HTTP Environment Variables

GATEWAY_INTERFACE

The revision of the CGI specification this server supports, example: ${\tt GATEWAY}$ INTERFACE=CGI/1.1

PATH

The PATH(s) available to the server for this web site, example: PATH=/sbin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/usr/X11R6/bin

QUERY_STRING

The information (if any) following the "?" in the URL for this request, for example, myform.html?a=b&c=d would provide $_{\tt QUERY\ STRING=a=b\&c=d}$

Among other uses this is the format that forms use with the POST method to send data to the server. **Note:** CGI variables are not initialised before calling SSI - they are not separated into discrete entries. Instead, you must access them as a 'raw' string using the $QUERY_STRING$ variable, for instance, in the above example expr="a = 'b'" DOES NOT WORK but expr=" $QUERY_STRING$ = a

Notes about QUERY_STRING Limits: By default Apache allows a maximum QUERY_STRING length of 8190 bytes. This value can be modified in two ways. At compile time by setting the variable DEFAULT_LIMIT_REQUEST_FIELDSIZE when Apache is built. At run time by setting the **httpd.conf** directives **LimitRequestFieldsize** (default of 8190 or the value of DEFAULT_LIMIT_REQUEST_FIELDSIZE if different) or **LimitRequestLine** (default 8190 or the value of DEFAULT_LIMIT_REQUEST_FIELDSIZE if different). Obviously when using the latter two directives the value cannot be increased beyond 8190 unless the compile time variable has also been increased.

REMOTE_ADDR

The IP address of the host making this request, example: REMOTE ADDR=207.35.76.27

REMOTE_PORT

The port number used by the remote host when making this request, example: ${\tt REMOTE\ PORT=4325}$

REQUEST_METHOD

The method used for this request for HTTP "GET", HEAD" or "POST", example: REQUEST METHOD=GET

REQUEST URI

The URI for this request (relative to DOCUMENT_ROOT), example: REQUEST URI=/tech/web/ssi.htm

SCRIPT_FILENAME

The path to the script being executed (relative to DOCUMENT_ROOT), example: SCRIPT FILENAME=/tech/web/ssi.htm

SCRIPT_NAME

The file name of the script being executed (relative to DOCUMENT_ROOT), example: SCRIPT NAME=/tech/web/ssi.htm

SERVER_ADDR

The IP address of the server for this URL, example: SERVER ADDR=207.35.76.24

SERVER_ADMIN

The administrators e-mail address for this SERVER_NAME, example:

SERVER ADMIN=webmaster@zytrax.com

SERVER_NAME

The servers host name, DNS alias or IP address. For Apache the name appearing on the relevant ServerName directive (may be in the general section or a <virtualhost> section, example:

SERVER NAME=www.zytrax.com

SERVER_PORT

The port number on this server to which this request was directed, example: ${\tt SERVER\ PORT=80}$

SERVER_PROTOCOL

The name and revision of the protocol that delivered the current request, example: SERVER PROTOCOL=HTTP/1.1

SERVER_SIGNATURE

The HTML string that may be embedded in the page to identify this host, example: SERVER SIGNATURE=<ADDRESS>Apache/1.3.14 Server at www.zytrax.com Port 80</ADDRESS>

SERVER_SOFTWARE

The name and version of the information server answering the query, example: SERVER SOFTWARE=Apache/1.3.14 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux) PHP/4.0.3pl1

HTTP Header Variables

The following variables are constructed from the HTTP header information supplied by the requestor.

HTTP_ACCEPT

The MIME types the requestor will accept as defined in the HTTP header, example: ${\tt HTTP}$ ${\tt ACCEPT=*/*}$

HTTP_ACCEPT_ENCODING

The MIME types the requestor will accept as defined in the HTTP header, example: HTTP ACCEPT ENCODING=gzip, deflate

HTTP_ACCEPT_LANGUAGE

The LANGUAGE types the server is requested to accept as defined in the HTTP header and typically used for content negotiation, example:

HTTP ACCEPT LANGUAGE=en-us

HTTP_CONNECTION

The type of connection as defined in the HTTP header, example: \mathtt{HTTP} CONNECTION=Keep-Alive

HTTP_COOKIE

The value of any cookie in the HTTP header. Standard cookie formats are defined by RFC 2965 (Set-Cookie2 header) and the older (non-standard) netscape cookie format.

HTTP_HOST

The base URL of the host, example:

HTTP HOST=www.zytrax.com

HTTP_REFERER

The URL of the page that made this request. If linked from e-mail or manually entered this value is NULL.

HTTP_REFERER=http://www.zytrax.com/tech/web/

HTTP_USER_AGENT

The browser id or user-agent string identifying the browser (nominally defined by RFC 1945 and RFC 2068). See here for our current list.

HTTP USER AGENT=Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.0; Windows NT; DigExt)

SSI Extensions

This section defines the additional variables made available by SSI.

DATE GMT

The current date and time in Greenwich Mean Time (now Unviversal Co-ordinated Time (UCT) in the default or #config defined format).

DATE GMT=Thursday, 03-May-2001 21:18:54 GMT

DATE_LOCAL

The current date and time in the local (server) timezone (in the default or #config defined format). DATE_LOCAL=Thursday, 03-May-2001 17:18:54 EDT

DOCUMENT_ROOT

The root directory of this site defined by the 'DocumentRoot' directive in the General Section or a <virtualhost> section, example:

DOCUMENT ROOT=/var/www/zytrax

DOCUMENT NAME

The file name (excludes directories) of the document requested by the user, example: ${\tt DOCUMENT_NAME=ssi.htm}$

DOCUMENT_PATH_INFO

Not well documented, but it seems that if there is query string information following the URL (starts with a '?'), for instance, ../index.html?x=a, the data (x=a) is placed in QUERY_STRING. If the additional data starts with a /, for instance, ../index.html/path?x=a the data (path?x=a) is placed in the DOCUMENT_INFO_PATH variable. Apache 2.x allows the behaviour to be controlled using the AcceptPathInfo directive

DOCUMENT PATH INFO=

DOCUMENT URI

The URL path of the document requested by the user, example:

DOCUMENT URI=/tech/web/ssi.htm

LAST MODIFIED

The last modification date of the document (file) requested by the user (in the default or #config defined format). This variable is not changed for SSI included files.

LAST_MODIFIED=Thursday, 03-May-2001 17:18:45 EDT

USER_NAME

The user name of the web site in which this web site runs, example:

USER_NAME=zytrax