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
- Blue, as before, is managed by the programmer.

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template syntax.

Blue, as before, is presentation related and is not necessarily managed by the
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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.