The Server-side and The Client-side

In this lesson, we'll introduce the server-side and the client-side and what languages each uses.

Introduction

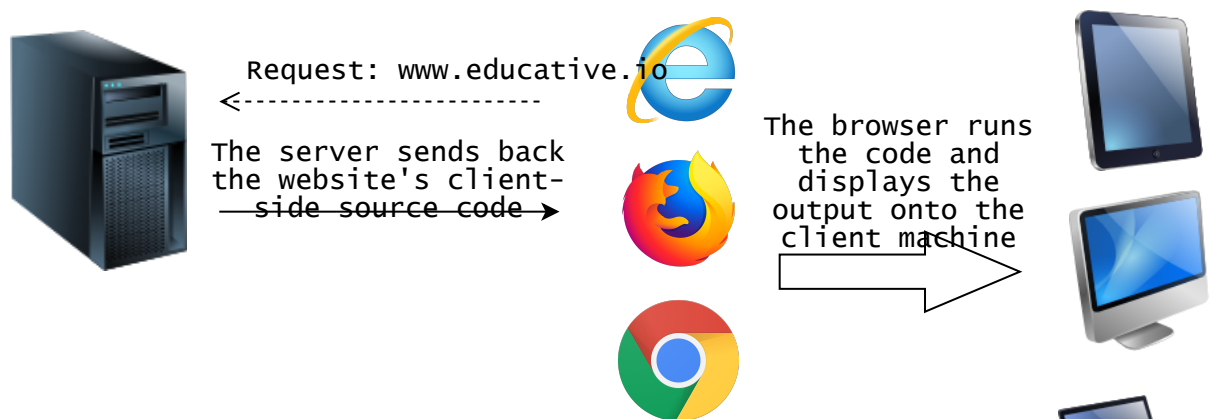So far, we've had a high-level overview of how the Internet works, what the web is, how databases work, and what web-servers are. Let's now get into the basics of coding a website.

Client-side

The source code of a website can be broken down into two parts: client-side and server-side. The code on the 'client' side runs on the client computer's browser and handles what the website *looks* like, how it requests data from the server, and how it interacts with temporary and local storage on the client machine. This includes but is not limited to selecting and styling user interface components, creating layouts, navigation, form validation, and cache handling. It's okay if you don't understand what these mean, we'll define them in later lessons! Client-side languages include **HTML**, **CSS**, and **JavaScript**.

Server-side

Server-side programming is used to deliver information that is queried from websites to clients.

Companies like Amazon use server-side programming to construct search results for products and make targeted product suggestions based on client preferences and previous buying habits. Banks use server-side programming to store account information and restrict access from unauthorized accounts. Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, use server-side programming to highlight, share, and control access to content that is relevant to each user. Server-side programming includes but is not limited to,

1. Delivering and storing information efficiently
2. Providing a custom experience for each user
3. Controlling access to content
4. Storing session/state information
5. Notifying and communicating
6. Analyzing data

Again, it is alright if you don't understand any of this. We'll explain all of this in detail in the coming lessons! Server-side languages include **JavaScript**, **Python**, **PHP**, **Ruby**, and **C#**.

In the next lesson, we'll study the basics of HTML.