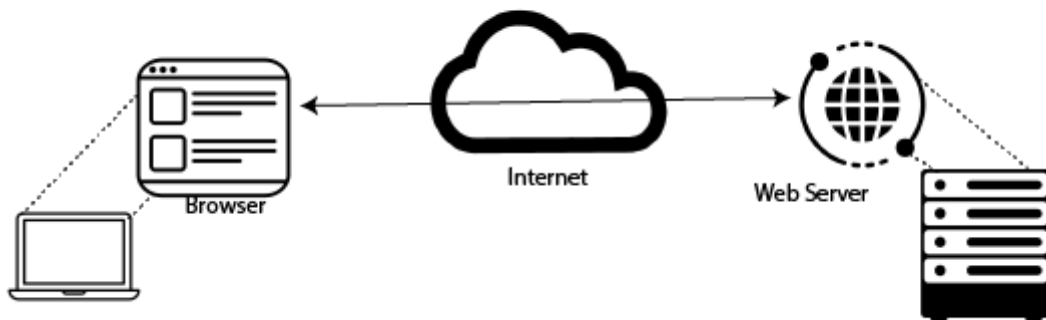# Web Servers

Web servers are the most fundamental building block of the Web. When you visit a web site in a browser, it sends requests over the Internet to a web server, receives a response, and then shows the page in your browser.

It's important to know that the web server is just a program running on a machine somewhere on the Internet. In this class, you will setup a web server on your Digital Ocean VPS.

To access the web server on a remote machine, you need to know two important pieces of information:

- the host name or IP address of the machine
- the port number that the web server is using

For example, when you visit Amazon, you might use the following address or URL:

```
https://amazon.com    (https://amazon.com)
```

Your web browser knows how to translate the host name amazon.com into the IP address of the machine where it can contact the web server. It also automatically uses port 80 for HTTP and port 443 for HTTPS.

You can also put an IP address directly into your browser. For example, once you setup your web server on your Digital Ocean VPS, you can get to it using:

```
http://45.55.164.105
```

In this case, since you are using HTTP the browser will automatically try to connect to your VPS at this address using port 80.

Note, you will need to substitute the IP address of your own VPS in this example.

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