Re: FORM data in cgi

Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2005−10/msg01689.html

- *From*: Steve Holden <steve@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Fri, 14 Oct 2005 05:34:29 +0100

Mike Meyer wrote:

> "jponiato" <jponiato@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:
>
> > Greetings.
> > An HTML form submits it's data to a python cgi script on my server. This script acce
> > Question − is there a more efficient way to do this?
>
> Yes. But the question you should be asking is "Is there an easier way
> to do it that's worth doing?"
>
> Unless you're passing around files, or really huge forms, the amount
> of time you spend doing decoding and encodinng the form data will be
> pretty trivial. Unless you're really pressed for cycles, why bother
> fixing it? And if you're really pressed for cycles, you should start
> by instrumenting things to make sure that you're optimizing something
> that will do you some good.
>
> Anyway, the general idea is to skip cgi.FieldStorage, and parse the
> request yourself. You'll have to deal with the headers. But you can
> just grab the post data with a read(). I'm not sure you can use urllib
> to send pre−encoded POST data; you'll have to check that yourself. If
> not, you'll have to do the HTTP request processing by yourself. That's
> not hard, though.
>
> <mike

In point of fact the OP (whose post wasn't threaded with your reply in my newsreader) is actually describing a requirement for an HTTP proxy!

As you describe it, since the data stream in the request body will be exactly the same in both cases (though the HTTP request line and headers will differ) is possible to handle the request by having the CGI script a direct connection to the intended destination server, parsing the incoming headers, generating the outgoing ones, and then just relaying the request body. The response will then have to be sent back to the client, possibly requiring some parsing on the way, so the processing time might come out a wash.

Of course it would be even easier to set up direct proxying through the web server if it's something accommodating like Apache ...

regards
 Steve
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Steve Holden