

Web Interface Implementation

This section covers the following topics:

- HTML to Natural
 - Reuse of Global Parts
 - Use of w3text versus w3html
 - Increased Performance using w3text / w3html
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HTML to Natural

With common HTML editors, it is very easy to specify an HTML page layout. Now, using Natural Web Interface, this layout must be transferred to Natural.

This can be done with a utility called HTML to Natural that is delivered with the Windows NT platform. This utility allows you to generate a Natural subprogram, containing all necessary interfaces, that will generate the specified page.

Reuse of Global Parts

Some parts of the application need to be replicated on every page. Use Natural copycode or external subroutines for partial generation.

Use of w3text versus w3html

If your text does not contain special characters or the string contains HTML tags, use W3TEXT. Otherwise, you can use W3HTML to translate unsaved characters, such as < > & ? into an HTML-conform equivalent.

The same happens to Natural characters, such as the German ü, ä and ö or special Spanish and French characters, such as é, è and ê.

The translation of these characters decreases the speed of the application.

Increased Performance using w3text/w3html

As Natural only works with fixed length strings, every string is filled with spaces. For HTML, spaces are not relevant, because if more than one white space occurs, it will be compressed to only one. Returning pages with a lot of spaces does not alter the result of the rendered HTML page. But the numbers of bytes to be transferred increase.

The output routines of the Web Interface will strip all trailing blanks before sending the string back. Therefore the string has to be scanned beginning from the end of the string and then the last space has to be found.

To increase the speed of your application, use long strings and/or terminate the string with the string defined at the variables ##HTTP_END and ##HTTP_NEWLINE_END from the parameter data area W3CONST.