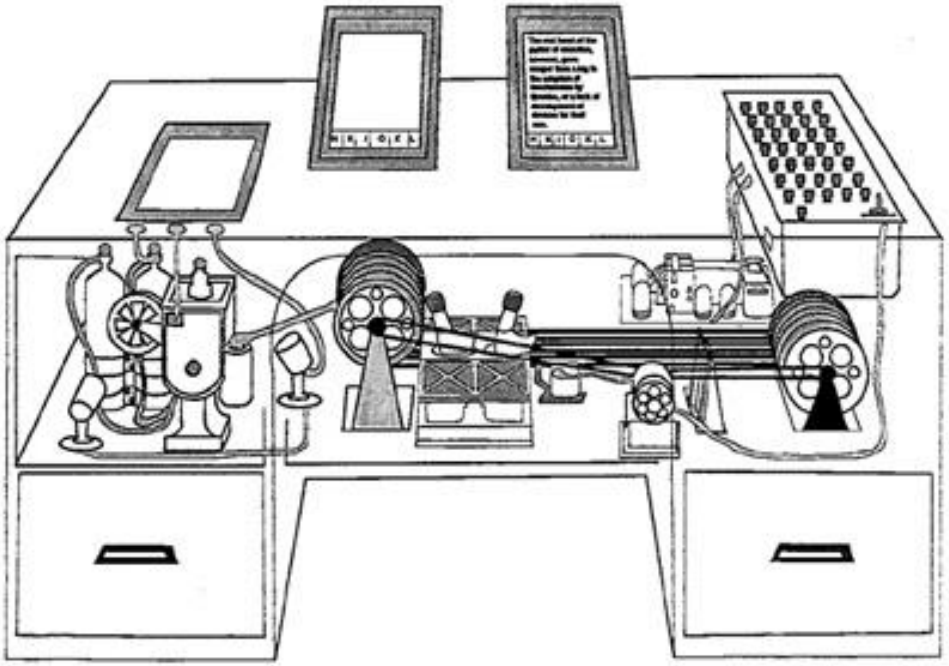
Web Services

Introduction to Computer Systems

Outline

- Web history
- Web and HTTP overview
- Tiny web server
- Proxy
- More examples

Web History (seminal)



"Consider a future device for individual use, which is a sort of mechanized private file and library. It needs a name, and to coin one at random, "memex" will do. A memex is a device in which an individual stores all his books, records, and communications, and which is mechanized so that it may be consulted with exceeding speed and flexibility. It is an enlarged intimate supplement to his memory."

- **1945:**
  - Vannevar Bush, "**As we may think**", Atlantic Monthly, July, 1945
    - Describes the idea of a distributed hypertext system
    - A "memex" that mimics the "web of trails" in our minds

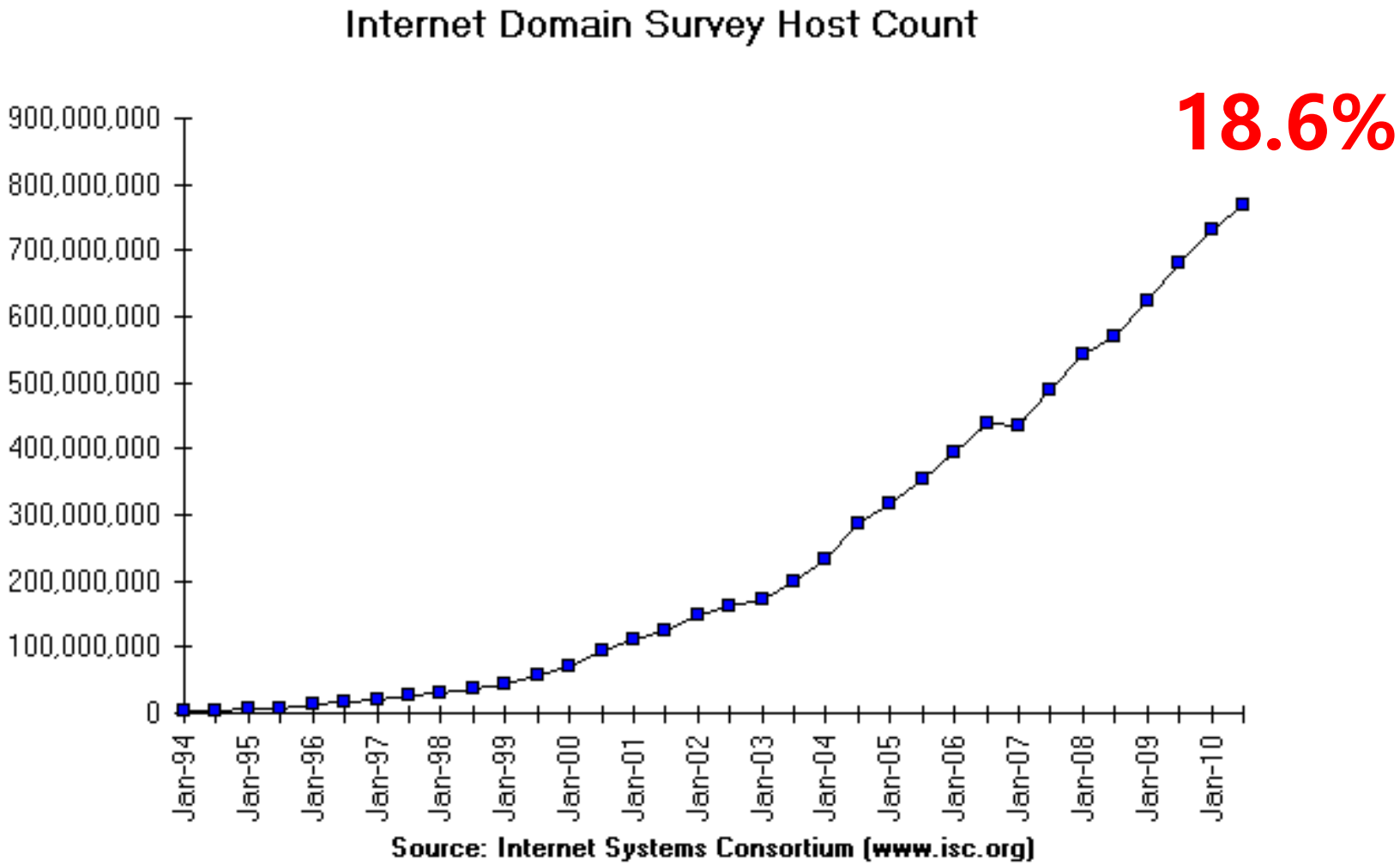
Web History

- **1989:**
  - Tim Berners-Lee (CERN) writes internal proposal to develop a distributed hypertext system
    - Connects “a web of notes with links”
    - Intended to help CERN physicists in large projects share and manage information
- **1990:**
  - Tim BL writes a graphical browser for Next machines

Web History (cont)

- **1992**
  - NCSA server released
  - 26 WWW servers worldwide
- **1993**
  - Marc Andreessen releases first version of NCSA Mosaic browser
  - Mosaic version released for (Windows, Mac, Unix)
  - Web (port 80) traffic at 1% of NSFNET backbone traffic
  - Over 200 WWW servers worldwide
- **1994**
  - Andreessen and colleagues leave NCSA to form “Mosaic Communications Corp” (predecessor to Netscape)

Internet Hosts



- How many of the 2^{32} IP addresses have registered domain names?

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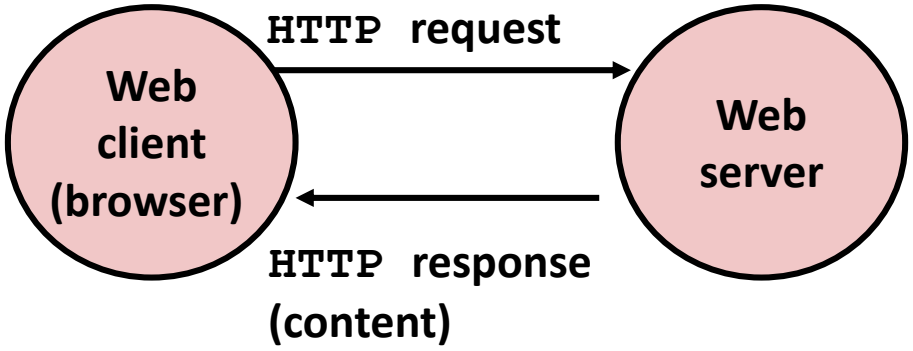
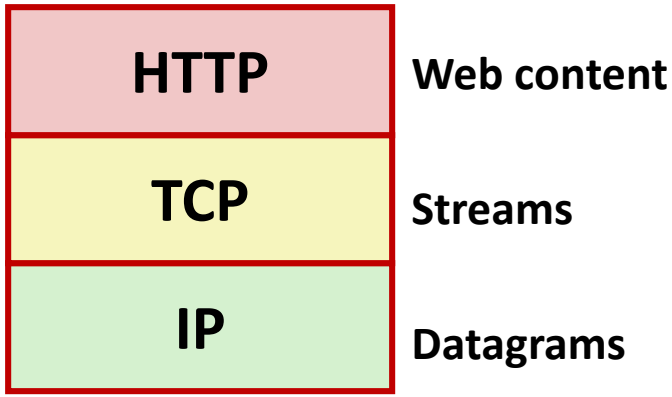
Web Server Basics

- **Clients and servers communicate using the HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**
  - Client and server establish TCP connection
  - Client requests content
  - Server responds with requested content
  - Client and server close connection (eventually)
- **Current version is HTTP/1.1**
  - RFC 2616, June, 1999.





`http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616.html`

Web Content

- **Web servers return *content* to clients**
  - *content:* a sequence of bytes with an associated MIME (Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions) type

- **Example MIME types**

`text/html`	HTML document
`text/plain`	Unformatted text
`image/gif`	Binary image encoded in GIF format
`image/png`	Binar image encoded in PNG format
`image/jpeg`	Binary image encoded in JPEG format

You can find the complete list of MIME types at:
`http://www.iana.org/assignments/media-types/media-types.xhtml`

Static and Dynamic Content

- **The content returned in HTTP responses can be either *static* or *dynamic***
  - *Static content*: content stored in files and retrieved in response to an HTTP request
    - Examples: HTML files, images, audio clips
    - Request identifies which content file
  - *Dynamic content*: content produced on-the-fly in response to an HTTP request
    - Example: content produced by a program executed by the server on behalf of the client
    - Request identifies file containing executable code
- **Bottom line: *Web content is associated with a file that is managed by the server***

Web and HTTP

- **Web page consists of objects**
  - Object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,…
  - Web page consists of base HTML-file which includes several **referenced objects**
  - Each object is addressable by a URL
  - Example URL:

`www.someschool.edu/someDept/pic.gif`

host name | path name

URLs

- **Each file managed by a server has a unique name called a URL (Universal Resource Locator)**
- **URLs for static content:**
  - `http://www.cs.cmu.edu:80/index.html`
  - `http://www.cs.cmu.edu/index.html`
    - Identifies a file called `index.html`, managed by a Web server at `www.cs.cmu.edu` that is listening on port 80
- **URLs for dynamic content:**
  - `http://www.cs.cmu.edu:8000/cgi-bin/proc?15000&213`
    - **Identifies an executable file called `proc`**, managed by a Web server at `www.cs.cmu.edu` that is listening on port 8000, that should be called with two argument strings: `15000` and `213`

URLs and how clients and servers use them

- **Unique name for a file: URL (Universal Resource Locator)**
- **Example URL: `http://www.cmu.edu:80/index.html`**
- **Clients use *prefix* (`http://www.cmu.edu:80`) to infer:**
  - What kind (protocol) of server to contact (HTTP)
  - Where the server is (`www.cmu.edu`)
  - What port it is listening on (80)
- **Servers use *suffix* (`/index.html`) to:**
  - Determine if request is for static or dynamic content.
    - No hard and fast rules for this
    - One convention: executables reside in `cgi-bin` directory
  - Find file on file system
    - Initial "`/`" in suffix denotes home directory for requested content.
    - Minimal suffix is "`/`", which server expands to configured default filename (usually, `index.html`)

HTML source

```
<html><head></head><body><header>
<title>http://info.cern.ch</title>
</header>

<h1>http://info.cern.ch - home of the first website</h1>
<p>From here you can:</p>
<ul>
<li><a href="http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html">Browse t
<li><a href="http://line-mode.cern.ch/www/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html"
<li><a href="http://home.web.cern.ch/topics/birth-web">Learn about the h
<li><a href="http://home.web.cern.ch/about">Learn about CERN, the physic
</ul>
</body></html>
```

http://info.cern.ch/

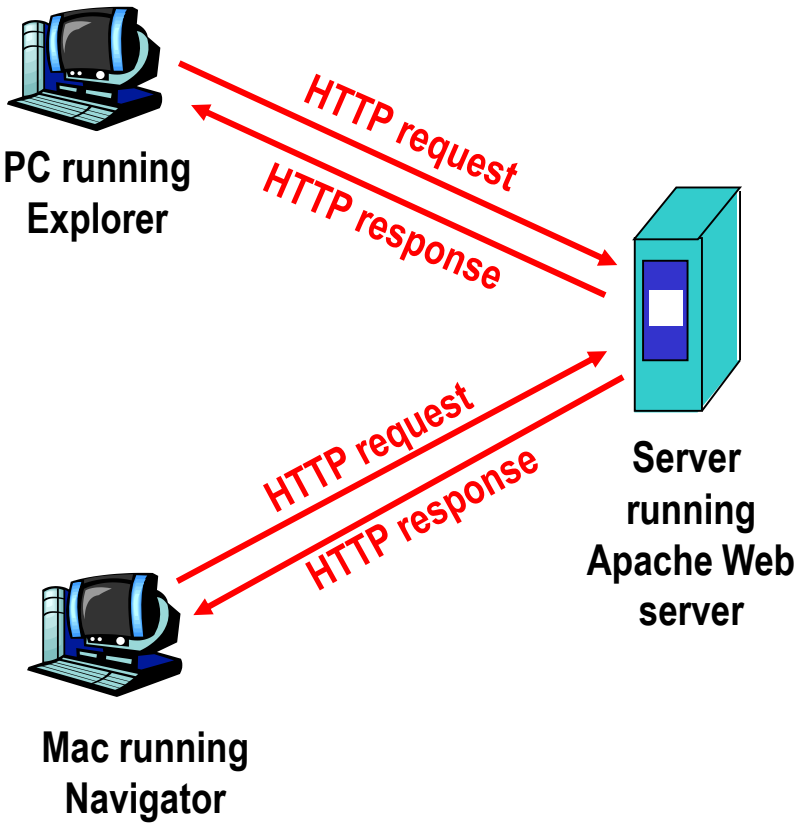
<head>……</head>
<title>……</title>
<body>……</body>
……
……
……
……

HTML source (cont.)

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

- **Web's application layer protocol**
- **client/server model**
  - *client:* browser that requests, receives, "displays" Web objects
  - *server:* Web server sends objects in response to requests



Example HTTP Transaction

```
whaleshark> telnet www.cmu.edu 80          Client: open connection to server
Trying 128.2.42.52...                      Telnet prints 3 lines to terminal
Connected to WWW-CMU-PROD-VIP.ANDREW.cmu.edu.
Escape character is '^]'.
GET / HTTP/1.1                             Client: request line
Host: www.cmu.edu                          Client: required HTTP/1.1 header
                                           Client: empty line terminates headers
HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently             Server: response line
Date: Wed, 05 Nov 2014 17:05:11 GMT        Server: followed by 5 response headers
Server: Apache/1.3.42 (Unix)               Server: this is an Apache server
Location: http://www.cmu.edu/index.shtml   Server: page has moved here
Transfer-Encoding: chunked                 Server: response body will be chunked
Content-Type: text/html; charset=...       Server: expect HTML in response body
                                           Server: empty line terminates headers
15c                                        Server: first line in response body
<HTML><HEAD>                               Server: start of HTML content
...
</BODY></HTML>                             Server: end of HTML content
0                                          Server: last line in response body
Connection closed by foreign host.         Server: closes connection
```

- HTTP standard requires that each text line end with "`\r\n`"
- Blank line ("`\r\n`") terminates request and response headers

Example HTTP Transaction, Take 2

```
whaleshark> telnet www.cmu.edu 80          Client: open connection to server
Trying 128.2.42.52...                      Telnet prints 3 lines to terminal
Connected to WWW-CMU-PROD-VIP.ANDREW.cmu.edu.
Escape character is '^]'.
GET /index.shtml HTTP/1.1                  Client: request line
Host: www.cmu.edu                          Client: required HTTP/1.1 header
                                           Client: empty line terminates headers
HTTP/1.1 200 OK                            Server: response line
Date: Wed, 05 Nov 2014 17:37:26 GMT        Server: followed by 4 response headers
Server: Apache/1.3.42 (Unix)
Transfer-Encoding: chunked
Content-Type: text/html; charset=...
                                           Server: empty line terminates headers
1000                                       Server: begin response body
<html ..>                                  Server: first line of HTML content
…
</html>
0                                          Server: end response body
Connection closed by foreign host.         Server: close connection
```

HTTP Requests

- **HTTP request is a *request line*, followed by zero or more *request headers***

- **Request line: `<method> <uri> <version>`**
  - `<method>` is one of `GET`, `POST`, `OPTIONS`, `HEAD`, `PUT`, `DELETE`, or `TRACE`
  - `<uri>` is typically URL for proxies, URL suffix for servers
    - A URL is a type of URI (Uniform Resource Identifier)
    - See http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2396.txt
  - `<version>` is HTTP version of request (`HTTP/1.0` or `HTTP/1.1`)

- **Request headers: `<header name>: <header data>`**
  - Provide additional information to the server

HTTP Responses

- **HTTP response is a *response line* followed by zero or more *response headers*, possibly followed by *content*, with blank line ("\r\n") separating headers from content.**

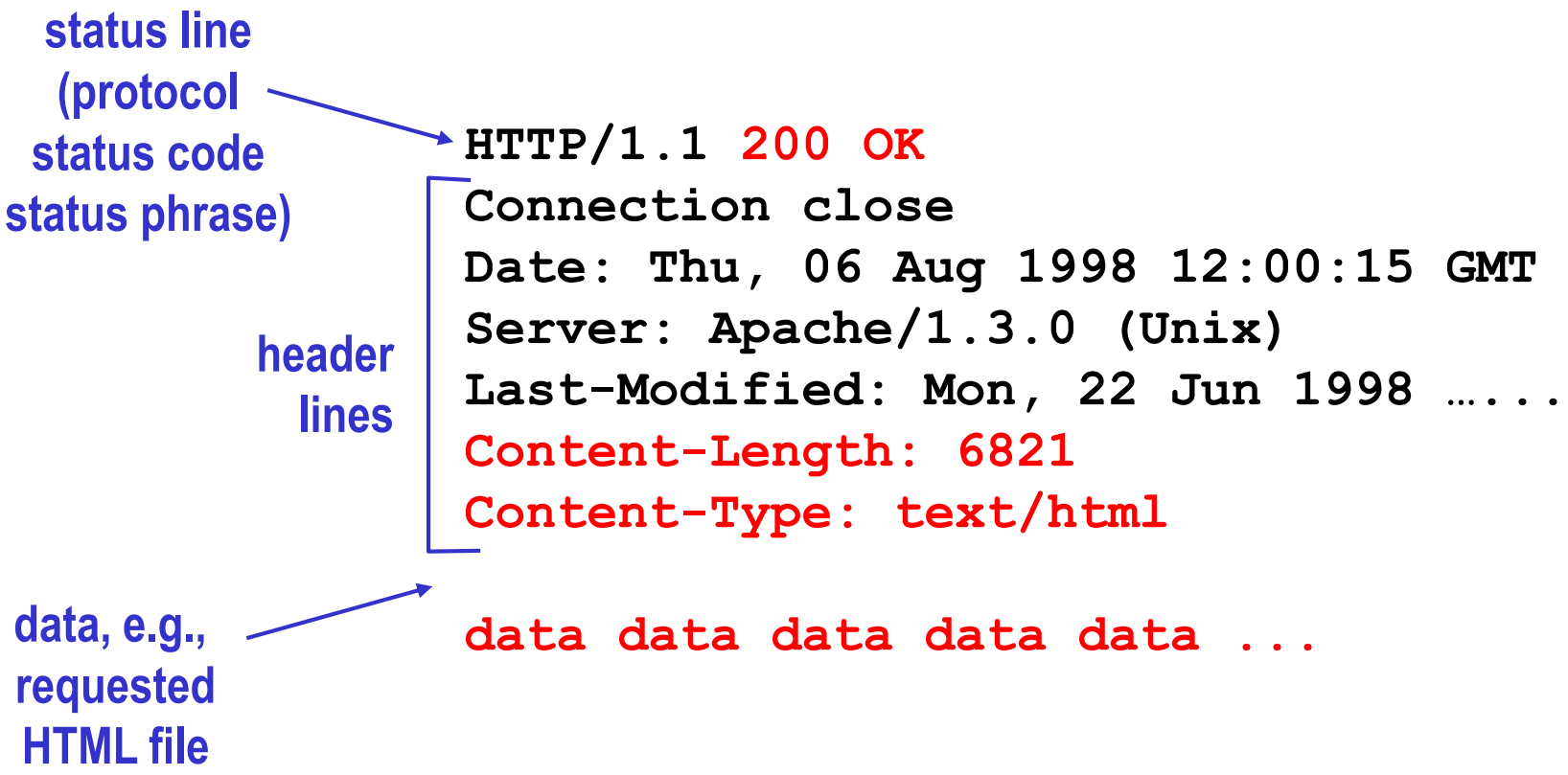
- **Response line:**

  <version> <status code> <status msg>

  - <version> is HTTP version of the response
  - <status code> is numeric status
  - <status msg> is corresponding English text
    - 200 OK Request was handled without error
    - 301 Moved Provide alternate URL
    - 404 Not found Server couldn't find the file

- **Response headers: <header name>: <header data>**
  - Provide additional information about response
  - `Content-Type:` MIME type of content in response body
  - `Content-Length:` Length of content in response body

HTTP response message



HTTP Versions

- **Major differences between HTTP/1.1 and HTTP/1.0**
  - HTTP/1.0 uses a new connection for each transaction
  - HTTP/1.1 also supports *persistent connections*
    - multiple transactions over the same connection
    - `Connection: Keep-Alive`
  - HTTP/1.1 requires `HOST` header
    - `Host: www.cmu.edu`
    - Makes it possible to host multiple websites at single Internet host
  - HTTP/1.1 supports *chunked encoding*
    - `Transfer-Encoding: chunked`
  - HTTP/1.1 adds additional support for caching

Data Transfer Mechanisms

- `Transfer-Encoding: standard`
- `Transfer-Encoding: chunked`

- **Standard**
  - Specify total length with content-length
  - Requires that program buffer entire message
- **Chunked**
  - Break into blocks
  - Prefix each block with number of bytes (Hex coded)

Chunked Encoding Example

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK\n
Date: Sun, 31 Oct 2010 20:47:48 GMT\n
Server: Apache/1.3.41 (Unix)\n
Keep-Alive: timeout=15, max=100\n
Connection: Keep-Alive\n
Transfer-Encoding: chunked\n
Content-Type: text/html\n
\r\n
d75\r\n
<html>
<head>
.<link href="http://www.cs.cmu.edu/style/calendar.css" rel="stylesheet"
type="text/css">
</head>
<body id="calendar_body">

<div id='calendar'><table width='100%'  border='0' cellpadding='0'
cellspacing='1' id='cal'>

 . . .
</body>
</html>
\r\n
0\r\n
\r\n
```

First Chunk: 0xd75 = 3445 bytes

Second Chunk: 0 bytes (indicates last chunk)

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Tiny Web Server

- **Tiny Web server described in text**
  - Tiny is a sequential Web server
  - Serves static and dynamic content to real browsers
    - text files, HTML files, GIF, PNG, and JPEG images
  - 239 lines of commented C code
  - Not as complete or robust as a real Web server
    - You can break it with poorly-formed HTTP requests (e.g., terminate lines with “\n” instead of “\r\n”)

Tiny Operation

- **Accept connection from client**
- **Read request from client (via connected socket)**
- **Split into <method> <uri> <version>**
  - If method not GET, then return error
- **If URI contains "`cgi-bin`" then serve dynamic content**
  - (Would do wrong thing if had file "`abcgi-bingo.html`")
  - Fork process to execute program
- **Otherwise serve static content**
  - Copy file to output

Tiny Serving Static Content

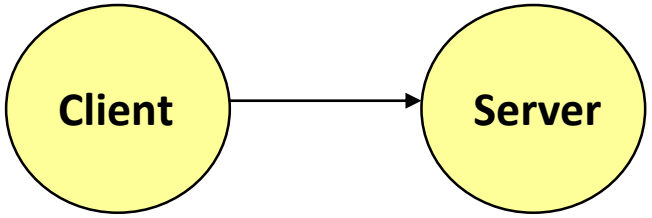
```
void serve_static(int fd, char *filename, int filesize)
{
    int srcfd;
    char *srcp, filetype[MAXLINE], buf[MAXBUF];

    /* Send response headers to client */
    get_filetype(filename, filetype);
    sprintf(buf, "HTTP/1.0 200 OK\r\n");
    sprintf(buf, "%sServer: Tiny Web Server\r\n", buf);
    sprintf(buf, "%sConnection: close\r\n", buf);
    sprintf(buf, "%sContent-length: %d\r\n", buf, filesize);
    sprintf(buf, "%sContent-type: %s\r\n\r\n", buf, filetype);
    Rio_writen(fd, buf, strlen(buf));

    /* Send response body to client */
    srcfd = Open(filename, O_RDONLY, 0);
    srcp = Mmap(0, filesize, PROT_READ, MAP_PRIVATE, srcfd, 0);
    Close(srcfd);
    Rio_writen(fd, srcp, filesize);
    Munmap(srcp, filesize);
}
```

tiny.c

Serving Dynamic Content

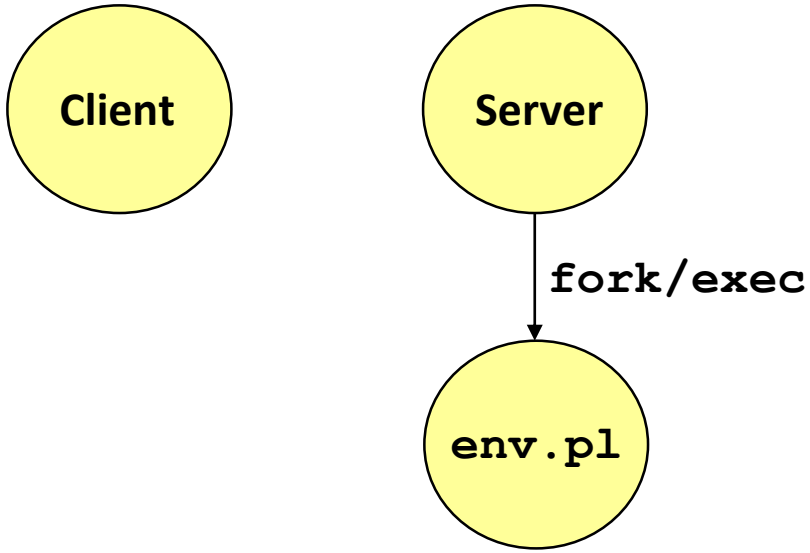
- Client sends request to server
- If request URI contains the string "`/cgi-bin`", the Tiny server assumes that the request is for dynamic content

```
GET /cgi-bin/env.pl HTTP/1.1
```



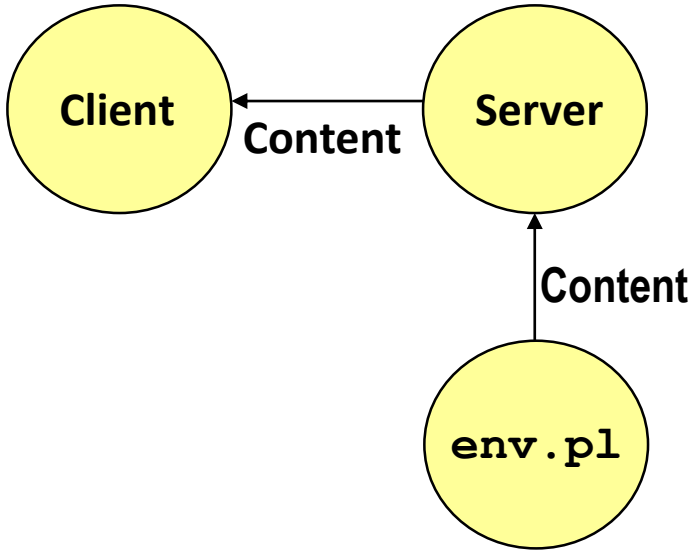
Serving Dynamic Content (cont)

- The server creates a child process and runs the program identified by the URI in that process



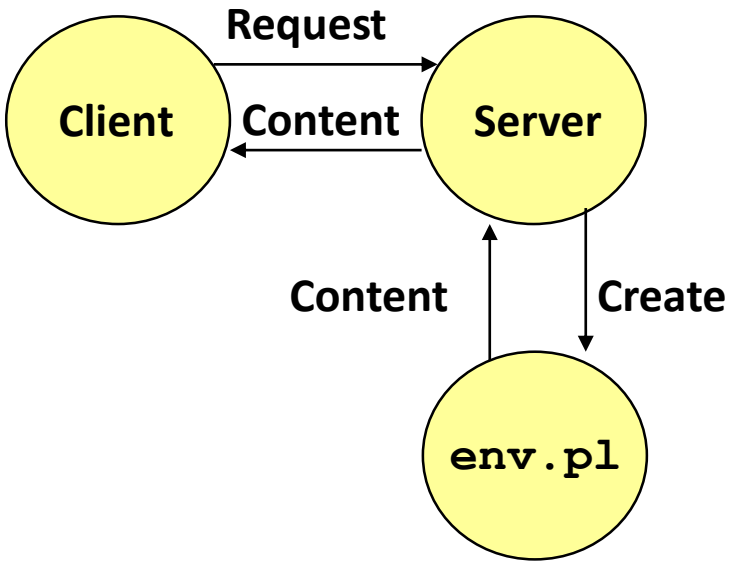
Serving Dynamic Content (cont)

- The child runs and generates the dynamic content
- The server captures the content of the child and forwards it without modification to the client



Issues in Serving Dynamic Content

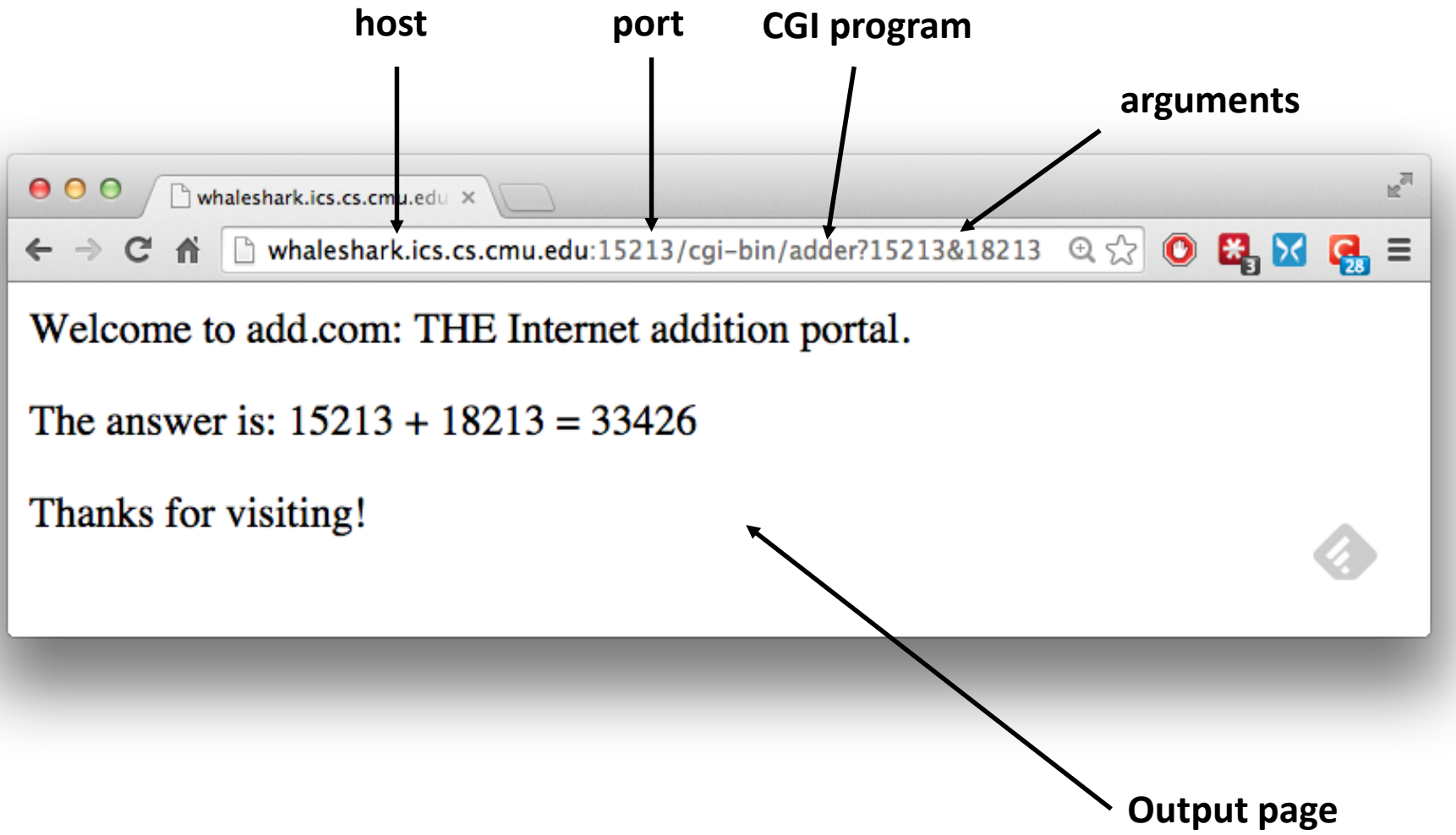
- How does the client pass program arguments to the server?
- How does the server pass these arguments to the child?
- How does the server pass other info relevant to the request to the child?
- How does the server capture the content produced by the child?
- These issues are addressed by the Common Gateway Interface (CGI) specification.



CGI

- **Because the children are written according to the CGI spec, they are often called *CGI programs.***
- **However, CGI really defines a simple standard for transferring information between the client (browser), the server, and the child process.**
- **CGI is the original standard for generating dynamic content. Has been largely replaced by other, faster techniques:**
  - E.g., fastCGI, Apache modules, Java servlets, Rails controllers
  - Avoid having to create process on the fly (expensive and slow).

The add.com Experience



Serving Dynamic Content With GET

- **Question: How does the client pass arguments to the server?**
- **Answer: The arguments are appended to the URI**

- **Can be encoded directly in a URL typed to a browser or a URL in an HTML link**
  - `http://add.com/cgi-bin/adder?15213&18213`
  - `adder` is the CGI program on the server that will do the addition.
  - argument list starts with "`?`"
  - arguments separated by "`&`"
  - spaces represented by "`+`" or "`%20`"

Serving Dynamic Content With GET

- **URL suffix:**
  - `cgi-bin/adder?15213&18213`

- **Result displayed on browser:**

```
Welcome to add.com: THE Internet addition portal.

The answer is: 15213 + 18213 = 33426

Thanks for visiting!
```

Serving Dynamic Content With GET

- **Question: How does the server pass these arguments to the child?**
- **Answer: In environment variable QUERY_STRING**
  - A single string containing everything after the "?"
  - For add: `QUERY_STRING` = "`15213&18213`"

```
/* Extract the two arguments */
if ((buf = getenv("QUERY_STRING")) != NULL) {
    p = strchr(buf, '&');
    *p = '\0';
    strcpy(arg1, buf);
    strcpy(arg2, p+1);
    n1 = atoi(arg1);
    n2 = atoi(arg2);
}
```

adder.c

Additional CGI Environment Variables

- **General**
  - `SERVER_SOFTWARE`
  - `SERVER_NAME`
  - `GATEWAY_INTERFACE` (CGI version)
- **Request-specific**
  - `SERVER_PORT`
  - `REQUEST_METHOD` (`GET`, `POST`, etc)
  - **`QUERY_STRING` (contains `GET` args)**
  - `REMOTE_HOST` (domain name of client)
  - `REMOTE_ADDR` (IP address of client)
  - `CONTENT_TYPE` (for `POST`, type of data in message body, e.g., `text/html`)
  - `CONTENT_LENGTH` (length in bytes)
- **In addition, the value of each header of type *type* received from the client is placed in environment variable `HTTP_`*type***
  - Examples (any "-" is changed to "_") :
    - `HTTP_ACCEPT`
    - `HTTP_HOST`
    - `HTTP_USER_AGENT`

Serving Dynamic Content with GET

- Question: How does the server capture the content produced by the child?
- Answer: The child generates its output on `stdout`. Server uses `dup2` to redirect `stdout` to its connected socket.

```
void serve_dynamic(int fd, char *filename, char *cgiargs)
{
    char buf[MAXLINE], *emptylist[] = { NULL };

    /* Return first part of HTTP response */
    sprintf(buf, "HTTP/1.0 200 OK\r\n");
    Rio_writen(fd, buf, strlen(buf));
    sprintf(buf, "Server: Tiny Web Server\r\n");
    Rio_writen(fd, buf, strlen(buf));

    if (Fork() == 0) { /* Child */
        /* Real server would set all CGI vars here */
        setenv("QUERY_STRING", cgiargs, 1);
        Dup2(fd, STDOUT_FILENO);          /* Redirect stdout to client */
        Execve(filename, emptylist, environ); /* Run CGI program */
    }
    Wait(NULL); /* Parent waits for and reaps child */
}
```

tiny.c

Serving Dynamic Content with GET

- Notice that only the CGI child process knows the content type and length, so it must generate those headers.

```
/* Make the response body */
sprintf(content, "Welcome to add.com: ");
sprintf(content, "%sTHE Internet addition portal.\r\n<p>", content);
sprintf(content, "%sThe answer is: %d + %d = %d\r\n<p>",
        content, n1, n2, n1 + n2);
sprintf(content, "%sThanks for visiting!\r\n", content);

/* Generate the HTTP response */
printf("Content-length: %d\r\n", (int)strlen(content));
printf("Content-type: text/html\r\n\r\n");
printf("%s", content);
fflush(stdout);

exit(0);
```

adder.c

Serving Dynamic Content With GET

```
bash:makoshark> telnet whaleshark.ics.cs.cmu.edu 15213
Trying 128.2.210.175...
Connected to whaleshark.ics.cs.cmu.edu (128.2.210.175).
Escape character is '^]'.
GET /cgi-bin/adder?15213&18213 HTTP/1.0

HTTP/1.0 200 OK
Server: Tiny Web Server
Connection: close
Content-length: 117
Content-type: text/html

Welcome to add.com: THE Internet addition portal.
<p>The answer is: 15213 + 18213 = 33426
<p>Thanks for visiting!
Connection closed by foreign host.
bash:makoshark>
```

HTTP request sent by client

HTTP response generated by the server

HTTP response generated by the CGI program

For More Information

- **W. Richard Stevens et. al. "Unix Network Programming: The Sockets Networking API", Volume 1, Third Edition, Prentice Hall, 2003**
  - THE network programming bible.
- **Michael Kerrisk, "The Linux Programming Interface", No Starch Press, 2010**
  - THE Linux programming bible.
- **Complete versions of all code in this lecture is available from the 213 schedule page.**
  - `http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~213/schedule.html`
  - csapp.{.c,h}, hostinfo.c, echoclient.c, echoserveri.c, tiny.c, adder.c
  - You can use any of this code in your assignments.

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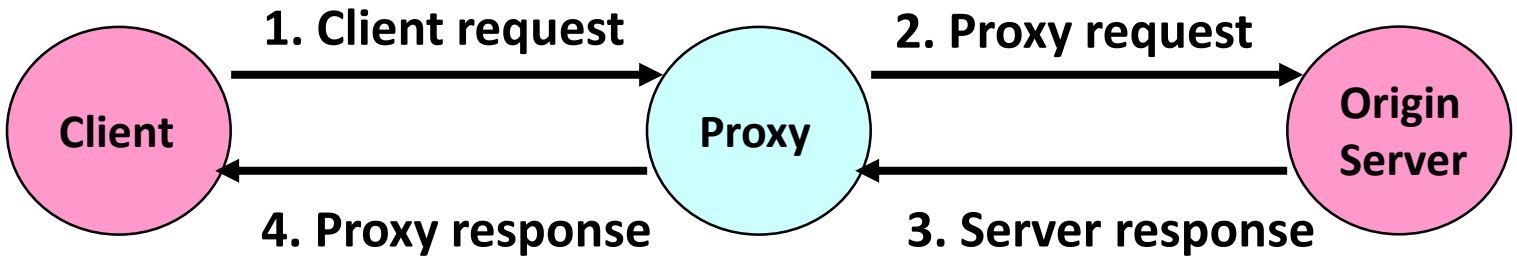
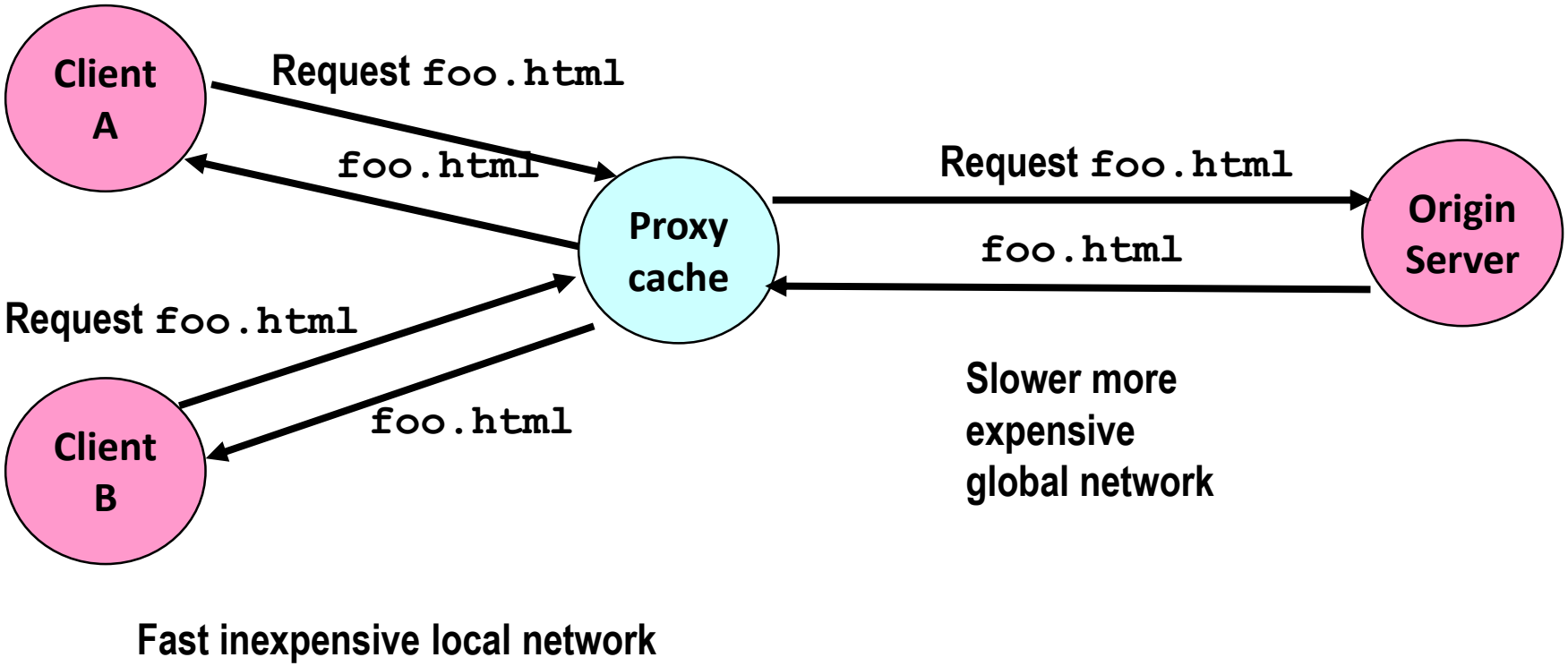
Proxies

- A *proxy* is an intermediary between a client and an *origin server*
  - To the client, the proxy acts like a server
  - To the server, the proxy acts like a client



Why Proxies?

- **Can perform useful functions as requests and responses pass by**
  - Examples: Caching, logging, anonymization, filtering, transcoding



Two types of web proxy

- **Explicit (browser-known) proxies**
  - Used by configuring browser to send requests to proxy
  - Each request specifies entire URL
    - allowing proxy to know target server

- **Transparent proxies**
  - Browser/client behaves as though there is no proxy
  - Proxy runs on network component in route between client and server
    - intercepting and interposing on web requests

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Input via URL

URL method:

- Uses GET method
- Input is uploaded in URL field of request line:

Get Google PageRank score

- Send a HTTP GET request to a Google server (www.google.com) with a query command:

  /search?client=navclient-auto
- appended with parameters \&ch=61658376380\&features=Rank\&q=info:http://www.yahoo.com.
- The string “61658376380" is transformed from http://www.yahoo.com by a transformation function that accepts a URL as input.
- The returned results of the GET request contains the score

Get Google PageRank score

HTTP response status codes

In first line in server->client response message.
A few sample codes:

200 OK

- request succeeded, requested object later in this message

301 Moved Permanently

- requested object moved, new location specified later in this message (Location:)

400 Bad Request

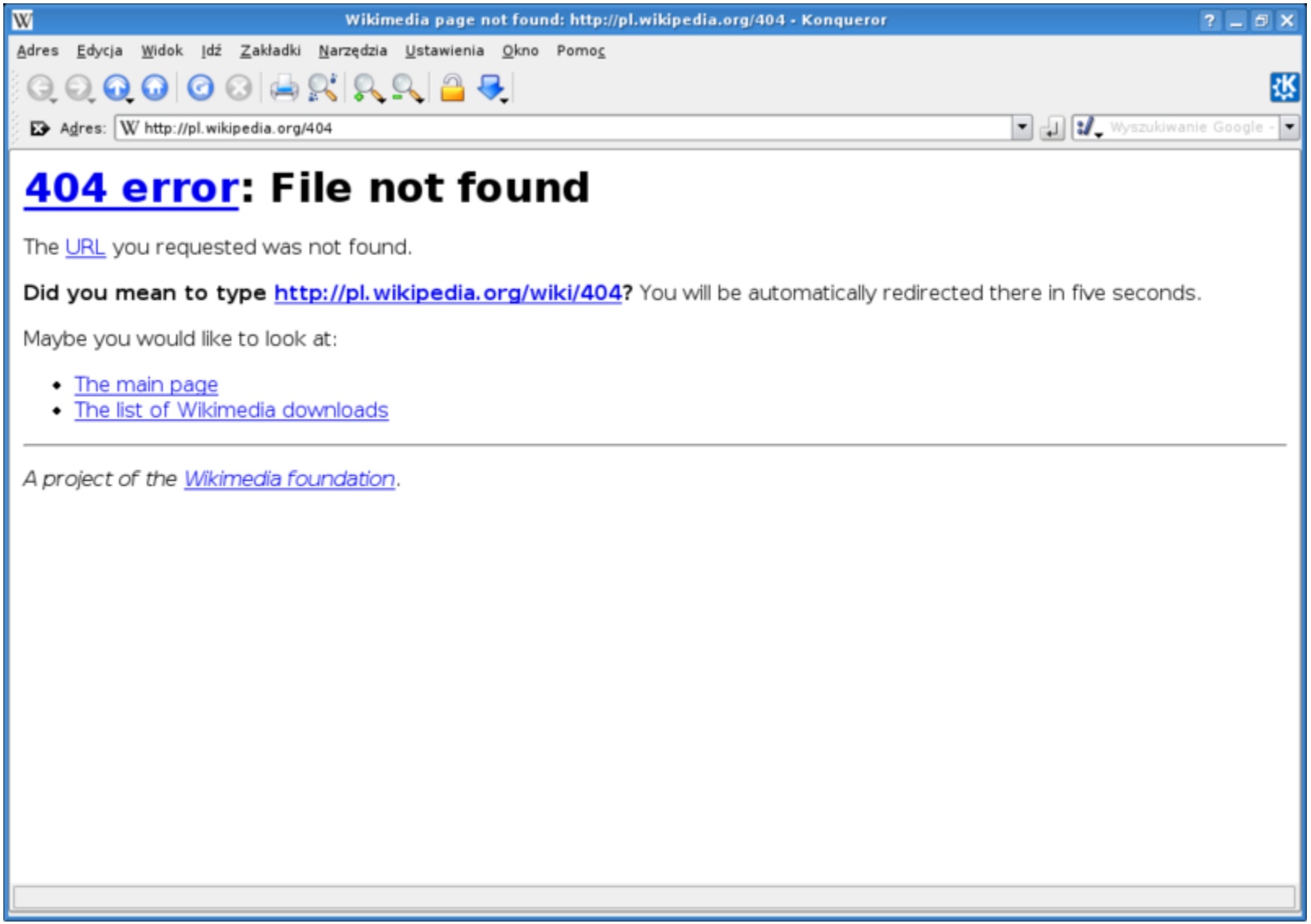
- request message not understood by server

404 Not Found

- requested document not found on this server

505 HTTP Version Not Supported

HTTP response status codes – 404 error

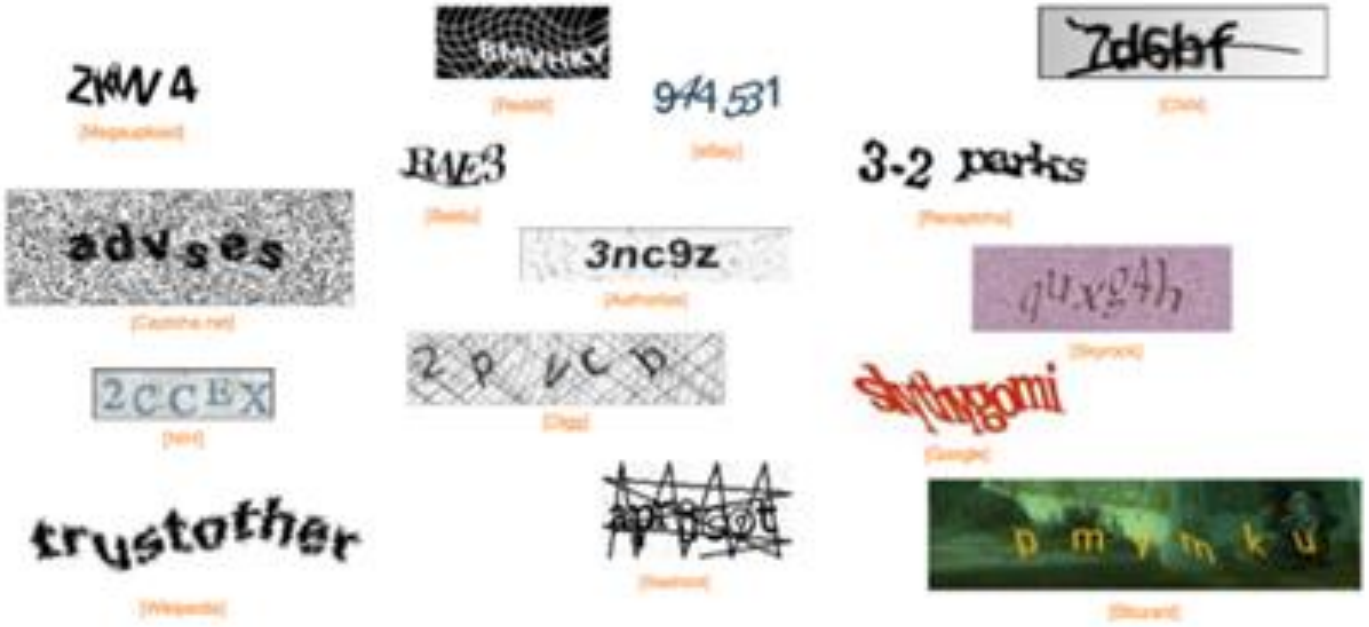


HTTP 404 公益

NotFound Project公益项目：**利用闲置网络资源**
发挥公益的力量让更多人帮忙寻找失踪儿童。

CAPTCHA

- **CAPTCHA： Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart**
  - 全自动区分计算机和人类的图灵测试



reCAPTCHA

- reCAPTCHA是利用CAPTCHA的原理，借助于人类大脑对难以识别的字符的辨别能力，进行对古旧书籍中难以被OCR识别的字符进行辨别的技术。