OLAP Tools and the Internet

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OLAP Tools and the Internet

- Internet is virtually free resource which provides universal connectivity within and between countries.

- Web eases complex administrative tasks of managing distributed environments

- Web allows companies to store and manage both data and applications on servers that can be centrally managed, maintained and updated

General features of web-enabled data access

- **First-generation web sites**
  - Used static distribution model – client access static HTML pages via web browsers
  - Decision support reports stored as HTML documents and delivered to users on request
  - Drawback: Inability to provide interactive analytical capabillities
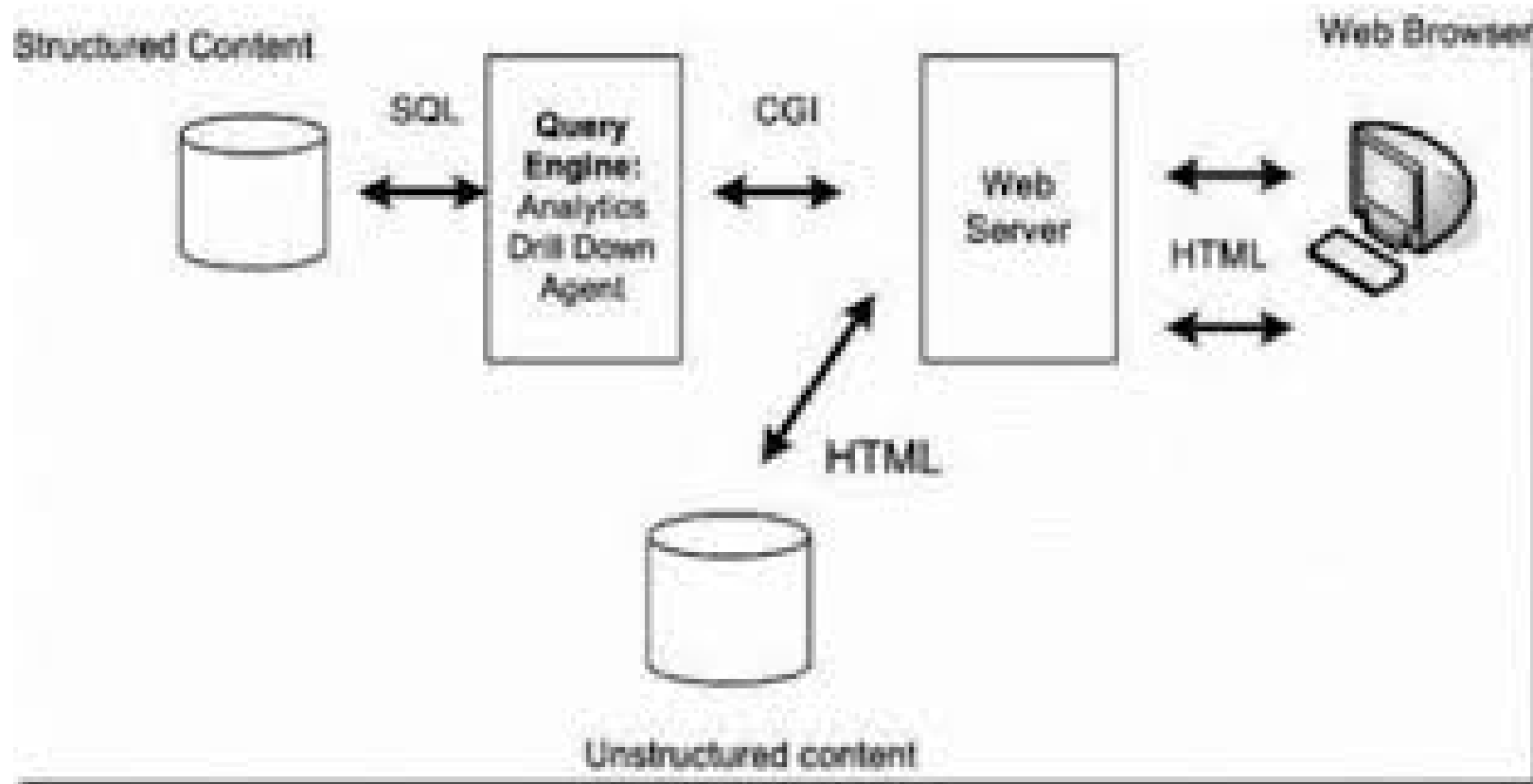
General features of web-enabled data access

- Second-generation
  - Support interactive database queries by utilizing a multi-tiered architecture.
  - I.e client submits query in the form of HTML-encoded request to web server
  - Then transforms request for structured data into CGI script or script to web-server API
  - Then gateway submits SQL queries to the database, receives the results, translates them into HTML, sends the pages to the requester.
  - Requests for unstructured data(e.g images, other HTML documents) can be sent directly to unstructured data store

Web Processing Model

General features of web-enabled data access

- Third-generation web sites
  - Replace HTML gateways with web based application servers
  - These servers can download Java applets or ActiveX applications that execute on clients, interact with corresponding applets running on servers-servlets.
  - Users don't need to load any client software except a web browser

OLAP tools converting as tool work in web

- HTML publishing
  - Transforming output of a query into HTML page that can be downloaded into a browser.
  - Does not support interactive access to reports
- Helper applications
  - Tool configured as helper application that resides within a browser.
  - Once the data is downloaded, users can analyze the data
  - Maintaining this application – great task for system admin

OLAP tools converting as tool work in web

- Plug-ins
  - Downloaded from web server
  - Administration and installation tasks not consume much time
  - Plug-ins browser specific, may not run on all platforms
  - Browsers update leads to plug-ins upgrade
- Server-centric components
  - Rebuilds desktop tools as server component
  - Creates new server component integrated with web via web gateway
- Java and ActiveX applications
  - Vendor - Redevelop all or portions of its tool in Java or ActiveX