Web Applications

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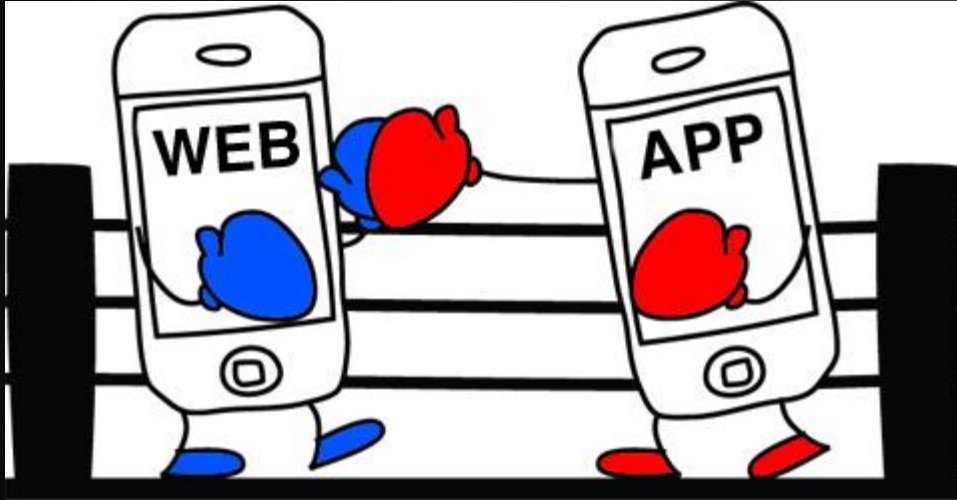# What is a web application?

Wikipedia says:

A **web application** or **web app** is any **application** software that runs in a **web** browser and is created in a browser-supported programming language (javascript, html, css, …)

Its pretty much
any website
that does
ANYTHING

EVEN JUST LOOK NICE

But sometimes times not

Small In Size

Easier to update

Can be made platform independent

....mostly

...usually

Origins

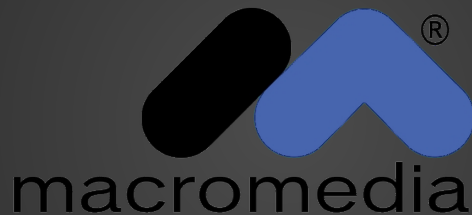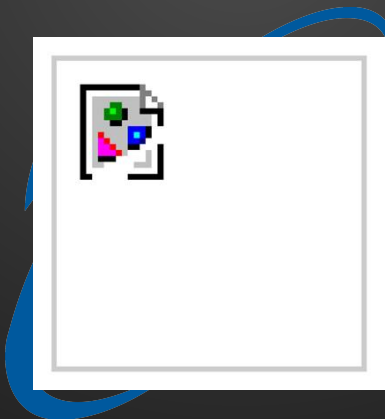

Thick Client

Troubling updates

Static documents

Client-side logic

Javascript
1995

Flash
1996

XMLHttpRequest
1999

Web Layers
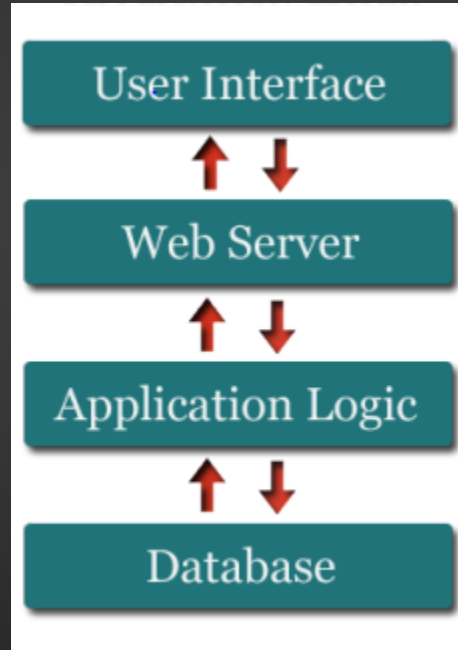
User Interface
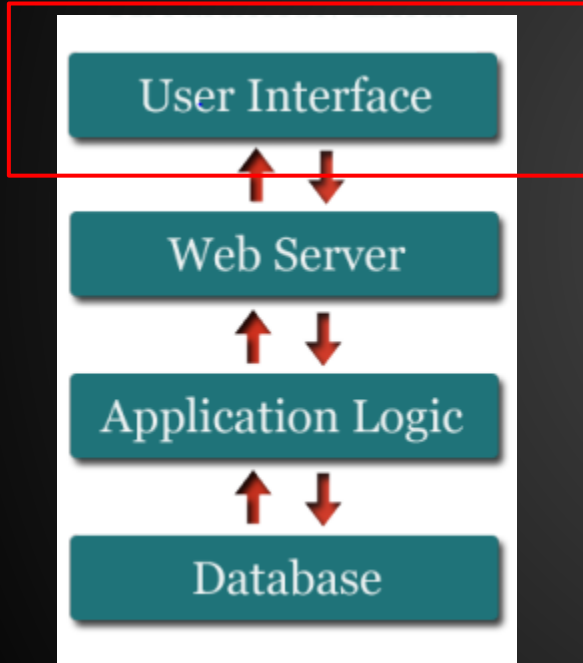
- Level at which user interacts with the web application.
- HTML, CSS, Javascript/jQuery, AJAX, Json

Web Server
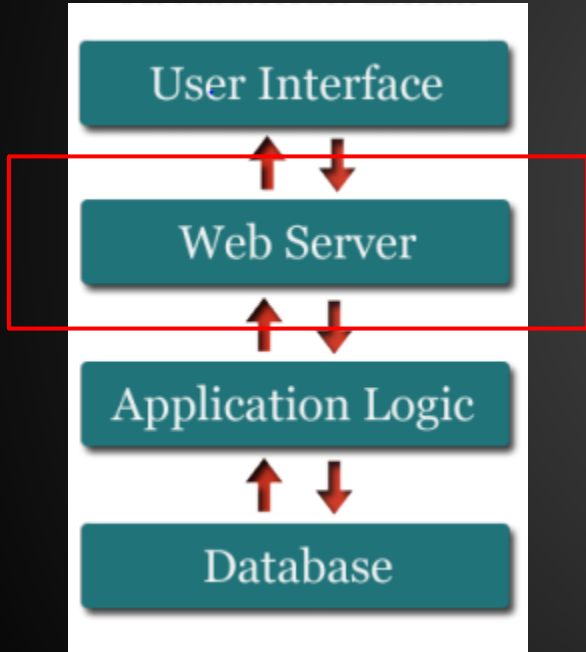
- Primary function is to store, process and deliver web pages to client.
- Apache HTTP Server, Apache Tomcat, Microsoft IIS

Application Logic
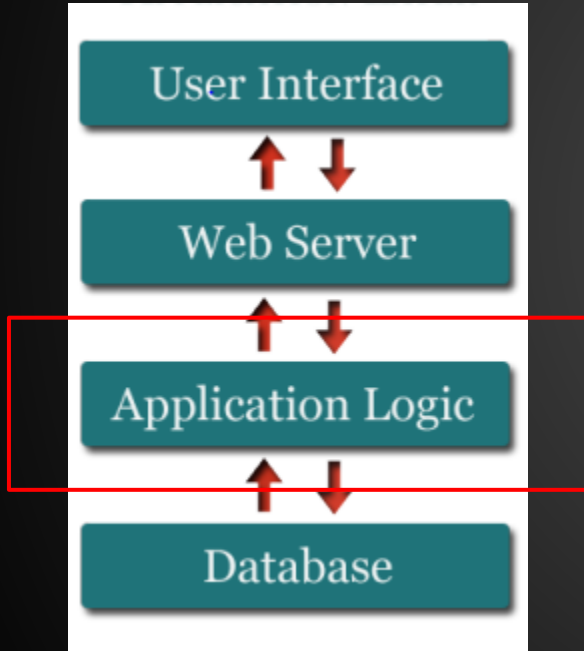
- Coordinates the application, processes the commands and the data entered by the user. Also takes information from database to send to user.
- Could be written in Java, C#, PHP, Javascript, Coldfusion.

Database
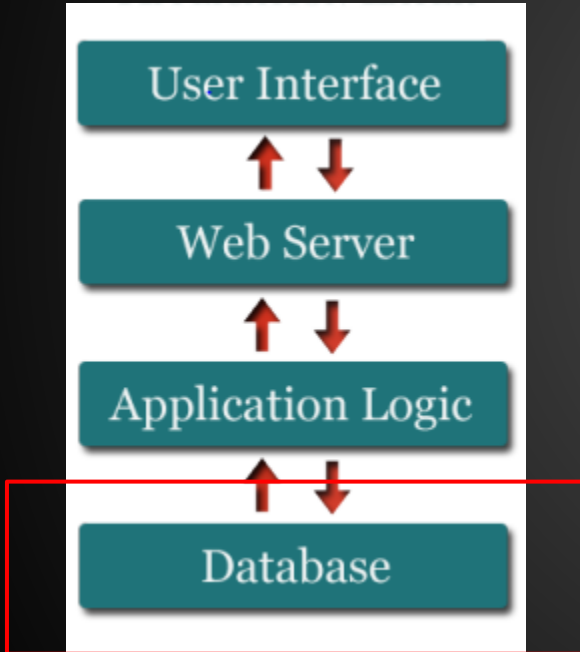
- Layer where persistent information is stored in a database.
- SQL Server, mySQL, Oracle, MongoDB (NoSQL).

Why use Agile?

- You are able to make sure that everything looks the way that you want it.
- You get a working page as soon as possible.
- Able to get quick feedback on the website, and are able to make changes easily.
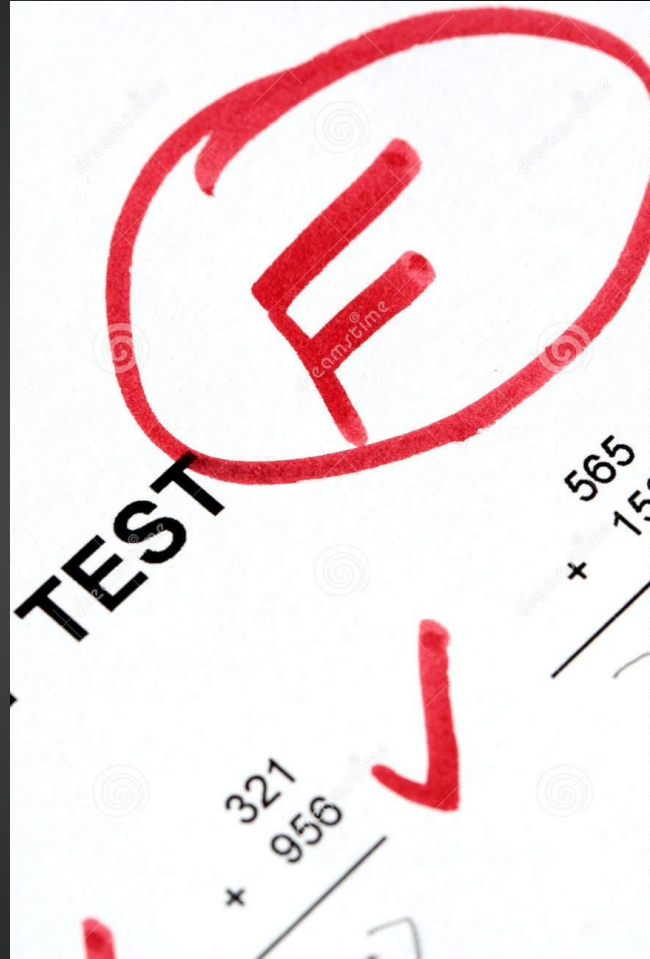
Extreme Programming

- Allows for more frequent releases
- More user input, which leads to better releases

Test Driven Development

- Good for apps that are used by many users
- Provokes code that is simple and easy to maintain

Why not Waterfall?

- You are not able to always see what your webpage looks like, so you cannot make minor tweaks.
- Slower.
- Very little feedback during development.