

[Show](#)

# Web Application Server Overview

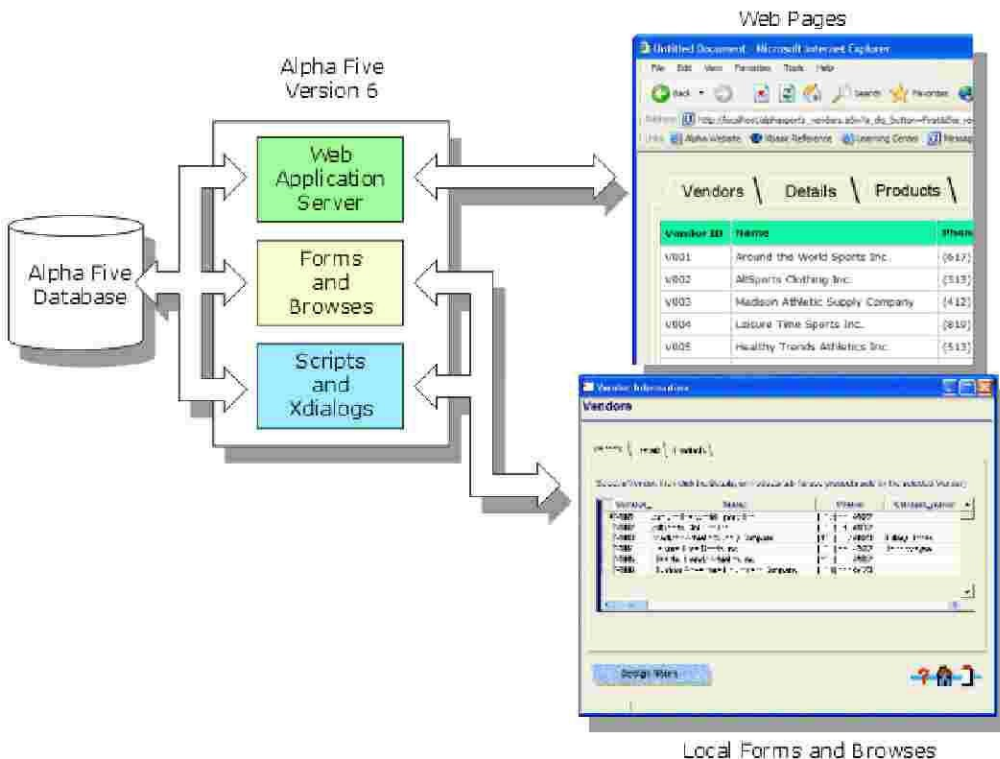
## Web Application Server

Alpha Five Version 6 introduces the **Web Application Server**. The Web Application Server extends Alpha Five from the desktop and Intranet to the Internet. The Web Application Server now makes it extremely easy for you to build data-driven web applications.

### Overview

The Web Application Server responds to client requests for web pages containing Xbasic code. This Xbasic code can do anything that a global script can do, including: [\[Picture\]](#)

- use the entire range of Xbasic functions and methods
- read data from and write data to tables and sets
- format and display data in layouts that look like forms or browses
- support record scrolling and record paging
- accept input from users



## Architecture

Normally, to provide web access to a database requires at least three components, typically from different vendors.

- A web server (such as **Microsoft's IIS**, **IBM's WebSphere**, or **BEA's WebLogic**) interacts with the client over the Internet. It interprets incoming transactions (pages) and routes them to the appropriate applications.
- A web application server (created with development tools like **Java**, **Cold Fusion**, and **.ASP**) generates dynamic web pages that may include data from a database.
- A database server.

To implement such an architecture often requires licenses from three different vendors and results in complex integration tasks. The Alpha Software solution provides these components in a **single easy-to-manage and inexpensive package**.

## Developing Applications for the Web Application Server

**Web Application Server** applications are composed of HTML pages with embedded Xbasic code. The Web Application Server translates and interprets the Xbasic code, retrieves data from the Alpha Five database or external databases (by using ADO), and serves up HTML pages to

the clients. Embedded forms on the pages allow the client to send data back to the Web Application Server, allowing your application to edit or enter records into a database.

The contents of a typical page might look like this. The embedded Xbasic code is surrounded by the `<%A5` and `%>` character sequences.

```
<HTML>
<HEAD><TITLE>Hello World</TITLE></HEAD>
<BODY>
<H3>Hello World</H3>
The time is <%A5 ? time("h:m am") %>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

There are several important features illustrated here.

- The `<%A5` and `%>` character sequences can enclose any type of Xbasic code, including comments. You can build functions inside a page or call previously created functions stored in your database.
- Generating output is as simple as Prefacing the data with the question mark "?" character.

The result is the ability to create interactive pages that present the client user with HTML pages that can interact with the Alpha Five database, as if they were local forms or browses.

Starting and stopping the Web Application Server is as easy as Clicking a button on the **Control Panel Toolbar**.

#### See Also

[Web Application Server Tutorial](#), [Web Component Builder](#), [HTML Editor](#)

#### Supported By

Alpha Five Web Publishing

#### Comments