

Tutorial 1: *Programming with JavaScript*

Server-Side Scripting Languages

A server-side scripting language is one that resides on the server. Whereas client-side scripting happens inside the users browser, after they've downloaded the code, server-side languages work before the file is sent from the server.

Server-side languages tend to deal with more "heavy lifting" than client side. They retrieve records from databases, maintain state over the stateless HTTP connection, and do a lot of things that require more security than client-side scripting languages alone can provide. Because they reside on the server, these programs never have their source code exposed to the user. In contrast, client-side scripting languages source code must be available to the client by definition.

Here are some examples of server-side scripting languages.

ASP (*.asp)

Short for **Active Server Pages**, ASP was Microsoft's first server-side script engine for dynamically generated web pages. ASP allows various languages (though generally *VBScript* is used) inside a HTML-like outer page. Primarily a Windows technology, but with limited support on other platforms.

ASP.NET (*.aspx)

ASP.NET is a set of web application development technologies marketed by Microsoft. Programmers can use it to build dynamic web sites, web applications and XML web services. It is part of Microsoft's .NET platform and is the successor to Microsoft's Active Server Pages (ASP) technology.

C via CGI (*.c, *.csp)

C is a general-purpose programming language and is one of the most widely used programming languages of all time. The Common Gateway Interface (CGI) is a method for web server software to delegate the generation of web content to executable files. Such files are known as CGI scripts; they are programs, often stand-alone applications, usually written in a scripting language.

ColdFusion Markup Language (CFML) (*.cfm)

Cross platform tag-based commercial server side scripting system. Multiple commercial and open source implementations of CFML engines are available.

ESP

ESP or Escapade was written in 1997 by Ed Carp, and enjoys wide use in Europe, but has had limited acceptance in the US.

Java via JavaServer Pages (*.jsp)

A Java-based system for embedding Java-related code in HTML pages. Sun Microsystems created Java. Oracle bought Sun, and thus they became the owners of Java.

JavaScript using Server-side JavaScript (*.ssjs, *.js)

Netscape introduced an implementation of the language for server-side scripting with Netscape Enterprise Server, first released in December, 1994 (soon after releasing JavaScript for browsers).

Lasso (*.lasso)

Lasso is an interpreted programming language and server for developing internet applications which use web browsers for the client user interface to connect to HTTP and database servers.

LSP

Short for **Lua Server Pages**, LSP is based on the Lua programming language. LSP is a fast scripting language suitable for CPU and/or memory constrained systems.

Lua (*.lp *.op)

Lua is a powerful, fast, lightweight, embeddable scripting language. Lua is pronounced LOO-ah and means "Moon" in Portuguese.

Perl CGI (*.cgi, *.ipl, *.pl)

Short for ***P**ractical **E**xtraction and **R**eport **L**anguage*, Perl is a programming language developed by Larry Wall, especially designed for processing text. Because of its strong text processing abilities, Perl has become one of the most popular languages for writing Common Gateway Interface (CGI) scripts.

PHP (*.php)

Self-referentially short for ***PHP: H**ypertext **P**reprocessor*, an open source, server-side, HTML embedded scripting language used to create dynamic Web pages.

Python, e.g. via Django (*.py)

Python is a general-purpose, interpreted high-level programming language whose design philosophy emphasizes code readability. Its syntax is said to be clear and expressive. Python has a large and comprehensive standard library. *Django* is an open source Web 2.0 application framework written in Python.

Ruby, e.g. via Ruby on Rails (*.rb, *.rbw)

Ruby is a dynamic, reflective, general-purpose object-oriented programming language. Abbreviated as **RoR**, *Ruby on Rails* (also referred to as just Rails) is an open source Web application framework, written in Ruby, for developing database-backed Web applications.

SMX (*.smx)

Lisp-like open source language designed to be embedded into an HTML page.

VBScript via Server-side VBScript (*.jsp)

See ASP.

WebDNA (*.dna,*.tpl)

WebDNA is a server-side scripting, interpreted language with an embedded database system, specifically designed for the World Wide Web and recently released as a freeware (FastCGI version). Its primary use is in creating database-driven dynamic web page applications.

WebSpeed (*.r,*.w)

WebSpeed from Progress Software allows developers to rapidly create highly scalable business applications that process large volumes of transactions over the Internet.