

Introduction to Full Stack Web Development

Objective

- Full Stack Web Development Concept
- The MERN Stack
- Web Developer Responsibilities
- Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development
- Crucial Knowledge for Front-End Development

Welcome to Level 2!

❖ Here is an **overview** of what will be covered in this level:

1: Introduction to Full Stack Web Development	2: Advanced JavaScript	3: ReactJS I (Introduction to ReactJS)	4: ReactJS II (Components)
5: ReactJS III (Events)	6: ReactJS IV (States)	7: Deploy your React app	8: React V (Fetching data)
9: React VI (Testing a React App)	10: Introduction to Node.js	11: Express Web Framework I	12: Express Web Framework II
13: Full stack with React and Express	14: Testing and Refactoring Express	15: Capstone Project: ReactJS	

Advanced features of JavaScript

React

Node.js and Express

Capstone Projects

Full Stack Web Development

- ❖ A **web developer** should create custom code for a client's unique needs
- ❖ Web development has **3 parts**:
 1. **Client-side scripting**: executes in a web browser and determines what your customers or clients will see on your website
 2. **Server-side scripting**: executes on a web server and powers the behind-the-scenes mechanics of how a website works
 3. **Database technology**: stores and manages all data needed for your web application (this will come in level 3)

The MERN Stack

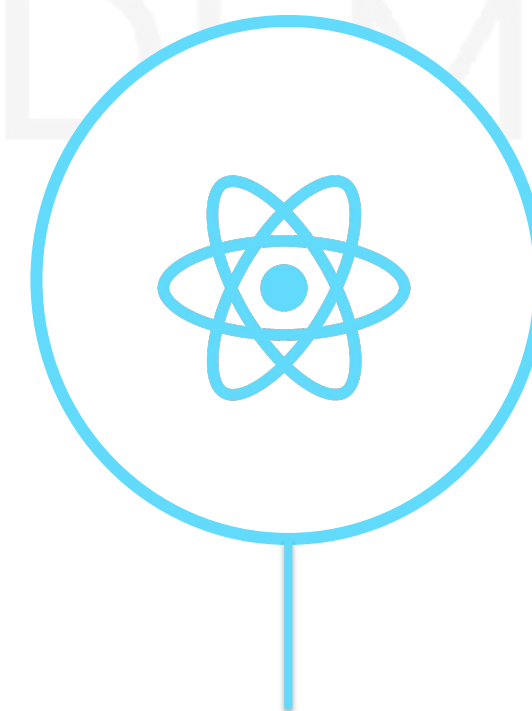
- ❖ **Stack:** a collection of technologies that are used together to create a web app (e.g. LAMP stack, MEAN stack & MERN stack)
- ❖ JavaScript is used for **full stack web development** using a combination of **frameworks** and **libraries**
- ❖ The most popular approach is the **MERN** stack



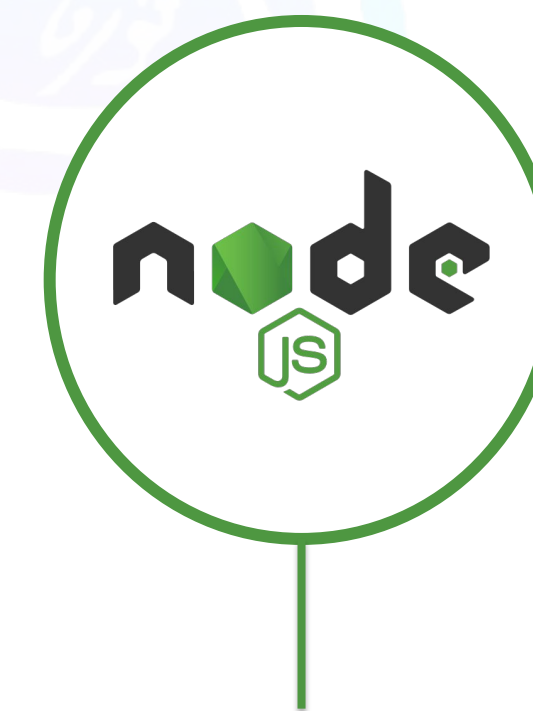
MongoDB



Express JS



React JS



Node JS

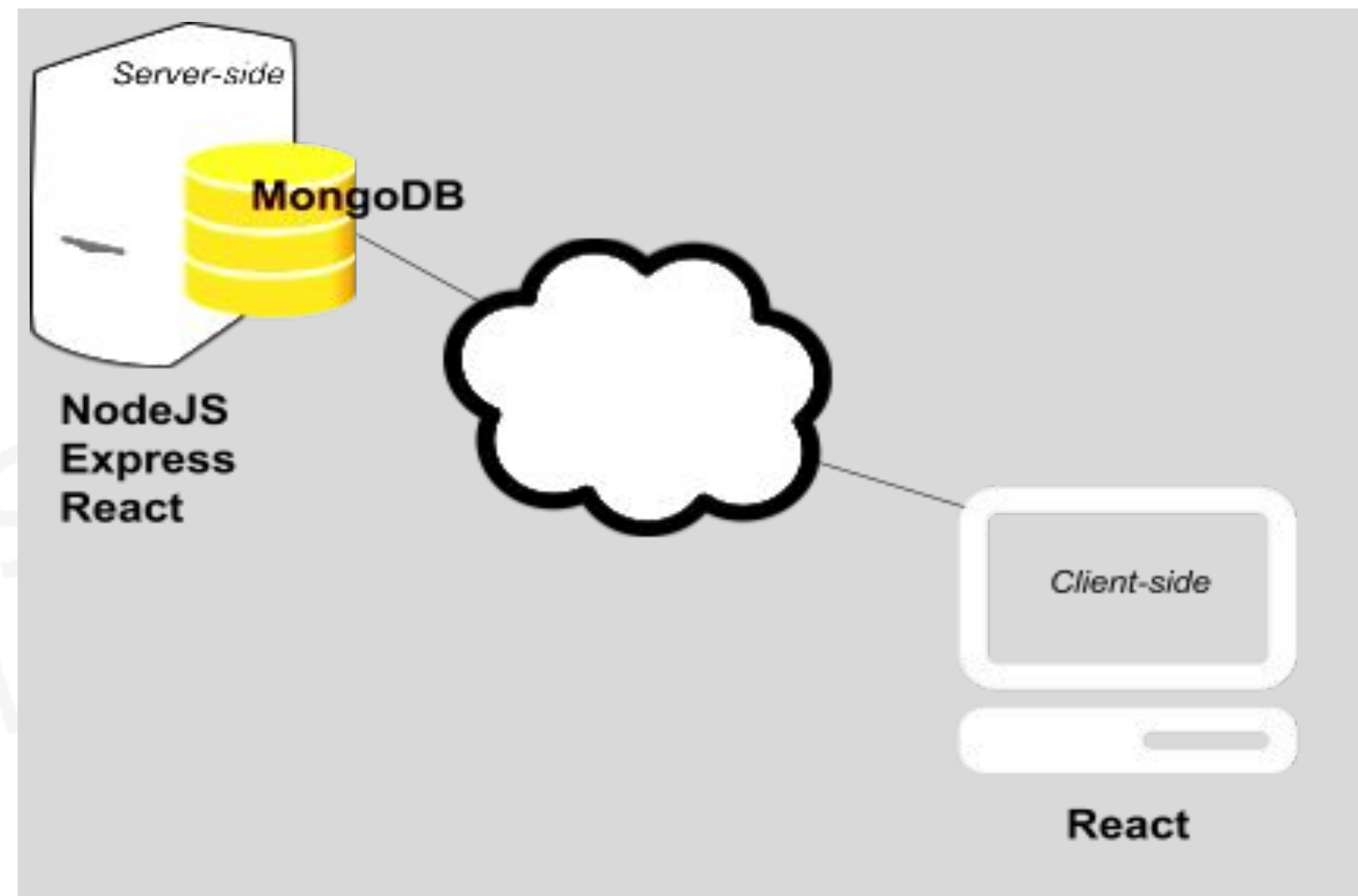
The MERN Stack

React: library created by Facebook to create views that are rendered in HTML. It is isomorphic.

Node.js: allows JavaScript to be used on web servers, not just a browser.

MongoDB: non-relational database that stores data as documents or objects. It uses a query language based on JSON.

Express: unopinionated web framework for development using Node.js.



Web Developer Responsibilities

Front-End Developer:

- ❖ Prioritising **user experience**
- ❖ Bringing a designer's **concept to life**
- ❖ **Production** and **maintenance** of websites and web app user interfaces
- ❖ Creating tools that **enhance user interaction** in any browser
- ❖ Implementing responsive design for **mobile sites**
- ❖ Using a project management tool like GitHub to **maintain software workflow management**
- ❖ Looking at **search engine optimisation** (SEO) best practices
- ❖ Testing the site for **usability** and **fixing bugs** during development

Web Developer Responsibilities

Back-End Developer:

- ❖ Database creation, integration and management
- ❖ Using back-end frameworks (e.g.Express.js) to build server-side software
- ❖ Web server technologies
- ❖ Cloud computing integration
- ❖ Server-side programming languages
- ❖ API integration
- ❖ Content management system development, deployment and maintenance
- ❖ Security settings and hack prevents
- ❖ Reporting, generating analytics and statistics
- ❖ Backup and restore technologies for a website's

Web Developer Responsibilities

Full Stack Developer:

- ❖ Server, Network and Hosting Environments
- ❖ Data modelling
- ❖ Business Logic
- ❖ User Interface
- ❖ User experience
- ❖ Customer and business needs

Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Web apps are usually backed up by 2 types of servers:

- ❖ Web servers
- ❖ Application servers

Web servers: computer with an internet connection and software to make web pages available to clients.

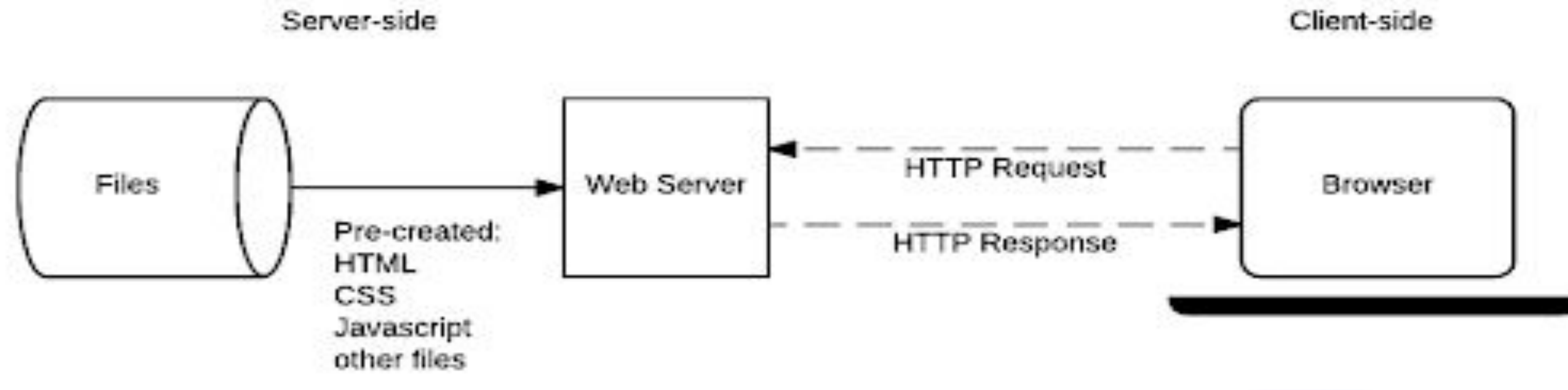
- ❖ Stores resources for web apps, e.g. images, HTML, CSS and JS files
- ❖ Must have software that allows it to act as an HTTP server

Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Application servers: contain the business logic needed to build resources to be passed back to the browser.

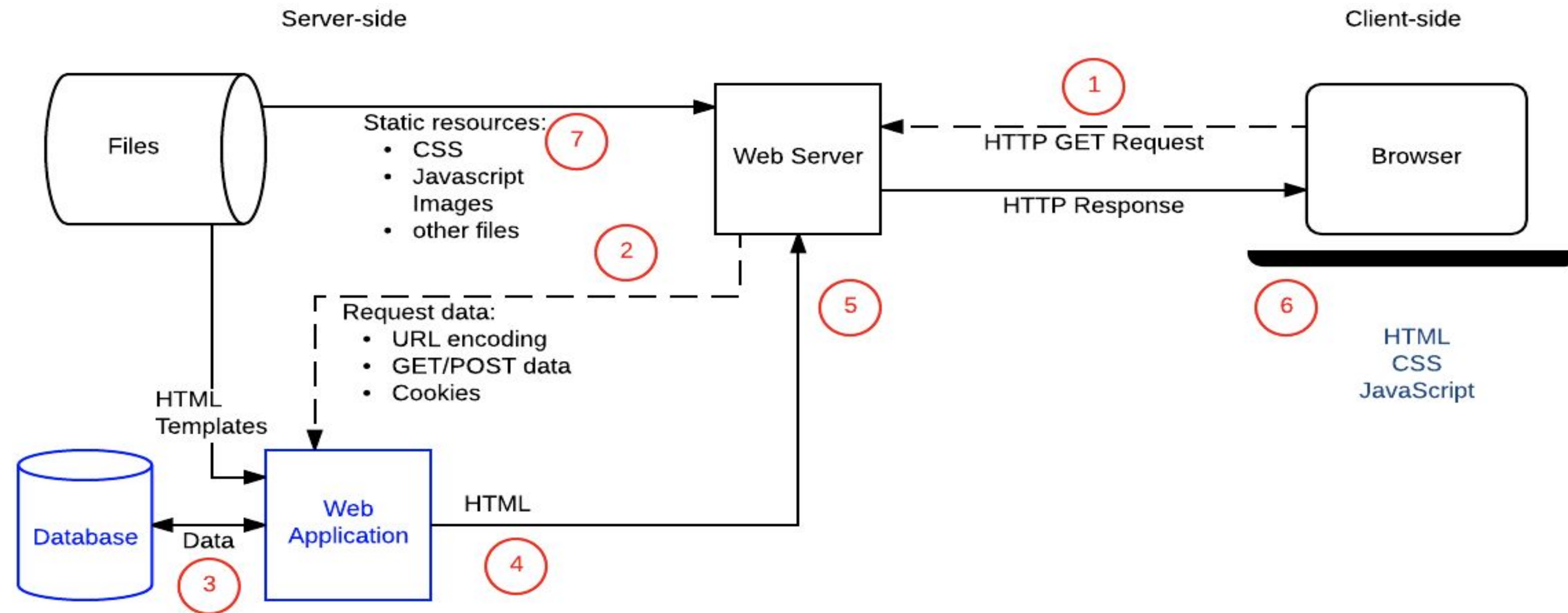
- ❖ Usually have a web framework running on it
- ❖ Framework is able to match requests and dynamically generate responses.

Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development



Web Server Architecture for a Static Site (developer.mozilla.org)

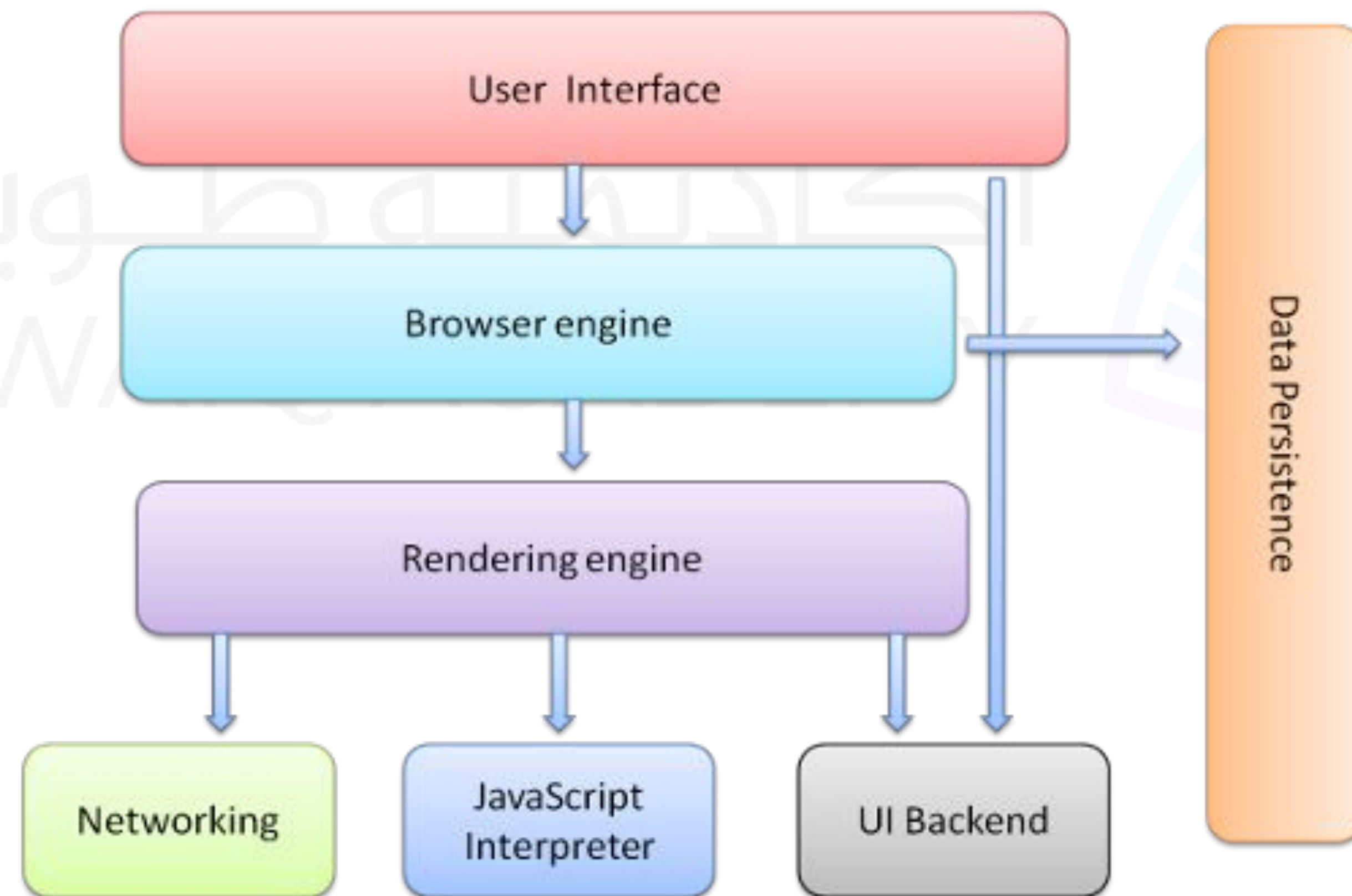
Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development



Web Server Architecture for a Dynamic Site (developer.mozilla.org)

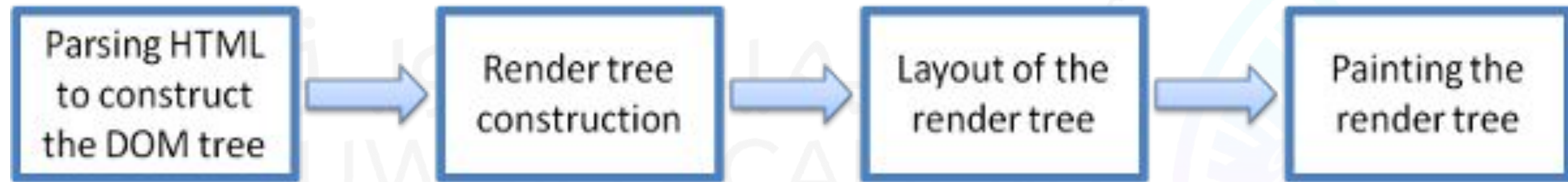
Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

How does a browser actually work?



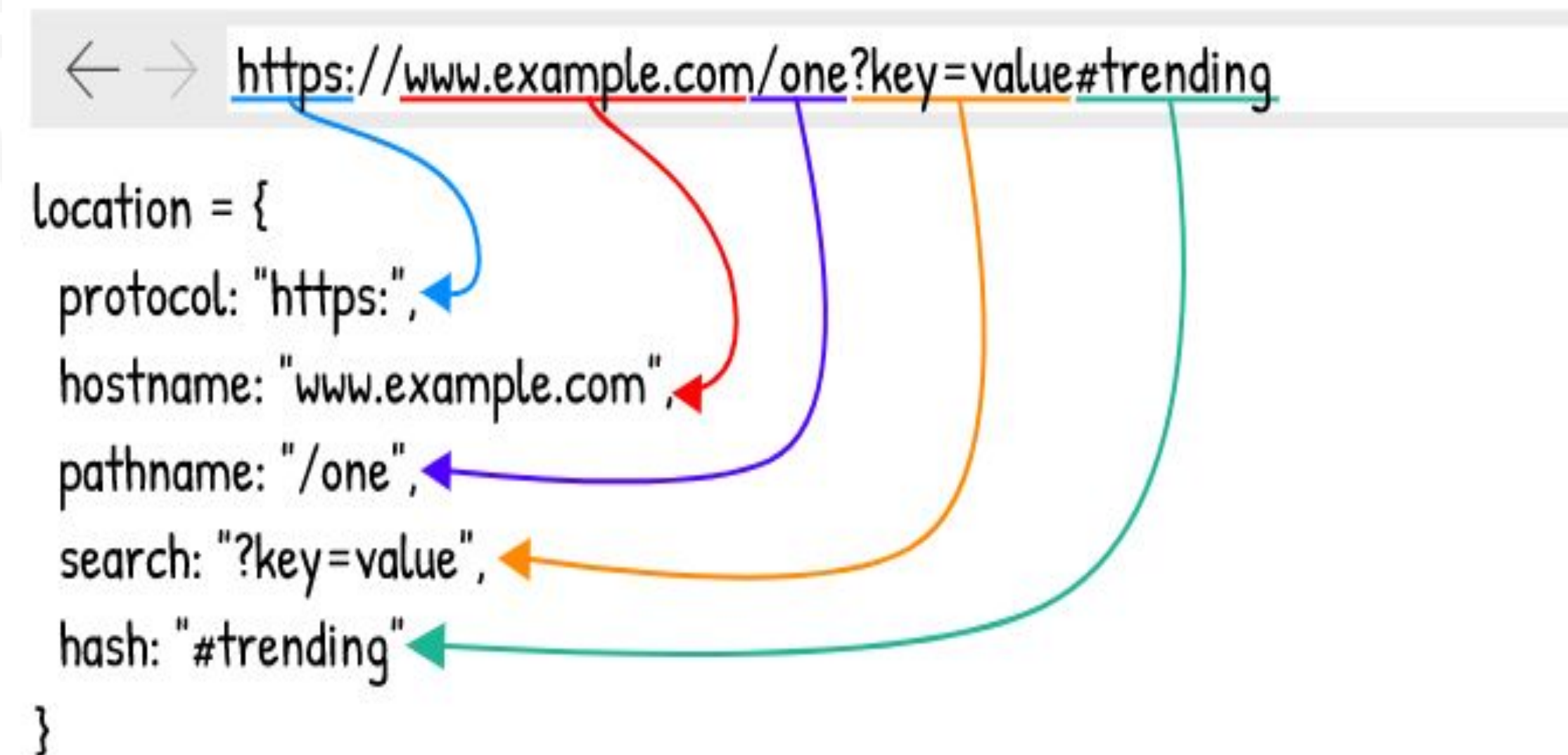
Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Rendering engine does the following to render the page:



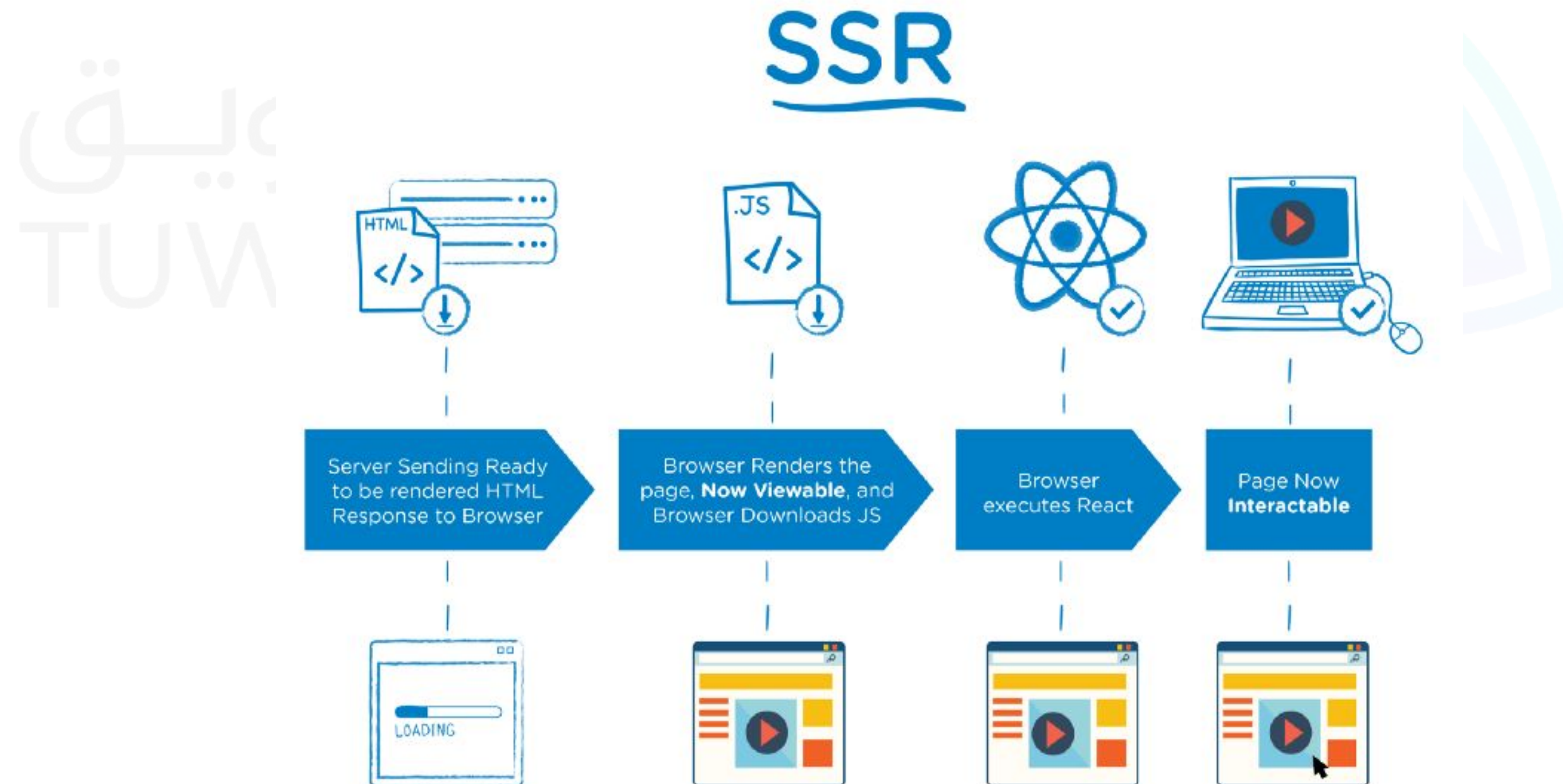
Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Single Page Application (SPA): “an application that loads a single HTML page and all the necessary assets (such as JavaScript and CSS) required for the application to run. Any interactions with the page or subsequent pages do not require a round trip to the server which means the page is not reloaded.” (by React).



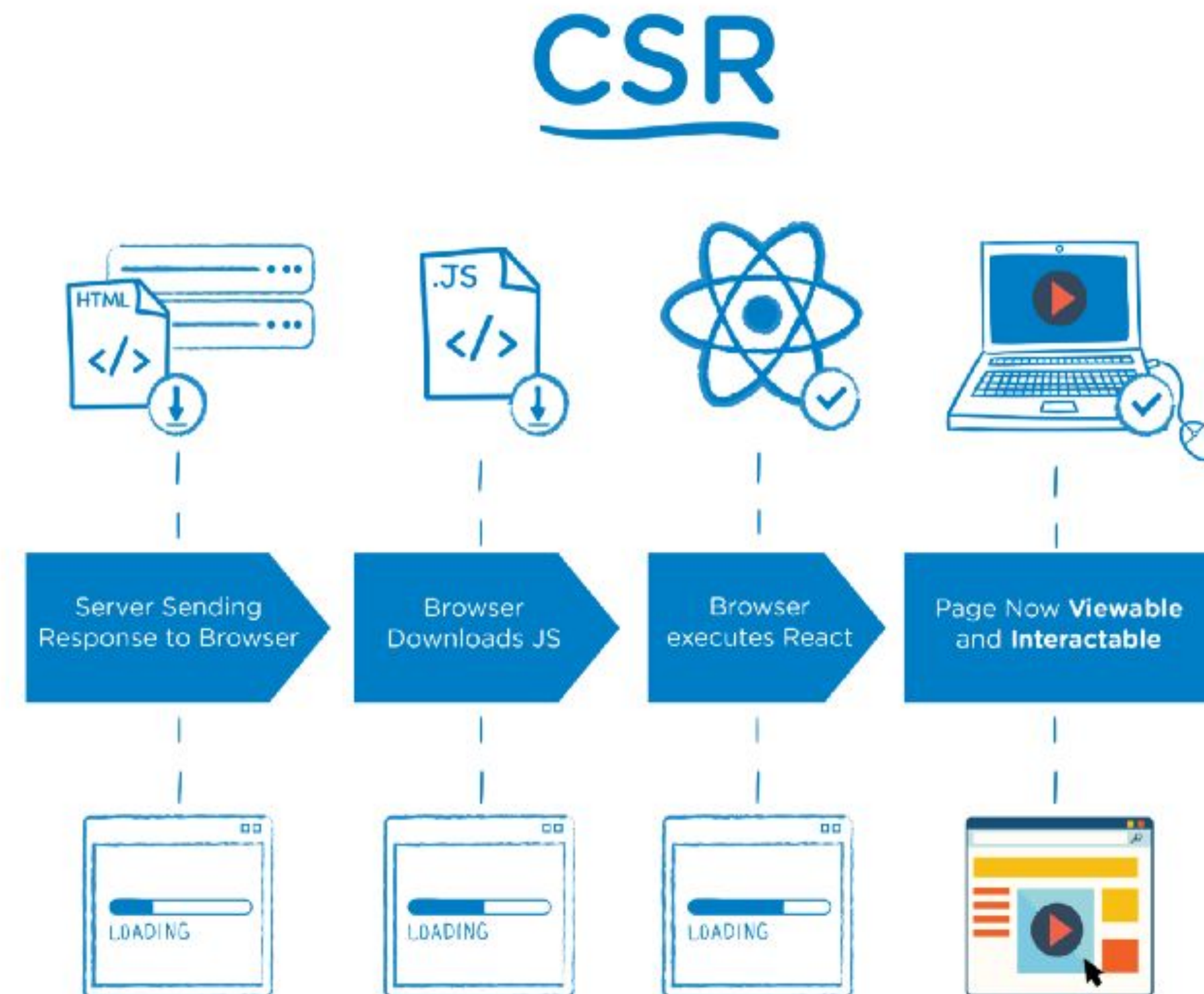
Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Server Side Rendering (SSR): taking a JavaScript framework (like React) and rendering it to static HTML and CSS on the server.



Crucial Knowledge for Back-End Development

Client Side Rendering (CSR): your browser will start rendering the HTML from your server without having to wait for all the JavaScript to be downloaded and executed.



When to use server-side rendering

- ❖ An application has very **simple** UI with fewer pages/features
- ❖ An application has **less dynamic** data
- ❖ **Read** preference of the site is more than write
- ❖ The focus is not on rich site and has **few users**

When to use client-side rendering

- ❖ An application has very **complex** UI with many pages/features
- ❖ An application has **large** and dynamic data
- ❖ **Write** preference of the site is more than reading
- ❖ The focus is on rich site and a **huge number of users**



Resources

- [https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork/#The browser high level structure](https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork/#The%20browser%20high%20level%20structure)
- [https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork/#The main flow](https://www.html5rocks.com/en/tutorials/internals/howbrowserswork/#The%20main%20flow)
- <https://blog.pshrmn.com/entry/how-single-page-applications-work/>
- <https://medium.com/walmartlabs/the-benefits-of-server-side-rendering-over-client-side-rendering-5d07ff2cefe8>

Summary

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