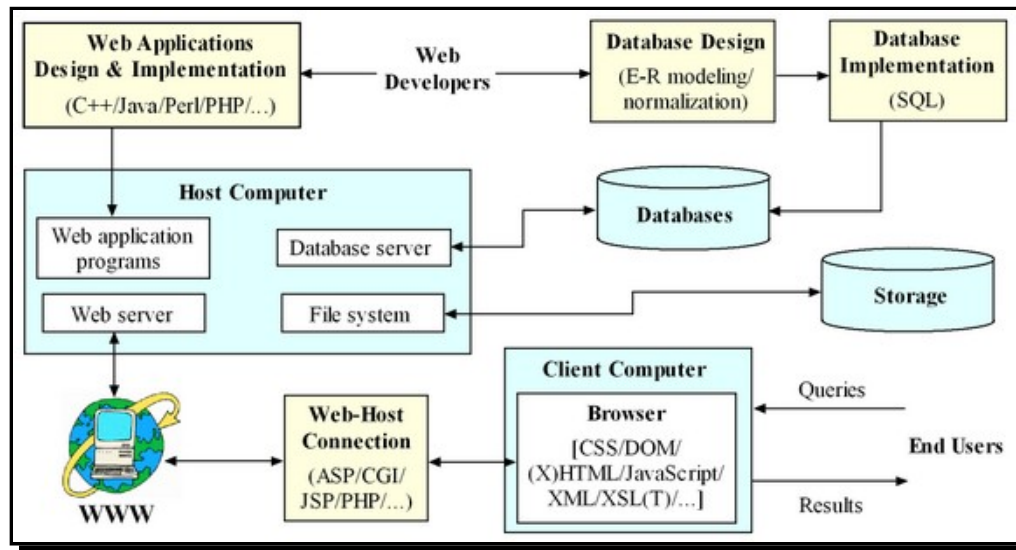


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# A Generic E-Commerce System Structure



A database-driven web site is often using a *three-tiered client-server architecture*, which consists of three layers:

## User Interface

It runs on a PC or workstation (the client) and uses a standard graphical user interface (GUI), which is usually implemented by using (X)HTML and CSS.

## Functional Module

This level actually processes data. It may consist of one or more separate modules running on a workstation or application server. This tier may be multi-tiered itself. The programming languages used for this module are usually with embedded SQL such as JDBC and PHP.

## Database Management System (DBMS)

A DBMS is software that manages databases and allows users to access the data in the databases. Two of DBMSs are Oracle and MySQL.

The major advantage of three-tier design over one/two -tier design is the added modularity makes it easier to modify or replace one tier without affecting the other tiers.

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