Web-Technologies

#Chapters

- Server-Side Programming: Methods for creating dynamic content
- Web-Content-Management
- Client-Side Programming
- △Excurs: Server Apache
- Search engines and Spiders

🔀 Introduction

- Server-Side Programming:
 - ⊠User (Browser) requests a dynamic document
 - ⊠Additional information is send to the server using GET or POST
 - Server parses the user-request and creates the document by internal procedures
 - ⊠On success, the document is send back to the user
- Several methods for servers to create a document:
 - ✓CGI
 ✓SSI
 ✓PHP
 ✓ASP

🔀 To Recall: Accessing a static page



Typical access: URL = Protocol + Domainname or IP (+ Port) + Filename within the DocumentRoot

Examples:

http://www.uni-erlangen.de/index.html

∺ (cont.) Accessing a static page

- DocumentRoot: "Starting point" (path) within the filesystem
- △ Data of a webpage consists out of:
 - ⊠Header-Informations
 - Examples:
 - "Content-type: text/html"
 - "Server: Apache/1.3.19 (Unix) PHP/4.0.4pl1"
 - "Title: Portal"
 - "Status: 200"
 - "Content_length: 6675"
 - ⊠Body (Plain Text, HTML, XML, ...)

∺ CGI (Common Gateway Interface)



client Webserver

- Header-Info: Part of the header-information the webserver sends. At least "Content-type"
- Output-Data: Output as defined within Content-Type.
- 🗠 Data* = Header-Info + Output-Data

₭ CGI (cont.)

Process will be loaded and executed anew at every access
 GET:

⊠Data will be transmitted as addition to the URL

- Example: http://www.uni-erlangen.de/cgi-bin/webenv.pl?data=value
 Server will transform this into \$ENV{'QUERY_STRING'}
 - Example: QUERY_STRING = "data=value"

🗠 POST:

⊠Data will be transmitted to the script on <STDIN>

Length of transmitted data: \$ENV{'CONTENT_LENGTH'}

Special addition: Sending data on \$ENV{'PATH_INFO'}, e.g.: http://www.uni-erlangen.de/cgi-bin/webenv.pl/pathinfo?data=value

CGI with User-Environment

Reason: Security problems at webserver running as special user (e.g. root !)

Several moduls to solve this: CGIWrap, suEXEC, sBox

Base idea: Script is executed by a user without admin-rights



CGI with User-Environment (cont.)

CGIWrap: User CGI Access (http://cgiwrap.unixtools.org)
 Allowing the execution of cgi-scripts from local user-homes with http://www.DOMAIN.TLD/~login/cgi-bin/skript.cgi
 /~login/cgi-bin/ forces a redirect to a wrapper-script, that executes the skript.cgi as user "login".

 sBox: (Lincoln Stein, http://stein.cshl.org/software/sbox/)
 CGIWrap + Configurable ceilings on script resource usage (CPU, disk, memory and process usage, sets priority and restrictions to ENV)

CGI with User-Environment (cont.)

suEXEC: Apache-modul (http://httpd.apache.org/docs/suexec.html)

- ⊠Allows the execution of all CGI, SSI and PHP on a different user ID
- ⊠Unlike Wrappers it is not bound to a special syntax in cgidirectories
- Supports the use for virtual hosts

SSI (Server Side Includes)



🔀 SSI (cont.)

- SSI-Tags are parsed by the server
- SSI-Tags are parsed as long as there are no tags anymore
- 🗠 Examples:
 - X<!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL"--> will be replaced with the string for the local time of the server
 - X<!--#include virtual="filename.shtml" --> will insert the content
 of filename.shtml. filename.shtml can use SSI-Tags too!
 (Recursive includes of files will be detected.)
 - Kinclude virtual=_/cgi-bin/skript.cgi?values"--> can be used
 to execute scripts
- \boxtimes SSI-files mostly use the suffix ".shtml"
- SSI works together with suEXEC, but not with CGIWrap or sBox



SSI + CGI (cont.)

Example SSI-file: index.shtml

<body>

<!--#include virtual=_navigation.shtml"-->
Hallo,

willkommen auf meiner Seite.

🗠 navigation.shtml

<hr>FAU Web.de Zeit: <!--#config timefmt="%d.%m.%Y, %H.%M"--> <!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL"--><hr>

German samples: http://cgi.xwolf.com/faq/ssi-sample1.shtml

Embedded Scripts

Recall: Normal CGI-processes will be loaded and executed anew at every request.

Embedded scripts keep already loaded scripts in memory.

- Script-Interpreter is part of the webserver or implemented as modul (like in Apache later Version 1.3.12)
- △Popular in use with PHP

△ Also in use for Perl-CGI-scripts and Databases



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🔀 Base Principle:

Parting Content and Layout



Content-Management is need at:

- Huge amount of informations, gathered and created by many people
- Informations with references to many other informations, that might refer back: complex link-trees
- Informations with a limited lifetime: Content-lifecycle

Heb-Content-Management

- Information = Content is presented within a given layout to the public
- Clients are requesting all informations from a webserver
- All technics a webserver offers can be used by a web-contentmanagement

Heb-Content-Management-Systems (WCMS) are using several technics of server-side programming: CGI

🗠 SSI

Embedded Scripts

Basic aspects of WCMS are ■

- Management of content and layout
- Interaction with databases and/or special fileformats
- Concepts for data management ins respect of Web-Requests
- User-Management
- Workflow for content-lifecycle



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% Publishing-/Staging-Server (cont.)

- On editor command or time interval, WCMS will dump new HTMLfiles on Webserver's filesystem
- The use of WCMS with this principle is unseen by users which are requesting webpages
- Files are secure against modifications on the webserver: Dump of the WCMS will overwrite it
- Good performance due to static HTML-files on webserver
- Supports backup (database of WCMS)
- Consistency-problems during file-dumping. Bad for pages with many changes in short time
- △ Static pages are registered by internet search engines



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% Dynamic Publishing (cont.)

- All data is created on-the-fly: No Static pages anymore!
- Changes in content or layout are published as soon as they are accepted
- Local Search engines (database search) can be used to get new data-output
- Output can get personalized for clients and/or authentificated users
- Needs huge resources for server-hardware (CPU, disk, memory and process usage)
- Problems with internet search engines: Mostly dynamic pages arn't registered.

Herein Publishing-/Staging and Extract-Concept



Publishing- /Staging and Extract-Concept (cont.)

- Good performance due to static HTML-Files
- Supports files with many content-refreshes
- △ Allows import of existing files
- △ Allows the use of other WCMS and Webeditors (!)
- Complicated change of Layout for many files

Other concepts

- Combinations of the methods above
- Dynamic publishing with caching: Dumpout of few HTML-files that are requested often