Smarty Template Engine

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Introduction

• One of the major issues in web development is separating presentation from business logic.
• One way to do this is to use a template engine.
• We will talk about Smarty, a very popular template engine for PHP.

Doing It Normally

• Guestbook application
  – Connect to database
  – Retrieve entries
  – Loop through entries and print out a table

What This Means

• Red is business logic and is specific to the application.
• Blue is presentation related and is not necessarily managed by the programmer.

The Smarty Way

• Template files control the presentation.
• Business logic up to the programmer.
• The Smarty engine handles template files.
• Plug-in based – easy enhancement.
• Many third party plug-ins exist.

The Smarty Way

• Guestbook application:
  – Connect to database
  – Initialize Smarty
  – Set template variables
  – Call Smarty to display template
The Smarty Way

- guestbook.tpl:
  - Loop through entries
  - Display information for each entry

What This Means

Guestbook Application
- Red, as before, is business logic and is specific to the application.
- Green represents the middle layer, Smarty.

What This Means

guestbook.tpl
- Green now represents Smarty’s template syntax.
- Blue, as before, is presentation related and is not necessarily managed by the programmer.

Demo

- Demo of Smarty’s biggest features.
  1. It works.
  2. Easy to modify templates.
  3. Custom function.
  4. Variable modifiers.
  5. Putting it all together.
  6. Caching – guestbookc.php

Summary

- Smarty does a very good of separating business logic from presentation logic.
- Smarty offers a number of features to enhance templating abilities including template compiling, caching and numerous plug-ins.