

What is CGI?

CGI means *Common Gateway Interface*. CGI programming is used for web site control. It is the most powerful and the easiest programming language for web site servers to use. It is also the most secure in that visitors to web sites can't view the programming so they can't steal it from you and they cannot alter it.

It is also the hardest language to learn. If it were easy everyone would know how to do it and you wouldn't need this book. Because it is the hardest to learn it is in the most demand.

CGI is not a programming language. The most common language to do CGI programming is Perl. Perl is a programming language. Remember that CGI stands for "Common Gateway Interface" and is not the name of a programming language. It is a method of using programming to create what you want to make things happen on web sites. Are you still with me?

Please don't spend a lot of time thinking about this if it is hard to understand. Remember that this is a beginner's book and the idea is to get you started writing and making CGI scripts work on web pages not fill up book pages with information that would slow you down.