

# Class 2: MySQL Databases with PHP

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What is MySQL?

How to create a MySQL database

Working with cPanel, Pentangle and phpMyAdmin

Creating a database

Adding structure to a database

Adding data to a database

Querying a database

Formatting and printing data with PHP

Building a simple application with PHP and MySQL

## References

PHP and MySQL for Dynamic Web Sites by Larry Ullman

Head First PHP & MySQL by Lynn Beighley and Michael Morrison

PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. by David Powers

## Class 2 Homework

Read: Chapters 4, 5 and 9 of PHP and MySQL for Dynamic Web Sites

OR Chapters 10 - 14 of PHP Solutions: Dynamic Web Design Made Easy

You may not need to use a database just yet but your web hosting account will allow you to create a few, so do experiment. Try to create a simple news system as demonstrated in this week's presentation. Databases can easily be deleted, so a test database can be removed at a later date.

PHP scripts for connecting to databases and running queries can vary a lot in their syntax – there are many ways of doing it. The *standard* notation in this week's presentation is the same as used in Larry Ullman's book but you may use any method you feel comfortable with (Standard, OO or PDO) but standard notation is probably easier to understand for the beginner. It's also worth pointing out that you should avoid the old **mysql** methods and use the newer **mysqli** instead because they are more efficient and more secure (the "i" stands for improved). The standard mysqli notation for connecting to a database is:

```
$conn = new mysqli('localhost', $db_user, $db_password, $db_name) or die  
( 'Cannot open database' );
```

The example news application can be found here:

<http://www.coursestuff.co.uk/DESI1184/examples/02-php-news.zip>

It contains 3 index files, one for each notation type so you can compare. It also contains a SQL file that you can import using phpMyAdmin to structure and populate your database.

Remember, PHP scripts will only work once uploaded to the web server. They will not work on your local computer, so get used to testing your websites live on the server.

Finish the work on the Website Makeover project ready for next Thursday.

Course materials: <http://www.coursestuff.co.uk/DESI1184/>