

CHT2520 Advanced Web Programming

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Today's session - The Front Controller Pattern (A Router)

The Front Controller Pattern

- Previously we looked at a simple MVC structure
- This example still contains duplicate code
 - e.g. in every controller file `require("models/film.php")`
 - In a real example we'd need to do other tasks e.g. authentication
- A solution is a **front controller**

A Simple Front Controller

- The idea is we have a single php file, *index.php*, that all requests go through.

```
Before using a front controller
index.php    //show all films
show.php?id=3  //show single film
create.php    //add new film
```

```
After using a front controller
index.php    //show all films
index.php?action=show&id=3  //show single film
index.php?action=create    //add new film
```

Practical Work

- Adding a front controller to the basic MVC app
 - Make sure you understand the basic MVC example first
 - This example also re-factors the controllers into a single file by using functions.