

Slide 1

## Administrivia

- Reminder — project proposals due today.

Slide 2

## A Very Little about CGI

- What's CGI? "Common Gateway Interface" — protocol for communicating between Web forms and (your) programs.
- Programs can be in any language that can read from stdin, write to stdout, and read environment variables.
- May require some setup/configuration in Web server. More information in tutorials linked from "Useful links" page.
- Notice that there are security implications — you're letting anyone with a Web browser execute these programs on your computer. No problem if they're harmless, but "be careful"?

## CGI “Scripts”

- Input is one long string of name-value pairs, either from an environment variable or from stdin. (More about this next time.)

- Output is usually (?) HTML, preceded by a line

```
Content-type: text/plain
```

and a blank line.

(But if you start by saying you’re supplying a different content type, you can also return something other than HTML, for example an image.)

- See `print*` examples from class, linked from “Sample programs” page, Also notice that Web “active content” can provided in other ways than CGI — e.g., Robby’s PHP example (sample program `notcgi.php`).

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## Minute Essay

- None — sign in.

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