## Database Management System Prof. Partha Pratim Das Department of Computer Science & Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

## Lecture – 21 Application Design and Development

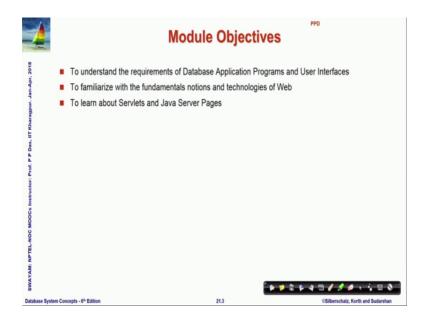
Welcome to module 21 of Database Management Systems in this module and the next too we will discuss about application design and development.

(Refer Slide Time: 00:31)



In the last week we have for the whole week in the five modules we have discussed about relational database design; in depth we have looked into what are the different aspects of that.

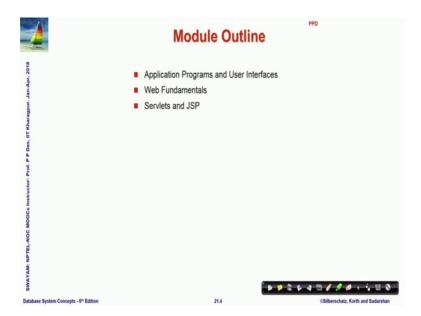
(Refer Slide Time: 00:43)



And now we get into the core issue of if I have a relational database design existing and that is populated with the data then based on that how do we develop, how do we create an application where the user can interact and actually get answers to the questions that the user has or the user can actually update the data create new data, remove old data and so, on.

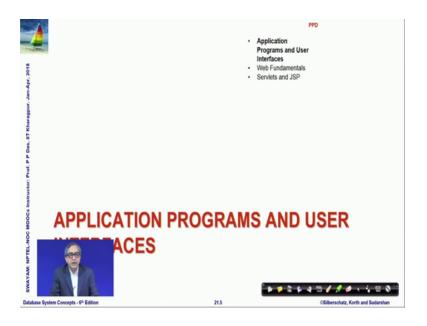
So, we would in that process like to familiarize with the fundamental notions of notions and technologies of web applications and specifically we would learned about servlets and Java server pages.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:30)



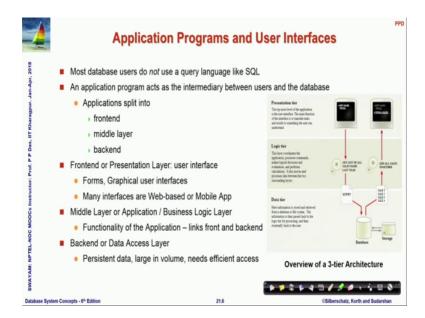
So, these are the free topics to be covered.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:34)



So, we first start with application programs and user interfaces.

(Refer Slide Time: 01:41)



So, the situation is the where we do have a relational database design it is populated with the required data, but how about the interaction with the user incidentally most of the you database users do not interact with the database or query the database using language like SQL because as you have seen it is not a very friendly language and it is not presentable in a way which I would we would always expect or we would like.

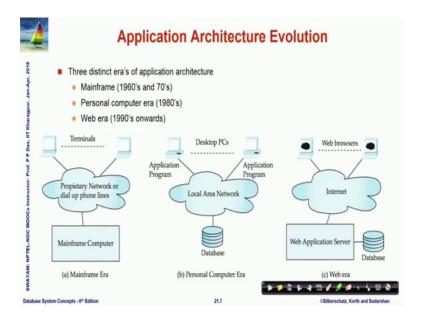
So, usually an application program acts as a as we say as an intermediately between the user and the database. And it is often split into three layers as we will say frontend middle layer and backend. So, on the right I have shown these three layers we will talk more about the this is just a representative diagram. So, the frontend is the user interface it is also called the presentation layer. So, it is the layer where it is the part of the application where there are forms GUIs and different ways to input as well as get output of the data.

Which is directly interacting with the user then we have a middle layer or its also called the business logic layer or the application layer where the functionality of the application the required operations of the or desired behavior of the application are coded and it is kind of acts as a link between the frontend and the backend and what is the backend?

Backend is a actual data access layer or it is where the persistent data the database that we have created exist it is typically large in volume need sufficient access and so, on. So, in this module we will try to understand as to how such what are the different

requirements and what are the different technologies involved in creating such a layered application.

(Refer Slide Time: 03:55)



Now, if we historically look at; so, here we are just showing three phases initially 60s and 70s where the first database applications started then the interaction used to be takes based from the terminal.

And the those to directly connect to the main frame computer where the data existed through either a direct connection dial up phone or proprietary network. And as we move to the 80s; then we saw the advent of local area networks to application programs or desktop would interact to with the database through these local area networks. And beyond that we have the what we call the web era which is 1990 onwards we in the that is that is about roughly the last 30 years where typically the applications are now based on web browsers.

So, the frontend where we actually interact are web browsers and that connect to the web application server the database everything through an internet. And I must tell you at this point that when you say this is the architecture it does not necessarily mean that the cloud shown as internet will have to be the web, it could be an internet which is created with a set of systems within your organization which we typically call as an intranet or couple of organizations across.

Which we say are extranet or it could even be a set of systems which are connected through the internet protocol within your lap or it could even be a single computer in which all these layers are integrated together, but by internet we mean it is a internet protocol and technologies will be used for doing this interaction.

(Refer Slide Time: 05:52)



So, web interface has become the de-facto standard which gives a very distributed access to the database enables large number of users to access together. And it avoids the requirement of downloading or installing specialized code into that all that we need is just a web browser. And we have seen we are living through a variety of applications which are of this kind the banking application, the airline and railway reservations car rental hotel booking or web mail systems we will check mail in Gmail or Yahoo those are all different web interfaces through which we actually access a the required set of databases.

And every even every enterprise operations the ERP are now web based and that is become a de facto standard. So, in the web interface along with a web interface what has been imagined of let of the last about 10 years are mobile interfaces that we are getting use to using such applications from our mobile phone or tablet. And these are similar in architecture and workflow as of the web application, but there are significant differences to and at a later point in the next module, we will discuss about the specific requirements of mobile apps in this context as well.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:27)



So, before we move forward in terms of the details of how to build these applications; we need to familiarize ourselves with the basic notions of the web as such. So, we call them as web fundamentals.

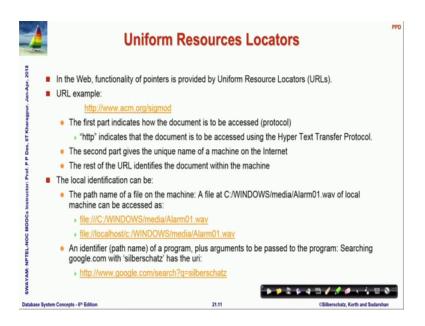
(Refer Slide Time: 07:43)



So, web is a distributed information system which is based on hyper text a hyper text is one where you have a part of the text available to you and then you have links we say our hyper links which can connect to the different documents contents.

Which are locate at other places at other servers and typically most web documents are hyper text documents which are formatted in terms of what we know as HTML Hyper Text Markup Language; you will be familiar with that I am sure. So, they contain text and along with that they can have a other components like images, video, the text as specifications for font colors style all that. And in addition there are forms which can be used to enter data and send them back to the web server.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:35)



Now, naturally when we operate on the web we need to have the functionality of pointing to different resources and this is done by what is known as URL or uniform resource locator. So, that is a URL is a procedure to which you can identify and point to a certain specific location of content. So, here I am showing an example of such a URL all of you be familiar with URLs.

But just to look into the different components the first component http colon this http is actually a tells us the way the content would be accessed and this is typically called a protocol http its stands for hyper text transfer protocol which allows you different text to be accessed.

The second component in this URL which is between the two forward slash and the next slash www dot acm dot org identifies uniquely identifies a machine on the internet you will understand this is the symbolic name and the actual machine has what is known as an IP address.

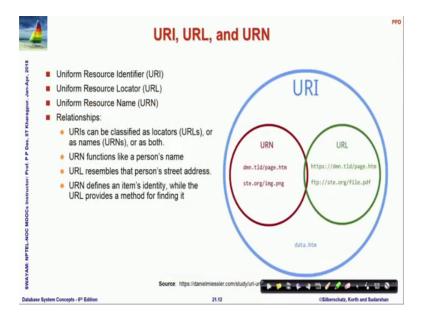
And we will not go into those details, but for us it is enough to understand that www dot acm dot org here is uniquely relatable to a particular machine on the internet. And the last part which is remaining sigmod and if there are more and more and more parts, then it identifies the document inside within that machine. So, URL can be used in a multiple other ways also.

For example I can use URL locator to specify a file in by machine for example, I have shown an example of an AVI file in my c drive in windows and that is done through a similar URL where the protocol is not http the protocol is file telling me that it is actually residing in my local machines.

So, I have shown two ways to look at that and you will see that between the two forms; if you look at the second form you can easily understand that the machine to be identify this is called the local host. And in the first form that part is missing because it is by default the machine where I am running this code and rest of it is same which is basically the identifying the document to be to be located in that machine.

Similarly, this such URL can also in the last example you can see that www dot Google dot com is the basic machine where I am putting the URL and then the rest of it is search.

(Refer Slide Time: 11:56)



So, which actually takes it to a document where I tell the search to be performed and then there are parameter to this form the parameter is q is equal to silberschatz which is equivalent to same that I am asking Google dot com to search for contents which have silberschatz in it. So, this is the basic purpose of the uniform resource locator or URL1 incidentally you may have hard the names like URI and URN in addition to URL.

So, they are related, but they mean little bit different things as this venn diagram shows. So, a URI can be either a URL or a URN or it could be both. So, URN functions like a persons name; so, you can conceive it that way universal resource name and URL resembles that of a persons street address. So, URN says what is the name of the content and URL says where that can be found. And URI in general could be either the name or the address or both of them.

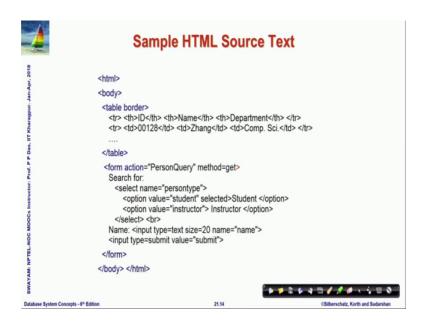
In this context of our discussion we will continue to use the term URL only, but I just wanted you to be aware of the other two terms in case you come across them in the text.

(Refer Slide Time: 12:53)



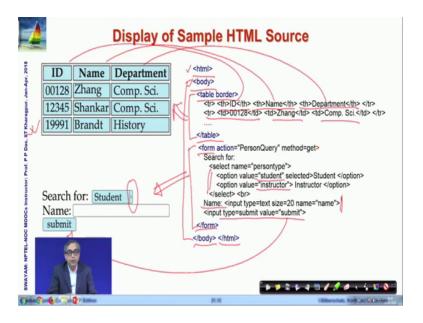
So, we know by now that http HTML provides the formatting the hyper text links images and so, on and http provides the protocol through which the contents are exchanged between different machines in the internet. So, you can select from a set of options in terms of a HTML popup menus radio buttons check boxes and so, on; you can enter values to text box and once a form has been filled up that form will be sent back to the server from where it came and would be acted upon by the server http helps in that transfer mechanism.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:39)



So, the here is a sample HTML code let me show you the effect of this in the next slide.

(Refer Slide Time: 13:46)



So, if you look in here then you can see that these are this is what is known as a tag and it kind of the tax are kind of given in the form of parenthesize notation.

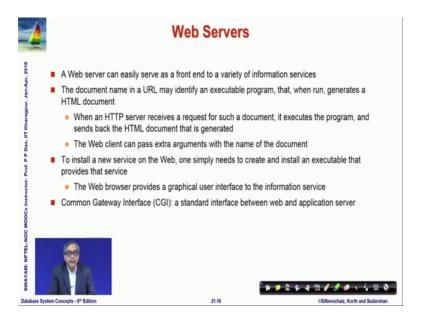
So, it has a opening and a closing and these have to have to actually match and you can see that the opening is written within corner brackets and the closing is write the same tag name, but you put a forward slash for the name. And then between the closing opening and the closing you can write more tabs in a nested manner.

So, here it says that I have HTML which has a body and the body expanse this much and then we are saying that there is a table. So, this is the table that you can get to see and then it also says that there is a form and this is the form that you get to see within the table you can see. So, it is saying that this is an ID there is a name; so, it is describing the first row the department. So, you can see each one of them the ID is here the name is here the department is here similarly this is a next row where it is saying it is 0 1; 00128 Zhang Computer Science.

So, this is how you can you actually in an HTML in a text form all these details will be given and when it is rendered by the web browser then you will see a table like this. Similarly here we are I am showing a an instance of a form which is use to input data. So, we are saying that here is a drop down and it is written out here in terms of options.

So, the first options student is visible here if you drop down you will actually see another option instructor here you will not see that because it is a frozen image. So, and then I have a qualifier name and there is a input text box where you can input any strain up to size 20. And once this has been done then you have a input which is submit, which is the submit button here which shows that you can now submit and then this form filled up form will be sent back to the web browser from where it originally came.

(Refer Slide Time: 16:23)



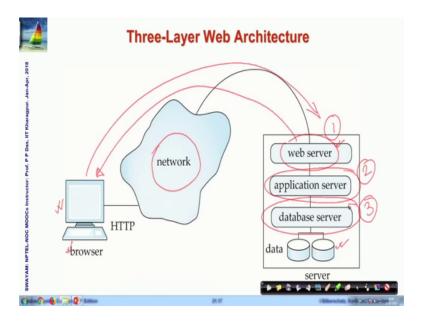
So, this is the basic mechanism of HTML you can learn little bit more about that and get familiar with it. So, a document name in a URL may identify a program that is written

that generate. So, HTML could be either at the URL in the web server you can either have a HTML which we say is a static HTML or you could actually have a program which when you send the request it actually.

For example, when you are doing Google you said www dot Google dot com slash search question mark q is has a value silberschatz. Then actually at that location there is no HTML currently existing which contains the search result, but instead there is a program which will be executed based on the submission of this form and when run that will generate a HTML document. And once that is generated then this will be passed back to the to your web browser. So, that is a basic mechanism.

So, if you want a new service on the web then you all that you simply need to do is to create and install a new program that will provide that service and through this process we will see how easily this can be done and how web browser provides a graphical interface to this information service. There is there has been another other mechanisms of doing similar things also which was particularly popularly are called the common gateway interface or CGI, but now we have various other ways of doing the same thing.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:03)

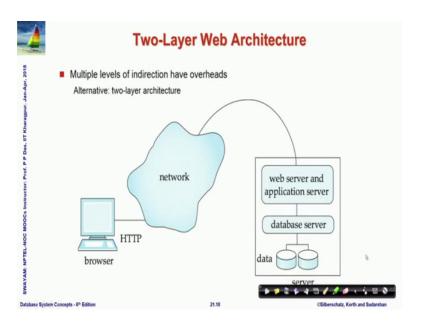


So, in this context then the basic three layers that we started discussing with are here. So, this is the most common way an application is. So, this is where your frontend is where you have the browser where you see that this is the network; we are just in general writing network it could be internet it could be intranet and a web server. So, when you

send a request this is received by the server; web server somehow computes a result HTML and that send back to the browser and that is how the interaction keeps on happening.

So, the browser and the web server together often would be refer to as a frontend because that gives a presentation that presents the results the interaction to you. The next is the application layer which is the business logic where you write and then you have the data access layer or the database server and these are the actual disk where the data exist. So, this is a tier 1 this is tier 2 and this is tier 3 which is a very typical way a web application will be architected and these are the three layers or three tiers that we will usually find.

(Refer Slide Time: 19:22)



So, often actually three is not a very magical number in terms of tiers; it is possible that you could have more some applications have more tiers. And some applications may choose to have multiple functionality in the same layer for example, web server and application server functionality could be clubbed together and when this is done we say that we will then we have only two layers. So, the frontend and the middle layer are merge together and the backend or the database server becomes a second layer.

So, we would often might want to do that the reason we do that I will just take to back to the three layer view. So, if the question is naturally if we have the web server and we have these connections this is clear; now the question is what is this connection and what is this connection? Is it necessary that they will have to be on the same server physically

or will they be on can be on different server and servers could be connected through a LAN or they themselves could be on different servers over the internet and may they may be connected through internet.

So, all of these are possibilities and the way we connect is the way we will write the application will be will not depend on the way these servers are connected between each other we will often assume that as if they are connected over a net and write it in a way so, that even when they may be connected over a LAN or even when they may actually be on the same machine things will work in the same way.

(Refer Slide Time: 20:57)



Now, one point that should be born in mind in terms of the http protocol is it is connectionless. So, this is a very very critical concept and it means that once I start the process I have an URL; I submit that and that goes to the server the server runs an application or it is a static page server picks up and returns me that HTML; the http loop is closed.

So, that is the all that happens and when I submit again something based on that. So, I have gone to Gmail mail dot Google dot com I submit that and I get back a form which tells me to put my user ID and login I do that I submit and that when that goes then there is no memory about the earlier interaction that has happen.

So, when my login submission goes it is authenticated in the backend I am able to login and I am given back the first screen of my mail box which is the inbox screen. And as soon as I get that inbox the HTML containing the inbox on my browser that transaction has also been over. So, if I now want to look at a specific mail it has to be a new query and it is not remember anything from the previous query.

So, this connectionless property naturally makes it makes certain things more difficult; you will you will realize that many of the other connections that we do for example, if we login to UNIX system or to a window system if we use some database connections they are connected till the we disconnect them, but in http it is not. So, it is connectionless every time you do you have a separate session. So, naturally the question this was I mean the there are there are reasons of why this is done this way this is to reduce load from the server and so, on.

But naturally the consequences therefore, we cannot remember information from one request response loop to the next. So, if I have logged in to my mail Gmail account and I have seen the I have got the inbox then when I want to check my first mail the system does not know any more that I am logged in because that session request response has is over and now I am making a new request that show me the first mail and I expect to see the whole body.

So, there is no information that is carried from one request to the other which makes http difficult to work with. So, the solution for that is something which is known as a cookie.

(Refer Slide Time: 23:46)

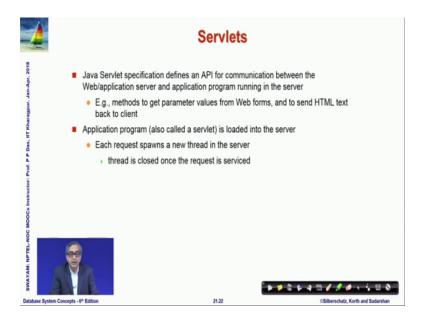


So, a cookie is a small piece of text which contain information which is identifying and which can go back and forth between the browser and the server. So, first it is sent by the sever to the browser and the what the browser does.

So, this happens the first time. So, when we logged in my browser has got a got some cookie from the mail Gmail server. Then the browser can send it back to the server when it is doing the next request so, that I can be identified as a logged in person and. So, the browser can keep it as a I mean locally in its memory or locally here and that is a part of the http protocol.

So, this keeps on this cookie keeps on going back and forth back and forth. So, every time I send a request the cookie actually has to go to tell the server that yes this is the Partha Pratim Das who is already logged in an authenticated himself for checking his mails. So, cookies are a big convenience and they are very important factor of the web applications. So, they can be stored permanently or for a limited period of time.

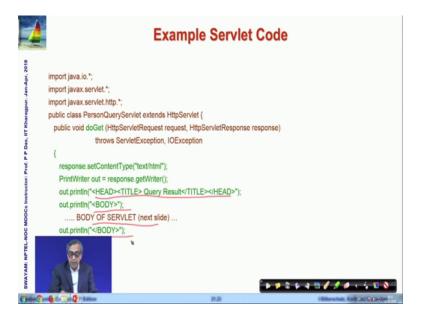
(Refer Slide Time: 25:04)



Next let us look into some of the core technologies that are involved the first technology is called a servlet. Servlet is nothing but as you can understand from the name itself is as you have book booklet booklet is a small very small book servlet is a very small server.

So, it is a Java application which can do certain tasks; so, it is an kind of an application program and every time we request then the server actually spawns a new thread and in that thread this servlet would be running and once the request is serviced the thread will be closed.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:42)



So, this is the typical server servlet view. So, which shows that in the servlet you are creating actually creating the requested I mean possible HTML response that you would like to have.

(Refer Slide Time: 25:58)

```
String persontype = request.getParameter("persontype");
String number = request.getParameter("name");
if(persontype.equals("student")) {
... code to find students with the specified name ...
... using JDBC to communicate with the database ..
out.println("");
out.println("");
out.println("");
for(... each result ...){
... retrieve ID, name and dept name
... into variables ID, name and deptname
out.println("
out.println("
out.println("
out.println("");
};
out.println("");
} else {
... as above, but for instructors ...
}
```

So, there are; so, there are different details you can read through that. So, this is the typical servlet code. So, it actually is a Java code which through print line will generate different lines of the HTML. Now naturally servlets maintain session the way we talked about.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:11)



So, that through an interaction I can continued to be identified and the servlet can check whether the session is on or the session is already over. So, these are these are the different ways of doing that in terms of shaking the user ID and several web servers application servers have support for servlet apache tomcat is one of the very popular one.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:33)



So, which you must have heard the name of and there are, but there are several other servers as well.

(Refer Slide Time: 26:48)



Now, along with the servlet there is another concept which is called server side scripting. Server side scripting is a mechanism where you define an HTML document and to within that HTML document can be used. So, you may have some inputs to that and they can be used to directly fire embedded SQL queries.

So, we talked about a madding of SQL query in while we discuss about the basic mechanism of host language and query language. So, here the HTML kind of a language is a host and you can embed the query right in as a part of that. And so, that query goes to the database query server and you get the answer and that answer is placed where your original query was there. So, that you continue to get very easily a my complete HTML as a response.

So, this kind of a mechanism is makes it very easy because a it is quite easy to conceive of the HTML and fill in. So, if I have asked for say logged in to the my mail Gmail service then I have given the input as my user name password and when that got gets authenticated. Then I get a response which is select mail from different respective tables where my authentication is there the user name is PPD and so, on. So, it becomes quite easy to actually create the HTML and there several such scripting language is JSP and PHP are the most popular ones.

(Refer Slide Time: 28:35)

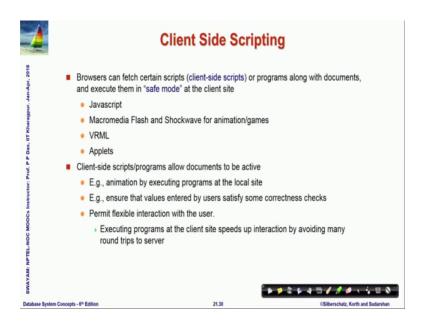


So, this is how a typical JSP will look like. So, you can see that this actually looks like HTML, but inside that you have a, you have some part of a Java code. So, what will

happen the body will get replaced when the when the response has come for example, here the response is doing hello world.

So, when this is executed then whatever is a result will replace the body in the HTML here and the result in the HTML will get generated. There is another mechanism of scripting which is also very popular called PHP. So, this is how it is done.

(Refer Slide Time: 29:19)

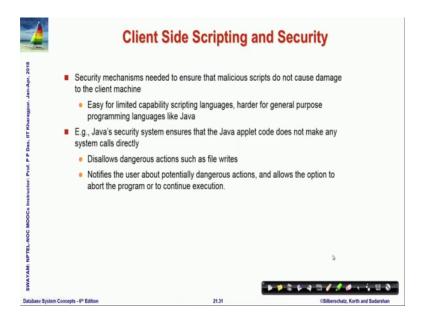


Similarly, you could have script an client side also for example, if you are entering data for say a month and in numeric and you happened to enter 14; then in most cases the page will immediately give a error saying that 14 cannot be a valid month; so, there is a validation involved.

So, in the client side in the browser there are some small script that can run a most typically it is a Java script which can too different authentication which is possible without actually accessing the data in the database. You cannot for example, validate a mail data based on the client side scripting sitting on the browser, but you can validate small things like valid data forms, range of data and so, on.

And it is it is very important because if you could not do that then all you required is you would have send that faulty month numbered 14 to the to the backend server and got an error and you would have come back and then have to correct it, but you can do this locally at the browser itself.

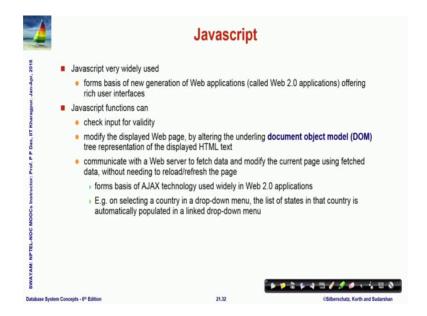
(Refer Slide Time: 30:26)



So, client side scripting has a lot of value, but you will have to have to remember that a if you are doing client side scripting then there are security issues.

Because it is quite possible that if you are doing things on the client side that is on the browser then we might also inadvertently or by a malicious intact actually make damages to the machine on which the browser is running. So, there are different kinds of care that is to be taken for example, Java applet which is another way of doing client side computation disallows file writes and so, on.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:03)

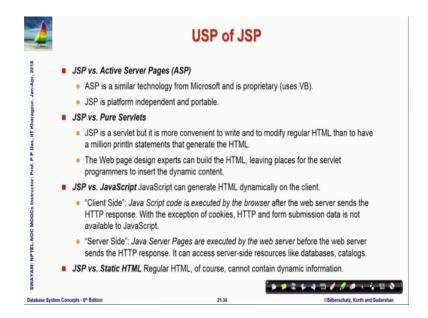


And Java script as I have said is widely used and it can function to check for input validity which I gave an example of it can modify the displayed web page, it can communicate with the web server to fetch data and so, on. And it is you should familiarize yourself with Java script more; it is a very powerful mechanism to do compute the sample things at the client side this is an example that I have given.

(Refer Slide Time: 31:20)

So, you can read through and you will be able to if you know Java you will be able to understand Java script very easily, you could get through that.

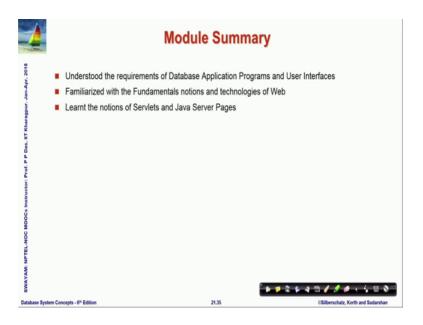
(Refer Slide Time: 31:33)



And so, there are multiple options of doing such things, but JSP has a has a unique position because it is it is very useful in many context wise a JSP has certain USP like active server page which is used in terms of the Microsoft platform is also another mechanism of doing server side scripting, but JSP is better because it is portable in with respect to pure servlets which we showed you in the beginning JSP performs is easier to use.

Because JSP has the structure of the HTML page whereas, in a pure servlet we will have to use print line to print every tag of the HTML which is cumbersome. JSP in contrast with Java script is certainly a different thing because Java script runs on the browser on the client side, JSP runs on the server side and certainly JSP is compared to static HTML is more powerful because it can handle dynamic information.

(Refer Slide Time: 32:39)



So, in this that brings us to the end of this current modules; so, what we have done we have understood the basic requirements of database application programs and user interfaces understood the basic terminology of the web and took a look into the core notion, core technologies of application development which is in terms of the servlets and Java server pages.