💻 Activity D8: Understanding HTTP

Due Jan 18 by 11:59pm   **Points** 5   **Submitting** a file upload

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In this activity you will learn a little bit about how HTTP works

Web Developer Tools

Open a new tab in your browser and then open the development tools:

- In Chrome, select "More Tools", then "Developer Tools"
- In Firefox, select "Web Developer", then "Toggle Tools"
- In Safari, first use "Preferences" and "Advanced" to turn on "Show Develop menu in menu bar", then under "Develop" select "Show Web Inspector"

Once you have the tools open, click on the Network Tab.

Browser HTTP Requests

Keeping the developer tools and the network tab open, browse to your own website. For example, here is what I saw when I visited mine:

developer tools

This shows that my web browser sent three requests to my web server. All are HTTP GET requests and all are for the same host (or domain) called chiamo.org.

The first request is for "/", and remember that we configured the web server to look for "index.html" in /var/www/html. So that is the file that is returned. It is an HTML document, and since the request was successful the status code is 200. This is the code HTTP returns for a successful request.

The second request is for "black-sand-beach.jpg" because my "index.html" references this image. This GET request is also successful and returns 200.

The third request is for "favicon.ico". This is a request the web browser automatically makes to fetch the icon that is shown on the left part of the browser tab. Since I don't have one stored in /var/www/html, the server returns a 404 error code, meaning Not Found.

On the right hand portion of the Network tab you can see a chart indicating how long it took to download each resource and how long in total it took for the whole web page to be downloaded.

Submission

Turn in two screenshots, one showing the network tools when browsing your own website and one showing the network tools when browsing byu.edu. See if you can identify why the browser makes so many requests for the byu.edu website. Discuss any you don't understand on Piazza.

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