Practical PHP and MySQL Website Databases is a project-oriented book that demystifies building interactive, database-driven websites. The focus is on getting you up and running as quickly as possible. In the first two chapters you will set up your development and testing environment, and then build your first PHP and MySQL database-driven website. You will then increase its sophistication, security, and functionality throughout the course of the book. The PHP required is taught in context within each project so you can quickly learn how PHP integrates with MySQL to create powerful database-driven websites. Each project is fully illustrated, so you will see clearly what you are building as you create your own database-driven website. You will build a form for registering users, and then build an interface so that an administrator can view and administer the user database. You will create a message board for users and a method for emailing them. You will also learn the best practices for ensuring that your website databases are secure. Later chapters describe how to create a blog, a product catalog, and a simple e-commerce site. You will also discover how to migrate a database to a remote host. Because you are building the interactive pages yourself, you will know exactly how the MySQL and PHP work, and you will be able to add database interactivity to your own websites with ease.

Book Information

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If you are interested in adding a membership database and registration form to your website, and
have some knowledge of HTML and CSS, then this book will help you to achieve that aim. I particularly liked the project oriented approach. Despite not having any prior knowledge of MySQL or PHP, I understood the projects because the author gives instructions on exactly what you need to know, at the time you need it. The book is written in clear, easy-to-understand English and not `geek speak`. It was easy to follow the many worked examples because they are set up in a very systematic manner. What is also helpful is when the author adds his own experiences of situations in which he encountered problems, and how he was able to solve them. The `tips` `cautions` and `note` sections all help to make this book a really valuable resource. Practical PHP and MySQL Website databases - A Simplified Approach, has given me an excellent understanding of what goes on behind the scenes of a database driven website. What I like about this book is that I did not need to purchase any further software in order to put its lessons into practice. I thoroughly recommend this book for web designers who are familiar with HTML and CSS who would like to add interactive pages and databases to their web sites.

I am very satisfied with this book. The author Adrian W. West really knows how to teach, but not only that. He goes back to its beginnings in programming and get to teach, as he probably would have liked to be taught. He finds the balance between theory, practice and experience. while teaching you in detail, avoiding abstract concepts and going to the point and leads us in computer security through tips and advice that should be taken into account. the code is downloadable and you can check your mistakes. Overall, I highly recommend this book for beginners and not so beginners who have not yet found a guide to strengthen their knowledge and first jump to a more advanced level.

The content itself is not bad at all. I can see the author definitely has been through all the "unnecessaries" for us and gives us only what we need to get things going..i.e. "Practical" but theres definitely some areas that could use improvement. First off, this tutorial uses XAMPP for windows and windows based computers. I get that local servers can be downloaded for any OS but do us the favor and suggest something that works. XAMPP was crap. Thankfully I've done this before so I knew there were many MAMP alternatives. I did finish half the book in 48hrs so maybe I was flying through it but a lot of the content was just explanations of code snippets which isn’t in itself bad but there also wasn’t that much meat and potatos if you get what I mean. Albeit, he did say this was for complete beginners. It isn’t easy but a beginner could do it if he put work in.a good book overall but coulda used some polishing.
This is a great book, I recommend it to anyone who wants to start building web applications. It's project oriented, and this what makes it so good. The theory books are good but they won't give you the confidence and the specific tools to start projects like this book does. I do suggest to have prior knowledge in PHP before diving into this book, it will just make more sense.

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