

Newsgroups: geac.ml.advenh
Subject: Re: GEN - Utility to Produce HTML Pages
Date: 6 Dec 1996 15:12:26 -0500
Organization: Geac Canada Limited
Lines: 52
Distribution: geac
Message-ID: <589una\$sa4@sam.ca.geac.com>
References: <961206005327.23007@geac.com>

In article <961206005327.23007@geac.com>, Valerie Bross <ENHANCE@CNSIBM.ALBANY.EDU> wrote:
>I agree that the report writer could be used to extract data; and
>also agree that the mechanical chore of adding HTML markup &
>metatags remains. This chore would have to be completed for
>each report, and would have to be re-done every time the page
>was generated. So, it is not surprising that people have not
>swamped ADVANC-L with discussions of how they are using ADVANCE
>to generate home pages.

You can use the report writer at 6.5 and up to "automatically" generate web pages once you've set them up...

Step 1: Make a symbolic link within your public_html directory to your &HOLD& file (ln -s /yourpath/ADV/\&HOLD\& advreports)
Step 2: "Route output to" a named &HOLD& file (i.e. Hwebtest)
Step 3: Run the report (without further modification!)
Step 4: Browse to <http://www.yoursite.edu/advreports/webtest>

If you would like to add tags (like links) to the report...

change:
" <<HEADING>>"
to:
"<HTML><HEAD><TITLE>web Test</TITLE></HEAD><BODY><PRE><<HEADING>>"
(or something similar, including <HTML> and <BODY>).

Make sure you change the &HOLD& item name to have the extension .html

You can then generate links using an I-descripeter with line two like:
' : LINK.NAME.DICT.ITEM : ''

One popular tag that is a problem is <TABLE> - these will not display without </TABLE> and hold file pages are set to have 32k page length (to avoid page breaks), so you shouldn't use FOOTER to get a </TABLE>. You can create a table within each report line, but unless you specify the width of each cell, you won't get a consistent look.

If you wanted to get away from the <PRE> formatted look, you can either create separate I-descriptors with tags in them and compose your html when you compose your report, or you can use I-descriptors to modify each specially formatted item, like the link example above. You may also wish to use COL.HDR.SUPP and replace the <<HEADER>> with your own html code (including links and images - just watch those quotes) to give your page a completely custom look.

Once you have your page generated, there are a number of utilities that can be used to validate the links on your page (which would help with your other html enhancement request).

Ross Morrissey
Geac ADVANCE Product Support