the main page:

```
<?
include("connect.php");
$query = "select * from table_name";
$result = mysql_query($query);
$num_results = mysql_num_rows($result);
for ($i=0; $i <$num_results; $i++)
{
$row = mysql_fetch_array($result);
echo "<p><a
href=\"select_me.php?vital_data=\".$row[\"field_name\"].\">\".$row[\"field_name\"].\"</a><p>";
}
?>
```

The "include" function "inserts" the code from connect.php into the code on the page, just as if you'd written it there. The remainder of the code sets the query string, executes the query, and sets the results from the recordset into an array (\$row), then loops through the array. When I display the field, I put it in a simple link ("a href") which passes the data attached to the URL to the "select_me.php" page. You can use similar code just about any way you want to do it, including as a radio button, a select list, etc. You can also write some JavaScript into your PHP code that would "fire" the action upon a change of selection of the item in a form. Really, you're limited only by your imagination as to what you can do. Of course, you would probably have more than one field name to display data for, but

