

WinWord.Doc

This is an example of a Document Object, here a Microsoft Word file. To view it in Microsoft's Internet Explorer, you will need one of the following installed on your client machine:

- Microsoft Word for Windows
- Microsoft's free viewer for Word for Windows

A more detailed definition of Document Objects, courtesy of Microsoft Developer Relations Group, follows:

OLE Document Objects (DocObjects, for short). OLE Document Objects is a set of OLE interfaces that are built on top of the standard OLE in-place activation interfaces. A DocObject server owns the entire client area of the DocObject container in which it is running. For Internet applications, this means that OLE Document Objects enable Web browsers to be extensible so that they can view any type of document (not just HTML) that is published on the Internet.

Let's look at an example. Suppose you want to publish a document in its native *.ABC format. When a DocObject-enabled browser tries to view that document, it downloads (with the user's permission, of course) the *.ABC DocObject server and runs it. The *.ABC DocObject server takes over the browser's entire client area and displays the *.ABC file. To end users, this is completely seamless; they use the same tool to browse through anything on the Internet, regardless of the format. If you publish documents on the Internet, this means that you are not restricted to publishing in HTML, you can use any format you choose, and you are still guaranteed that end users will be able to view your documents.

DocObjects also enable a browser to launch a specific application when it gets to a page; the browser acts as a navigation tool to find and launch an Internet application.