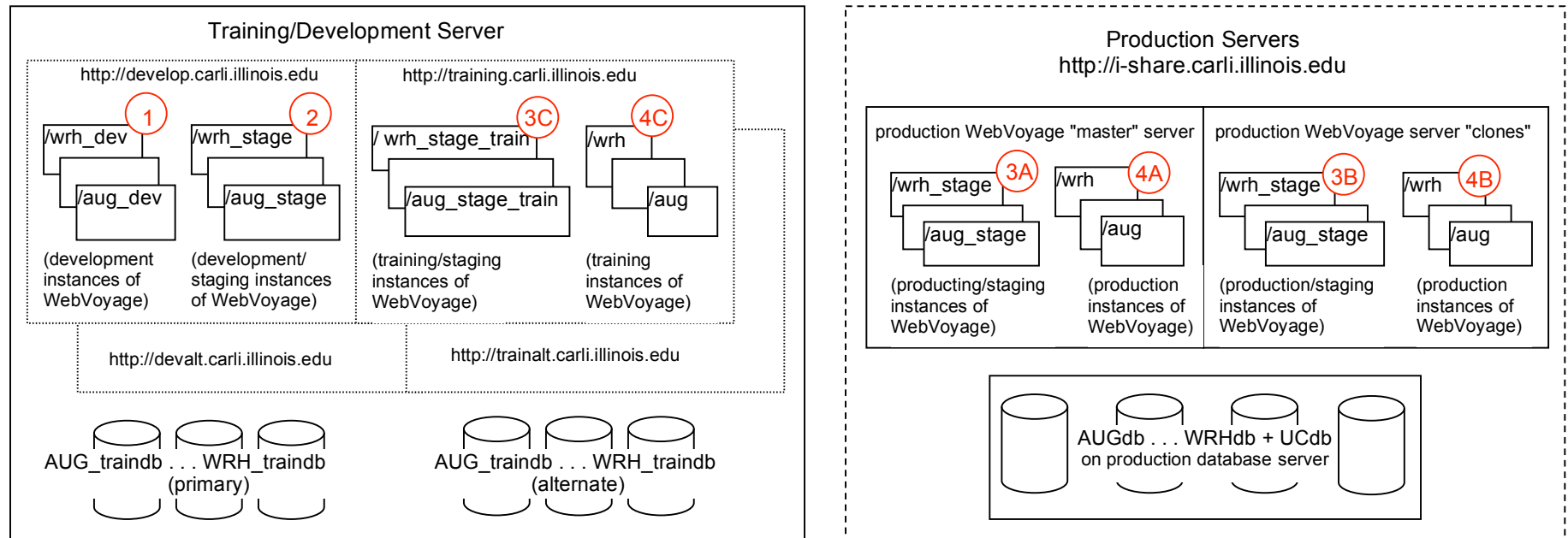


Simplified Diagram of WebVoyage Files, Databases and Servers, Illustrating the I-Share Staging Process
September 2007



In the training/development environment the databases, the Voyager software, and the WebVoyage configuration files for each institution are all on one server machine. WebVoyage configuration files are replicated eight times on that machine for each institution (four times for each of two releases of the software). For each supported software release there's a development instance of WebVoyage, a development/staging instance, a training/staging instance, and a training instance.

In the production environment there are multiple server machines: a database server containing all the individual I-Share libraries' databases, the Universal Catalog database and the Voyager software; multiple server machines supporting keyword processes; a load balancing server for web connections; and multiple server machines each of which contains a production/staging instance and a production instance of the WebVoyage configuration files for each of the I-Share catalogs.

When WebVoyage configuration files are updated, the files are copied from the development instance of WebVoyage on the Training/Development server to replace the files in, sequentially, every other instance of WebVoyage at the same software release for that institution. This "staging procedure" is described on the following page.

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- A. Authorized operator at institution XXX makes changes to WebVoyage configuration files on `develop.carli.illinois.edu`, in the `/r1/voyager/custom_webs/XXX_webvoyage_dev/` directory. (Generally the `/r1` directory is for the software release currently considered "primary," while the `/s1` directory is for the release considered "alternate." As of this date, however, both the `/r1` and `/s1` directories contain configuration files at release 6.1, like production. CARLI allows write access to no more than one set of directories at a time.
- B. Operator at institution XXX notifies appropriate XXX staff as well as everyone subscribed to `wvdev@carli.illinois.edu` when he or she believes the customized files are "ready to stage."
- C. Appropriate staff at institution XXX do final tests, while I-Share OPAC Team members confirm that all customizations are within the I-Share Customization Guidelines. Both look at `http://develop.carli.illinois.edu/xxx_dev`.
- D. When both the library and the OPAC Team approve the complete set of customized WebVoyage configuration files to be staged, the I-Share library liaison at institution XXX files a WRO to request the staging. On the WRO form the liaison specifies whether the library would like one last chance to review the changed files, once the files have been copied to the staging area on the production server machines.

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- A. CARLI Data Services staff copy files from the `custom_webs/XXX_webvoyage_dev` directory to the `custom_webs/XXX_webvoyage_stage` directory on the training/development server, and run scripts to correct internal database and server references.

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- A. CARLI Data Services staff then immediately copy those customized and corrected files to the production/staging area on the "master" production WebVoyage server.
- B. Within the hour files on the master server are replicated automatically to each of the production WebVoyage "clone" servers so that they become available at the "`http://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/xxx_stage`" URL.
- C. CARLI Data Services staff also copy the customized files to the training/staging area on the training/development server. Scripts fix certain internal URLs, so that "training" is more of a self-enclosed environment. For instance, the Quit button in the training instances of WebVoyage (`http://training.carli.illinois.edu/xxx`) will lead the user back to the default search page of the training catalog, rather than to the library's home page.
- D. If the WRO specified that the library wants to review the changes in the production environment before they become visible to the public, CARLI Data Services staff send notification, to the address specified in the WRO, when the files are ready for viewing at `http://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/xxx_stage` and at `http://training.carli.illinois.edu/xxx_stage_train`. The staging addresses are also sometimes used for prolonged "demo" periods for new WebVoyage configurations.

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- A. CARLI Data Services staff "flip pointers" on the "master" server, between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. on the morning after the file copying in step 3 (or on a later date, if requested in the WRO).
- B. Within the hour files on the master server are replicated automatically to each of the production WebVoyage "clone" servers, so that users who point to the production URL `http://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/xxx` begin to see the new files. What was formerly in production will instead be in the staging area.
- C. CARLI Data Services staff also "flip pointers" on the training/development server, so that trainees who point to `http://training.carli.illinois.edu/xxx` also see the newest version of WebVoyage. What was formerly at the regular training address will now be at the training/staging address.