Basic APIs and Scripting

Thuan Nguyen
IT Specialist
Rochester Public Library
tnguyen@rochester.lib.mn.us
OVERVIEW

- What is web API?
- What is scripting?
  - Examples From RPL:
  - Syndetic Contents
  - Amazon Advertising API
  - SirsiDynix Web Services
  - Novelist and Our Search Catalog
**What is Web API?**

- API: Application Programming Interface
- API specifies how software components should interact
- Synonym with Web Services
SIRSI DYNIX API ARCHITECTURE
**WHAT’S SCRIPTING?**

- A high level programming language that is translated by another program at runtime rather than compiled by the computer's processor as other programming languages (such as C and C++)

- Can be embedded within html, commonly are used to add functionality to a Web page, such as different menu styles or graphic displays or to serve dynamic advertisements

- **JavaScript, ASP, JSP, PHP, VBScript, Perl and Python** are examples of scripting languages.
EXAMPLE: SYNDETIC CONTENTS

- **Nodes**
- [http://content.sirsi.net/uhtbin/getenrich/9780393710762/COVER_GIF](http://content.sirsi.net/uhtbin/getenrich/9780393710762/COVER_GIF)
- Demo With JSP(JavaServer Pages) Using Eclipse
EXAMPLE: AMAZON ADVERTISING API

- You can get almost all functionalities that you see on www.amazon.com
- Amazon Advertising API
- Patrons recommend items
- Library staff reviews and then buy/reject
- Demo Live Program
- Demo Coding with Coldfusion using Eclipse
**Example: SirsiDynix Web Services**

- Sirsi Web Services is a web application that provides simplified remote access to features of the ILS.
- Providing a language-independent interface to the ILS.
- [http://webcat.rochesterpubliclibrary.org:8080/symsws/rest/standard/lookupTitleInfo?clientID=endeca&itemID=0101814431249&includeAvailabilityInfo=true&includeItemInfo=true](http://webcat.rochesterpubliclibrary.org:8080/symsws/rest/standard/lookupTitleInfo?clientID=endeca&itemID=0101814431249&includeAvailabilityInfo=true&includeItemInfo=true)
- [Documentation](http://webcat.rochesterpubliclibrary.org:8080/symsws/rest/standard/lookupTitleInfo?clientID=endeca&itemID=0101814431249&includeAvailabilityInfo=true&includeItemInfo=true)
- Demo: Using Coldfusion to request information
NOVELIST AND OUR CATALOG

- Enhances our catalog with novelist features such as Extras, Reviews, Series, Read Alike etc.

  - [Harry Potter Example](#)
  - [Documentation](#)
  - Demo using JSP. Codes from our catalog
QUESTIONS?

Email: tnguyen@rochester.lib.mn.us