

Bonus: Invent Your Own CGI/DB

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After completing the Shopping Cart lab sequence, you may be ready to invent your own web site. This bonus lab is a way for you to earn extra credit for that activity.

The key elements of this lab are Creativity, CGI programs, and Database tables. It must consist of one or more screens and include the ability to report information from your database, and to manage your database by inserting, modifying, and deleting information in your database.

1 Concept

First you need a concept: a creative idea for a web site. It can be humorous or serious. It needs to demonstrate some creativity. It must be substantially different from any examples we have discussed or demonstrated in class, or anything you have seen on the web. You can have elements of similarity too.

For example, a CD management system for your collection, or a financial management system for your money might be similar to systems that other people have built. Or how about an appointment scheduling system for handling your hundreds of friends that want to spend time with you? You need to customize your idea. Develop your own look and feel. Try to add a special twist to something you may have seen somewhere else.

2 Scope

Once you have an idea, you need to make it the right size. Generally you should think small instead of big. A book management system for your personal library might be okay, or it might be too much. A financial management system for yourself might be okay, or it might be too much. If you make it too complicated, it will be difficult for you to finish it. Still, you may be able to take an idea that is big and downsize it for purposes of this lab.

For example, FedEx delivers packages all around the world, and provides tracking so the customer always knows where the package is located. Instead of building FedEx, you could do deliveries between Hauula, Laie, and Kahuku.

You could invent a WalMart shopping list program that accepts shopping list items from yourself and your friends, and sorts them to produce an alphabetical list of items to be purchased, along with quantity, estimated price, brief description, and the name of the person who wants it. The program should include a way to mark items as “purchased.” It might include a way to see the past history of orders by person.

Your project should be fun and interesting, but also small enough so you can get it running.

3 Getting Credit

To get credit for this lab, you must demonstrate it to Bro Colton, either in class or in his office. It must fulfil the requirements mentioned above:

1. It must be creative.
2. It should be fun and interesting.
3. It must use CGI web pages.
4. It must use a database.
5. It must provide appropriate reporting of information in the database.
6. It must allow the adding of new information to the database.
7. It must allow the modification of information already in the database.
8. It must allow the deleting of obsolete information from the database.
9. It must be completed on or before the last day of class.