

# **Web Server: PLT HTTP Server**

Version 4.1.1

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The Web Server collection provides libraries that can be used to develop Web applications in Scheme.

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# 1 Running the Web Server

There are a number of ways to run the Web Server. They are given in order of simplest to most advanced.

## 1.1 Instant Servlets

```
#lang web-server/insta
```

The fastest way to get a servlet running in the Web server is to use the "Insta" language in DrScheme. Enter the following into DrScheme:

```
#lang web-server/insta

(define (start request)
  '(html (head (title "Hello world!"))
        (body (p "Hey out there!"))))
```

And press Run. A Web browser will open up showing your new servlet.

Behind the scenes, DrScheme has used `serve/servlet` to start a new server that uses your `start` function as the servlet. You are given the entire `web-server/servlet` API.

### 1.1.1 Customization API

```
(require web-server/insta/insta)
```

The following API is provided to customize the server instance:

---

```
(no-web-browser) → void
```

Calling this will instruct DrScheme to *not* start a Web browser when you press Run.

---

```
(static-files-path path) → void
  path : path?
```

This instructs the Web server to serve static files, such as stylesheet and images, from `path`.

## 1.2 Simple Single Servlet Servers

```
(require web-server/servlet-env)
```

The Web Server provides a way to quickly configure and start a server instance.

---

```
(serve/servlet servlet
  [#:launch-browser? launch-browser?
   #:quit? quit?
   #:listen-ip listen-ip
   #:port port
   #:manager manager
   #:servlet-namespace servlet-namespace
   #:server-root-path server-root-path
   #:extra-files-path extra-files-path
   #:servlets-root servlets-root
   #:file-not-found-path file-not-found-path
   #:mime-types-path mime-types-path
   #:servlet-path servlet-path])
→ void
servlet : (request? . -> . response?)
launch-browser? : boolean? = #t
quit? : boolean? = #t
listen-ip : string? = "127.0.0.1"
port : number? = 8000
manager : manager? = default-threshold-LRU-manager
servlet-namespace : (listof module-path?) = empty
server-root-path : path? = default-server-root-path
extra-files-path : path?
                  = (build-path server-root-path "htdocs")
servlets-root : path? = (build-path server-root-path ".")
file-not-found-path : path?
                    = (build-path server-root-path "conf" "not-found.html")
mime-types-path : path?
                 = (build-path server-root-path "mime.types")
servlet-path : path? = "servlets/standalone.ss"
```

This sets up and starts a fairly default server instance.

*servlet* is installed as a server at *servlet-path* with *manager* as its continuation manager. (The default manager limits the amount of memory to 64 MB and deals with memory pressure as discussed in the *make-threshold-LRU-manager* documentation.)

If *launch-browser?* is true, then a web browser is opened to the servlet's start page.

If *quit?* is true, then the URL `"/quit"` ends the server.

Advanced users may need the following options:

The server listens on *listen-ip* and port *port*.

The modules specified by *servlet-namespace* are shared with other servlets.

The server files are rooted at *server-root-path* (which is defaultly the distribution root.) A file path, in addition to the "htdocs" directory under *server-root-path* may be provided with *extra-files-path*. These files are checked first. The "servlets" directory is expected at *servlets-root*.

If a file cannot be found, *file-not-found-path* is used as an error response.

MIME types are looked up at *mime-types-path*.

### 1.3 Command-line Tools

One command-line utility is provided with the Web Server:

```
plt-web-server [-f <file-name> -p <port> -a <ip-address>]
```

The optional file-name argument specifies the path to a *configuration-table* S-expression (see §5.2 "Configuration Table".) If this is not provided, the default configuration shipped with the server is used. The optional port and ip-address arguments override the corresponding portions of the *configuration-table*.

The *configuration-table* is given to *configuration-table->web-config@* and used to construct a *web-config^* unit, and is linked with the *web-server@* unit. The resulting unit is invoked, and the server runs until the process is killed.

To run the web server with MrEd, use

```
mred -l- web-server/gui [-f <file-name> -p <port> -a <ip-address>]
```

### 1.4 Functional

```
(require web-server/web-server)
```

"web-server.ss" provides a number of functions for easing embedding of the Web Server in other applications, or loading a custom dispatcher. See "run.ss" for an example of such a script.

---

```

(serve
 #:dispatch dispatch
 [#:tcp@ tcp@
 #:port port
 #:listen-ip listen-ip
 #:max-waiting max-waiting
 #:initial-connection-timeout initial-connection-timeout])
→ (-> void)
dispatch : dispatcher?
tcp@ : tcp-unit^ = raw:tcp@
port : integer? = 80
listen-ip : (or/c string? false/c) = #f
max-waiting : integer? = 40
initial-connection-timeout : integer? = 60

```

Constructs an appropriate `dispatch-config^`, invokes the `dispatch-server@`, and calls its `serve` function.

The `#:tcp@` keyword is provided for building an SSL server. See §11.5 “How do I set up the server to use HTTPS?”.

Here’s an example of a simple web server that serves files from a given path:

```

(define (start-file-server base)
  (serve
   #:dispatch
   (files:make
    #:url->path (make-url->path base)
    #:path->mime-type
    (lambda (path)
     #"application/octet-stream"))
   #:port 8080))

```

---

```

(serve/ports
 #:dispatch dispatch
 [#:tcp@ tcp@
 #:ports ports
 #:listen-ip listen-ip
 #:max-waiting max-waiting
 #:initial-connection-timeout initial-connection-timeout])
→ (-> void)
dispatch : dispatcher?
tcp@ : tcp-unit^ = raw:tcp@
ports : (listof integer?) = (list 80)
listen-ip : (or/c string? false/c) = #f
max-waiting : integer? = 40

```

```
initial-connection-timeout : integer? = 60
```

Calls `serve` multiple times, once for each `port`, and returns a function that shuts down all of the server instances.

---

```
(serve/ips+ports
  #:dispatch dispatch
  [#:tcp@ tcp@
   #:ips+ports ips+ports
   #:max-waiting max-waiting
   #:initial-connection-timeout initial-connection-timeout])
→ (-> void)
dispatch : dispatcher?
tcp@ : tcp-unit^ = raw:tcp@
ips+ports : (listof (cons/c (or/c string? false/c) (listof integer?)))
            = (list (cons #f (list 80)))
max-waiting : integer? = 40
initial-connection-timeout : integer? = 60
```

Calls `serve/ports` multiple times, once for each `ip`, and returns a function that shuts down all of the server instances.

---

```
(do-not-return) → void
```

This function does not return. If you are writing a script to load the Web Server you are likely to want to call this functions at the end of your script.

## 2 Scheme Servlets

```
(require web-server/servlet)
```

The Web Server allows servlets to be written in Scheme. It provides the supporting API, described below, for the construction of these servlets.

### 2.1 Definition

A *servlet* is a module that provides the following:

---

```
interface-version : (one-of/c 'v1 'v2)
```

A symbol indicating the servlet interface the servlet conforms to. This influences the other provided identifiers.

---

```
timeout : integer?
```

Only if `interface-version` is `'v1`.

This number is used as the `continuation-timeout` argument to a timeout-based continuation manager used for this servlet. (See §9.3 “Timeouts”.) (i.e., you do not have a choice of the manager for this servlet and will be given a timeout-based manager.)

---

```
manager : manager?
```

Only if `interface-version` is `'v2`.

The manager for the continuations of this servlet.

---

```
(start initial-request) → response?  
  initial-request : request?
```

This function is called when an instance of this servlet is started. The argument is the HTTP request that initiated the instance.

### 2.2 Contracts

```
(require web-server/servlet/servlet-structs)
```

"servlet/servlet-structs.ss" provides a number of contracts for use in servlets.

---

`k-url?` : `contract?`

Equivalent to `string?`.

---

`response-generator?` : `contract?`

Equivalent to `(-> k-url? response?)`.

---

`url-transform?` : `contract?`

Equivalent to `(-> k-url? k-url?)`.

---

`expiration-handler/c` : `contract?`

Equivalent to `(or/c false/c (-> request? response?))`.

---

`embed/url/c` : `contract?`

Equivalent to `(opt-> ((-> request? any/c)) (expiration-handler/c) string?)`.

## 2.3 HTTP Requests

(require web-server/private/request-structs)

"private/request-structs.ss" provides a number of structures and functions related to HTTP request data structures.

---

```
(struct header (field value))
  field : bytes?
  value : bytes?
```

Represents a header of `field` to `value`.

---

```
(headers-assq id heads) → (or/c false/c header?)
  id : bytes?
  heads : (listof header?)
```

Returns the header with a field equal to *id* from *heads* or #f.

---

```
(headers-assq* id heads) → (or/c false/c header?)
  id : bytes?
  heads : (listof header?)
```

Returns the header with a field case-insensitively equal to *id* from *heads* or #f.

---

```
(struct binding (id))
  id : bytes?
```

Represents a binding of *id*.

---

```
(struct (binding:form binding) (value))
  value : bytes?
```

Represents a form binding of *id* to *value*.

---

```
(struct (binding:file binding) (filename content))
  filename : bytes?
  content : bytes?
```

Represents the uploading of the file *filename* with the id *id* and the content *content*.

---

```
(bindings-assq id binds) → (or/c false/c binding?)
  id : bytes?
  binds : (listof binding?)
```

Returns the binding with an id equal to *id* from *binds* or #f.

---

```
(struct request (method
                  uri
                  headers/raw
                  bindings/raw
                  post-data/raw
                  host-ip
                  host-port
                  client-ip))
  method : symbol?
  uri : url?
  headers/raw : (listof header?)
```

```
bindings/raw : (listof binding?)
post-data/raw : (or/c false/c bytes?)
host-ip : string?
host-port : number?
client-ip : string?
```

An HTTP `method` request to `uri` from `client-ip` to the server at `host-ip:host-port` with `headers/raw` headers, `bindings/raw` GET and POST queries and `post-data/raw` POST data.

## 2.4 Request Bindings

```
(require web-server/servlet/bindings)
```

"servlet/bindings.ss" provides a number of helper functions for accessing request bindings.

---

```
(request-bindings req)
→ (listof (or/c (cons/c symbol? string?)
                (cons/c symbol? bytes?)))
req : request?
```

Translates the `request-bindings/raw` of `req` by interpreting `bytes?` as `string?`s, except in the case of `binding:file` bindings, which are left as is. Ids are then translated into lowercase symbols.

---

```
(request-headers req) → (listof (cons/c symbol? string?))
req : request?
```

Translates the `request-headers/raw` of `req` by interpreting `bytes?` as `string?`s. Ids are then translated into lowercase symbols.

---

```
(extract-binding/single id binds) → string?
id : symbol?
binds : (listof (cons/c symbol? string?))
```

Returns the single binding associated with `id` in the a-list `binds` if there is exactly one binding. Otherwise raises `exn:fail`.

---

```
(extract-bindings id binds) → (listof string?)
id : symbol?
binds : (listof (cons/c symbol? string?))
```

Returns a list of all the bindings of *id* in the a-list *binds*.

---

```
(exists-binding? id binds) → boolean?  
  id : symbol?  
  binds : (listof (cons/c symbol? string))
```

Returns *#t* if *binds* contains a binding for *id*. Otherwise, *#f*.

These functions, while convenient, could introduce subtle bugs into your application. Examples: that they are case-insensitive could introduce a bug; if the data submitted is not in UTF-8 format, then the conversion to a string will fail; if an attacked submits a form field as if it were a file, when it is not, then the `request-bindings` will hold a `bytes?` object and your program will error; and, for file uploads you lose the filename.

## 2.5 HTTP Responses

```
(require web-server/private/response-structs)
```

"private/response-structs.ss" provides structures and functions related to HTTP responses.

---

```
(struct response/basic (code message seconds mime headers))  
  code : number?  
  message : string?  
  seconds : number?  
  mime : bytes?  
  headers : (listof header?)
```

A basic HTTP response containing no body. `code` is the response code, `message` the message, `seconds` the generation time, `mime` the MIME type of the file, and `extras` are the extra headers, in addition to those produced by the server.

---

```
(struct (response/full response/basic) (body))  
  body : (listof (or/c string? bytes?))
```

As with `response/basic`, except with `body` as the response body.

---

```
(struct (response/incremental response/basic) (generator))  
  generator : ((() (listof (or/c bytes? string?)) . ->* . any) . -> . any)
```

As with `response/basic`, except with `generator` as a function that is called to generate

the response body, by being given an `output-response` function that outputs the content it is called with.

Here is a short example:

```
(make-response/incremental
 200 "OK" (current-seconds)
 #"application/octet-stream"
 (list (make-header #"Content-Disposition"
                  #"attachment; filename=\"file\""))
 (lambda (send/bytes)
   (send/bytes #"Some content")
   (send/bytes)
   (send/bytes #"Even" #"more" #"content!")
   (send/bytes "No we're done")))
```

---

```
(response? v) → boolean?
 v : any/c
```

Checks if `v` is a valid response. A response is either:

- A `response/basic` structure.
- A value matching the contract `(cons/c (or/c bytes? string?) (listof (or/c bytes? string?)))`.
- A value matching `xexpr?`.

---

```
TEXT/HTML-MIME-TYPE : bytes?
```

Equivalent to `#"text/html; charset=utf-8"`.

Warning: If you include a Content-Length header in a response that is inaccurate, there WILL be an error in transmission that the server will not catch.

## 2.6 Web

```
(require web-server/servlet/web)
```

The `web-server/servlet/web` library provides the primary functions of interest for the servlet developer.

---

```
(send/back response) → void?  
  response : response?
```

Sends *response* to the client.

---

```
current-servlet-continuation-expiration-handler : (parameter/c expiration-handler/c)
```

Holds the `expiration-handler/c` to be used when a continuation captured in this context is expired, then looked up.

---

```
(send/suspend make-response [exp]) → request?  
  make-response : response-generator?  
  exp : expiration-handler/c  
      = (current-servlet-continuation-expiration-handler)
```

Captures the current continuation, stores it with *exp* as the expiration handler, and binds it to a URL. *make-response* is called with this URL and is expected to generate a `response?`, which is sent to the client. If the continuation URL is invoked, the captured continuation is invoked and the request is returned from this call to `send/suspend`.

---

```
(continuation-url? u)  
→ (or/c false/c (list/c number? number? number?))  
  u : url?
```

Checks if *u* is a URL that refers to a continuation, if so returns the instance id, continuation id, and nonce.

---

```
(adjust-timeout! t) → void?  
  t : number?
```

Calls the servlet's manager's `adjust-timeout!` function.

---

```
(clear-continuation-table!) → void?
```

Calls the servlet's manager's `clear-continuation-table!` function.

---

```
(send/forward make-response [exp]) → request?  
  make-response : response-generator?  
  exp : expiration-handler/c  
      = (current-servlet-continuation-expiration-handler)
```

Calls `clear-continuation-table!`, then `send/suspend`.

---

```
(send/finish response) → void?  
  response : response?
```

Calls `clear-continuation-table!`, then `send/back`.

---

```
(send/suspend/dispatch make-response) → any/c  
  make-response : (embed/url/c . -> . response?)
```

Calls `make-response` with a function that, when called with a procedure from `request?` to `any/c` will generate a URL, that when invoked will call the function with the `request?` object and return the result to the caller of `send/suspend/dispatch`.

---

```
(redirect/get) → request?
```

Calls `send/suspend` with `redirect-to`.

---

```
(redirect/get/forget) → request?
```

Calls `send/forward` with `redirect-to`.

---

```
(embed-ids ids u) → string?  
  ids : (list/c number? number? number?)  
  u : url?
```

Creates a `continuation-url?`.

---

```
current-url-transform : (parameter/c url-transform?)
```

Holds a `url-transform?` function that is called by `send/suspend` to transform the URLs it generates.

## 2.7 Helpers

```
(require web-server/servlet/helpers)
```

"`servlet/helpers.ss`" provides functions built on "`servlet/web.ss`" that are useful in many servlets.

---

```
(redirect-to uri
  [perm/temp
   #:headers headers]) → response?
uri : string?
perm/temp : redirection-status? = temporarily
headers : (listof header?) = (list)
```

Generates an HTTP response that redirects the browser to *uri*, while including the *headers* in the response.

---

```
(redirection-status? v) → boolean?
v : any/c
```

Determines if *v* is one of the following values.

---

```
permanently : redirection-status?
```

A *redirection-status?* for permanent redirections.

---

```
temporarily : redirection-status?
```

A *redirection-status?* for temporary redirections.

---

```
see-other : redirection-status?
```

A *redirection-status?* for "see-other" redirections.

---

```
(with-errors-to-browser send/finish-or-back
  thunk) → any
send/finish-or-back : (response? . -> . void?)
thunk : (-> any)
```

Calls *thunk* with an exception handler that generates an HTML error page and calls *send/finish-or-back*.

## 2.8 Servlet URLs

```
(require web-server/servlet/servlet-url)
```

"servlet/servlet-url.ss" provides functions that might be useful to you. They may eventually be provided by another module.

---

```
(request->servlet-url req) → servlet-url?  
  req : request?
```

Generates a value to be passed to the next function.

---

```
(servlet-url->url-string/no-continuation su) → string?  
  su : servlet-url?
```

Returns a URL string without the continuation information in the URL that went into *su*

## 2.9 Basic Authentication

```
(require web-server/servlet/basic-auth)
```

"servlet/basic-auth.ss" provides a function for helping with implementation of HTTP Basic Authentication.

---

```
(extract-user-pass heads)  
→ (or/c false/c (cons/c bytes? bytes?))  
  heads : (listof header?)
```

Returns a pair of the username and password from the authentication header in *heads* if they are present, or *#f*

## 2.10 Web Cells

```
(require web-server/servlet/web-cells)
```

The `web-server/servlet/web-cells` library provides the interface to web cells.

A web cell is a kind of state defined relative to the *frame tree*. The frame-tree is a mirror of the user's browsing session. Every time a continuation is invoked, a new frame (called the *current frame*) is created as a child of the current frame when the continuation was captured.

You should use web cells if you want an effect to be encapsulated in all interactions linked from (in a transitive sense) the HTTP response being generated. For more information on their semantics, consult the paper "Interaction-Safe State for the Web" (<http://www.cs.brown.edu/~sk/Publications/Papers/Published/mk-int-safe-state-web/>).

---

```
(web-cell? v) → boolean?  
v : any/c
```

Determines if *v* is a web-cell.

---

```
(make-web-cell v) → web-cell?  
v : any/c
```

Creates a web-cell with a default value of *v*.

---

```
(web-cell-ref wc) → any/c  
wc : web-cell?
```

Looks up the value of *wc* found in the nearest frame.

---

```
(web-cell-shadow wc v) → void  
wc : web-cell?  
v : any/c
```

Binds *wc* to *v* in the current frame, shadowing any other bindings to *wc* in the current frame.

## 3 Web Language Servlets

The Web Server allows servlets to be written in a special Web language that is nearly identical to Scheme. Herein we discuss how it is different and what API is provided.

### 3.1 Definition

```
(require web-server/lang)
```

A *Web language servlet* is a module written in the `web-server/lang` language. The servlet module should provide the following function:

---

```
(start initial-request) → response?  
  initial-request : request?
```

Called when this servlet is invoked. The argument is the HTTP request that initiated the servlet.

The only way to run Web language servlets currently is to use the functional interface to starting the server and create a dispatcher that includes a `make-lang-dispatcher` dispatcher.

### 3.2 Usage Considerations

A servlet has the following process performed on it automatically:

- All uses of `letrec` are removed and replaced with equivalent uses of `let` and imperative features. ("`lang/elim-letrec.ss`")
- The program is converted into ANF (Administrative Normal Form), making all continuations explicit. ("`lang/anormal.ss`")
- All continuations (and other continuation marks) are recorded in the continuation marks of the expression they are the continuation of. ("`lang/elim-callcc.ss`")
- All calls to external modules are identified and marked. ("`lang/elim-callcc.ss`")
- All uses of `call/cc` are removed and replaced with equivalent gathering of the continuations through the continuation-marks. ("`lang/elim-callcc.ss`")
- The program is defunctionalized with a serializable data-structure for each anonymous lambda. ("`lang/defun.ss`")

This process allows the continuations captured by your servlet to be serialized. This means they may be stored on the client's browser or the server's disk. Thus, your servlet has no cost to the server other than execution. This is very attractive if you've used Scheme servlets and had memory problems.

This process IS defined on all of PLT Scheme and occurs AFTER macro-expansion, so you are free to use all interesting features of PLT Scheme. However, there are some considerations you must make.

First, this process drastically changes the structure of your program. It will create an immense number of lambdas and structures your program did not normally contain. The performance implication of this has not been studied with PLT Scheme. However, it is theoretically a benefit. The main implications would be due to optimizations MzScheme attempts to perform that will no longer apply. Ideally, your program should be optimized first.

Second, the defunctionalization process is sensitive to the syntactic structure of your program. Therefore, if you change your program in a trivial way, for example, changing a constant, then all serialized continuations will be obsolete and will error when deserialization is attempted. This is a feature, not a bug!

Third, the values in the lexical scope of your continuations must be serializable for the continuations itself to be serializable. This means that you must use `define-serializable-struct` rather than `define-struct`, and take care to use modules that do the same. Similarly, you may not use `parameterize`, because parameterizations are not serializable.

Fourth, and related, this process only runs on your code, not on the code you require. Thus, your continuations—to be capturable—must not be in the context of another module. For example, the following will not work:

```
(define requests
  (map (lambda (rg) (send/suspend/url rg))
       response-generators))
```

because `map` is not transformed by the process. However, if you defined your own `map` function, there would be no problem.

Fifth, the store is NOT serialized. If you rely on the store you will be taking huge risks. You will be assuming that the serialized continuation is invoked before the server is restarted or the memory is garbage collected.

This process is derived from the paper "Continuations from Generalized Stack Inspection" (<http://www.cs.brown.edu/~sk/Publications/Papers/Published/pcmkf-cont-from-gen-stack-insp/>). We thank Greg Pettyjohn for his initial implementation of this algorithm.

### 3.3 Reprovided API

The APIs from `net/url`, §2.3 “HTTP Requests”, §2.5 “HTTP Responses”, and §2.7 “Helpers” are reprovided by the Web language API.

### 3.4 Web

```
(require web-server/lang/web)
```

"lang/web.ss" provides the most basic Web functionality.

---

```
(send/suspend/url response-generator) → request?  
response-generator : (url? . -> . response?)
```

Captures the current continuation. Serializes it and stuffs it into a URL. Calls `response-generator` with this URL and delivers the response to the client. If the URL is invoked the request is returned to this continuation.

---

```
(send/suspend/hidden response-generator) → request?  
response-generator : (url? xexpr? . -> . response?)
```

Captures the current continuation. Serializes it and generates an INPUT form that includes the serialization as a hidden form. Calls `response-generator` with this URL and form field and delivers the response to the client. If the URL is invoked with form data containing the hidden form, the request is returned to this continuation.

Note: The continuation is NOT stuffed.

---

```
(send/suspend/dispatch make-response) → any/c  
make-response : (embed/url/c . -> . response?)
```

Calls `make-response` with a function that, when called with a procedure from `request?` to `any/c` will generate a URL, that when invoked will call the function with the `request?` object and return the result to the caller of `send/suspend/dispatch`.

### 3.5 Stuff URL

```
(require web-server/lang/stuff-url)
```

"lang/stuff-url.ss" provides an interface for "stuffing" serializable values into URLs.

Currently there is a particular hard-coded behavior, but we hope to make it more flexible in the future.

---

```
(stuff-url v u) → url?  
  v : serializable?  
  u : url?
```

Serializes `v` and computes the MD5 of the serialized representation. The serialization of `v` is written to "\$HOME/.urls/M" where 'M' is the MD5. 'M' is then placed in `u` as a URL param.

---

```
(stuffed-url? u) → boolean?  
  u : url?
```

Checks if `u` appears to be produced by `stuff-url`.

---

```
(unstuff-url u) → serializable?  
  u : url?
```

Extracts the value previously serialized into `u` by `stuff-url`.

In the future, we will offer the facilities to:

- Optionally use the content-addressed storage.
- Use different hashing algorithms for the CAS.
- Encrypt the serialized value.
- Only use the CAS if the URL would be too long. (URLs may only be 1024 characters.)

### 3.6 Web Extras

```
(require web-server/lang/web-extras)
```

The `web-server/lang/web-extras` library provides `redirect/get` as `web-server/servlet/web` except it uses `send/suspend/url`.

---

```
(redirect/get) → request?
```

See `web-server/servlet/web`.

### 3.7 File Boxes

```
(require web-server/lang/file-box)
```

As mentioned earlier, it is dangerous to rely on the store in Web Language servlets, due to the deployment scenarios available to them. "lang/file-box.ss" provides a simple API to replace boxes in a safe way.

---

```
(file-box? v) → boolean?  
  v : any/c
```

Checks if *v* is a file-box.

---

```
(file-box p v) → file-box?  
  p : path?  
  v : serializable?
```

Creates a file-box that is stored at *p*, with the default contents of *v*.

---

```
(file-unbox fb) → serializable?  
  fb : file-box?
```

Returns the value inside *fb*

---

```
(file-box-set? fb) → boolean?  
  fb : file-box?
```

Returns #t if *fb* contains a value.

---

```
(file-box-set! fb v) → void  
  fb : file-box?  
  v : serializable?
```

Saves *v* in the file represented by *fb*.

Warning:If you plan on using a load-balancer, make sure your file-boxes are on a shared medium.

### 3.8 Web Parameters

```
(require web-server/lang/web-param)
```

As mentioned earlier, it is not easy to use `parameterize` in the Web Language. "`lang/web-param.ss`" provides (roughly) the same functionality in a way that is serializable. Like other serializable things in the Web Language, they are sensitive to source code modification.

---

```
(make-web-parameter default)
```

Expands to the definition of a web-parameter with `default` as the default value. A web-parameter is a procedure that, when called with zero arguments, returns `default` or the last value web-parameterized in the dynamic context of the call.

---

```
(web-parameter? v) → boolean?  
  v : any/c
```

Checks if `v` appears to be a web-parameter.

---

```
(web-parameterize ([web-parameter-expr value-expr] ...) expr ...)
```

Runs `(begin expr ...)` such that the web-parameters that the `web-parameter-exprs` evaluate to are bound to the `value-exprs`. From the perspective of the `value-exprs`, this is like `let`.

### 3.9 Web Cells

```
(require web-server/lang/web-cells)
```

The `web-server/lang/web-cells` library provides the same API as `web-server/servlet/web-cells`, but in a way compatible with the Web Language. The one difference is that `make-web-cell` is syntax, rather than a function.

---

```
(web-cell? v) → boolean?  
  v : any/c  
(make-web-cell default-expr)  
(web-cell-ref wc) → any/c  
  wc : web-cell?  
(web-cell-shadow wc v) → void  
  wc : web-cell?  
  v : any/c
```

See `web-server/servlet/web-cells`.

## 4 Formlets

```
(require web-server/formlets)
```

The Web Server provides a kind of Web form abstraction called a formlet.

Formlets originate in the work of the Links research group in their paper *The Essence of Form Abstraction*.

### 4.1 Basic Formlet Usage

Suppose we want to create an abstraction of entering a date in an HTML form. The following formlet captures this idea:

```
(define date-formlet
  (formlet
    (div
      "Month:" ,{input-int . => . month}
      "Day:" ,{input-int . => . day})
    (list month day)))
```

The first part of the formlet syntax is the template of an X-expression that is the rendering of the formlet. It can contain elements like `,(<=> formlet name)` where *formlet* is a formlet expression and *name* is an identifier bound in the second part of the formlet syntax.

This formlet is displayed (with `formlet-display`) as the following X-expression forest (list):

```
(list
  '(div "Month:" (input ([name "input_0"])))
    "Day:" (input ([name "input_1"]))))
```

`date-formlet` not only captures the rendering of the form, but also the request processing logic. If we send it an HTTP request with bindings for `"input_0"` to `"10"` and `"input_1"` to `"3"`, with `formlet-process`, then it returns:

```
(list 10 3)
```

which is the second part of the formlet syntax, where `month` has been replaced with the integer represented by the `"input_0"` and `day` has been replaced with the integer represented by the `"input_1"`.

The real power of formlet is that they can be embedded within one another. For instance, suppose we want to combine two date forms to capture a travel itinerary. The following formlet does the job:

```
(define travel-formlet
  (formlet
```

```
(div
  "Name:" ,{input-string . => . name}
  (div
    "Arrive:" ,{date-formlet . => . arrive}
    "Depart:" ,{date-formlet . => . depart})
  (list name arrive depart)))
```

(Notice that `date-formlet` is embedded twice.) This is rendered as:

```
(list
  '(div
    "Name:"
    (input ([name "input_0"]))
    (div
      "Arrive:"
      (div "Month:" (input ([name "input_1"]))
        "Day:" (input ([name "input_2"])))
      "Depart:"
      (div "Month:" (input ([name "input_3"]))
        "Day:" (input ([name "input_4"])))))))
```

Observe that `formlet-display` has automatically generated unique names for each input element. When we pass bindings for these names to `formlet-process`, the following list is returned:

```
(list "Jay"
  (list 10 3)
  (list 10 6))
```

The rest of the manual gives the details of formlet usage and extension.

## 4.2 Syntactic Shorthand

```
(require web-server/formlets/syntax)
```

Most users will want to use the syntactic shorthand for creating formlets.

---

```
(formlet rendering yields-expr)
```

Constructs a formlet with the specified *rendering* and the processing resulting in the *yields-expr* expression. The *rendering* form is a quasiquoted X-expression, with two special caveats:

,{=> *formlet-expr name*} embeds the formlet given by *formlet-expr*; the result of

this processing this formlet is available in the *yields-expr* as *name*.

(*### xexpr ...*) renders an X-expression forest.

### 4.3 Functional Usage

```
(require web-server/formlets/lib)
```

The syntactic shorthand abbreviates the construction of *formlets* with the following library. These combinators may be used directly to construct low-level formlets, such as those for new INPUT element types. Refer to §4.4 “Predefined Formlets” for example low-level formlets using these combinators.

---

```
xexpr-forest/c : contract?
```

Equivalent to `(listof xexpr?)`

---

```
(formlet/c content) → contract?  
content : any/c
```

Equivalent to `(-> integer? (values xexpr-forest/c (-> (listof binding?) (coerce-contract 'formlet/c content)) integer?))`.

A formlet’s internal representation is a function from an initial input number to an X-expression forest rendering, a processing function, and the next allowable input number.

---

```
(pure value) → (formlet/c any/c)  
value : any/c
```

Constructs a formlet that has no rendering and always returns *value* in the processing stage.

---

```
(cross f g) → (formlet/c any/c)  
f : (formlet/c (any/c . -> . any/c))  
g : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Constructs a formlet with a rendering equal to the concatenation of the renderings of formlets *f* and *g*; a processing stage that applies *g*’s processing result to *f*’s processing result.

---

```
(cross* f g ...) → (formlet/c any/c)  
f : (formlet/c (() () #:rest (listof any/c) . ->* . any/c))  
g : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Equivalent to `cross` lifted to many arguments.

---

```
(xml-forest r) → (formlet/c procedure?)  
  r : xexpr-forest/c
```

Constructs a formlet with the rendering `r` and the identity procedure as the processing step.

---

```
(xml r) → (formlet/c procedure?)  
  r : xexpr?
```

Equivalent to `(xml-forest (list r))`.

---

```
(text r) → (formlet/c procedure?)  
  r : string?
```

Equivalent to `(xml r)`.

---

```
(tag-xexpr tag attrs inner) → (formlet/c any/c)  
  tag : symbol?  
  attrs : (listof (list/c symbol? string?))  
  inner : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Constructs a formlet with the rendering `(list (list* tag attrs inner-rendering))` where `inner-rendering` is the rendering of `inner` and the processing stage identical to `inner`.

---

```
(formlet-display f) → xexpr-forest/c  
  f : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Renders `f`.

---

```
(formlet-process f r) → any/c  
  f : (formlet/c any/c)  
  r : request?
```

Runs the processing stage of `f` on the bindings in `r`.

## 4.4 Predefined Formlets

```
(require web-server/formlets/input)
```

There are a few basic formlets provided by this library.

---

```
input-string : (formlet/c string?)
```

A formlet that renders as

```
(list '(input ([name (format "input_~a" next-id)])))
```

where `next-id` is the next available input index and extracts `(format "input_~a" next-id)` in the processing stage and converts it into a UTF-8 string.

---

```
input-int : (formlet/c integer?)
```

Equivalent to `(cross (pure string->number) input-string)`.

---

```
input-symbol : (formlet/c symbol?)
```

Equivalent to `(cross (pure string->symbol) input-string)`.

## 4.5 Utilities

```
(require web-server/formlets/servlet)
```

A few utilities are provided for using formlets in Web applications.

---

```
(send/formlet f) → any/c  
f : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Uses `send/suspend` to send `f`'s rendering (wrapped in a FORM tag whose action is the continuation URL) to the client. When the form is submitted, the request is passed to the processing stage of `f`.

---

```
(embed-formlet embed/url f) → xexpr?  
embed/url : embed/url/c  
f : (formlet/c any/c)
```

Like `send/formlet`, but for use with `send/suspend/dispatch`.

## 5 Configuration

There are a number of libraries and utilities useful for configuring the Web Server .

### 5.1 Configuration Table Structure

(require web-server/configuration/configuration-table-structs)

"configuration/configuration-table-structs.ss" provides the following structures that represent a standard configuration (see §8 “Web Server Unit”) of the Web Server . The contracts on this structure influence the valid types of values in the configuration table S-expression file format described in §5.2 “Configuration Table”.

---

```
(struct configuration-table (port
                            max-waiting
                            initial-connection-timeout
                            default-host
                            virtual-hosts))

port : port-number?
max-waiting : natural-number/c
initial-connection-timeout : natural-number/c
default-host : host-table?
virtual-hosts : (listof (cons/c string? host-table?))
```

---

```
(struct host-table (indices log-format messages timeouts paths))

indices : (listof string?)
log-format : symbol?
messages : messages?
timeouts : timeouts?
paths : paths?
```

---

```
(struct host (indices
              log-format
              log-path
              passwords
              responders
              timeouts
              paths))

indices : (listof string?)
log-format : symbol?
log-path : (or/c false/c path-string?)
```

```
passwords : (or/c false/c path-string?)
responders : responders?
timeouts : timeouts?
paths : paths?
```

---

```
(struct responders (servlet
  servlet-loading
  authentication
  servlets-refreshed
  passwords-refreshed
  file-not-found
  protocol
  collect-garbage))
servlet : (url? any/c . -> . response?)
servlet-loading : (url? any/c . -> . response?)
authentication : (url? (cons/c symbol? string?) . -> . response?)
servlets-refreshed : (-> response?)
passwords-refreshed : (-> response?)
file-not-found : (request? . -> . response?)
protocol : (url? . -> . response?)
collect-garbage : (-> response?)
```

---

```
(struct messages (servlet
  authentication
  servlets-refreshed
  passwords-refreshed
  file-not-found
  protocol
  collect-garbage))
servlet : string?
authentication : string?
servlets-refreshed : string?
passwords-refreshed : string?
file-not-found : string?
protocol : string?
collect-garbage : string?
```

---

```
(struct timeouts (default-servlet
  password
  servlet-connection
  file-per-byte
  file-base))
default-servlet : number?
```

```
password : number?
servlet-connection : number?
file-per-byte : number?
file-base : number?
```

---

```
(struct paths (conf
  host-base
  log
  htdocs
  servlet
  mime-types
  passwords))
conf : (or/c false/c path-string?)
host-base : (or/c false/c path-string?)
log : (or/c false/c path-string?)
htdocs : (or/c false/c path-string?)
servlet : (or/c false/c path-string?)
mime-types : (or/c false/c path-string?)
passwords : (or/c false/c path-string?)
```

## 5.2 Configuration Table

```
(require web-server/configuration/configuration-table)
```

"configuration/configuration-table.ss" provides functions for reading, writing, parsing, and printing `configuration-table` structures.

---

```
default-configuration-table-path : path?
```

The default configuration table S-expression file.

---

```
(sexpr->configuration-table sexpr) → configuration-table?
sexpr : list?
```

This function converts a `configuration-table` from an S-expression.

---

```
(configuration-table->sexpr ctable) → list?
ctable : configuration-table?
```

This function converts a `configuration-table` to an S-expression.

```

‘((port ,integer?)
  (max-waiting ,integer?)
  (initial-connection-timeout ,integer?)
  (default-host-table
   ,host-table-sexpr?)
  (virtual-host-table
   (list ,symbol? ,host-table-sexpr?)
   ...))

```

where a `host-table-sexpr` is:

```

‘(host-table
  (default-indices ,string? ...)
  (log-format ,symbol?)
  (messages
   (servlet-message ,path-string?)
   (authentication-message ,path-string?)
   (servlets-refreshed ,path-string?)
   (passwords-refreshed ,path-string?)
   (file-not-found-message ,path-string?)
   (protocol-message ,path-string?)
   (collect-garbage ,path-string?))
  (timeouts
   (default-servlet-timeout ,integer?)
   (password-connection-timeout ,integer?)
   (servlet-connection-timeout ,integer?)
   (file-per-byte-connection-timeout ,integer?)
   (file-base-connection-timeout ,integer))
  (paths
   (configuration-root ,path-string?)
   (host-root ,path-string?)
   (log-file-path ,path-string?)
   (file-root ,path-string?)
   (servlet-root ,path-string?)
   (mime-types ,path-string?)
   (password-authentication ,path-string?)))

```

---

```

(read-configuration-table path) → configuration-table?
  path : path-string?

```

This function reads a `configuration-table` from `path`.

---

```

(write-configuration-table ctable path) → void
  ctable : configuration-table?
  path : path-string?

```

This function writes a `configuration-table` to `path`.

### 5.3 Servlet Namespaces

```
(require web-server/configuration/namespace)
```

"`configuration/namespace.ss`" provides a function to help create the `make-servlet-namespace` procedure needed by the `make` functions of "`dispatchers/dispatch-servlets.ss`" and "`dispatchers/dispatch-lang.ss`".

---

```
make-servlet-namespace/c : contract?
```

Equivalent to

```
(->* ()  
      (:additional-specs (listof module-path?))  
      namespace?)
```

.

---

```
(make-make-servlet-namespace #:to-be-copied-module-specs to-be-copied-module-specs)  
→ make-servlet-namespace/c  
   to-be-copied-module-specs : (listof module-path?)
```

This function creates a function that when called will construct a new `namespace` that has all the modules from `to-be-copied-module-specs` and `additional-specs`, as well as `mzscheme` and `mred`, provided they are already attached to the (`current-namespace`) of the call-site.

Example:

```
(make-make-servlet-namespace  
  #:to-be-copied-module-specs '((lib "database.ss" "my-module")))
```

#### 5.3.1 Why this is useful

A different namespace is needed for each servlet, so that if servlet A and servlet B both use a stateful module C, they will be isolated from one another. We see the Web Server as an operating system for servlets, so we inherit the isolation requirement on operating systems.

However, there are some modules which must be shared. If they were not, then structures cannot be passed from the Web Server to the servlets, due to a subtlety in the way MzScheme

implements structures.

Since, on occasion, a user will actually wanted servlets A and B to interact through module C. A custom `make-servlet-namespace` can be created, through this procedure, that attaches module C to all servlet namespaces. Through other means (see §6 “Dispatchers”) different sets of servlets can share different sets of modules.

## 5.4 Standard Responders

```
(require web-server/configuration/responders)
```

"configuration/responders.ss" provides some functions that help constructing HTTP responders. These functions are used by the default dispatcher constructor (see §8 “Web Server Unit”) to turn the paths given in the `configuration-table` into responders for the associated circumstance.

---

```
(file-response http-code
               short-version
               text-file
               header ...) → response?
  http-code : natural-number/c
  short-version : string?
  text-file : string?
  header : header?
```

Generates a `response/full` with the given `http-code` and `short-version` as the corresponding fields; with the content of the `text-file` as the body; and, with the `headers` as, you guessed it, headers.

---

```
(servlet-loading-responder url exn) → response?
  url : url?
  exn : exn?
```

Gives `exn` to the `current-error-handler` and response with a stack trace and a “Servlet didn’t load” message.

---

```
(gen-servlet-not-found file) → ((url url?) . -> . response?)
  file : path-string?
```

Returns a function that generates a standard “Servlet not found.” error with content from `file`.

---

```
(servlet-error-responder url exn) → response?  
  url : url?  
  exn : exn?
```

Gives *exn* to the `current-error-handler` and response with a stack trace and a "Servlet error" message.

---

```
(gen-servlet-responder file)  
→ ((url url?) (exn any/c) . -> . response?)  
  file : path-string?
```

Prints the *exn* to standard output and responds with a "Servlet error." message with content from *file*.

---

```
(gen-servlets-refreshed file) → (-> response?)  
  file : path-string?
```

Returns a function that generates a standard "Servlet cache refreshed." message with content from *file*.

---

```
(gen-passwords-refreshed file) → (-> response?)  
  file : path-string?
```

Returns a function that generates a standard "Passwords refreshed." message with content from *file*.

---

```
(gen-authentication-responder file)  
→ ((url url?) (header header?) . -> . response?)  
  file : path-string?
```

Returns a function that generates an authentication failure error with content from *file* and *header* as the HTTP header.

---

```
(gen-protocol-responder file) → ((url url?) . -> . response?)  
  file : path-string?
```

Returns a function that generates a "Malformed request" error with content from *file*.

---

```
(gen-file-not-found-responder file)  
→ ((req request?) . -> . response?)
```

*file* : `path-string?`

Returns a function that generates a standard "File not found" error with content from *file*.

---

`(gen-collect-garbage-responder file)` → `(-> response?)`  
*file* : `path-string?`

Returns a function that generates a standard "Garbage collection run" message with content from *file*.

## 6 Dispatchers

The Web Server is really just a particular configuration of a dispatching server. There are a number of dispatchers that are defined to support the Web Server . Other dispatching servers, or variants of the Web Server , may find these useful. In particular, if you want a peculiar processing pipeline for your Web Server installation, this documentation will be useful.

### 6.1 General

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch)
```

"dispatchers/dispatch.ss" provides a few functions for dispatchers in general.

---

```
dispatcher/c : contract?
```

Equivalent to (`-> connection? request? void`).

---

```
(dispatcher-interface-version/c any) → boolean?  
  any : any/c
```

Equivalent to (`symbols 'v1`)

---

```
(struct exn:dispatcher ())
```

An exception thrown to indicate that a dispatcher does not apply to a particular request.

---

```
(next-dispatcher) → void
```

Raises a `exn:dispatcher`

As the `dispatcher/c` contract suggests, a dispatcher is a function that takes a connection and request object and does something to them. Mostly likely it will generate some response and output it on the connection, but it may do something different. For example, it may apply some test to the request object, perhaps checking for a valid source IP address, and error if the test is not passed, and call `next-dispatcher` otherwise.

Consider the following example dispatcher, that captures the essence of URL rewriting:

```
; (url? -> url?) dispatcher/c -> dispatcher/c  
(lambda (rule inner)  
  (lambda (conn req)
```

```

; Call the inner dispatcher...
(inner conn
  ; with a new request object...
  (copy-struct request req
    ; with a new URL!
    [request-uri (rule (request-uri req))]))))

```

## 6.2 Mapping URLs to Paths

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/filesystem-map)
```

"dispatchers/filesystem-map.ss" provides a means of mapping URLs to paths on the filesystem.

---

```
url-path/c : contract?
```

This contract is equivalent to `(->* (url?) (path? (listof path-element?)))`. The returned `path?` is the path on disk. The list is the list of path elements that correspond to the path of the URL.

---

```
(make-url->path base) → url-path/c
  base : path?
```

The `url-path/c` returned by this procedure considers the root URL to be `base`. It ensures that `".."`s in the URL do not escape the `base` and removes them silently otherwise.

---

```
(make-url->valid-path url->path) → url->path?
  url->path : url->path?
```

Runs the underlying `url->path`, but only returns if the path refers to a file that actually exists. If it does not, then the suffix elements of the URL are removed until a file is found. If this never occurs, then an error is thrown.

This is primarily useful for dispatchers that allow path information after the name of a service to be used for data, but where the service is represented by a file. The most prominent example is obviously servlets.

## 6.3 Sequencing

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-sequencer)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-sequencer` module defines a dispatcher constructor that invokes a sequence of dispatchers until one applies.

---

```
(make dispatcher ...) → dispatcher/c
  dispatcher : dispatcher/c
```

Invokes each `dispatcher`, invoking the next if the first calls `next-dispatcher`. If no `dispatcher` applies, then it calls `next-dispatcher` itself.

## 6.4 Timeouts

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-timeout)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-timeout` module defines a dispatcher constructor that changes the timeout on the connection and calls the next dispatcher.

---

```
(make new-timeout) → dispatcher/c
  new-timeout : integer?
```

Changes the timeout on the connection with `adjust-connection-timeout!` called with `new-timeout`.

## 6.5 Lifting Procedures

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-lift)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-lift` module defines a dispatcher constructor.

---

```
(make proc) → dispatcher/c
  proc : (request? . -> . response?)
```

Constructs a dispatcher that calls `proc` on the request object, and outputs the response to the connection.

## 6.6 Filtering Requests

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-filter)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-filter` module defines a dispatcher constructor that calls an underlying dispatcher with all requests that pass a predicate.

---

```
(make regex inner) → dispatcher/c
  regex : regexp?
  inner : dispatcher/c
```

Calls `inner` if the URL path of the request, converted to a string, matches `regex`. Otherwise, calls `next-dispatcher`.

## 6.7 Procedure Invocation upon Request

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-pathprocedure)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-pathprocedure` module defines a dispatcher constructor for invoking a particular procedure when a request is given to a particular URL path.

---

```
(make path proc) → dispatcher/c
  path : string?
  proc : (request? . -> . response?)
```

Checks if the request URL path as a string is equal to `path` and if so, calls `proc` for a response.

This is used in the standard Web Server pipeline to provide a URL that refreshes the password file, servlet cache, etc.

## 6.8 Logging

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-log)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-log` module defines a dispatcher constructor for transparent logging of requests.

---

```
format-req/c : contract?
```

Equivalent to `(-> request? string?)`.

---

```
paren-format : format-req/c
```

Formats a request by:

```
(format "~s~n"
  (list 'from (request-client-ip req)
        'to (request-host-ip req)
        'for (url->string (request-uri req)) 'at
        (date->string (seconds->date (current-seconds)) #t)))
```

---

`extended-format` : `format-req/c`

Formats a request by:

```
(format "~s~n"
  '((client-ip ,(request-client-ip req))
    (host-ip ,(request-host-ip req))
    (referer ,(let ([R (headers-assq* #"Referer" (request-headers/raw req))])
                (if R
                    (header-value R)
                    #f))))
  (uri ,(url->string (request-uri req)))
  (time ,(current-seconds))))
```

---

`apache-default-format` : `format-req/c`

Formats a request like Apache's default.

---

```
(log-format->format id) → format-req/c
id : symbol?
```

Maps `'parenthesized-default` to `paren-format`, `'extended` to `extended-format`, and `'apache-default` to `apache-default-format`.

---

```
(make [#:format format #:log-path log-path]) → dispatcher/c
format : format-req/c = paren-format
log-path : path-string? = "log"
```

Logs requests to `log-path` by using `format` to format the requests. Then invokes `next-dispatcher`.

## 6.9 Password Protection

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-passwords)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-passwords` module defines a dispatcher constructor that performs HTTP Basic authentication filtering.

---

```
(make [#:password-file password-file
      #:authentication-responder authentication-responder])
→ (-> void) dispatcher/c
password-file : path-string? = "passwords"
authentication-responder : ((url url?) (header header?) . -> . response?)
                        = (gen-authentication-responder "forbidden.html")
```

The first returned value is a procedure that refreshes the password file used by the dispatcher.

The dispatcher that is returned does the following: Checks if the request contains Basic authentication credentials, and that they are included in `password-file`. If they are not, `authentication-responder` is called with a `header` that requests credentials. If they are, then `next-dispatcher` is invoked.

`password-file` is parsed as:

```
(list ([domain : string?]
      [path : string-regexp?]
      (list [user : symbol?]
            [pass : string?])
      ...))
...)
```

For example:

```
'(("secret stuff" "/secret(/.*)?" (bubba "bbq") (Billy "BoB")))
```

## 6.10 Virtual Hosts

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-host)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-host` module defines a dispatcher constructor that calls a different dispatcher based upon the host requested.

---

```
(make lookup-dispatcher) → dispatcher/c
lookup-dispatcher : (symbol? . -> . dispatcher/c)
```

Extracts a host from the URL requested, or the Host HTTP header, calls `lookup-dispatcher` with the host, and invokes the returned dispatcher. If no host can be extracted, then `'none` is used.

## 6.11 Serving Files

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-files)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-files` module allows files to be served. It defines a dispatcher construction procedure.

---

```
(make #:url->path url->path
      [#:path->mime-type path->mime-type
       #:indices indices]) → dispatcher/c
url->path : url->path?
path->mime-type : (path? . -> . bytes?)
                = (lambda (path) TEXT/HTML-MIME-TYPE)
indices : (listof string?) = (list "index.html" "index.htm")
```

Uses `url->path` to extract a path from the URL in the request object. If this path does not exist, then the dispatcher does not apply and `next-dispatcher` is invoked. If the path is a directory, then the `indices` are checked in order for an index file to serve. In that case, or in the case of a path that is a file already, `path->mime-type` is consulted for the MIME Type of the path. The file is then streamed out the connection object.

This dispatcher supports HTTP Range GET requests and HEAD requests.

## 6.12 Serving Scheme Servlets

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-servlets)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-servlets` module defines a dispatcher constructor that runs servlets written in Scheme.

---

```
(make config:scripts
      #:url->path url->path
      [#:make-servlet-namespace make-servlet-namespace
       #:responders-servlet-loading responders-servlet-loading
       #:responders-servlet responders-servlet
       #:timeouts-default-servlet timeouts-default-servlet])
→ (-> void) dispatcher/c
config:scripts : (box/c cache-table?)
url->path : url->path?
make-servlet-namespace : make-servlet-namespace?
                       = (make-make-servlet-namespace)
responders-servlet-loading : ((url url?) (exn exn?) . -> . response?)
                           = servlet-loading-responder
```

```

responders-servlet : ((url url?) (exn exn?) . -> . response?)
                    = servlet-error-responder
timeouts-default-servlet : integer? = 30

```

The first returned value is a procedure that refreshes the servlet code cache.

The dispatcher does the following: If the request URL contains a continuation reference, then it is invoked with the request. Otherwise, *url->path* is used to resolve the URL to a path. The path is evaluated as a module, in a namespace constructed by *make-servlet-namespace*. If this fails then *responders-servlet-loading* is used to format a response with the exception. If it succeeds, then *start* export of the module is invoked. If there is an error when a servlet is invoked, then *responders-servlet* is used to format a response with the exception.

Servlets that do not specify timeouts are given timeouts according to *timeouts-default-servlet*.

## 6.13 Serving Web Language Servlets

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-lang)
```

The *web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-lang* module defines a dispatcher constructor that runs servlets written in the Web Language.

---

```

(make #:url->path url->path
      [#:make-servlet-namespace make-servlet-namespace
       #:responders-servlet-loading responders-servlet-loading
       #:responders-servlet responders-servlet])
→ dispatcher/c
url->path : url->path?
make-servlet-namespace : make-servlet-namespace?
                    = (make-make-servlet-namespace)
responders-servlet-loading : ((url url?) (exn exn?) . -> . response?)
                    = servlet-loading-responder
responders-servlet : ((url url?) (exn exn?) . -> . response?)
                    = servlet-error-responder

```

If the request URL contains a serialized continuation, then it is invoked with the request. Otherwise, *url->path* is used to resolve the URL to a path. The path is evaluated as a module, in a namespace constructed by *make-servlet-namespace*. If this fails then *responders-servlet-loading* is used to format a response with the exception. If it succeeds, then *start* export of the module is invoked. If there is an error when a servlet is invoked, then *responders-servlet* is used to format a response with the exception.

## 6.14 Statistics

```
(require web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-stat)
```

The `web-server/dispatchers/dispatch-stat` module provides services related to performance statistics.

---

```
(make-gc-thread time) → thread?  
  time : integer?
```

Starts a thread that calls `(collect-garbage)` every *time* seconds.

---

```
(make) → dispatcher/c
```

Returns a dispatcher that prints memory usage on every request.

## 7 Web Config Unit

The Web Server offers a unit-based approach to configuring the server.

### 7.1 Configuration Signature

```
(require web-server/web-config-sig)
```

---

`web-config^` : signature

Provides contains the following identifiers.

---

`max-waiting` : `integer?`

Passed to `tcp-accept`.

---

`virtual-hosts` : `(listof (cons/c string? host-table?))`

Contains the configuration of individual virtual hosts.

---

`scripts` : `(box/c (cache-table? path? servlet?))`

Contains initially loaded servlets.

---

`initial-connection-timeout` : `integer?`

Specifies the initial timeout given to a connection.

---

`port` : `port-number?`

Specifies the port to serve HTTP on.

---

`listen-ip` : `string?`

Passed to `tcp-accept`.

---

`make-servlet-namespace` : `make-servlet-namespace?`

Passed to `servlets:make`.

### 7.2 Configuration Units

```
(require web-server/web-config-unit)
```

---

```
(configuration-table->web-config@
  path
  [#:port port
   #:listen-ip listen-ip
   #:make-servlet-namespace make-servlet-namespace])
→ (unit? web-config^)
path : path?
port : (or/c false/c port-number?) = #f
listen-ip : (or/c false/c string?) = #f
make-servlet-namespace : make-servlet-namespace?
                        = (make-make-servlet-namespace)
```

Reads the S-expression at `path` and calls `configuration-table-sexpr->web-config@` appropriately.

---

```
(configuration-table-sexpr->web-config@
  sexpr
  [#:web-server-root web-server-root
   #:port port
   #:listen-ip listen-ip
   #:make-servlet-namespace make-servlet-namespace])
→ (unit? web-config^)
sexpr : list?
web-server-root : path?
                = (directory-part default-configuration-table-path)
port : (or/c false/c port-number?) = #f
listen-ip : (or/c false/c string?) = #f
make-servlet-namespace : make-servlet-namespace?
                       = (make-make-servlet-namespace)
```

Parses `sexpr` as a configuration-table and constructs a `web-config^` unit.

## 8 Web Server Unit

The Web Server offers a unit-based approach to running the server.

### 8.1 Signature

```
(require web-server/web-server-sig)
```

---

`web-server^` : signature

---

```
(serve) → (-> void)
```

Runs the server and returns a procedure that shuts down the server.

---

```
(serve-ports ip op) → void  
ip : input-port?  
op : output-port?
```

Serves a single connection represented by the ports `ip` and `op`.

### 8.2 Unit

```
(require web-server/web-server-unit)
```

---

```
web-server@ : (unit/c (web-config^ tcp^)  
                  (web-server^))
```

Uses the `web-config^` to construct a `dispatcher?` function that sets up one virtual host dispatcher, for each virtual host in the `web-config^`, that sequences the following operations:

- Logs the incoming request with the given format to the given file
- Performs HTTP Basic Authentication with the given password file
- Allows the `"/conf/refresh-passwords"` URL to refresh the password file.
- Allows the `"/conf/collect-garbage"` URL to call the garbage collector.
- Allows the `"/conf/refresh-servlets"` URL to refresh the servlets cache.

- Execute servlets under the `"/servlets/"` URL in the given servlet root directory.
- Serves files under the `"/"` URL in the given htdocs directory.

Using this `dispatcher?`, it loads a dispatching server that provides `serve` and `serve-ports` functions that operate as expected.

## 9 Continuation Managers

Since Scheme servlets store their continuations on the server, they take up memory on the server. Furthermore, garbage collection can not be used to free this memory, because there are roots outside the system: users' browsers, bookmarks, brains, and notebooks. Therefore, some other strategy must be used if memory usage is to be controlled. This functionality is pluggable through the manager interface.

### 9.1 General

```
(require web-server/managers/manager)
```

"managers/manager.ss" defines the manager interface. It is required by the users and implementers of managers.

---

```
(struct manager (create-instance
                 adjust-timeout!
                 clear-continuations!
                 continuation-store!
                 continuation-lookup))
create-instance : ((-> void) . -> . number?)
adjust-timeout! : (number? number? . -> . void)
clear-continuations! : (number? . -> . void)
continuation-store! : (number? any/c expiration-handler/c . -> . (list/c number? number?))
continuation-lookup : (number? number? number? . -> . any/c)
```

`create-instance` is called to initialize a instance, to hold the continuations of one servlet session. It is passed a function to call when the instance is expired. It runs the id of the instance.

`adjust-timeout!` is a to-be-deprecated function that takes an instance-id and a number. It is specific to the timeout-based manager and will be removed.

`clear-continuations!` expires all the continuations of an instance.

`continuation-store!` is given an instance-id, a continuation value, and a function to include in the exception thrown if the continuation is looked up and has been expired. The two numbers returned are a continuation-id and a nonce.

`continuation-lookup` finds the continuation value associated with the instance-id, continuation-id, and nonce triple it is given.

---

```
(struct (exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-instance exn:fail) (expiration-handler
```

```
expiration-handler : expiration-handler/c
```

This exception should be thrown by a manager when an instance is looked up that does not exist.

---

```
(struct (exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-continuation exn:fail) (expiration-handler  
  expiration-handler : expiration-handler/c
```

This exception should be thrown by a manager when a continuation is looked up that does not exist.

## 9.2 No Continuations

```
(require web-server/managers/none)
```

"managers/none.ss" defines a manager constructor:

---

```
(create-none-manager instance-expiration-handler) → manager?  
  instance-expiration-handler : expiration-handler/c
```

This manager does not actually store any continuation or instance data. You could use it if you know your servlet does not use the continuation capturing functions and want the server to not allocate meta-data structures for each instance.

If you *do* use a continuation capturing function, the continuation is simply not stored. If the URL is visited, the *instance-expiration-handler* is called with the request.

If you are considering using this manager, also consider using the Web Language. (See §3 “Web Language Servlets”.)

## 9.3 Timeouts

```
(require web-server/managers/timeouts)
```

"managers/timeouts.ss" defines a manager constructor:

---

```
(create-timeout-manager instance-exp-handler  
  instance-timeout  
  continuation-timeout) → manager?  
  instance-exp-handler : expiration-handler/c  
  instance-timeout : number?
```

```
continuation-timeout : number?
```

Instances managed by this manager will be expired *instance-timeout* seconds after the last time it is accessed. If an expired instance is looked up, the `exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-instance` exception is thrown with *instance-exp-handler* as the expiration handler.

Continuations managed by this manager will be expired *continuation-timeout* seconds after the last time it is accessed. If an expired continuation is looked up, the `exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-continuation` exception is thrown with *instance-exp-handler* as the expiration handler, if no expiration-handler was passed to *continuation-store!*.

*adjust-timeout!* corresponds to *reset-timer!* on the timer responsible for the servlet instance.

This manager has been found to be... problematic... in large-scale deployments of the Web Server .

## 9.4 LRU

```
(require web-server/managers/lru)
```

"managers/lru.ss" defines a manager constructor:

---

```
(create-LRU-manager instance-expiration-handler
                   check-interval
                   collect-interval
                   collect?
                   [#:initial-count initial-count
                   #:inform-p inform-p]) → manager?
instance-expiration-handler : expiration-handler/c
check-interval : integer?
collect-interval : integer?
collect? : (-> boolean?)
initial-count : integer? = 1
inform-p : (integer? . -> . void) = (lambda _ (void))
```

Instances managed by this manager will be expired if there are no continuations associated with them, after the instance is unlocked. If an expired instance is looked up, the `exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-instance` exception is thrown with *instance-exp-handler* as the expiration handler.

Continuations managed by this manager are given a "Life Count" of *initial-count* ini-

tially. If an expired continuation is looked up, the `exn:fail:servlet-manager:no-continuation` exception is thrown with `instance-exp-handler` as the expiration handler, if no expiration-handler was passed to `continuation-store!`.

Every `check-interval` seconds `collect?` is called to determine if the collection routine should be run. Every `collect-interval` seconds the collection routine is run.

Every time the collection routine runs, the "Life Count" of every continuation is decremented by 1. If a continuation's count reaches 0, it is expired. The `inform-p` function is called if any continuations are expired, with the number of continuations expired.

The recommended usage of this manager is codified as the following function:

---

```
(make-threshold-LRU-manager instance-expiration-handler
                            memory-threshold)
→ manager?
instance-expiration-handler : expiration-handler/c
memory-threshold : number?
```

This creates an LRU manager with the following behavior: The memory limit is set to `memory-threshold`. Continuations start with 24 life points. Life points are deducted at the rate of one every 10 minutes, or one every 5 seconds when the memory limit is exceeded. Hence the maximum life time for a continuation is 4 hours, and the minimum is 2 minutes.

If the load on the server spikes—as indicated by memory usage—the server will quickly expire continuations, until the memory is back under control. If the load stays low, it will still efficiently expire old continuations.

## 10 Internal

The Web Server is a complicated piece of software and as a result, defines a number of interesting and independently useful sub-components. Some of these are documented here.

### 10.1 Timers

```
(require web-server/private/timer)
```

"private/timer.ss" provides a functionality for running procedures after a given amount of time, that may be extended.

---

```
(struct timer (evt expire-seconds action))  
  evt : evt?  
  expire-seconds : number?  
  action : (-> void)
```

evt is an `alarm-evt` that is ready at `expire-seconds`. `action` should be called when this `evt` is ready.

---

```
(start-timer-manager cust) → void  
  cust : custodian?
```

Handles the execution and management of timers. Resources are charged to `cust`.

---

```
(start-timer s action) → timer?  
  s : number?  
  action : (-> void)
```

Registers a timer that runs `action` after `s` seconds.

---

```
(reset-timer! t s) → void  
  t : timer?  
  s : number?
```

Changes `t` so that it will fire after `s` seconds.

---

```
(increment-timer! t s) → void  
  t : timer?  
  s : number?
```

Changes *t* so that it will fire after *s* seconds from when it does now.

---

```
(cancel-timer! t) → void
  t : timer?
```

Cancels the firing of *t* ever and frees resources used by *t*.

## 10.2 Connection Manager

```
(require web-server/private/connection-manager)
```

"private/connection-manager.ss" provides functionality for managing pairs of input and output ports. We have plans to allow a number of different strategies for doing this.

---

```
(struct connection (timer i-port o-port custodian close?))
  timer : timer?
  i-port : input-port?
  o-port : output-port?
  custodian : custodian?
  close? : boolean?
```

A connection is a pair of ports (*i-port* and *o-port*) that is ready to close after the current job if *close?* is *#t*. Resources associated with the connection should be allocated under *custodian*. The connection will last until *timer* triggers.

---

```
(start-connection-manager parent-cust) → void
  parent-cust : custodian?
```

Runs the connection manager (now just the timer manager) will *parent-cust* as the custodian.

---

```
(new-connection timeout
  i-port
  o-port
  cust
  close?) → connection?

timeout : number?
i-port : input-port?
o-port : output-port?
cust : custodian?
close? : boolean?
```

Constructs a connection with a timer with a trigger of `timeout` that calls `kill-connection!`.

---

```
(kill-connection! c) → void
  c : connection?
```

Closes the ports associated with `c`, kills the timer, and shuts down the custodian.

---

```
(adjust-connection-timeout! c t) → void
  c : connection?
  t : number?
```

Calls `reset-timer!` with the timer behind `c` with `t`.

## 10.3 Dispatching Server

The Web Server is just a configuration of a dispatching server. This dispatching server component is useful on its own.

### 10.3.1 Dispatching Server Signatures

```
(require web-server/private/dispatch-server-sig)
```

The `web-server/private/dispatch-server-sig` library provides two signatures.

---

```
dispatch-server^ : signature
```

The `dispatch-server^` signature is an alias for `web-server^`.

---

```
(serve) → (-> void)
```

Runs the server and returns a procedure that shuts down the server.

---

```
(serve-ports ip op) → void
  ip : input-port?
  op : output-port?
```

Serves a single connection represented by the ports `ip` and `op`.

---

`dispatch-server-config^` : signature

---

`port` : `port?`

Specifies the port to serve on.

---

`listen-ip` : `string?`

Passed to `tcp-accept`.

---

`max-waiting` : `integer?`

Passed to `tcp-accept`.

---

`initial-connection-timeout` : `integer?`

Specifies the initial timeout given to a connection.

---

`(read-request c p port-addresses) → any/c`

`c` : `connection?`

`p` : `port?`

`port-addresses` : `port-addresses?`

Defines the way the server reads requests off connections to be passed to `dispatch`.

---

`dispatch` : `dispatcher?`

How to handle requests.

### 10.3.2 Dispatching Server Unit

`(require web-server/private/dispatch-server-unit)`

The `web-server/private/dispatch-server-unit` module provides the unit that actually implements a dispatching server.

---

`dispatch-server@` : `(unit/c (tcp^ dispatch-server-config^)`  
`(dispatch-server^))`

Runs the dispatching server config in a very basic way, except that it uses §10.2 “Connection Manager” to manage connections.

## 10.4 Serializable Closures

```
(require web-server/private/closure)
```

The defunctionalization process of the Web Language (see §3 “Web Language Servlets”) requires an explicit representation of closures that is serializable. “private/closure.ss” is this representation. It provides:

---

```
(make-closure-definition-syntax tag
                               fvars
                               proc) → syntax?

tag : syntax?
fvars : (listof identifier?)
proc : syntax?
```

Outputs a syntax object that defines a serializable structure, with *tag* as the tag, that represents a closure over *fvars*, that acts a procedure and when invoked calls *proc*, which is assumed to be syntax of lambda or case-lambda.

---

```
(closure->deserialize-name c) → symbol?
c : closure?
```

Extracts the unique tag of a closure *c*

These are difficult to use directly, so “private/define-closure.ss” defines a helper form:

### 10.4.1 Define Closure

```
(require web-server/private/define-closure)
```

---

```
(define-closure tag formals (free-vars ...) body)
```

Defines a closure, constructed with *make-tag* that accepts *freevars* ..., that when invoked with *formals* executes *body*.

## 10.5 Cache Table

```
(require web-server/private/cache-table)
```

"private/cache-table.ss" provides a set of caching hash table functions.

---

```
(make-cache-table) → cache-table?
```

Constructs a cache-table.

---

```
(cache-table-lookup! ct id mk) → any/c
  ct : cache-table?
  id : symbol?
  mk : (-> any/c)
```

Looks up *id* in *ct*. If it is not present, then *mk* is called to construct the value and add it to *ct*.

---

```
(cache-table-clear! ct) → void?
  ct : cache-table?
```

Clears all entries in *ct*.

---

```
(cache-table? v) → boolean?
  v : any/c
```

Determines if *v* is a cache table.

## 10.6 MIME Types

```
(require web-server/private/mime-types)
```

"private/mime-types.ss" provides function for dealing with "mime.types" files.

---

```
(read-mime-types p) → (hash-table/c symbol? bytes?)
  p : path?
```

Reads the "mime.types" file from *p* and constructs a hash table mapping extensions to MIME types.

---

```
(make-path->mime-type p) → (path? . -> . bytes?)
  p : path?
```

Uses a `read-mime-types` with *p* and constructs a function from paths to their MIME type.

## 10.7 Serialization Utilities

```
(require web-server/private/mod-map)
```

The `scheme/serialize` library provides the functionality of serializing values. "private/mod-map.ss" compresses the serialized representation.

---

```
(compress-serial sv) → compressed-serialized-value?  
sv : serialized-value?
```

Collapses multiple occurrences of the same module in the module map of the serialized representation, *sv*.

---

```
(decompress-serial csv) → serialized-value?  
csv : compressed-serialized-value?
```

Expands multiple occurrences of the same module in the module map of the compressed serialized representation, *csv*.

## 10.8 URL Param

```
(require web-server/private/url-param)
```

The Web Server needs to encode information in URLs. If this data is stored in the query string, than it will be overridden by browsers that make GET requests to those URLs with more query data. So, it must be encoded in URL params. "private/url-param.ss" provides functions for helping with this process.

---

```
(insert-param u k v) → url?  
u : url?  
k : string?  
v : string?
```

Associates *k* with *v* in the final URL param of *u*, overwriting any current binding for *k*.

---

```
(extract-param u k) → (or/c string? false/c)  
u : url?  
k : string?
```

Extracts the string associated with *k* in the final URL param of *u*, if there is one, returning `#f` otherwise.

## 10.9 Miscellaneous Utilities

```
(require web-server/private/util)
```

There are a number of other miscellaneous utilities the Web Server needs. They are provided by "private/util.ss".

### 10.9.1 Contracts

---

```
port-number? : contract?
```

Equivalent to `(between/c 1 65535)`.

---

```
path-element? : contract?
```

Equivalent to `(or/c string? path? (symbols 'up 'same))`.

### 10.9.2 Lists

---

```
(list-prefix? l r) → boolean?  
  l : list?  
  r : list?
```

True if *l* is a prefix of *r*.

### 10.9.3 URLs

---

```
(url-replace-path proc u) → url?  
  proc : ((listof path/param?) . -> . (listof path/param?))  
  u : url?
```

Replaces the URL path of *u* with *proc* of the former path.

---

```
(url-path->string url-path) → string?  
  url-path : (listof path/param?)
```

Formats *url-path* as a string with "/" as a delimiter and no params.

## 10.9.4 Paths

---

```
(explode-path* p) → (listof path-element?)  
  p : path?
```

Like `normalize-path`, but does not resolve symlinks.

---

```
(path-without-base base p) → (listof path-element?)  
  base : path?  
  p : path?
```

Returns, as a list, the portion of `p` after `base`, assuming `base` is a prefix of `p`.

---

```
(directory-part p) → path?  
  p : path?
```

Returns the directory part of `p`, returning `(current-directory)` if it is relative.

---

```
(build-path-unless-absolute base p) → path?  
  base : path-string?  
  p : path-string?
```

Prepends `base` to `p`, unless `p` is absolute.

---

```
(strip-prefix-ups p) → (listof path-element?)  
  p : (listof path-element?)
```

Removes all the prefix `".."`s from `p`.

## 10.9.5 Exceptions

---

```
(pretty-print-invalid-xexpr exn v) → void  
  exn : exn:invalid-xexpr?  
  v : any/c
```

Prints `v` as if it were almost an X-expression highlighting the error according to `exn`.

---

```
(network-error s fmt v ...) → void
```

```
s : symbol?  
fmt : string?  
v : any/c
```

Like `error`, but throws a `exn:fail:network`.

---

```
(exn->string exn) → string?  
exn : (or/c exn? any/c)
```

Formats `exn` with `(error-display-handler)` as a string.

### 10.9.6 Strings

---

```
(lowercase-symbol! sb) → symbol?  
sb : (or/c string? bytes?)
```

Returns `sb` as a lowercase symbol.

---

```
(read/string s) → serializable?  
s : string?
```

`reads` a value from `s` and returns it.

---

```
(write/string v) → string?  
v : serializable?
```

`writes` `v` to a string and returns it.

### 10.9.7 Bytes

---

```
(read/bytes b) → serializable?  
b : bytes?
```

`reads` a value from `b` and returns it.

---

```
(write/bytes v) → bytes?  
v : serializable?
```

`writes v` to a bytes and returns it.

## 11 Troubleshooting

### 11.1 What special considerations are there for security with the Web Server?

The biggest problem is that a naive usage of continuations will allow continuations to subvert authentication mechanisms. Typically, all that is necessary to execute a continuation is its URL. Thus, URLs must be as protected as the information in the continuation.

Consider if you link to a public site from a private continuation URL: the `Referrer` field in the new HTTP request will contain the private URL. Furthermore, if your HTTP traffic is in the clear, then these URLs can be easily poached.

One solution to this is to use a special cookie as an authenticator. This way, if a URL escapes, it will not be able to be used, unless the cookie is present. For advice about how to do this well, see *Dos and Don'ts of Client Authentication on the Web* from the MIT Cookie Eaters.

Note: It may be considered a great feature that URLs can be shared this way, because delegation is easily built into an application via URLs.

### 11.2 How do I use Apache with the PLT Web Server?

You may want to put Apache in front of your PLT Web Server application. Apache can rewrite and proxy requests for a private (or public) PLT Web Server:

```
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ http://localhost:8080/$1 [P]
```

The first argument to `RewriteRule` is a match pattern. The second is how to rewrite the URL. The `[P]` flag instructs Apache to proxy the request. If you do not include this, Apache will return an HTTP Redirect response and the client should make a second request.

See Apache's documentation for more details on `RewriteRule`.

### 11.3 IE ignores my CSS or behaves strange in other ways

In quirks mode, IE does not parse your page as XML, in particular it will not recognize many instances of "empty tag shorthand", e.g. "`<img src='...' />`", whereas the Web Server uses `xml` to format XML, which uses empty tag shorthand by default. You can change the default with the `empty-tag-shorthand` parameter: (`empty-tag-shorthand 'never'`).

## 11.4 Can the server create a PID file?

The server has no option for this, but you can add it very easily. There's two techniques.

First, if you use a UNIX platform, in your shell startup script you can use

```
echo $$ > PID
exec run-web-server
```

Using `exec` will reuse the same process, and therefore, the PID file will be accurate.

Second, if you want to make your own Scheme start-up script, you can write:

```
(require mzlib/os)
(with-output-to-file pid-file (lambda () (write (getpid))))
(start-server)
```

## 11.5 How do I set up the server to use HTTPS?

The essence of the solution to this problem is to use an SSL TCP implementation as provided by `net/ssl-tcp-unit`. Many of the functions that start the Web Server are parameterized by a `tcp@` unit. If you pass an SSL unit, then the server will be serving HTTPS. However, to do this, you must write your own start up script. Here's a simple example:

```
#lang scheme

; Load the appropriate libraries to reimplement server
(require scheme/unit
         net/ssl-tcp-unit
         net/tcp-sig
         net/tcp-unit
         (only-in web-server/web-server do-not-return)
         web-server/web-server-unit
         web-server/web-server-sig
         web-server/web-config-sig
         web-server/web-config-unit
         web-server/configuration/namespace)

; Define the necessary parameters.
(define port-no 8443)
(define SSL-path (find-system-path 'home-dir))

; Load the standard configuration file, but augment the port.
(define configuration
  (configuration-table->web-config@
```

```

    (build-path (collection-path "web-server")
                "default-web-root"
                "configuration-table.ss")
    #:port port-no))

; The configuration is a unit and this lets us treat it as one.
(define-unit-binding config@ configuration
  (import) (export web-config^))

; This loads the SSL TCP interface with the appropriate keys.
(define-unit-binding ssl-tcp@
  (make-ssl-tcp@ (build-path SSL-path "server-cert.pem")
                 (build-path SSL-path "private-key.pem")
                 #f #f #f #f #f)
  (import) (export tcp^))

; Combine the configuration with the TCP interface to get a server!
(define-compound-unit/infer ssl-server@
  (import)
  (link ssl-tcp@ config@ web-server@)
  (export web-server^))

; Invoke the server to get at what it provides.
(define-values/invoke-unit/infer ssl-server@)

; Run the server.
(serve)
(do-not-return)

```

Running this script, rather than `plt-web-server`, runs the server using SSL on port `port-no`. The certificate and private key are located in the `SSL-path` directory.

## **12 Acknowledgements**

We thank Matthew Flatt for his superlative work on MzScheme. We thank the previous maintainers of the Web Server : Paul T. Graunke, Mike Burns, and Greg Pettyjohn Numerous people have provided invaluable feedback on the server, including Eli Barzilay, Ryan Culpepper, Robby Findler, Dave Gurnell, Matt Jadud, Dan Licata, Jacob Matthews, Matthias Radestock, Andrey Skylar, Michael Sperber, Anton van Straaten, Dave Tucker, and Noel Welsh. We also thank the many other PLT Scheme users who have exercised the server and offered critiques.

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