CSC309 *Programming on the Web*

week 6: http, rest, node

Amir H. Chinaei, Spring 2017

Office Hours: M 3:45-5:45 BA4222

ahchinaei@cs.toronto.edu
http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~ahchinaei/

review

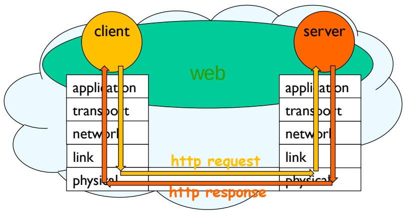
- **so far:**
  - **front-end**
    - **structure & semantic**, **appearance**, **behavior**
    - many design tips
  - **back-end**
    - **databases**
      - structured & semi-structured data
- **this week:**
    - front-end and back-end start **communication**
      - express, and sessions

recall

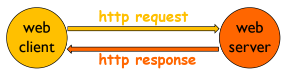
- web is an information space system—based on request & response—with the following features:
  - **HTML**: to describe (hypertext) documents/pages
  - **URL** : to uniquely locate a resource
  - **HTTP**: to describe how requests & responses operate.
  - **web server**: to respond to HTTP requests
  - **web browser**: to make HTTP requests from URLs and render/display the HTML document received

recall

- client-server model
- communicate using **http** model
  - **request-response**



http



- c&s establish a connection (details on csc358)
- client (e.g. browser) requests web content
- server responds with requested content
  - (if no error)
- c&s close the connection

- it's a stateless protocol

static vs dynamic content

- **static**
  - content already stored in a resource
    - example: an html file, an image, etc.

      dictionary1.com/content.html
- **dynamic**
  - content produced on-the-fly
    - example: an html file produced at run time by a program

      dictionary2.com/search?word=content

both static and dynamic contents are stored in files (aka resources) before sending to the client .

requests

- an http request consists of a *request line*
  - optionally followed by *request headers*
- *request line*
  <method> <uri> <version>

  request header
  <name>: <value>
- example:
  ```
  GET    /    HTTP1.1
  Host: utoronto.ca
  ```
- popular http methods:
  - GET get a static/dynamic resource from the server
  - POST get a dynamic resource from the server
  - PUT create a resource on server
  - DELETE delete a resource from server

responses

- an http response consists of a *response line*
  - optionally followed by *response headers*
- *response line*
  <version> <status code> <status message>
- example:
  ```
  HTTP1.1   302   Found
  Content-Type: text/html
  ```
- some status codes:

200	OK
302	Found
403	Forbidden
404	Not Found

rest

- motivation: an architectural style
- why it's called **rest**?
- "**re**presentational **s**tate **t**ransfer is intended to evoke an image of how a well-designed web application behaves:
  - a network of web pages (a virtual state-machine),
  - where the user progresses through an application by selecting links (state transitions),
  - resulting in the next page (representing the next state of the application) being transferred to the user and rendered for their use."

Roy Fielding

examples

- to get all words in a dictionary web service, the client would request the following uri:
  - dictionary.com/words
- to get the word "content", the client would request the following uri:
  - dictionary.com/word/content
- or,
  - dictionary.com/word/content?flavor=xml
- response
  ```
  <?xml version="1.0"?>
  <word>
          <name>content</name>
          <definition>satisfied</definition>
          <example>She he is content with her job</example>
  </word>
  ```

best practices

- identify all resources
- provide a uri for each resource
- logical uri is preferred
  - dictionary.com/word/content

  is preferred over
  - dictionary.com/word/content.html

  as it's transparent to client how the server generates it
- use nouns (not verbs) for uri
- do not change a resource by GET method
- use hypertext in your responses to facilitate next requests
- for complex queries, use a gradual unfolding approach
- provide documentation