

INLS 672

Web Development 2

Data Validation



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SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
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Types of errors...

PHP errors (or any programming language)

- Syntax
- Runtime
- Logic
- How to fix? Use built-in or custom error handlers to identify and isolate the error

User “errors”


- Missing required fields
- Wrong data type, size, format
- Value out of range
- How to fix? Write code to validate the data and notify the user of the problem

Handling User “Errors”

- An application is only as good as its data: “garbage in, garbage out”
- Web forms are the most common way an application receives user input
- One of the most important functions of a web application is to validate the input before processing it
- What are the validation rules? Typically provided by the user as requirements
- Common types of validation
 - Ensuring required fields are filled in
 - Validating the type and/or size of the data
 - Date checking, range checking
- **HTML input types** provide better input validation
- **HTML input attributes** may assist with validation

Validating Dates

An easy, usable approach is the HTML `input type="date"`, although browser support varies

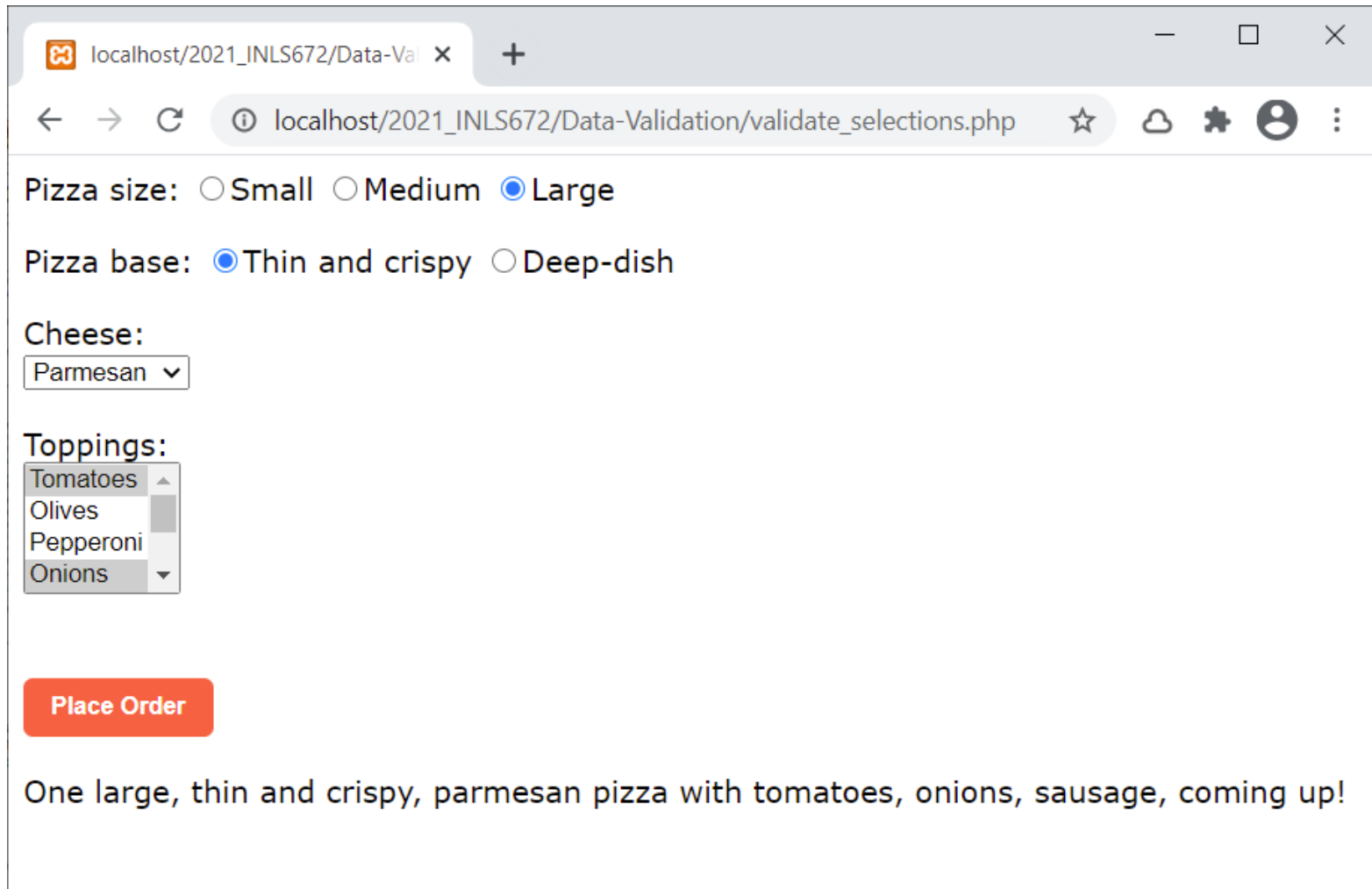
Select date 

December 2020 ▾ ↑ ↓

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Today

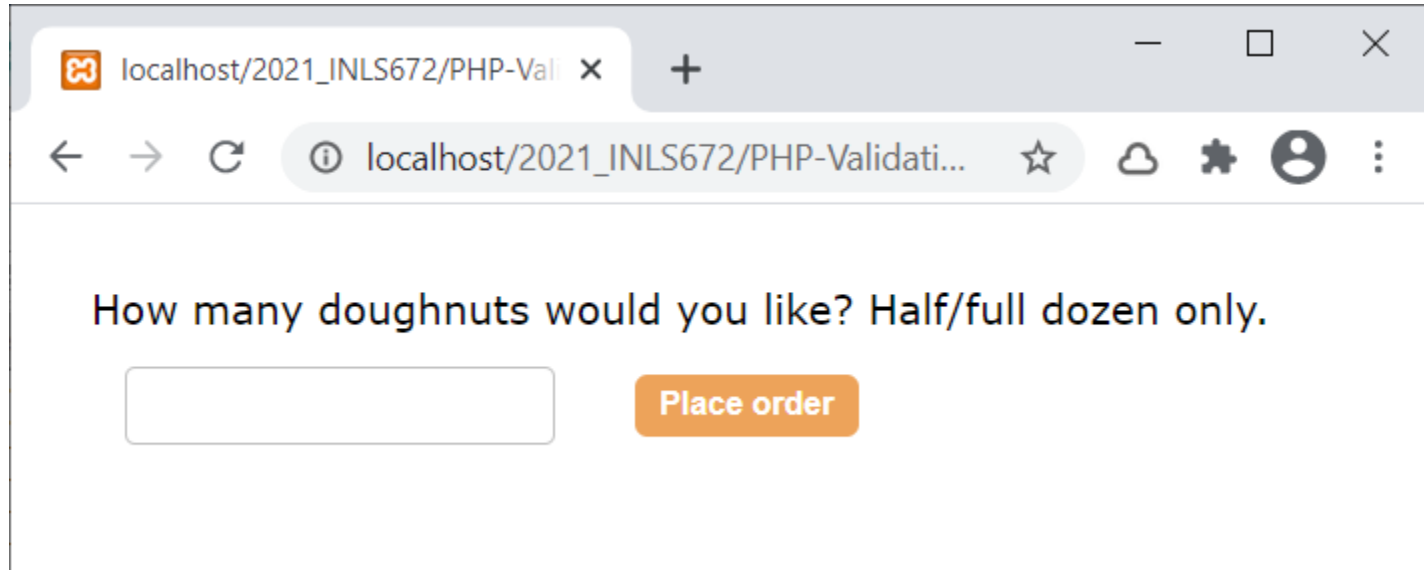
Validating User Selections with Radio Buttons and Dropdown Lists



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `localhost/2021_INLS672/Data-Validation/validate_selections.php`. The form contains the following elements:

- Pizza size:** Three radio buttons labeled "Small", "Medium", and "Large". The "Large" button is selected.
- Pizza base:** Two radio buttons labeled "Thin and crispy" and "Deep-dish". The "Thin and crispy" button is selected.
- Cheese:** A dropdown menu with "Parmesan" selected.
- Toppings:** A list box with "Tomatoes", "Olives", "Pepperoni", and "Onions". "Tomatoes" and "Onions" are selected.
- Place Order:** A red button with the text "Place Order".
- Feedback:** A message at the bottom states: "One large, thin and crispy, parmesan pizza with tomatoes, onions, sausage, coming up!"

HTML vs. PHP Data Validation



A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows 'localhost/2021_INLS672/PHP-Validati...'. The page content asks 'How many doughnuts would you like? Half/full dozen only.' Below the text is a text input field and an orange button labeled 'Place order'.

- Why not use a dropdown list?
- What is the validation criteria?
- HTML `<input>` attributes or PHP?

PHP Form Validation

PHP Form Validation Example

* required field.

Name

*

Email

*

Website

Comment

Submit

Your Input:

PHP Form Validation Example

* required field.

Name

*

Email

* Email is required

Website

Comment

Submit

Your Input:

Hello World

PHP Form Validation Example

* required field.

Name

*

Email

*

Website

Comment

Some useful information goes here.

Submit

Your Input:

Hello World
hello@world.com
https://world.com
Some useful information goes here.