TECHNION

Azrieli Continuing Education and External Studies Division

Module 5.7.3
HTTP Connections

Client

Internet

Server

Internet

HTML

JavaScript

AJAX

CSS

HTTP

Request

Response

GET

socket

POST

Python

Data Store

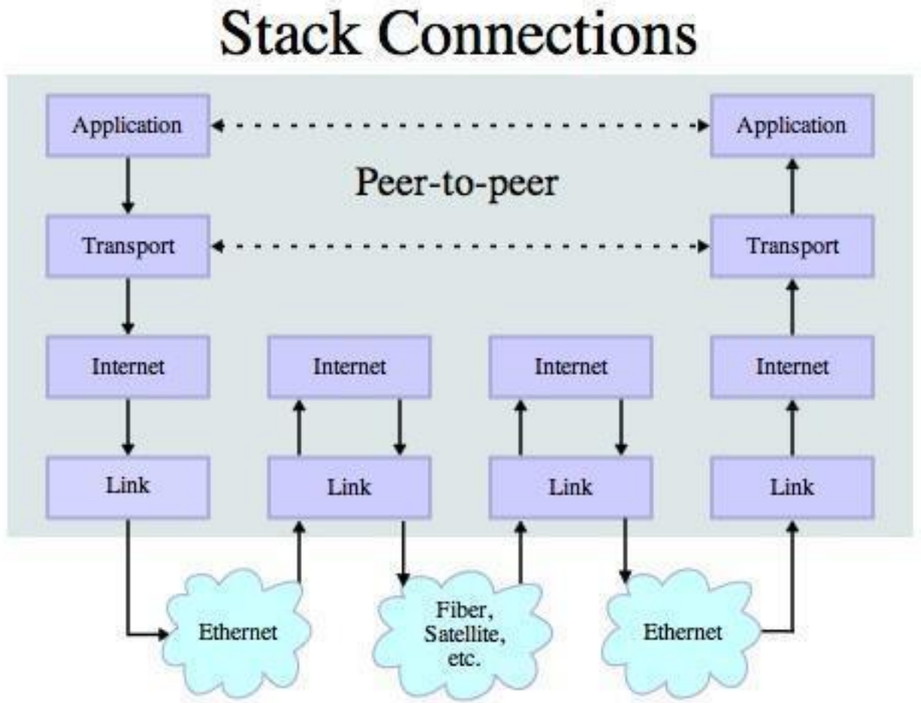
Templates

memcache

Network Architecture....

Transport Control Protocol (TCP)

- Built on top of IP (Internet Protocol).
- Assumes IP might lose some data - stores and retransmits data if it seems to be lost.
- Handles “flow control” using a transmit window.
- Provides a nice reliable pipe.



Sockets

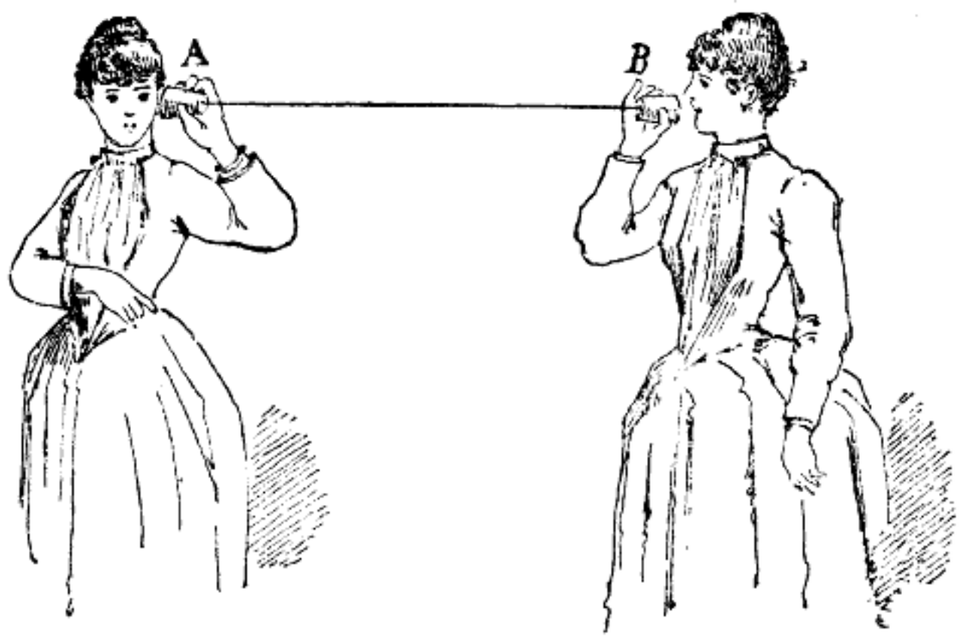
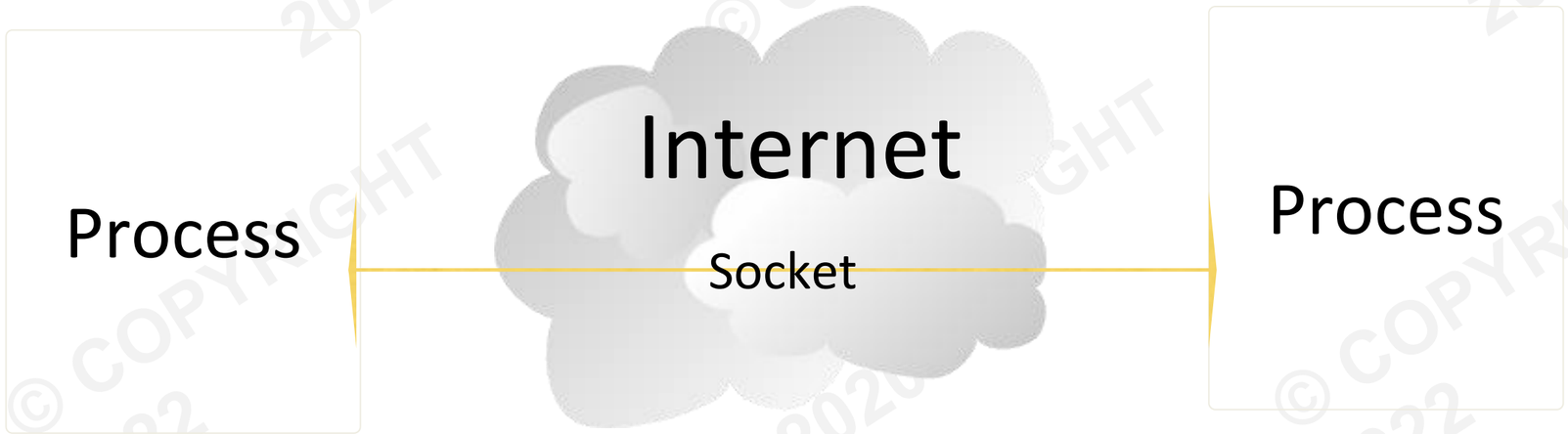


FIG. 76. Trådtelefon.

TCP Connections / Sockets

"In computer networking, an internet socket or network socket is an endpoint of a bidirectional inter-process communication flow across an Internet Protocol-based computer network, such as the Internet."



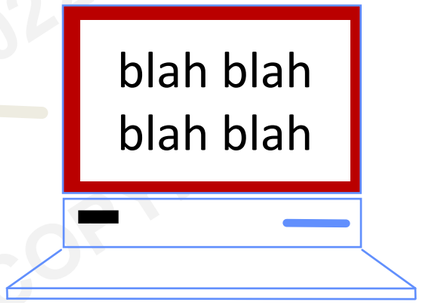
TCP Port Numbers

- A port is an application-specific or process-specific software communications endpoint.
- It allows multiple networked applications to coexist on the same server.
- There is a list of well-known TCP port numbers.

www.umich.edu

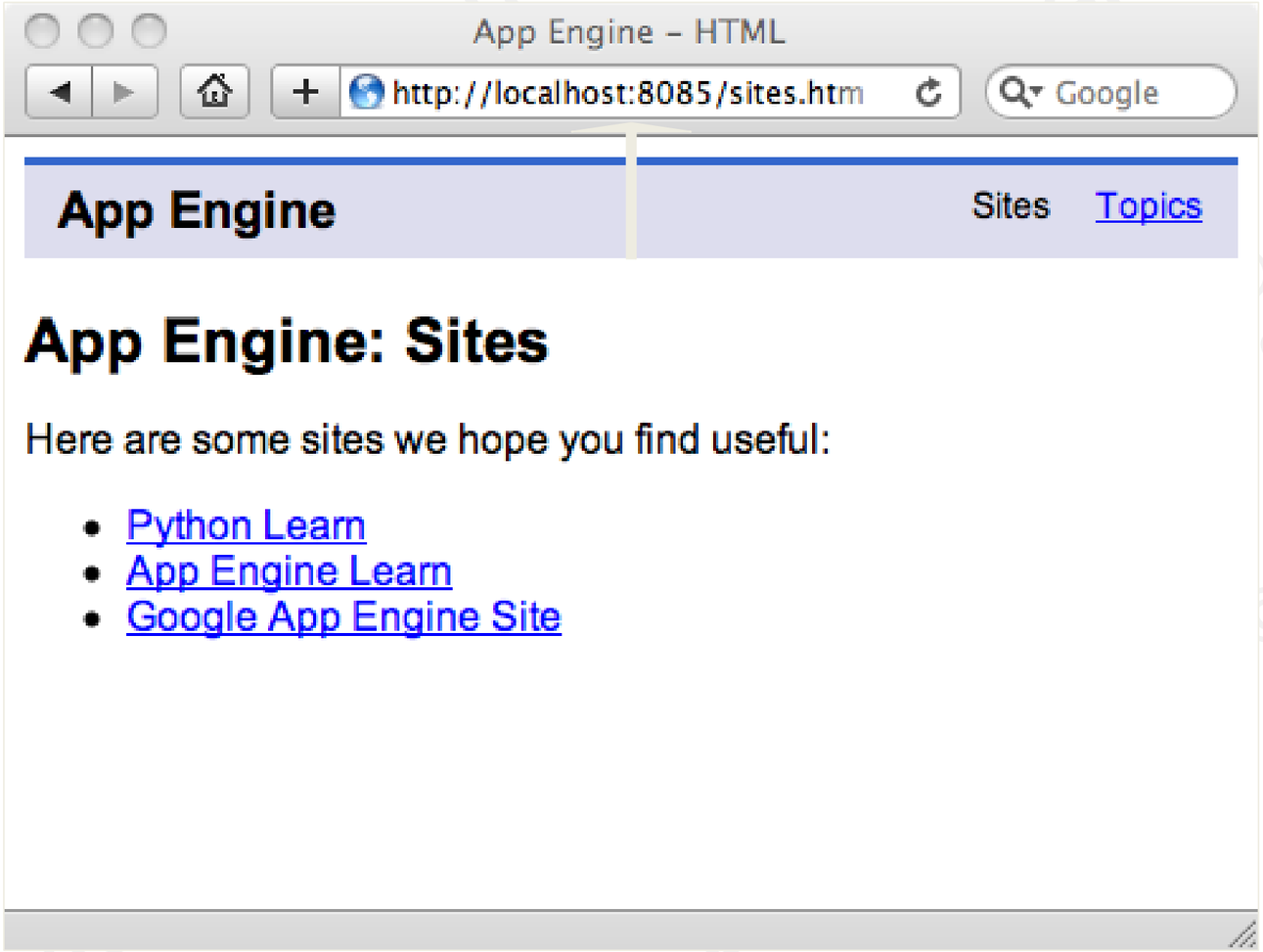
Incoming E-Mail	25
Login	23
Web Server	80
	443
Personal Mail Box	109
	110

74.208.28.177



Common TCP Ports

- Telnet (23) - Login
- SSH (22) - Secure Login
- HTTP (80)
- HTTPS (443) - Secure
- SMTP (25) (Mail)
- IMAP (143/220/993) - Mail Retrieval
- POP (109/110) - Mail Retrieval
- DNS (53) - Domain Name
- FTP (21) - File Transfer



Sometimes we see the port number in the URL if the web server is running on a “non-standard” port.

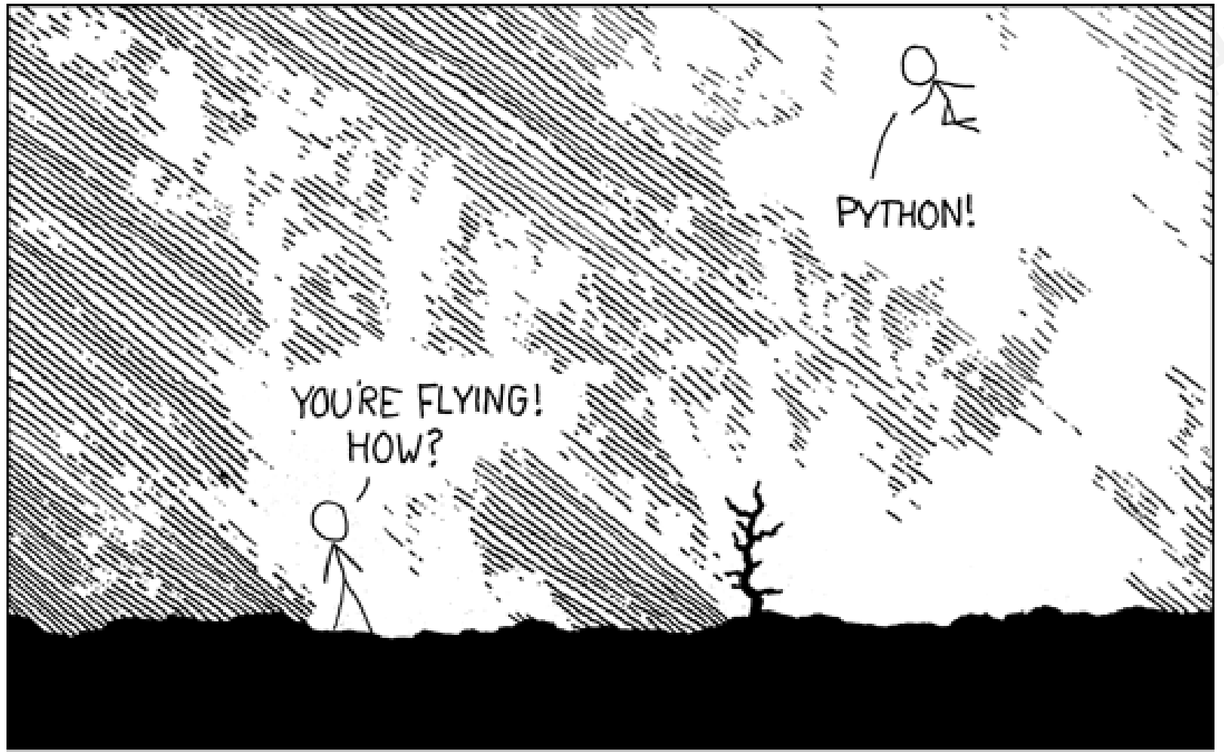
Sockets in Python

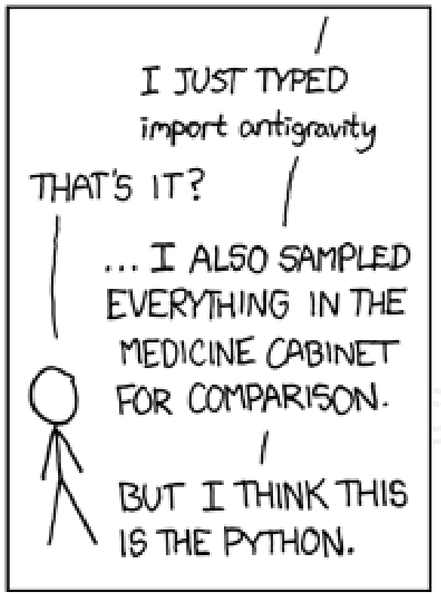
Python has built-in support for TCP Sockets.

```
import socket
mysock = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
mysock.connect( ('www.py4inf.com', 80) )
```

Host

Port





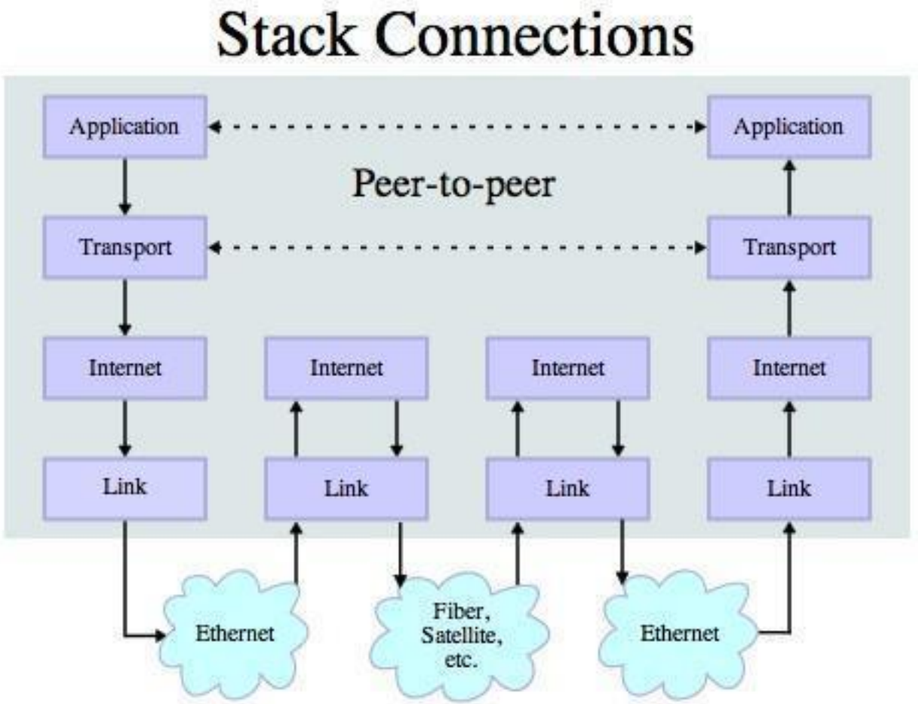
Application Protocol

- Since TCP (and Python) gives us a reliable socket, what do we want to do with the socket? What problem do we want to solve?

- Application Protocols

  > Mail

  > World Wide Web



HTTP - Hypertext Transport Protocol

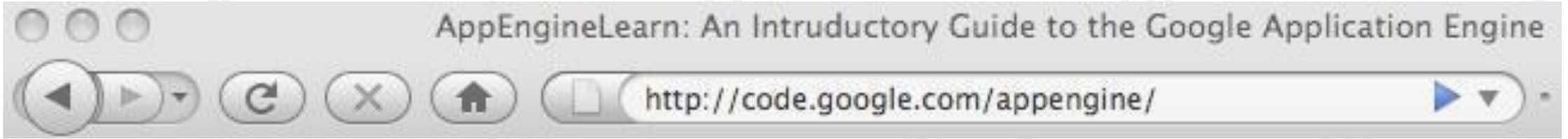
- The dominant Application Layer Protocol on the Internet.
- Invented for the Web - to retrieve HTML, images, documents, etc.
- Extended to be data in addition to documents - RSS, Web Services, etc..
- Basic Concept - Make a Connection - Request a document - Retrieve the Document - Close the Connection.

HTTP

The HyperText Transport Protocol is the set of rules designed to enable browsers to retrieve web documents from servers over the internet.

What Is A Protocol?

- A set of rules that all parties must follow, so that we may predict each other's behavior…
  …and not bump into each other.
  - On two-way roads in USA, drive on the right-hand side of the road
  - On two-way roads in the UK, drive on the left-hand side of the road



`http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm`

protocol host document

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2GylLq59rI

1:17 - 2:19

Getting Data From The Server

- Each time the user clicks on an anchor tag with an “href=“ value to switch to a new page, the browser makes a connection to the web server and issues a “GET” request - to GET the content of the page at the specified URL.

- The server returns the HTML document to the browser, which formats and displays the document to the user.

Making An HTTP Request

- Connecting to the web server. Example: http://www.dr-chuck.com/
- Request a document (or the default document)

GET http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm

GET http://www.mlive.com/ann-arbor/

GET http://www.facebook.com

Web Server

80

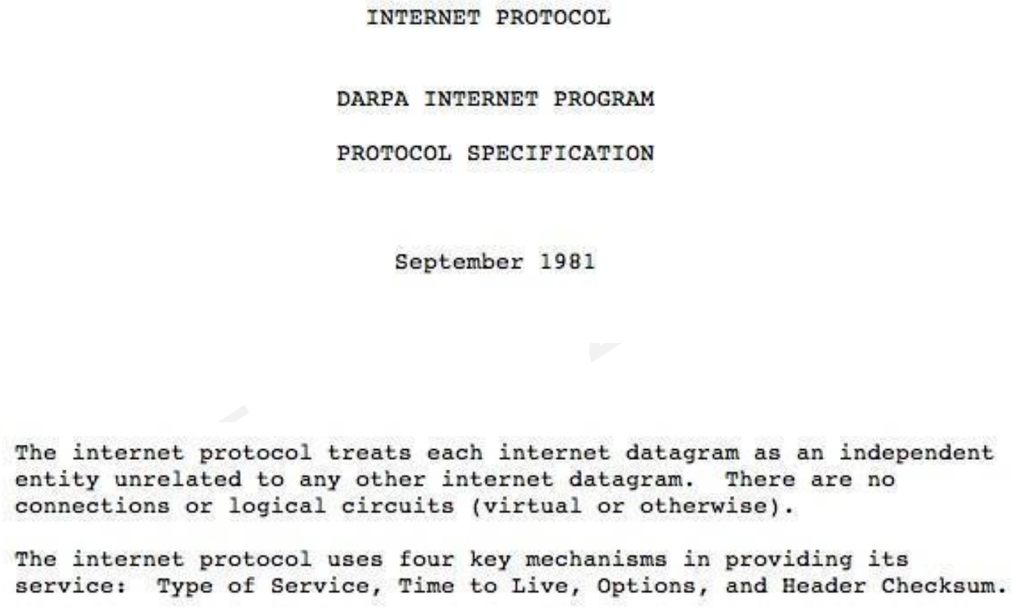
GET http://www.dr-chuck.com/page2.htm

<h1>The Second Page</h1>
If you like, you can switch back to the First Page.

Browser

Internet Standards

- The standards for all of the Internet protocols (inner workings) are developed by one organization.
- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).
- www.ietf.org
- Standards are called Request For Comments (RFC's).



INTERNET PROTOCOL

DARPA INTERNET PROGRAM

PROTOCOL SPECIFICATION

September 1981

The internet protocol treats each internet datagram as an independent entity unrelated to any other internet datagram. There are no connections or logical circuits (virtual or otherwise).

The internet protocol uses four key mechanisms in providing its service: Type of Service, Time to Live, Options, and Header Checksum.

http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616.txt

Network Working Group
Request for Comments: 2616
Obsoletes: 2068
Category: Standards Track

R. Fielding
UC Irvine
J. Gettys
Compaq/W3C
J. Mogul
Compaq
H. Frystyk
W3C/MIT
L. Masinter
Xerox
P. Leach
Microsoft
T. Berners-Lee
W3C/MIT
June 1999

Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1

Status of this Memo

This document specifies an Internet standards track protocol for the Internet community, and requests discussion and suggestions for improvements. Please refer to the current edition of the "Internet Official Protocol Standards" (STD 1) for the standardization state and status of this protocol. Distribution of this memo is unlimited.

Copyright Notice

Abstract

The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is an application-level protocol for distributed, collaborative, hypermedia information

5 Request

A request message from a client to a server includes, within the first line of that message, the method to be applied to the resource, the identifier of the resource, and the protocol version in use.

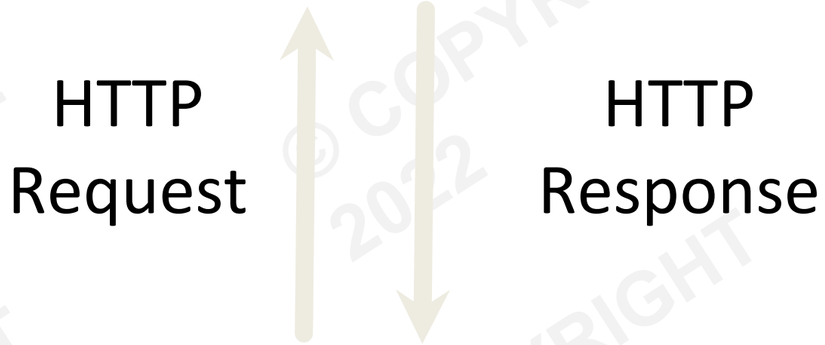
```
Request       = Request-Line              ; Section 5.1
                *(( general-header        ; Section 4.5
                 | request-header         ; Section 5.3
                 | entity-header ) CRLF)  ; Section 7.1
                CRLF
                [ message-body ]          ; Section 4.3
```

5.1 Request-Line

The Request-Line begins with a method token, followed by the Request-URI and the protocol version, and ending with CRLF. The elements are separated by SP characters. No CR or LF is allowed except in the final CRLF sequence.

```
Request-Line   = Method SP Request-URI SP HTTP-Version CRLF
```

“Hacking” HTTP



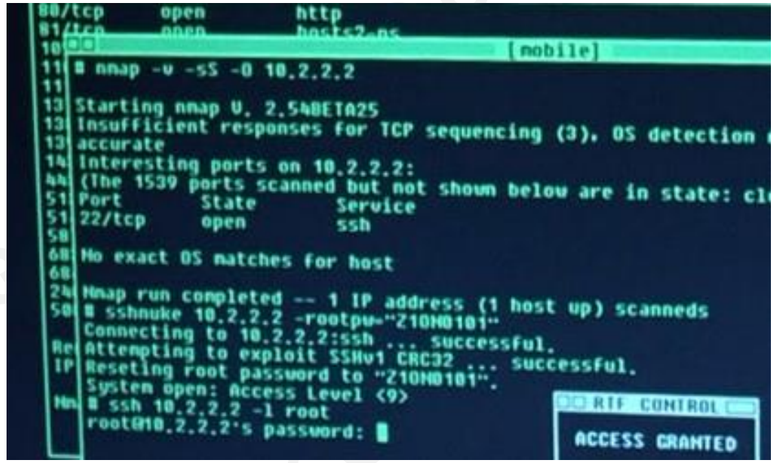

```
$ telnet www.dr-chuck.com 80
Trying 74.208.28.177...
Connected to www.dr-chuck.com.
Escape character is '^]'.
GET http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm
<h1>The First Page</h1>
<p>If you like, you can switch to the
<a href="http://www.dr-chuck.com/page2.htm">Second Page</a>.
</p>
```

Port 80 is the non-encrypted HTTP port

Accurate Hacking in the Movies

- Matrix Reloaded
- Bourne Ultimatum
- Die Hard 4

…



Telnet Connection

```
$ telnet www.dr-chuck.com 80
Trying 74.208.28.177...
Connected to www.dr-chuck.com.Escape character is '^]'.
GET http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm

<h1>The First Page</h1>
<p>If you like, you can switch to the
<a href="http://www.dr-chuck.com/page2.htm">Second
Page</a>.</p>
Connection closed by foreign host.
```

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PORTAL EN ESPAÑOL

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Museums & Cultural Attractions
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Schools & Colleges
State & Community Partnerships

RECORD UPDATE

web ⊙ directory ○ Search enter keywords GO

IN THE NEWS::

Scientists harness the power of electricity in the brain

Friends with cognitive benefits: Mental function improves after socializing

- Scary chupacabras monster is as much victim as villain
- Video: Fashion, power and politics; Washington Post writer at U-M

FEATURED SITES

THE THOMAS FRANCIS, JR. MEDAL IN GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

U-M SPEAKS OUT

Exposing voter system flaws

Give online

si-csev-mbp:tex csev$ telnet www.umich.edu 80
Trying 141.211.144.190...
Connected to www.umich.edu.Escape character is '^]'.
GET /
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd"><html
xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en"
lang="en"><head><title>University of Michigan</title><meta
name="description" content="University of Michigan is one of the top
universities of the world, a diverse public institution of higher learning,
fostering excellence in research. U-M provides outstanding undergraduate,
graduate and professional education, serving the local, regional, national and
international communities." />

```
...
<link rel="alternate stylesheet" type="text/css" href="/CSS/accessible.css"
media="screen" title="accessible" /><link rel="stylesheet"
href="/CSS/print.css" media="print,projection" /><link rel="stylesheet"
href="/CSS/other.css" media="handheld,tty,tv,braille,embossed,speech,aural"
/>...  <dl><dt><a
href="http://ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=8077">
<img src="/Images/electric-brain.jpg" width="114" height="77" alt="Top
News Story" /></a><span class="verbose">:</span></dt><dd><a
href="http://ns.umich.edu/htdocs/releases/story.php?id=8077">Scientists
harness the power of electricity in the brain</a></dd></dl>
```

As the browser reads the document, it finds other URLs that must be retrieved to produce the document.

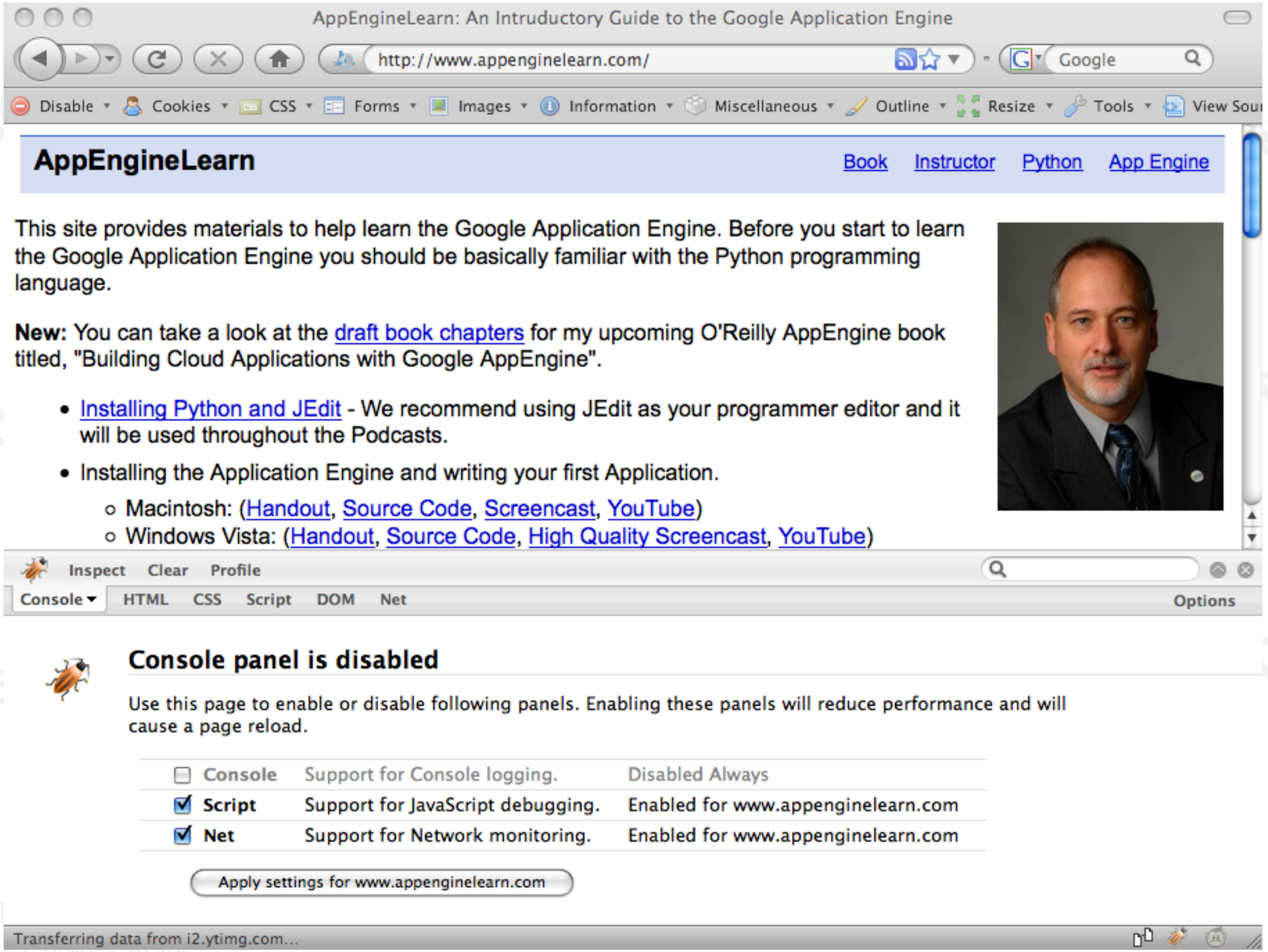
The big picture...

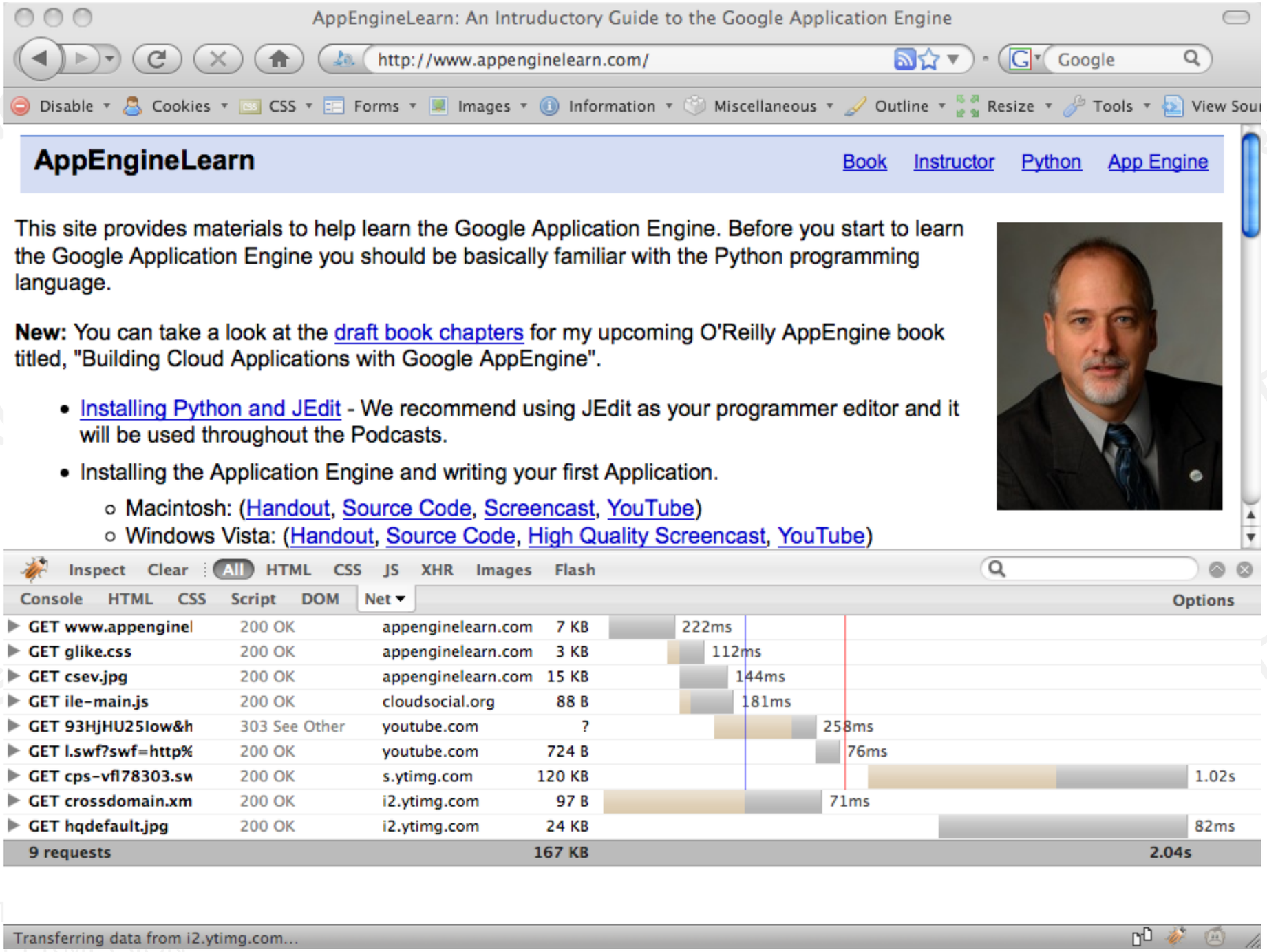

```
<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Strict//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-strict.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="en">
<head>
<title>University of Michigan</title>
....
```

```
@import "/CSS/graphical.css"/**/;
p.text strong, .verbose, .verbose p, .verbose h2{text-indent:-
876em;position:absolute}
p.text strong a{text-decoration:none}
p.text em{font-weight:bold;font-style:normal}
div.alert{background:#eee;border:1px solid
red;padding:.5em;margin:0 25%}
a img{border:none}
.hot br, .quick br, dl.feature2 img{display:none}
div#main label, legend{font-weight:bold}
```

Firebug reveals the details...

- If you haven't already installed the Firebug FireFox extension, then you need to now.
- It can help explore the HTTP request-response cycle.
- Some simple-looking pages involve lots of requests:
    - HTML page(s)
    - Image files
    - CSS Style Sheets
    - JavaScript files





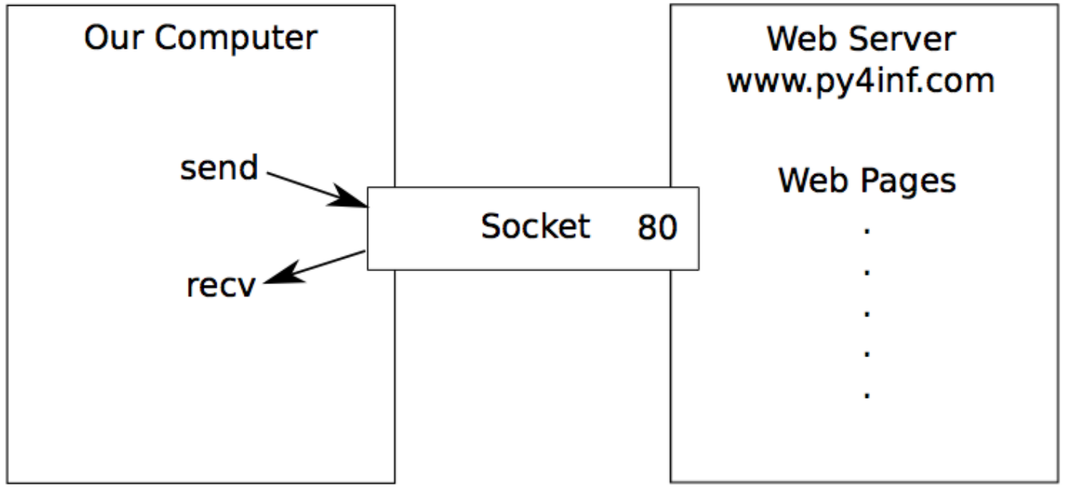
Lets Create a Socket Connection!

An HTTP Request in Python

```
import socket
mysock = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
mysock.connect(('www.py4inf.com', 80))

mysock.send('GET http://www.py4inf.com/code/romeo.txt HTTP/1.0\n\n')

while True:
   data = mysock.recv(512)
   if ( len(data) < 1 ) :
      break
   print data
mysock.close()
```



HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Sun, 14 Mar 2010 23:52:41 GMT
Server: Apache
Last-Modified: Tue, 29 Dec 2009 01:31:22 GMT
ETag: "143c1b33-a7-4b395bea"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 167
Connection: close
Content-Type: text/plain

But soft what light through yonder window breaks
It is the east and Juliet is the sun
Arise fair sun and kill the envious moon
Who is already sick and pale with grief

HTTP Header

```
while True:
    data = mysock.recv(512)
    if ( len(data) < 1 ) :
        break
    print data
```

HTTP Body

Making HTTP Easier With “urllib”

Using “urllib” in Python

Since HTTP is so common, we have a library that does all the socket work for us and makes web pages appear as a file.

```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.py4inf.com/code/romeo.txt')

for line in fhand:
    print line.strip()
```

```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.py4inf.com/code/romeo.txt')
for line in fhand:
    print line.strip()
```

But soft what light through yonder window breaks
It is the east and Juliet is the sun
Arise fair sun and kill the envious moon
Who is already sick and pale with grief

Like A File...

```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.py4inf.com/code/romeo.txt')

counts = dict()
for line in fhand:
    words = line.split()
    for word in words:
        counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1
print counts
```

Reading Web Pages

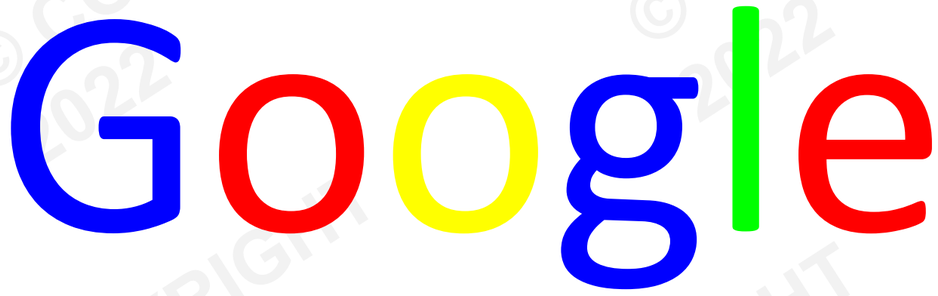
```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm')
for line in fhand:
    print line.strip()
```

```
<h1>The First Page</h1><p>If you like, you can
switch to the<a href="http://www.dr-
chuck.com/page2.htm">Second Page</a>.</p>
```

Going From One Page to The Next...

```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm')
for line in fhand:
    print line.strip()
```

```
<h1>The First Page</h1><p>If you like, you can
switch to the<a href="http://www.dr-
chuck.com/page2.htm">Second Page</a>.</p>
```

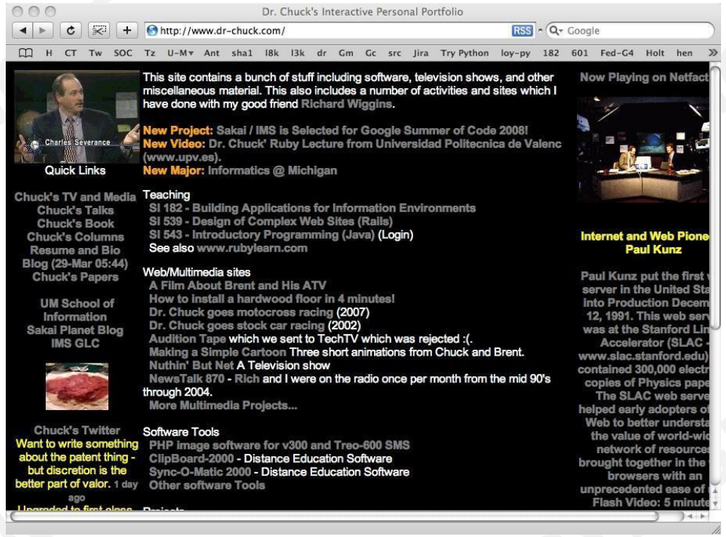



```
import urllib
fhand = urllib.urlopen('http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm')
for line in fhand:
    print line.strip()
```

Parsing HTML
(a.k.a. Web Scraping)

What is Web Scraping?

- When a program or script pretends to be a browser and retrieves web pages, looks at those web pages, extracts information, and then looks at more web pages.
- Search engines scrape web pages - we call this “spidering the web” or “web crawling”.



GET

HTML

Server

GET

```
charles-severances-macbook-air:Scraping csev$ python
Python 2.5 (r25:51918, Sep 19 2006, 08:49:13)
[GCC 4.0.1 (Apple Computer, Inc. build 5341)] on darwin
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> import urllib
>>> f = urllib.urlopen("http://www.dr-chuck.com/")
>>> contents = f.read()
>>> f.close()
>>> print len(contents)
95328
>>> print contents[0:30]
<html>
<head>
  <title>Dr. C
>>>
```

HTML

Why Scrape?

- Pull Data - particularly social data - who links to who?
- Get your own data back out of some system that has no “export capability”
- Monitor a site for new information
- Spider the web to make a database for a search engine

Scraping Web Pages

- There is some controversy about web page scraping and some sites are a bit snippy about it.
  - Google: facebook scraping block
- Republishing copyrighted information is not allowed.
- Violating terms of service is not allowed.

http://www.facebook.com/terms.php

User Conduct

You understand that except for advertising programs offered by us on the Site (e.g., Facebook Flyers, Facebook Marketplace), the Service and the Site are available for your personal, non-commercial use only. You represent, warrant and agree that no materials of any kind submitted through your account or otherwise posted, transmitted, or shared by you on or through the Service will violate or infringe upon the rights of any third party, including copyright, trademark, privacy, publicity or other personal or proprietary rights; or contain libelous, defamatory or otherwise unlawful material.

In addition, you agree not to use the Service or the Site to:

- harvest or collect email addresses or other contact information of other users from the Service or the Site by electronic or other means for the purposes of sending unsolicited emails or other unsolicited communications;
- use the Service or the Site in any unlawful manner or in any other manner that could damage, disable, overburden or impair the Site;
- use automated scripts to collect information from or otherwise interact with the Service or the Site;

The Easy Way - Beautiful Soup

You could do string searches the hard way…

…or use the free software called BeautifulSoup from www.crummy.com

http://www.crummy.com/software/BeautifulSoup/

Place the BeautifulSoup.py file in the same folder as your Python code...

BeautifulSoup Script To Scrap The Page

```
import urllib
from BeautifulSoup import *

url = raw_input('Enter - ')

html = urllib.urlopen(url).read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html)

# Retrieve a list of the anchor tags
# Each tag is like a dictionary of HTML attributes

tags = soup('a')

for tag in tags:
    print tag.get('href', None)
```

<h1>The First Page</h1> If you like, you can switch to theSecond Page.

```
html = urllib.urlopen(url).read()
soup = BeautifulSoup(html)

tags = soup('a')
for tag in tags:
   print tag.get('href', None)
```

python urllinks.py
Enter - http://www.dr-chuck.com/page1.htm
http://www.dr-chuck.com/page2.htm

Summary

- The TCP/IP gives us pipes / sockets between applications.
- We designed application protocols to make use of these pipes.
- HyperText Transport Protocol (HTTP) is a simple yet powerful protocol.
- Python has good support for sockets, HTTP, and HTML parsing.