

Runtime-Terror API

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Request Handler

- **What are the important methods and what do they do?**
 - `SetRequest()` passes the data of a request to a request handler
 - `GenerateResponse()` prompts the handler to generate a response, depending on the handler type
- **When are these methods called and who calls them?**
 - `SetRequest()` is called by a `Dispatcher` when it takes in a request
 - `GenerateResponse()` is called by the same `Dispatcher` after `SetRequest()` has passed the request to the correct request handler
- **How could one test the request handlers?**
 - Request handlers are tested through unit tests and integration tests on the derived classes of class `RequestHandler`:
 - `StaticHandler`
 - `EchoHandler`
 - `BadHandler`
 - and class `Dispatcher`

Config File Format

- **How are server-level parameters (like the port number) specified?**
 - The config file is parsed and read by ConfigParser and ConfigReader classes
 - Then the port that the server listens on will be specified in the main function and can be accessed through ConfigReader's GetPort() function
- **How are URLs associated with request handlers?**
 - URLs are associated with request handlers using a `std::unordered_map` in HandlerManager
 - Handlers are stored in `handler_map_` using `AssignHandler()` when a HandlerManager object is constructed and mapped to URLs in the config file
 - The URL is used as a key in `handler_map_` to access the corresponding handler
 - If a URL->handler mapping is not found, `BadHandler` is returned
- **How are request handlers configured?**
 - RequestHandler objects are configured using the HTTP request when it comes in
 - For static requests, the RequestHandler object checks that the file path is valid, retrieves the file, and generates a response by adding header information
 - For echo requests, the RequestHandler adds header information to the HTTP request body and returns it

Example Config

```
server {  
    listen 80;  
  
    location /echo {  
        handler echo;  
    }  
  
    location /static {  
        handler static;  
        root /static;  
    }  
}
```

Dispatcher Mechanism

- **How is the config file used to construct request handler objects?**
 - The parsed config file is handed to a ConfigReader, which extracts any defined Locations and returns them in a vector
 - This vector of Locations is used to construct a HandlerManager, which constructs a RequestHandler using handler and root and maps it to the corresponding url
- **What is the lifetime of request handler objects?**
 - Each RequestHandler object exists until the webserver is shut down
- **How are HTTP requests parsed and dispatched to the correct request handler?**
 - When the webserver receives a request, it is used to construct a Request object
 - This Request object has a member function GetRequestURL () that extracts the request's URL
 - The Request object is passed into a Dispatcher object, which contains a HandlerManager that maps the extracted URL to the correct handler