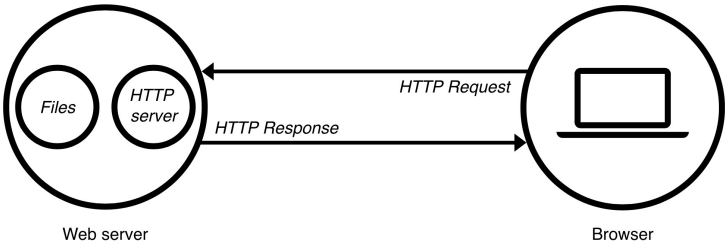
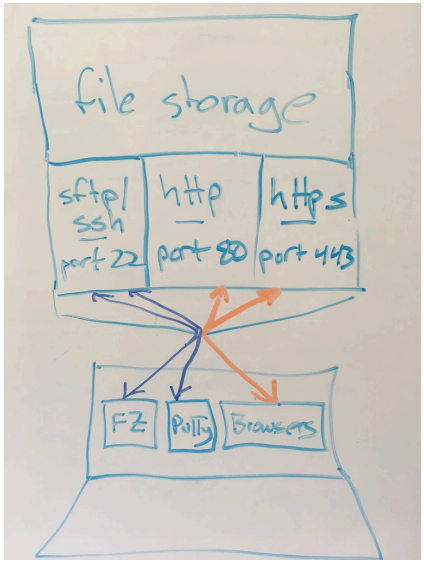
Web Server Basics



How Do Web Servers Work?



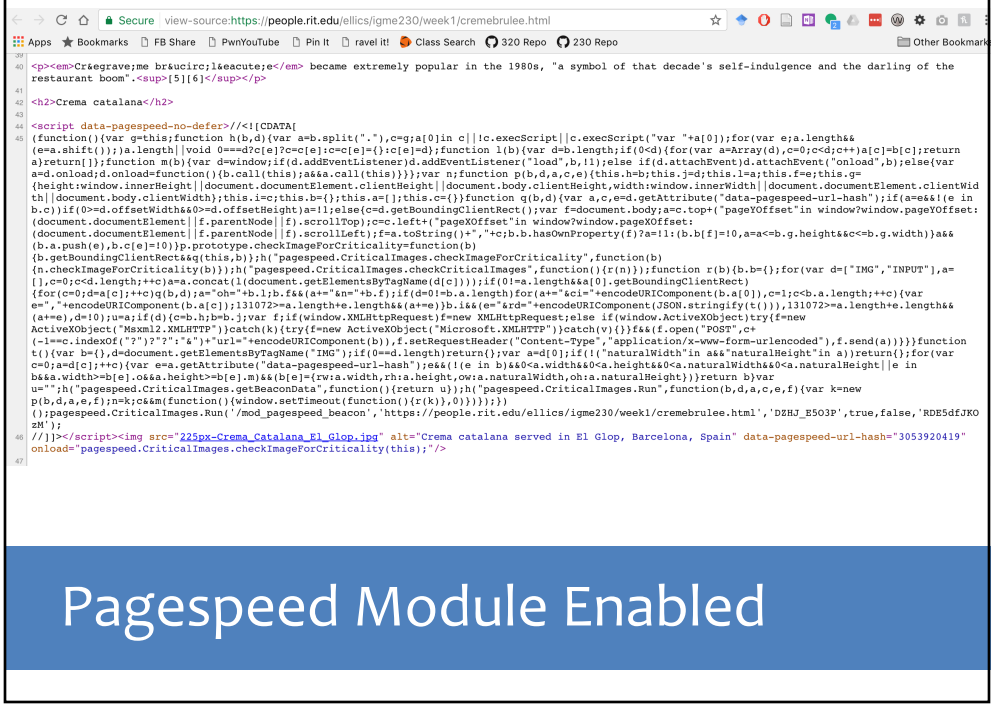
Simple Server Architecture

- HTTP server receives request from client
- Directory permission check (returns 403 if not accessible)
- .htaccess check (returns 403 if present but unreadable)
- Server checks for file (returns 404 if not found, 403 if permissions wrong)
- File extension check against .htaccess and httpd.conf
- Process file based on extension
- Return file and headers to client

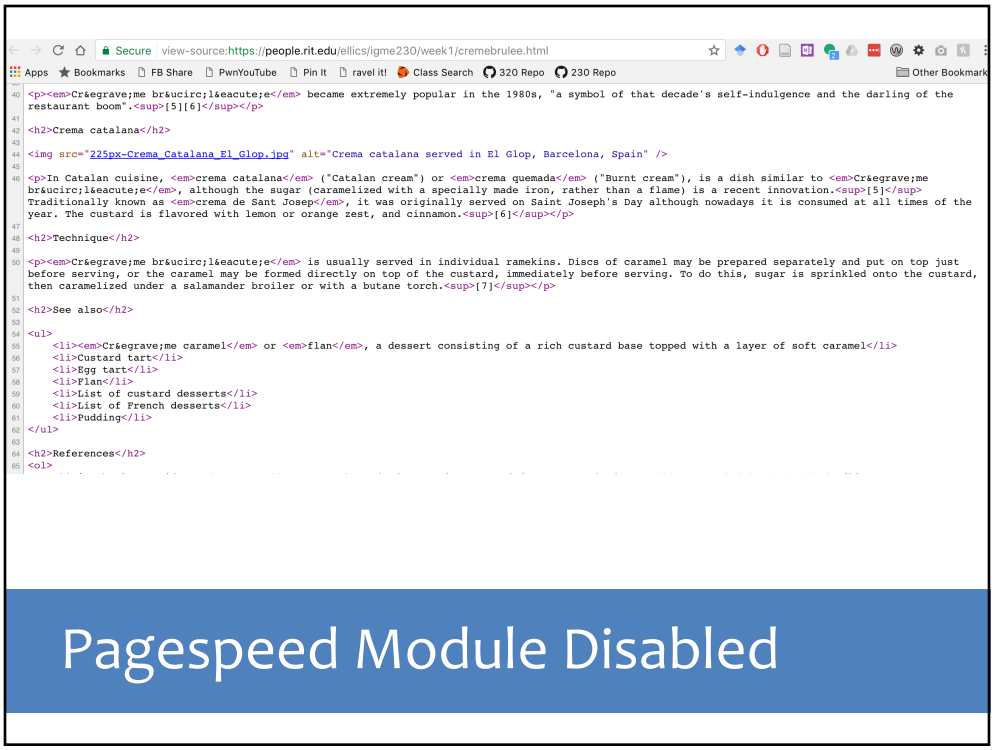
Simplified http Request Process

```
# Turn off RIT Pagespeed Module
ModPagespeed Off

# Add custom 404 error page
ErrorDocument 404 /ellics/custom404.html

# Change default directory page
DirectoryIndex cremebrulee2.html

# Redirect from old page/directory (relative path from server root) to new page (absolute URL)
Redirect /olddirectory/oldfile.html http://yoursite.com/newdirectory/newfile.html
```

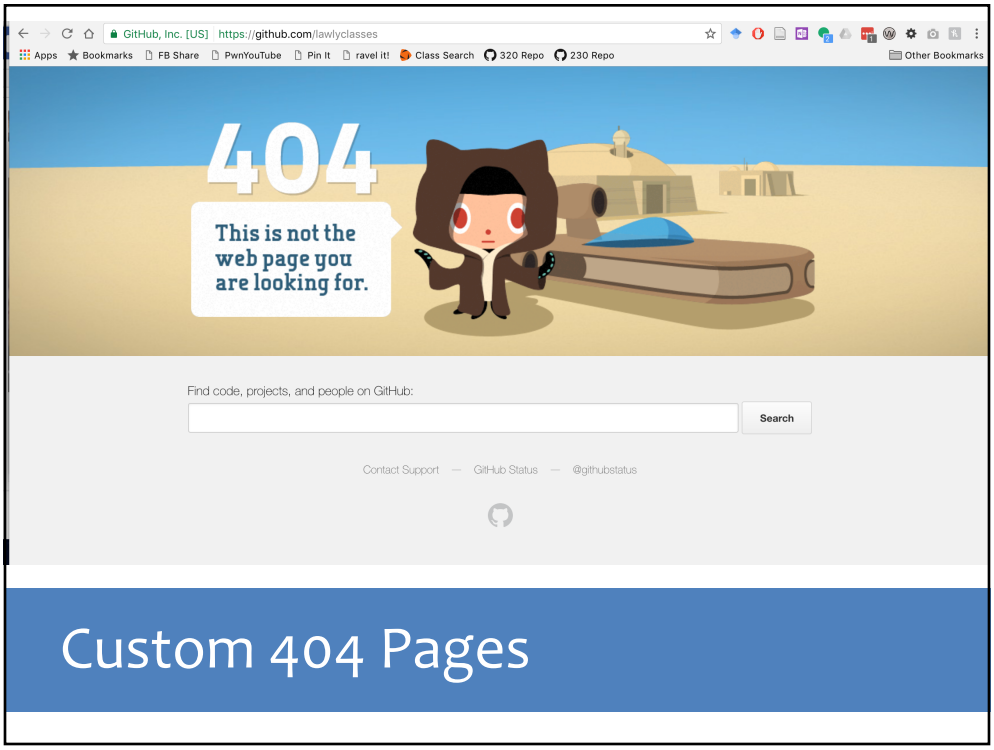
.htaccess File



Pagespeed Module Enabled



Pagespeed Module Disabled



Custom 404 Pages