

ARMY RESEARCH LABORATORY



Building a Prototype Army Web Site for Scientific Research: Micrometeorology

Arnold Tunick

ARL-TN-187

March 2002

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

The findings in this report are not to be construed as an official Department of the Army position unless so designated by other authorized documents.

Citation of manufacturer's or trade names does not constitute an official endorsement or approval of the use thereof.

Destroy this report when it is no longer needed. Do not return it to the originator.

Army Research Laboratory

Adelphi, MD 20783-1197

ARL-TN-187

March 2002

Building a Prototype Army Web Site for Scientific Research: Micrometeorology

Arnold Tunick

Computational and Information Sciences Directorate

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

Abstract

A prototype Army web site for scientific research is developed to facilitate scientific exchange necessary for efficient research productivity in the modern laboratory. The web site reported here focuses on computational and experimental field studies in micrometeorology and offers a practical format for the fast and effective communication of current research ideas with other Army Research Laboratory scientists. The new web site is located at <http://w3.arl.army.mil/atunick/>, although it is limited to user accounts within the ARL system.

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Building the Web Site	2
3. Requesting Web Space and Transferring Files to the ARL Intranet	6
4. Recommendations for Future Improvement	7
5. Conclusion	7
Acknowledgments	8
References	8
Distribution	9
Report Documentation Page	11

Figures

1. The FrontPage 98—Navigation View applet provides a simple and efficient way to outline the structure of the web site and assign titles to the pages it will contain	3
2. The image SFCEB.GIF imported at the top of the “Energy Budget” web page	3
3. An example of equations and text imported to the “Energy Budget” web page	4

Table

1. A summary of embedded features contained in the web site	5
---	---

1. Introduction

At the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL), scientists and engineers conduct research in many advanced technological areas. Researchers often work on several projects concurrently. In this highly productive work environment, the extent to which individual or groups of scientists will make time for communicating ideas about technical subjects can be limited. Creating a prototype Army web site for scientific research provides a solution: a living and revisable document to facilitate scientific exchange and effective communication of current research results. This report therefore documents the building of the prototype Army web site at <http://w3.arl.army.mil/atunick/> on the ARL computer network.

Web sites benefit scientific research by providing a place for scientists to highlight specific interests or recent achievements. Web sites contain summary information about notable projects, provide access to data, or show graphs of important model results. Web sites can also provide public (or restricted password protected) access to scientific tools, program algorithms, inventory, laboratory notes, published reports, technical presentations, or abstract proposals. In particular, these features will benefit researchers who are away from their office but have access to the ARL computer network. Finally, web sites are generally low maintenance and are easily edited or revised.

Commercial software packages, such as Adobe GoLive, Lotus FastSite, and Microsoft FrontPage 98*, are available and inexpensive for the task of generating professional web pages. There are also several on-line references and guides to learning, creating, and programming in Hypertext Mark-up Language (HTML), such as the beginner's guide to HTML at <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General>, which is provided by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois. Navigation through web sites is usually achieved via hyperlinks; i.e., a hyperlink; is a pointer from text or from an image map to a page or other type of file on the World Wide Web (Microsoft, 1997). Hyperlinks can also be used to provide a gateway to other web sites, such as on-line technical journals, dictionaries, university departments, news, or weather information.

*The use of commercial or company names with regard to computer products does not constitute an endorsement by the U.S. Army.

2. Building the Web Site

The prototype Army web site detailed in this report was created within Microsoft FrontPage 98 via its “Navigation View” applet that enables users to construct an “active” flowchart to select the initial number, titles, and location of pages the site will contain (see fig. 1). The applet also makes possible “drag-and-drop” adjustments of entire sections of the web site at one time. The equivalent to this task programming in HTML, i.e., to link pages together accurately and consistently, would take hours of additional work (Microsoft, 1997). The content of each page was then developed in the FrontPage 98 “Page Editor” applet, which functioned like other document editors.

In constructing the web site, it was necessary to learn HTML to add and improve features associated with embedded image files and hyperlinks. Trial and error was required to test the hyperlinks, check the visual presentation, and to ensure the fast application (opening) of image (BMP, GIF, JPG, etc...), portable document format (PDF), Power Point (PPT), and text (DOC, HTM, TXT, etc...) documents.

The web site reported here focuses on computational and experimental field studies in micrometeorology. Currently, the web site contains discussions taken from past journal articles and conference papers. Access is provided to several unclassified (i.e., approved for public release and unlimited distribution) documents and/or presentations of recently published ARL Memorandum Reports. The web site also contains interesting results from atmospheric computer models for optical turbulence and the surface energy budget (fig. 2). Additionally, as shown in figure 3, equations within the text of research papers can be imported easily to the web document, since they are treated individually as image files. Table 1 provides a summary of the documents and images that were included when this report was written.

Figure 1. The FrontPage 98— Navigation View applet provides a simple and efficient way to outline the structure of the web site and assign titles to the pages it will contain. (The Navigation View applet also acts as a gateway to the individual web pages and the FrontPage 98 page editor applet.)

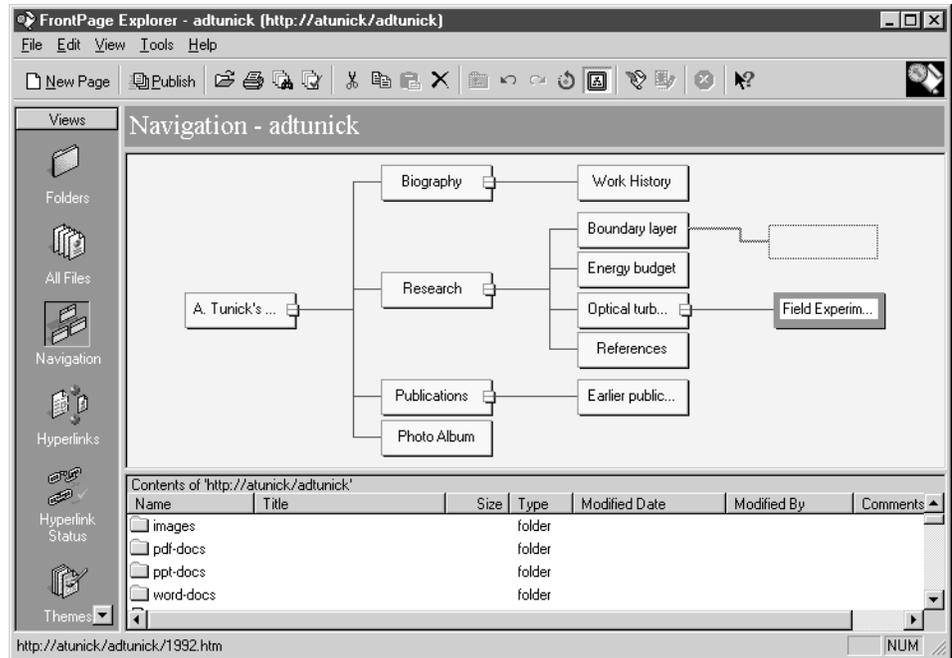


Figure 2. The image SFCEB.GIF (263 KB) imported at the top of the “Energy Budget” web page.

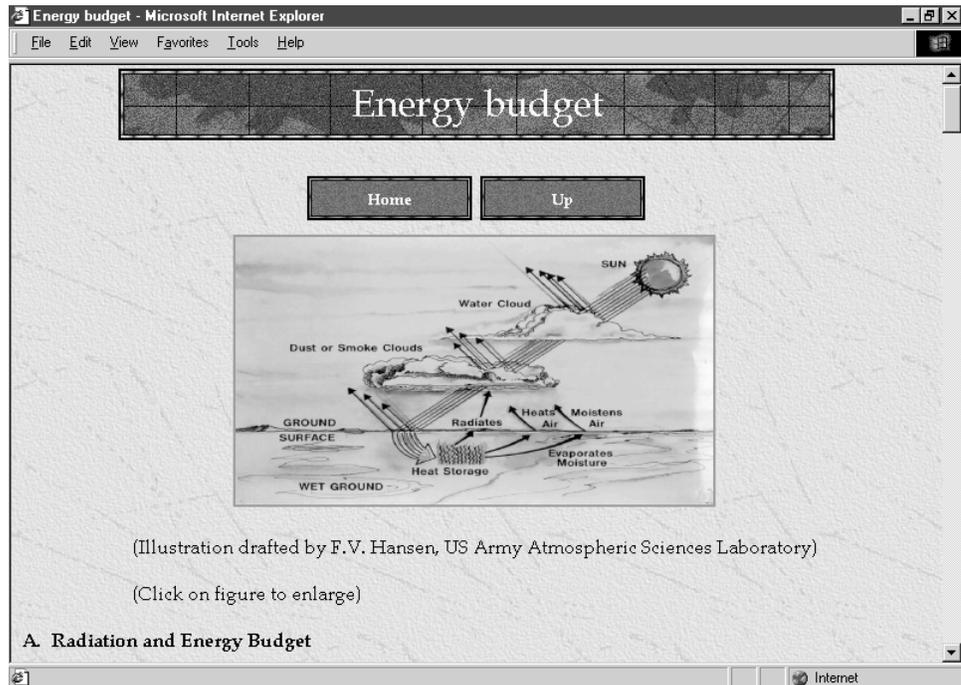
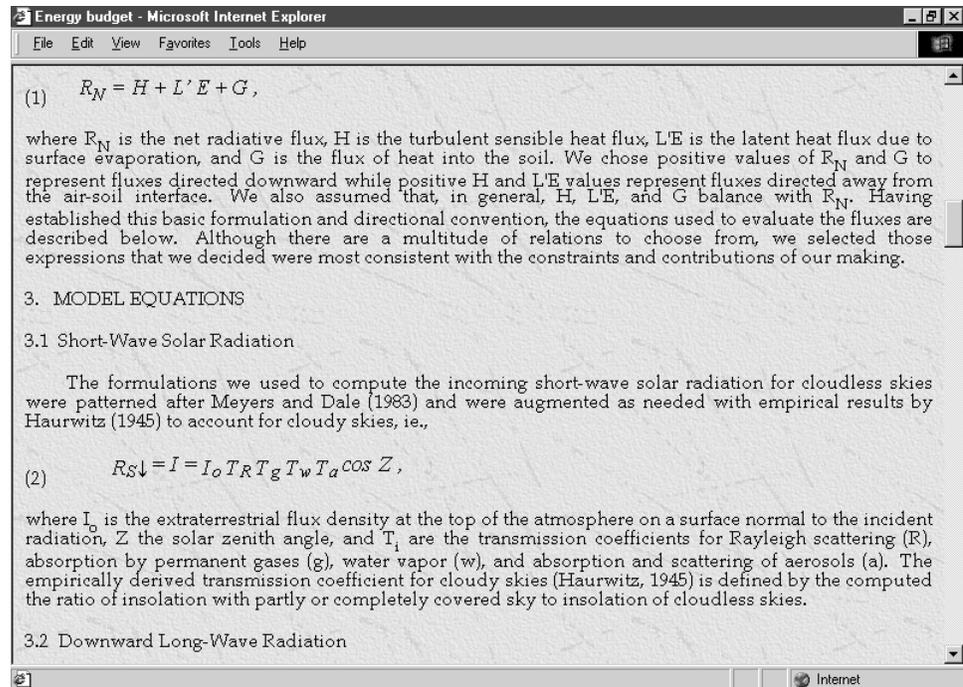


Figure 3. An example of equations and text imported to the “Energy Budget” web page.



3. Requesting Web Space and Transferring Files to the ARL Intranet

To obtain space on the ARL computer network for the new web document, an account on w3.arl.army.mil was requested. The point of contact for new accounts when this web site was constructed was the Web Host Administrator of CISD's Knowledge Management Center Branch (AMSRL-CI-OK) located at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground. The new web site was completed after transferring web (HTML) files, image files, and document files to w3.arl.army.mil.

ARL's computer network (Unix) administrators will maintain revised security procedures and software for w3.arl.army.mil to avoid such problems as the Code Red Worm (July 31, 2001). New account files and folders can be additionally guarded from unauthorized access by applying the Unix command "chmod-R" through the directory and branches containing web (HTML) documents.

As a final note, it appears that some internet browsers allow the current web site's image and photograph files to shift out of position, overlap, and overwrite text on the page. The reason for this (possibly) is that some internet browsers do not treat loosely placed image files well. For example, image files may be repositioned on a page, depending on the size of the viewing area (S. Choy, 2001, personal communication). To circumvent this problem, it was suggested that image files be placed in tables (i.e., in cells), thereby setting their position side by side.

4. Recommendations for Future Improvement

It was commented that the early stages of a web site's development are optimal for growth. As such, the following actions were recommended:

- Contact the network administrator for the search engine on the ARL Intranet to index key words for the current web site.
- Add reports on team projects, meeting summaries, task proposals, and submitted publications.
- Post current discussion threads and links to co-workers' (and university) home pages.
- Create site maps and indices to help communicate the contents of the web site.

5. Conclusion

At ARL, the extent to which individual or groups of scientists will make time for communicating ideas about technical subjects is limited. Creating a prototype Army web site for scientific research offers a practical format for the fast and effective communication of current research ideas with other ARL scientists. The web site described in this report is a new document available only through user accounts within the ARL computer network.

Acknowledgments

The author extends thanks to Alan Wetmore for providing the FrontPage 98 software. Chris Lemire is acknowledged for his help in preparing the figures for the report. The author also extends thanks to Ron Meyers for recommending the project and to Steve Choy, Michael Corbett, and David Rosen for offering helpful comments.

References

Microsoft, 1997: *Getting started with Microsoft FrontPage 98*. Microsoft Corporation, 309 pp.

Tunick, A., 2000: *A One-Dimensional Atmospheric Boundary Layer Model: Comparison with Observations*. ARL-MR-484, September, U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Tunick, A., 1999: *A Review of Previous Works on Observing the Atmospheric Boundary Layer Through Meteorological Measurements*. ARL-MR-448, September, U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Tunick, A., 1998: *A Refractive Index Structure Parameter Model*. ARL-TR-1615, April, U.S. Army Research Laboratory.

Distribution

Admnstr
Defns Techl Info Ctr
ATTN DTIC-OCP
8725 John J Kingman Rd Ste 0944
FT Belvoir VA 22060-6218

US Army Materiel Sys Anal Actvty
ATTN AMXSY-CS Bradley
Aberdeen Proving Ground MD 21005-5071

US Army White Sands Missile Range
ATTN STEWS-IM-ITZ Techl Lib Br
White Sands Missile Range NM 88002-5501

US Army Rsrch Lab
ATTN AMSRL-CI J D Gantt
ATTN AMSRL-CI-CB R Meyers
ATTN AMSRL-CI-EE A D Tunick
(10 copies)
ATTN AMSRL-CI-EE P Clark
ATTN AMSRL-CI-IS-R Mail & Records Mgmt
ATTN AMSRL-CI-IS-T Techl Pub (2 copies)
ATTN AMSRL-CI-OK-TL Techl Lib (2 copies)
ATTN AMSRL-SE-EE Z G Sztankay
Adelphi MD 20783-1197

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE			<i>Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188</i>	
Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.				
1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE March 2002		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Final, Sept 2000 to March 2001
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Building a Prototype Army Web Site for Scientific Research: Micrometeorology			5. FUNDING NUMBERS DA PR: B53A PE: 61102A	
6. AUTHOR(S) Arnold Tunick				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Research Laboratory Attn: AMSRL-CI-EP email: atunick@arl.army.mil 2800 Powder Mill Road Adelphi, MD 20783-1197			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER ARL-TN-187	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Research Laboratory 2800 Powder Mill Road Adelphi, MD 20783-1197			10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ARL PR: 2FEJ26 AMS code: 611102.53A				
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words) A prototype Army web site for scientific research is developed to facilitate scientific exchange necessary for efficient research productivity in the modern laboratory. The web site reported here focuses on computational and experimental field studies in micrometeorology and offers a practical format for the fast and effective communication of current research ideas with other Army Research Laboratory scientists. The new web site is located at http://w3.arl.army.mil/atunick/ , although it is limited to user accounts within the ARL system.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS Technology transfer, ARLinside, training and education			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 15	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT UL	

