



Internet Databases

Chapter 22



HTML

- ❖ Simple markup language
- ❖ Text is annotated with language commands called tags, usually consisting of a start tag and an end tag



HTML Example: Book Listing

<HTML><BODY>

Fiction:

Author: Milan Kundera

Title: Identity

Published: 1998

Science:

Author: Richard Feynman

Title: The Character of Physical Law

Hardcover

</BODY></HTML>



Web Pages with Database Contents

- ❖ Web pages contain the results of database queries. How do we generate such pages?
 - Web server creates a new process for a program interacts with the database.
 - Web server communicates with this program via CGI (Common gateway interface)
 - Program generates result page with content from the database
 - Other protocols: ISAPI (Microsoft Internet Server API), NSAPI (Netscape Server API)



Application Servers

- ❖ In CGI, each page request results in the creation of a new process: very inefficient
- ❖ Application server: Piece of software between the web server and the applications
- ❖ Functionality:
 - Hold a set of pre-forked threads or processes for performance
 - Database connection pooling (reuse a set of existing connections)
 - Integration of heterogeneous data sources
 - Transaction management involving several data sources
 - Session management



Other Server-Side Processing

- ❖ Java Servlets: Java programs that run on the server and interact with the server through a well-defined API.
- ❖ JavaBeans: Reusable software components written in Java.
- ❖ Java Server Pages and Active Server Pages: Code inside a web page that is interpreted by the web server

Beyond HTML: XML

- ❖ Extensible Markup Language (XML): “Extensible HTML”
- ❖ Confluence of SGML and HTML: The power of SGML with the simplicity of HTML
- ❖ Allows definition of new markup languages, called document type declarations (DTDs)

XML: Language Constructs

- ❖ Elements
 - Main structural building blocks of XML
 - Start and end tag
 - Must be properly nested
- ❖ Element can have attributes that provide additional information about the element
- ❖ Entities: like macros, represent common text.
- ❖ Comments
- ❖ Document type declarations (DTDs)

Booklist Example in XML

```
<?XML version="1.0" standalone="yes"?>
<!DOCTYPE BOOKLIST SYSTEM "booklist.dtd">
<BOOKLIST>
<BOOK genre="Fiction">
  <AUTHOR>
    <FIRST>Milan</FIRST><LAST>Kundera</LAST>
  </AUTHOR>
  <TITLE>Identity</TITLE>
  <PUBLISHED>1998</PUBLISHED>
</BOOK>
<BOOK genre="Science" format="Hardcover">
  <AUTHOR>
    <FIRST>Richard</FIRST><LAST>Feynman</LAST>
  </AUTHOR>
  <TITLE>The Character of Physical Law</TITLE>
</BOOK></BOOKLIST>
```

XML: DTDs

- ❖ A DTD is a set of rules that defines the elements, attributes, and entities that are allowed in the document.
- ❖ An XML document is well-formed if it does not have an associated DTD but it is properly nested.
- ❖ An XML document is valid if it has a DTD and the document follows the rules in the DTD.

An Example DTD

```
<!DOCTYPE BOOKLIST [
  <!ELEMENT BOOKLIST (BOOK)*>
  <!ELEMENT BOOK (AUTHOR, TITLE, PUBLISHED?)>
  <!ELEMENT AUTHOR (FIRST, LAST)>
  <!ELEMENT FIRST (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT LAST (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT TITLE (#PCDATA)>
  <!ELEMENT PUBLISHED (#PCDATA)>
  <!ATTLIST BOOK genre (Science|Fiction) #REQUIRED>
  <!ATTLIST BOOK format (Paperback|Hardcover) "Paperback">
]>
```

Domain-Specific DTDs

- ❖ Development of standardized DTDs for specialized domains enables data exchange between heterogeneous sources
- ❖ Example: Mathematical Markup Language (MathML)
 - Encodes mathematical material on the web
 - In HTML:
 - In MathML:
<apply> <power/>
<apply> <plus/> <ci>x</ci> <ci>y</ci> </apply>
<cn>2</cn>
</apply>

XML-QL: Querying XML Data

- ❖ Goal: High-level, declarative language that allows manipulation of XML documents
- ❖ No standard yet
- ❖ Example query in XML-QL:
 WHERE
 <BOOK>
 <NAME><LAST>\$1</LAST></NAME>
 </BOOK> in "www.booklist.com/books.xml"
 CONSTRUCT <RESULT> \$1 </RESULT>

XML-QL (Contd.)

A more complicated example:

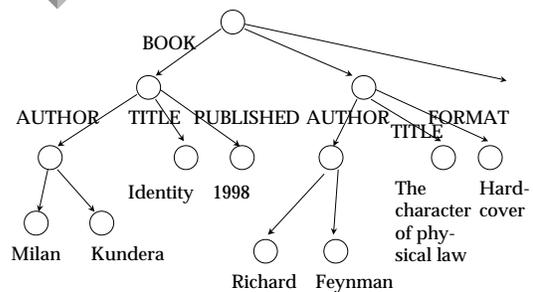
```

WHERE <BOOK> $b <BOOK> IN
  "www.booklist.com/books.xml",
<AUTHOR> $n </AUTHOR>
<PUBLISHED> $p </PUBLISHED> in $e
CONSTRUCT
<RESULT>
  <PUBLISHED> $p </PUBLISHED>
  WHERE <LAST> $1 </LAST> IN $n
  CONSTRUCT <LAST> $1 </LAST>
</RESULT>
  
```

Semi-structured Data

- ❖ Data with partial structure
- ❖ All data models for semi-structured data use some type of labeled graph
- ❖ We introduce the object exchange model (OEM):
 - Object is triple (label, type, value)
 - Complex objects are decomposed hierarchically into smaller objects

Example: Booklist Data in OEM



Indexing for Text Search

- ❖ Text database: Collection of text documents
- ❖ Important class of queries: Keyword searches
 - Boolean queries: Query terms connected with AND, OR and NOT. Result is list of documents that satisfy the boolean expression.
 - Ranked queries: Result is list of documents ranked by their "relevance".
 - IR: Precision (percentage of retrieved documents that are relevant) and recall (percentage of relevant objects that are retrieved)

Inverted Files

- ❖ For each possible query term, store an ordered list (the inverted list) of document identifiers that contain the term.
- ❖ Query evaluation: Intersection or Union of inverted lists.
- ❖ Example: Agent AND James

RID	Document
1	Agent James
2	Mobile agent

Word	Inverted List
Agent	<1,2>
James	<1>
Mobile	<2>

Signature Files

- ❖ Index structure (the signature file) with one data entry for each document
- ❖ Hash function hashes words to bit-vector.
- ❖ Data entry for a document (the signature of the document) is the OR of all hashed words.
- ❖ Signature S1 matches signature S2 if $S2 \& S1 = S2$

Signature Files: Query Evaluation

- ❖ Boolean query consisting of conjunction of words:
 - Generate query signature S_q
 - Scan signatures of all documents.
 - If signature S matches S_q , then retrieve document and check for false positives.
- ❖ Boolean query consisting of disjunction of k words:
 - Generate k query signatures S_1, \dots, S_k
 - Scan signature file to find documents whose signature matches any of S_1, \dots, S_k
 - Check for false positives

Signature Files: Example

Word	Hash
Agent	1010
James	1100
Mobile	0001

RID	Document	Signature
1	Agent James	1110
2	Mobile agent	1011

Summary

- ❖ Publishing databases on the web requires server-side processing such as CGI-scripts, Servlets, ASP, or JSP
- ❖ XML is an emerging document description standard that allows the definition of new DTDs. Query languages for XML documents such as XQL are emerging.
- ❖ Text databases have gained importance with the proliferation of text data on the web. Boolean queries can be efficiently evaluated using an inverted index or a signature file. Evaluation of ranked queries is a more difficult problem.