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Web Development

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- Web Applications Concepts

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What are the different types of web applications?

All web applications fit into one of two different categories: static and dynamic.

A *static* web application (or web site) is HTML and other content that is relatively unchanging. Static web applications consist of resources in the form of HTML in plain text files in a directory structure. This directory structure is accessible by the web server. When the web server is asked for a resource with a URL, the server finds the resource in the directory structure that matches the request and sends it to the user's browser. In static web applications, the web server provides the resource as it is, without interpreting it first. Static web applications are good options for building web sites that contain information that does not change often.

A *dynamic* web application can provide changing (dynamic) content to the user. In a dynamic web application, the application server processes the resource after reading it from the file system and before sending it to the user's web browser. The

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and then sends the output to the user's web browser in the form of HTML.

An example of an interpreter is the PHP interpreter, which reads PHP code from the file system and executes the PHP code to build output in the form of HTML. Other examples of technologies that can be used to build dynamic web applications include Java2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE), Node.js, Ruby, Python, and Groovy.

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