

Open Professional Group Internship

By Will Chmar

About OPG

- Open Professional Group is a Software Development company based in Westminster, MD.
- Open Professional Group is a production company that creates, maintains, and upgrades software, including websites for its clients. Its software is mainly written in PHP and uses MYSQL for its database

My First Task

- My first task at OPG was to follow a tutorial to create a small local host website that allowed users to put in their contact information and then display the contact information of every user that is using the site.
- This led into my next task which was to take this tutorial and “make it mine”. By that I mean take the concepts I learned in this tutorial and use them to help me develop another site that I would use.

Video Game Tracker

- Using the skills I learned in the tutorial, as well as other skills I learned while doing self studying, I created a website that allows the user to create an account, which will then be verified using an email with a link to verify their account. If they do not verify in five minutes, their account will be deleted and they will need to start all over. After their account is created and they are allowed to sign in, they are redirected to a home page which has a table that dynamically loads in entries into the database associated with that user, complete with pagination and a filter search function.

Part 2

- The user will be able to create a new entry into this site. This entry will consist of the video game title they want to log, a selection in a dropdown menu of the developer of the game and another for the genre of the game. After that the user will be able to input the price of the game and save their entry. They will be rerouted to their homepage which will have the new entry as well as another table with the overall number of entries, different developers, different genres, and total price of every entry in the users database. They also have another column in the display table for each entry to edit or delete the entry.

Part 3

- After I completed the user side of things. I went to work adding admin functionality. For the admin, they would have access to every entry that each user created, as well as another column in the display table that has the name of the user that created said entry. They will also have another tab that displays the information of each user with options to delete their entries, or simply delete their entire account. These options do not extend to other admins however.

WordPress

- After I finished my personal project, my supervisor moved me onto studying WordPress, which is a service that allows people to create, and host sites. My first task was to study the database that WordPress uses, and seeing how the database interacts with the default project. Then I added pages, learning how the database updated with more pages. After that I worked with plugins, seeing that they added tables to the database as well as created new functionality for the site. I then went about creating my own plugin.

WordPress Plugin

- My plugin would simply take the data created in my original Video Game Tracker project and then in the front end, the data would be displayed in a similar manor as before, but on the admin side, the admin would be allowed to export all of the data into an sql file or a excel csv file to view the data. Since WordPress already had user and admin support, I didn't have to code any of that in myself.

Updating PHP

- After I was done with WordPress, I moved on to my next task. According to my supervisor, my first actual client work would be updating PHP code from PHP 7.3 to 8.2. Since this was the case, he wanted me to go through example code found on the internet of PHP 7.3 and update it to 8.2. I also had to pour through PHP's site to see what changes were made when switching versions, then I would manually implement those changes to the example code to make it work on PHP 8.2

Updating Client Code

- A group of programmers, me included have now been going through the clients code, which is much more complex than the example code, and upgrading it to PHP 8.2 I have been working on the admin side of things, ensuring each button or function works as expected, referencing the 7.3 version as needed. This is what I have been working on in the past week, and will most likely continue to work on until I return to Salisbury University.

Thank you for your time!