

[.Tpl]

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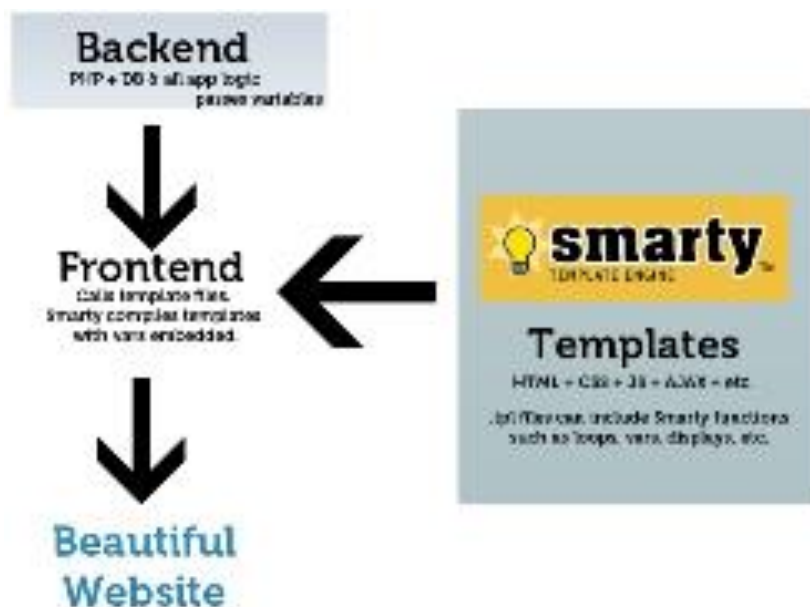
[What is .tpl and what is how is it used in development?]

I saw a .tpl file in our repository that was supposedly created, I was curious as to the purpose of these files and why alternatives couldn't be used

This document will inform on what .tpl files are as well as how they are used in a development environment

What is a .tpl file?

.tpl files are file extensions for a template file format. There are various templates that can be created through different applications. Because our team i specifically, our team is using smarty in our development of our web application, this research will lean towards what is smarty and its use.



What is Smarty?

Smarty is a template engine that is used with php. Through Smarty, presentation is separated from all programming. Mixing these aspects together can be messy and confusing. In other word, the templates would be kept simple and easy to follow , rather than mix them together. Smarty uses a simple tag system/syntax, so your templates are focused on presentation, in order to make the maintenance process a bit easier Smarty compiles templates as php scripts, giving you the speed of php. The designer's job is just to simply has to edit the smarty templates whenever needed. This whole process speeds up execution.

Crash Course

Templating basics: Assign content to Smarty, then display a template file.

```
index.php
include('Smarty.class.php');

// create object
$smarty = new Smarty;

// assign some content. This would typically come from
// a database or other source, but we'll use static
// values for the purpose of this example.
$smarty->assign('name', 'george smith');
$smarty->assign('address', '45th & Harris');

// display it
$smarty->display('index.tpl');
```

The template file then contains the presentational output interspersed with **{tags}** that Smarty replaces with dynamic content.

index.tpl	output
<pre><html> <head> <title>Info</title> </head> <body> <pre> User Information: Name: {\$name} Address: {\$address} </pre></pre>	<pre><html> <head> <title>Info</title> </head> <body> <pre> User Information: Name: george smith Address: 45th & Harris </pre></pre>