

File Paths as Maps

- A file path is like directions to a file on a server
- Just like a map → get to a building
- Wrong path = 404 Not Found



— the ballad of a laborer, jason isolini, 2019

Absolute vs Relative Paths

Absolute Path = Full street address

Example: <https://www.nyu.edu/images/logo.png>

Relative Path = Directions from where you are

From index.html → images/photo.jpg

From pages/about.html → ../images/photo.jpg

Navigating the Hierarchy

./ = current folder

../ = go up one folder

.../.. = go up two folders

Example Tree:

/ (root)

 |—— index.html

 |—— images/

 └—— favorites/photo1.jpg

 |—— pages/

 └—— projects/project1.html

Same-Level Hierarchy

Directory Example:

```
/ (root)
|   — index.html
|   — about.html
|   — contact.html
```

From index.html → about.html

From about.html → contact.html

Rule of Thumb:

- Same folder → just filename
- Child folder → include folder name
- Parent folder → use ../

From File Path to URL

Local file: images/photo.jpg

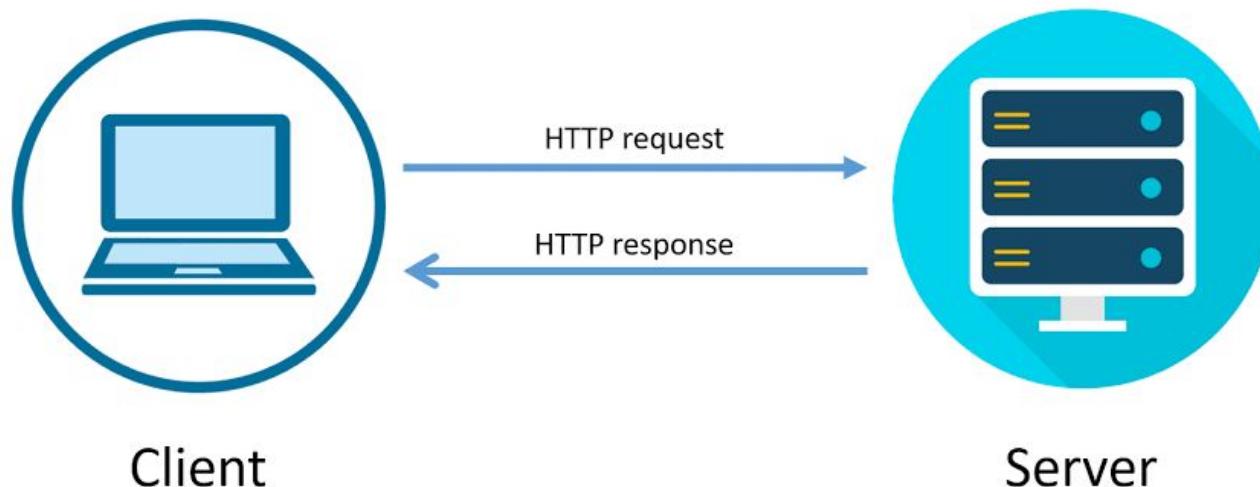
On server:

`https://i6.cims.nyu.edu/~student/images/photo.jpg`

Uploading to i6 = putting files in public directory tree

What Happens in a Request

1. Type URL → Browser parses domain + path
2. DNS Lookup → Finds server IP
3. HTTP Request → 'GET /images/photo.jpg'
4. Server Response → '200 OK' + file
5. Browser Render → Displays content



Default Document Hierarchy

When you visit a directory, server looks for defaults:

1. index.html
2. index.htm
3. default.html

Example:

<https://i6.cims.nyu.edu/~student/> → index.html
<https://i6.cims.nyu.edu/~student/pages/> → pages/index.html