

Week 10: Discussion Question

What are Web server interfaces used for? Give an example.

Web interfaces provide a means of exposing data within a database to the Internet and initiating transactions with it. Depending on how the interface is configured, it may be another application accessing the exposed parts of the database or an individual surfing the web via their browser. The software managing the user interface, be it JAVA, PHP or .NET, will perform data integrity and manage access to the database.

It is important to remember that applications placed on the Web are *stateless*, what we see in the web browser may not necessarily reflect the current state of the data in the database, but rather what the state of the data was at the time it was accessed. For instance, weather.com may provide an accurate forecast within a few hours of the page being loaded, but, the longer we go without refreshing the page, the more removed from that state of data we become. After a day, even the date displayed on the page is no longer valid if we do not refresh its state.