

Perl Executing Browser

Yet another GUI for scripts and enhanced web client

Perl Executing Browser

Qt4/5 WebKit browser capable of executing Perl, Python or PHP scripts locally without a web server

<https://github.com/ddmitov/perl-executing-browser>

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Motivation

Searching for a nice and easy to use and distribute cross-platform GUI for local scripts

Problems with library bindings like PerlTk, gtk2-perl, WxPerl, Perlqt4:

- multiple dependencies to install
- difficult packing and distribution

Problems with front-ends like Xdialog, Zenity, Yاد:

- non-flexible set of simple dialogs

Motivation

Local web server solution not desirable for local scripts

Problems:

- ✦ CGI timeout limitation - incompatible with long-running scripts
- ✦ opening another port - possible security vulnerability, administrative privileges may be needed.

Inspiration

- ✦ **PHP Desktop, Perl Desktop**

<https://code.google.com/p/phpdesktop/>

- ✦ **node-webkit**

<https://github.com/rogerwang/node-webkit>

- ✦ **TideSDK**

<http://www.tidesdk.org/>

- ✦ **Diogenes (software for classicists)**

<https://community.dur.ac.uk/p.j.heslin/>

Main Features

- ✦ CGI scripts can be executed locally in serverless mode, feeding them from HTML forms using CGI protocol GET and POST methods.
- ✦ Long-running scripts can also be executed locally in serverless mode.
- ✦ (Limited) interaction with the built-in Perl debugger.

Security

- ✦ Locally scripts are executed with only few necessary environment variables, but have the same privileges as the user, who started the browser.
- ✦ Browser does not download locally executed scripts from remote locations due to the huge security risks involved!
- ✦ Local execution of scripts is not mixed with the traditional browser access to local or remote web servers.

Possible Applications

- ✦ Perl, Python or PHP desktop applications with HTML4/5 & CSS2/3 GUI
- ✦ Web clients with scripting capabilities based on Perl, Python, PHP & JavaScript
- ✦ GUI for existing local scripts
- ✦ (Limited) GUI for the Perl debugger

Thank you!

