A web application is a computer program that utilizes web browsers and web technology to perform tasks over the Internet.

Web applications use a combination of server-side scripts (PHP and ASP) to handle the storage and retrieval of the information, and client-side scripts (JavaScript and HTML) to present information to users. This allows users to interact with the company using online forms, content management systems, shopping carts and more. In addition, the applications allow employees to create documents, share information, collaborate on projects, and work on common documents regardless of location or device.

Web applications are usually coded in browser-supported language such as JavaScript and HTML as these languages rely on the browser to render the program executable. Some of the applications are dynamic, requiring server-side processing. Others are completely static with no processing required at the server.

The web application requires a web server to manage requests from the client, an application server to perform the tasks requested, and, sometimes, a database to store the information. Application server technology ranges from ASP.NET, ASP and ColdFusion, to PHP and JSP.

Here's what a typical web application flow looks like:

1. **User** triggers a request to the **web server** over the **Internet**, either through a web browser or the application’s user interface
2. **Web server** forwards this request to the appropriate **web application server**
3. **Web application server** performs the requested task – such as querying the **database** or processing the data – then generates the results of the requested data
4. **Web application server** sends results to the **web server** with the requested information or processed data
5. **Web server** responds back to the client with the requested information that then appears on the user’s display.

| **BASIS FOR COMPARISON** | **SERVER-SIDE SCRIPTING** | **CLIENT-SIDE SCRIPTING** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Basic | Works in the back end which could not be visible at the client end. | Works at the front end and script are visible among the users. |
| Processing | Requires server interaction. | Does not need interaction with the server. |
| Languages involved | PHP, ASP.net, Ruby on Rails, ColdFusion, Python, etcetera. | HTML, CSS, JavaScript, etc. |
| Affect | Could effectively customize the web pages and provide dynamic websites. | Can reduce the load to the server. |
| Security | Relatively secure. | Insecure |