

# This class, web app basics, and ember Secure Web Application Development

Dr. Hale

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Secure Web Application Development— Lecture 1

Welcome to IA8470

Jumping Ahead: Download the files you need

[virtualbox.org](https://www.virtualbox.org)

and

\\resfs01.unomaha.edu\ResearchData\IST\projects

(replace with forward slashes for mac users)

# What is this class?

We will be making stuff. Its not for the faint of heart, but trust me it will be awesome and you will feel great when you create something new.

# Why should you trust me?

I've made a lot of web apps – its fun and rewarding. Also the previous two year's groups really enjoyed the class.

Ok so what will we cover?



ember



Technologies

Ok so what will we cover?

Software Engineering: Architecting and design

Software project management and Team dynamics

Hardening and secure coding in the SDLC

RESTful Web service APIs

Client-side application development

Topics

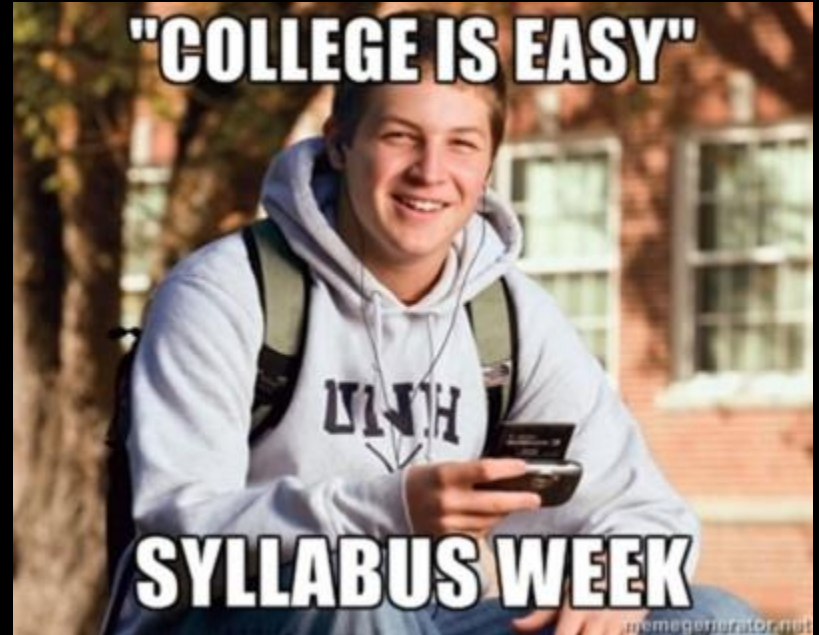


**BRACE YOURSELF**



**SYLLABUS WEEK  
IS COMING**

**"COLLEGE IS EASY"**



**SYLLABUS WEEK**

Hint: Syllabus time



# Today's Class: Not spending the entire class on the syllabus

## Part 1: Web App basics

- Threat vectors

- Basic architecture

- Clientside-vs-serverside

## Part 2: Ember.js

- An introduction to Ember

- Introduction to MVC

- Introduction to Handlebars

## Part 3: Getting started

Part1:

Lets talk about a little about web apps and security.



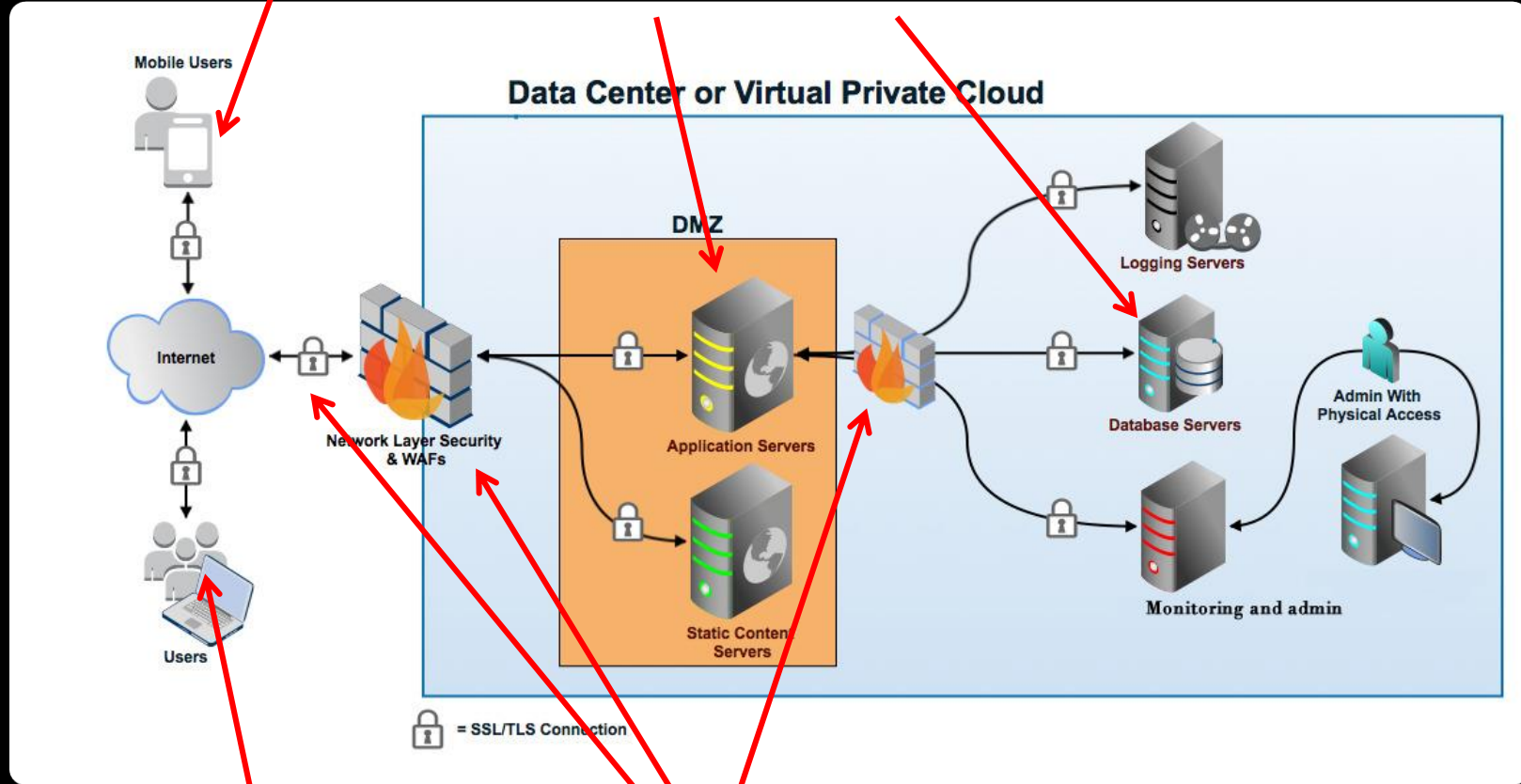
(nearly) All companies have a web app.  
You probably use them, **daily**.



Also you

Where developers should actually focus on security

Web Architecture  
Typical



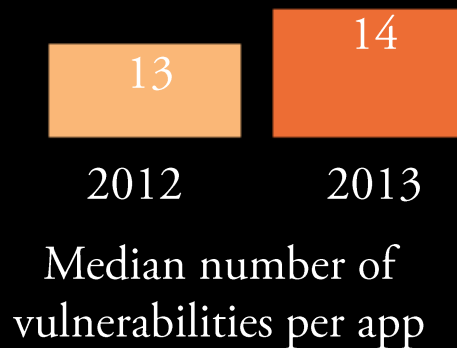
You

What most companies think "security" means

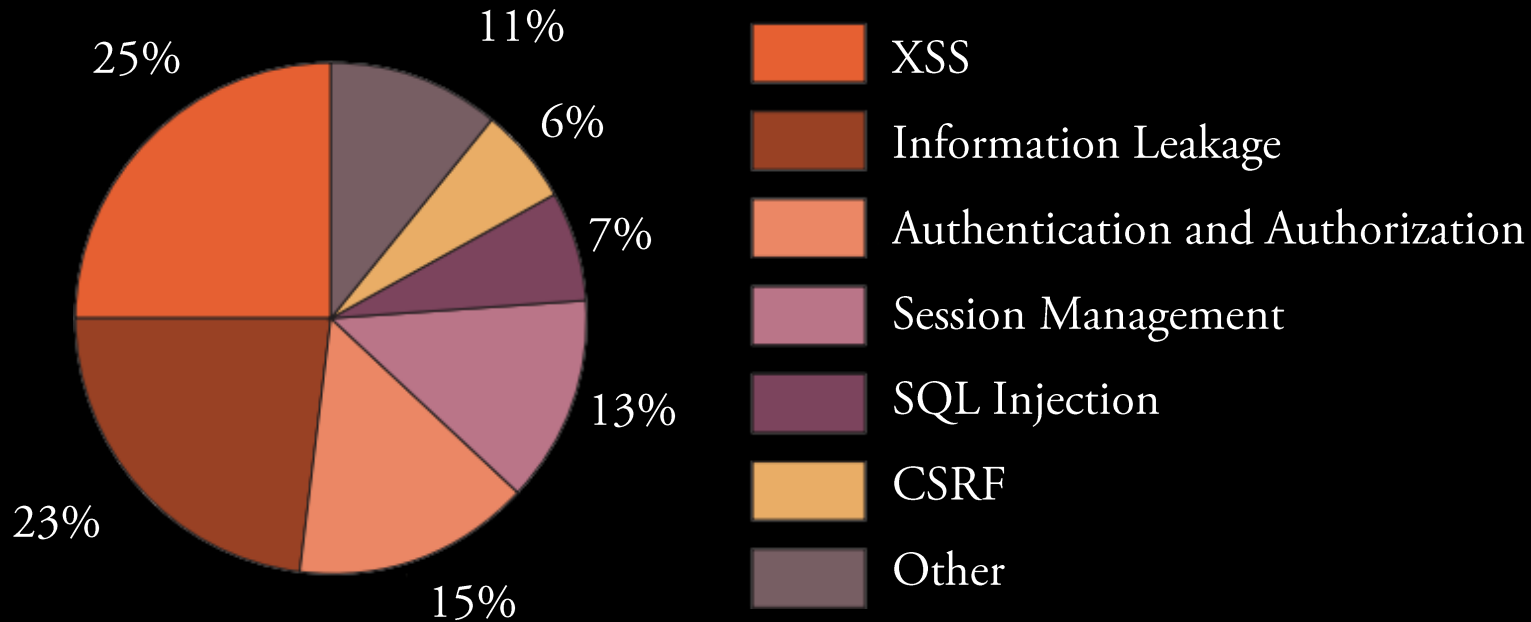
As a user, you expect web apps to be:  
fast, responsive, always available, and secure



Despite your expectations...  
96% of web applications have vulnerabilities\*



\*...at the application level





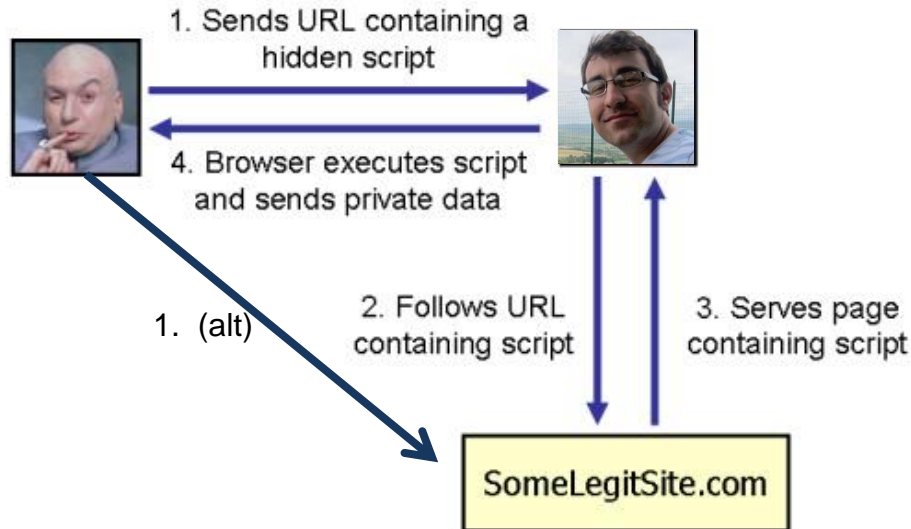
The basic principle behind all **web application attacks**...

...make the web application do something it was  
**never intended** to do.

aka...user input is evil.

## Ex: XSS

Allows attackers to **inject malicious scripts** into web pages and have it executed in another user's browser. Usually to capture some user information.



# Ex: Defending against XSS (serverside)

(The problem children)

HTML Entities	
Character	Encoding
<	&lt; or &#60;
>	&gt; or &#62;
&	&amp; or &#38;
"	&quot; or &#34;
'	&apos; or &#39;
(	&#40;
)	&#41;
#	&#35;
%	&#37;
;	&#59;
+	&#43;
-	&#45;

Filter and **validate all user input** before accepting it.  
**Encode** and **escape** special characters as HTML.

Never trust user input or display raw submissions.

# Ex: Defending against XSS (client-side)

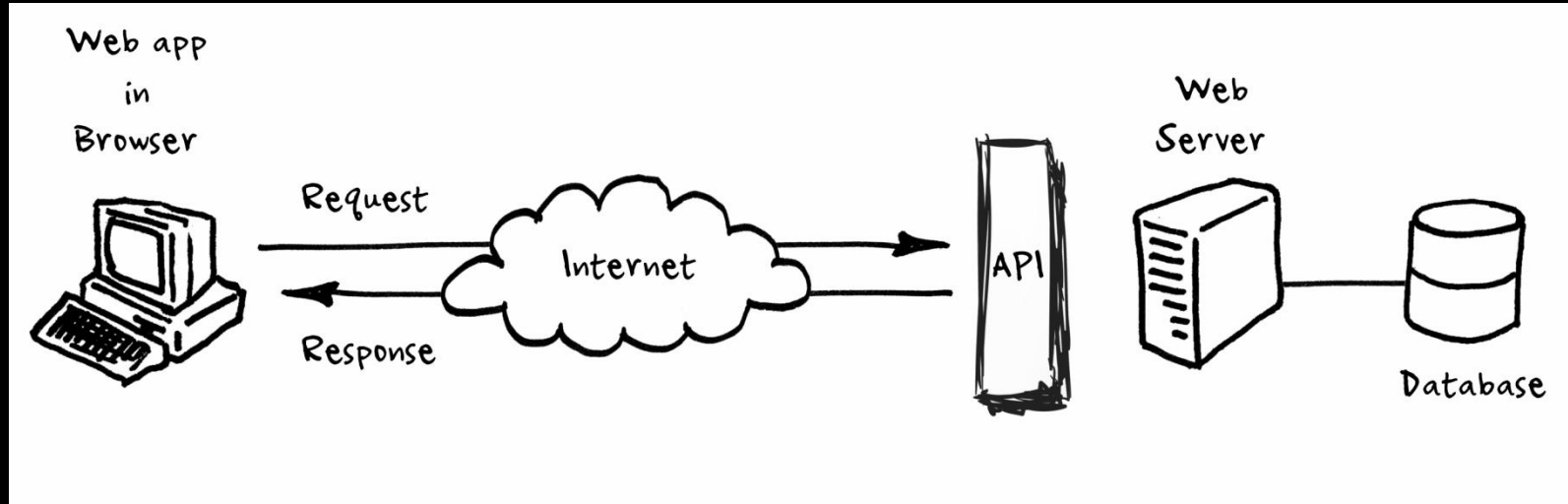
## Use Content-Security-Policy

```
Content-Security-Policy: default-src: 'self'; script-src: 'self' somedomain.com
```

# Ex: Defending against XSS

Use well tested frameworks

Unique opportunities (and security challenges) arise with modern web 2.0 concepts like **REST**, **client-side MVC**, and **mobile apps**.





## REST: REpresentational State Transfer

(GET/POST/PUT/DELETE requests drive your application)

Data is exposed using a REST-ful API

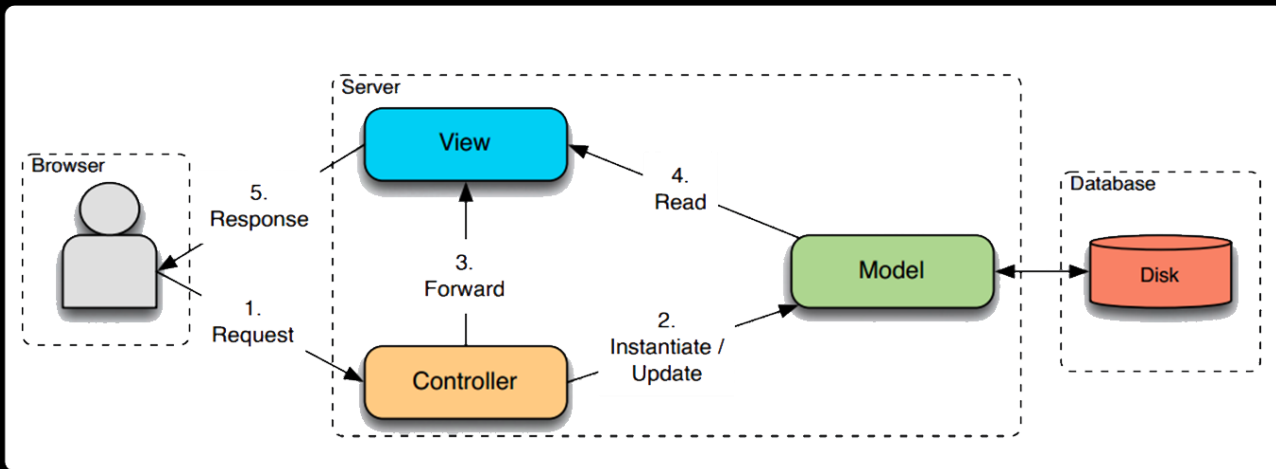
Asynchronous **AJAX callbacks** used to dynamically load data into the application on the client-side.

Network Tab REST DEMO  
<http://jsonplaceholder.typicode.com/>

Client-side Frameworks like `ember.js`, `angular.js`, and `meteor.js` follow this architecture, using REST APIs built (typically) on `express/node.js` or `django`.

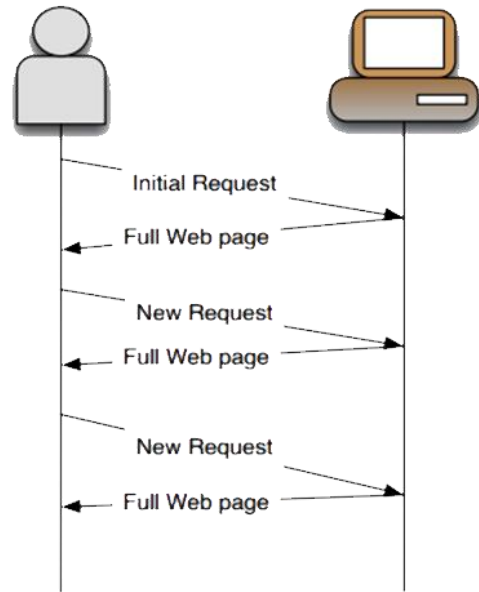
# Why is client-side better?

## Traditional **server-side** app



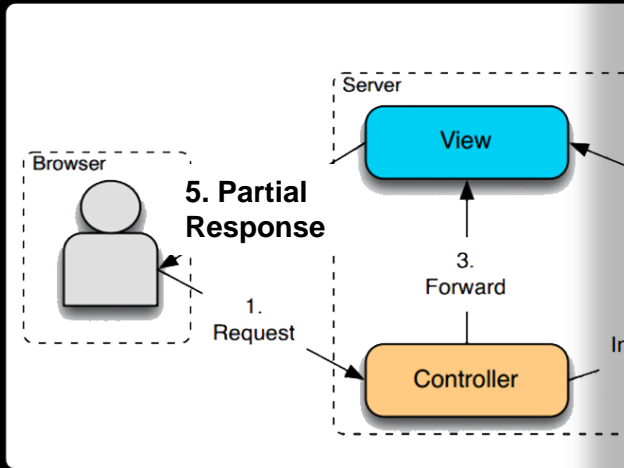
Keeps both the application **state** and each user's state **on the server**  
If the **user requests** data to be updated, a **complete new page** is generated and transferred **over the wire** to the browser

## Traditional Web Page

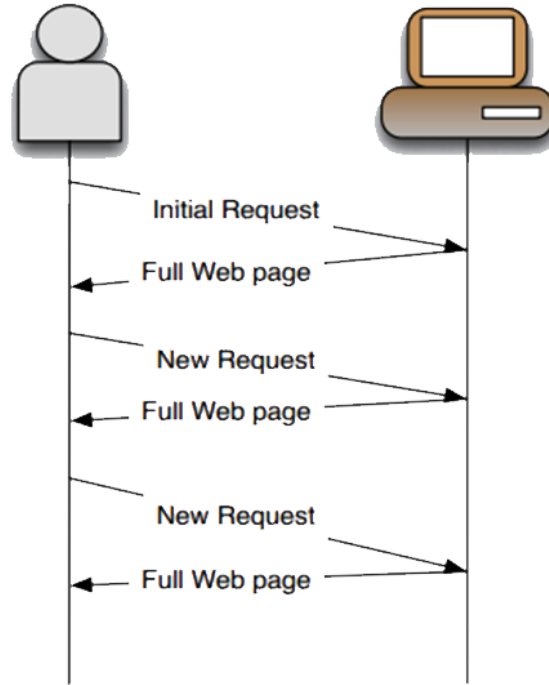


# Why is client-side better

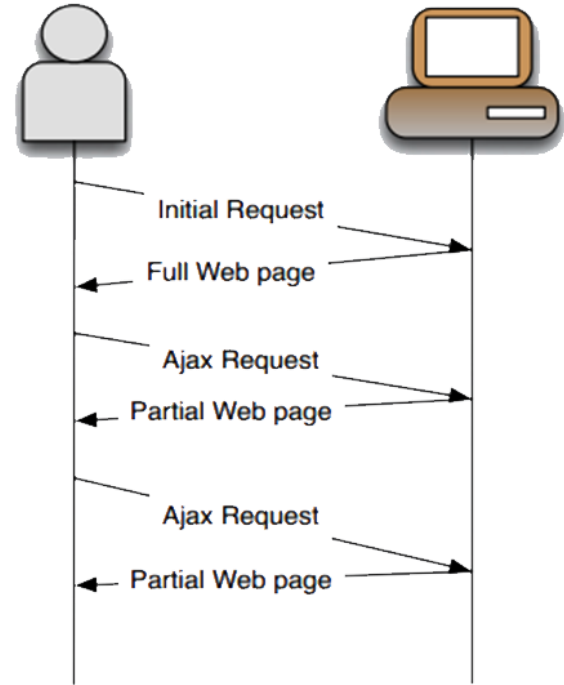
## server-side app



### Traditional Web Page



### The promise of AJAX

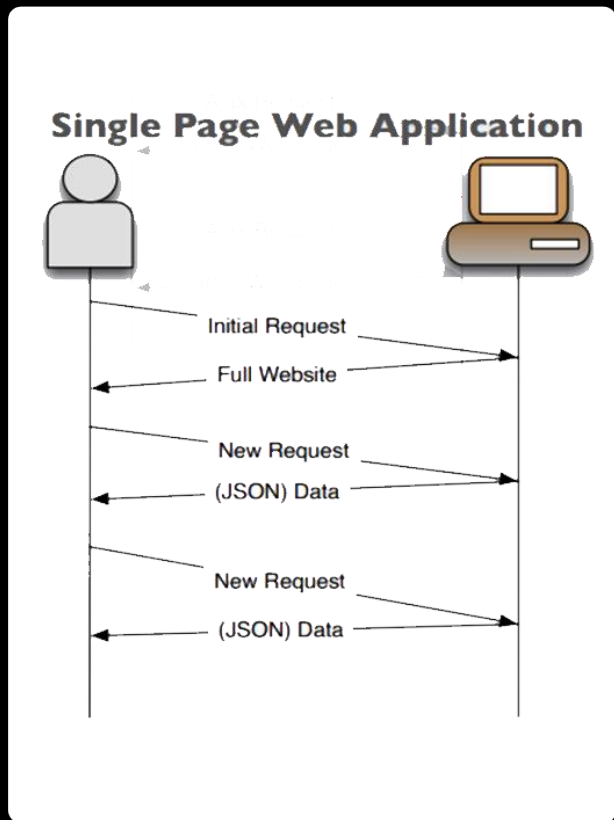


Still **Keeps** both the application **state** and each user's state **on the server**

Still the **same number of page requests and processes** on the server-side, **less overall data transferred** results in less bandwidth consumption.

# Why is client-side better?

client-side app with RESTful backend API



Application and user state is **maintained on the client side**.

One full page request at the start of the session. Then just **data requests**.

**Huge reduction in server-side resources**, since application only invokes API methods when data is needed, not necessarily whenever a new page is viewed.

# Why is client-side better?

**Comparison:** Click on 10 static pages (100KB/ea) and perform 5 dynamic actions on data (10KB) in each page (with 10,000 daily users).

PER DAY

Server-side

$10 * 10,000 = 100,000$  page loads  
 $10 * 5 * 10,000 = 500,000$  loads with data  
 $100,000 * 100\text{KB} + 500,000 * 10\text{KB}$   
 $= 65 \text{ GB}$  bandwidth consumed

Server-side-with-ajax

$10 * 10,000 = 100,000$  page loads  
 $10 * 5 * 10,000 = 500,000$  partial page loads  
 $100,000 * 100\text{KB} + 500,000 * 10\text{KB}$   
 $= 15 \text{ GB}$  bandwidth consumed  
Faster page transitions

Client-side

$1 * 10,000$  page loads  
 $10 * 5 * 10,000 = 500,000$  data api calls  
 $10,000 * 100\text{KB} + 500,000 * 10\text{KB} =$   
 $6 \text{ GB}$  bandwidth consumed  
Instant page transitions



# Why is client-side better?

**Comparison:** Click on 10 static pages (100KB/ea) and perform 5 dynamic actions on data (10KB) in each page (with 10,000 daily users).

The savings adds up...

59 GB / Day  
413 GB / Week  
21535 GB / Year (21.5TB)

Amazon WS Charges about 8¢ per GB

So... over the year that's about \$1722 in savings from pure server-side to client-side app. If you scale up to 100k daily users its \$17,220, 1M daily users \$172,200...etc  
Facebook has 936M daily users  
Hence this kind of change would result in about 159 million dollars in savings yearly for them.

Part2:

Ember intro

In this class, you're going to build a **client-side** app of your own.

Your first app will work with **flickr**

I'll get you started with the basics,  
then you can expand from there.

Later you'll come up with your own idea or work one of the  
**service learning projects** available  
[we will talk more about this]

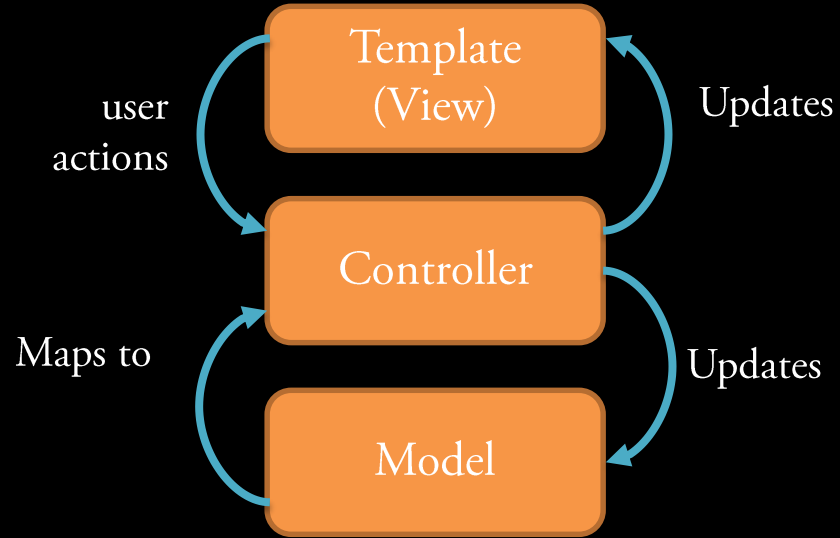
To build your app, you're going to use a bleeding-edge JavaScript framework called `ember.js`

Ember.js



# What is Ember?

- Browser-based MVC framework
- Eliminates spaghetti code
- Provides a standard (good) architecture for building apps
- Makes hard things (bindings) easy to do



Who uses ember?

NETFLIX

YAHOO!

 discourse

 ghost

Linkedin

 Microsoft

TED

GROUPON

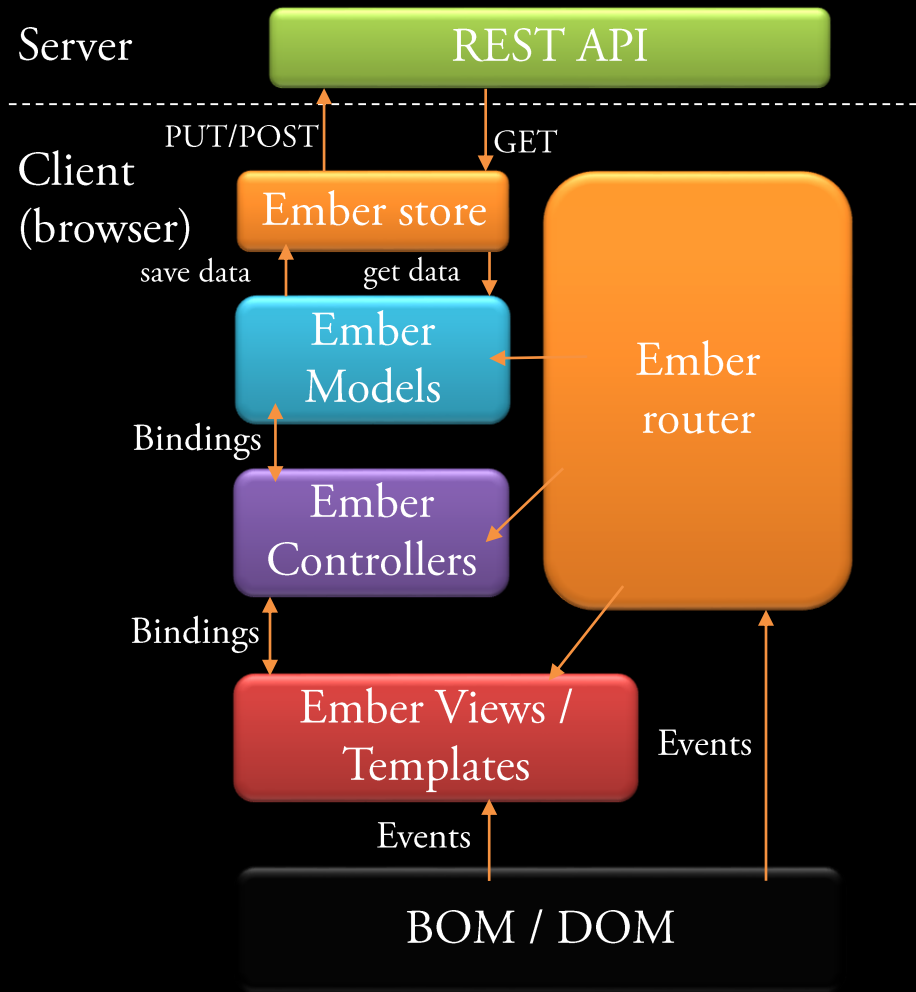
code school

twitch

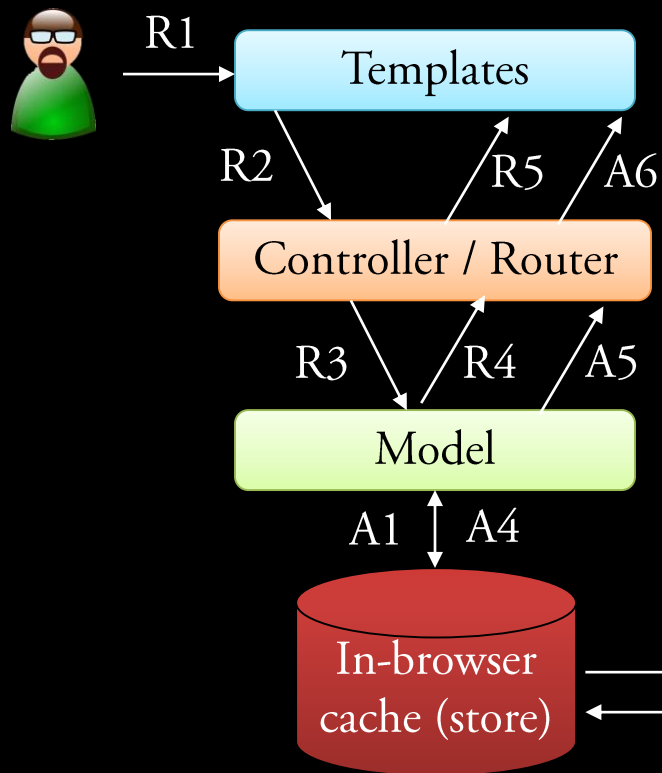
urbanspoon  


## Where ember resides

Ember executes purely on the clientside. It requires 0 server side functionality to work. Serverside functionality is only used for getting or persisting data.



## client-side app with RESTful backend API



R1: User Event

R2: Invoke Controller Action

R3: Update model

R4: Model Mapping

R5: View Render

A1: Fetch from cache

A2: Request Data

A3: Update cache in store

A4: Update Model

A5: Update bound instances

A6: View re-render (if model is updated)

## Handlebars Templates

Handlebars templates are the user interface in ember. They generate HTML when rendered and maintain bindings to controller/model variables.

- Update automatically whenever bound variables are changed in the controller/model
- Pass user events to controller/router to be handled

## Controller

The controller is the brains of the operation.

- Handles user actions that don't result in a url change.
- Manipulates model data
- Can make AJAX requests to API [we will talk extensively in this class about AJAX]
- Used to control elements rendered in a template/view

## Model

Ember models are just JavaScript objects to represent data on the client side

- They contain various attributes that define your data type
- They can be loaded into and used by your app

Part 3: Get Started  
see (very detailed) development guide  
(goto: <https://secwebdev.mlhale.com/>)

ASK QUESTIONS!





# Questions?

**Matt Hale, PhD**

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Interdisciplinary Informatics

[mlhale@unomaha.edu](mailto:mlhale@unomaha.edu)

Twitter: [@mlhale\\_](https://twitter.com/mlhale)

