

# how could I write as a static page in php dynamic content?

Asked 15 years, 11 months ago   Modified 11 years, 11 months ago

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I have certain user information that they are willing to make public and searchable. I'm thinking ala LinkedIn these should be generated static-pages that reside on our server with a fixed URL.

What, technically, is the recommended way to do this?



Here is the use case: a user indicates that he has contacts at an account, say, Gymboree. His username is stormtrooper. And he knows the Dir of IT and Dir of Network Operations.

I would like a static, searchable page that he can also send people to via email which would render the following:

"stormtrooper" knows the following titles at Gymboree:

- Dir of IT
- Dir of Network

"stormtrooper" wants contacts at the following companies:

- Visa

- Williams-Sonoma

Click the form on the right to contact him to see if you can provide him some contacts.

I'd like the page to be something that someone searching for "Gymboree" could stumble upon to help them connect, so my thinking (perhaps incorrectly) is that it should be a static page. There will be other inbound links pointing to it from similar types of pages.

If he didn't want it searchable, I would want that page for that account and username pair to simply be deleted.



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edited Dec 24, 2012 at 22:42



Charles

51.4k ● 13 ● 106 ● 143

asked Jan 10, 2009 at 0:29



AFG

1,715 ● 3 ● 22 ● 24

3 Answers

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Your question is a little vague, but PHP can cache dynamically created pages into static ones. A very simplistic system would use output buffering to capture the dynamic contents and write them to a file. You then



need to decide how to invalidate this cache (for example, by deleting the static file).



However, you should use caching only when you've encountered a specific performance problem, otherwise it just adds to the complexity of your application needlessly. You can also just cache the underperforming resource (for example database results) instead of the entire page.

If you would elaborate more on what you want to achieve, you'll get a more specific answer.

EDIT: I've reread your modified question. Your approach is incorrect - a person/web crawler requesting the page could not infer from the contents whether it was dynamically generated or not. It could try to guess from the URL format, but those can be controlled by the application. The page can be bookmarked and indexed by search engines just the same.

Caching to actual static files should be used as a optimization when generating those pages on the fly is too expensive.

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[edited Jan 10, 2009 at 1:09](#)

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answered Jan 10, 2009 at 0:39



[Eran Galperin](#)

86.8k ● 24 ● 118 ● 132

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Hi, I addeed some clarification, did that help? – [AFG](#) Jan 10, 2009 at 1:05

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If you already have these pages as dynamic content, [wget](#) them as HTML and save as static pages somewhere on your server. Serve as usual HTML. Regenerate when necessary. I just don't see a reason why you want to make them static (performance? server security policy? why only these pages?).



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answered Jan 10, 2009 at 0:38

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[sastanin](#)

41.5k ● 14 ● 105 ● 130

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Hi, added some clarification, did that help? – [AFG](#) Jan 10, 2009 at 1:27

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I think Eran responded properly above. – [sastanin](#) Jan 12, 2009 at 16:36

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Suppose you have a form that POSTs content to another php, which shows the dynamic results, but you want to be able to "share" the results with other people (therefore, converting the dynamic results to a static page.) Think GoogleDocs. This is what I want to be able to do (and how I found this thread.) So what is the best way to do this?



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answered Jan 17, 2009 at 1:51

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Ryan J L

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