

Manual setting of filename and type in a dynamically-generated web page

Problem: Suppose you have a CGI script (PHP or otherwise), say `genimage.cgi`, that generates an image and sends it to the browser. If the user visits the URL of the script and tries to save the generated image, the browser might suggest “`genimage.cgi`” as the default filename to save to, which might lead to confusion (e.g. the OS won’t associate an image-viewing action with the file).

Solution: Have the script tell the browser the filename that it should use if the user wants to save the page. This can be done by sending a HTTP response header. Suppose the filename should be “`image.gif`”, then send the following header:

```
Content-Disposition: inline; filename=image.gif
```

Your script might also want to manually set the MIME type of the resulting page. If it doesn’t, either the web server or the browser might try to make a guess, which might be wrong. For example, you can set the MIME type to that of a GIF image by sending the following HTTP response header:

```
Content-Type: image/gif
```

Here is the code for sending both headers in PHP:

```
<?// Suppose you want to send a GIF file to the browser// Send the headers firstheader('Content-
```

Revision #1

Created 2008-01-03 14:18:39 UTC by Chan, Wing Kai

Updated 2008-01-03 14:18:39 UTC by Chan, Wing Kai