Web Service Architectures

Ramakrishnan & Gehrke, Chapter 7

www.w3schools.com

www.webdesign.com

…

Really everybody can design an own website

Overview

- **Internet / Web Concepts**

- Three-tier architectures

- Presentation layer

- Middle tier

History: The Internet and the Web

- 1945   linking microfiches , by Vannevar Bush
- 1960s Internet as (D)ARPA project:
  fault-tolerant, heterogeneous WAN (cold war!)
  term "Hypertext" coined by Ted Nelson at ACM 20th National Conference
- 1976   Queen Elizabeth sends her first email. She's the first state leader to do so.
- 1980   Berners-Lee at CERN writes notebook program to link arbitrary nodes
- 1989   Berners-Lee makes a proposal on information management at CERN
- 1990   Berners-Lee's boss approves purchase of a NeXT cube
  Berners-Lee begins hypertext GUI browser+editor and dubs it "WorldWideWeb"
  First web server developed
- 1991 May 17 – general release of WWW on central CERN machines
- 1992 more browsers: Viola & Erwise released
- 1994 > 200 web servers by start of year
  Mosaic: easy to install, great support, first inline images ("much sexier")
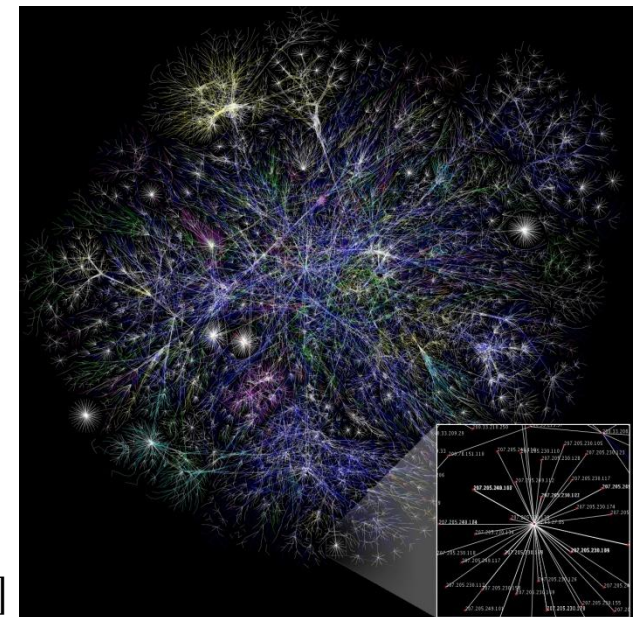 Andreessen & colleagues form "Mosaic Comm. Corp"; later "Netscape"

Internet & WWW

- Internet originally 4 basic services, based on TCP & IP:

  - telnet, ftp, mail, news

  - Later many more: IRC, SSL, NTP, ...

- Each computer has worldwide unique id

  - IP address: n.n.n.n (32 bit IPv4, 128 bit IPv6)

  - Domain name: subdomain.host.top-level-domain

  - DNS to resolve

- World-Wide Web just another Internet service

  - HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol

  - HTML: Hypertext Markup Language

  - URIs (Uniform Resource Identifiers)

| telnet, ftp, ..., http (application layer) |
| TCP (transport layer) |
| IP (network layer) |

[wikipedia]

Uniform Resource Identifiers

- Uniform naming schema to identify resources on the Internet

  - resource can be anything: index.html, mysong.mp3, picture.jpg

  - Syntax: scheme ":" [authority] [path] ["?" query]

  - Ex: http://www.cs.wisc.edu/index.html, mailto:webmaster@bookstore.com, telnet:127.0.0.1

- Structure of an http URI: http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~dbbook/index.html

  - Naming scheme (http)

  - Name of host computer + optionally port# (//www.cs.wisc.edu:80) – 80 is default

  - Name of resource (~dbbook/index.html)

- URL = Uniform Resource Locator (subset of URIs; old term)

  - Identification via network "location"

Hypertext Transfer Protocol

- What is a communication protocol?

  - Set of rules that defines the structure of messages & communication process

  - Examples: TCP, IP, HTTP

- What happens if you click on www.cs.wisc.edu/~dbbook/index.html?

  - Client connects to server, transmits HTTP request to server

  - Server generates response, transmits to client

  - Both disconnect

- HTTP header describes content/action (text = ISO-8859-1), content for data

  - RFC 2616

HTTP Sample Request/Response

- ▪ Client sends:

GET ~dbbook/index.html HTTP/1.1
User-agent: Mozilla/4.0
Accept: text/*, image/gif, image/jpeg

- ▪ Server responds:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 12:00:00 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.0 (Linux)
Last-Modified: Mon, 01 Mar 2002 09:23:24 GMT
Content-Length: 1024
Content-Type: text/html

<html> <head></head>
<body>
<h1>Burns and Nobble Internet Bookstore</h1>
Our inventory:
<h3>Science</h3>
<b>The Character of Physical Law</b>
...
</body></html>

Try this:
$ telnet google.com 80
GET / HTTP/1.1
<3x newline>

HTTP Request Structure

- Request line

  <span style="background-color:#ffffcc;color:#c00000">GET ~/index.html HTTP/1.1</span>

  - Http **method** field (GET and POST, more later)

  - local **resource** field

  - HTTP **version** field

- Type of client

  <span style="background-color:#ffffcc;color:#c00000">User-agent: Mozilla/4.0</span>

- What types of files (MIME types) the client will accept

  <span style="background-color:#ffffcc;color:#c00000">Accept: text/*, image/gif, image/jpeg</span>

  - **MIME** = Multipurpose Internet Mail (!) Extensions = file type naming system

  - MIME types other than text/*, image/jpeg, image/gif, image/png
    need **browser plug-in** or **helper application**

HTTP Response Structure

- ## Status line
  HTTP/1.1 200 OK

  - HTTP version: HTTP/1.1
  - Status code
  - Server message, textual

  - *200 OK: Request succeeded*
  - *400 Bad Request: Request could not be fulfilled by the server*
  - *404 Not Found: Requested object does not exist on the server*
  - *505 HTTP Version not supported*

- ## Date when the object was created
  Last-Modified: Mon, 01 Mar 2002 09:23:24 GMT

- ## Number of bytes being sent
  Content-Length: 1024

- ## What type is the object being sent
  Content-Type: text/html

- *…plus potentially many more items, such as server type, server time, etc.*

- ## The payload!
  <html>…</html>

HTTP Doesn't Remember!

- HTTP stateless on the granularity of requests

  - No "sessions"

  - Every message completely self-contained

  - No previous interaction "remembered" by protocol

- Implication for applications:
  Any state information (shopping carts, user login information, …)
  need to be encoded in every HTTP request *and* response!

- Popular methods on how to maintain state:

  - Cookies

  - Dynamically generate unique URLs

  - Hidden form fields

Conventions

- index.html (Windows: index.htm), .php, ...

  - If local path ends with directory, this file is assumed

    - *Ex: http://www.myserver.foo/Downloads*

  - If not found: directory listing is displayed

    - *Put dummy index.html if you don't want this, or disable default in server*

- Local path *~name*/*path*

  - leads to *~name*/public_html/*path* where *name* is local user name

HTML Primer

- HTML is a data exchange format

  - Unformatted ASCII

    - *Proper indentation increases readability*

  - Text interspersed with tags, some with attributes;
    usually start and end tag:

  - Opening tags: "<" element name ">"

  - Closing tags: "</" element name ">"

  - Tags can be nested:

  `<h1 align="center">headline</h1>`

  `<h1><em>my</em> text</h1>`

- Many editors automatically generate HTML directly from your document

  - But you need to know HTML too, want to generate it lateron!

  - And tool's code sometimes has bad quality, cf. Microsoft Word "Save as html"

HTML Primer (contd.)

```html
<a name="top">

<h1>An important heading</h1>

<h2>A slightly less important heading</h2>

<p>This is the <em>first</em> paragraph.</p>

<img src="peter.jpg" width="150" height="200" alt="me">

My link list:
<ul>
 <li>This is a link to <a href="http://www.w3.org/">W3C</a>
 <li>This a link to <a href="peter.html">Peter's page</a>
 <li>Go to <a href="#top">top</a>
 <li><a href="/"><img src="logo.gif" alt="home page"></a>
</ul>
```

HTML Primer (contd.)

- Text structuring
  - Headlines
  - Paragraphs, text emphasis

- Links
  - External
  - Relative
  - Internal

- Images

- Text structuring (contd.)
  - Lists

```html
<a name="top">

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  <li><a href="/"><img src="logo.gif" alt="home page"></a>
</ul>
```

HTML Primer (contd.)

- Text structuring (contd.)
  - tables
  - row
  - column heading
  - regular column

```
<table>

  <tr>
    <th>Year</th>
    <th>Sales</th>
  </tr>

  <tr>
    <td>2000</td>
    <td>$18M</td>
  </tr>

  <tr>
    <td>2001</td>
    <td>$25M</td>
  </tr>

  <tr>
    <td>2002</td>
    <td>$36M</td>
  </tr>

</table>
```

Year	Sales
2000	$18M
2001	$25M
2002	$36M

HTML Forms

- Common way to communicate data from client to server

- General format of a form:

  - <form action="page.jsp" method="GET" name="loginForm">
      <input type=… value=… name=…>
    </form>

- Components of an HTML form tag:

  - action: URI that handles the content

  - method: HTTP GET or POST

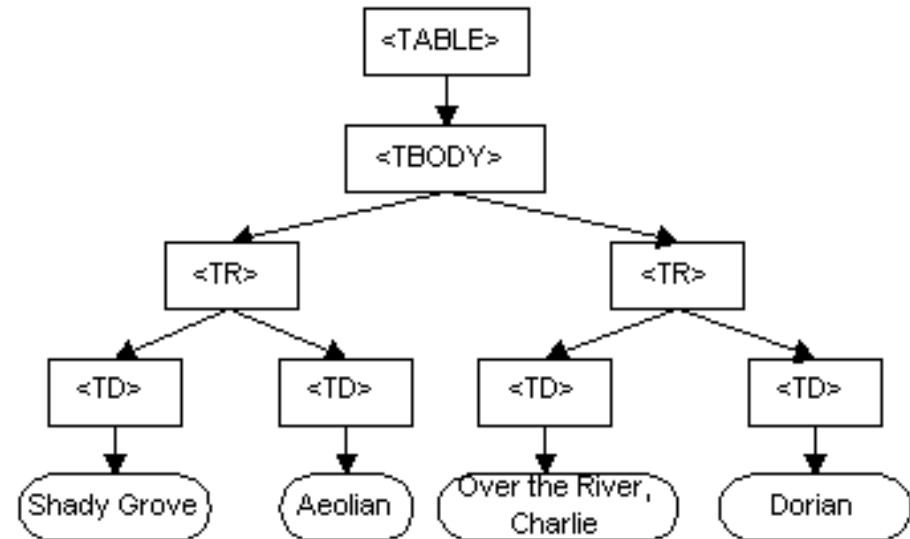 - name: Name of the form; can be used in client-side scripts to refer to the form

HTML and DOM

```
<TABLE>
  <TBODY>
    <TR>
      <TD>Shady Grove</TD>
      <TD>Aeolian</TD>
    </TR>
    <TR>
      <TD>Over the River, Charlie</TD>
      <TD>Dorian</TD>
    </TR>
  </TBODY>
</TABLE>
```

Document Object Model

- HTML document actually describes a tree structure

  - ...that becomes manifest as "real" tree only within browser

- So far: how can I describe such a tree for input into rendering engine?

- Dynamic HTML: *manipulate* tree representation while being displayed

- Document Object Model (DOM) =
  platform and language neutral interface that allows programs and scripts to dynamically access and update content & structure of HTML documents

  - Intro: http://www.w3schools.com/htmldom/default.asp

  - Definition: http://www.w3.org/TR/DOM-Level-2-HTML

CSS: Cascading Style Sheets

- Idea: Separate display style from structure & contents

  - W3C recommendation = standard

- File reference to CSS, placed in HTML <head> section

  - <link rel="style sheet" type="text/css" href="books.css">

- Media specific style sheets

  - <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="screen" href="website.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="print, embossed" href="print.css">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" media="aural" href="speaker.css">

CSS Syntax

- ## CSS syntax (simplified)

  - css-file   ::= css-def*

  - css-def ::= selector "{" (prop ":" val)* "}"

  - selector ::= tag
                   | [tag] "." class
                   | [tag] ":" pseudo

  - elem   ::= STRING

  - class   ::= STRING

  - pseudo   ::= "link" | "visited" | …

  - prop   ::= <predefined prop names>

  - val   ::= STRING
                  | NUMBER ["px" | "cm" | …]

```
body       { font-family:Arial,sans-serif; }
a:link     { color:red }
.special   { color:green; font-size:large; }
```

- ## Effect on HTML page display:

  - same effect as:
    `<h1 style="font-family:Arial,sans-serif">`
    but applies to all `<h1>`

  - Style used in a tag:
    `<a href="…">` is red
    (overriding a default & a definition in CSS)

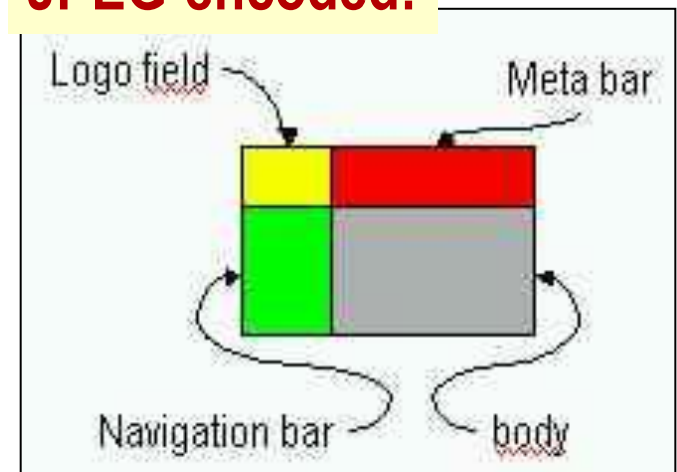 - Style can be used with any tag:
    `<p class="special">`

Web Design

- Corporate Design (CD)

  - set of rules defining (visual) appearance of all company material

- Goal of CD

  - recognition of company across all media

  - transport & amplify message

- preferrably cooperate with a professional graphics designer!

- rules of thumb:

  - few concepts, clearly identified

  - always have in mind target group (B2B vs B2C; food vs entertainment; ...)

Web Design: Key Design Elements

- Title & key phrase & logo
  - Logo: preferrably no shades, simple symbol

- Overall look & feel
  - Describe targeted CD in one sentence

- Colors: primary / secondary / background
  - Define as RGB values, PANTONE, RAL, …; HTML!
  - Image formats: JPEG, GIF, PNG

- Fonts & typesetting
  - serif or sans-serif; max 2!

- Window subdivision
  - Scalable with window size!

Logo field · Meta bar

Navigation bar · body

JPEG-encoded:

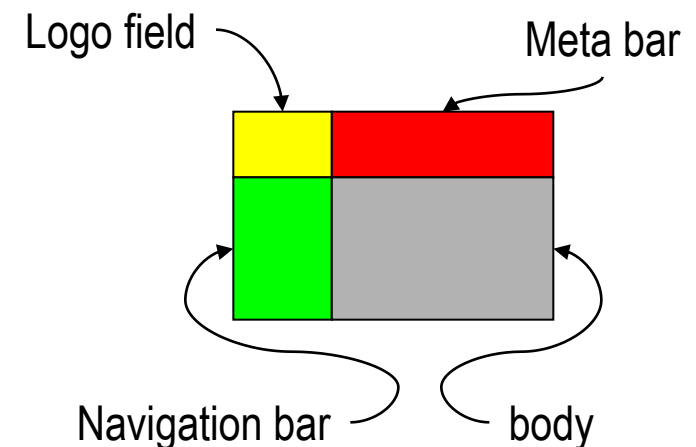Logo field · Meta bar

Navigation bar · body

Web Design: Common Pages

- Navigation bar:

  - News

  - About

  - The service offered
    - *Products*
    - *Solutions*
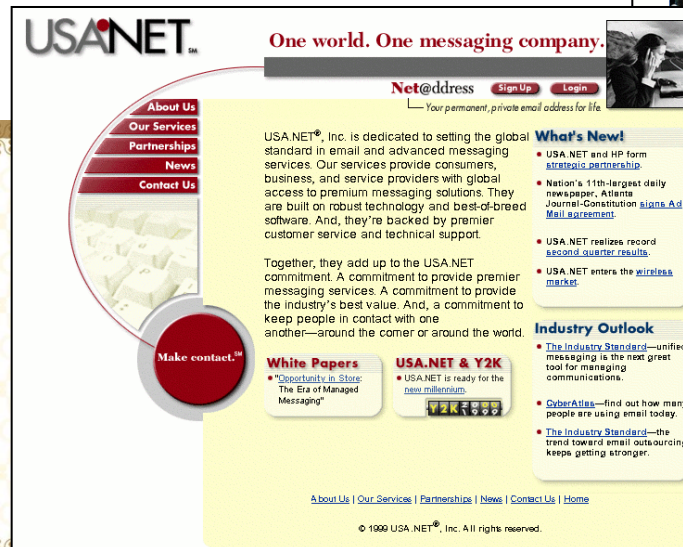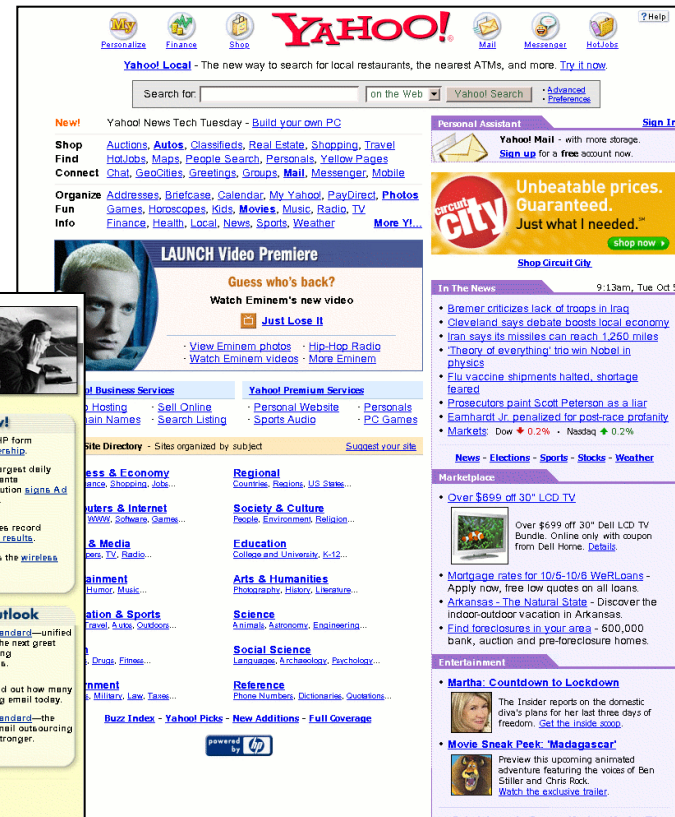   - *Services*

  - Links to related information sources

- Meta bar:

  - Search

  - Sitemap (for larger sites)

  - Contact / webmaster

  - Imprint

Logo field — Meta bar

Navigation bar — body

Web Design: Home Page Variants

- „front door" home page approach

  - Have nice & appealing impression first, information area later

- „information rich" home page approach

  - Give information to client with minimal mouse clicks

- Mixed approaches

Web Design: Good Style

- Browser independent – test it!

  - HTML checkers

  - at least Firefox & Microsoft Internet Explorer

- Suitable for handicapped clients?

- Use CSS to separate layout from contents & structure

- Use tools, such as jQuery http://jquery.com/
  and Twitter Bootstrap http://getbootstrap.com/

- ...see homework and www.webdesign.org for more links

Summary: WWW and HTML

- WWW: another Internet service,
  aimed at easily traversing interconnected documents

- Protocol: HTTP, data exchange format: HTML

  - captures document structure according to fixed schema

- Browser = program that

  - gets page address; fetches HTML (+ likely additional files); renders page for display

- CSS for tailoring layout

- Dynamic HTML for changing page while displayed