Serving Java Docs

- The challenge
  - The Sun Java Site
  - Viewing from your Corporate LAN
  - Viewing from Individual User's Workstations
  - Viewing from a z/OS Server - General set up
  - Viewing from a z/OS Server - in EBCDIC
  - Viewing from a z/OS Server - in ASCII / UTF-8

V 2

The Challenge

- A colleague of mine, John King, has a Java course that I am learning to teach

- One of the exercises is to "use your browser to view the file named index.html that can be found in the docs subdirectory of Java2: \xxxx\docs\index.html"

  - This file is supplied to each student for their own workstation or on the corporate LAN accessible to all users, as part of the course set up

- Now John approaches Java, and related technologies, from the generic, open, wide-ranging approach that is in vogue today (and this is almost certainly the right approach in today's market)

  - But my predilection is to relate all new technologies to the mainframe - in particular to z/OS

- So I began exploring alternatives, and the exploration led me down paths that let me apply my skills in z/OS, hosting web pages on z/OS, z/OS UNIX, and related techniques

  - With some help from the knowledgeable people on the MVS-OE listserv

- This short paper summarizes the conclusions of my explorations and how I got there

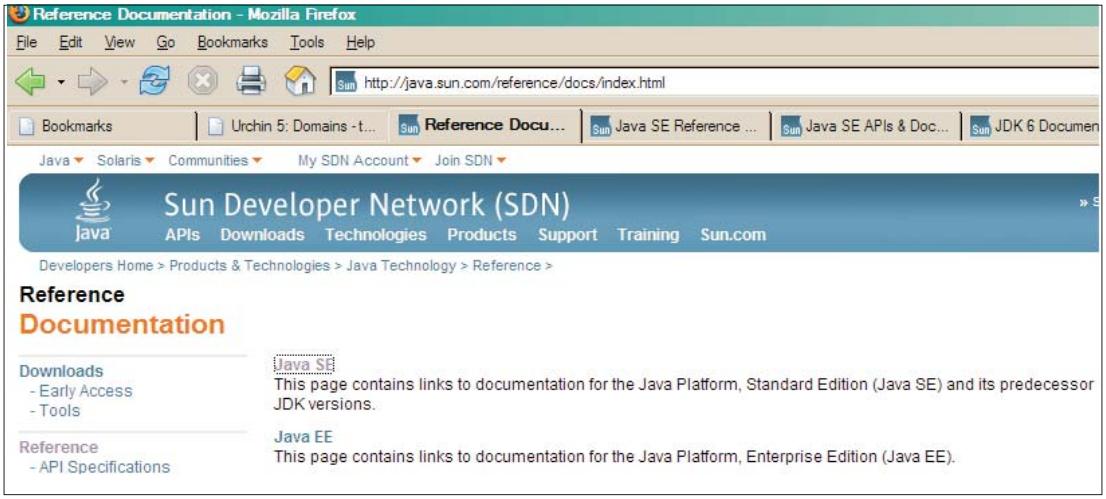
The Challenge Re-stated

- **Clearly, the original exercise was to view a file (local or LAN-based) using the workstation browser**
  - **My re-statement of this started out to view the files from a z/OS server**
    - **And then expanded to examine the alternatives where the java doc files might be viewed from, how to set up each alternative, and what were the tradefoffs among the various choices**

- **My list of locations to view the java documentation ended up as:**
  - The Sun Java site itself
  - Your corporate LAN
  - Your own workstation
  - z/OS server, stored in EBCDIC
  - z/OS server, stored in ASCII
  - **The following pages discuss each option, what it takes to set it up, and the pros and cons of using that location**

Referencing The Sun Java Site

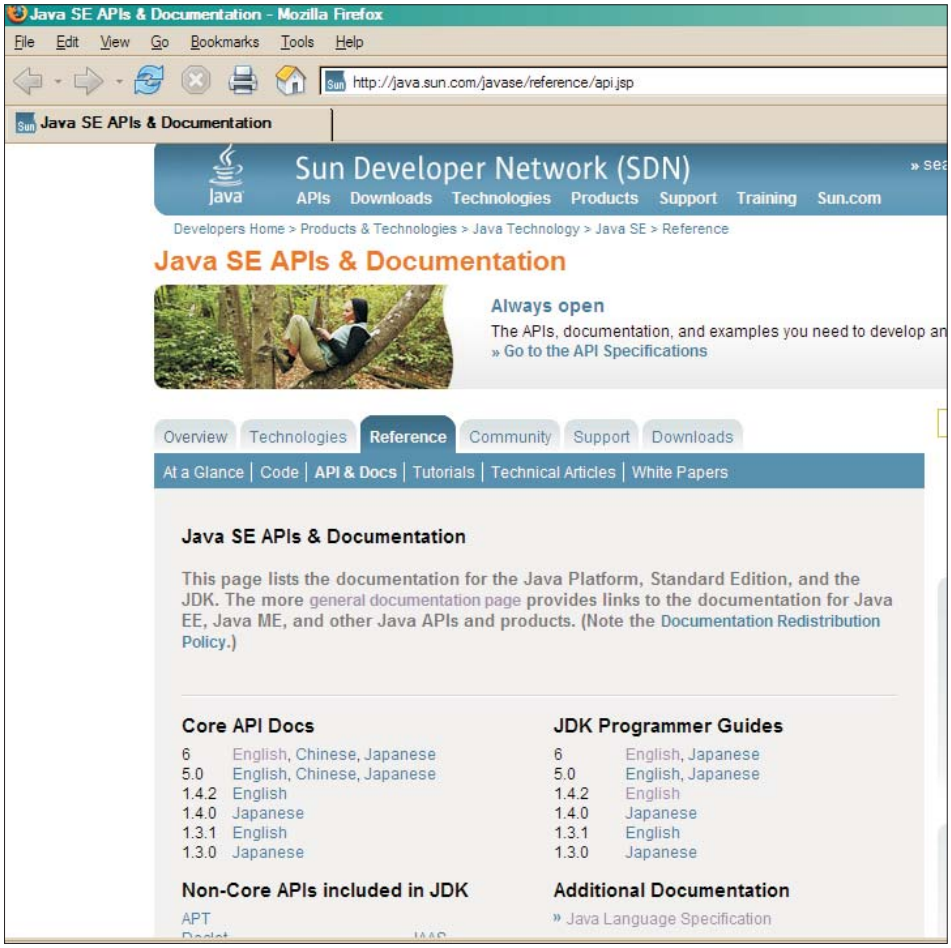
- This web location: http://java.sun.com/reference/docs provides links for viewing or downloading the documentation for various releases of Java products (this has recently been reorganized):



- For our examples, we work with Java SE version 6, so first select the top choice, which gets you to:

Referencing The Sun Java Site, 2

❒ **Now, select the link to "APIs & Documentation" which leads to:**

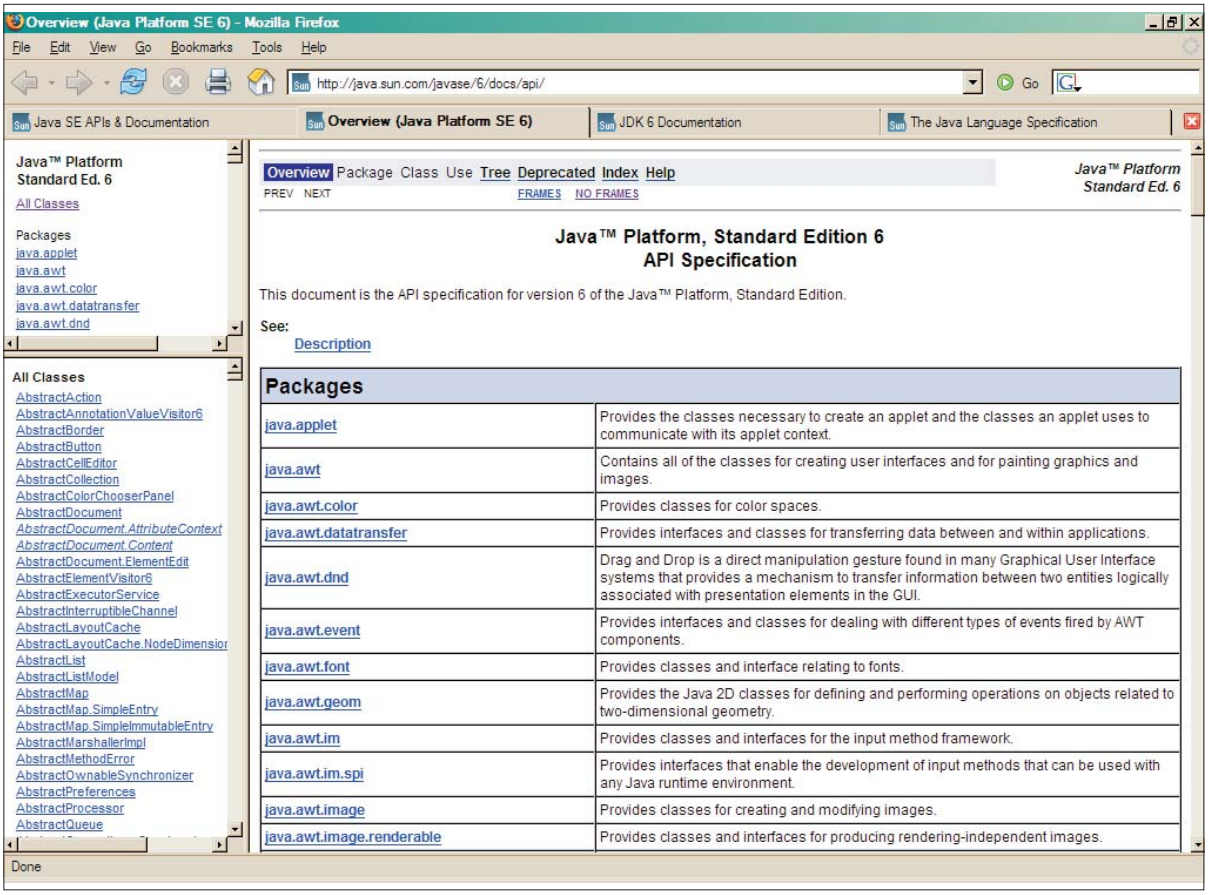


❒ **There are actually three links here that are of interest:**

- **Core API Docs, for the release and language you want**
- **JDK Programmer Guides, for the release and language you want**
- **Additional Documentation - the Java Language Specification**

Referencing The Sun Java Site, 3

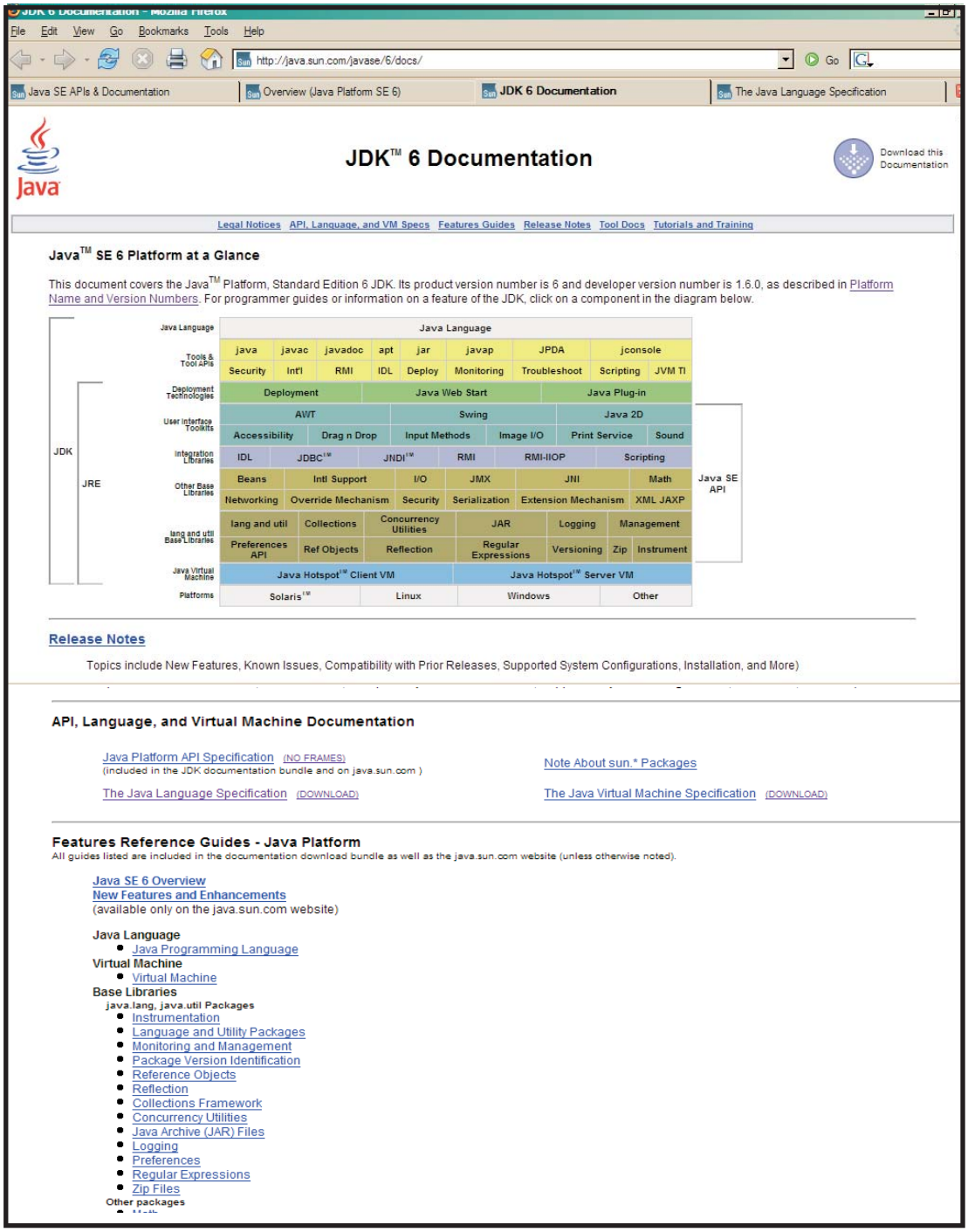
- The "Core APIs Docs" link gets you to the HTML form of the specifications for all the classes, packages, and so on:



- This is a good place to bookmark

Referencing The Sun Java Site, 4

❒ The JDK Programmer Guides, for version 6 anyway, gets you here:



- ♦ **We've shown two scrolls worth of this page here**

Referencing The Sun Java Site, 5

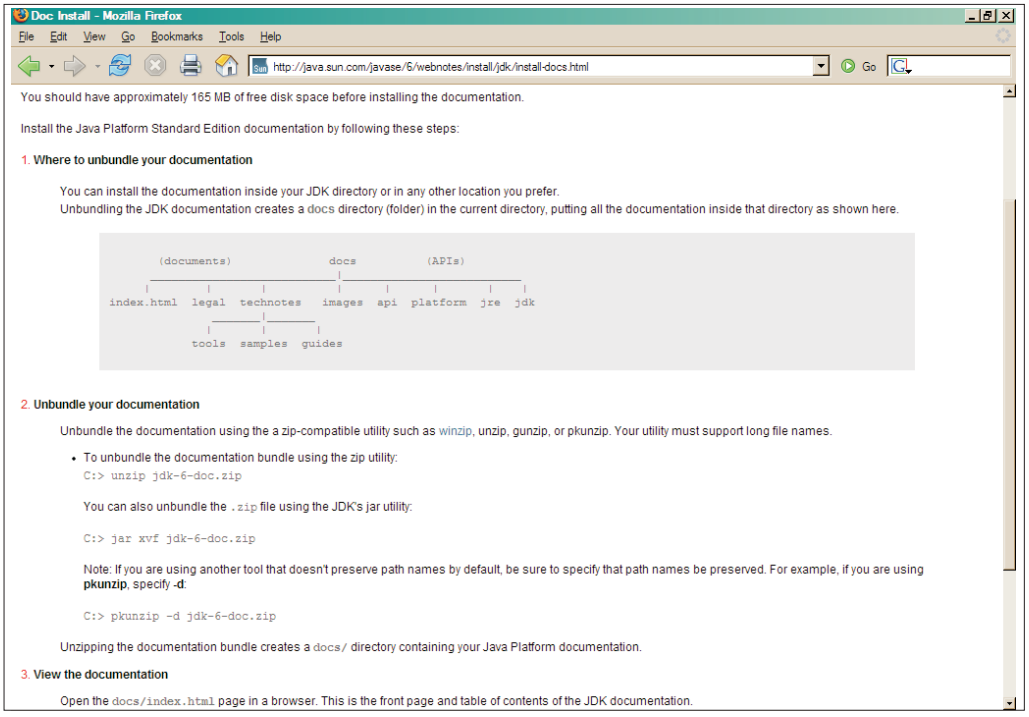
- **Notice the icon in the upper right corner that says "Download this documentation"; if you follow this, and scroll down, you'll see:**

- **The "Java SE Documentation" link takes you back to the page we show on the previous page**

  - **We want the other option ...**

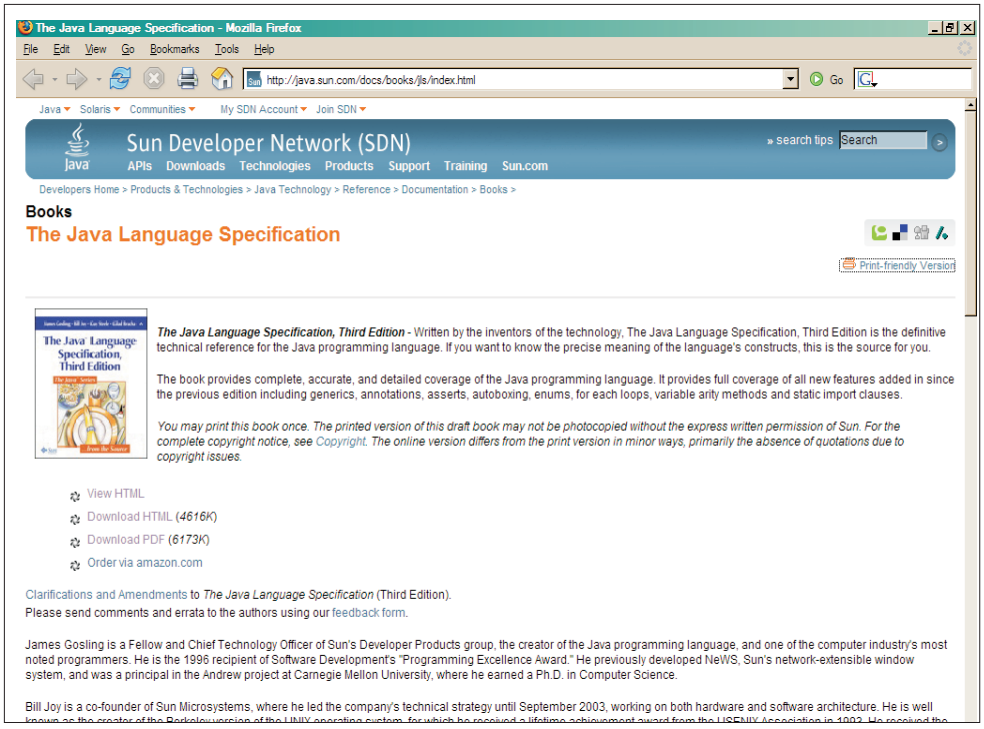
Referencing The Sun Java Site, 6

❒ **Here's the instructions on how to install the Java docs on your system (workstation or LAN, same difference):**



Referencing The Sun Java Site, 7

❒ **The third choice from the list on page 5, "Additional Documentation - The Java Specification" brings you here:**



♦ **So here you can view or download this document**

Java Docs So Far

❒ **So now you've seen how to get to the docs online, and you can link to Sun's site (bookmark your browser)**

Pros

- **Always most current version available**
- **Takes no disk space on local systems**

Cons

- **Not available if site is down or network has a problem**
- **Performance may be an issue**

❒ **Or, you can download the docs to your corporate LAN**

Pros

- **No reliance on external network, after set up**
- **Minimal disk space on local systems**

Cons

- **Not available to users if LAN problems**
- **May not always be most current version**

Java Docs So Far, 2

❒ **Or, you can view from your workstation - download to your machine instead of [in addition to?] the corporage LAN**

Pros

- **No reliance on network, after set up**
- **Best performance**
- **For laptops, docs go with you, available even when offline**

Cons

- **May not always be most current version**
- **Each user is using a chunk of disk space to hold the docs**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - General set up

To set up serving Web pages for Java docs

- **On your z/OS server, you need to set configuration parameters (in our case in /web/httpd1/httpd.conf) that will direct incoming browser requests to a particular directory; I added:**

Pass /Docs/java/* /usr/lpp/internet/server_root/Admin/java_docs/*

  - ✗ **So requests for http://www.ourdomain.com/Docs/java will be directed to the named directory**

- **Create the directory named above**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in EBCDIC

❒ **In every case, we start with the Sun site mentioned on page 4**

To set up - approach 1

- **Point your browser to the Sun site, and download to your workstation as described before**

  ✗ **After downloading, the zip file, extract the contents (which creates a whole hierarchy beginning with a 'docs' directory) to your workstation**

  ✗ **Upload these files one at a time, to the right directories**

  - or -

  ✗ **If you have WebSphere Developer for zSeries (WD4z), establish a connection and a filter that has your target destination (the java_docs directory in our case)**

  ✗ **Select the 'docs' directory on the workstation, right click and select 'copy'; select the USS file node, right click and select 'paste'**

  ✗ **The result in either case is a hierarchy of files with EBCDIC names and EBCDIC content (or binary for gif files)**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in EBCDIC, 2

To set up - approach 1, continued

- **In some cases, when uploading individual files, when rendered by a browser the results may not quite look like the original**
  - ✗ **The basic problem here is that the text files are originally UNIX text files, not Windows text files, so they do not use the same line end conventions**
  - ✗ **For small lines, this is not a problem, but for long lines it can be: the oedit command will not work because the lines are too long for the editor**
  - ✗ **We solved this problem by editing problem files on the wrokstation using the TextPad product (see TextPad.com), simply opening the file and doing a Save As ... type PC, then uploading the saved version**

Pros

- ✗ **Bragging rights**

Cons

- ✗ **Difficult to do**
- ✗ **Not easily maintained**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in EBCDIC, 3

❒ **In every case, we start with the Sun site mentioned on page 4**

To set up - approach 2

- **Point your browser to the Sun site, click on the link to Download - this brings up a dialog regarding where to put the file**

  ✗ **After downloading the zip file, upload it, as binary, into the z/OS directory you chose to hold the docs (/usr/lpp/internet/server_root/Admin/java_docs/* in our case)**

  ✗ **Change to that directory as your current working directory and Issue a "jar" command to unzip the files:**

  ```
  jar -xf jdk-6-doc.zip
  ```

  ✗ **The result is a hierarchy of files with EBCDIC names and UTF-8 content (or binary for gif files)**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in EBCDIC, 4

❒ In every case, we start with the Sun site mentioned on page 4

To set up - approach 2, continued

✗ Next, you need to create a shell script that will convert the text files to EBCDIC, call it, say, cnvt:

```
iconv -f ISO8859-1 -t IBM-1047 $1 > $1.ebc
rm $1
mv $1.ebc $1
```

✗ Put this script into some directory in your PATH, and run it against all files in the hierarchy except filenames that end in .gif:

```
find . ! -name *.gif ! -type d -exec cnvt {}  \;
```

✗ And now you are hosting the Java doc pages on your z/OS system, in EBCDCI

Pros

✗ Bragging rights

Cons

✗ Difficult to do

✗ Not easily maintained

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in ASCII / UTF-8

❒ **As in every case, we start with the Sun site mentioned on page 4**

To set up

- **Point your browser to the Sun site, click on the link to Download - this brings up a dialog regarding where to put the file**

  ✗ **After downloading the zip file, upload it, as binary, into the directory you chose to hold the docs (/usr/lpp/internet/server_root/Admin/java_docs/* in our case)**

  ✗ **Change to that directory as your current working directory and Issue a "jar" command to unzip the files:**

  ```
  jar -xf jdk-6-doc.zip
  ```

  ✗ **The result is a hierarchy of files with EBCDIC names and UTF-8 content (or binary for gif files)**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in ASCII / UTF-8, 2

To set up, continued

- **Now, a difficulty arises: since z/OS is now the server, you must realize that, by default, z/OS's HTTP server translates outbound files with .htm or .html suffixes from EBCDIC to ASCII - whether they need it or not(!)**
  - ✗ **But our Java docs are all already UTF-8 and need no translation - in fact, translation now will make them totally unreadable by any browser**
- **So, we have the following choices**
  - ✗ **Write a script to convert all text file contents to EBCDIC (which is what we just looked at)**
  - ✗ **Write a script or command to change file names so they end in '.ascii'; our approach was:**

```
find . ! -name *.gif ! -type d -exec mv {} {}.ascii \;
```

- **At this point, if someone points their browser at our site asking for page /Docs/java/index.html.ascii, they will see the first page of the Java docs just at it appears on the Sun site**
  - ✗ **But, links will fail because they don't have the '.ascii' suffix we now use for all non-.gif files!**
- **So the final part of the fix is a need to examine every .html file in the docs structure and convert links to ".html' to be links to ".html.ascii" - but it has do all this in UTF-8!**

Viewing from a z/OS Server - in ASCII / UTF-8, 3

Pros

- ✗ **Bragging rights**

Cons

- ✗ **Very difficult to do**
- ✗ **Not easily maintained**

❒ **From a practical standpoint, serving the Sun Java documentation pages from your z/OS system is not an optimal use of that system**

- ♦ **But here you have seen what it would take and, perhaps, gained some insights of working with z/OS and web pages**