

# Chapter 9



## **Module7**

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Page number: 304



## **MCQ** Test



- ✓ Closed book
- ✓ Closed computer
- ✓ 20 questions
- ✓ Leave if finished, but come back at 1:00 for lecture

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#### **MCQ** Test



✗ Any questions?

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Page number: 306



#### Java



- ✓ No more lecture material, but
- ✓ I will respond to questions with material as needed
- ✓ Following few weeks will have Java/Swing centered questions, and
- ✓ Assignment 3 (announced next week) will require Java/Swing, so get some practice in...

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## **Common Gateway Interface**



- CGI is a standard for helping web servers run external programs,
- ✓ and return dynamic web pages.

For example, a simple dynamic web page might return the current date and time, calculated by running the 'date' program, and formatting the results as a web page.

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Page number: 308



## **CGI** script



```
#!/bin/sh

cat <<EOM1
Content-type: text/html

<HTML><HEAD>
<TITLE>Output of data in HTML from CGI script</TITLE>
<HEAD><BODY>
<HI>Date:</HI>
EOM1
date
cat <<EOM2
</BODY></HIML>
EOM2
```

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## **CGI** script



When this script is placed in the directory <code>public\_cgi</code> in your home directory on one of the UNIX systems, then you may refer to

http://www-cgi.comp.nus.edu.sg:8000/~yourid/mydate.cgi

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Page number: 310



## **CGI** script





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## **CGI** script



```
Netscape: Source of: http://www-cgi.comp.nus.edu.sg:8000/-hugh/mydate.cgi

<hr/>
<hr
```

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Page number: 312



## **CGI** scripts



- ✓ No requirement for CGI program to be a shell script.
- ✔ Perl is very commonly used in this role.
- ✓ It should not take too long to process.

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### **Environment variables**



```
#!/usr/local/bin/perl
print "Content-type: text/html\n\n";
print <<EndOfHTML;
<html><head><title>Print Environment</title></head>
<body>
EndOfHTML

foreach $key (sort(keys %ENV)) {
   print "$key = $ENV{$key}<br>\n";
}
print "</body></html>";
```

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Page number: 314



#### **Environment variables**



```
DOCUMENT_ROOT = /usr/local/apache/htdocs
GATEWAY_INTERFACE = CGI/1.1
HTTP_USER_AGENT = Mozilla/4.79 [en] (X11; U; Linux 2.2.16 i686)
...
QUERY_STRING =
...
TZ = Singapore
```

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#### **CGI forms - GET**



The form contents are found inside an environment variable called QUERY\_STRING, as a series of name/value pairs.

This mechanism is known as the **GET** mechanism, and a typical URL would look like this:

.../myform.cgi?name1=value1&name2=value2

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Page number: 316



#### **POST**



An alternative mechanism is the **POST** mechanism, in which the **STDIN** of the CGI program is used to process the form data.

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#### **CGI** form



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Page number: 318



## **CGI** form





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#### **CGI** form



When the form is submitted, the QUERY\_STRING looks like this:

QUERY\_STRING = First=Hugh&Last=Anderson&Home=New+Zealand

Within a CGI program, this series of name-value pairs may be used to return a dynamic web page based on this form data.

**Perl** is a particularly useful language to use in this context - the **QUERY\_STRING** can be split quickly into its component parts.

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Page number: 320



## **Security**



- ✓ There are security issues with unrestricted CGI programs since they run powerful programs (like perl and csh) with arbitrary parameters, they may be a source of (hacker) intrusion.
- ✓ It is for this reason that CGI usage is restricted here at NUS.

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#### **PHP**



- ✔ PHP is a server-side scripting language.
- ✓ It looks very like standard HTML scripts, but the server automatically interprets the PHP.
- ✓ There are no enhancements needed for browsers.

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Page number: 322



#### PHP



- ✓ The two tags <?php and ?> start and end a PHP script, and identify a PHP code segment.
- ✓ The PHP code itself is a reasonably powerful programming language similar to Java, C and Perl, with functions, variables and so on.

PHP stands for <u>P</u>HP - <u>Hypertext Preprocessor</u>, a recursive acronym.

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#### **PHP**



- ✔ Particularly useful to access databases.
- ✓ It is common to pair up PHP with MySQL, but PHP is not limited to one database type.
- ✓ For example if you wish to use PHP to access a Microsoft SQL server, you can install the ODBC support in the server machine, and access the server directly.

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Page number: 324



#### PHP code



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## **PHP** security



✔ PHP suffers less from the security issue than perl or csh CGI scripts do.

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Page number: 326



#### Java



```
CODE LISTING

Lissajous1.java

* Original Vergion was written in 0.4 95/04/09

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* Original Vergion for MotJava browser.

* Updated by L. Gladney to Java 1.0 JDK on 4/13/97.

* Patrick Chan (chansscandpren. Eng. Sun. COM) has suggested that it

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#### Java



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Page number: 328



#### Java



#### This code may be found at

http://olddept.physics.upenn.edu/courses/gladney/minicourse/lectures/lecture2.html

#### or locally at

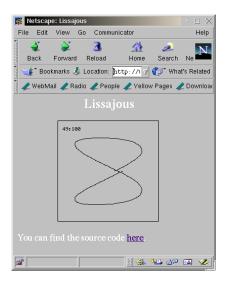
http://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~hugh/Lissajous/Lissajous.html

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#### Java





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Page number: 330



## **Summary of topics**



In this module, we introduced the following topics:

- Web-based application architectures
- CGI, PHP and Java