

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)

```
graph TD; Root["/ (root)"] --- index["index.html"]; Root --- images["images/"]; Root --- pages["pages/"]; images --- favorites["favorites/"]; favorites --- photo1["photo1.jpg"]; pages --- projects["projects/"]; projects --- project1["project1.html"]
```

- 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

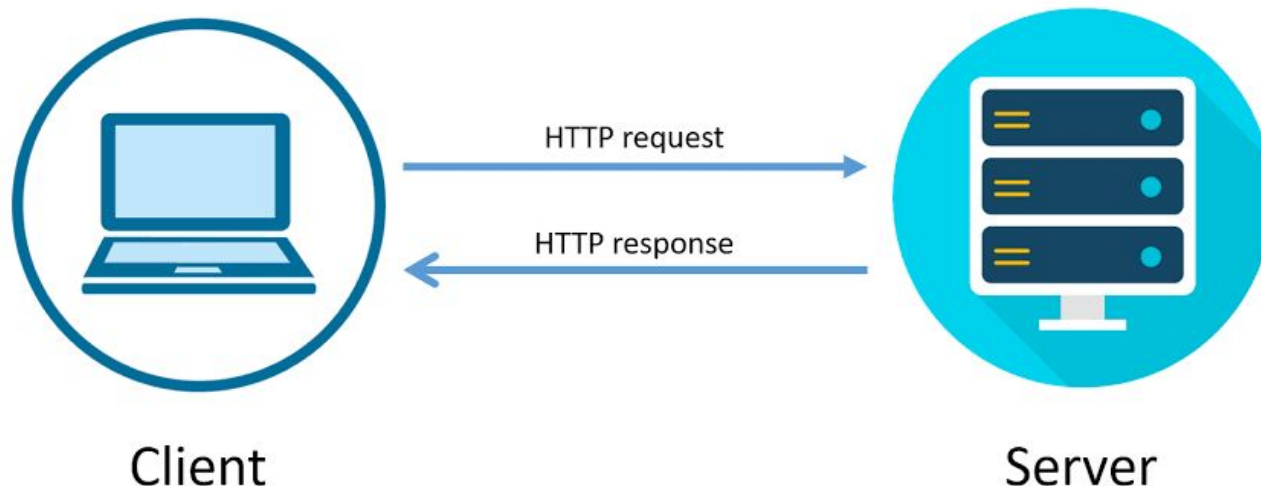
On server:

<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