## **Computer Network Laboratory Week #2**

### **Understanding Persistent and Non-persistent HTTP Connections**

# To understand persistent and non-persistent HTTP connections and corresponding performance impact.

Create a web page with N (e.g. 10) embedded images. Each image should be of minimum 2 MB size. Configure your browser (Firefox) with following settings (each setting requires repeat of experiment)

- Non persistent connection
- 2 persistent connections
- 4 persistent connections
- 6 persistent connections
- 10 persistent connections.

**Observation:** Note down the time taken to display the entire page in each of the settings. Ensure that (cache is cleared before starting the web request). Explain the response time differences. What is the optimal number of persistent connections for best performance?

Explain your answer.

#### Introduction

The Apache HTTP server is the most widely-used web server in the world. It provides many powerful features including dynamically loadable modules, robust media support, and extensive integration with other popular software.

**Objective:** Understand persistent and non-persistent HTTP connections and corresponding performance impact.

**Experiment:** Create a web page with N (e.g. 10) embedded images. Each image should be of minimum 2 MB size. Configure your browser (Firefox) with following settings (each setting requires repeat of experiment)

- a) Non-persistent connection
- b) 2 persistent connections
- c) 4 persistent connections
- d) 6 persistent connections
- e) 10 persistent connections

Note down the time taken to display the entire page in each of the settings. Ensure that cache is cleared before starting the web request. Explain the response time differences. What is the optimal number of persistent connections for best performance? Explain your answer.

Note: To install Apache server, use the following command,

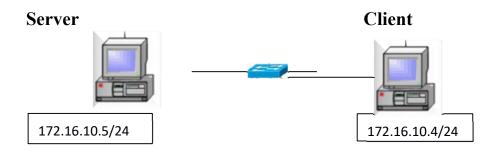
sudo apt-get install apache2

If there is any error during installation, update the package manager by issuing the command,

sudo apt-get update

### **EXECUTION STEPS**

**Step 1:** Connect 2 VMs on Virtualbox.



### **Server Side:**

**Step 2:** Check your Web Server

At the end of the installation process, Ubuntu 16.04 starts Apache. The web server should already be up and running. We can check by typing:

### sudo service apache2 status

```
prav@prav-VirtualBox:~$ sudo apt-get install apache2
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.41-4ubuntu3.1). 0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 330 not upgraded.
prav@prav-VirtualBox:~$ sudo service apache2 status
apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server
      Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/apache2.service; enabled; vendor pres>
Active: active (running) since Thu 2021-02-04 20:06:57 IST; 4min 56s ago
         Docs: https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/
     Process: 536 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/apachectl start (code=exited, status=0/SU>
    Main PID: 577 (apache2)
  Ubuntu Software (limit: 1109)
      Memory: 3.7M
      CGroup: /system.slice/apache2.service
                   -577 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                   -579 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                 └─580 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
Feb 04 20:06:56 prav-VirtualBox systemd[1]: Starting The Apache HTTP Server... Feb 04 20:06:57 prav-VirtualBox apachectl[562]: AH00558: apache2: Could not re>
Feb 04 20:06:57 pray-VirtualBox systemd[1]: Started The Apache HTTP Server.
lines 1-16/16 (END)
```

As you can see above, the service appears to have started successfully. However, the best way to test this is to actually request a page from Apache. You can access the default Apache landing page to confirm that the software is running properly. You can access this through your server's domain name or IP address.

# **Step 3:** The **apache2.conf** file present in the **etc/apache2** directory is modified as:

- a) The **keep-alive** option was set (i.e. value was made **ON**)
- b) The MaximumKeepAliveRequests were set to 2

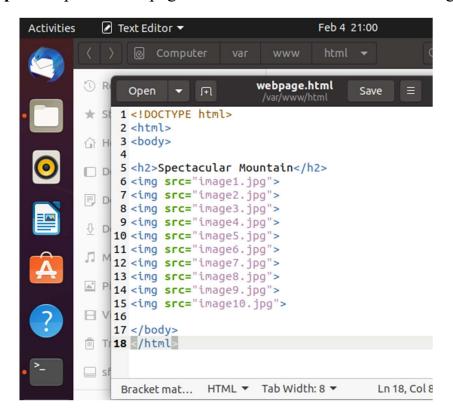
```
92 Timeout 300
 93
 94 #
 95 # KeepAlive: Whether or not to allow persistent connections (more than
 96 # one request per connection). Set to "Off" to deactivate.
 98 KeepAlive On
99
100 #
101 # MaxKeepAliveRequests: The maximum number of requests to allow
102 # during a persistent connection. Set to 0 to allow an unlimited amount.
103 # We recommend you leave this number high, for maximum performance.
105 MaxKeepAliveRequests 2
106
107 #
108 # KeepAliveTimeout: Number of seconds to wait for the next request from the
109 # same client on the same connection.
110 #
111 KeepAliveTimeout 5
112
113
114 # These need to be set in /etc/apache2/envvars
115 User ${APACHE_RUN_USER}
116 Group ${APACHE_RUN_GROUP}
117
118 #
119 # HostnameLookups: Log the names of clients or just their IP addresses
                                Plain Text ▼ Tab Width: 4 ▼ Ln 105, Col 23 ▼ INS
```

**Step 4:** Store images in the server path. A html page consisting of 10 images having size >

2MB were placed and accessed by the client. This html page is stored in the location - /var/www/html/file\_name.html.

Note: Use the images provided by faculty incharges.

**Step 5:** Prepare a web page. The html file needs to add 10 images.



### **Client side:**

There are broadly two parts of execution:

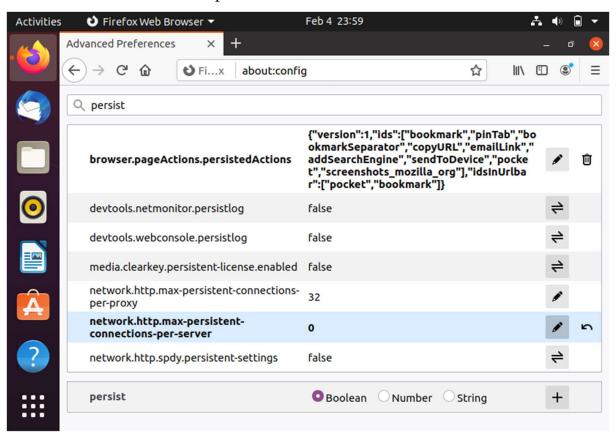
- 1. Dealing with non-persistent connections
- 2. Dealing with persistent connections

Open Firefox browser to configure for persistent option. Go to browser and type **about:config** and search for the term 'persistent'

- While using non-persistent connection experiment, the maxpersistent-connectionsper-server has the value set to 0 and persistent-settings value set to false.
- While using persistent connection experiment, the max-persistent-connections-perserver should have value greater than 0 (depending on the number of persistent connections needed) and persistent-settings value set to true.

### PART 1: NON-PERSISTENT CONNECTION

**Step 1:** This is done by setting the value of max-persistent-connection-perserver to 0 in the client computer.



Step 2: Access web page on client-side browser (Firefox)

The client could access the file as:

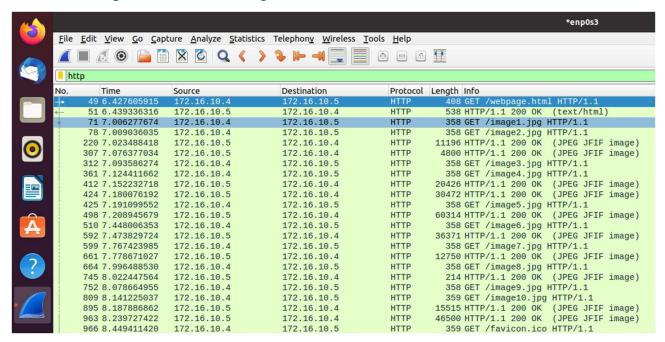
**172.16.10.5/file\_name.html** where--> **172.16.10.5** is Server's IP

Here the file name is **webpage.html** present in server.

Note 1: The wireshark should capture the packets between the client and the server while the file is accessed.

Note 2: The images in the HTML page should have all the permissions specified through the server for the proper access.

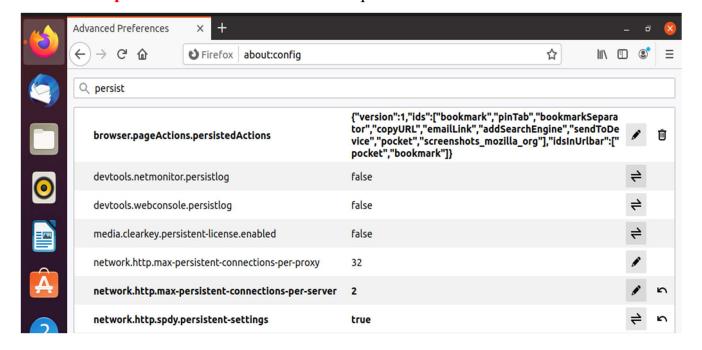
**Step 3:** Use wireshark. Open wireshark in the server computer while client is trying to access the server's local host webpage. Apply 'http' filter and note the time to capture all the 10 images.



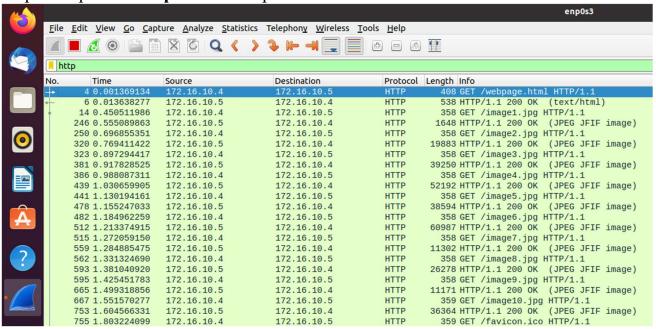
Here it is 8.239727422 - 6.427605915 = 1.812121507s

### PART 2: PERSISTENT CONNECTIONS

Step 1: For 2 persistent connections, set the value of **max-persistent-connection-per-server to 2** in the client computer.



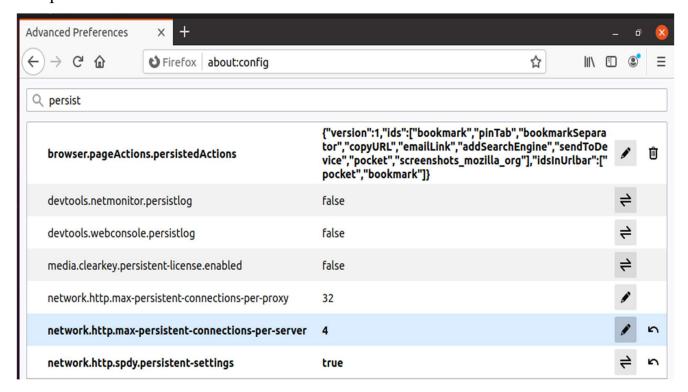
Step 2: Repeat the steps 1-3 in the previous section.



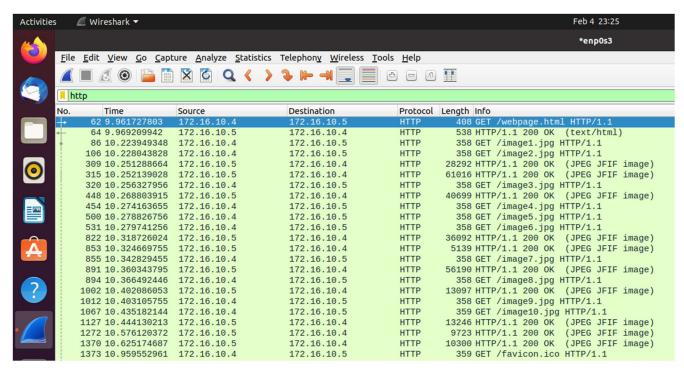
Here it is 1.604566331 - 0.001369134 = 1.603197197s

### Step 1: For 4 persistent connections,

Set the value of **max-persistent-connection-per-server to 4** in the client computer.

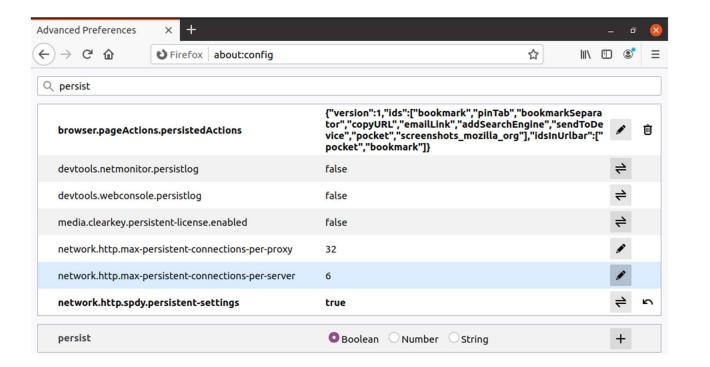


Step 2: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.



Here is it 10.625174687 - 9.961727803 = 0.663446884s

Step 1: For 6 persistent connections, set the value of max-persistent-connection-per-server to 6 in the server computer.

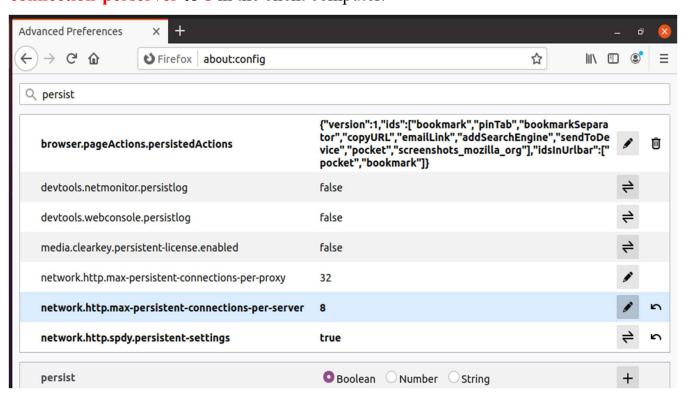


Step 2: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.

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<mark>.∥</mark> http							
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info		
<b>—</b>	53 6.402290862	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	408 GET /webpage.html HTTP/1.1		
+	55 6.405923028	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	538 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)		
	67 6.632637913	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image1.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	73 6.634337629	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	101 6.637679371	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image3.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	350 6.665739460	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	33459 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
' I	425 6.669679136	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	12644 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	431 6.670774577	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image4.jpg HTTP/1.1		
ĺ	664 6.693991020	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	24816 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	667 6.703934331	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image5.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	767 6.724863401	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image6.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	877 6.737267357	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	45059 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	898 6.745370175	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	1513 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i		
	900 6.750014530	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image7.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	931 6.755271646	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	25562 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	966 6.769176837	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	48950 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	969 6.775287253	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image8.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	1024 6.829262743	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image9.jpg HTTP/1.1		
	1108 6.885955646	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /image10.jpg HTTP/1.1		
7	1137 6.891343824	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	11798 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	1235 6.979575600	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	8275 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i		
=	1323 7.051948670	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	7404 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF i	image	
	1326 7.234377921	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1		

Here it is 7.051948670 - 6.402290862 = 0.649657808

Step 1: For 8 persistent connections, set the value of max-persistent-connection-perserver to 8 in the client computer.

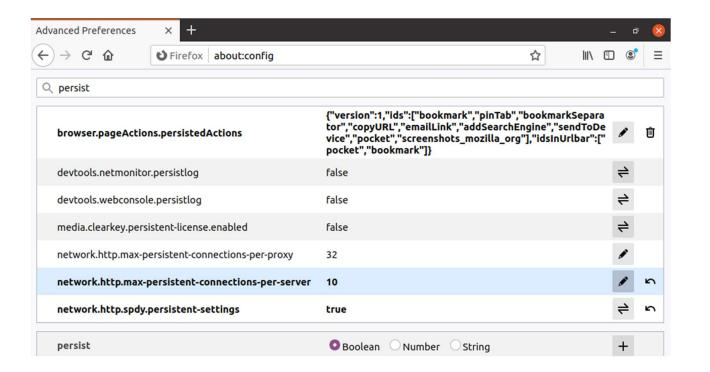


Step 2: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.

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No	. Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
	51 5.821495560	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	408 GET /webpage.html HTTP/1.1
4	53 5.883800700	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	538 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
	78 6.356847015	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image1.jpg HTTP/1.1
_	83 6.358475753	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1
	132 6.364325838	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image3.jpg HTTP/1.1
<b>O</b>	137 6.368406750	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image4.jpg HTTP/1.1
	284 6.391489850	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image5.jpg HTTP/1.1
_,	286 6.391490180	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image6.jpg HTTP/1.1
-	291 6.392193818	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image7.jpg HTTP/1.1
	296 6.393544507	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image8.jpg HTTP/1.1
	907 6.464823854	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	43052 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
<u> </u>	987 6.468296923	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	27231 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
$\Delta$	1053 6.478221540	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	45060 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1458 6.505581660	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	10351 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1499 6.511201499	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	8187 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1523 6.519778295	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	51608 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
7	1558 6.528497311	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	23323 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1586 6.547316071	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	5857 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1588 6.548471939	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image9.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1610 6.573565041	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /image10.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1838 6.762166622	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	8275 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1954 6.942694034	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	4508 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image)
	1957 7.316682797	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1

Here it is 6.942694034 - 5.821495560 = 1.121198474

Step 1: For 10 persistent connections, set the value of max-persistent-connection-perserver to 10 in the client computer.



Step 2: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.

					*enp0s3
File	Edit View Go Cap	ture <u>A</u> nalyze <u>S</u> tatistics	Telephony Wireless	Tools Help	
			→ → → □	<b>P P 1</b>	<b>1</b>
ht	tp				
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
<b>—</b>	30 5.266959522	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	408 GET /webpage.html HTTP/1.1
4	32 5.269475312	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	538 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
	58 5.619917178	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image1.jpg HTTP/1.1
	252 5.646873630	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1
	324 5.658619274	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image3.jpg HTTP/1.1
	359 5.660200013	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	43052 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	423 5.667207406	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image4.jpg HTTP/1.1
	594 5.679127381	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	11739 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	777 5.689253471	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	34817 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	784 5.696664590	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image5.jpg HTTP/1.1
	831 5.708454299	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image6.jpg HTTP/1.1
	844 5.710750028	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image7.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1034 5.722945224	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	4544 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	1043 5.723414355	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	17131 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	1048 5.732771849	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image8.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1131 5.748942245	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	36372 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	1495 5.778155567	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	5511 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	1505 5.787972852	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	358 GET /image9.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1506 5.788089536	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /image10.jpg HTTP/1.1
	1796 5.847081466	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	7455 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	1852 5.917857345	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	3931 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
_	2036 6.430467919	172.16.10.5	172.16.10.4	HTTP	3149 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (JPEG JFIF image
	2042 6.595434585	172.16.10.4	172.16.10.5	HTTP	359 GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1

Here it is 6.430467919 - 5.266959522 = 1.163508397

### **OBSERVATIONS REQUIRED ON EDMODO:**

The time taken to load images for 2, 4, 6 persistent connections is lesser or greater than 10 persistent compared to non-persistent. Why? Find out the optimal persistent connections.

Non-persistent connection (0): 1.812121507s

➤ 2 persistent connections: 1.603197197s

➤ 4 persistent connections: 0.663446884s

➤ 6 persistent connections: 0.649657808

➤ 8 persistent connections: 1.121198474

➤ 10 persistent connections: 1.163508397

Non-persistent connections take more time than persistent connections as each request/response pair is sent over separate TCP connections i.e, each TCP connection transports exactly one request and response message. Whereas, Persistent connections take lesser time compared to Non-Persistent connections as all requests and their corresponding responses are sent over the same TCP connection.

Here the time taken by 4,6,8 persistent connections is lesser than 10, but time taken by 2 persistent connections is greater than 10. But the most time is taken by the non-persistent connection. The pattern goes as,

Non-persistent (0) connection => more time

2 persistent connections => lesser time

4 persistent connections => lesser time

6 persistent connections => lesser time

8 persistent connections => comparatively more time

10 persistent connections => increase in time from previous

Thus, in this case the optimal number of persistent connections would be 6 as it takes the least time.