Server Side Includes or SSIs

Commands that include date from another external file and could be reused on the site. There are four types:

1- javascript include
2- html include
3- php include
4- cgi includes

There are also date and time includes that will be discussed at the end of this document.

1- The javascript include is created by writing a .js file that has the include information. Eg. document.write(copyright cc 2010);
In the footer of the html document, insert the include by writing this code:

```
<script type/text="javascript" src="filename.js">
```

2- html include: write a simple regular html page and save it as something.html. Now write a simple footer.html file that has the footer or menu information only without the html head, title or body. This could also have a .inc extension. What is important is to check the server and see it is accepts the include. If not, then you must name the file with an shtml extension.

To include the file, you must write:

```
<!--#include virtual="footer.shtml" -->
```

or

```
<!--#include virtual="footer.inc" -->
```

3- php include: html files that have php in them must have a .php extension. Create the regular html file but save it as something.php Now create the footer include by writing an html file [without all the html head, body, title etc] and save it as footer.php
Now include it in the something.php as such:

```
<?php include('folder/footer.php'); ?>
```

4- cgi include:

```
<!--#include virtual="/cgi-bin/counter.pl" -->
```

Using virtual and file:

Rule of Thumb

Use "file=" when the included file is within the same directory as the page that wants it.
Use "virtual=" when it isn't.

Why Use "file="?

You use "file=" when the file that will be included is held within the same directory as the file that is calling for it. You can also use the file argument when the file is within a subdirectory of the directory containing the file that is calling for it.
You would use the virtual argument if the file you are calling for is located in a position requiring an address starting at the server root; ie. the file isn't in the same directory as the page that's calling for it.

The format of any include command line looks like this:

```
<!--#command argument="value" -->
```

Date and time includes:

Today's date

```
<!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL" -->
```

The echo element writes the value of a variable. If you don't like the format in which the date gets printed, you can use the config element, with a timefmt attribute, to modify that formatting.

```
<!--#config timefmt="%A %B %d, %Y" -->
Today is <!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL" -->
```

The Codes

The code %a will return the abbreviated weekday name (Mon, Tue, Wed) depending on the current local. The command would look like this:

```
<!--#config timefmt="%a" --> <!--#echo var="DATE_LOCAL" -->
```

...and here's what it gives you: Sun

Here are all 21 timefmt arguments, what you'll get, and an example.

Argument	You Get:	It Looks Like:
%a	Abbreviated Weekday Name	Sun
%A	Full Weekday Name	Sunday
%b	Abbreviated Month Name	Dec
%B	Full Month Name	December
%c	Preferred Date & Time	Sun Dec 2 20:34:07 2007
%d	Day of Month as digit	02
%H	Hour Number (24-Hour Clock)	20
%I	Hour Number (12-Hour Clock)	08
%j	Day of the Year Number	336
%m	Month as digit	12
%M	Minute Number	12
%p	AM or PM	PM
%S	Second Number	1196645647
%U	Week Number/Sunday as Day One	48
%w	Day of the Week Number	0
%x	Preferred Format without Time	12/02/07
%X	Preferred Format without Date	20:34:07

%y	Two-Digit Year Number	07
%Y	Four-Digit Year	2007
%Z	Time Zone	EST

Notice also that these returns are from the server. If you are in one time zone and the server is in another, the time zone the server is in will be reflected in the returned values.