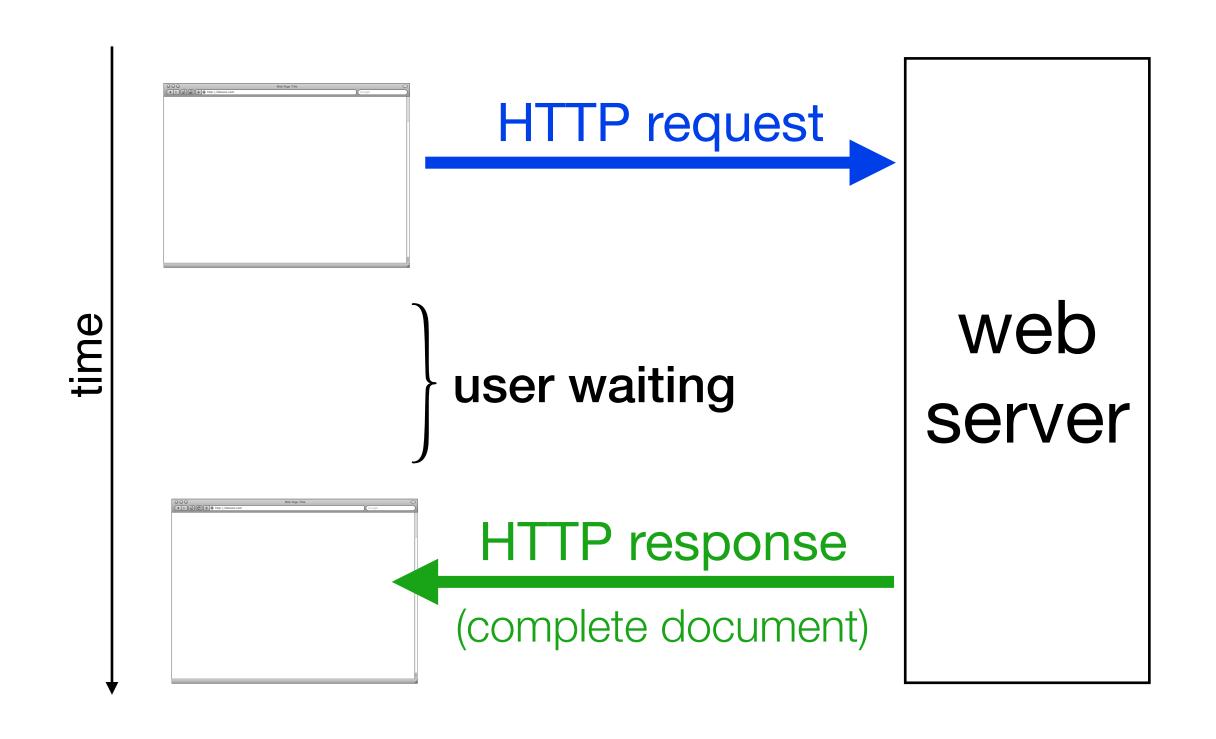
# Web Programming AJAX

#### Traditional web interaction

- User requests a page =
   browser (client) sends
   HTTP request to server
- Browser is "blocked" from activity while it waits for the server to provide the document
- When the response arrives, the browser renders the document



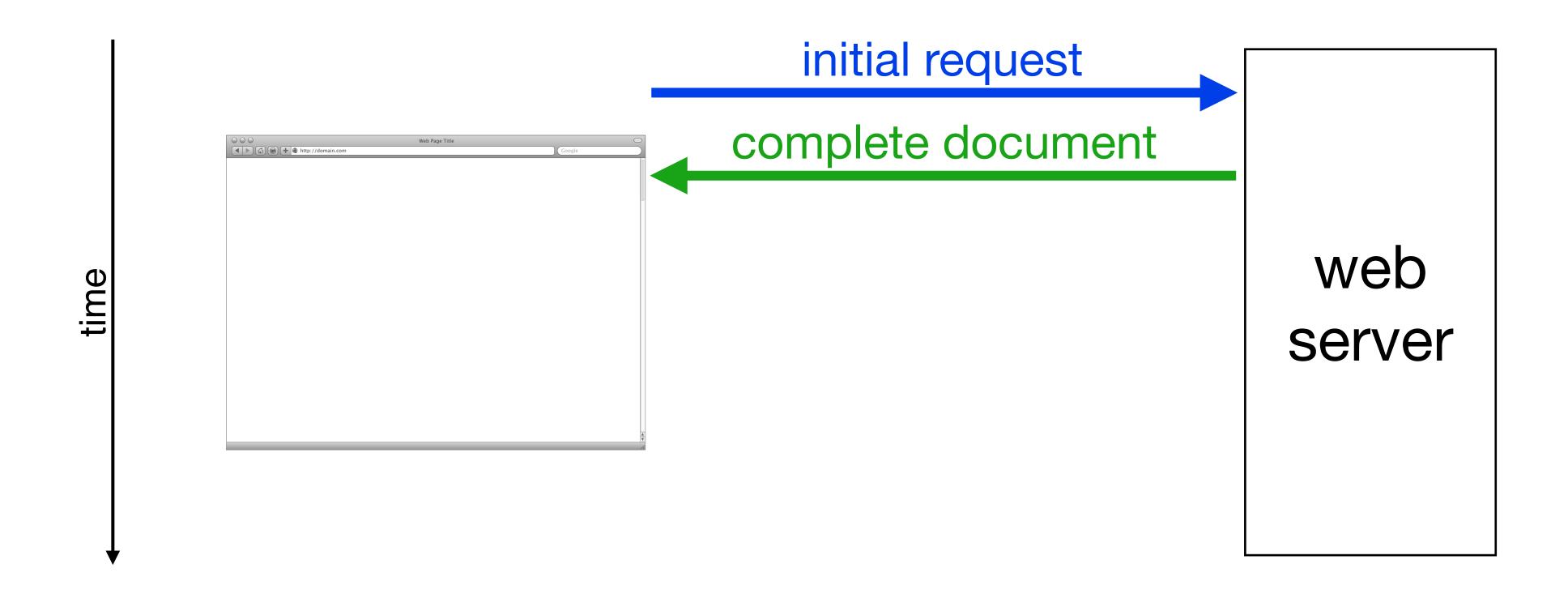
synchronous request-response communication

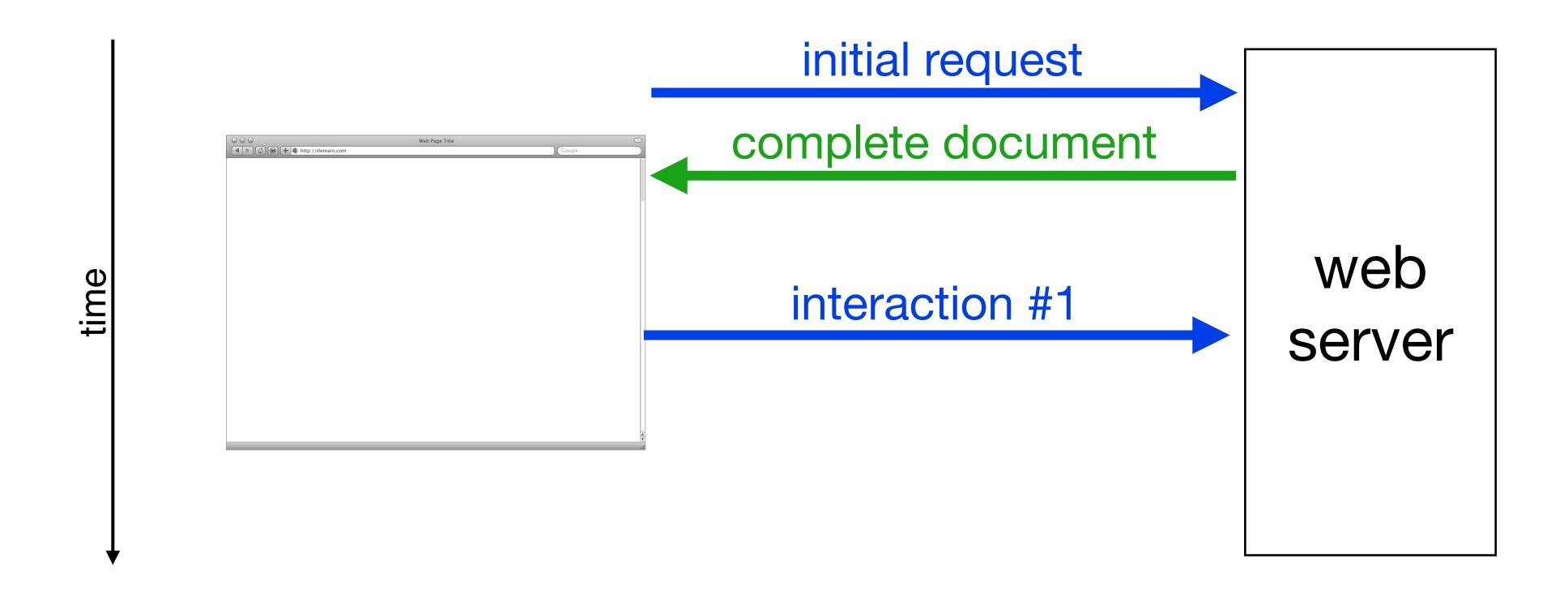
#### Motivation

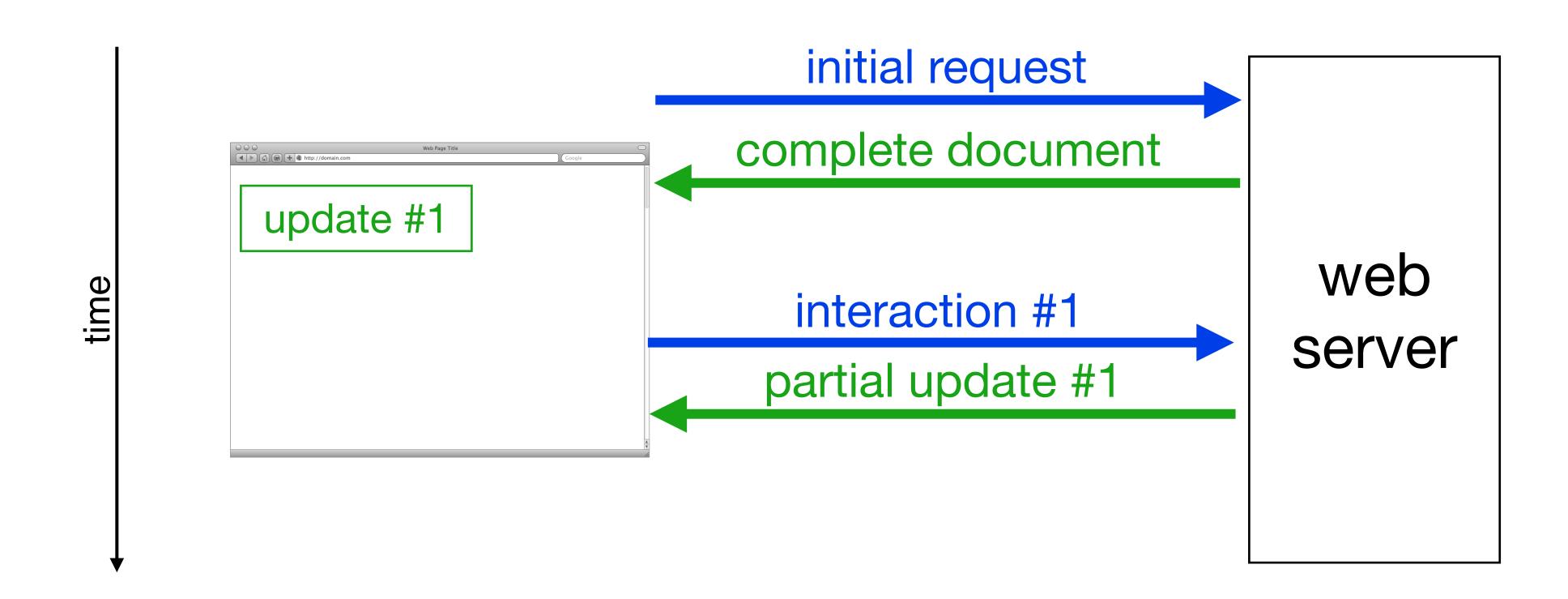
- Provide web-based applications with rich user interfaces and responsiveness
- This requires frequent interactions between the user and the server
  - Speed of interactions determines the usability of the application!
- Often, only (relatively small) parts of the documents are modified or updated. No need to reload the entire page
- Client might want to send data to the server in the background

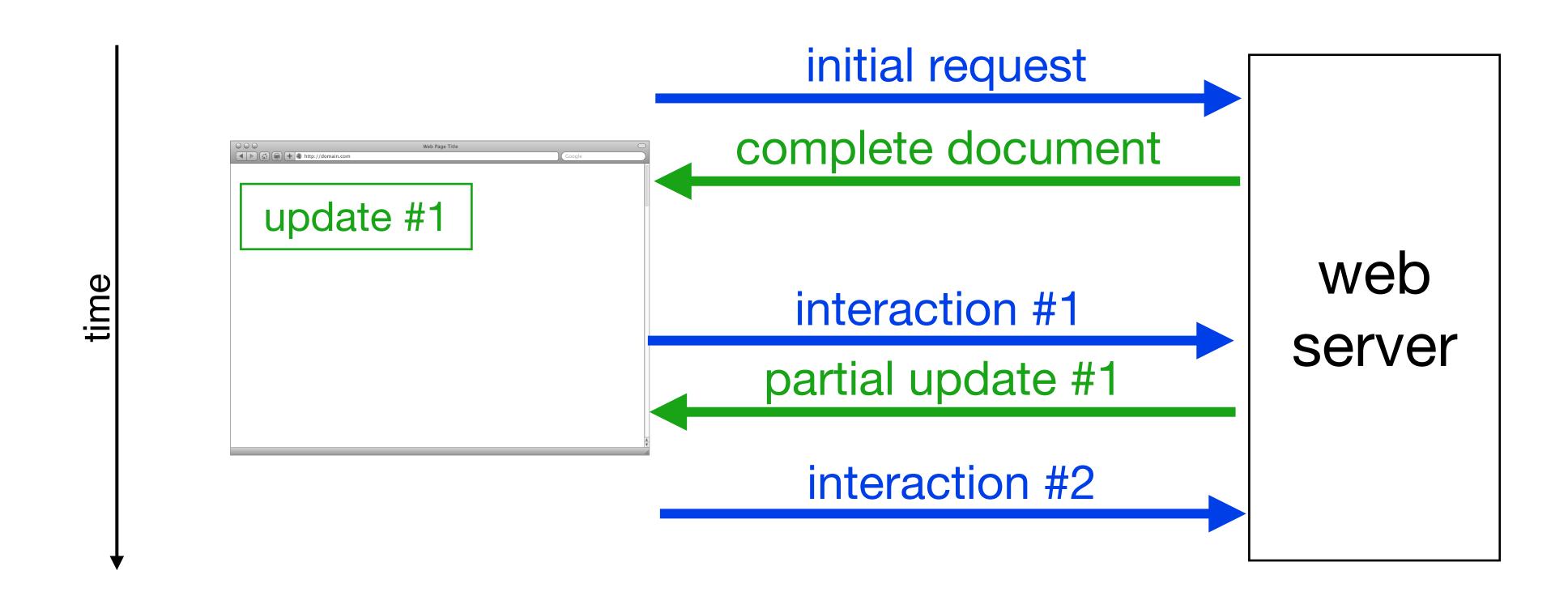
#### AJAX

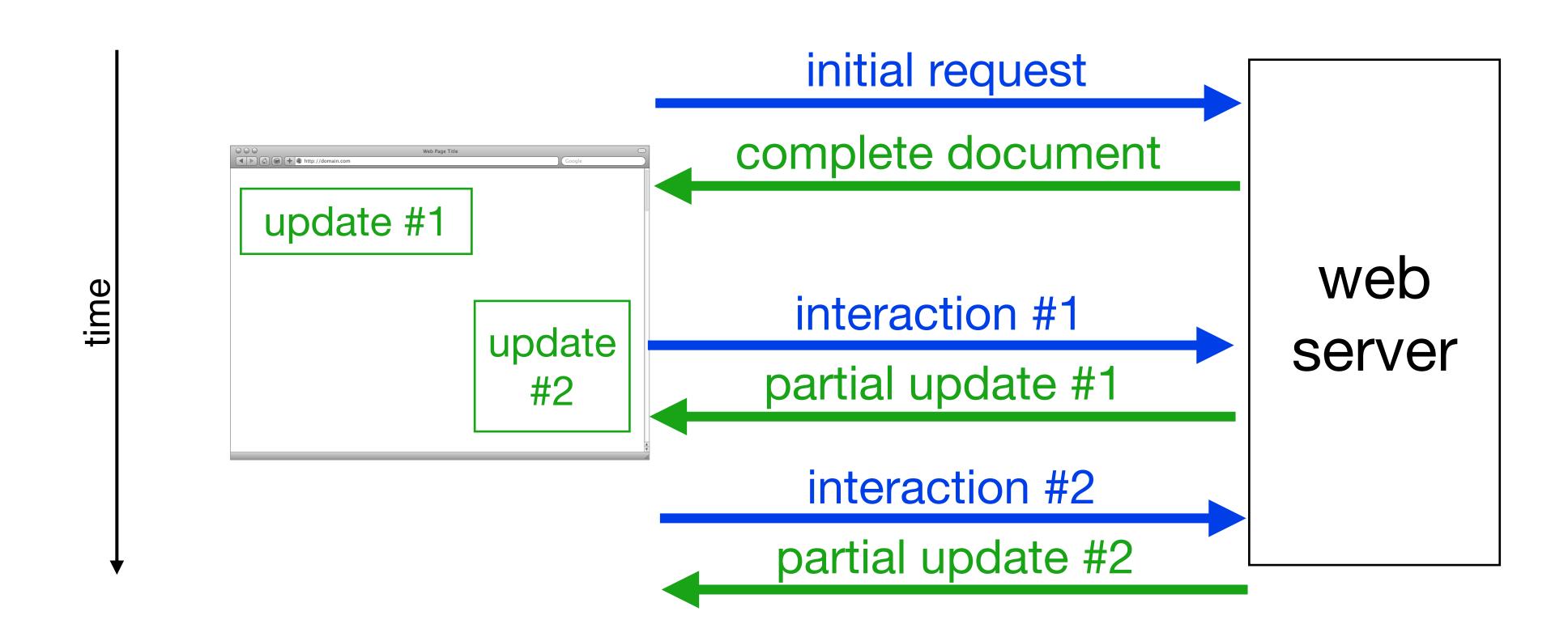
- Asynchronous JavaScript and XML
- Combination of web technologies
  - Client side: HTML, JavaScript
  - Server side: any programming language
  - Despite the name, XML is not required!
- Two key features
  - Retrieve data, not pages
  - Asynchronous, i.e., no need to "lock" the document while waiting for the response



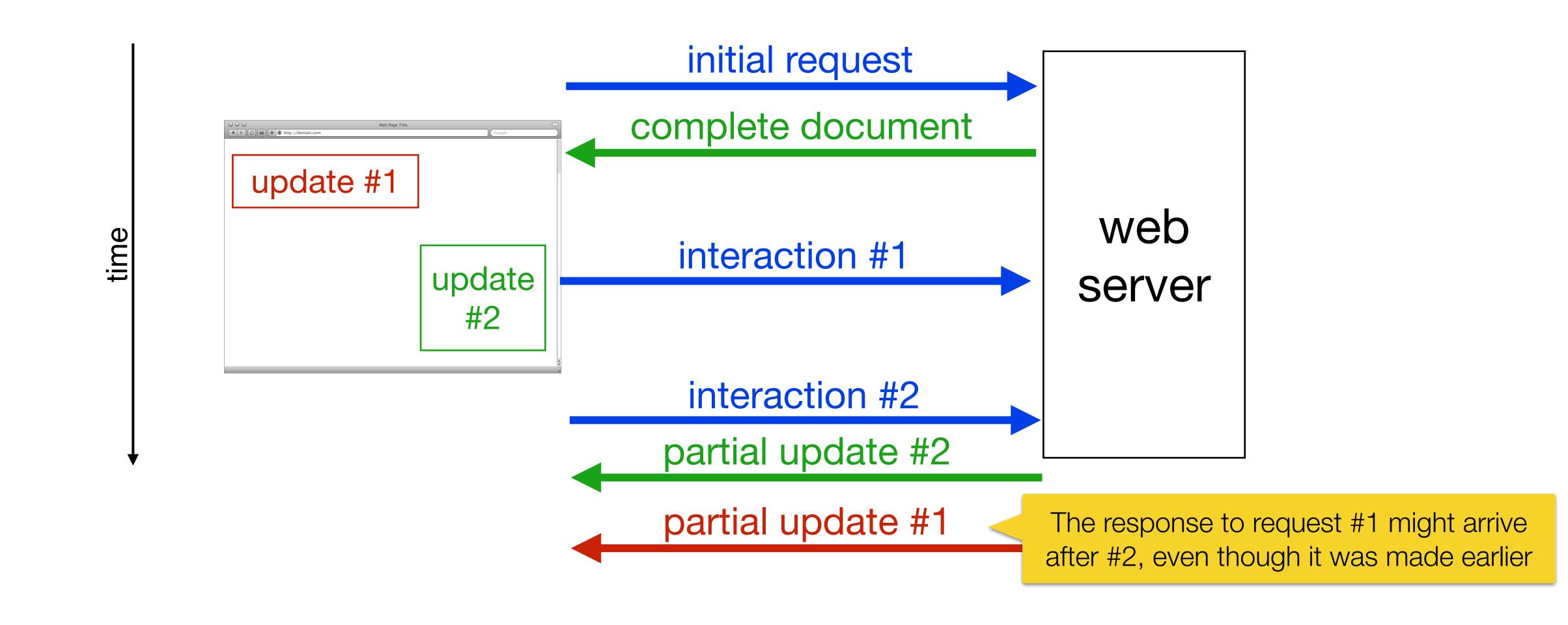






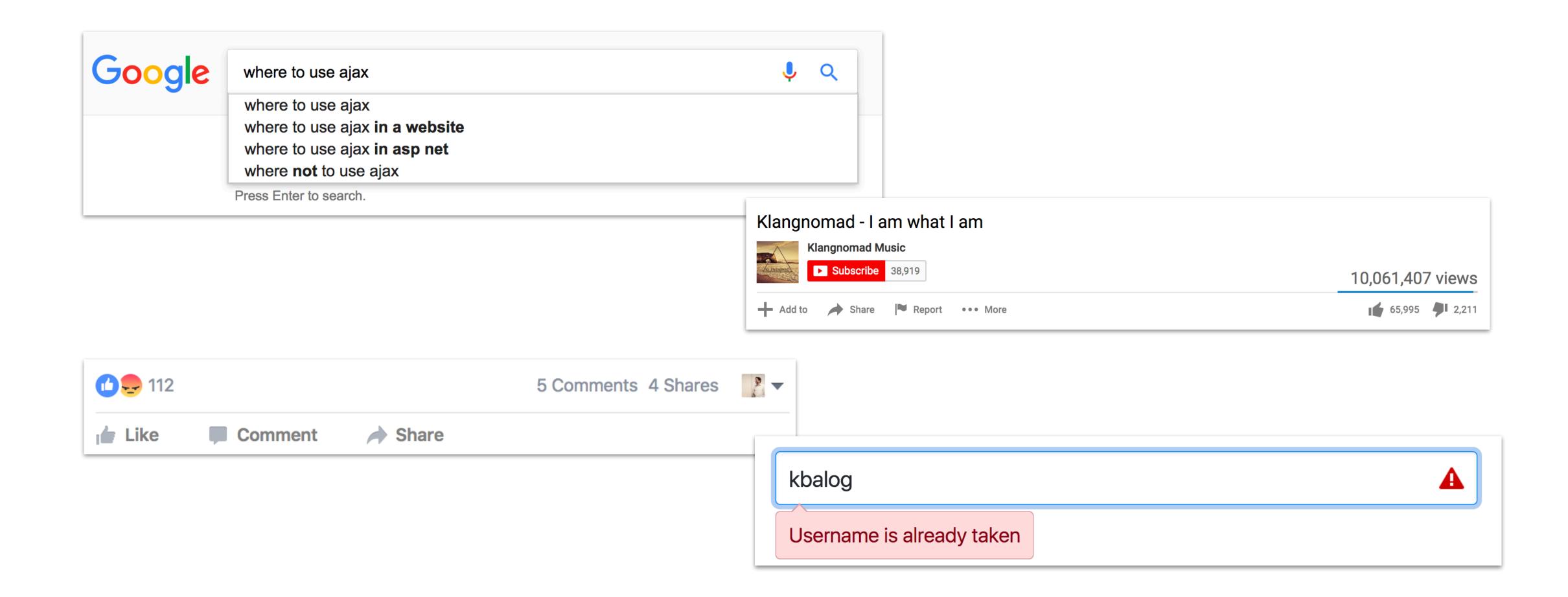


### Note that responses are asynchronous



#### Where to use AJAX?

#### Where to use AJAX?

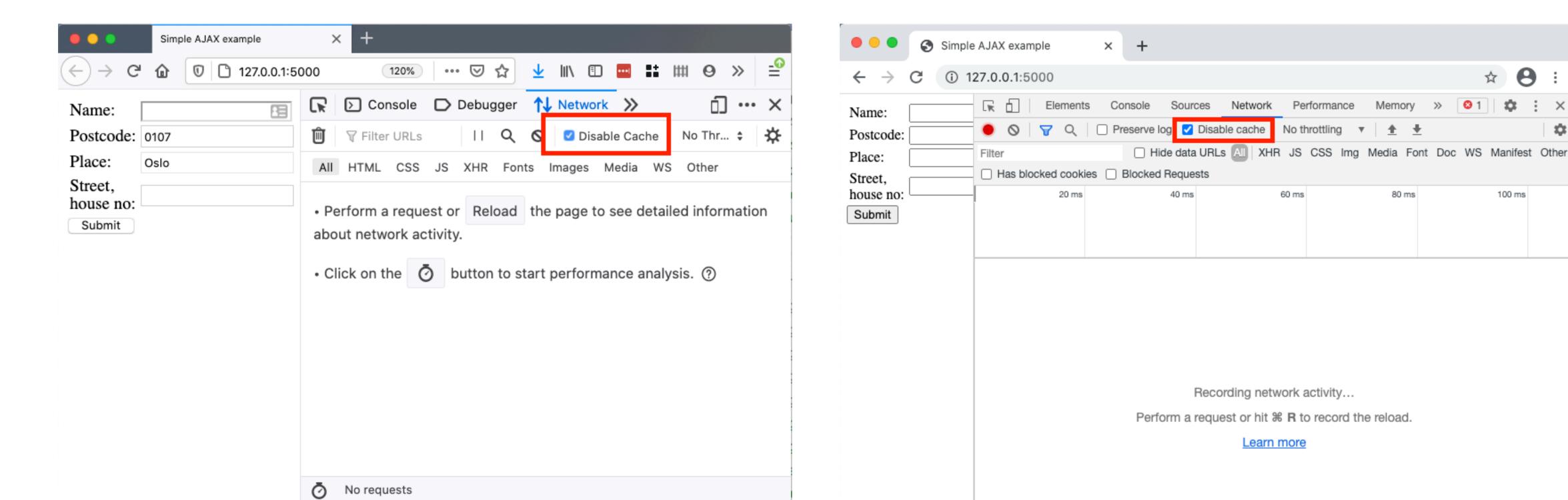


#### Four main parts

- 1. Initial HTML document (may be generated using Python)
- 2. JavaScript to send the AJAX request to the server
- 3. Server-side program to receive the request and produce the requested data
- 4. JavaScript to receive the new data and integrate it into the original document being displayed

### Tips

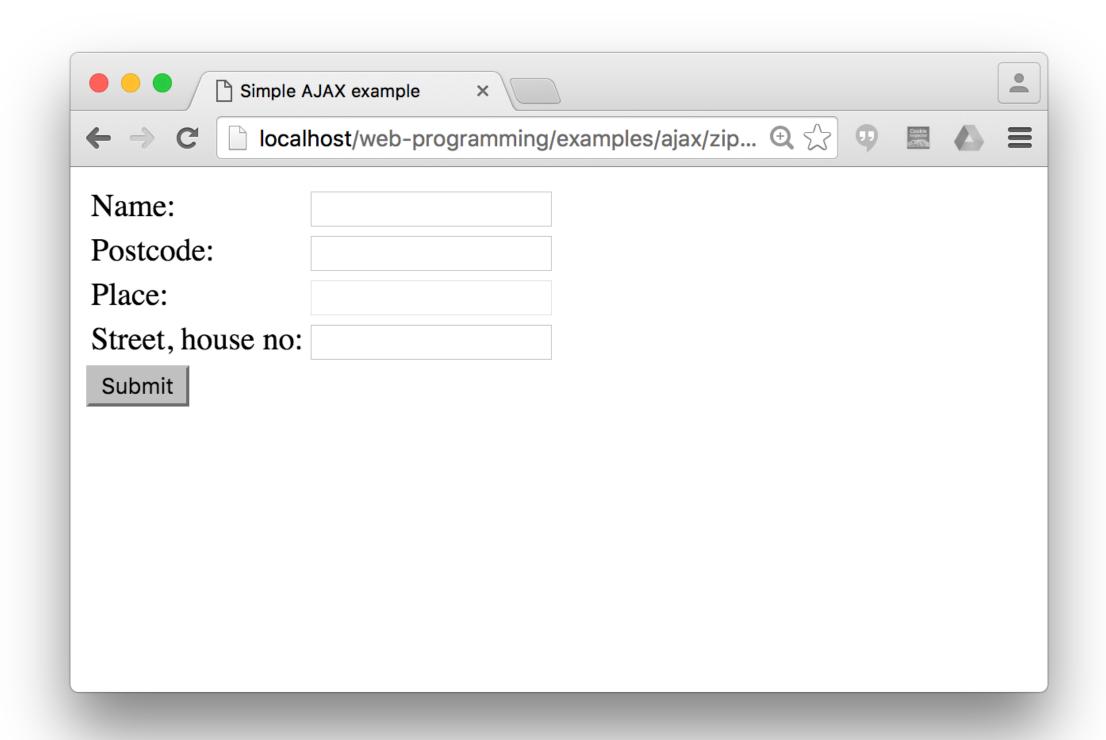
When working with AJAX, open the developer tools in your browser, go to network tab, and **disable the cache**.

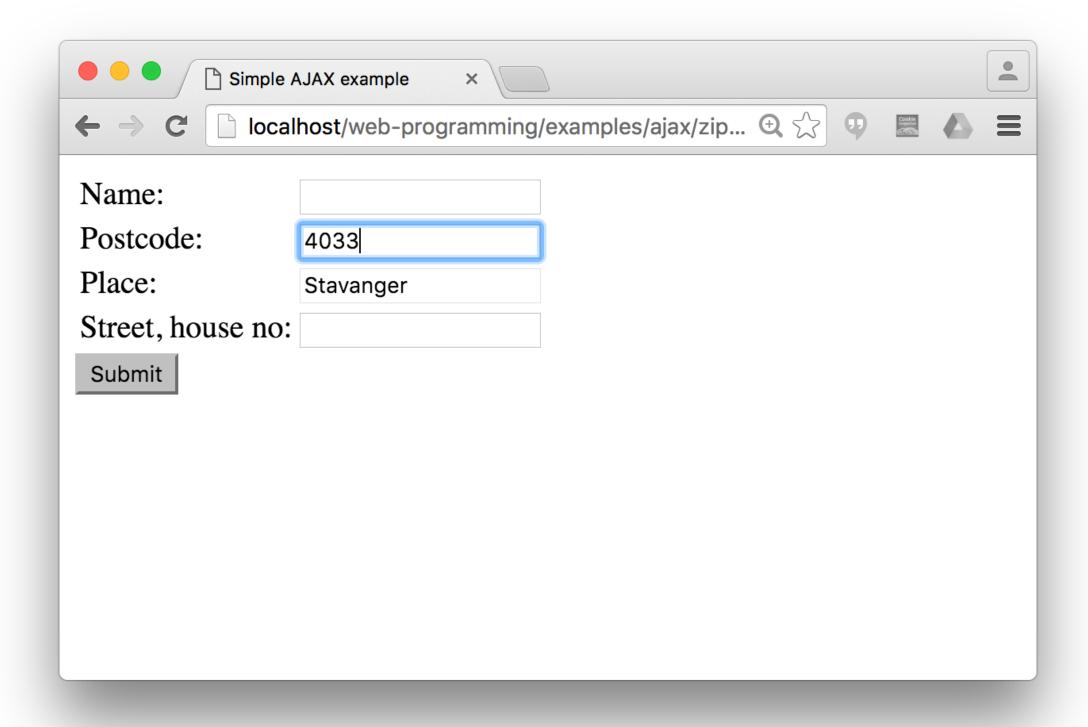


# Example walkthrough

https://github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/zipcode

### Example





#### 1. Initial HTML document

- Register JavaScript handler function on onkeyup event
  - I.e., whenever the user presses a key

```
zipcode.html
```

```
<input type="text" name="postcode" onkeyup="getPlace(this.value);"/>
```

#### 2. Request phase

- Make call using fetch
- Wait for reply using await

zipcode.js

```
async function getPlace(postcode){
    let url = "/getplace?postcode=" + postcode;
    let response = await fetch(url);
}
```

#### 3. Response document

- Flask app generates simple text response

```
app.py
@app.route("/getplace", methods=["GET"])
def getplace():
    POSTCODES = {
        "0107": "0slo",
        "4090": "Hafrsfjord",
        ""
    }
    postcode = request.args.get("postcode", None)
    # look up corresponding place or return empty string
    if postcode and (postcode in POSTCODES):
        return POSTCODES[postcode]
    return ""
```

#### 4. Receiver phase

- Status is 200 if the request was successfully completed
- text() returns a promise, which is resolved to the response text.

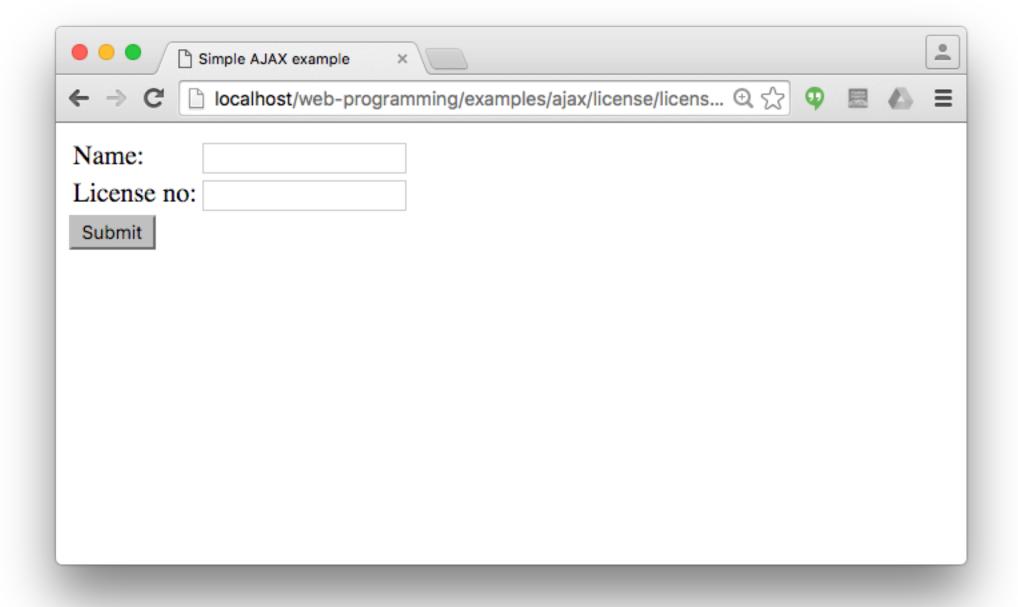
#### zipcode.js

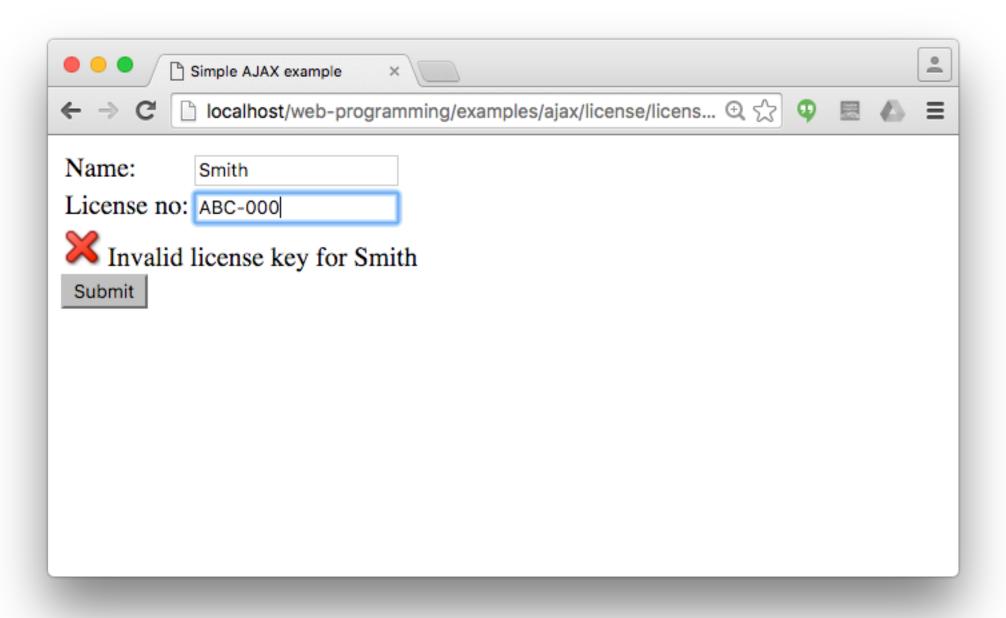
```
async function getPlace(postcode){
    let url = "/getplace?postcode=" + postcode;
    let response = await fetch(url);
    if (response.status == 200){
        let result = await response.text();
        updatePlace(result);
    }
} returns a Promise, thus we need to
    await the result.
```

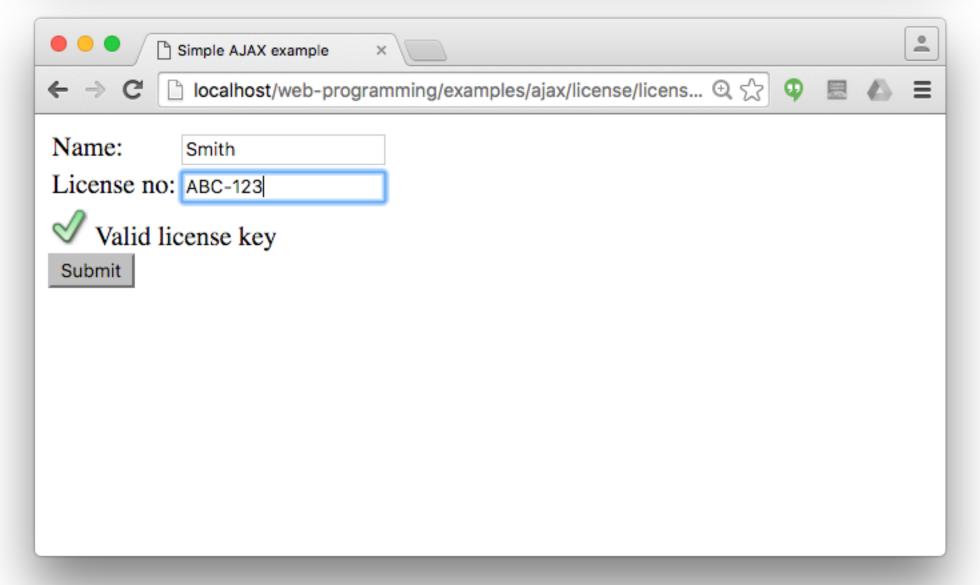
# Example walkthrough #2

https://github.com/dat310-spring20/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/license

### Example #2







### Example #2

- Request can be POST as well
- It is also possible for the server to send back a HTML snippet
- The client updates part of the page (i.e., the DOM) with the received snippet

#### 1. Initial HTML document

- Register JavaScript handler function on onkeyup events
  - I.e., whenever the user presses a key in the name or license fields

#### license.html

```
<input type="text" name="name" id="name" onkeyup="checkLicense();" />
<input type="text" name="license" id="license" onkeyup="checkLicense();" />
```

#### 2. Request phase

- Make asynchronous call using POST
  - Need to add a HTTP header to make it as if it was a form submission

#### license.js

```
async function checkLicense(){
    var name = document.getElementById("name").value;
    var license = document.getElementById("license").value;

let result = await fetch("/check_license",{
    method: "POST",
    headers: {
        "Content-Type": "application/x-www-form-urlencoded",
    },
    body: "name=" + name + "&license=" + license
});
```

#### 3. Response document

- Flask app generates a HTML snippet

#### app.py

#### 4. Receiver phase

- Status is 200 if the request was successfully completed
- text() returns a promise, which is resolved to the response text.

#### license.js

```
if (response.status == 200){
    let result = await response.text()
        document.getElementById("license_check").innerHTML = result;
}
```

## Fetch

#### Fetch

- Takes as argument the URL to send request to
- Returns a promise
- Use await to wait for reply

```
let reply = await fetch("/getplace?postcode=" + postcode);
```

Sends **GET** request if no additional arguments are given.

Encode parameters, just as when sending form.

#### Fetch response

- Access response text using response.text()
- response.text() returns another promise
- await for actual text result

```
let reply = await fetch("/getplace?postcode=" + postcode);
let result = await reply.text();
```

#### Fetch POST

- Fetch takes as second argument, an object

Encode parameters, just as when sending form.

- Response is handled as with GET request.

```
if (response.status == 200){
    let result = await response.text()
    document.getElementById("license_check").innerHTML = result;
}
```

# Exercises #1, #1b

github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/exercises/ajax

### What can be the response document?

- Data as a simple string
- HTML snippet
- Data as "object"
  - Both the client and the server need to speak the same language, i.e., how to *encode* and *decode* the object

#### JS0N

- JavaScript Object Notation
- Lightweight data-interchange format
- Language independent
- Two structures
  - Collection of name-value pairs (object)
    - a.k.a. record, struct, dictionary, hash table, associative array
  - Ordered list of values (array)
    - a.k.a. vector, list

#### JS0N

- Values can be
  - string (in between "...")
  - number
  - object
  - array
  - boolean (true/false)
  - null

### Example JS0N

```
{
  "name":"John Smith",
  "age":32,
  "married":true,
  "interests":[1,2,3],
  "other":{
        "city":"Stavanger",
        "postcode":4041
        }
}
```

### JSON with Python

comples/ajax/json/json\_python.py

- json is a standard module
- json.dumps(data)
  - returns JSON representation of the data
- -json.loads(json\_value)
  - decodes a JSON value
- json.dumps() and json.loads() work with strings
- json.dump() and json.load() work with file streams

### JSON with JavaScript

comples/ajax/json/json\_js.html

- -JSON.stringify(value)
  - returns JSON representation of a value (encode)
- -JSON.parse(json)
  - parses a JSON value into a JavaScript object (decode)

https://github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/json/student

#### n examples/ajax/json/student

```
@app.route("/get_data", methods=["GET"])
def check_license():
    DATA = {
        "name":"John Doe",
        "student_no": 111111
    }
    return json.dumps(DATA) Reply with json data.

@app.route("/post_data", methods=["POST"])
def print_data():
    print(request.get_json())
    return "OK"
Receive json data.
```

#### O examples/ajax/json/student

#### student.js

```
async function sendStudent(){
   let student = { name: name, student_no: student_no };

let reply = await fetch("/post_data",{
    method: "POST".
   headers: {
        "Content-Type": "application/json",
   },
   body: JSON.stringify(student)
   });

...
Include JSON data in request
```

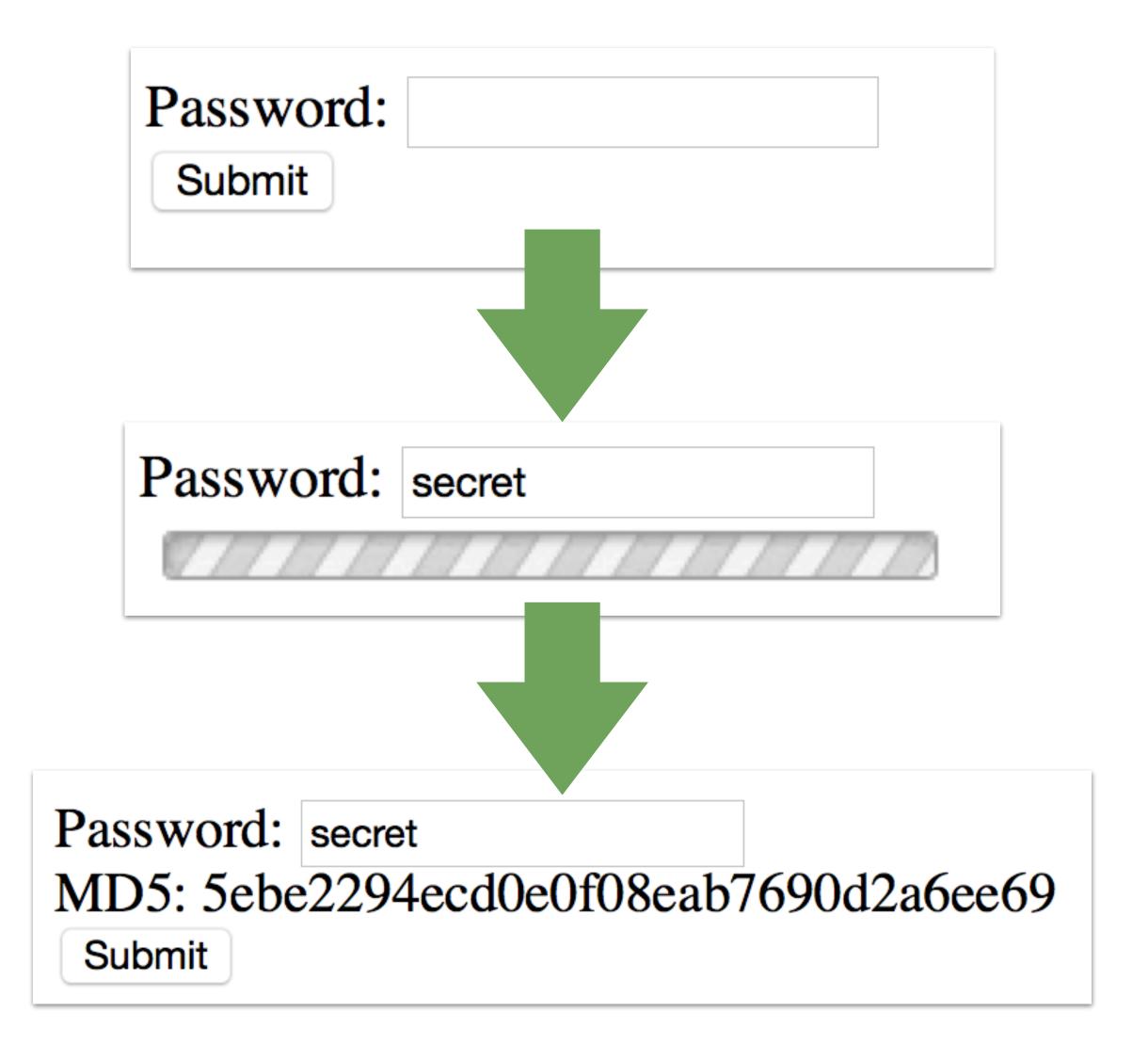
## Exercise #2

github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/exercises/ajax

https://github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/loading

## Indicating waiting

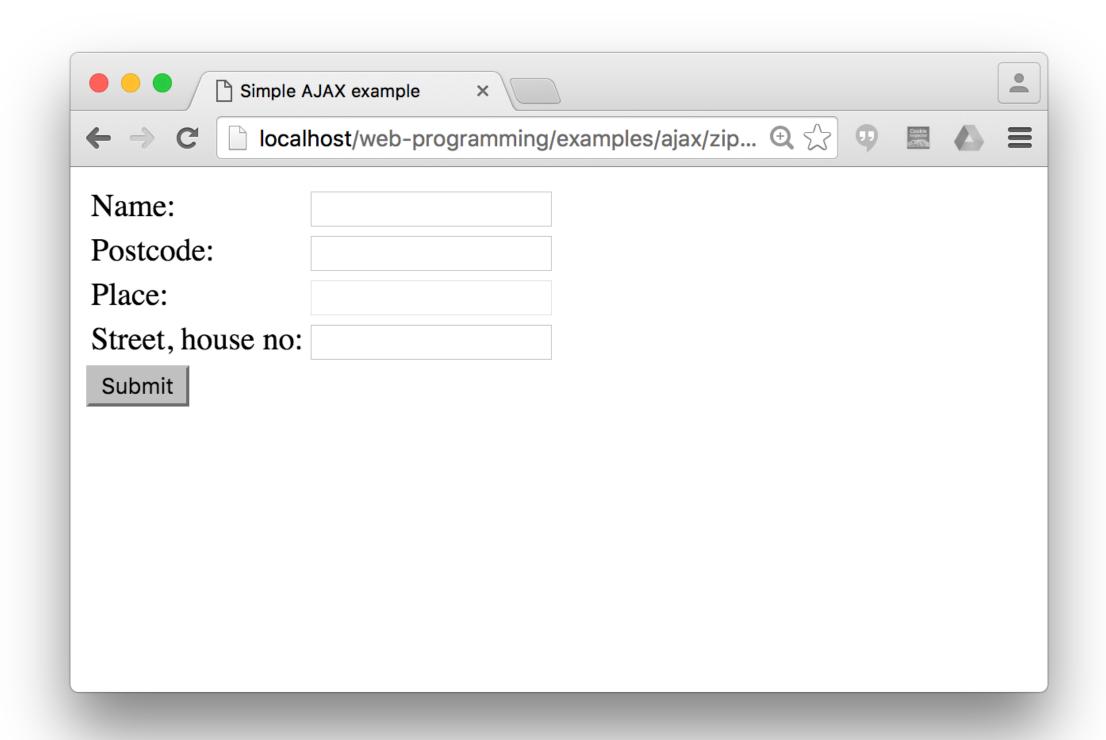
- An animated gif is displayed until the response arrives
- In this example there is an artificial delay of 1sec is added to the Python code

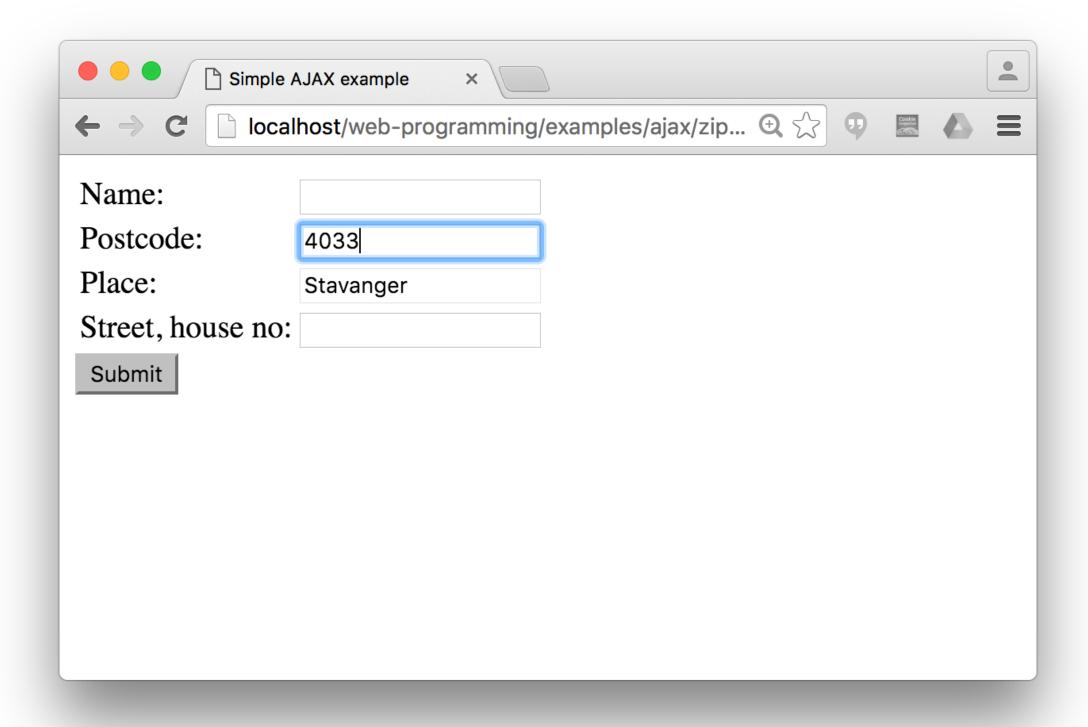


## AJAX without async

# Example walkthrough

https://github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/zipcode





#### 1. Initial HTML document

- Register JavaScript handler function on onkeyup event
  - I.e., whenever the user presses a key

```
zipcode.html
```

```
<input type="text" name="postcode" onkeyup="getPlace(this.value);"/>
```

### 2. Request phase

- Register callback function
- Make asynchronous call

#### zipcode.js

```
function getPlace(postcode) {
    var xhr = new XMLHttpRequest();
    /* register an embedded function as the handler */
    xhr.onreadystatechange = function () {
        [...]
        }
    };
    /* send the request using GET */
    xhr.open("GET", "/getplace?postcode=" + postcode, true);
    xhr.send(null);
}
setting this parameter to true means
```

making an asynchronous request

### 3. Response document

- Flask app generates simple text response

```
app.py
@app.route("/getplace", methods=["GET"])
def getplace():
    POSTCODES = {
        "0107": "0slo",
        "4090": "Hafrsfjord",
        ""
    }
    postcode = request.args.get("postcode", None)
    # look up corresponding place or return empty string
    if postcode and (postcode in POSTCODES):
        return POSTCODES[postcode]
    return ""
```

### 4. Receiver phase

- Callback is called multiple times, readyState indicates the progress (0..4)
- Status is 200 if the request was successfully completed

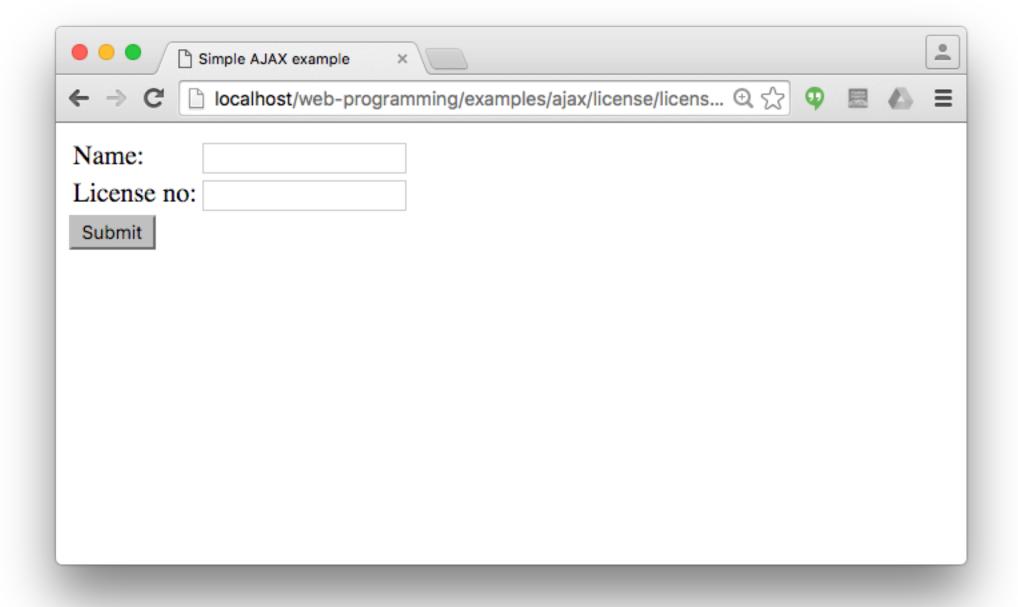
#### zipcode.js

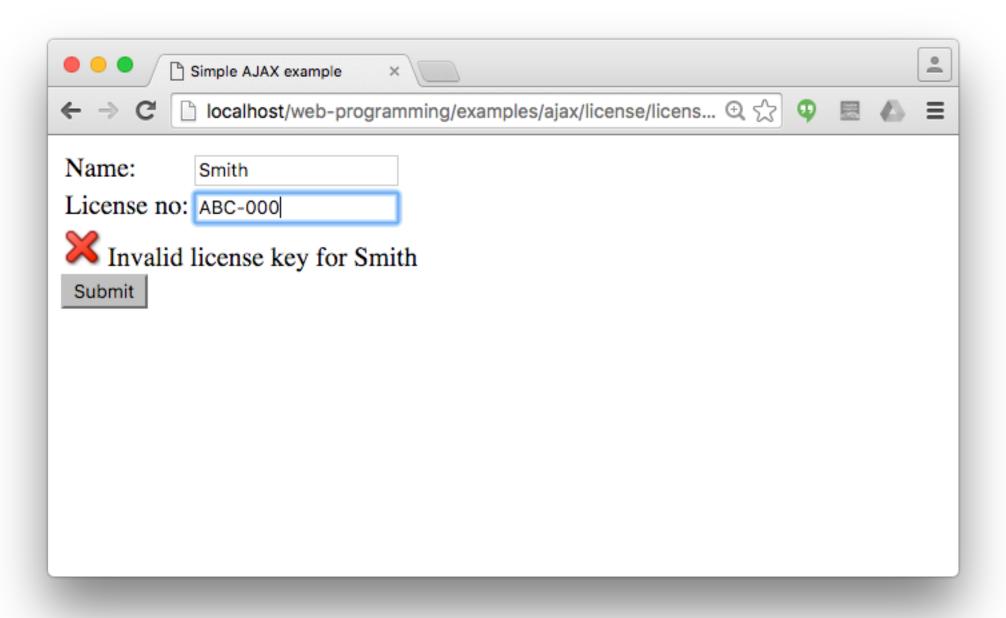
```
xhr.onreadystatechange = function () {
    /* readyState = 4 means that the response has been completed
    * status = 200 indicates that the request was successfully completed */
    if (xhr.readyState == 4 && xhr.status == 200) {
        var result = xhr.responseText;
        document.getElementById("place").value = result;
    }
};
```

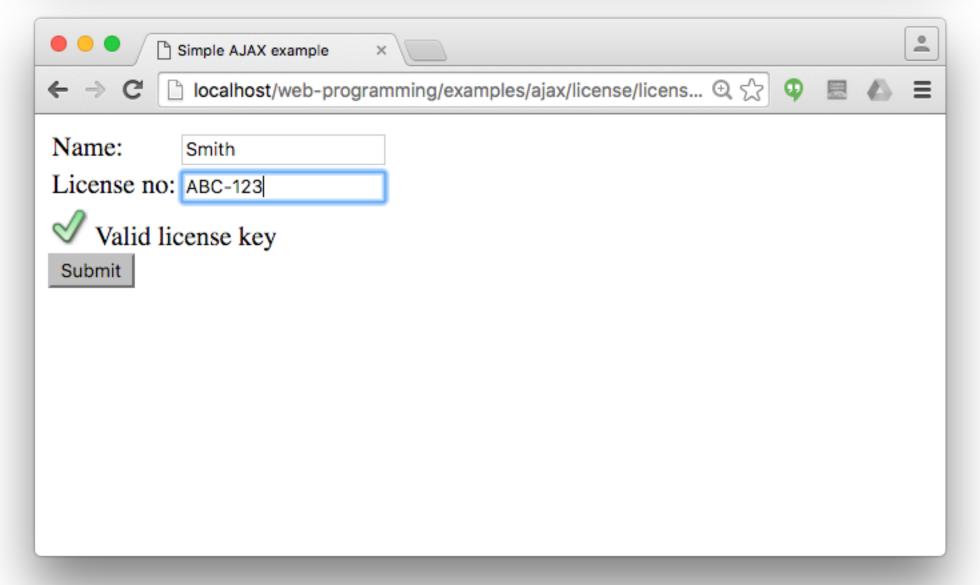
# Example walkthrough #2

https://github.com/dat310-spring21/course-info/tree/master/examples/ajax/license

### Example #2







### Example #2

- Request can be POST as well
- It is also possible for the server to send back a HTML snippet
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#### 1. Initial HTML document

- Register JavaScript handler function on onkeyup events
  - I.e., whenever the user presses a key in the name or license fields

#### license.html

```
<input type="text" name="name" id="name" onkeyup="checkLicense();" />
<input type="text" name="license" id="license" onkeyup="checkLicense();" />
```

### 2. Request phase

- Make asynchronous call using POST
  - Need to add a HTTP header to make it as if it was a form submission

#### license.js

```
function checkLicense() {
    [...]

/* send the request using POST */
    xhr.open("POST", "/check_license", true);
    /* To POST data like an HTML form, add an HTTP header */
    xhr.setRequestHeader("Content-type", "application/x-www-form-urlencoded");
    /* variables go in the request body */
    xhr.send("name=" + name + "&license=" + license);

[...]
}
```

#### 3. Response document

- Flask app generates a HTML snippet

#### app.py

### 4. Receiver phase

- Callback is called multiple times, readyState indicates the progress (0..4)
- Status is 200 if the request was successfully completed

#### license.js

```
xhr.onreadystatechange = function () {
    /* readyState = 4 means that the response has been completed
    * status = 200 indicates that the request was successfully completed */
    if (xhr.readyState == 4 && xhr.status == 200) {
        var result = xhr.responseText;
        document.getElementById("license_check").innerHTML = result;
    }
};
```

## Assignment 7

- Use vue or js
- Check next lecture on how to combine vue and flask

Coldplay - coldplay-cover.jpg
Guns N' Roses - Greatest Hits
Nightwish - Century Child
U2 - No Line On The Horizon

