

The Web ToolKit

The Web ToolKit is an ANSI/ISO-compatible C++ library that contains classes for dynamically building HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) Web pages. Using Web, you can write Web page logic and structure using C++ objects and existing C++ interfaces without learning HTML. If you do not use a tool like Web when creating an application that builds Web pages, you must manually insert HTML into your code. This is not only cumbersome and error prone, but requires that you learn HTML syntax.

Web ToolKit was carefully designed to provide the following important benefits:

- **Reuse** - Using Web ToolKit, you can write CGI programs in C++. This allows reuse of all existing C++ libraries and interfaces. Using Web also eliminates the need to wrap existing interfaces to implement CGI programs in a scripting language.
- **Simplicity** - Using Web ToolKit, there is no need to worry about special characters in HTML text or in form data. There also is no need to learn any of the HTML syntax, including cumbersome start and end tag rules. Web ToolKit reduces common mistakes and allows you to focus on the tasks, rather than the tools.
- **Maintenance** - Using Web, programmers can use familiar object-oriented techniques, such as encapsulation, to manage large and complex CGI programs. This feature reduces the cost of extending and modifying CGI programs. Without Web, HTML must be embedded in scripts that have few facilities for managing complexity.
- **Error Detection** - With constraints enabled, Web provides helpful diagnostic output to troubleshoot invalid Web page composition.
- **Standards Compatibility** - Web utilizes the ANSI/ISO Standard Template Library (STL) and string class. This compatibility positions code for portability and reduced long-term maintenance.