

MA Web Design & Content Planning

Website Planning

Week 6: PHP for Site Modularity

The problems with building complex websites – consistency, maintenance etc.

The concept of “modular” websites

Webpage templating

What is PHP?

How PHP can help create modular websites (include and require)

What else can PHP do?

Making sites dynamic

Randomising webpage content

Smart navigation with PHP

Talking to databases

References

PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy by David Powers by David Powers

PHP (or PHP and MySQL) for the World Wide Web by Larry Ullman

Week 6 Homework

Read: Chapters 1, 3 and 4 of PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy

Experiment with PHP includes in order to ensure that you understand how they work. The best form of the include function is probably:

```
<?php include($_SERVER['DOCUMENT_ROOT'].'/includes/file.php'); ?>
```

Simply place this within your markup where you want the content in *file.php* to appear.

Final Project

The final project of the year is designed as a summary of all the ideas, skills and techniques you have developed during this first year of the programme, 50% of the mark being allocated to Webpage Design and 50% to Website Planning.

I would like you to revisit your B&B site and rebuild it in the light of all you have learned. The new B&B site should exhibit best practice in visual design, usability, accessibility and modularity. You may keep as much or as little of the original design as you think appropriate but it would be sensible to consider the feedback you have had. Do not overwrite the original site, instead, create a “version 2” site so that we can compare the before and after versions.