

Fact Sheet: ZimWeb™



ZimWeb – Universal Access to your Data

ZIM Corporation is pleased to introduce ZimWeb, a powerful new product designed to provide Zim developers and users with increased connectivity solutions. ZimWeb is a platform independent Java Servlet that allows data access and maintenance from an HTML application to a Zim database. It is ideal for clients that want to make portions of a Zim application available via the Internet, clients with remote widespread users, and for those who want to develop a B2B section on their website. To ensure your maximum development productivity, ZimWeb is compatible with ZimCGI 2.1.

Key Benefits

- **Universal Access**
ZimWeb allows your data to be accessed, updated and maintained, in real-time, by multiple remote users via the Internet, anytime, anywhere.
- **Multi-Client Support**
ZimWeb can support most clients that are equipped with a browser, including PCs, PDAs, cellular phones, etc.
- **Leverages Key XML Technologies**
ZimWeb can merge Zim XML Output with Style Sheets or Page Templates. This separation of content and presentation ensures that the portion of the website that interacts with the database will have the same look and feel as your current website.

Key Features

Support for Client Authentication

ZimWeb enhances system security by enabling the Zim application to authenticate the client itself, or to determine the client's authentication details from the web server.

Ability to Handle POST and GET Requests

The ability to handle POST and GET requests increases the efficiency of the interaction between HTML pages and the data. ZimWeb can accept parameters via a POST or a GET request based on parameters in the URL. This means you can bookmark a ZimWeb request or place it in a hyperlink.

Page Template Support

Page Template support improves development productivity especially when integrating HTML and data sources. A Page Template is a simple HTML file with parameter placeholders that indicate where each parameter supplied by the Zim application is to be placed.

The Zim application can then supply the parameters in an XML format. These parameters are combined with the template, and the resulting web page is delivered to the client, thereby increasing development efficiency.

XML and XSLT Support

With XML and XSLT support included, you can take advantage of all benefits inherent in each. The XML output of a Zim Application can be combined with an XSLT style sheet to generate what is sent to the client (web browser, cellular phone, etc.), increasing the efficiency and flexibility of ZimWeb in order to meet your varied data needs.

XSL-FO Support

This feature enables the application to deliver typeset output directly to the client's browser for easy to read results. The output format to be displayed is defined by the application and can be either Adobe® Portable Document Format (PDF) or Rich Text Format (RTF).

Auto Start

Designed to improve performance, Auto Start ensures that ZimWeb will start as soon as the Java Servlet Container starts, creating all the Zim Agent Sessions required for connecting to the database.

Alternatively, if the Zim Server is not available, ZimWeb will still start. The administrator can then start the Zim Agent Sessions, when the Zim Server becomes available, through the Web-Based Administration Tool.

Ability to Manipulate Session and Cookie Parameters

This feature ensures increased security, performance and functionality. The Zim application can access and control session parameters and cookie parameters.

Session parameters are managed by ZimWeb and not sent to the browser. These allow data to be preserved while leaving the Zim Agent Session available to process further requests.

Cookie parameters allow information about the client, such as the username or preferences, to be stored in the browser and retrieved when the client revisits the application.

Control over the Response

With ZimWeb, the Zim application can control certain elements of the response that is sent back to the client, including the ability to redirect the client to a particular URL; set how long the response can be cached by the client; set the HTTP status or error code and message; and set arbitrary HTTP headers.

Debug Information

Useful details regarding parameters, http headers, etc., can be obtained by supplying the parameter DEBUG in the request.

Because this information can be sensitive from a security standpoint, the ability to do this can be enabled and disabled by the administrator.

Key Features (continued)

Web-Based Administration Tool

Superior web-based administration tools provide control over all client processes. With this tool you can:

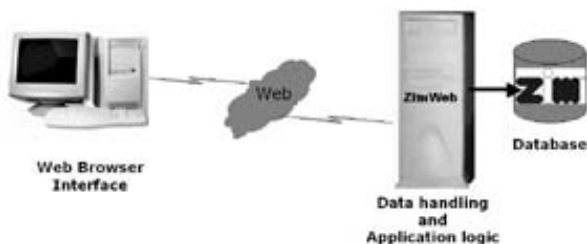
- Start and stop the Zim Agent Sessions in order to control access to the Zim application;
- Enable or disable client request debugging;
- Display the value of the start-up parameters;
- Monitor and clear the XSLT style sheet and page template caches to ensure updates are always recognized.

In addition, ZimWeb includes a utility which enables you to perform these functions from the command line or automatically in scripts, scheduled tasks, etc.

Architecture Examples

Client/Server – 2 Tier (with ZimWeb)

In this architecture, the User Interface is a web browser on the client side, whereas the Application Logic and Data Handling reside on the Zim Server. This architecture is ideal for a large number of remote users that are using HTML pages.



Benefits:

- Limited resources needed on the client side: web browser such as Netscape® or Internet Explorer, and an Internet connection;
- Real-time access to a Zim data source anywhere, anytime through an Internet connection;
- You can design the User Interface to suit your needs, including the ability to mirror the branding of your corporate web site.

Contact a ZIM Account Executive

For more information regarding ZimWeb, and other Zim products, please contact your ZIM account representative today, or e-mail us at info@zim.biz.

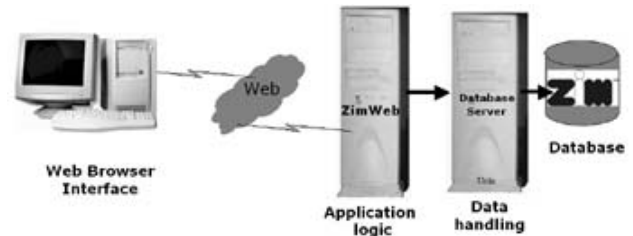
Need some assistance with your Zim application development, deployment or maintenance? The ZIM Professional Services team is available to consult with you. For more information please visit: <http://www.zim.biz/solutions/professionalservices.html>.

For more information on ZIM Corporation and our entire product suite, please visit the website at www.zim.biz. If you are interested in receiving news and event updates regarding ZIM, please signup online for our updates via e-mail or SMS text messaging.



Client/Server – 3 Tier (with ZimWeb)

In this architecture the User Interface is a web browser on the client side, the Application Logic exists within ZimWeb, and the Data Handling resides on the Data Server. The separation of the application logic and data handling supports a heterogeneous environment (Windows/Unix).



Benefits:

- Includes all of the benefits inherent in the two-tier architecture;
- Increased speed and performance of applications within a heterogeneous environment.

System Requirements

Windows

Microsoft® Windows® XP, 2000 or NT® 4.0
Disk space: 130 MB (including Tomcat™ and JDK™)
Memory: 64 MB of RAM above current system requirements

UNIX

HP-UX 11, IBM-AIX 4.3, Red Hat® Linux® 7.2, UnixWare® 7, Sun™ Solaris™ 5.6
Disk space: 150 MB (including Tomcat and JDK)
Memory: 64 MB of RAM above current system requirements

Note: ZimWeb includes all of the necessary libraries for processing XML, XSLT and XSL-FO, as well as a simple example application.

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