

Summary of Server-Side Scripting

When a web page with server-side scripting is requested from a server, the script is processed before the page is served to the browser. Processing the script may entail retrieving data from a database, performing simple calculations, or deciding which pieces of content to display on the page. After the script is processed, the resulting content is returned to the browser and rendered. This process can be triggered by a simple page request, such as a user filling out a form, or by interacting with a specific widget. The scripts themselves are hidden from the end user because they run on the web server before serving the content. This adds an extra layer of security to both the data and the source code. Of course, there are some disadvantages to using server-side scripting. Because the processing must be done on the server, the web server bears the burden of running the application rather than the client machine. Larger applications or sites with a high volume of page requests may experience slowdowns or be forced to upgrade to larger or even multiple servers to handle the load. The flow of dynamic pages can also be frustrating for end users; because the server must process the scripts, a page refresh is usually required to display new content.