Surface Elements

I believe I made the necessary edits and changes to the surface elements to create a unified and coherent experience that meets the criteria for exceptional. I used CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to change the color of the heading from the orange looking color to purple. I wanted to use black but decided to add some color to my pages. I also didn’t like the look of just a link at the bottom of the page for navigation. I added buttons to each page to use for navigation and changed the color to make them pop at the bottom of the page. I thought the links were hard to see on the original template. I also centered the links to make the pages more aesthetically pleasing.

Technology Mastery

By successfully running all three levels of complexity, displaying accurate and desired results in HTML and by making several formatting changes to the webpage using CSS I believe I met the exceptional criteria for technology mastery,.

Level 1

For Level 1 I hardcoded zip code “27834” as a parameter to retrieve and display the associated city and state from the API (Application Programming Interface). I used the link from page 1 to navigate to page 2.

Level 2

For Level 2 I connected to the vendor table from the database in Project 2, hardcoded vendor ID “10967” to retrieve the zip code from that vendor record and sent it to Zippopotam.us to retrieve the city and state.  I used this vendor ID because it referenced a real address. I used fictional information for my vendors when I entered them into the database. Page 2 displays the city, state, and zip code for vendor ID 10967. I used the link at the bottom of page 2 to navigate to page 3.

Level Three

For Level 3 I connected to Dr. Drake’s internal API and hardcoded ID 10967 to retrieve "Company", "SalesRep", "Zip" and "Address1" for the associated vendor. I then used the returned zip code, to retrieve the city and state from a second API. The vendor’s city and state are displayed on page 3. I then used the link at the bottom of page 3 to navigate to page 4.

Level Four

For Level 4, I researched how to map an address using the mapping system’s API. I initially looked into using Google Maps, but decided against using their API because I didn’t want to have to create an account or potentially have to pay to use their service. I used Open Street Map to map the address for the vendor associated with ID 10967.

For the Explanation

cURL, stands for client URL (Uniform Resource Locator). It is a command line tool used to transfer data to and from a server. C-URL lets you talk to a server by specifying the location (in the form of a URL) and the data you want to send.

The client, curl, sends an HTTP request. The request contains a method (like GET or POST), we used the “GET” method, request headers and sometimes a request body. The HTTP server responds with a status line (indicating if things went well), response headers and most often also a response body.

We used the curl\_init() function to start a cURL session

                                    $id= "10967";

We identified the server we wanted to retrieve information from with the URL and the information we wanted to retrieve in the form of a variable.

                                    // Set the URL API

                                    curl\_setopt\_array($curl, array(

                                    CURLOPT\_URL => 'http://faber.ecu.edu/intra/drakejo/project3/addressAPI.php?id=' . $id,

We also Set options for the session;

                                    CURLOPT\_RETURNTRANSFER => true, - returns results in a string

                                    //CURLOPT\_HTTPHEADER => "Accept: application/json",

                                    CURLOPT\_SSL\_VERIFYHOST => false, does not verify host

                                    CURLOPT\_SSL\_VERIFYPEER => false, does not verify peer

                                    ));

We executed the cURL session to get the response using

                                    $response = curl\_exec($curl)

We checked for errors with the (c-url\_errno) function and the c-url\_error function

And then we closed the session with the curl\_close function