Announcements

- Check class announcements daily
- You must implement programming projects by yourself

Project #5

- Let's talk about project #5

Usability: Frames

- **Frame**
  - Allows us to view several HTML documents in the same window
  - A page can be loaded in a frame while other stay constant
  - **Example:**
    http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.5.0/docs/api/index.html
- **Causes big problems from a usability point of view**
  - Bookmarking will not work as expected
  - Search engines have difficulties with frames
  - Printing can be problematic
- Effects associated with frames can be achieved via CSS positioning and ** ** tag.

Guidelines for an Usable Web Site

- **Visual Consistency** → When a new page is selected in a site it should be easy to identify it belongs to the same site
  - You can achieve consistency by
    - Using logos or banners
    - Keeping a consistent layout and configuration of elements. For example:
      - Navigation bar is consistent in its placement and appearance
      - Consistent coloring
  - If the layout is not consistent you can use identical colors and shape elements to make pages appear consistent
- **Navigation** → For an easily navigable site users should be clear about:
  - Where they will go when selecting a link
  - Where they are in the site
  - How to get back to a recognizable starting place

Guidelines for an Usable Web Site

- **Navigation: Approaches to organize a site**
  - **Sequential Organization** → Pages follow a certain order and are linked to one another in order. Appropriate for scenarios were:
    - Sequence of steps needed to complete a task are described
    - A story is told
    - Chronological information is presented
  - **Hierarchical Organization** → Appropriate for sites with a very large number of pages. A main page has categories with subcategories, etc. Users should know their position in the structure
  - **Web-based Organization** → Most common organizational structure
    - Web-like structure (should not force one of the organizations previously discussed)
    - Pages link to one another based on content
      - A page could be accessible only from one particular page
      - A page can connect many pages
      - Etc.

Guidelines for an Usable Web Site

- **Links**
  - Links names should be descriptive and indicate where the links go
  - Rather than next, prev, up, down add a description of the nature of the page that will be reached.

    “next: Weather in the USA”

    “up: Courses at UMCP”
- **Search**
  - Search tools for an entire web site can help users find what they need
  - The search should search the web site by default

Security (Email)

- Least secure of internet protocols
- Avoid sending sensitive information (e.g., passwords) over e-mail
- Provide e-mail addresses in web sites in a way is not easily recognized by spam programs
  - Use at rather than @
  - Put an image with the e-mail
  - Avoid mailto
- Encrypt the message using PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) or GPG (GNU Privacy Guard)
- http://www.wbwip.com/wbw/emailencoder.html

Security (Password-Protected Sites)

- **Approach not recommended**
  - Store encrypted password
  - Decrypt password and compare against user provided password
- **Better approach**
  - Store encrypted password
  - Encrypt provided password and compare against stored password

Security (Encryption)

- **Encryption** → process of converting plaintext into ciphertext
- **Decryption** → process of converting ciphertext into plaintext
- **Symmetric cryptography** → sender and receiver share the same key
- **Asymmetric (Public Key) cryptography** → sender and receiver have different, complementary keys
- **Symmetric cryptography**
  - Example algorithms: DES, Triple-Des, RC4.
  - Relatively fast compared to asymmetric
  - Drawbacks
    - Keys must be change frequently
    - How to distribute the key safely

Security (Encryption)

- **Branches of public key cryptography**
  - **Public key encryption**
  - **Digital signatures**
- **Public key Encryption**
  - Example algorithm: RSA
  - Relatively slowed compared to symmetric
  - How it works?
    - Each user has a public/private key pair.
    - Public key is widely known
    - Private key only known by user that generated it
    - If user A wants to send user B a message, user A encrypts message with B's public key. B will decrypt the message with B's private key. The only way to decrypt the message is by using B's private key
- **Digital signature**
  - Message signed with sender's private key can be verified by anyone with sender's public key thereby proving message authenticity

Digital Certificates (Certificates)

- **Digital Certificates** → electronic documents that contain information about a public key and the owner (name, address, etc.)
- Employed to verify a public key corresponds to a particular organization
- Certificates must be issue by a trusted third party known as certificate authority (CA) which guarantees the information is correct
- **About certificates**
  - Have a validity period and can expire
  - They can be revoke
  - Browsers have a collection of root certificates
    - In Firefox – Tools→Options→Advanced→View Certificates
  - Main standard X.509

Message Digests

- Message digest → fixed-length representation of a message
- Expected properties for message digest ("Hashing") algorithm
  - Original message cannot be obtained from the digest
  - Two different messages should have different digests
- Example algorithms: MD5 and SHA

Need For Security

- **SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) Protocol** → Protocol that enable us to satisfy the need for security in client-web server transactions
- The algorithm provides support for confidentiality, integrity and authentication
- **SSL connection is established as follows**:
  - User connects to web server through the browser
  - Browser and server exchange public keys and certificate information
  - Browser checks server certificate validity (certificate not expired, issued by CA, etc.)
  - Optional: server can request a valid certificate from the client
  - Using public keys server and client determine a symmetric key to use
  - Communication from this point on is through symmetric cryptography

https

- **https** → http where
  - A different default port (443) is used
  - An extra layer of encryption/authentication exists between HTTP and TCP
- **https** → is not a separate protocol but a combination of HTTP over encrypted SSL or TLS transport mechanism
- **TLS** → Transport Layer Security
  - IETF standard designed to standardize SSL as an Internet protocol
  - Slight differences between SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0

Security Sites

- www.securityfocus.com/
- www.cert.org/