

WWW-Based Data Entry for Document Clearance Requests

Dana M. Stasiak Argonne National Laboratory October 8, 1997



Outline

- Document clearance process
- EDRC system
- Major components
- Expected benefits/costs
- Demonstration

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Problem

- All documents created at Argonne must be cleared before being published
- Clearance process is coordinated by the Publications & Record Services (PRS)
- Clearance process affects all researchers at Argonne

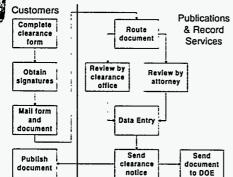


Actors

- Authors
- Publication Handlers
- Publications & Record Services
 - Data entry staff
 - Clearance officers
- Legal Dept.
 - Attorney
- DOE
 - Office of Scientific and Technical Information



Clearance Process





Motivation

- Demand by customers for an electronic clearance process
- Expedite clearance process
- Reduce paper flow
- · Reduce duplicate data entry
- Establish a publications archive (in the future)



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Solution

- Electronic Document Review and Clearance System (EDRC)
 - Web-based submission of clearance requests
 - Electronic staging area for documents awaiting review
 - Web-based review and clearance of documents



EDRC Components

- BASISPlus database and server
- Web scripts
- Webservers
- Document staging area



APT Database

- APT = Argonne Publications Tracking
- Existing BASISPlus database for tracking clearance transactions
- Character cell interface for staff data entry
- FQM procs for generating reports, statistics, and quality assurance



Web Scripts

- Custom scripts written in C, using the BASIS OpenAPI
- Script functions
 - Dynamically generate the data entry screens
 - Process the results of HTML forms
 - Retrieve information from APT database
 - Update the APT database
- Functionality divided into 3 modules



Public Enter/Edit Module

- Enter clearance request information
- Edit clearance request information before saving
- Provide lists of accepted values
- Perform additional data validation
- Generate signature form



Public Update Module

- Receives data from enter/edit module
- Adds a record to the APT database
- Sends confirmation of database update to customer



Review Module

- Generate list of documents awaiting review
- Retrieve document to review from APT database
- Save review results



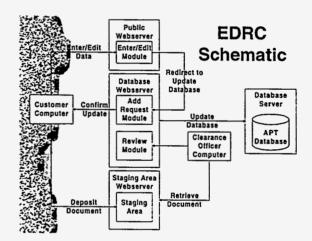
Webservers

- Public Webserver
 - runs the public enter/edit module
- Database Webserver
 - dedicated solely to handling database requests
 - runs the add request module
 - runs the review module
- Staging Area Webserver
 - access to documents awaiting review



Document Staging Area

- Repository for documents awaiting review and clearance
- Retrieve documents via a webserver
- Restricted access





Expected Benefits/Costs

- Benefits
 - Web interface is easy to learn
 - Highly customized data entry forms
 - Ability to edit data before updating database
- Costs
- Longer development time
- Harder to make changes to interface



Demonstration of Public Enter/Edit System





Note:

 Following slides may or may not be used as part of discussion on general web scripting at conference



Writing Scripts

- Common Gateway Interface (CGI) is a standard for creating web scripts
- Scripts can be written in pretty much any language available
- Beware of the security risks associated with each scripting languages
- Lots of information available on the Internet



Processing HTML forms

- Get the data string
 - name1=value1&name2=value2...
- Break up the data string into name/value pairs and store in variables
- URL decode the value strings
- Do something with the form data



POST Forms

- POST forms pass the form data as a string on standard input with the format
 - name1=value1&name2=value2
- The length of this string is contained in the environment variable
 - CONTENT_LENGTH



GET Forms

- GET forms pass the form data as a string stored in the environment variable
- QUERY_STRING
- name1=value1&name2=value2
- Limits length of query string



URL Encoding/Decoding

- When form data is passed from a browser to a webserver, it is URL encoded
- URL encoding
 - special characters are converted to their hexadecimal equivalents and spaces are converted to plus signs (+)
- URL decoding
 - convert hexadecimal values into characters
- Special characters include ampersand (&), percent (%) and many others



Environment Variables

- REQUEST_METHOD
 - POST, GET
- CONTENT_TYPE
- application/x-www-form-urlencoded
- CONTENT_LENGTH
 - length of string when using POST method
- QUERY_STRING
 - form data when using GET method



Sending Back a Response

- Must send the correct HTTP headers
- At a minimum, script must return the following
 - Content-type: text/html
 - <blank line>
- Blank line signals end of headers and beginning of HTML document
- Can also send Set-Cookie headers
 - Set-Cookie: name=value



BASIS Scripts

- Scripts which access a BASIS database must run in the correct environment
- Webserver environment does not usually have the correct settings
- Easy fix is to put a wrapper script around the BASIS script
- Can use the BASIS webserver gateway as a starting point for wrapper script
 - SDM/www/bin/nph-bwcgis

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Title:	WWW-Based Data Entry for Document Clearance Reques
Invited?:	● Yes ○ No
Conference Name:	IDEA Annual Conference
Location:	St. Louis, MO USA
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Send Request

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To complete your request, please select the button *Signature Form* below. Selecting this button will create a form containing the information you have entered, a space to fill in the intellectual property and classification review information, and a space for the signatures of the author, division/program representative, and the authorized derivative classifier (if needed). Please print out this page using the print commands of your browser and obtain the necessary signatures. Mail the signed form to the PRS office.

NOTE: Processing of your request will **NOT** begin until the signed form is received by PRS.

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- Document Description
- Bibliographic Information
- Author Information

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