

SCRIPTING

1

Read this text and give it a title.

A **scripting language** or script language is a programming language that supports the writing of scripts, programs written for a software environment that automate the execution of tasks which could alternatively be executed one-by-one by a human operator. Environments that can be automated through scripting include software applications, web pages within a web browser, the shells of operating systems (OS) and several general purpose and domain-specific languages such as those for embedded systems.

Scripting is usually a property of the primary implementations of a language, although many languages are not very suited to this kind of implementation.

A scripting language is a form of programming language that is usually interpreted rather than compiled. Conventional programs are converted permanently into executable files before they are run. In contrast, programs in scripting language are interpreted one command at a time.

In most cases, it is easier to write the code in a scripting language than in a compiled language. However, scripting languages are slower because the instructions are not handled solely by the basic instruction processor. Scripting languages allow rapid development and can communicate easily with programs written in other languages.

Scripting languages can be used to create specialized GUIs (graphical user interfaces) and forms that enhance the convenience of search engines, web-based e-mail and e-commerce. Many web sites require that the user's browser be set to run scripts to take advantage of all the features of the site.

JavaScript is an interpreted programming or script language from Netscape. It is somewhat similar in capability to Microsoft's Visual Basic, Sun's Tcl, the UNIX-derived Perl and IBM's REXX. In general, script languages are easier and faster to code in than the more structured and compiled languages such as C and C++. Script languages generally take longer to process than compiled languages, but are very useful for shorter programs.

JavaScript is used in web site development to do such things as:

- automatically change a formatted date on a web page
- cause a linked-to page to appear in a pop-up window
- cause text or a graphic image to change during a mouse roll-over.

JavaScript uses some of the same ideas found in Java, the compiled object-oriented programming language derived from C++.

VBScript is an interpreted script language from Microsoft that is a subset of its Visual Basic programming language designed for interpretation by Web browsers. VBScript can be compared to other script languages that can be used on the Web, including:

- Netscape's JavaScript
- Sun Microsystem's Tcl
- The UNIX-derived Perl
- IBM's REXX.

2 *These are the answers, write the questions.*

- a. A programming language that supports the writing of scripts, programs written for a software environment that automate the execution of tasks which could alternatively be executed one-by-one by a human operator.
- b. Software applications, web pages within a web browser, the shells of operating systems (OS), and several general purpose and domain-specific languages such as those for embedded systems.
- c. It is usually interpreted.
- d. Yes, it is easier to write the code in a scripting language.
- e. Yes, they do allow easy communication with programs written in other languages.
- f. No, script languages are easier and faster to code than the compiled languages such as C and C++.
- g. They are very useful for shorter programs.
- h. It is used in Web site development to do such things as automatically change a formatted date on a Web page or cause text or a graphic image to change during a mouse rollover.

3 *Read the text above again (about 420 words) and shorten it to 230/240 words.*

Unix is user-friendly. It's just very selective about who its friends are.

