Difference Between Client Side & Server Side Programming

When programming a web application, it's important to know the difference between client-side programming and server-side programming. Client-side programming is run on the clients machine, creating some advantages and disadvantages. Even with client-side advantages, server-side programming is more secure and is preferred by most programmers. Server-side programming also has more options for languages than client-side.

Client-side

Client-side programming is run on the user's computer. An example of client-side programming is Javascript. Javascript can be used to run checks on form values and send alerts to the user's browser. The problem with client-side scripts is the limit of control and problems with operating systems and web browsers. Since programming a website involves users with several options of computer software, it's difficult for programmers to account for any bugs in the code or compatibility issues with browsers.

Server-side

Server-side scripts are run on the server. This reduces the amount of bugs or compatibility issues since the code is run on one server using one language and hosting software. Server-side programming can also be encrypted when users send form variables, protecting users against any hack attempts. Some examples of server-side programming languages are C#, VB.NET, and PHP.

Security

Server-side scripts are more secure than client-side. For instance, when a user accesses a bank account online, the server side-script communicates with the client using encryption. A client-side script is plain text and run on the client's browser. Any unscrupulous hacker can view the code and eavesdrop, stealing private information from the user's computer.

Browser Compatibility

The code run on the user's computer using scripts like Javascript can be blocked. Most browsers give the user the option to block client-side code, which causes a problem with web developers who need Javascript to run on the computer for the web application to load properly. Server-side scripting does not have any browser limitations.

Ajax

Ajax is a newer technology that uses both client-side scripting and server-side scripting in conjunction. Ajax can call a database without refreshing the page. Ajax is an example of a client-side script that calls a server-side script. The call is transparent to the user since a new call to the server is done in the current window without refreshing the page like typical server-side calls.

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