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Reading Log Files

Module Learning Outcomes / Resources

10 min

Introduction

1 min

▶ Understanding Log Files

6 min

▶ LogEntry Class with toString

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45 sec

📄 Programming Exercise: Reading Log Files

10 min

★ Practice Quiz: Reading Log Files

3 questions

Finding Unique IP Addresses

Counting Website Visits

Review

Lets you know how many people visit your site

Correct

Lets you know which pages are generating the most traffic

Correct

Can be used to diagnose technical problems with your site, such as a broken link

Correct

Guarantees your site will make money

Un-selected is correct

Continue

▶ 1:19 / 1:19

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Introduction

👍

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Have a question? Discuss this lecture in the week forums.

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Interactive Transcript

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English ▼

0:03

Now, you're going to write some programs and analyze web server log files. Most major web servers log each access to a file, which records who made the request, when the request was made, what their request was, and how the server responded. So why would you want to analyze web server logs? A web sever's log file lets you understand a lot about how your website is being used. You might want to know, how many people are visiting your site? Is it popular or not?

0:31

If you have many different pages, are they all getting traffic or only a few?

0:36

Understanding how your site is being used is particularly important if you're trying to make money off of it. Popular pages bring in revenue, while pages that nobody looks at are not helping your business. The log file can also be useful in diagnosing problems, as it will tell you when your server is experiencing errors.

0:55

If one of the pages isn't getting traffic because a link to it is broken, you want to know, so you can fix it. In the rest of this lesson, you're going to work on code to read the contents of a log file. Being able to read the contents of a log file will set you up to solve a variety of problems, such as figuring out how many different visitors have come to a website [or how many times each visitor has visited the site.](#)

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Transcript (English) txt

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