

contents

preface xii
acknowledgments xvi
author online xvii
about the cover illustration xviii

Part 1 Web site basics 1

1 Open Source 3

- 1.1 What is Open Source? 3
And it's free! 5
- 1.2 Why choose Open Source 5
Support 5 ♦ Quality 8 ♦ Security 10 ♦ Innovation 11
- 1.3 A buyer's guide to Open Source 14
Stable version and ongoing development 14 ♦ Support 15
Leveraging other investments 15 ♦ Ongoing costs 16
- 1.4 Open Source licensing 17
The GPL and LGPL 18 ♦ The BSD/MIT license 18
The Artistic License/"Perl terms" 19 ♦ The right license? 19

2 The web server 20

- 2.1 What makes a good web server 21
Hardware 21 ♦ Operating system 22 ♦ Re-evaluation and installation 23
- 2.2 Securing the site 24
- 2.3 The case for Apache 25
Installation 26 ♦ First tests 27
- 2.4 Apache configuration 28
The httpd.conf configuration file 28 ♦ Things you need to change 29
- 2.5 Production server 30

- 2.6 Development server 33
 - Allow everything 33 ♦ Allow documents and scripts 34
 - Allow approved documents 34
- 2.7 Using apachectl 35
- 2.8 Serving documents 36
- 2.9 thttpd 37

3 CGI scripts 39

- 3.1 Why scripting 40
 - Scripting language choices 41
- 3.2 The case for Perl 42
 - Installing Perl 44 ♦ Testing a sample script 44
 - Updating Perl modules with CPAN 45
- 3.3 Inside CGI 46
 - Hello, Web! 48 ♦ Dynamic content 51 ♦ Interacting 54
 - HTML forms with CGI.pm 57 ♦ Taking action 63
- 3.4 Strictness, warnings, and taint checking 66
- 3.5 CGI modules 67

Part 2 Tools for web applications 69

4 Databases 71

- 4.1 Files 72
- 4.2 Address book 72
- 4.3 Hash files 75
 - Perl's tie and hash files 76 ♦ Hash file address book 77
- 4.4 Relational databases 82
 - What's relational? 82 ♦ Choosing a relational database 84
 - MySQL 84 ♦ PostgreSQL 85 ♦ Which to choose 87
- 4.5 Installing MySQL 87
 - Set the root password 87 ♦ Create a database 87
 - Add users and permissions 87 ♦ Create tables 88
 - Testing the server 88 ♦ Learning more 89
- 4.6 DBI, Perl's database interface 89
 - Installing the Perl modules 89 ♦ Making a connection 90
 - CGI scripts with DBI 91
- 4.7 Data maintenance via CGI 97
 - WDBI 97 ♦ HTMLView, an alternative to WDBI 97
 - Installing WDBI 98 ♦ Creating a definition file 99
 - Using WDBI 100 ♦ Enhancing forms 102

5 *Better scripting* 104

- 5.1 Why CGI is slow 105
 - Stateless protocol 106 ♦ Session-oriented persistent CGI 107
- 5.2 FastCGI 108
- 5.3 The case for mod_perl 109
 - Buyer's guide 110
- 5.4 Installing mod_perl 111
 - Building and rebuilding 112 ♦ Apache run-time configuration 112
- 5.5 Scripting with mod_perl 114
 - Apache::Registry 115 ♦ Apache::DBI 117
 - When CGI attacks 118
- 5.6 Beyond CGI 119
 - Beyond CGI.pm? 121
- 5.7 mod_perl goodies 122
 - Apache::Status 123
- 5.8 Maintaining user state 123
 - Apache::Session 124 ♦ A to-do list 125
 - Cookie sessions 129 ♦ Session management and user management 132

6 *Security and users* 134

- 6.1 Listening in on the Web 134
- 6.2 Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) 135
 - Legal issues 136
- 6.3 OpenSSL and Apache 137
 - Apache-SSL 137 ♦ mod_ssl 138 ♦ Installing mod_ssl 138
 - Certificates 139 ♦ Configure and test 141
- 6.4 User authentication 143
 - Using HTTP authentication 144 ♦ Doing your own authentication 146 ♦ Do I need SSL for this? 152
- 6.5 User management 152
- 6.6 Login sessions 156

7 *Combining Perl and HTML* 163

- 7.1 HTML design 163
- 7.2 Server-side includes 164
 - SSI with mod_perl and Apache::Include 166
- 7.3 Scripting in HTML 167
 - Perl and HTML 168 ♦ Templates 170

- 7.4 HTML::Mason 174
 - The case for Mason 174 ♦ Installation 175 ♦ Making pages from components 176 ♦ How Mason interprets components 180
 - Faking missing components with dhandlers 181 ♦ Autohandlers 182
 - Session management 186 ♦ Mason resources 189
- 7.5 The Template Toolkit 190
 - Template environment 191 ♦ Uploading a document 194
 - Viewing the upload directories 198 ♦ Template Toolkit resources 202
- 7.6 XML alternatives 202

Part 3 Example sites 205

8 Virtual communities 207

- 8.1 Serving the community 208
 - Community site examples 208
- 8.2 Implementing features 211
 - News 211 ♦ Forums 214 ♦ Chats 218 ♦ Search engines 221
- 8.3 Building a site 224
 - Installation 225 ♦ httpd.conf 226 ♦ mod_perl.conf 228
 - The front page 228 ♦ News 231 ♦ Forums 232 ♦ Chat 232
 - Searching 233 ♦ Improvements 233
- 8.4 Slash, the Slashdot code 234
- 8.5 Online resources 235
 - Search engine submission 235

9 Intranet applications 237

- 9.1 Documentation and file server 238
 - Documentation directory tree 238 ♦ File server 239
 - Generating index pages 240 ♦ mod_perl for indexing 241
 - Searching 242
- 9.2 Office applications 242
 - Email 243 ♦ Calendar 247 ♦ Project management 250
- 9.3 Interfaces to nonweb applications 251
 - Other Perl interface tools 252 ♦ Passwords 254 ♦ File management 255
- 9.4 System administration 256
 - WebMIN 257
- 9.5 Build your own portal 259
 - Maintaining links 260 ♦ UserDir, Redirect, and mod_rewrite for user maintenance 262 ♦ mod_perl for translation and redirection 264
- 9.6 Joining multiple intranets 269
 - VPNs 270 ♦ PPP 271 ♦ SSH 271 ♦ Put it all together, it spells... 271

10 The web storefront 273

- 10.1 E-commerce requirements 274
 - Security and privacy 274 ♦ Stress testing 275
- 10.2 Components of an e-commerce site 276
 - Catalog 277 ♦ Account data 282 ♦ Shopping cart 286
 - Taking the order 291 ♦ Tracking shipments 296
- 10.3 Feedback 299
 - Product reviews 299 ♦ Customer feedback and other services 302
- 10.4 Open Source e-commerce tools 303
 - Interchange 304 ♦ AllCommerce 308
- 10.5 Credit card processing 311
 - CCVS 313

Part 4 Site management 315

11 Content management 317

- 11.1 Development life cycle 318
 - Development, staging, production 319
 - A staging area on your production server 319
- 11.2 Tools for content management 326
 - FrontPage 326 ♦ rsync 327 ♦ Mason-CM 333 ♦ WebDAV 343
- 11.3 Managing a production site 345
 - Configuration 345 ♦ Development to staging 349
 - Staging to production 350
- 11.4 Backup and recovery 352
 - Backup 353 ♦ Recovery 355 ♦ Test and verify! 356

12 Performance Management 358

- 12.1 Victims of success 359
 - Monitoring system loads 361 ♦ Stress-testing your server 364
- 12.2 Tuning your server 368
 - Apache configuration 369 ♦ mod_perl issues 373 ♦ Socket tricks 380
- 12.3 Web farming 382
 - Reverse proxies 383 ♦ Squid accelerator 388 ♦ Load balancing 389

references 395

index 397