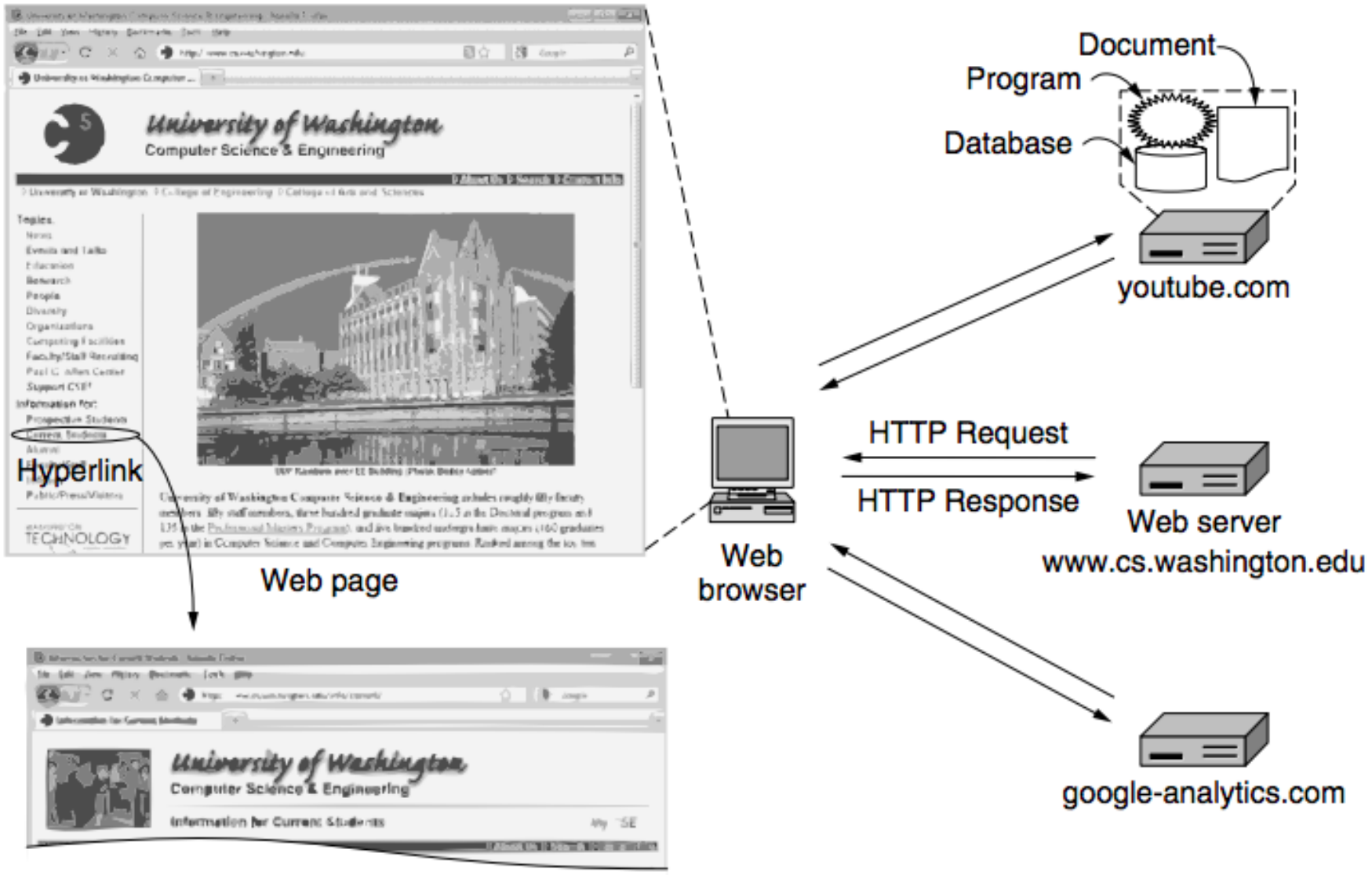
The Web – Architectural Overview



HTTP – The Client Side

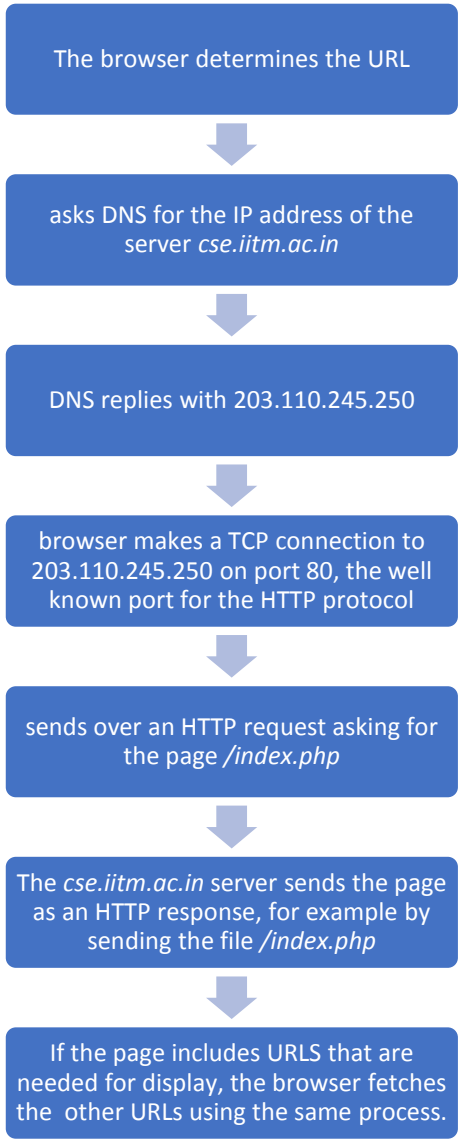
- Three questions to be answered for accessing a web page
  - What is the page called? (index.php)
  - Where is the page located? (www.cse.iitm.ac.in)
  - How can the page be accessed? (**http://**)

- **Uniform Resource Locator (URL):** Each page is assigned a URL that effectively serves the page's worldwide name

- **URL** have three components:
  - The protocol
  - The **qualified name** of the machine one which the page is located
  - The path uniquely indicating the specific page

http://www.cse.iitm.ac.in/index.php

The Steps When You Click http://www.cse.iitm.ac.in/index.php



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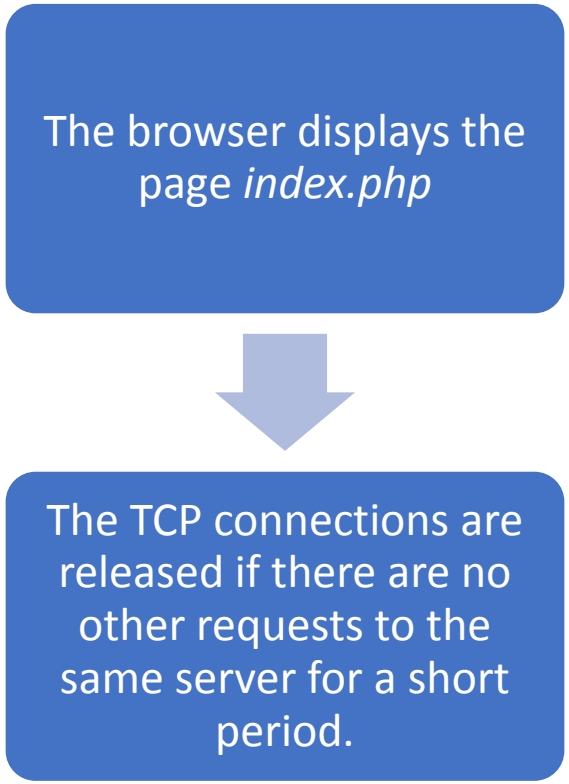
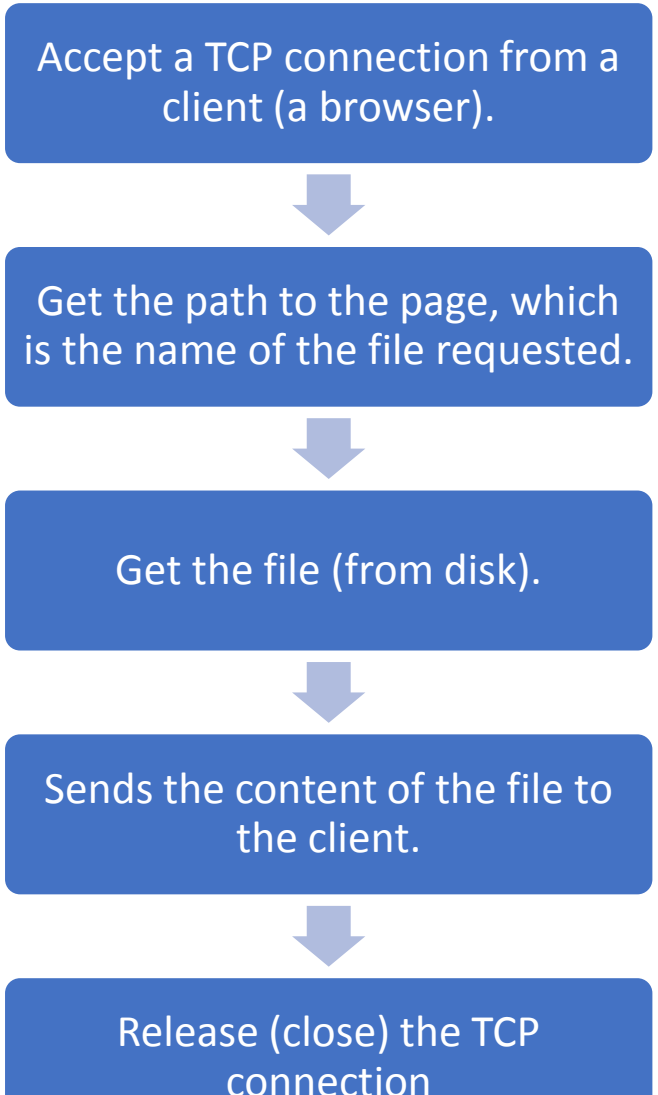
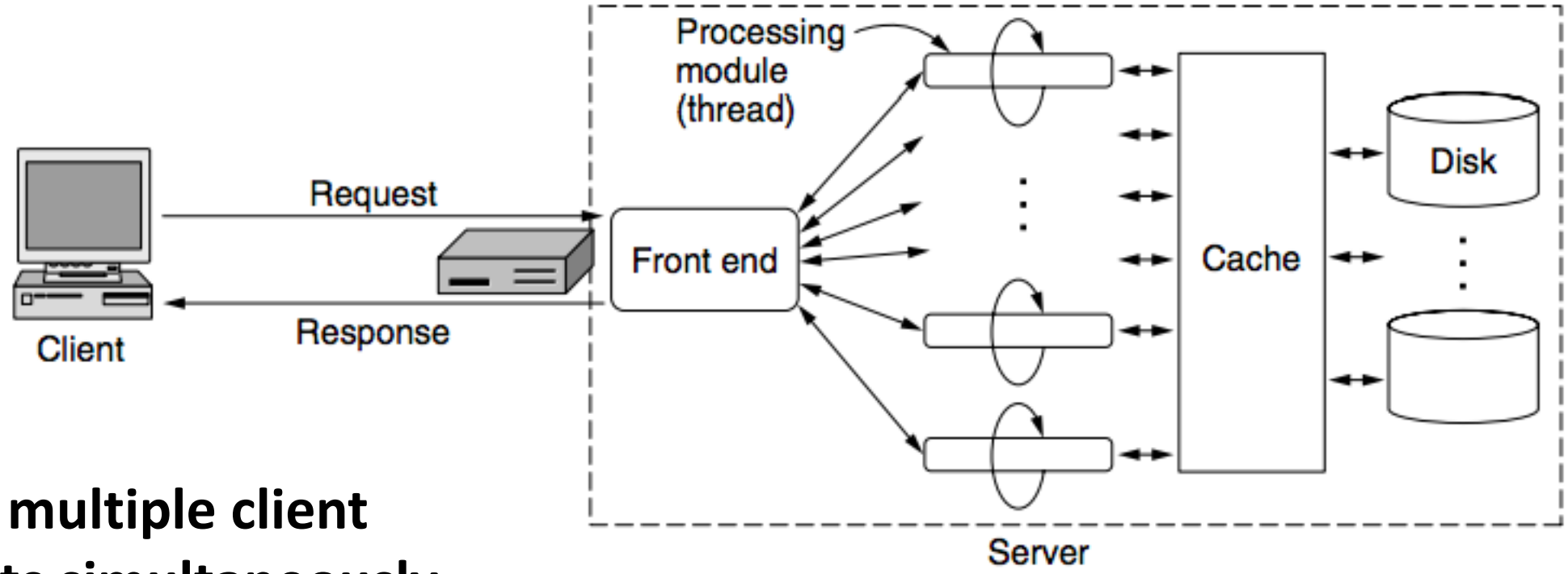


HTTP – The Server Side



Multi-Threaded Server



Serves multiple client requests simultaneously

Source: Computer Networks (5th Edition) by Tanenbaum, Wetherell

HTTP connections

Nonpersistent HTTP

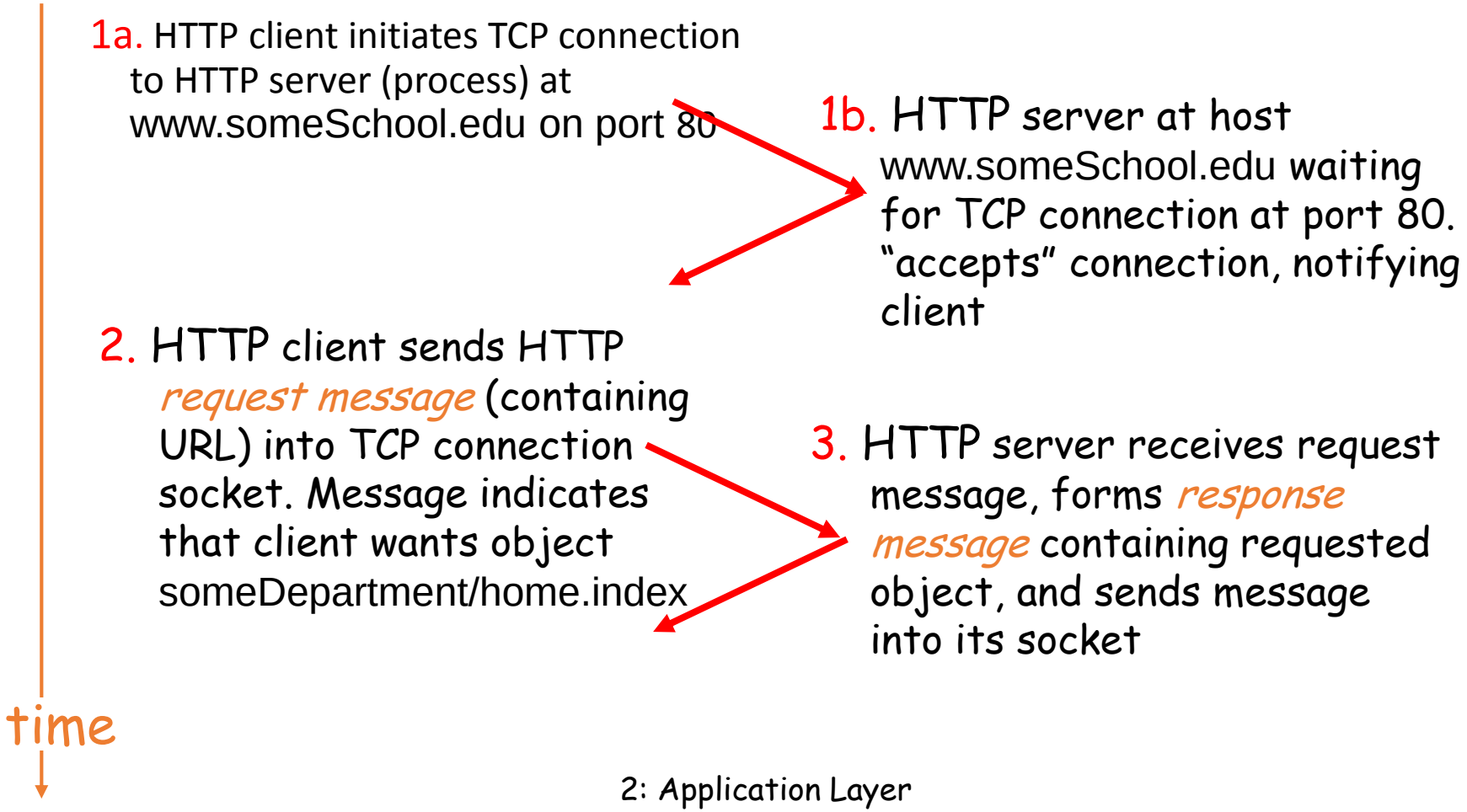
- At most one object is sent over a TCP connection.

Persistent HTTP

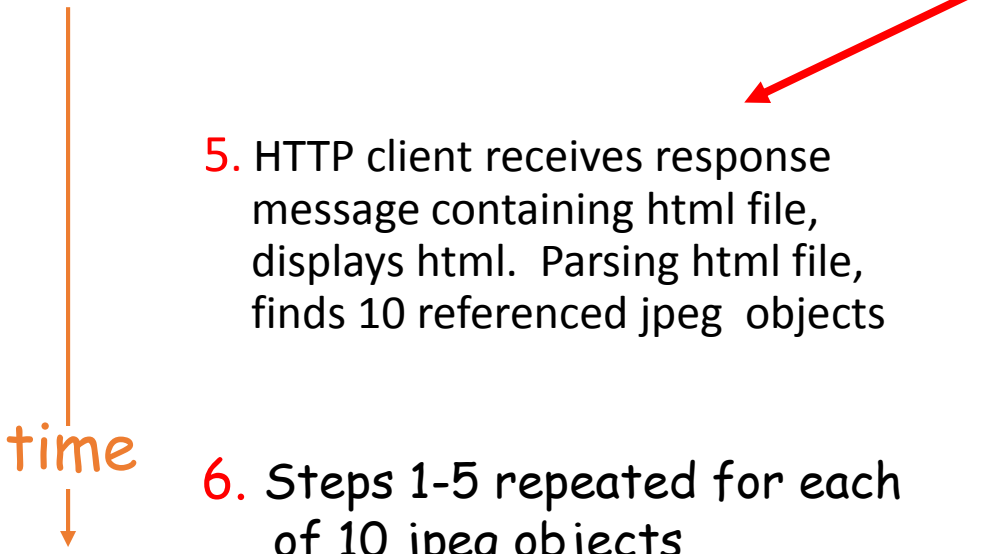
- Multiple objects can be sent over single TCP connection between client and server.

Nonpersistent HTTP

Suppose user enters URL `www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index` (contains text, references to 10 jpeg images)



Nonpersistent HTTP (cont.)



4. HTTP server closes TCP connection.

5. HTTP client receives response message containing html file, displays html. Parsing html file, finds 10 referenced jpeg objects

6. Steps 1-5 repeated for each of 10 jpeg objects

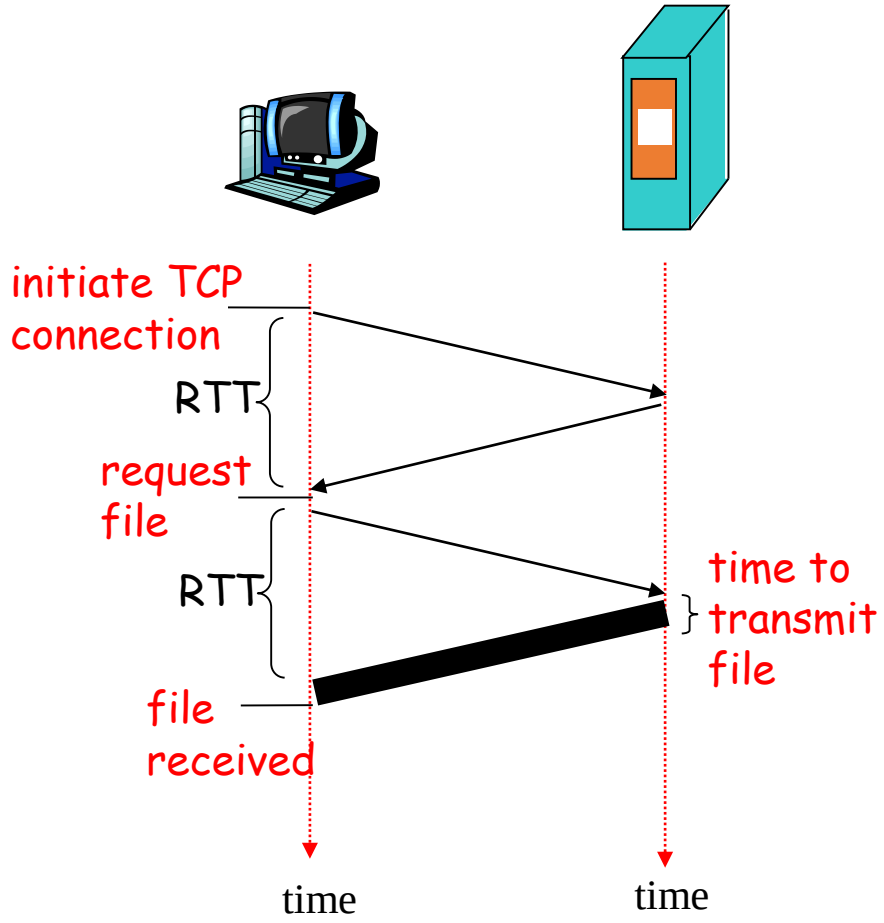
Non-Persistent HTTP: Response time

Definition of RTT: time for a small packet to travel from client to server and back.

Response time:

- one RTT to initiate TCP connection
- one RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
- file transmission time

total = 2RTT+transmit time



Persistent HTTP

Nonpersistent HTTP issues:

- requires 2 RTTs per object
- OS overhead for *each* TCP connection
- browsers often open parallel TCP connections to fetch referenced objects

Persistent HTTP

- server leaves connection open after sending response
- subsequent HTTP messages between same client/server sent over open connection
- client sends requests as soon as it encounters a referenced object
- as little as one RTT for all the referenced objects

HTTP overview (continued)

Uses TCP:

- client initiates TCP connection (creates socket) to server, port 80
- server accepts TCP connection from client
- HTTP messages (application-layer protocol messages) exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- TCP connection closed

HTTP is "stateless"

- server maintains no information about past client requests

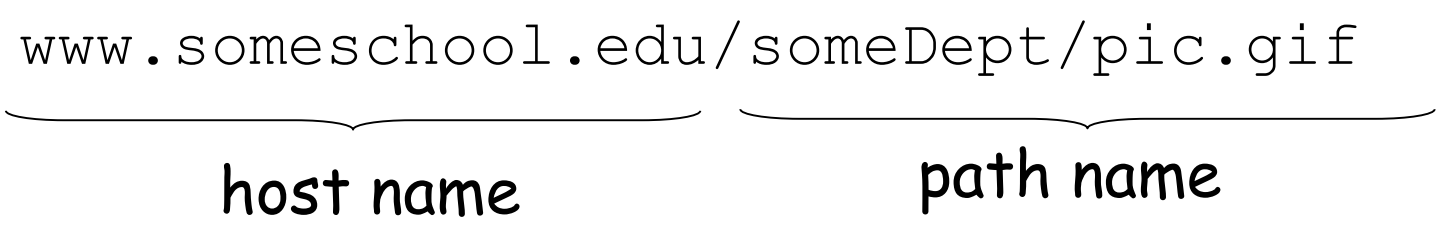
aside

Protocols that maintain "state" are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained
- if server/client crashes, their views of "state" may be inconsistent, must be reconciled

Web and HTTP

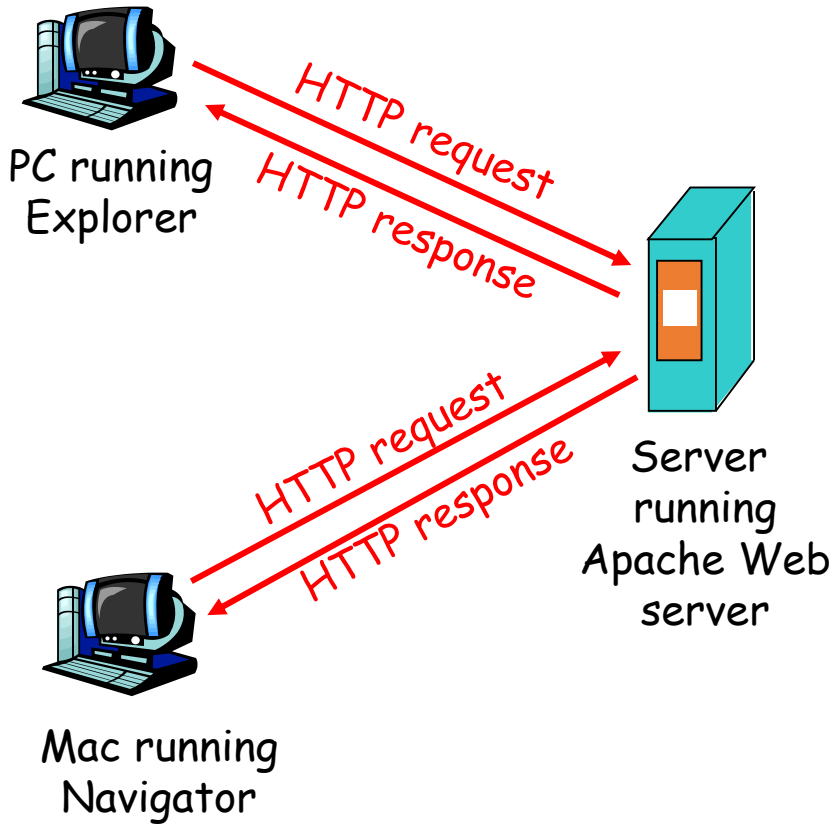
- Web page consists of objects
- Object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,…
- Web page consists of base HTML-file which includes several referenced objects
- Each object is addressable by a URL
- Example URL:



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



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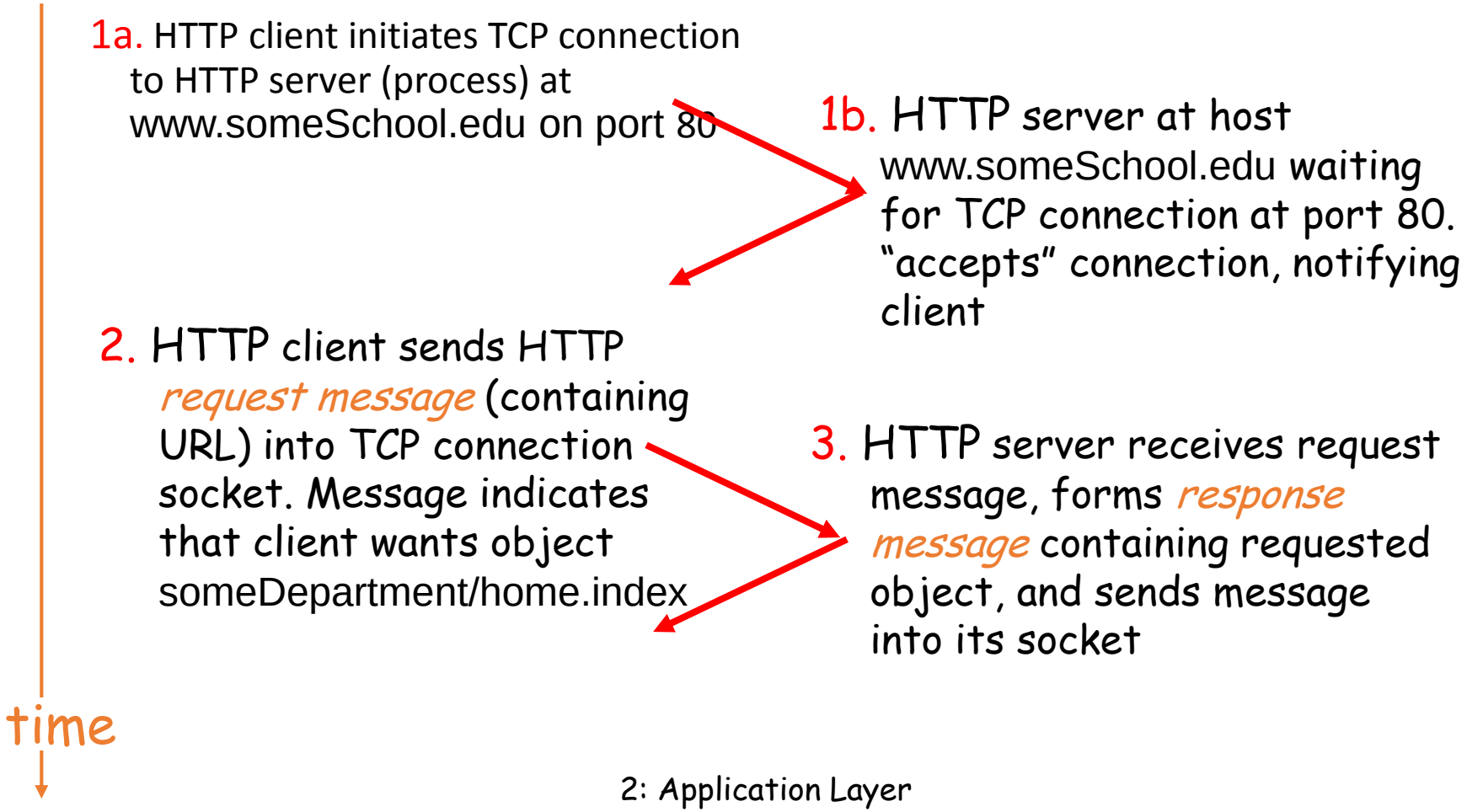
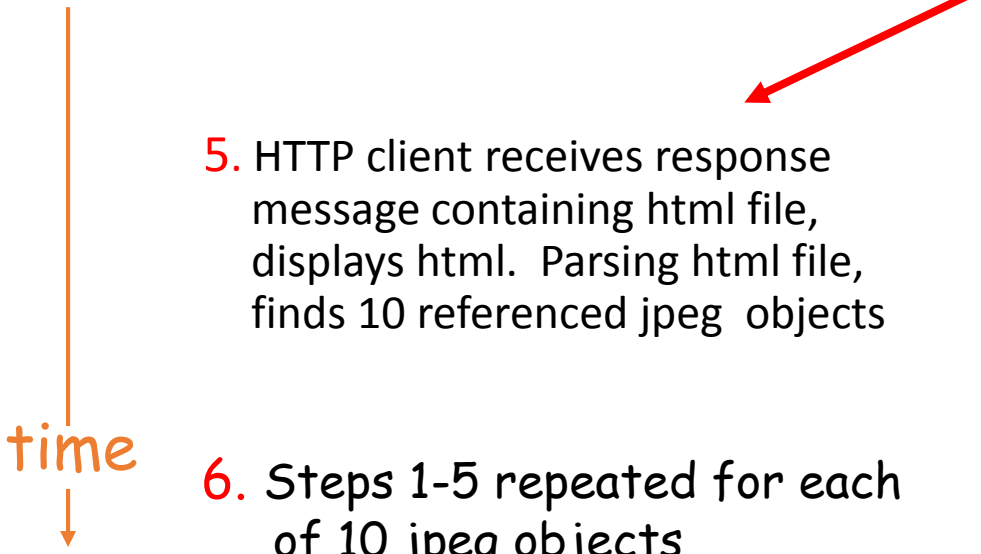


Nonpersistent HTTP (cont.)



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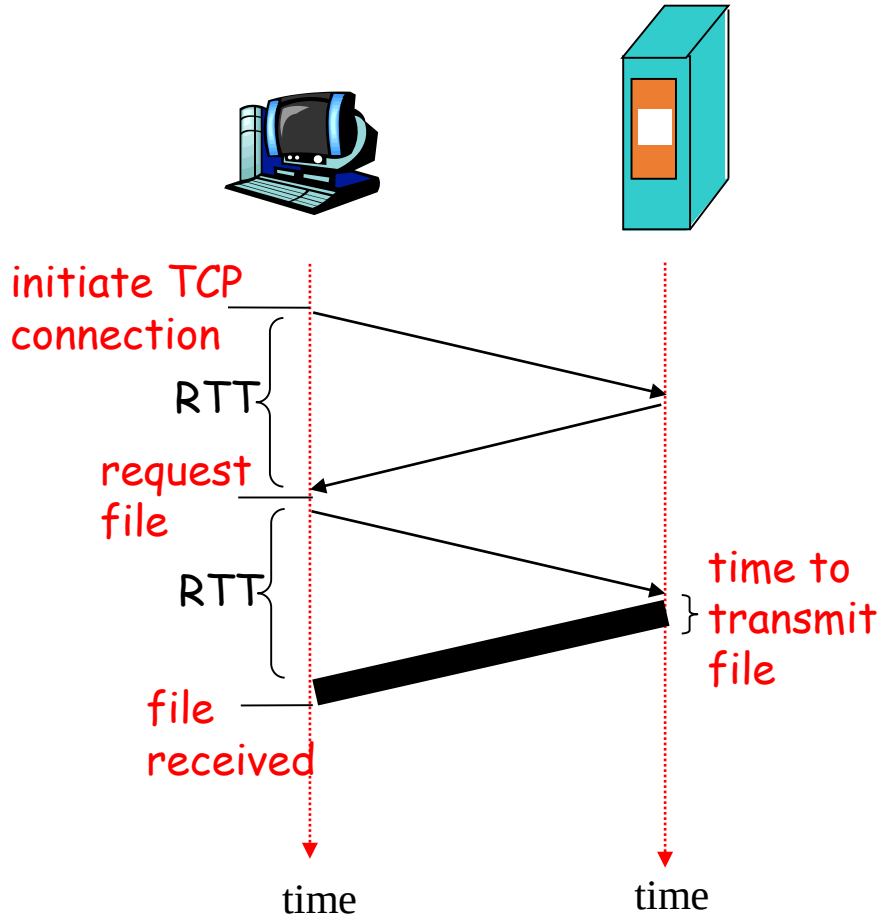

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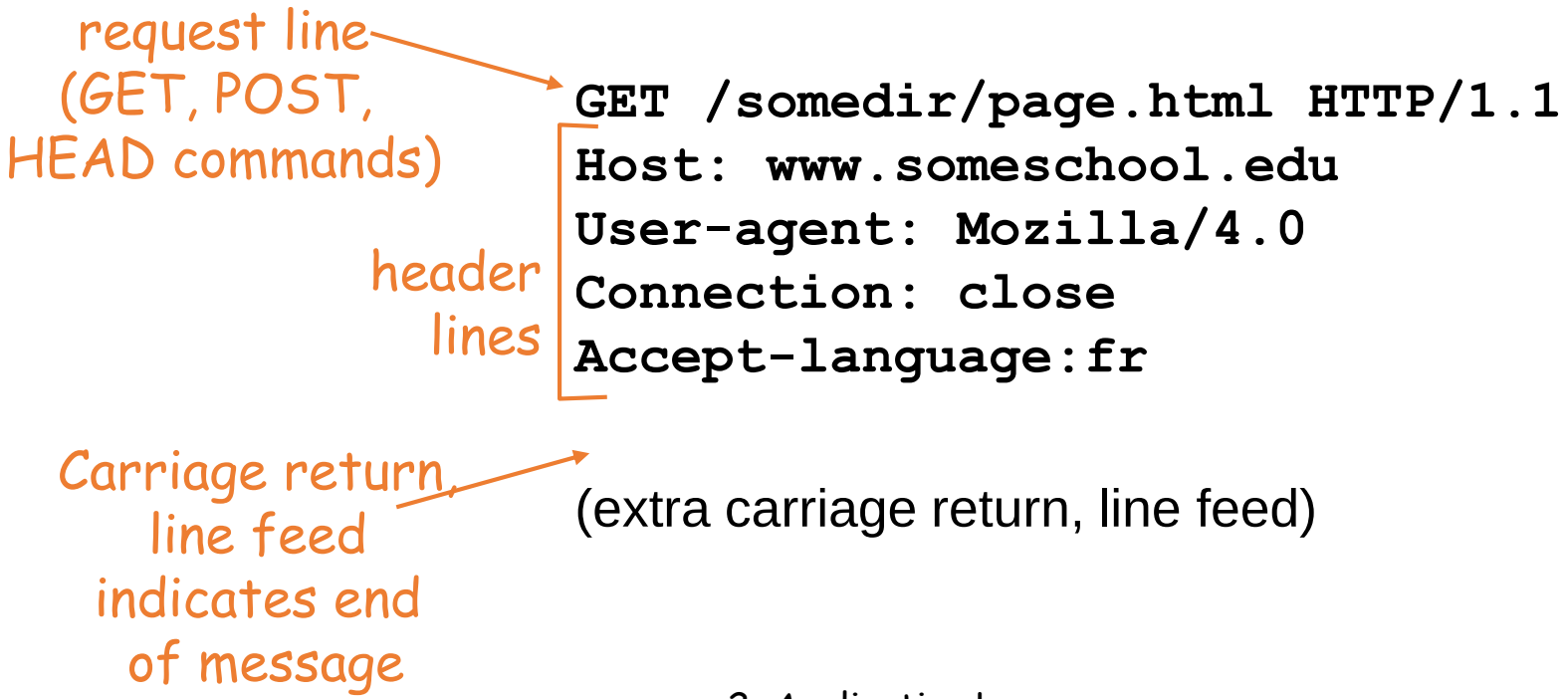
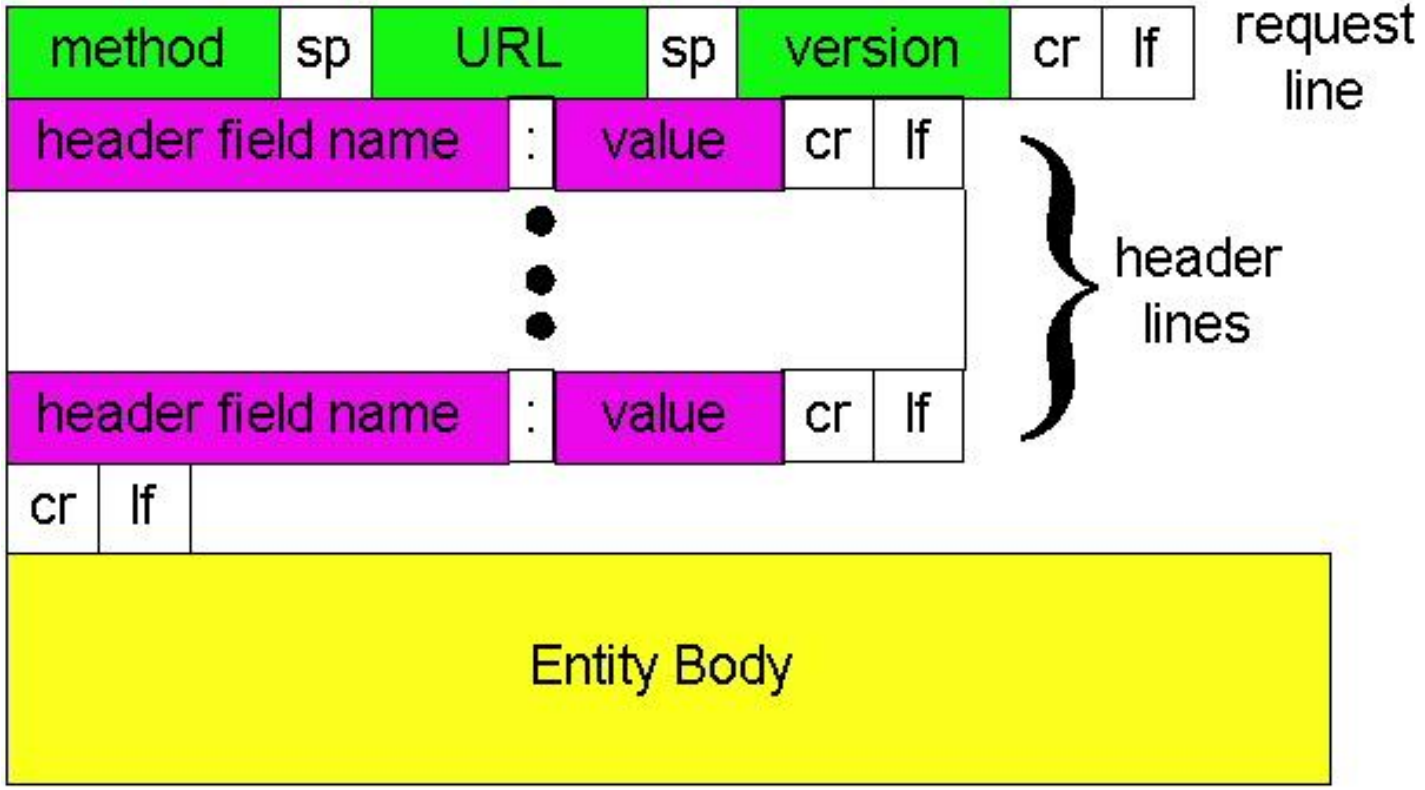
HTTP request message

- two types of HTTP messages: *request, response*
- HTTP request message:
  - ASCII (human-readable format)



HTTP request message: general format



Uploading form input

Post method:

- Web page often includes form input
- Input is uploaded to server in entity body

URL method:

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

```
www.somesite.com/animalsearch?monkeys&banana
```

Method types

HTTP/1.0

- GET
- POST
- HEAD
  - asks server to leave requested object out of response

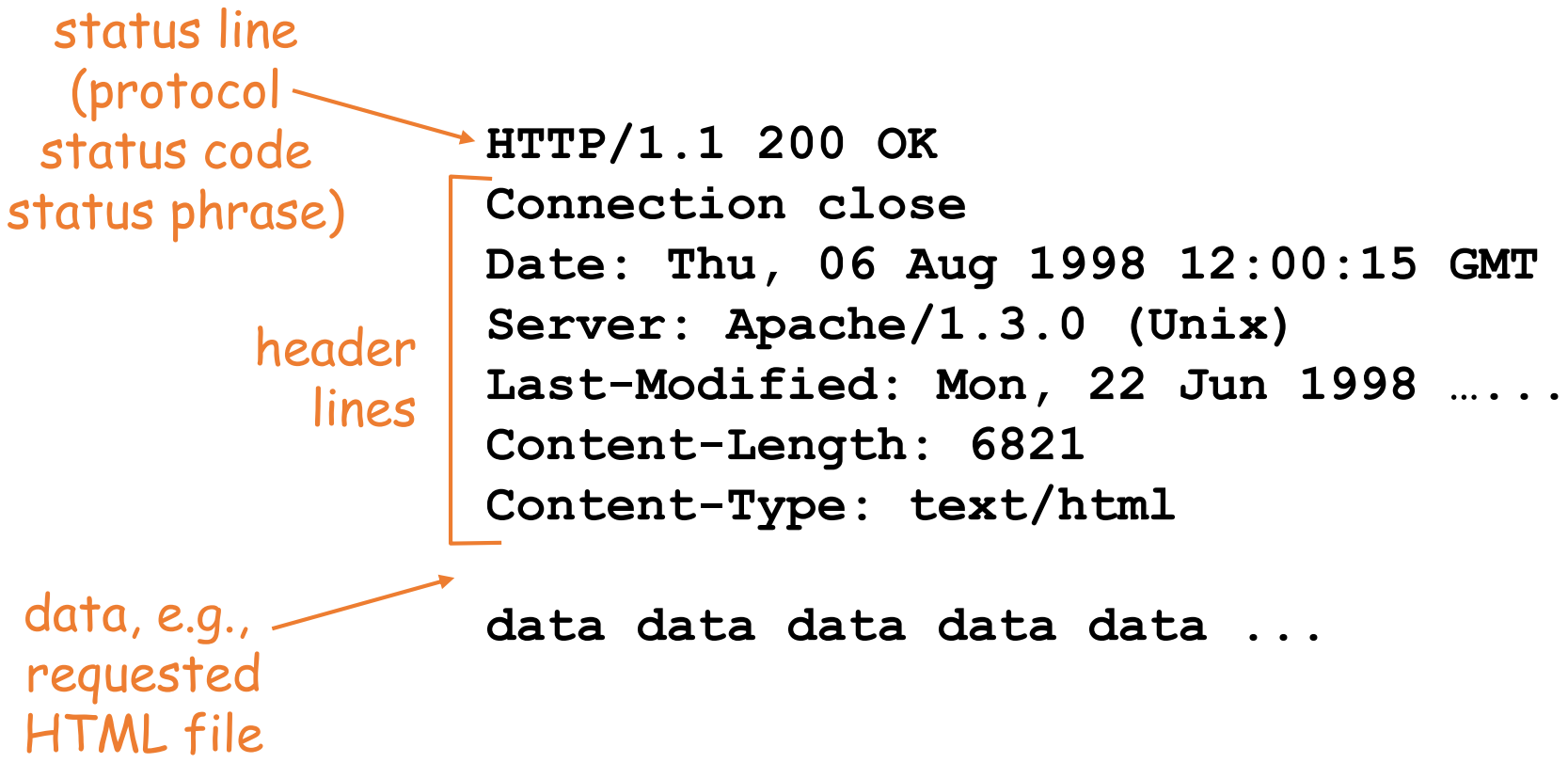
HTTP/1.1

- GET, POST, HEAD
- PUT
  - uploads file in entity body to path specified in URL field

HTTP/1.1

- DELETE
  - deletes file specified in the URL field
- TRACE
  - Echoes request msg from server
- OPTIONS
  - Returns HTTP methods that the server supports
- CONNECT
  - TCP/IP tunnel for HTTP

HTTP response message



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

Trying out HTTP (client side) for yourself

1. Telnet to your favorite Web server:

```
telnet cis.poly.edu 80
```

Opens TCP connection to port 80 (default HTTP server port) at cis.poly.edu. Anything typed in sent to port 80 at cis.poly.edu

2. Type in a GET HTTP request:

```
GET /~ross/ HTTP/1.1
Host: cis.poly.edu
```

By typing this in (hit carriage return twice), you send this minimal (but complete) GET request to HTTP server

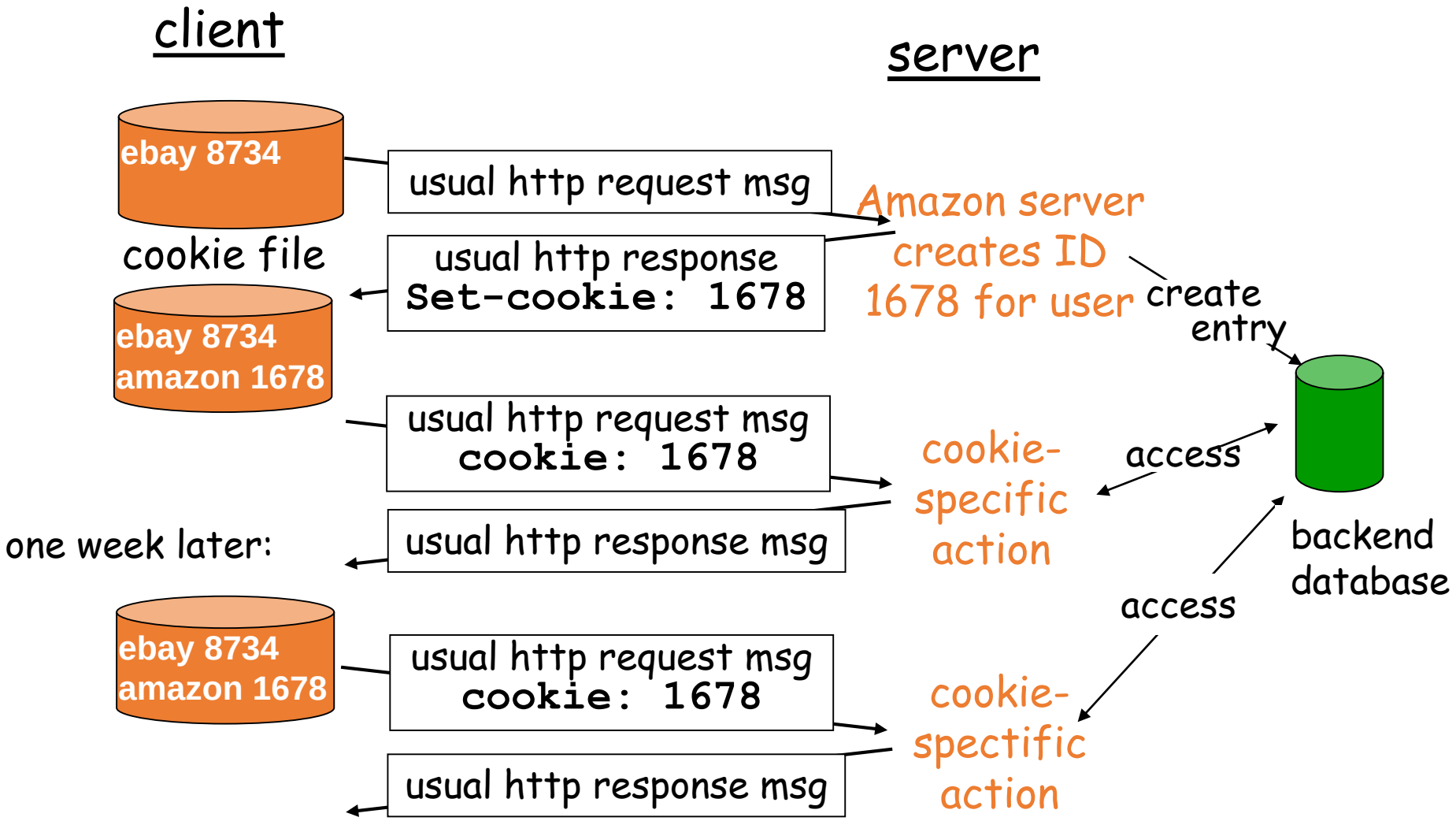
3. Look at response message sent by HTTP server!

What cookies can b

ring:

- authorization
- shopping carts
- recommendations
- user session state (Web e-mail)

Cookies: keeping "state" (cont.)



User-server state: cookies

Many major Web sites use cookies

Four components:

1) cookie header line of HTTP *response* message
2) cookie header line in HTTP *request* message
3) cookie file kept on user's host, managed by user's browser
4) back-end database at Web site

Example:

- Susan always access Internet always from PC
- visits specific e-commerce site for first time
- when initial HTTP requests arrives at site, site creates:
  - unique ID
  - entry in backend database for ID

Cookies

HTTP is "stateless"

- server maintains no information about past client requests

aside

Cookies and privacy:

- ❒ cookies permit sites to learn a lot about you
- ❒ you may supply name and e-mail to sites

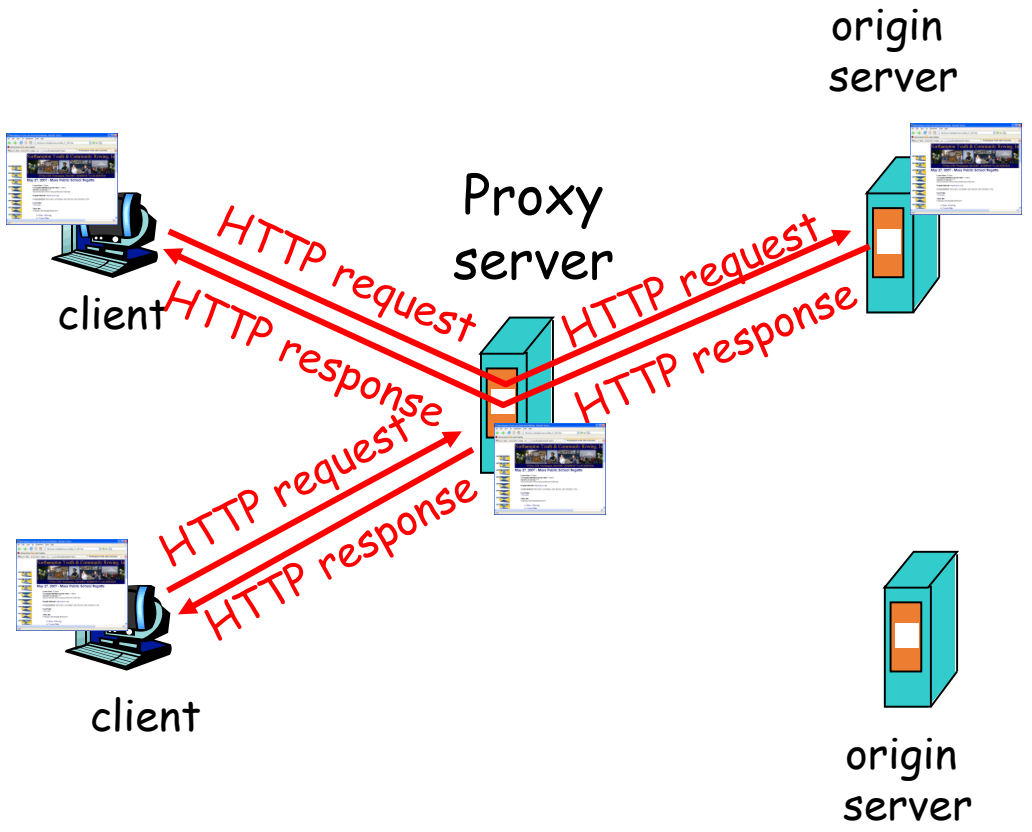
How to keep "state":

- ❒ protocol endpoints: maintain state at sender/receiver over multiple transactions
- ❒ cookies: http messages carry state

Web caches (proxy server)

Goal: satisfy client request without involving origin server

- user sets browser: Web accesses via cache
- browser sends all HTTP requests to cache
  - object in cache: cache returns object
  - else cache requests object from origin server, then returns object to client



More about Web caching

- cache acts as both client and server
- typically cache is installed by ISP (university, company, residential ISP)

Why Web caching?

- reduce response time for client request
- reduce traffic on an institution's access link.
- Internet dense with caches: enables "poor" content providers to effectively deliver content (but so does P2P file sharing)

Caching example

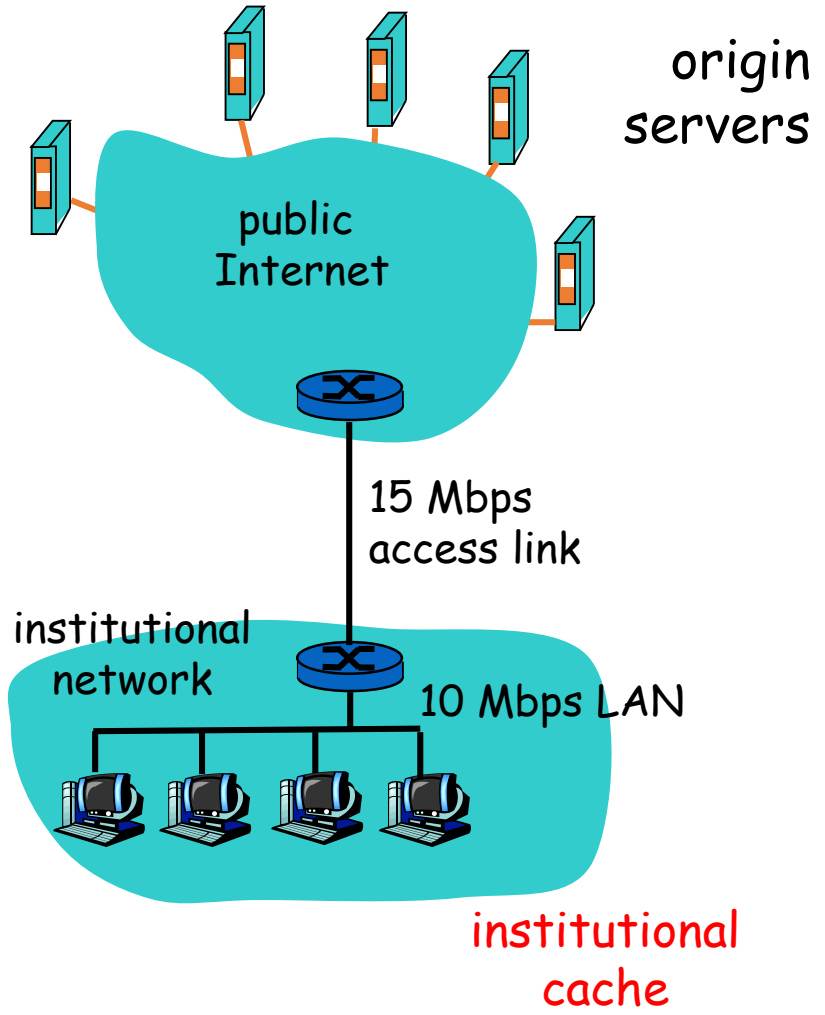
Assumptions

- average object size = 1000,000 bits
- avg. request rate from institution's browsers to origin servers = 15/sec
- delay from institutional router to any origin server and back to router = 2 sec

Consequences

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 100%
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

= 2 sec + minutes + milliseconds



Caching example (cont)

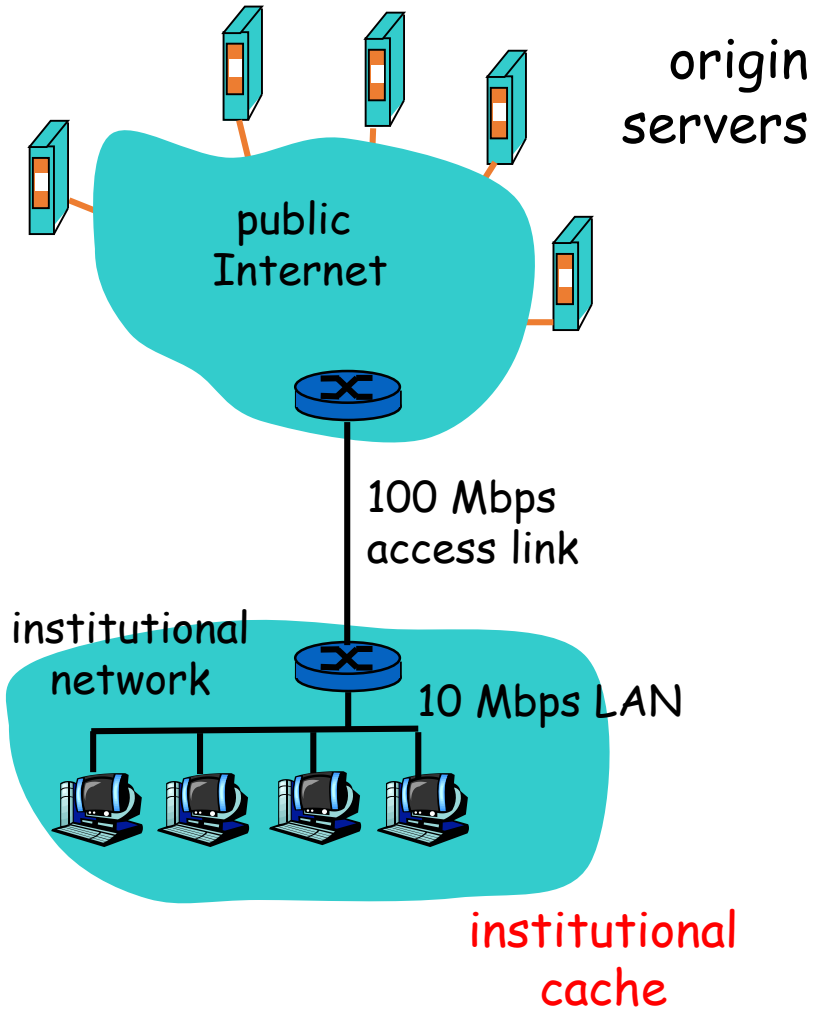
possible solution

- increase bandwidth of access link to, say, 100 Mbps

consequence

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 15%
- Total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

  = few millisec + msecs + msecs
- often a costly upgrade



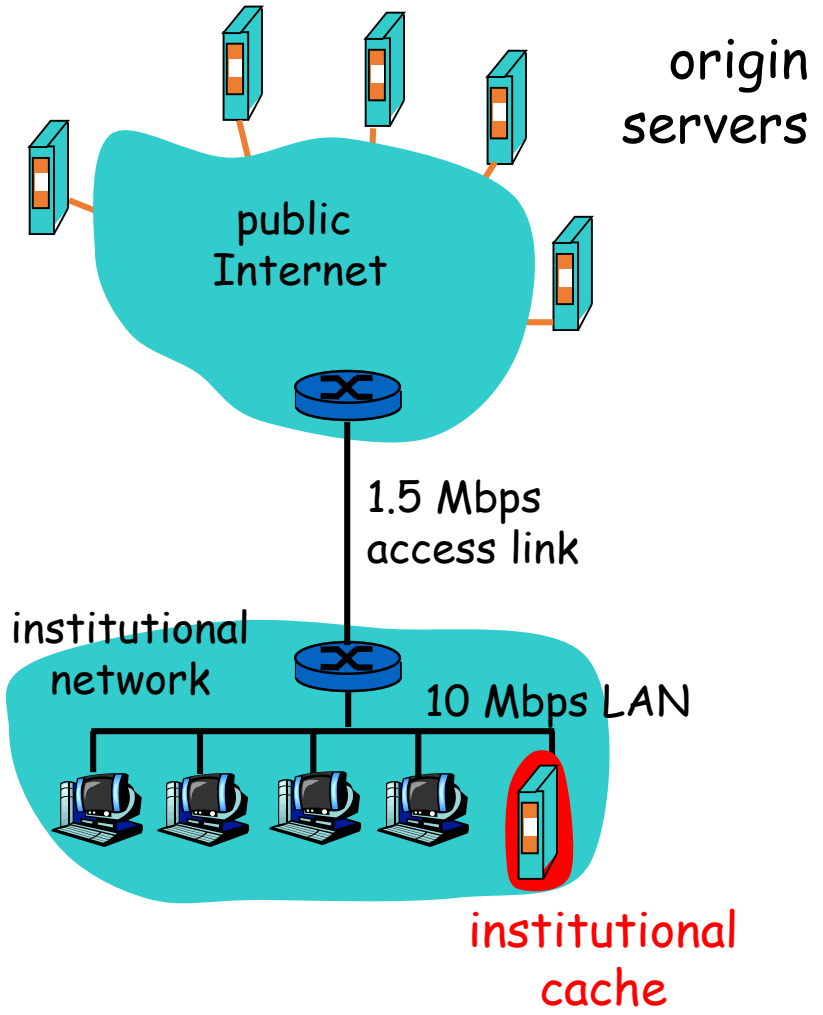
Caching example (cont)

possible solution: install cache

- suppose hit rate is 0.4

consequence

- 40% requests will be satisfied almost immediately
- 60% requests satisfied by origin server
- utilization of access link reduced to 60%, resulting in negligible delays (say 10 msec)
- total avg delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay = .6*(2.01) secs + .4*milliseconds < 1.4 secs



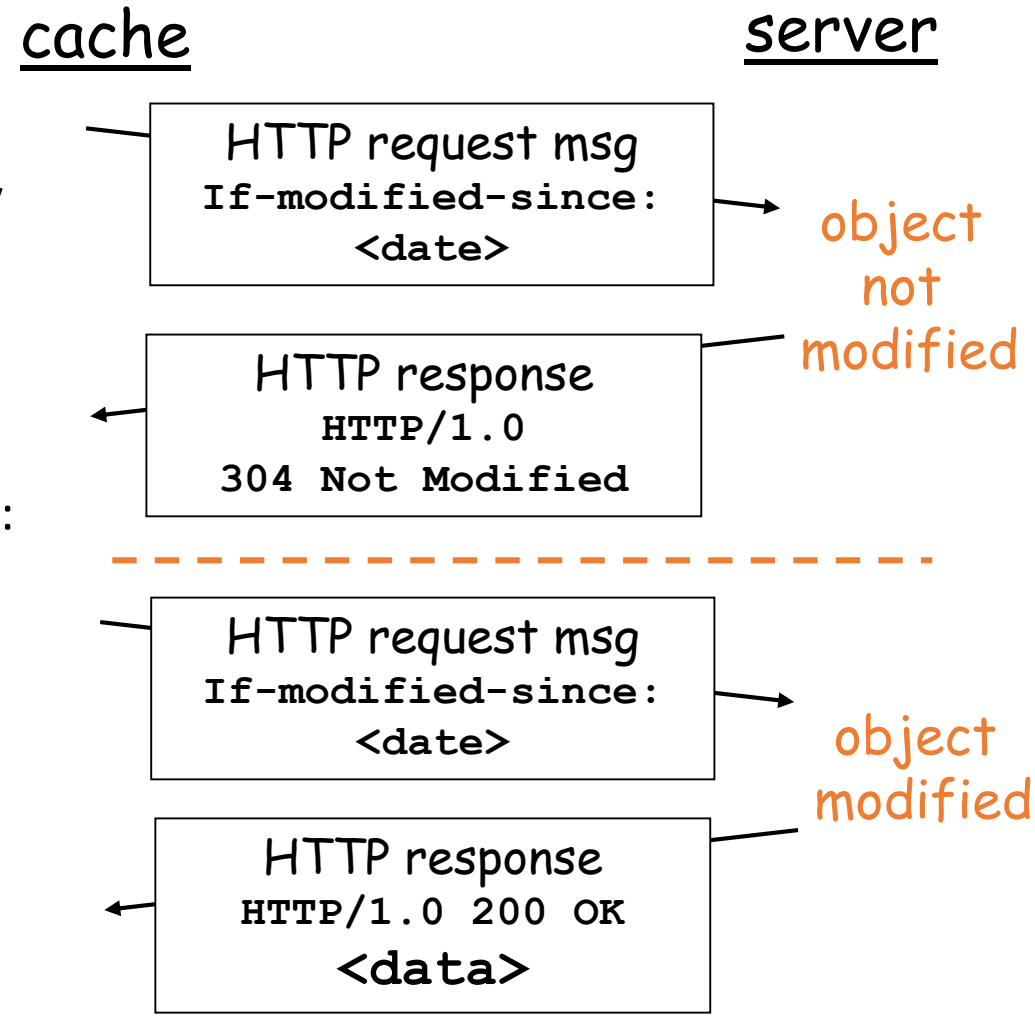
Conditional GET

- Goal: don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version
- cache: specify date of cached copy in HTTP request

```
If-modified-since:
  <date>
```

- server: response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:

```
HTTP/1.0 304 Not
  Modified
```



DNS

DNS services

- hostname to IP address translation
- host aliasing
  - Canonical, alias names
- mail server aliasing
- load distribution
  - replicated Web servers: set of IP addresses for one canonical name

- Canonical host name:
  - Relay1.india.amazon.com
- Equivalent Alias hostname can be: amazon.com, www.amazon.com, etc.
- For a mail server having canonical name as: mail.india.amazon.in,
  - Hostname: amazon.com

DNS: Domain Name System

Domain Name System:

- *distributed database* implemented in hierarchy of many *name servers*

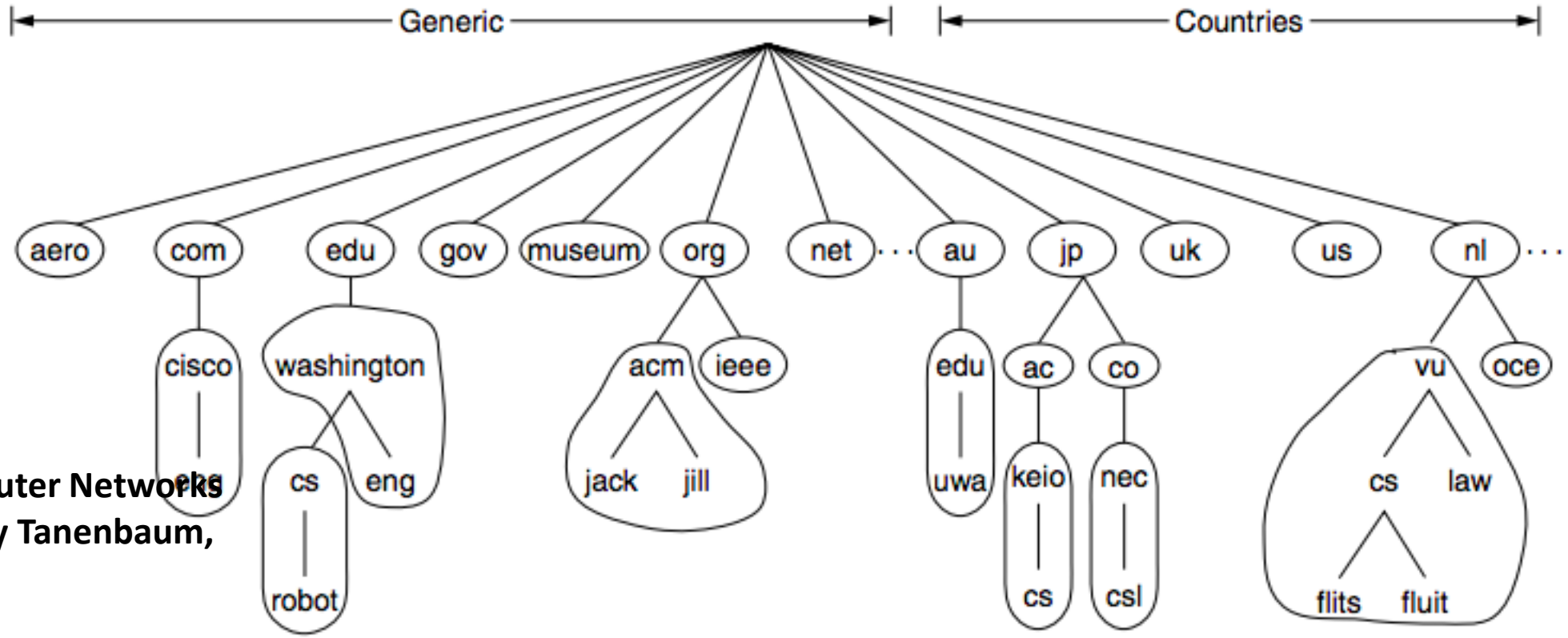
Why not centralize DNS?

- single point of failure
- traffic volume
- distant centralized database
- maintenance

doesn't *scale!*

Name Servers

- Divide registries into **non-overlapping** zones – every zone has a name server



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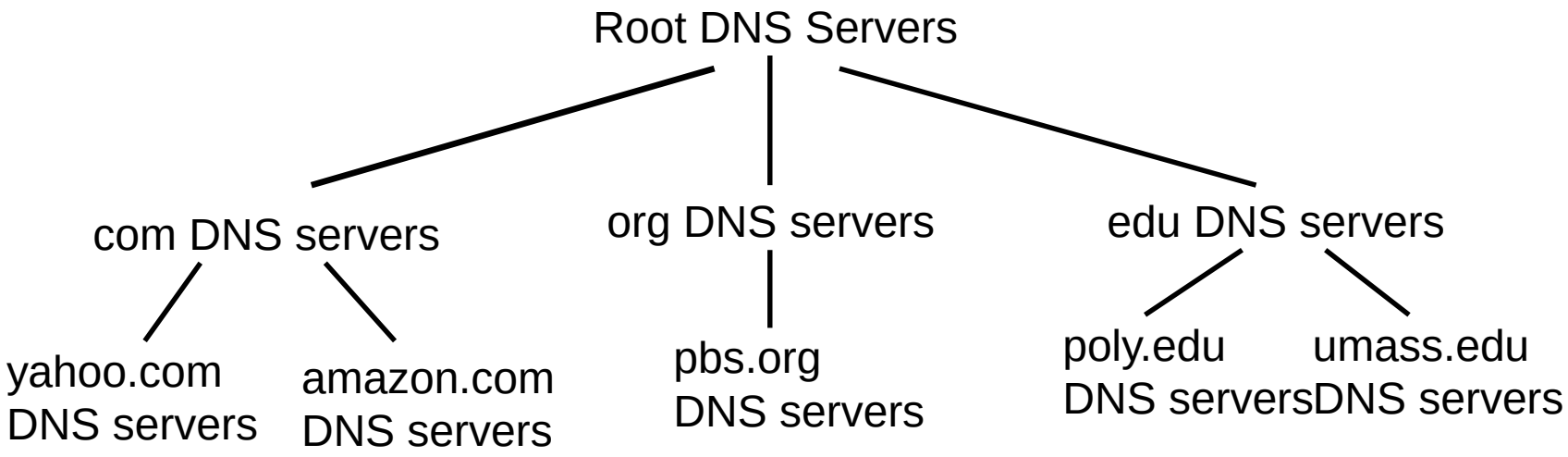
Distributed, Hierarchical Database

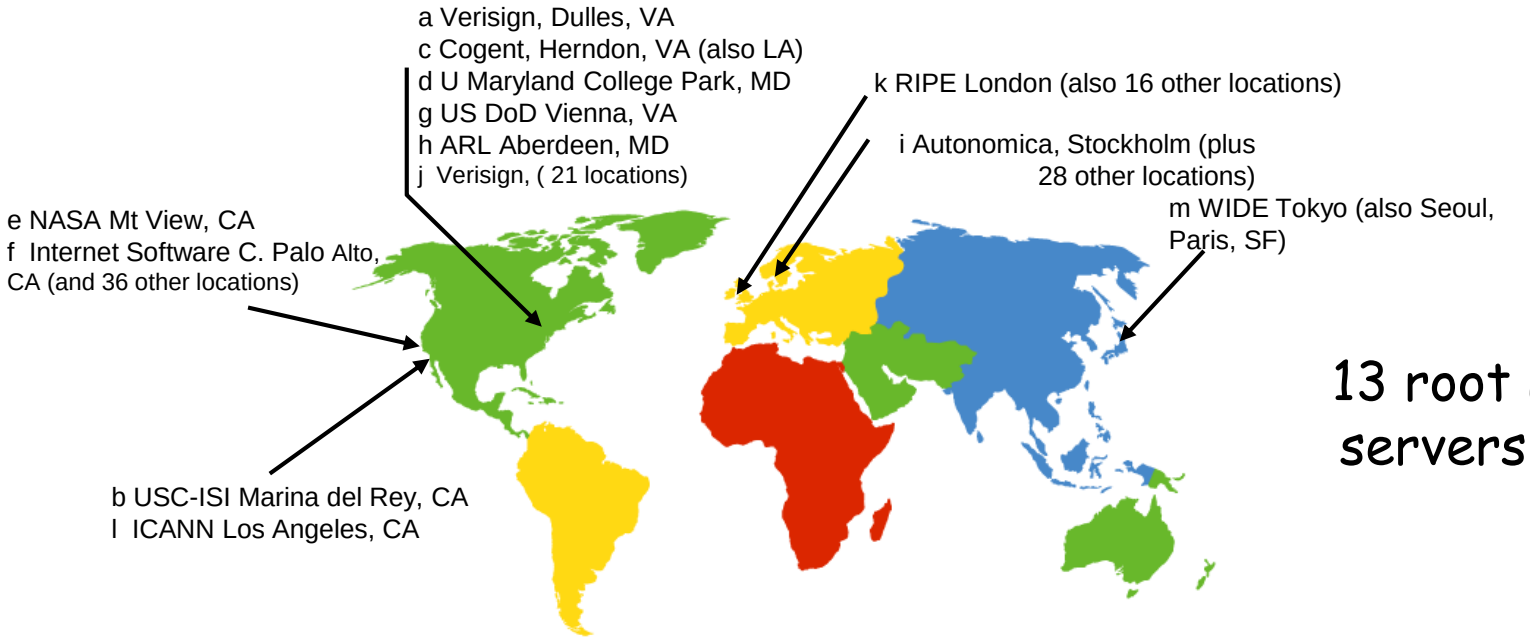


Client wants IP for www.amazon.com; 1st approx:

- client queries a root server to find com DNS server
- client queries com DNS server to get amazon.com DNS server
- client queries amazon.com DNS server to get IP address for www.amazon.com

DNS: Root name servers

- contacted by local name server that can not resolve name
- root name server:
  - contacts authoritative name server if name mapping not known
  - gets mapping
  - returns mapping to local name server



13 root name servers worldwide

TLD and Authoritative Servers

- Top-level domain (TLD) servers:
  - responsible for com, org, net, edu, etc, and all top-level country domains uk, fr, ca, jp.
  - Network Solutions maintains servers for com TLD
  - Educause for edu TLD
- Authoritative DNS servers:
  - organization's DNS servers, providing authoritative hostname to IP mappings for organization's servers (e.g., Web, mail).
  - can be maintained by organization or service provider

Local Name Server

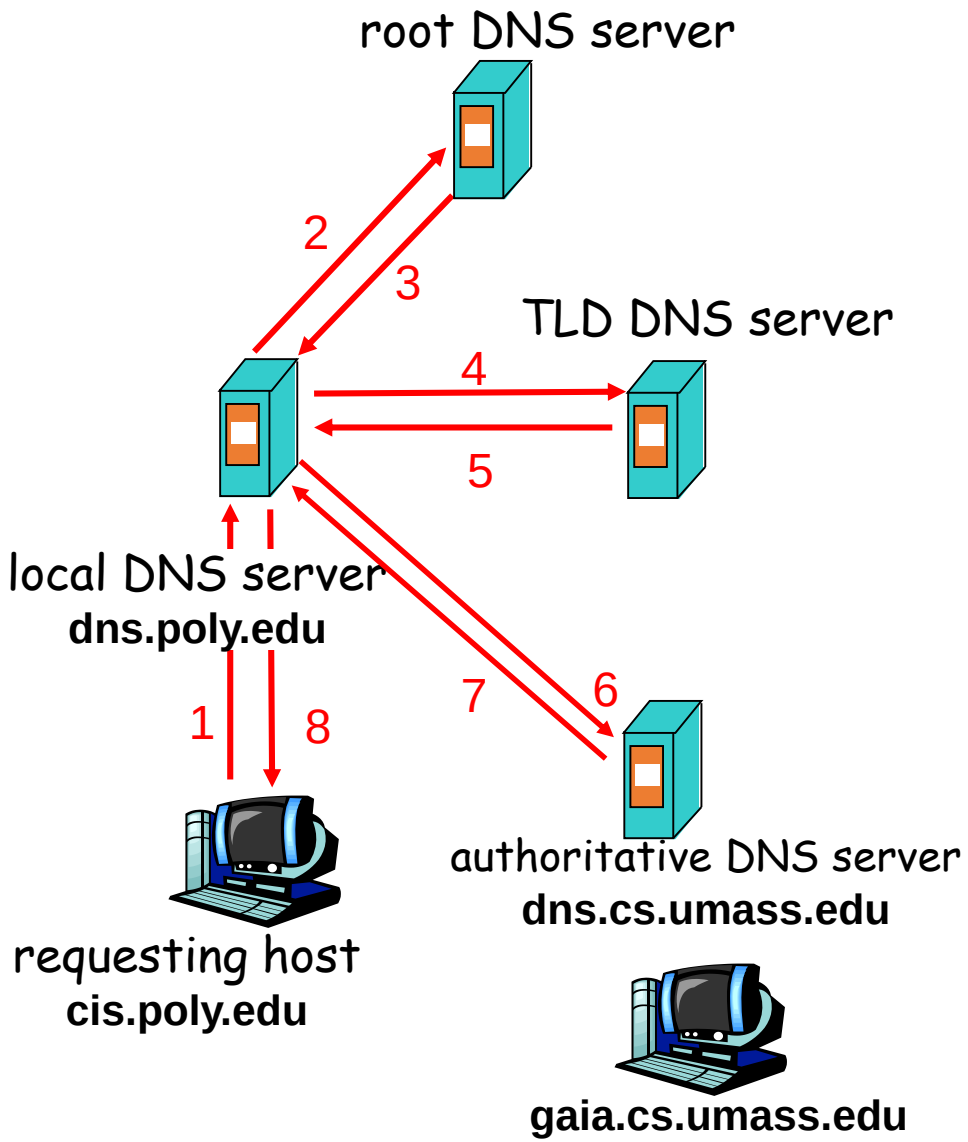
- does not strictly belong to hierarchy
- each ISP (residential ISP, company, university) has one.
  - also called “default name server”
- when host makes DNS query, query is sent to its local DNS server
  - acts as proxy, forwards query into hierarchy

DNS name resolution example

- Host at cis.poly.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu

iterated query:

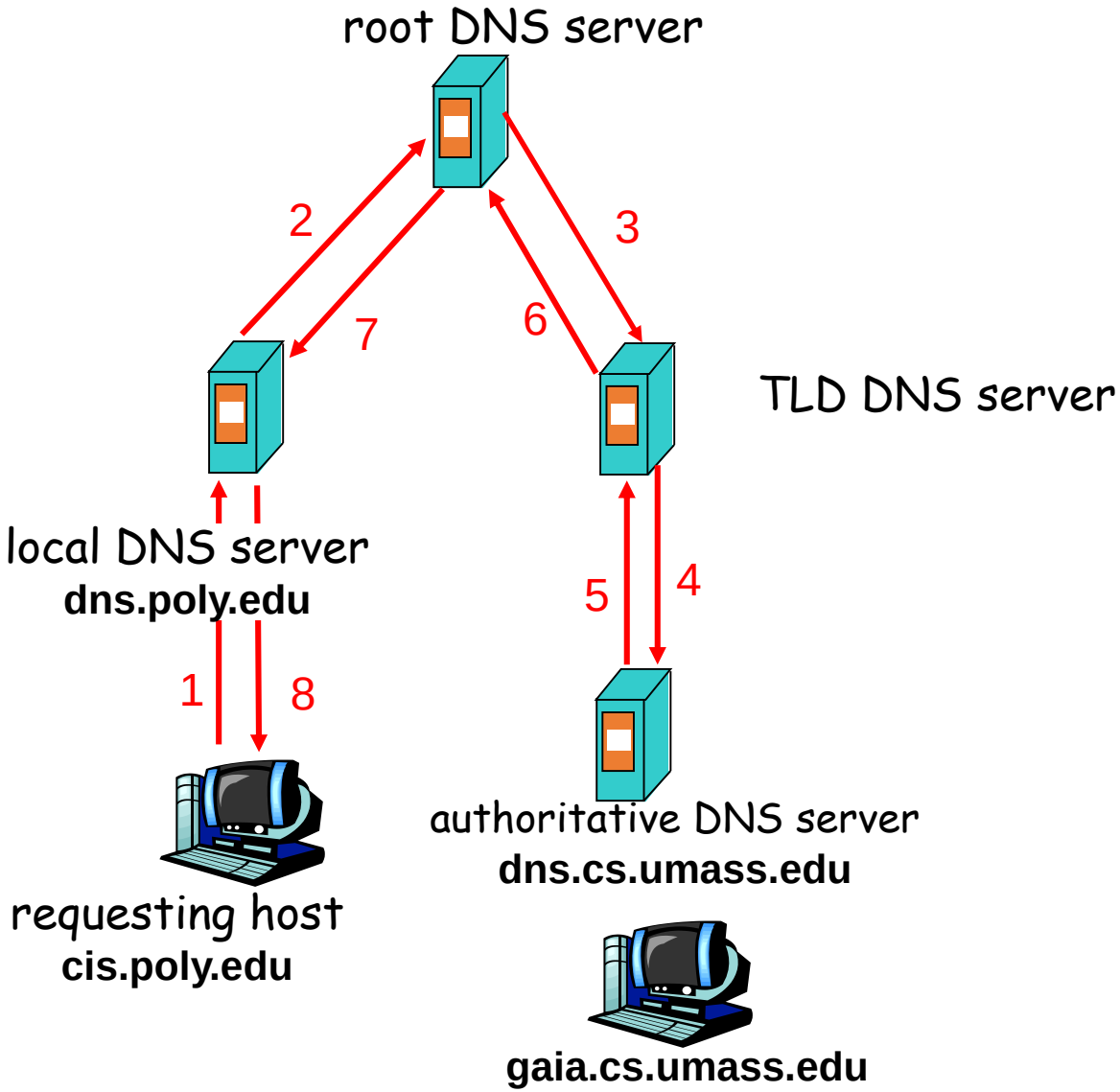
- contacted server replies with name of server to contact
- "I don't know this name, but ask this server"



DNS name resolution example

recursive query:

- puts burden of name resolution on contacted name server
- heavy load?



Why DNS Uses UDP

- UDP is much faster. TCP requires handshake time. DNR uses a cascading approach for name resolution. With TCP, for every message, a connection setup is required.

- DNS requests and responses are generally very small, and fits well within one UDP segment.

- **UDP is not reliable.** In DNS, reliability is ensured at the application layer. After timeout, the DNS client sends back the requests. After few consecutive timeouts (can be set at the client), the request is aborted with an error.

DNS records

DNS: distributed db storing resource records (RR)

RR format: **(name, value, type, ttl)**

- Type=A
  - **name** is hostname
  - **value** is IP address
- Type=NS
  - **name** is domain (e.g. foo.com)
  - **value** is hostname of authoritative name server for this domain
- Type=CNAME
  - **name** is alias name for some "canonical" (the real) name `www.ibm.com` is really `servereast.backup2.ibm.com`
  - **value** is canonical name
- Type=MX
  - **value** is name of mailserver associated with **name**

Examples of Resource Records:

- Type A record: *(**relay1.bar.foo.com**, 145.37.93.126, A)*
- *(**foo.com**, **dns.foo.com**, NS)* is a Type NS record. -> TLD Server
- *(**foo.com**, **relay1.bar.foo.com**, CNAME)* is a CNAME record

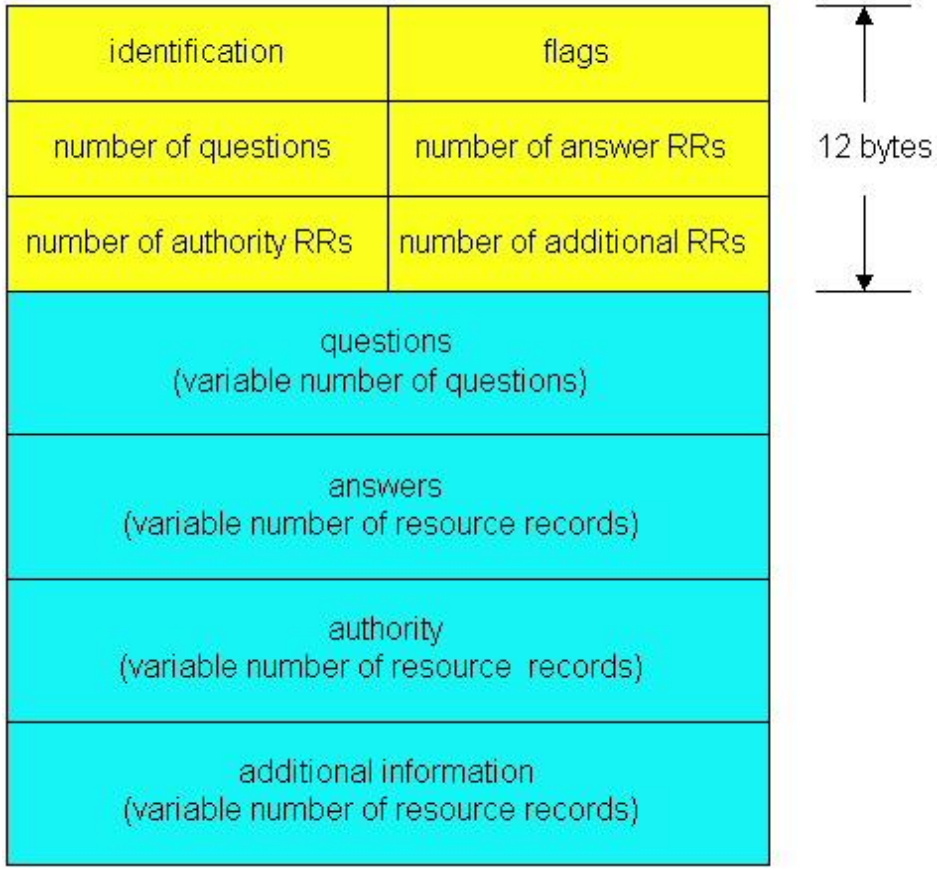
- *(**foo.com**, **mail.bar.foo.com**, MX)*

DNS protocol, messages

DNS protocol : *query* and *reply* messages, both with same *message format*

msg header

- identification: 16 bit # for query, reply to query uses same #
- flags:
  - query or reply
  - recursion desired
  - recursion available
  - reply is authoritative



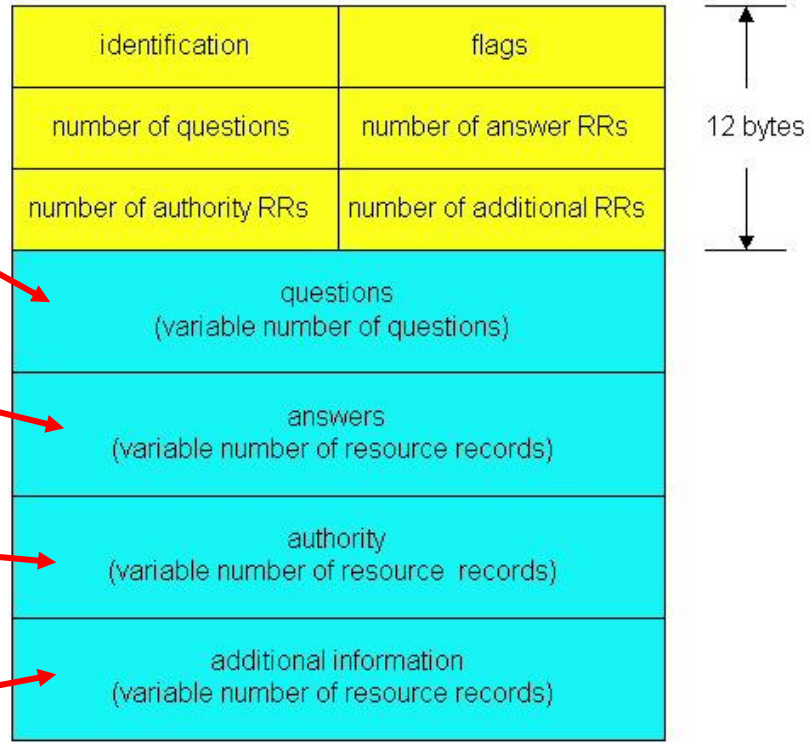
DNS protocol, messages

Name, type fields for a query

RRs in response to query

records for authoritative servers

additional "helpful" info that may be used



Inserting records into DNS

- example: new startup “Network Utopia”
- register name networkuptopia.com at *DNS registrar* (e.g., Network Solutions)
  - provide names, IP addresses of authoritative name server (primary and secondary)
  - registrar inserts two RRs into com TLD server:

```
(networkutopia.com, dns1.networkutopia.com, NS)
(dns1.networkutopia.com, 212.212.212.1, A)
```

- create authoritative server Type A record for www.networkuptopia.com; Type MX record for networkutopia.com
- How do people get IP address of your Web site?

DNS: caching and updating records

- once (any) name server learns mapping, it *caches* mapping
  - cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time
  - TLD servers typically cached in local name servers
    - Thus root name servers not often visited
- update/notify mechanisms under design by IETF
  - RFC 2136
  - http://www.ietf.org/html.charters/dnsind-charter.html

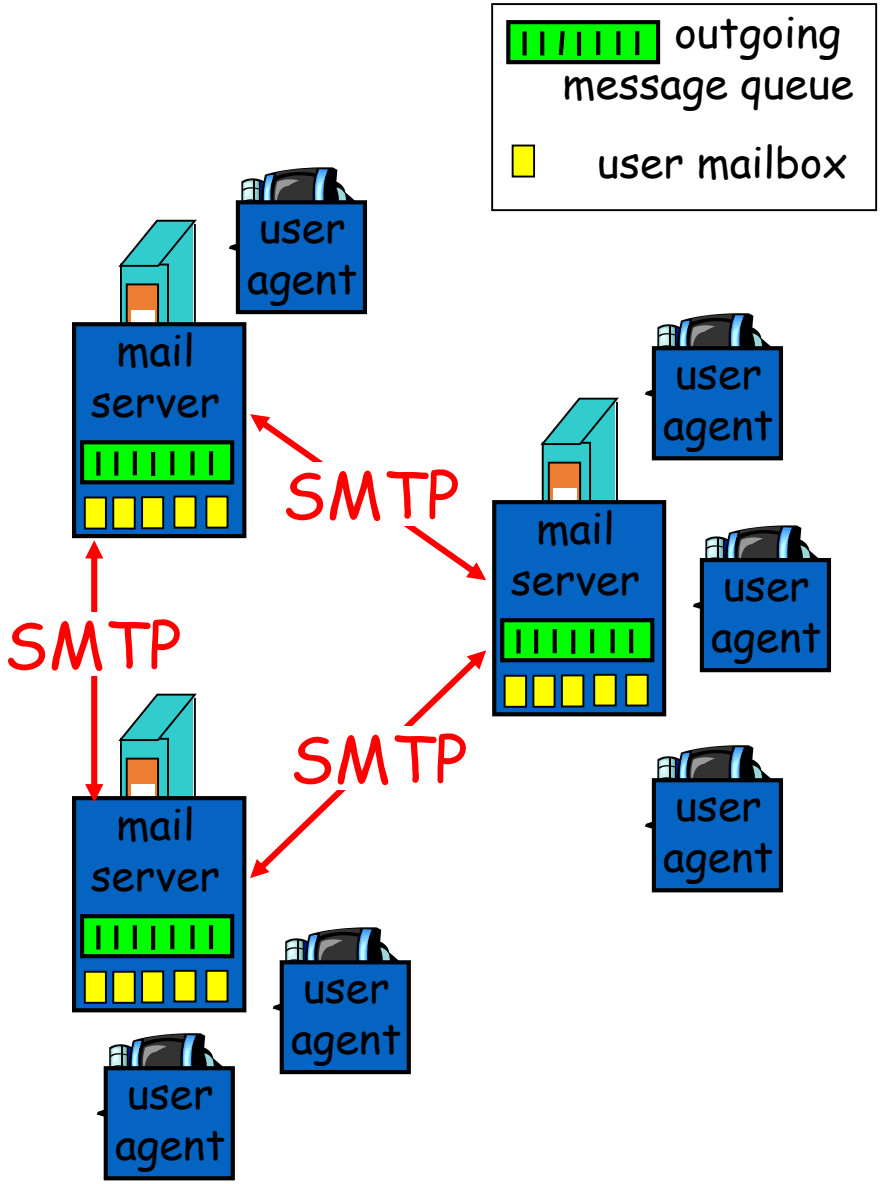
Electronic Mail

Three major components:

- user agents
- mail servers
- simple mail transfer protocol: SMTP

User Agent

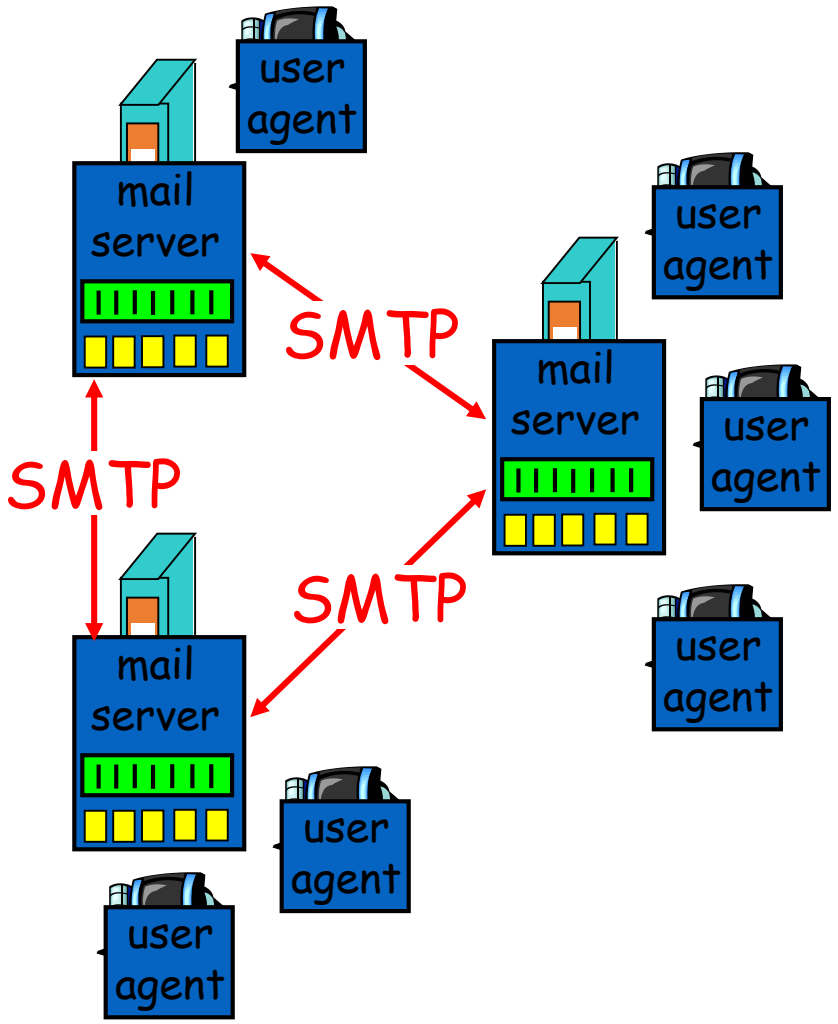
- a.k.a. “mail reader”
- composing, editing, reading mail messages
- e.g., Eudora, Outlook, elm, Mozilla Thunderbird
- outgoing, incoming messages stored on server



Electronic Mail: mail servers

Mail Servers

- mailbox contains incoming messages for user
- message queue of outgoing (to be sent) mail messages
- SMTP protocol between mail servers to send email messages
  - client: sending mail server
  - "server": receiving mail server

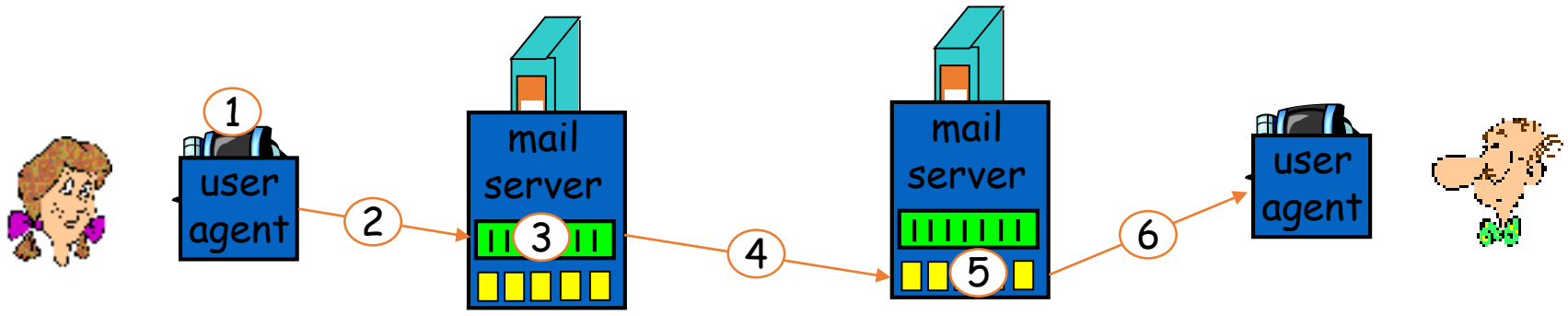


Electronic Mail: SMTP [RFC 2821]

- uses TCP to reliably transfer email message from client to server, port 25
- direct transfer: sending server to receiving server
- three phases of transfer
  - handshaking (greeting)
  - transfer of messages
  - closure
- command/response interaction
  - commands: ASCII text
  - response: status code and phrase
- messages must be in 7-bit ASCII

Scenario: Alice sends message to Bob

1) Alice uses UA to compose message and "to" `bob@someschool.edu`
2) Alice's UA sends message to her mail server; message placed in message queue
3) Client side of SMTP opens TCP connection with Bob's mail server
4) SMTP client sends Alice's message over the TCP connection
5) Bob's mail server places the message in Bob's mailbox
6) Bob invokes his user agent to read message



Sample SMTP interaction

```
S: 220 hamburger.edu
C: HELO crepes.fr
S: 250  Hello crepes.fr, pleased to meet you
C: MAIL FROM: <alice@crepes.fr>
S: 250 alice@crepes.fr... Sender ok
C: RCPT TO: <bob@hamburger.edu>
S: 250 bob@hamburger.edu ... Recipient ok
C: DATA
S: 354 Enter mail, end with "." on a line by itself
C: Do you like ketchup?
C: How about pickles?
C: .
S: 250 Message accepted for delivery
C: QUIT
S: 221 hamburger.edu closing connection
```

Try SMTP interaction for yourself:

- **`telnet servername 25`**
- see 220 reply from server
- enter HELO, MAIL FROM, RCPT TO, DATA, QUIT commands

above lets you send email without using email client (reader)

SMTP: final words

- SMTP uses persistent connections
- SMTP requires message (header & body) to be in 7-bit ASCII
- SMTP server uses `CRLF.CRLF` to determine end of message

Comparison with HTTP:

- HTTP: pull
- SMTP: push
- both have ASCII command/response interaction, status codes
- HTTP: each object encapsulated in its own response msg
- SMTP: multiple objects sent in multipart msg

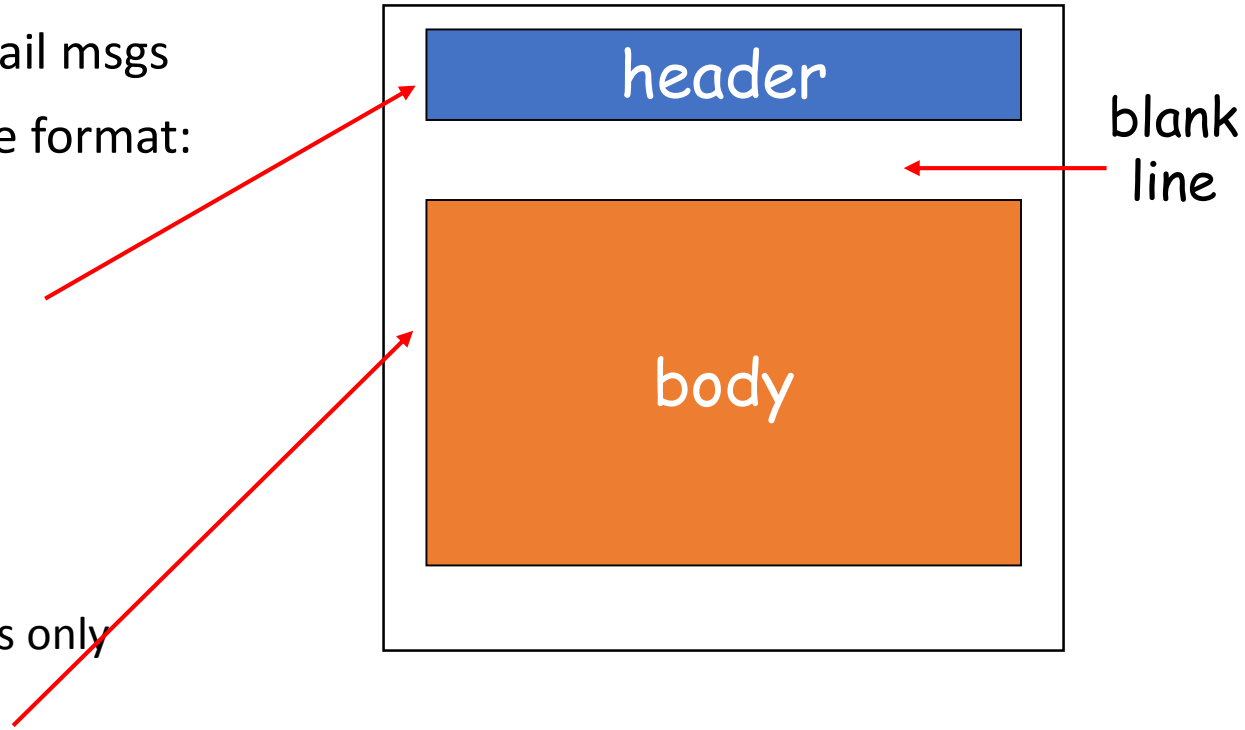
Mail message format

SMTP: protocol for exchanging email msgs

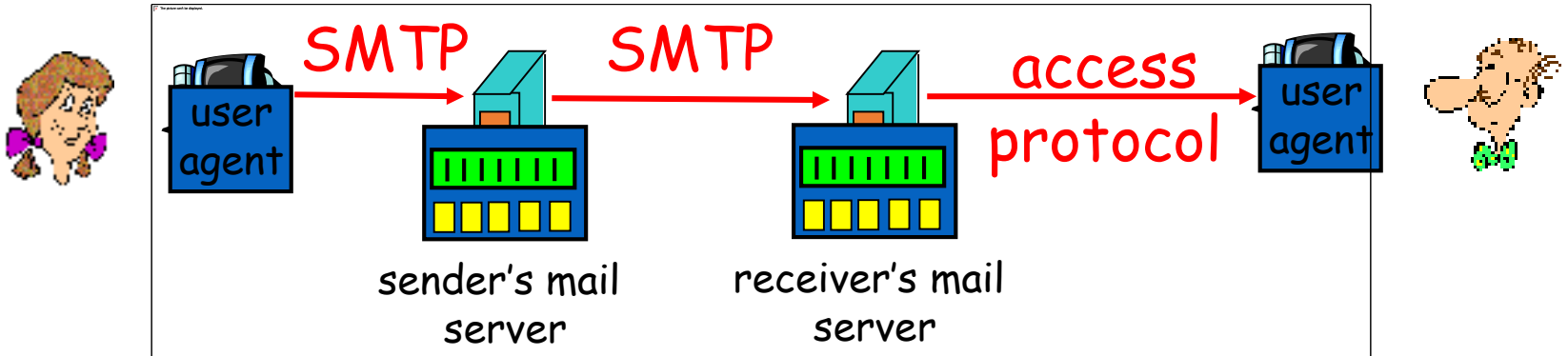
RFC 822: standard for text message format:

- header lines, e.g.,
  - To:
  - From:
  - Subject:

  different from SMTP commands!
- body
  - the "message", ASCII characters only



Mail access protocols



- SMTP: delivery/storage to receiver's server
- Mail access protocol: retrieval from server
  - POP: Post Office Protocol [RFC 1939]
    - authorization (agent <-->server) and download
  - IMAP: Internet Mail Access Protocol [RFC 1730]
    - more features (more complex)
    - manipulation of stored msgs on server
  - HTTP: gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, etc.

POP3 protocol

authorization phase

- client commands:
  - **`user`**: declare username
  - **`pass`**: password
- server responses
  - **`+OK`**
  - **`-ERR`**

transaction phase, client:

- **`list`**: list message numbers
- **`retr`**: retrieve message by number
- **`dele`**: delete
- **`quit`**

```
S: +OK POP3 server ready
C: user bob
S: +OK
C: pass hungry
S: +OK user successfully logged on
```

```
C: list
S: 1 498
S: 2 912
S: .
C: retr 1
S: <message 1 contents>
S: .
C: dele 1
C: retr 2
S: <message 1 contents>
S: .
C: dele 2
C: quit
S: +OK POP3 server signing off
```

POP3 (more) and IMAP

More about POP3

- Previous example uses "download and delete" mode.
- Bob cannot re-read e-mail if he changes client
- "Download-and-keep": copies of messages on different clients
- POP3 is stateless across sessions

IMAP

- Keep all messages in one place: the server
- Allows user to organize messages in folders
- IMAP keeps user state across sessions:
  - names of folders and mappings between message IDs and folder name