

LIS900C

Webmastering: the static web site

2002–04–16

See <http://openlib.org/home/krichel/courses/lis911n02i> for the latest online version of this file.

Course Description

This course focuses on the construction of a web site. Students will learn how web sites work, and how to design good web sites. The course will not be conducted using an application package to generate HTML. Instead, students will learn how to hand-code the pages. This is a useful skill even though—in professional practice—students may not end up writing the pages by hand.

The course will cover the base ground of background knowledge that is required to understand how the web really works. In addition to the html that is taught almost entirely through learning-by-doing, students will listen to presentations about http and URIs. Finally students will be introduced to the subject of information architecture.

Course objectives

After taking this course students

- they will be able to interact with a UNIX based server for storage and retrieval of pages;
- they will understand fundamental concepts of http;
- they will have sufficient knowledge of HTML in order to create simple pages;
- they will have been introduced to Uniform Resource Identifiers;
- they will have see the main configuration options of the apache web server;
- they will have a grounding in information architecture

Basically at the end of the end of the course, students should be able to manage a running web site on their own. Students will be provided with free web space where they can design their own sites. This web space will be available even after the course ends.

Prerequisites

There are no other formal prerequisites for this course. Students should be familiar with the World Wide Web, and should be able to use a MS Windows computer, i.e. click on an icon to run a program. Students should also be familiar with basic concepts of computer hardware and software, concepts like files, memory. Everything that goes beyond that will be explained in class or by personal interaction with the instructor. No prior knowledge of HTML is assumed.

Instructor

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Students

Inna Bulgak

Eileen Cheek

Heather Gibb
Veronica Keane

Julie Shin
Beth Siegel

Class structure

Classes will be held in the computer lab in the Palmer School between 9:00 and 17:00. Each class will have some presentation by the instructor. However a majority of time the class will work directly with their computers under the supervision of the instructor.

Class details:

0	2002—05—13, morning	introduction to the course
1	2002—05—13, afternoon	practical work
2	2002—05—14, morning	introduction to URIs
3	2002—05—14, afternoon	practice session
4	2002—05—15, morning	the http protocol
5	2002—05—15, afternoon	practice session
6	2002—05—16, morning	information architecture
7	2002—05—16, afternoon	practice session
8	2002—05—17, morning	the apache server

Readings

There are literally tons of books on HTML around, choose one that you like. Castro (1999) is a widely used book. Werbach (2002) is a good online source. Morville and Rosenfeld (1998)) is a rather boring book on information architecture, but apparently the best book on the subject.

HTML 4.01 is defined in Fielding, Gettys, Mogul, Frystyk, Masinter, Leach, and Berners-Lee (1999). http is defined in Fielding, Gettys, Mogul, Frystyk, Masinter, Leach, and Berners-Lee (1999). URLs are defined in Berners-Lee, Masinter, and McCahill (1994), but that definition was updated in Berners-Lee, Fielding, and Masinter (1998). MIME types are documented in IANA (2001). The documentation of apache is online at <http://www.apache.org>.

References

- Berners-Lee, Tim, Roy T. Fielding, and Larry Masinter (1998). Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI): Generic Syntax. RFC 2396 available at <ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc2396.txt>.
- Berners-Lee, Tim, Larry Masinter, and Mark McCahill (1994). Uniform Resource Locators (URL). RFC 1738 available at <ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc1738.txt>.
- Castro, Elizabeth (1999). *HTML4 for the World Wide Web: Visual Quickstart Guide*. Peachpit Press.
- Fielding, Roy T., James Gettys, Jeffrey C. Mogul, Henrik F. Frystyk, Larry Masinter, Paul J. Leach, and Tim Berners-Lee (1999). Hypertext Transfer Protocol – HTTP/1.1. RFC 2616 available at <ftp://ftp.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc2616.pdf>.
- IANA (2001). Media Types. available at <http://www.isi.edu/in-notes/iana/assignments/media-types/media-types>.
- Morville, Robert and Louis Rosenfeld (1998). *Information Architecture for the World Wide Web*. O'Reilly.
- Werbach, Kevin (2002). Bare Bones Guide to HTML. available at <http://werbach.com/barebones/>.