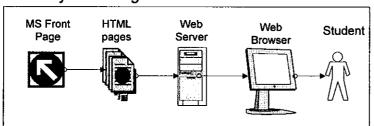
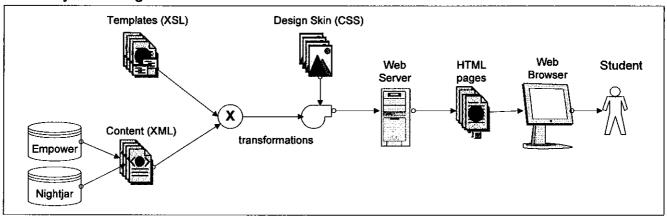
Pre-Whydah Design



The architecture of the IES public website prior to Whydah is shown on the left. Most of the pages on the site were static HTMLs with no imported elements. Because content, layout and decoration were all tightly coupled, there was no way to effect global design change, and a content change trio a page sked breaking the design. There was no active connection to emPower.

The next generation of the website (Whydah, below) had active connections to Empower plus a content management system (Nightjar) for business-critical content. Content is stored in XML, completely decoupled from any design elements. Layout and decoration flexibility is maximized by defining a small group of reusable templates using XML stylesheets (XSL) for the few dozen page types on the site. Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) are used to manage the thematic decoration (color schemes & headers) for the different countries and centers. This design has reduced the enterprise of entering new pages (and entire centers) to little than adding more content in the XML files.

First Whydah Design



In order to accommodate a comprehensive Content Management System (called Sculptor), Whydah has been redesigned to a Multi-Tier architecture (below). The website is reduced to a shell that waits for design and content data. Sculptor need only understand the file formats of the content and design data and the rules for manipulating them, rather than have to interface with the mechanics of the website. A side benefit of this decoupled design is that the Website Shell is that can accommodate any website that conforms to the data format. This leverages our previous work so new, different websites can be created quickly with a minimum of technical issues.

