



# AJAX & JSON

*Code 301*

# THE HTTP PARTY 🎉

# HTTP

---

- Hypertext Transfer Protocol
- “Hypertext is structured text that uses logical links (hyperlinks) between nodes containing text.”
- HTTP is the foundation of data communication for the World Wide Web.
- HTTP is the abstraction layer between your browser and lower-level the Internet communication protocols (TCP/IP).

# URL (UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR)

---

- Some URLs are nice:

<http://twitter.com/codefellowsSEA>

<https://www.codefellows.org/blog.html?page=2>

- Some URLs are not:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/110552115013326646668/posts>

[http://www.amazon.com/dp/BooVKIY9RG/  
ref=s9\\_acsd\\_bw\\_dcd\\_odsbnecat\\_c6\\_pd?  
pf\\_rd\\_m=ATVPDKIKXoDER&pf\\_rd\\_s=merchandised-search-2](http://www.amazon.com/dp/BooVKIY9RG/ref=s9_acsd_bw_dcd_odsbnecat_c6_pd?pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKXoDER&pf_rd_s=merchandised-search-2)

# URL (UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR): A BREAKDOWN

---

➤ Ugly or nice, they can all have the same parts:

➤ protocol: <https://>

➤ [sub]domain: [www.codefellows.org](http://www.codefellows.org)

➤ path: [/blog](http://www.codefellows.org/blog)

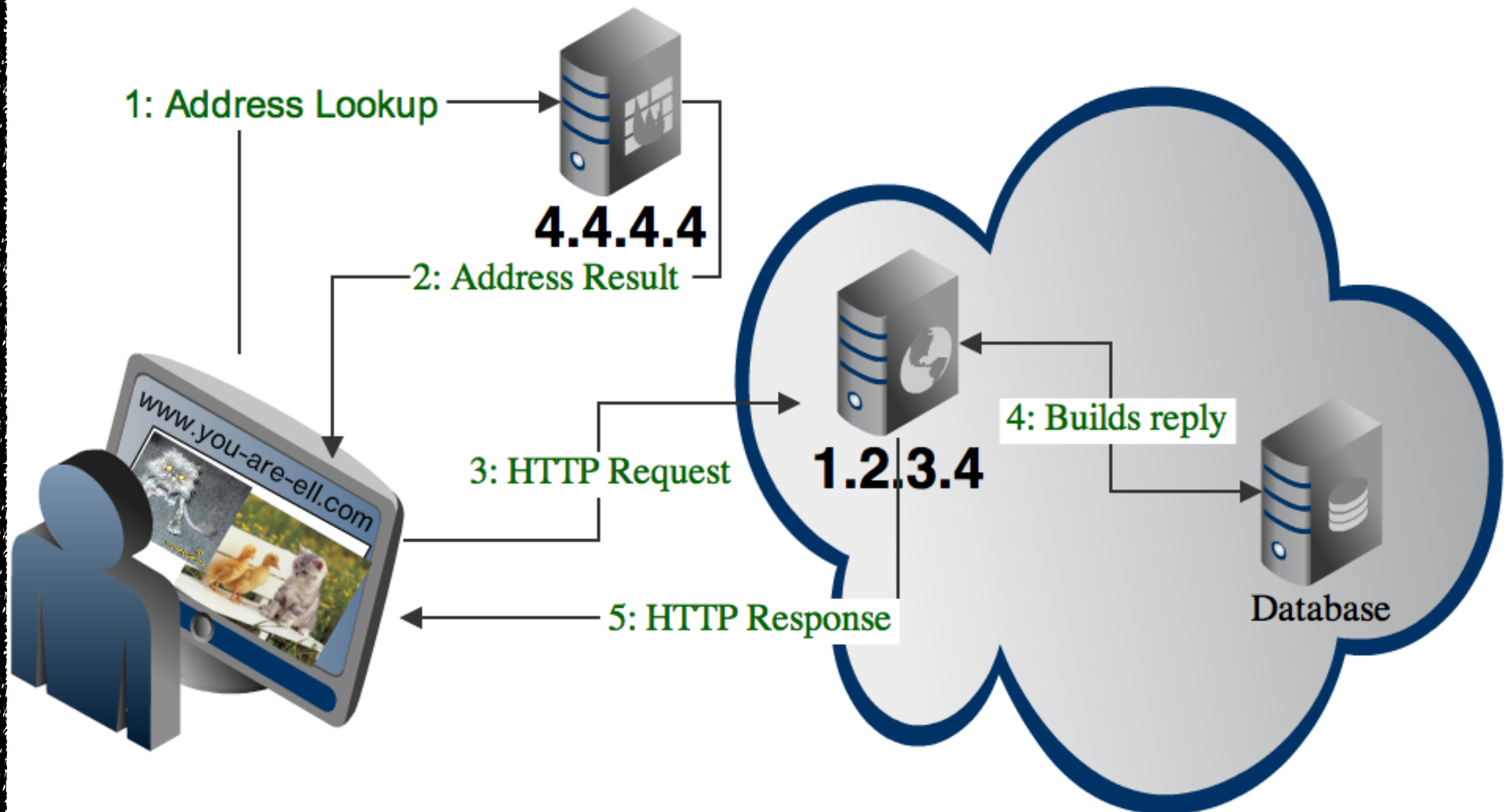
➤ format: [.html](http://www.codefellows.org/blog.html)

➤ named anchor: [#today](http://www.codefellows.org/blog.html#today)

➤ parameters: [?page=2&admin=true](http://www.codefellows.org/blog.html#today?page=2&admin=true)

<https://www.codefellows.org/blog.html#today?page=2&admin=true>

# Welcome to the HTTP Party!



# THE DNS DANCE

---

- Talk to a known DNS Server
  - Global index of domain names
- Give a name
- Get an IP address
- Now ready to ask for that web page!
- google.com = 216.58.193.78
- ping command!



# THE HTTP PARTY

---

- The browser creates a HTTP Request Object
- HTTP Request has 3 parts:
  - URL (twitter.com)
  - Method (GET)
  - Headers (sender info: user agent, cookies, etc)





# THE HTTP PARTY

---

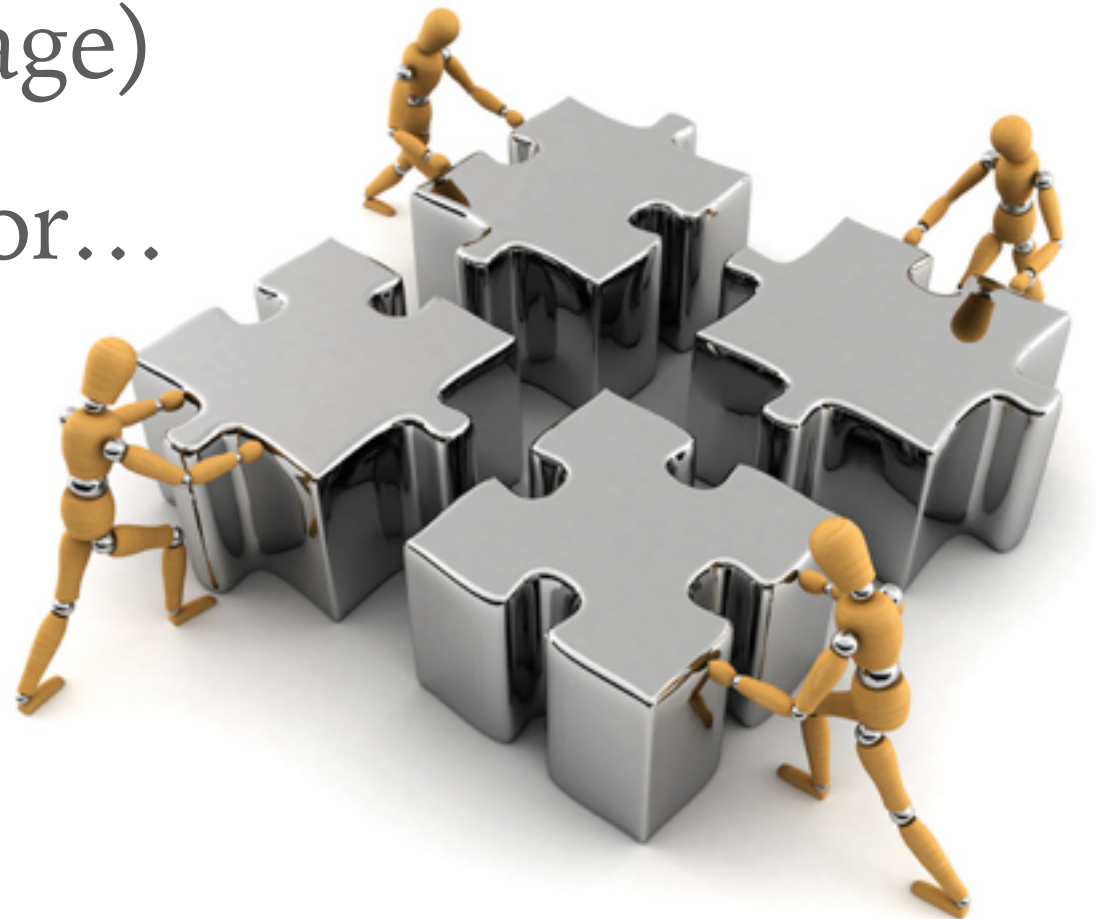
- The server:
  - receives the request
  - builds a response
  - sends it back to the client



# THE HTTP PARTY: STATUS CODES

---

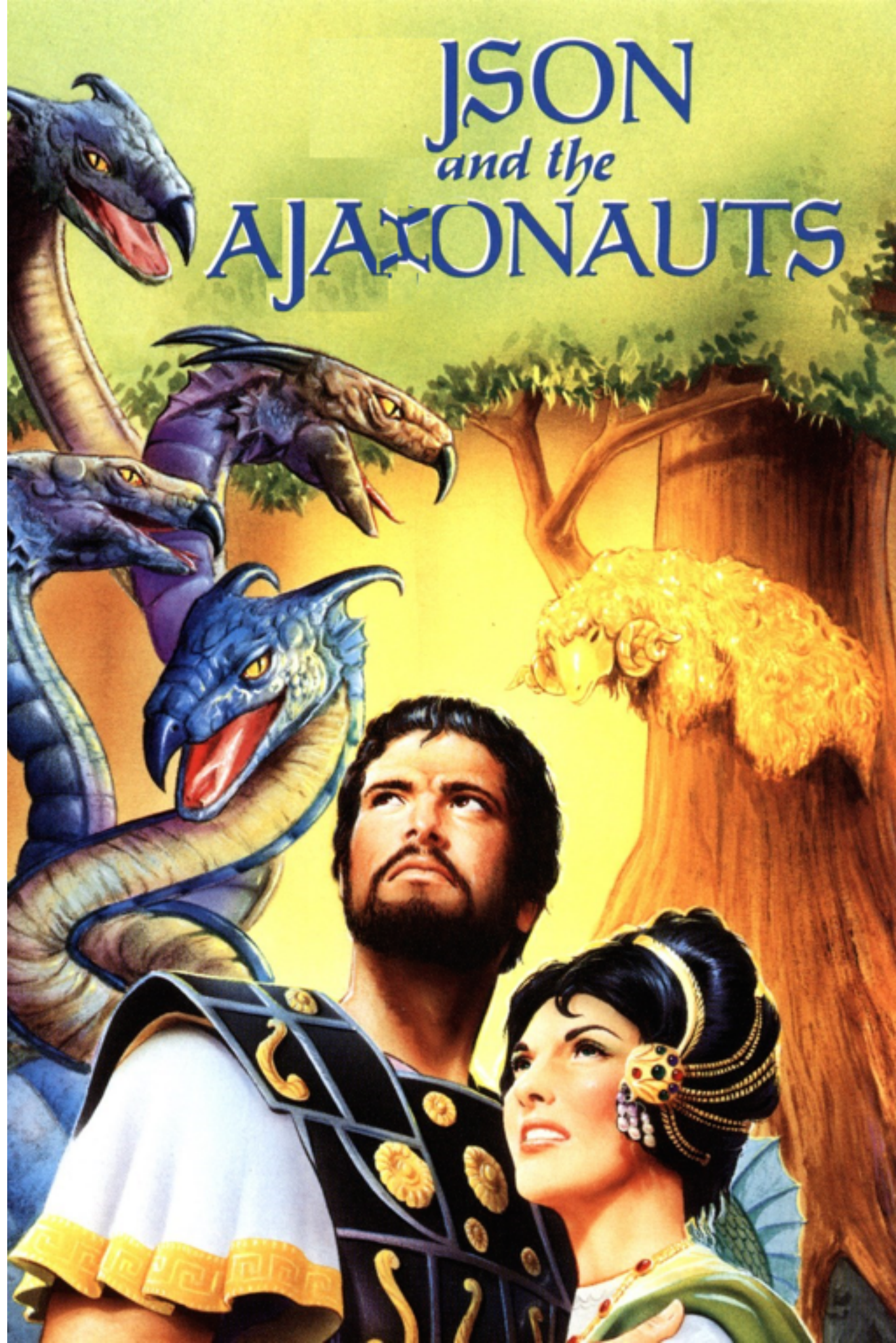
- An HTTP Response also has 3 parts:
  - Status code (200, 301, 404, 500, etc)
  - Headers (info about the server & file sent)
  - Body (the content of the page)
    - HTML, CSS, JavaScript, or...



# JSON



# JSON *and the* AJAXONAUTS

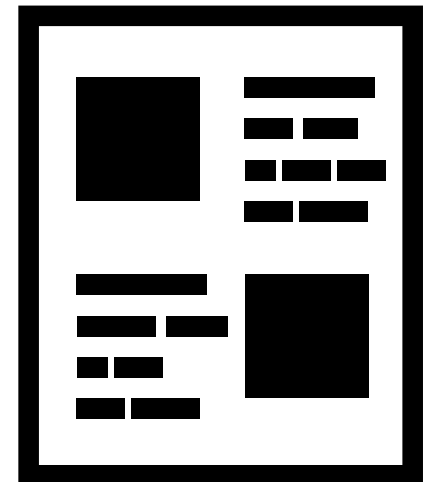


# JSON

---

➤ Looks like this:

```
1 {  
2   "author": "Virginia Sawayn",  
3   "title": "Navigating Solid State Multi-byte Monitors"  
4 }
```



# JSON: WHAT

---

- JavaScript Object Notation
- JS objects are lists of key-value pairs

# JSON: WHY

---

- JSON is a standard way to **serialize** your objects
  - “Dehydration for data structures”
  - Reconstitute it later when needed
- Ate XML for breakfast
  - More human readable
  - More “object-oriented”
  - Lighter

# JSON VS. XML NOTATION

---

➤ In most situations, JSON is more compact than XML

➤ JSON

```
1 {  
2   "company": "Volkswagen",  
3   "name": "Vento",  
4   "price": 800000  
5 }
```

➤ XML

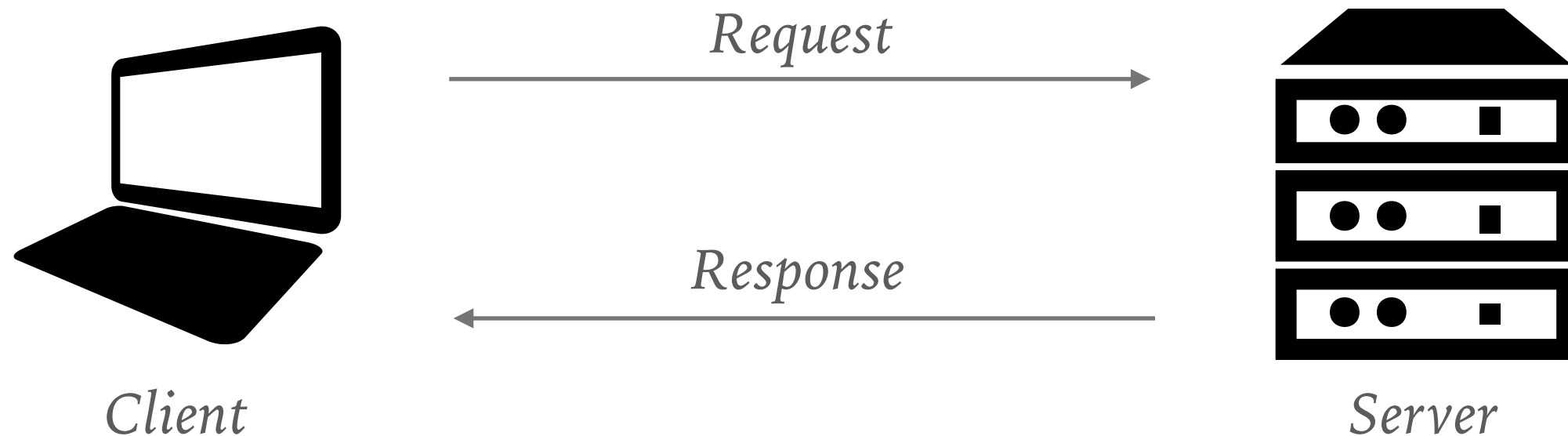
```
1 <car>  
2   <company>Volkswagen</company>  
3   <name>Vento</name>  
4   <price>800000</price>  
5 </car>
```



# JSON: WHY

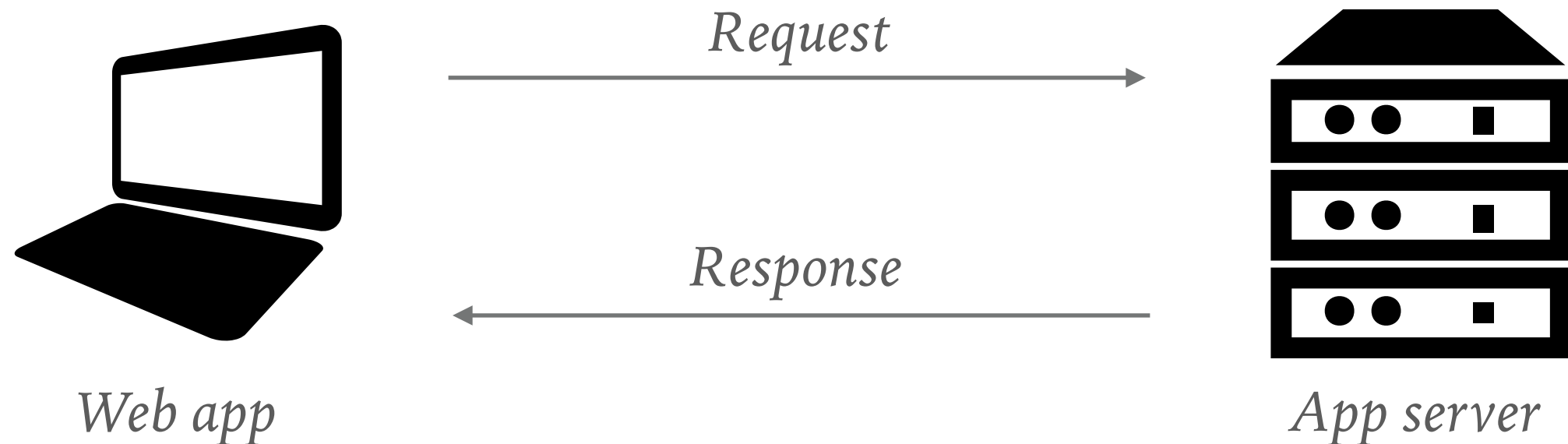
---

- We want to do all this because...?
  - Data lives over there
  - We want it over here
  - **Serialization** allows interchange

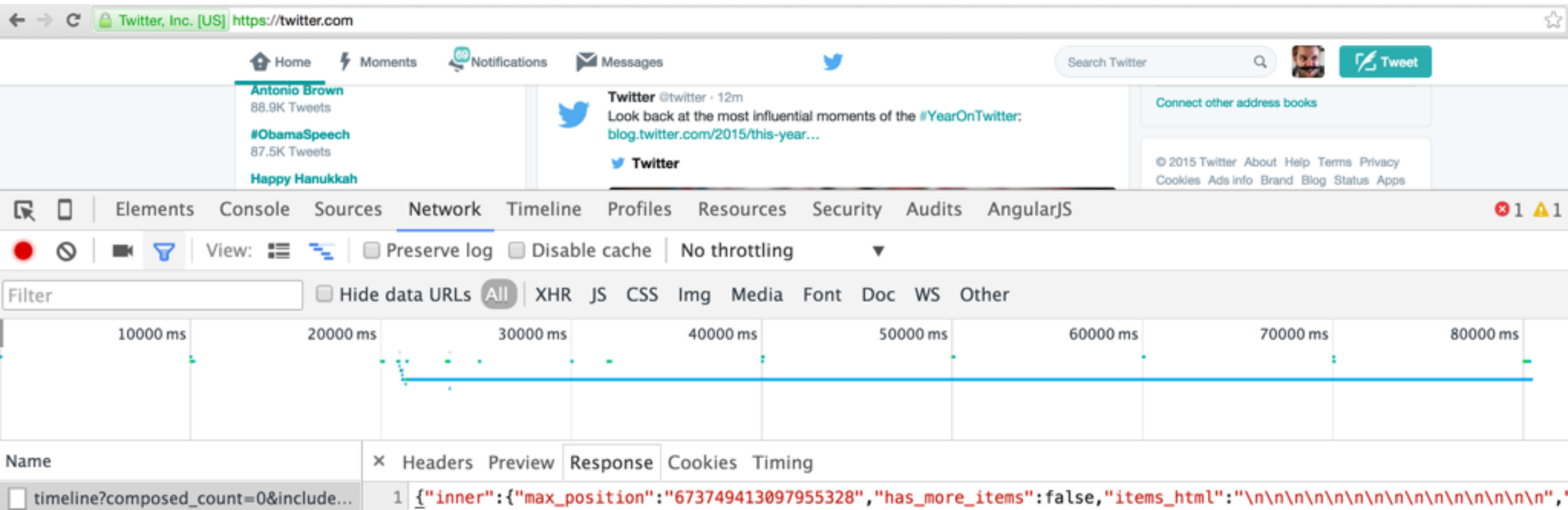


# JSON: WHY

---



- When a web app needs an update,
- Web app requests new info from the server
- Gets a JSON response with data it can process
- Goes great with AJAX



# JSON: WHY

---

- JSON is a standard way to **serialize** your objects
  - “Dehydration for data structures”
  - Reconstitute it later when needed
- Data can be persisted via the localStorage API
  - Keep user preferences
    - What tab was open?
    - Which articles have I expanded?
  - Cache data
    - Prevent unnecessary requests to the server

# JSON: BASIC RULES

---

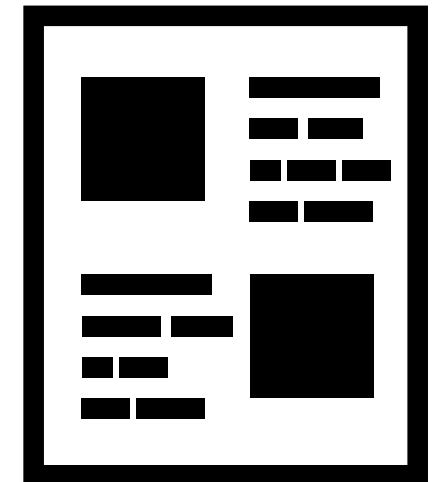
- Always use double quotes
- Keys are quoted strings
- Values can be:
  - String
  - Number
  - Object
  - Array
  - true/false
  - null

# JSON

---

## ► Object Literal

```
1 {  
2   author: 'Virginia Sawayn',  
3   title: 'Navigating Solid State Multi-byte Monitors'  
4 }
```



## ► JSON

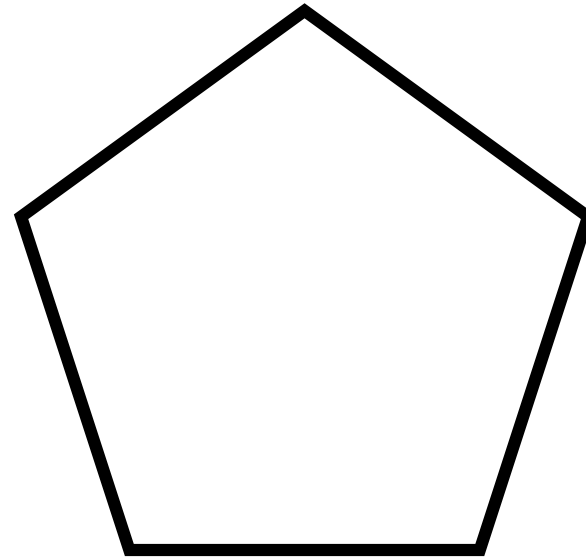
```
1 {  
2   "author": "Virginia Sawayn",  
3   "title": "Navigating Solid State Multi-byte Monitors"  
4 }
```

# JSON: HOW

---

## ► Object Literal

```
1 {  
2   name: 'Pentagon',  
3   sides: 5,  
4   sideLength: 12,  
5   regular: true  
6 }
```



## ► JSON

```
1 {  
2   "name": "Pentagon",  
3   "sides": 5,  
4   "sideLength": 12,  
5   "regular": true  
6 }
```

# JSON

---

## ► Object Literal

```
1 {  
2   name: 'American Pharoah',  
3   jockey: {  
4     name: 'Victor Espinoza',  
5     yob: 1972  
6   },  
7   breeder: {  
8     name: 'Zayat Stables',  
9     location: {  
10      city: 'Hackensack',  
11      state: 'New Jersey'  
12    }  
13  }  
14 }
```

## ► JSON

```
1 {  
2   "name": "American Pharoah",  
3   "jockey": {  
4     "name": "Victor Espinoza",  
5     "yob": 1972  
6   },  
7   "breeder": {  
8     "name": "Zayat Stables",  
9     "location": {  
10      "city": "Hackensack",  
11      "state": "New Jersey"  
12    }  
13  }  
14 }
```





# JSON

---

```
1 {
2   "pilots": [
3     {
4       "name": "Amelia Earhart",
5       "yob": 1897,
6       "yod": 1936
7     },
8     {
9       "name": "Anne Morrow Lindbergh",
10      "yob": 1906,
11      "yod": 2001
12    },
13    {
14      "name": "Chuck Yeager",
15      "yob": 1923,
16      "yod": null
17    }
18  ]
19 }
```



# JSON: SUMMARY

---

- Lightweight data interchange
- Machines can talk to machines
- Our code can talk to output of other code

# JSON: RESOURCES

---

- <http://json.org/>
- [https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global\\_Objects/JSON](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/JSON)
- <http://www.drowningintechicaldebt.com/RoyAshbrook/archive/2007/07/09/top-10-quot-why-xml-sucks-quot-articles.aspx>

**AJAX**

# AJAX: WHAT

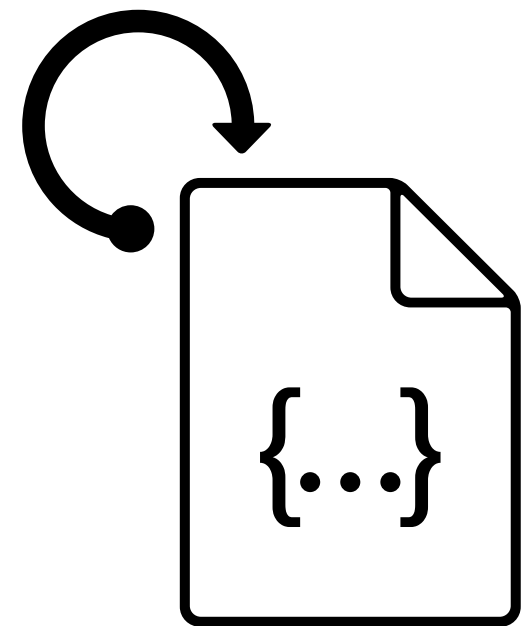
---

- “Asynchronous JavaScript And XML”
- But's it's mostly JSON these days, as seen at [twitter.com](https://twitter.com)
- ...or HTML that's retrieved on-demand
- No one wants to figure out how to pronounce...
  - AJAJ / AJAH

# AJAX: WHEN

---

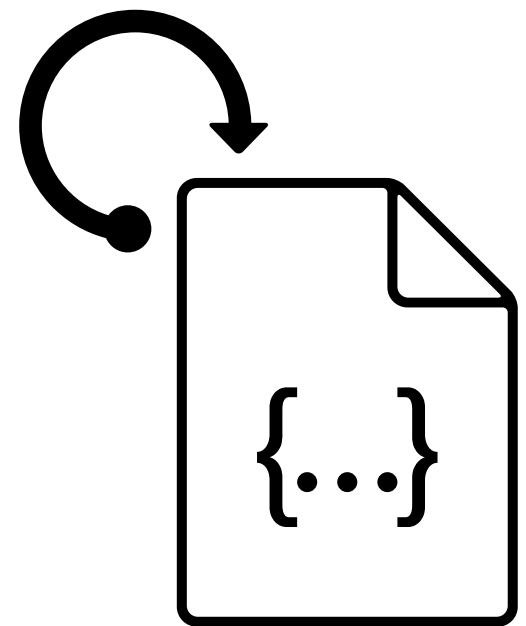
- 1998: MS Outlook Web Access uses async with ActiveX
- Dec 6, 2000: Firefox releases JS compatible version
- 2004: Gmail, Support in Safari 1.2
- 2005: Google Maps, Google Suggest, “AJAX”
- 2006: Support in Internet Explorer 7
- Widespread usage followed
- “Web 2.0” was born!



# AJAX: WHAT

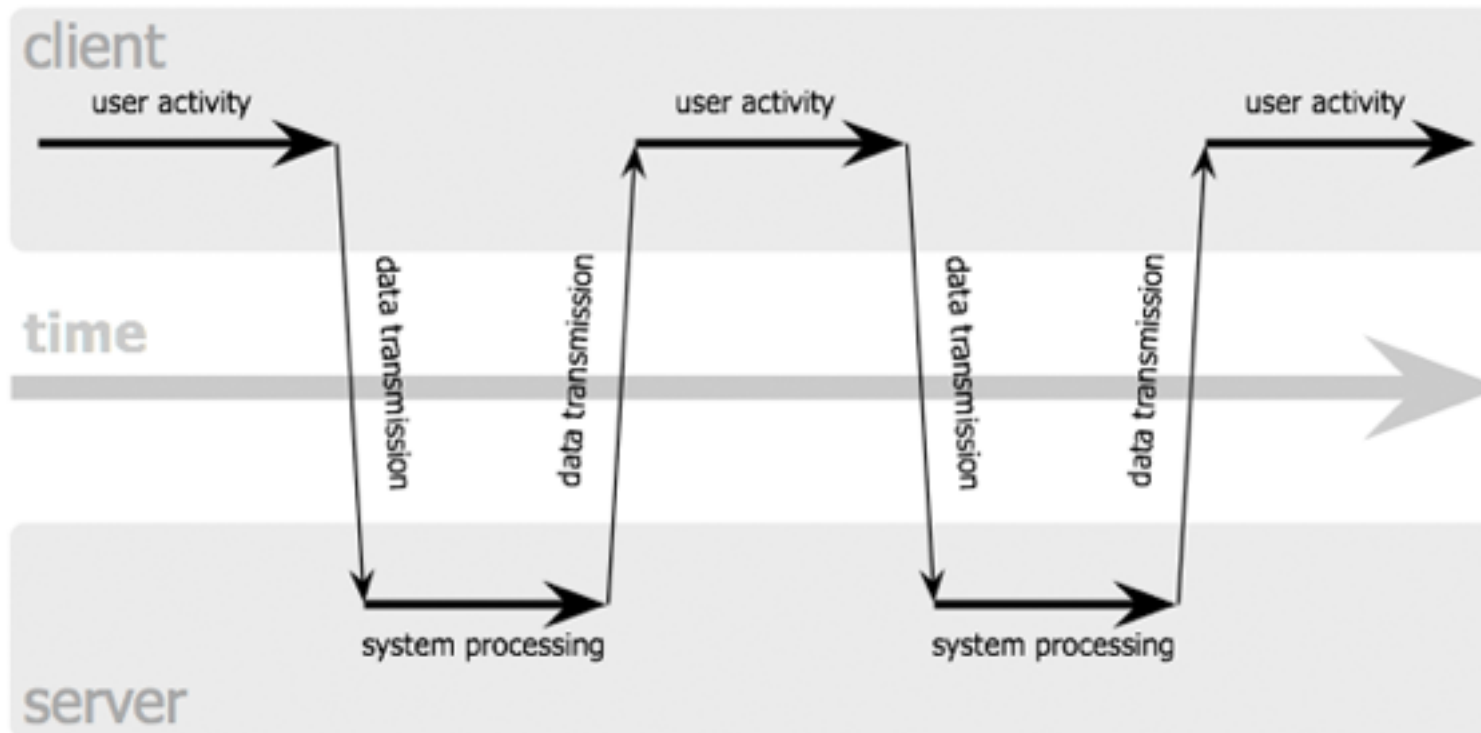
---

- Did you say **Asynchronous**?
- Async, like, with callbacks?
- AJAX is about asynchronous requests
  - Don't reload the whole page & DOM
  - Make a request programmatically
    - No longer limited to script load order
    - Could be during event handling
    - Could be on a timer (see: [twitter.com](https://twitter.com))
    - Undetermined duration: Callback runs “when done”

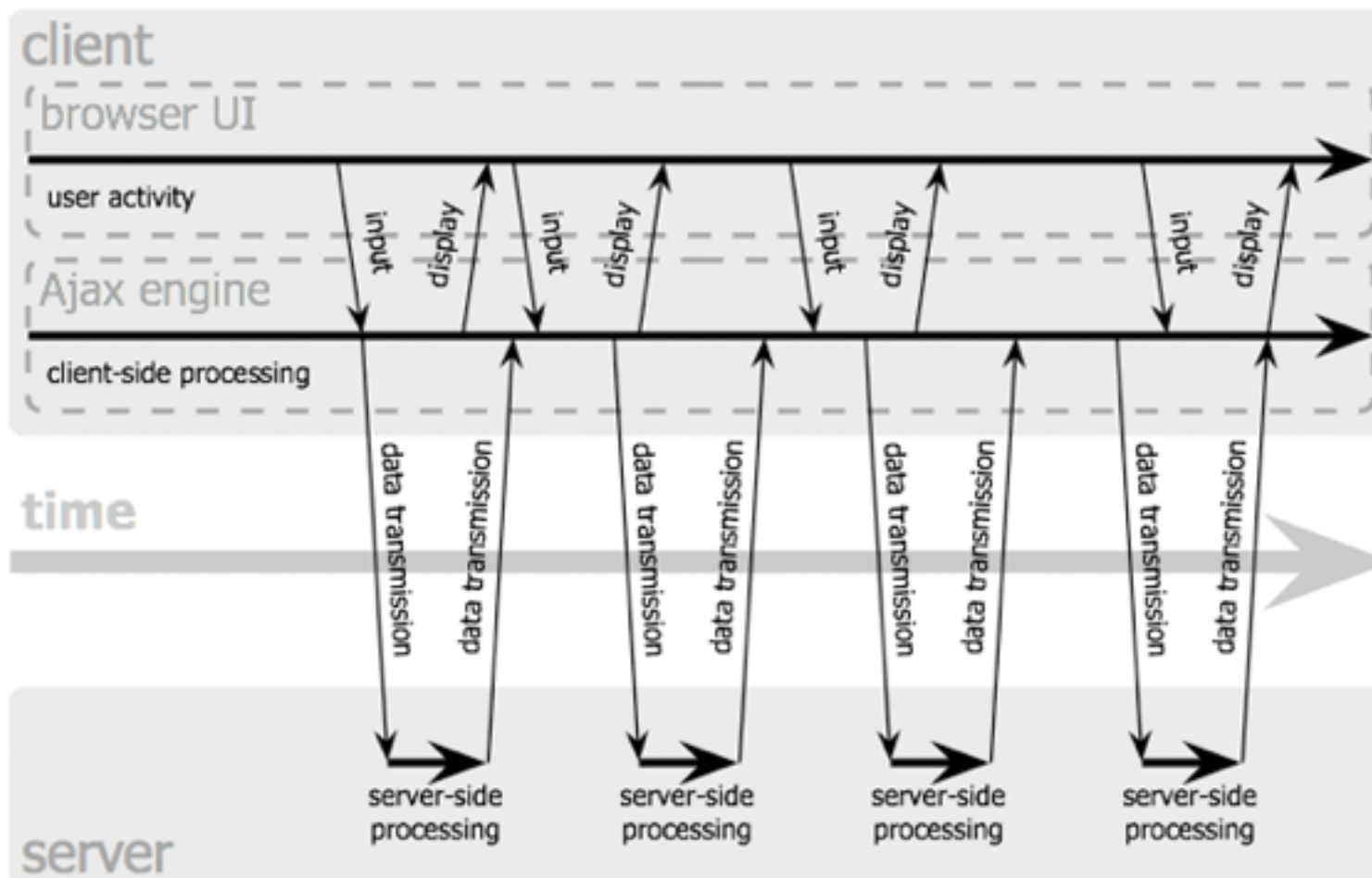




## classic web application model (synchronous)



## Ajax web application model (asynchronous)





# AJAX: POWER UP

---

- Enables an entirely new class of application
  - Faster interactions mean more usable apps
  - Fetch just what you need
  - Update only what changes in the page
  - Stay in touch with the server

# AJAX: WITH JQUERY

---

1. Send a request
2. Register an async callback function to handle the response
3. Profit!

## AJAX

### Global Ajax Event Handlers

- .ajaxComplete()
- .ajaxError()
- .ajaxSend()
- .ajaxStart()
- .ajaxStop()
- .ajaxSuccess()

### Helper Functions

- jQuery.param()
- .serialize()
- .serializeArray()

### Low-Level Interface

- jQuery.ajax()
- jQuery.ajaxSetup()

### Shorthand Methods

- jQuery.get()
- jQuery.getJSON()
- jQuery.getScript()
- .load()
- jQuery.post()

# AJAX: SEND A REQUEST

---

## 1. Send a request

- Specify the request “method”, URL, settings
- Request method options:
  - GET
  - POST
  - HEAD
  - etc...
- jQuery has helper methods to simplify:  
\$.ajax, \$.load, \$.get, \$.getJSON, \$.post

# AJAX: CALLBACKS

---

## 2. Register an async callback function to handle the response

- Write code to handle each kind of response:
  - `success` option or chain `.done()`
  - `error` option, or chain `.fail()`
  - complete option, or chain `.always()`
- Anything that depends on the response, must be in a callback!
- Use named functions to avoid callback-hell
  - Seriously: <http://callbackhell.com/>

# AJAX: SUMMARY

---

- Critically useful technique for making modern web apps
- Client can control communication with the server

# AJAX: FURTHER RESOURCES

---

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XMLHttpRequest>
- <http://adaptivepath.org/ideas/ajax-new-approach-web-applications/>
- <https://teamtreehouse.com/library/ajax-basics>

**RECAP**

# RECAP

---

- JSON & AJAX: Taste great together
- Organize your data management
  - Transit
  - Storage & caching



# REFERENCES AND SOURCES

---

- Vector icons via The Noun Project
- <http://i.jeded.com/i/jason-and-the-argonauts-1963.29114.jpg>
- [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/  
File:Amelia\\_Earhart\\_awaits\\_transatlantic\\_flight\\_1928.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Amelia_Earhart_awaits_transatlantic_flight_1928.jpg)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajax\\_\(programming\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ajax_(programming))