Subject: Web interface development
Posted by Jeff[2] on Tue, 06 Jan 2009 16:12:58 GMT
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Hello,

I'm not sure if my problem can be solved using IDL. I need to develop
a Web interface to access a database based on metadata extracted from
satellite images. The medatada includes date of image, satellite id,
number of rows and columns, geographical coordinates, etc. The system
must allow the user to find satellite images, making searches based on
some information of metadata. Has someone tried to do something
similar with IDL? Isn't there some open source application to do that?

Any comments welcome,
Julio

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by kirt on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 16:17:06 GMT
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There used to be a product ion (IDL On the Net) which seems like it
might be a match. I'm not sure if it is in the current release (it was
in 7.0). We didn't use it, as it had licensing issues with our
firewall.
-kirt

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by Jean H. on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 16:30:10 GMT
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kirt wrote:
> There used to be a product ion (IDL On the Net) which seems like it
> might be a match. I'm not sure if it is in the current release (it was
> in 7.0). We didn't use it, as it had licensing issues with our
> firewall.
> -kirt

According to the OP written needs, it seems far too complicated to use
IDL... as T.H. suggested, PHP is great for 1)user interface,
2)connection to a database.

A simple mySql database should be enough too. It is fairly easy to query
the metadata. If spatial requests are needed, maybe using a map server
for the selection, or at least a spatial DB (postgress comes to mind)

should do the trick.

Jean

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by jeffnettles4870 on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 17:10:47 GMT
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You could also combine PHP and IDL if you really wanted to. Dr. Henry
Throop gave a presentation at the IDL user's group meeting called The
New Horizons Geometry Visualizer: Planning the Encounter with Pluto
where he did this very thing. I didn't see his presentation, but
downloaded it from ITT's website. It looked very slick. You can find
the presentation at:

http://www.ittvis.com/portals/0/pdfs/idl/uc/GV_oct08.pdf

The one potential "gotcha" to this is that PHP has to start and stop
an new IDL session every time someone uses the web interface (by way
of a shell script if i recall), so it could get slow and probably
wouldn't be appropriate if you have a lot of users to support. But if
you have just a few, it might be the perfect idea. I actually tried
the web interface, and it seemed to work fine to me, so i am
investigating it for a project i'm working on myself.

Jeff

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by R.Bauer on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 20:51:13 GMT
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Jeff N. schrieb:
> You could also combine PHP and IDL if you really wanted to. Dr. Henry
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> the web interface, and it seemed to work fine to me, so i am
> investigating it for a project i'm working on myself.
>
> Jeff

both on a webserver can give lot's of security implications.
Be careful.

Reimar

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by jeffnettles4870 on Wed, 07 Jan 2009 22:28:20 GMT

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On Jan 7, 3:51 pm, Reimar Bauer <R.Ba...@fz-juelich.de> wrote:
> Jeff N. schrieb:
>
>
>
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>> investigating it for a project i'm working on myself.
>
>> Jeff
>
> both on a webserver can give lot's of security implications.
> Be careful.
>
> Reimar

Hmm, well as i recall Dr. Throop only put snippets of his code in that

---

presentation, but i'd assume he took the necessary precautions.
Personally, i'm not sure i'm ever going to implement any web
interfaces (i'm trying to get someone else to do support the task my
interface would perform :)), but you do have me curious...what kinds
of security implications are you talkign about?

Jeff

Subject: Re: Web interface development
Posted by Nigel Wade on Thu, 08 Jan 2009 09:05:12 GMT
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Julio wrote:

> Hello,
>
> I'm not sure if my problem can be solved using IDL. I need to develop
> a Web interface to access a database based on metadata extracted from
> satellite images. The medatada includes date of image, satellite id,
> number of rows and columns, geographical coordinates, etc. The system
> must allow the user to find satellite images, making searches based on
> some information of metadata. Has someone tried to do something
> similar with IDL? Isn't there some open source application to do that?
>
> Any comments welcome,
> Julio

From your description it seems that what you require is HTTP server-side code to
access a database to find the relevant satellite image and return it to the web
client (browser). You could do this using CGI (PHP or Perl would probably be
the easiest) or some more complicated solution using web services such as Java
and a servlet engine (e.g. Tomcat).

I don't see where IDL fits into this. I expect that you could use IDL in the CGI
script and get it to access the database, fetch an image and send it to the
client. But it's hardly the right tool for the job.

--
Nigel Wade