

Computer Networks and Applications

COMP 3331/COMP 9331

Week 2

Application Layer (Principles, Web, Email)

Chapter 2: Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.4

2. Application Layer: outline

2.1 principles of network applications

2.2 Web and HTTP

2.3 electronic mail

- SMTP

2.4 DNS

2.5 P2P applications

2.6 video streaming and content
distribution networks (CDNs)

2.7 socket programming with
UDP and TCP

2. Application layer

our goals:

- ❖ conceptual, implementation aspects of network application protocols
 - transport-layer service models
 - client-server paradigm
 - peer-to-peer paradigm
- ❖ learn about protocols by examining popular application-level protocols
 - HTTP
 - SMTP, IMAP
 - DNS
- ❖ programming network applications
 - socket API

Some network apps

- social networking
 - Web
 - text messaging
 - e-mail
 - multi-user network games
 - streaming stored video (YouTube, Hulu, Netflix)
 - P2P file sharing
 - voice over IP (e.g., Skype)
 - real-time video conferencing
 - Internet search
 - remote login
 - ...
- Q: *your* favorites?

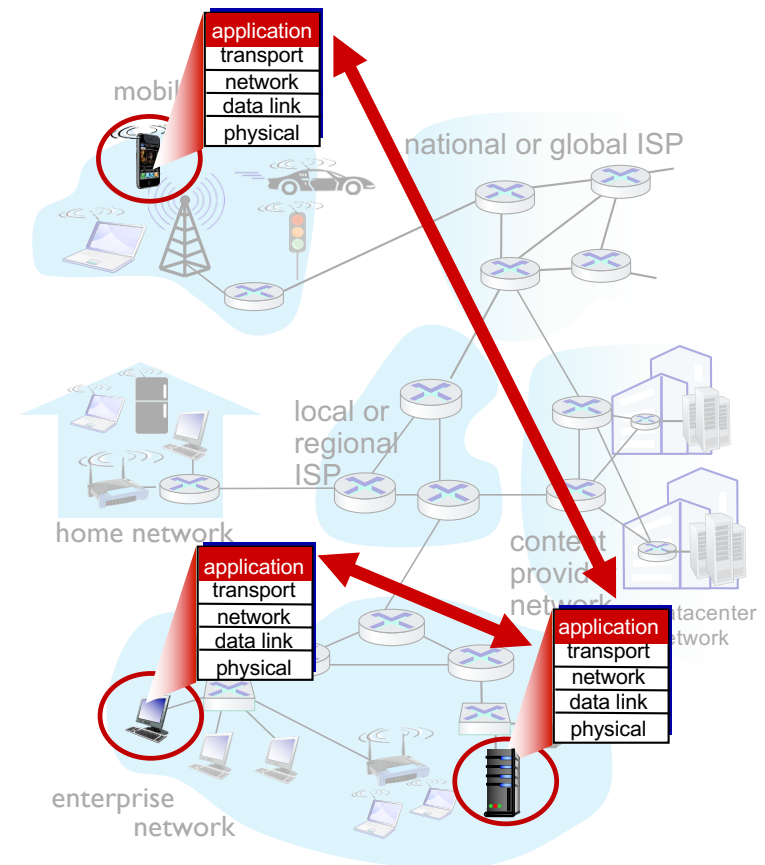
Creating a network app

write programs that:

- run on (different) end systems
- communicate over network
- e.g., web server software communicates with browser software

no need to write software for network-core devices

- network-core devices do not run user applications
- applications on end systems allows for rapid app development, propagation



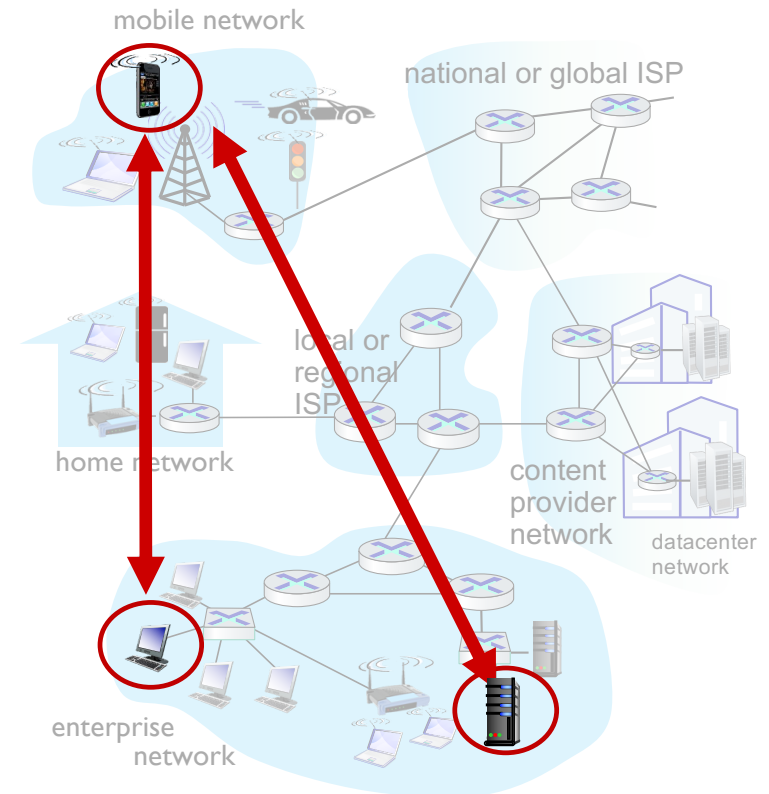
Client-server paradigm

server:

- always-on host
- permanent IP address
- often in data centers, for scaling

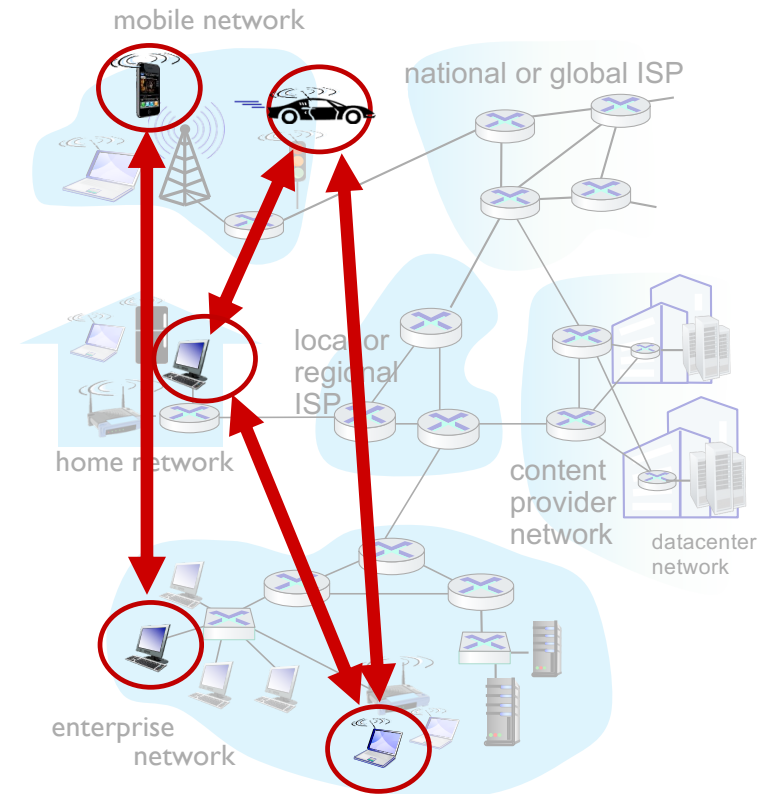
clients:

- contact, communicate with server
- may be intermittently connected
- may have dynamic IP addresses
- do *not* communicate directly with each other
- examples: HTTP, IMAP, FTP



Peer-peer architecture

- no always-on server
- arbitrary end systems directly communicate
- peers request service from other peers, provide service in return to other peers
 - *self scalability* – new peers bring new service capacity, as well as new service demands
- peers are intermittently connected and change IP addresses
 - complex management
- example: P2P file sharing, blockchain



Processes communicating

process: program running within a host

- within same host, two processes communicate using *inter-process communication* (defined by OS)
- processes in different hosts communicate by exchanging *messages*

clients, servers

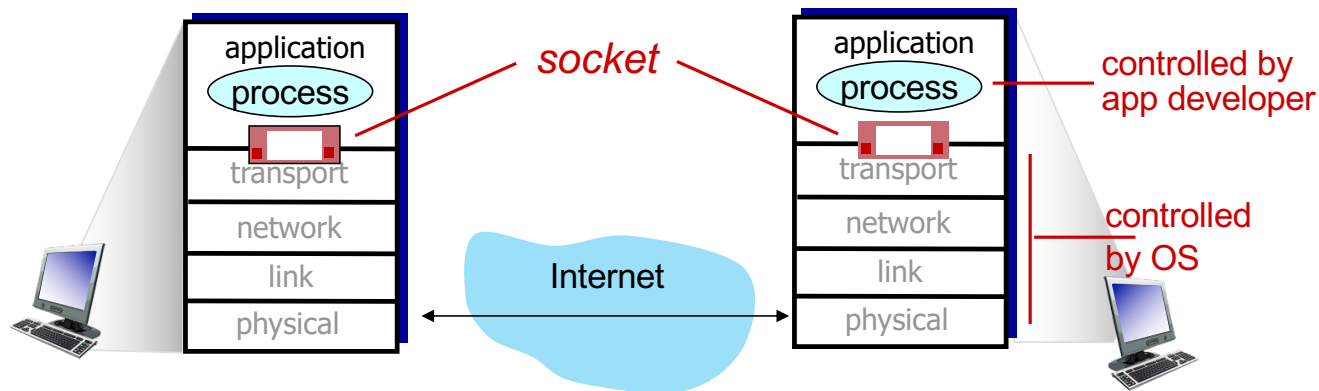
client process: process that initiates communication

server process: process that waits to be contacted

- note: applications with P2P architectures have client processes & server processes

Sockets

- process sends/receives messages to/from its **socket**
- socket analogous to door
 - sending process shoves message out the door
 - sending process relies on transport infrastructure on other side of door to deliver message to socket at receiving process
 - two sockets involved: one on each side



Addressing processes

- to receive messages, process must have *identifier*
- host device has unique 32-bit IP address
- Q: does IP address of host on which process runs suffice for identifying the process?
 - A: no, *many* processes can be running on same host
- *identifier* includes both **IP address** and **port numbers** associated with process on host.
- example port numbers:
 - HTTP server: 80
 - mail server: 25
- to send HTTP message to gaia.cs.umass.edu web server:
 - **IP address**: 128.119.245.12
 - **port number**: 80
- more shortly...

An application-layer protocol defines:

- **types of messages exchanged,**
 - e.g., request, response
- **message syntax:**
 - what fields in messages & how fields are delineated
- **message semantics**
 - meaning of information in fields
- **rules** for when and how processes send & respond to messages

open protocols:

- defined in RFCs, everyone has access to protocol definition
- allows for interoperability
- e.g., HTTP, SMTP, WebRTC

proprietary protocols:

- e.g., Skype, Zoom, Teams

What transport service does an app need?

data integrity

- some apps (e.g., file transfer, web transactions) require 100% reliable data transfer
- other apps (e.g., audio) can tolerate some loss

timing

- some apps (e.g., Internet telephony, interactive games) require low delay to be “effective”

throughput

- some apps (e.g., multimedia) require minimum amount of throughput to be “effective”
- other apps (“elastic apps”) make use of whatever throughput they get

security

- encryption, data integrity, ...

Transport service requirements: common apps

application	data loss	throughput	time sensitive?
file transfer/download	no loss	elastic	no
e-mail	no loss	elastic	no
Web documents	no loss	elastic	no
real-time audio/video	loss-tolerant	audio: 5Kbps-1Mbps video: 10Kbps-5Mbps	yes, 10's msec
streaming audio/video	loss-tolerant	same as above	yes, few secs
interactive games	loss-tolerant	Kbps+	yes, 10's msec
text messaging	no loss	elastic	yes and no

Internet transport protocols services

TCP service:

- *reliable transport* between sending and receiving process
- *flow control*: sender won't overwhelm receiver
- *congestion control*: throttle sender when network overloaded
- *does not provide*: timing, minimum throughput guarantee, security
- *connection-oriented*: setup required between client and server processes

UDP service:

- *unreliable data transfer* between sending and receiving process
- *does not provide*: reliability, flow control, congestion control, timing, throughput guarantee, security, or connection setup.

Q: why bother? Why is there a UDP?

NOTE: More on transport layer later

Internet transport protocols services

application	application layer protocol	transport protocol
file transfer/download	FTP [RFC 959]	TCP
e-mail	SMTP [RFC 5321]	TCP
Web documents	HTTP 1.1 [RFC 7320]	TCP
Internet telephony	SIP [RFC 3261], RTP [RFC 3550], or proprietary	TCP or UDP
streaming audio/video	HTTP [RFC 7320], DASH	TCP
interactive games	WOW, FPS (proprietary)	UDP or TCP

Securing TCP

Vanilla TCP & UDP sockets:

- no encryption
- cleartext passwords sent into socket traverse Internet in cleartext (!)

Transport Layer Security (TLS)

- provides encrypted TCP connections
- data integrity
- end-point authentication

TLS implemented in application layer

- apps use TLS libraries, that use TCP in turn

TLS socket API

- cleartext sent into socket traverse Internet *encrypted*
- see Chapter 8



Quiz: Transport

Pick the true statement

- A. TCP provides reliability and guarantees a minimum bandwidth
- B. TCP provides reliability while UDP provides bandwidth guarantees
- C. TCP provides reliability while UDP does not
- D. Neither TCP nor UDP provides reliability

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The Web – History



Tim Berners-Lee

- ❖ World Wide Web (WWW): a distributed database of “pages” linked through **Hypertext Transport Protocol** (HTTP)
 - First HTTP implementation - 1990
 - Tim Berners-Lee at CERN
 - HTTP/0.9 – 1991
 - Simple GET command for the Web
 - HTTP/1.0 – 1992
 - Client/Server information, simple caching
 - HTTP/1.1 – 1996
 - HTTP2.0 - 2015

<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html>

2021 *This Is What Happens In An Internet Minute*



Web and HTTP

First, a quick review...

- web page consists of *objects*, each of which can be stored on different Web servers
- object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,...
- web page consists of *base HTML-file* which includes *several referenced objects, each* addressable by a *URL*, e.g.,

`www.someschool.edu/someDept/pic.gif`

host name

path name

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

`protocol://host-name[:port]/directory-path/resource`

- ❖ *protocol*: http, ftp, https, smtp etc.
- ❖ *hostname*: DNS name, IP address
- ❖ *port*: defaults to protocol's standard port; e.g., http: 80 https: 443
- ❖ *directory path*: hierarchical, reflecting file system
- ❖ *resource*: Identifies the desired resource

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

- Web's application layer protocol
- client/server model:
 - *client*: browser that requests, receives, (using HTTP protocol) and “displays” Web objects
 - *server*: Web server sends (using HTTP protocol) objects in response to requests



HTTP overview (continued)

HTTP uses TCP:

- client initiates TCP connection (creates socket) to server, port 80
- server accepts TCP connection from client
- HTTP messages (application-layer protocol messages) exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- TCP connection closed

HTTP is “stateless”

- server maintains *no* information about past client requests

aside

protocols that maintain “state” are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained
- if server/client crashes, their views of “state” may be inconsistent, must be reconciled

HTTP request message

- two types of HTTP messages: *request, response*
- **HTTP request message:**
 - ASCII (human-readable format)

request line (GET, POST, HEAD commands) →

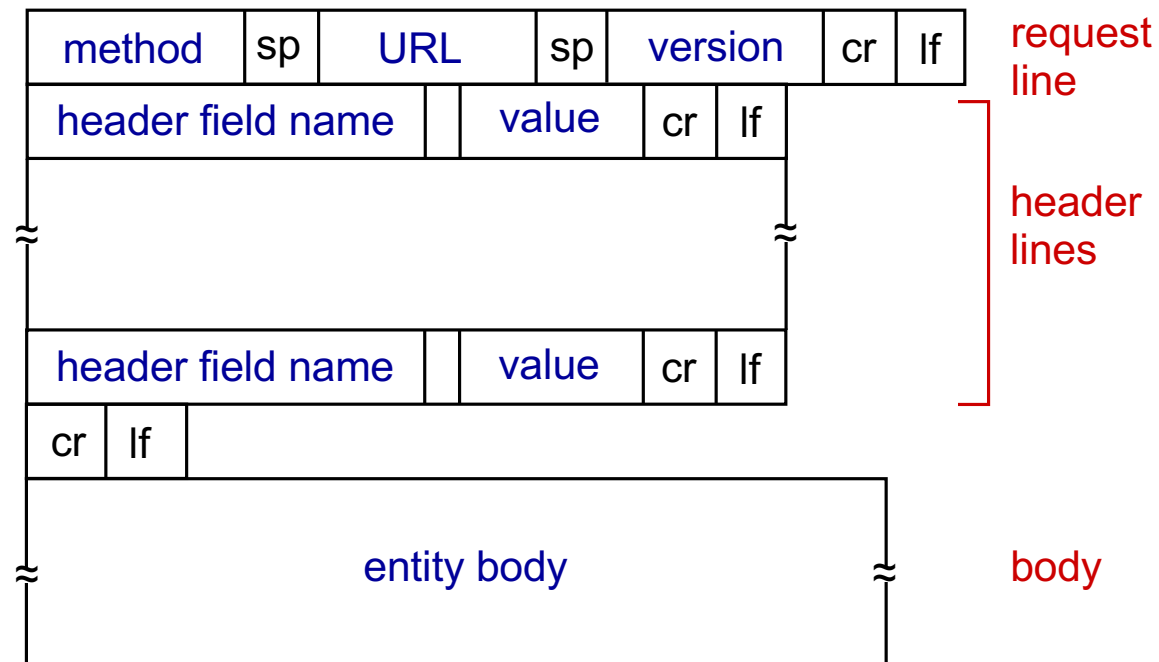
header lines

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: www-net.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Firefox/3.6.10\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml\r\n
Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate\r\n
Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7\r\n
Keep-Alive: 115\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
\r\n
```

carriage return character
line-feed character

carriage return, line feed
at start of line indicates
end of header lines

HTTP request message: general format



Other HTTP request messages

POST method:

- web page often includes form input
- user input sent from client to server in entity body of HTTP POST request message

GET method (for sending data to server):

- include user data in URL field of HTTP GET request message (following a '?'):

`www.somesite.com/animalsearch?monkeys&banana`

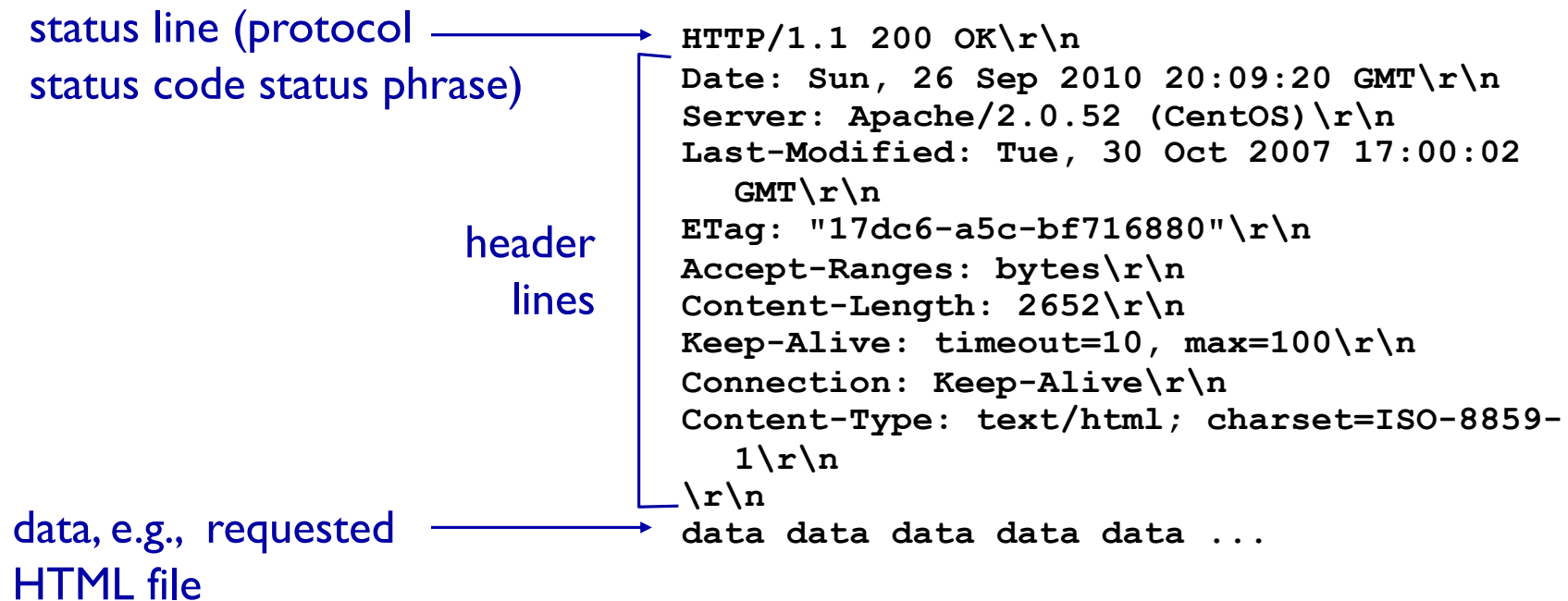
HEAD method:

- requests headers (only) that would be returned *if* specified URL were requested with an HTTP GET method.

PUT method:

- uploads new file (object) to server
- completely replaces file that exists at specified URL with content in entity body of PUT HTTP request message

HTTP response message



HTTP response status codes

- status code appears in 1st line in server-to-client response message.
- some sample codes:

200 OK

- request succeeded, requested object later in this message

301 Moved Permanently

- requested object moved, new location specified later in this message (in Location: field)

400 Bad Request

- request msg not understood by server

404 Not Found

- requested document not found on this server

505 HTTP Version Not Supported

HTTP is all text

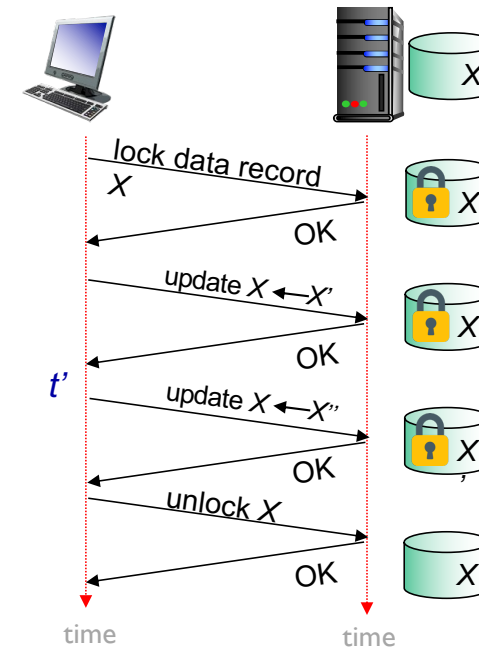
- ❖ Makes the protocol simple
 - Easy to delineate messages (`\r\n`)
 - (relatively) human-readable
 - No issues about encoding or formatting data
 - Variable length data
- ❖ Not the most efficient
 - Many protocols use binary fields
 - Sending "12345678" as a string is 8 bytes
 - As an integer, 12345678 needs only 4 bytes
 - Headers may come in any order
 - Requires string parsing/processing
- ❖ Non-text content needs to be encoded

Maintaining user/server state: cookies

Recall: HTTP GET/response interaction is *stateless*

- no notion of multi-step exchanges of HTTP messages to complete a Web “transaction”
 - no need for client/server to track “state” of multi-step exchange
 - all HTTP requests are independent of each other
 - no need for client/server to “recover” from a partially-completed-but-never-completely-completed transaction

a *stateful* protocol: client makes two changes to X, or none



Q: what happens if network connection or client crashes at t' ?

Maintaining user/server state: cookies

Web sites and client browser use *cookies* to maintain some state between transactions

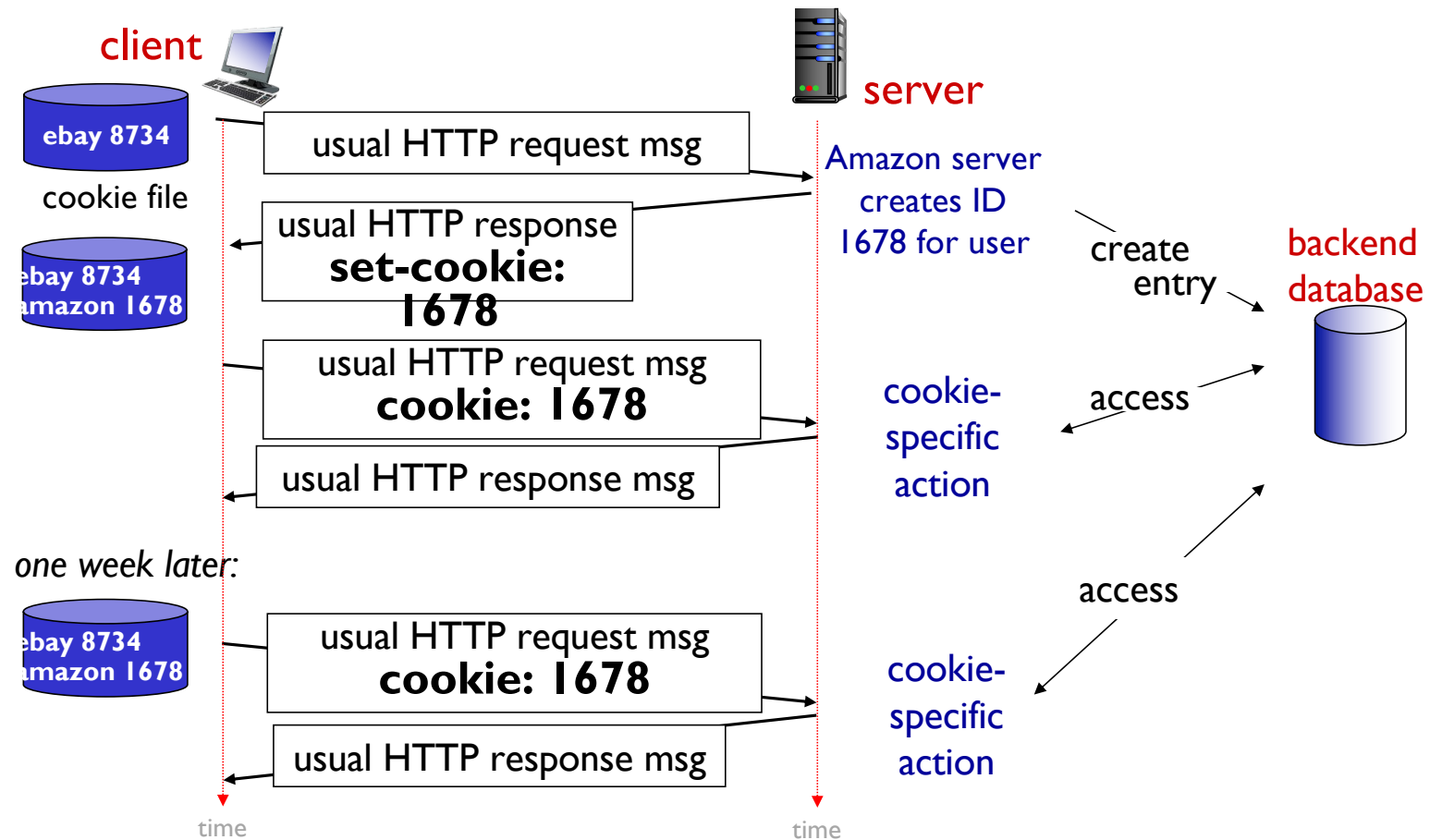
four components:

- 1) cookie header line of HTTP *response* message
- 2) cookie header line in next HTTP *request* message
- 3) cookie file kept on user's host, managed by user's browser
- 4) back-end database at Web site

Example:

- Susan uses browser on laptop, visits specific e-commerce site for first time
- when initial HTTP requests arrives at site, site creates:
 - unique ID (aka “cookie”)
 - entry in backend database for ID
- subsequent HTTP requests from Susan to this site will contain cookie ID value, allowing site to “identify” Susan

Maintaining user/server state: cookies



HTTP cookies: comments

What cookies can be used for:

- authorization
- shopping carts
- recommendations
- user session state (Web e-mail)

Challenge: How to keep state:

- protocol endpoints: maintain state at sender/receiver over multiple transactions
- cookies: HTTP messages carry state

cookies and privacy: — aside —

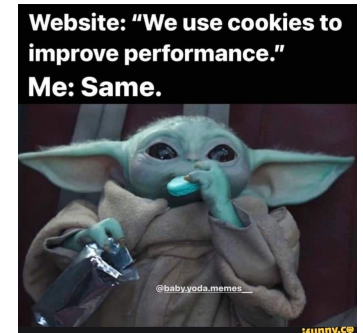
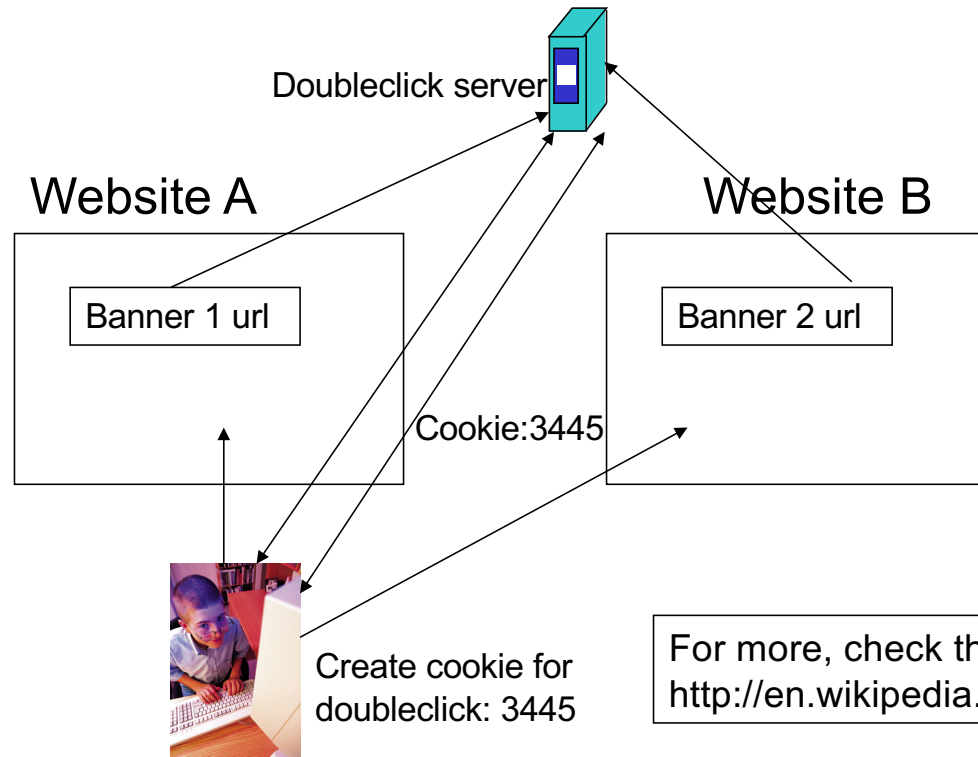
- cookies permit sites to *learn* a lot about you on their site.
- third party persistent cookies (tracking cookies) allow common identity (cookie value) to be tracked across multiple web sites

The Dark Side of Cookies



- ❖ Cookies permit sites to learn a lot about you
- ❖ You may supply name and e-mail to sites (and more)
- ❖ 3rd party cookies (from ad networks, etc.) can follow you across multiple sites
 - Ever visit a website, and the next day ALL your ads are from them ?
 - Check your browser's cookie file (cookies.txt, cookies.plist)
 - Do you see a website that you have never visited
- ❖ You COULD turn them off
 - But good luck doing anything on the Internet !!

Third party cookies



For more, check the following link and follow the references:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie

In practice the banner can be a single pixel (invisible to the user)

Performance of HTTP

- Page Load Time (PLT) is an important metric
 - From click (or typing URL) until user sees page
 - Key measure of web performance

- Depends on many factors such as
 - page content/structure,
 - protocols involved and
 - Network bandwidth and RTT

Performance Goals

❖ User

- fast downloads
- high availability

❖ Content provider

- happy users (hence, above)
- cost-effective infrastructure

❖ Network (secondary)


- avoid overload

Solutions?

❖ User

- fast downloads
- high availability

Improve HTTP to
achieve faster
downloads



❖ Content provider

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- cost-effective infrastructure

❖ Network (secondary)

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Solutions?

❖ User

- fast downloads
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❖ Content provider

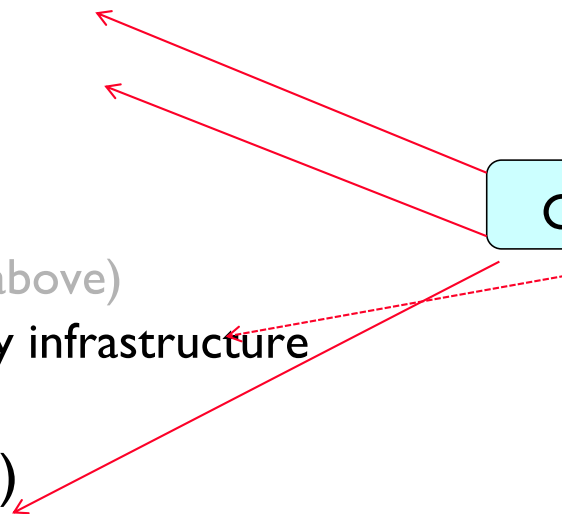
- happy users (hence, above)
- cost-effective delivery infrastructure

❖ Network (secondary)

- avoid overload

Improve HTTP to
achieve faster
downloads

Caching and Replication



Solutions?

❖ User

- fast downloads
- high availability

Improve HTTP to
achieve faster
downloads

❖ Content provider

- happy users (hence, above)
- cost-effective delivery infrastructure

Caching and Replication

❖ Network (secondary)

- avoid overload

Exploit economies of scale
(Webhosting, CDNs, datacenters)



How to improve Page Load Time (PLT)

- Reduce content size for transfer
 - Smaller images, compression
- Change HTTP to make better use of available bandwidth
 - Persistent connections and pipelining
- Change HTTP to avoid repeated transfers of the same content
 - Caching and web-proxies
- Move content closer to the client
 - CDNs

HTTP Performance

- ❖ Most Web pages have multiple objects
 - e.g., HTML file and a bunch of embedded images
- ❖ How do you retrieve those objects (naively)?
 - *One item at a time*
- ❖ **New TCP connection per (small) object!**

non-persistent HTTP

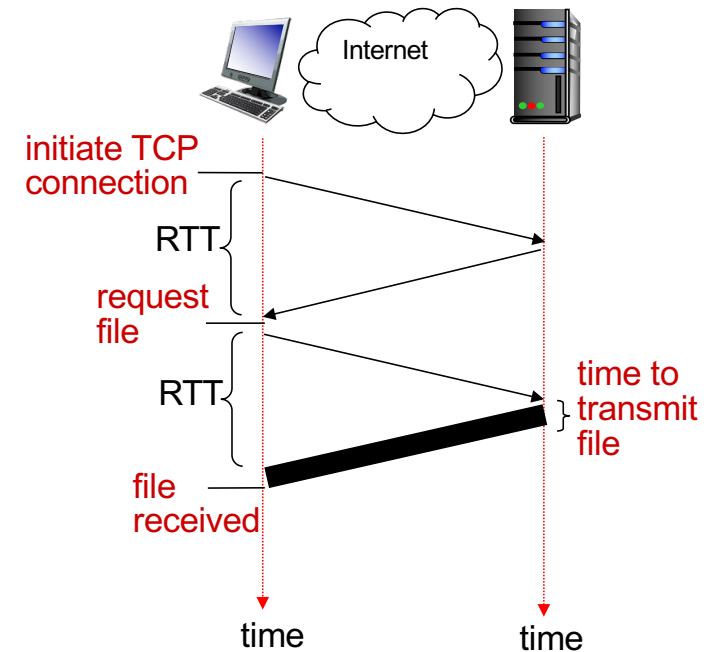
- ❖ at most one object sent over TCP connection
 - connection then closed
- ❖ downloading multiple objects required multiple connections

Non-persistent HTTP: response time

RTT (definition): time for a small packet to travel from client to server and back

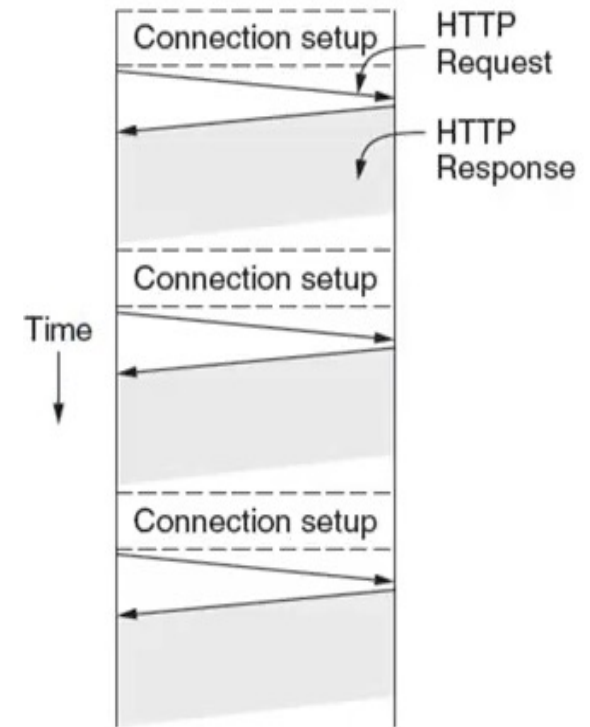
HTTP response time:

- ❖ one RTT to initiate TCP connection (approximate 3-way handshake)
- ❖ one RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
- ❖ file transmission time
- ❖ non-persistent HTTP response time = $2\text{RTT} + \text{file transmission time}$



HTTP/1.0

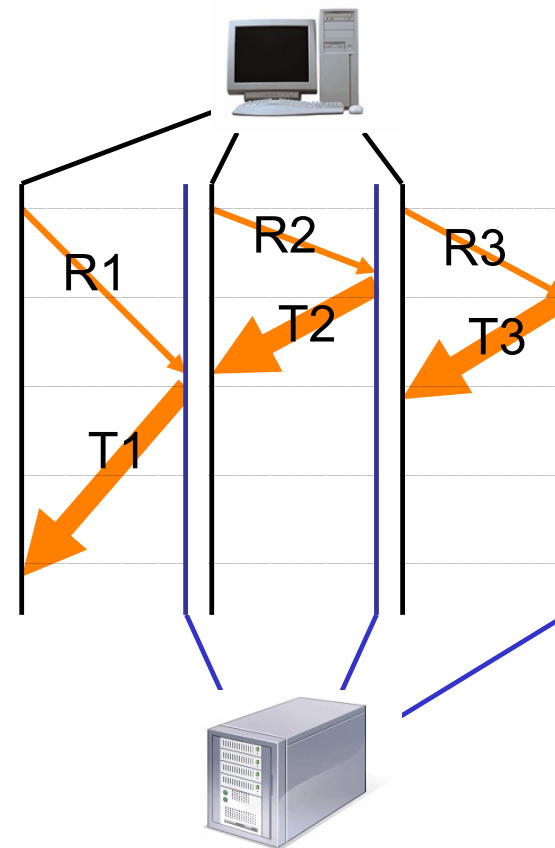
- Non-Persistent: One TCP connection to fetch one web resource
- Fairly poor PLT
- 2 Scenarios
 - Multiple TCP connections setups to the **same server**
 - Sequential request/responses even when resources are located on **different servers**
- Multiple TCP slow-start phases (more in lecture on TCP)



Improving HTTP Performance:

Concurrent Requests & Responses

- ❖ Use multiple connections *in parallel*
- ❖ Does not necessarily maintain order of responses



Quiz: Parallel HTTP Connections



What are potential downsides of parallel HTTP connections, i.e., can opening too many parallel connections be harmful and if so in what way?

Answer:

Persistent HTTP (HTTP/1.1)

Persistent HTTP

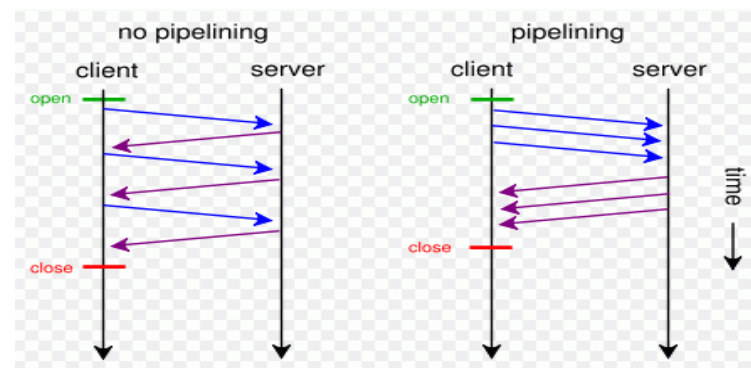
- ❖ server leaves TCP connection open after sending response
- ❖ subsequent HTTP messages between same client/server are sent over the same TCP connection
- ❖ Allow TCP to learn more accurate RTT estimate (APPARENT LATER IN THE COURSE)
- ❖ Allow TCP congestion window to increase (APPARENT LATER)
- ❖ i.e., leverage previously discovered bandwidth (APPARENT LATER)

Persistent without pipelining:

- ❖ client issues new request only when previous response has been received
- ❖ one RTT for each referenced object

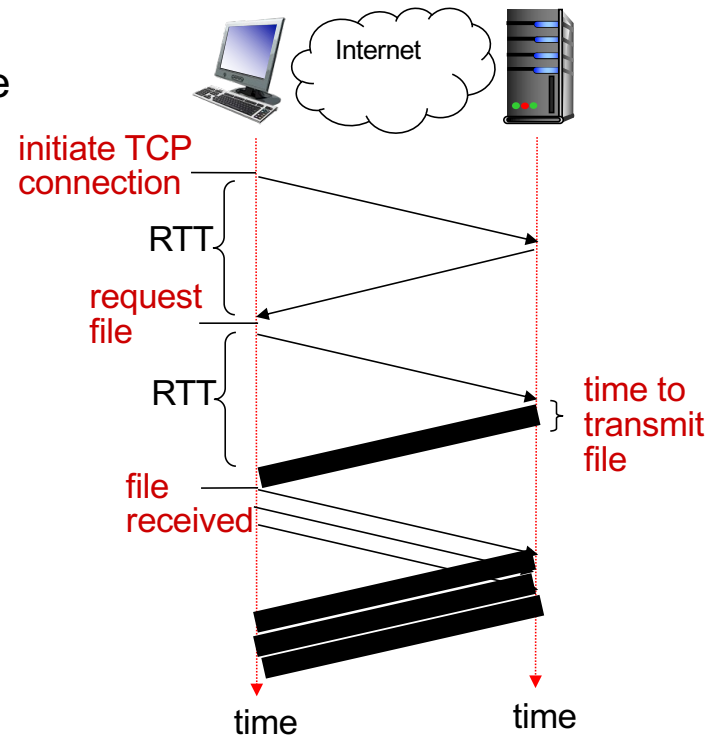
Persistent with pipelining:

- ❖ introduced in HTTP/1.1
- ❖ client sends requests as soon as it encounters a referenced object
- ❖ as little as one RTT for all the referenced objects



HTTP 1.1: response time with pipelining

Website with one
index page and three
embedded objects



How to improve PLT

- Reduce content size for transfer
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- Change HTTP to make better use of available bandwidth
 - Persistent connections and pipelining
- Change HTTP to avoid repeated transfers of the same content
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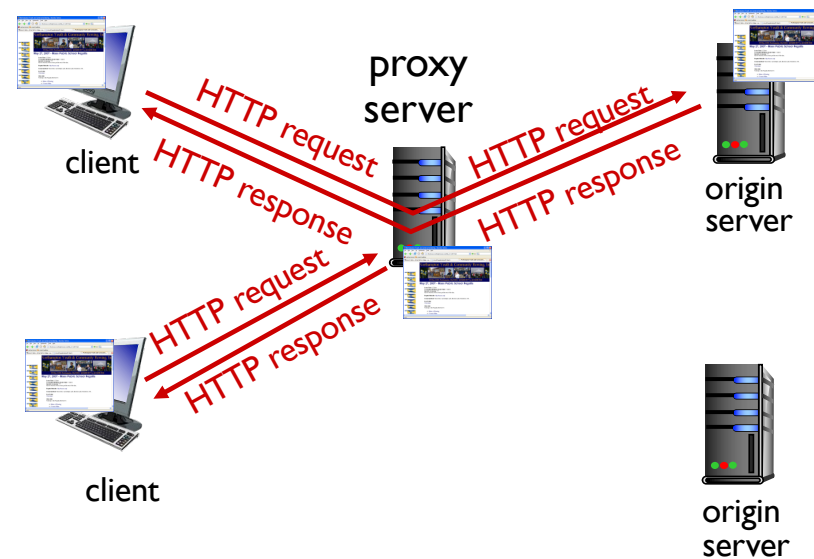
Improving HTTP Performance: Caching

- Why does caching work?
 - Exploit *locality of reference*
- How well does caching work?
 - Very well, up to a limit
 - Large overlap in content
 - But many unique requests
- Trend: increase in dynamic content
 - For example, customization of web pages
 - Reduces benefits of caching
 - Some exceptions, for example, video content

Web caches (proxy servers)

Goal: satisfy client request without involving origin server

- user configures browser to point to a **Web cache**
- browser sends all HTTP requests to cache
 - **if** object in cache: cache returns object to client
 - **else** cache requests object from origin server, caches received object, then returns object to client



Web caches (proxy servers)

- Web cache acts as both client and server
 - server for original requesting client
 - client to origin server
- typically, cache is installed by ISP (university, company, residential ISP)

Why Web caching?

- reduce response time for client request
 - cache is closer to client
- reduce traffic on an institution's access link
- Internet is dense with caches
 - enables “poor” content providers to more effectively deliver content

Caching example

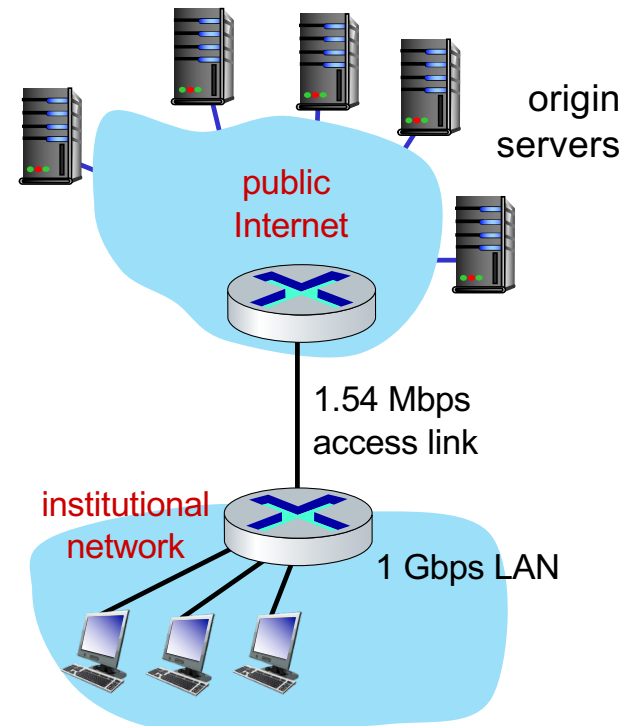
Scenario:

- access link rate: 1.54 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: 100K bits
- Average request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
 - average data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- LAN utilization: .0015
- access link utilization = .97
- end-end delay = Internet delay +
access link delay + LAN delay
= 2 sec + minutes + usecs

problem: large
delays at high
utilization!



Caching example: buy a faster access link

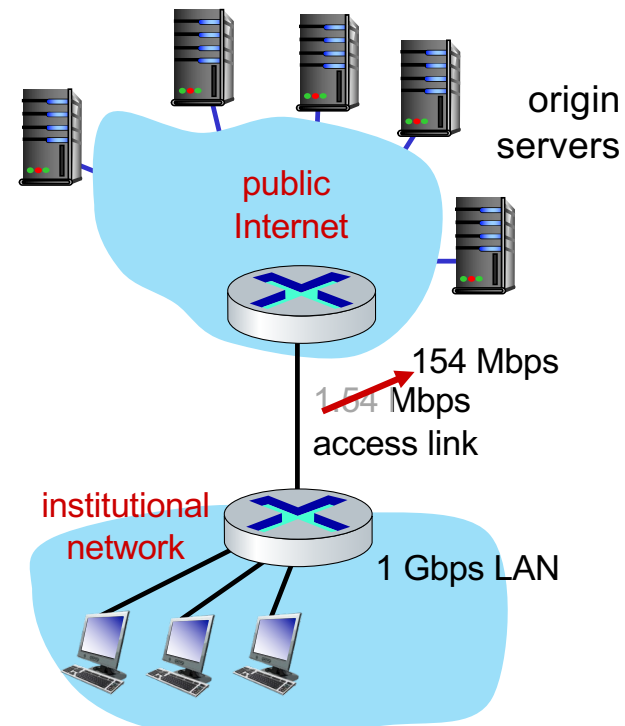
Scenario:

- access link rate: ~~1.54 Mbps~~ → 154 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: 100K bits
- Avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
 - avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- LAN utilization: .0015
- access link utilization = ~~.97~~ → .0097
- end-end delay = Internet delay +
access link delay + LAN delay
= 2 sec + ~~minutes~~ + usecs

Cost: faster access link (expensive!) → msecs



Caching example: install a web cache

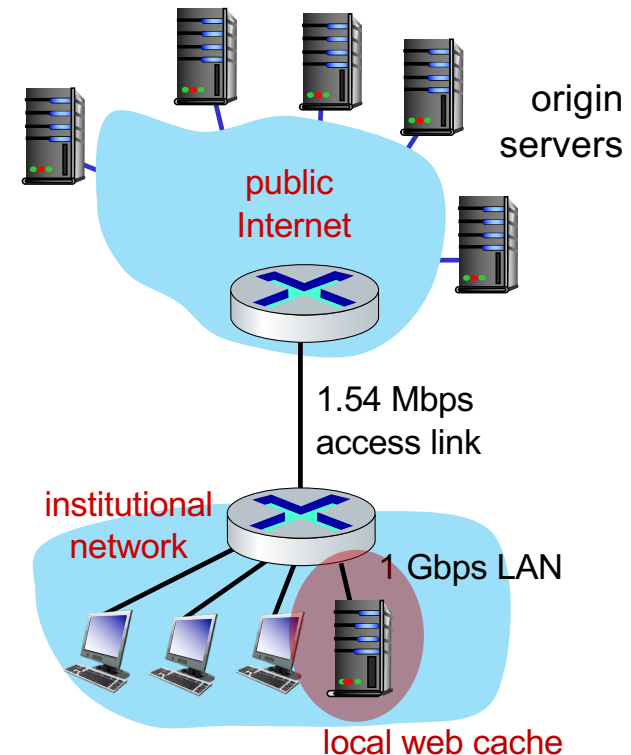
Scenario:

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- RTT from institutional router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: 100K bits
- Avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
 - avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- LAN utilization: .?
 - access link utilization = ?
 - average end-end delay = ?
- How to compute link utilization, delay?*

Cost: web cache (cheap!)

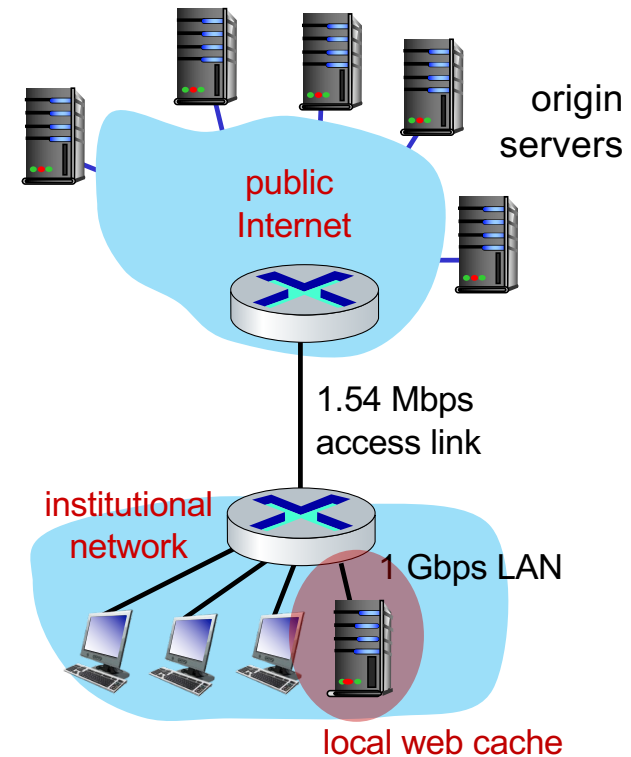


Caching example: install a web cache

Calculating access link utilization, end-end delay with cache:

- suppose cache hit rate is 0.4: 40% requests satisfied at cache; 60% requests satisfied at origin
- access link: 60% of requests use access link
- data rate to browsers over access link
 $= 0.6 * 1.50 \text{ Mbps} = .9 \text{ Mbps}$
- utilization $= 0.9 / 1.54 = .58$
- average end-end delay
 $= 0.6 * (\text{delay from origin servers})$
 $+ 0.4 * (\text{delay when satisfied at cache})$
 $= 0.6 (2.01) + 0.4 (\sim \text{msecs}) = \sim 1.2 \text{ secs}$
approximation

lower average end-end delay than with 154 Mbps link (and cheaper too!)



Conditional GET

Goal: don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version

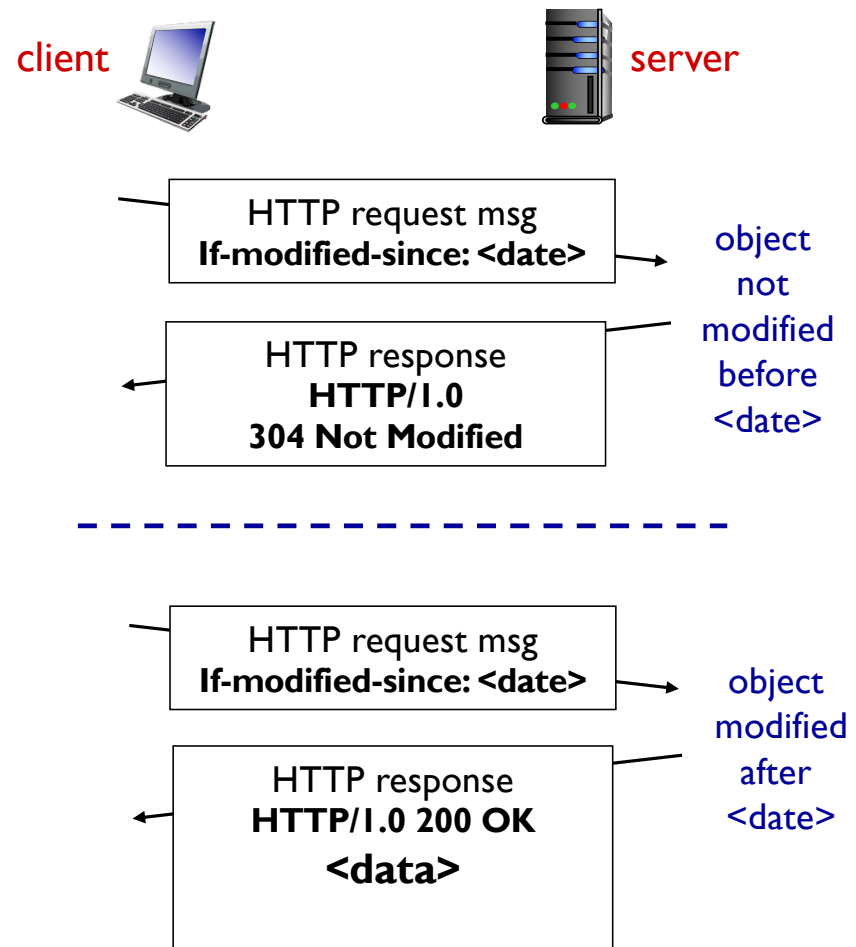
- no object transmission delay
- lower link utilization

- **cache:** specify date of cached copy in HTTP request

If-modified-since: <date>

- **server:** response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:

HTTP/1.0 304 Not Modified



Example Cache Check Request

GET / HTTP/1.1

Accept: */*

Accept-Language: en-us

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate

If-Modified-Since: Mon, 29 Jan 2001 17:54:18 GMT

If-None-Match: "7a11f-10ed-3a75ae4a"

User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 5.5; Windows NT 5.0)

Host: www.intel-iris.net

Connection: Keep-Alive

Example Cache Check Response

HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified

Date: Tue, 27 Mar 2001 03:50:51 GMT

Server: Apache/1.3.14 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux) mod_ssl/2.7.1
OpenSSL/0.9.5a DAV/1.0.2 PHP/4.0.1pl2 mod_perl/1.24

Connection: Keep-Alive

Keep-Alive: timeout=15, max=100

ETag: "7a11f-10ed-3a75ae4a"

Etag: Usually used for dynamic content. The value is often a cryptographic hash of the content.

Improving HTTP Performance: Replication

- Replicate popular Web site across many machines

- Spreads load on servers
- Places content closer to clients
- Helps when content isn't cacheable

- Problem:

- Want to direct client to a particular replica
 - Balance load across server replicas
 - Pair clients with nearby servers
- Expensive

- Common solution:

- DNS returns different addresses based on client's geo-location, server load, etc.

More on this later

Improving HTTP Performance: CDN

- Caching and replication as a service
- Large-scale distributed storage infrastructure (usually) administered by one entity
 - e.g., Akamai has servers in 20,000+ locations
- Combination of (pull) caching and (push) replication
 - **Pull:** Direct result of clients' requests
 - **Push:** Expectation of high access rate
- Also do some processing
 - Handle dynamic web pages
 - Transcoding

What about HTTPS?



- HTTP is insecure
- HTTP basic authentication: password sent using base64 encoding (can be readily converted to plaintext)
- HTTPS: HTTP over a connection encrypted by Transport Layer Security (TLS)
- Provides:
 - Authentication
 - Bidirectional encryption
- Widely used in place of plain vanilla HTTP

HTTP/2

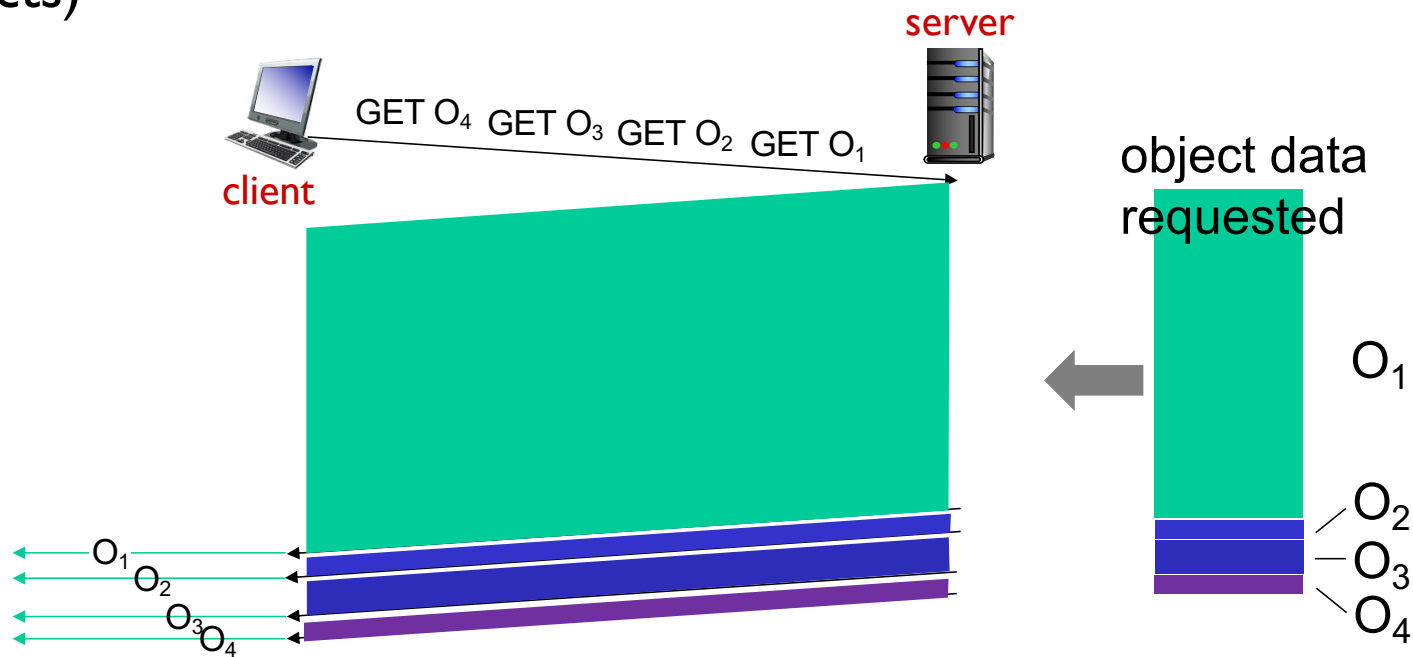
Key goal: decreased delay in multi-object HTTP requests

HTTP/1.1: introduced **multiple, pipelined GETs** over single TCP connection

- server responds *in-order* (FCFS: first-come-first-served scheduling) to GET requests
- with FCFS, small object may have to wait for transmission (**head-of-line (HOL) blocking**) behind large object(s)
- loss recovery (retransmitting lost TCP segments) stalls object transmission

HTTP/2: mitigating HOL blocking

HTTP 1.1: client requests 1 large object (e.g., video file, and 3 smaller objects)



objects delivered in order requested: O₂, O₃, O₄ wait behind O₁

HTTP/2

Key goal: decreased delay in multi-object HTTP requests

HTTP/2: [RFC 7540, 2015] increased flexibility at server in sending objects to client:

- methods, status codes, most header fields unchanged from HTTP 1.1
- transmission order of requested objects based on client-specified object priority (not necessarily FCFS)
- *push* unrequested objects to client
- divide objects into frames, schedule frames to mitigate HOL blocking

HTTP/2: mitigating HOL blocking

HTTP/2: objects divided into frames, frame transmission interleaved



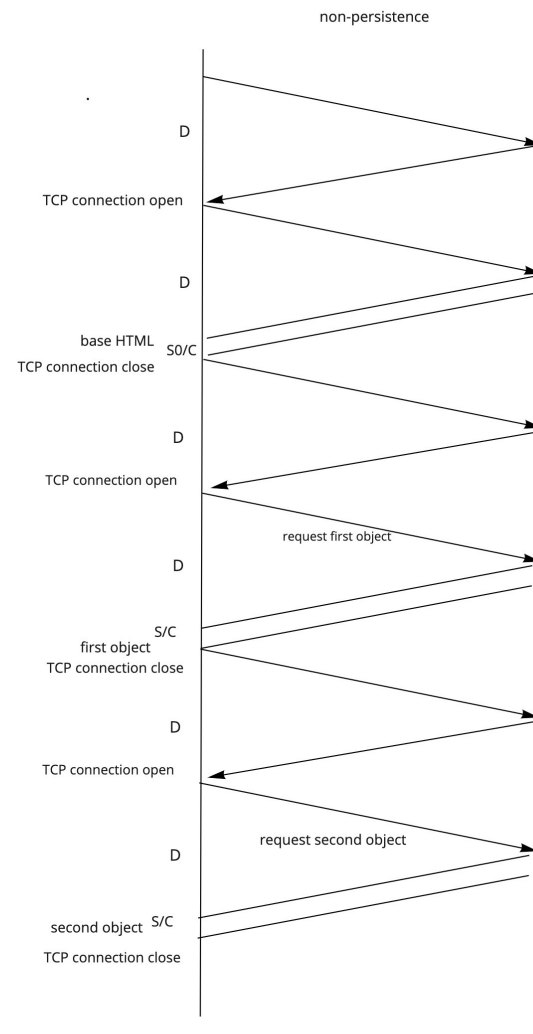
O₂, O₃, O₄ delivered quickly, O₁ slightly delayed

Quiz: HTTP (1)



Consider an HTML page with a base file of size S_0 bits and N inline objects each of size S bits. Assume a client fetching the page across a link of capacity C bits/s and RTT of D . How long does it take to download the page using **non-persistent HTTP (without parallelism)**?

- A. $D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- B. $2D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- C. $N(D + S/C)$
- D. $2D + S_0/C + N(2D + S/C)$
- E. $2D + S_0/C + N(D + S/C)$



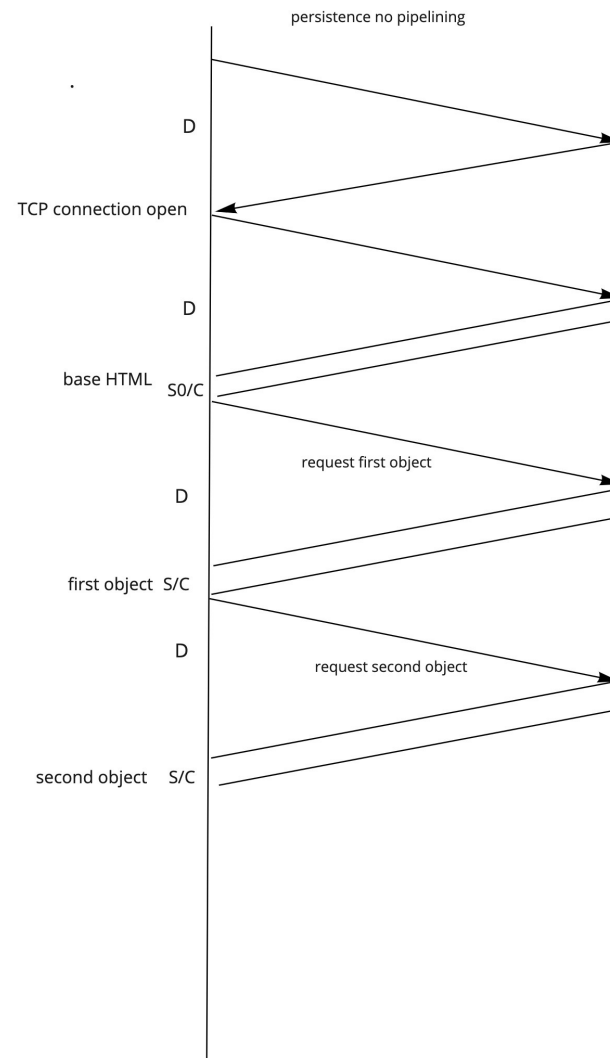
N=2

Quiz: HTTP (2)



Consider an HTML page with a base file of size S_0 bits and N inline objects each of size S bits. Assume a client fetching the page across a link of capacity C bits/s and RTT of D . How long does it take to download the page using **persistent HTTP (without parallelism or pipelining)**?

- A. $2D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- B. $3D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- C. $N(D + S/C)$
- D. $2D + S_0/C + N(2D + S/C)$
- E. $2D + S_0/C + N(D + S/C)$



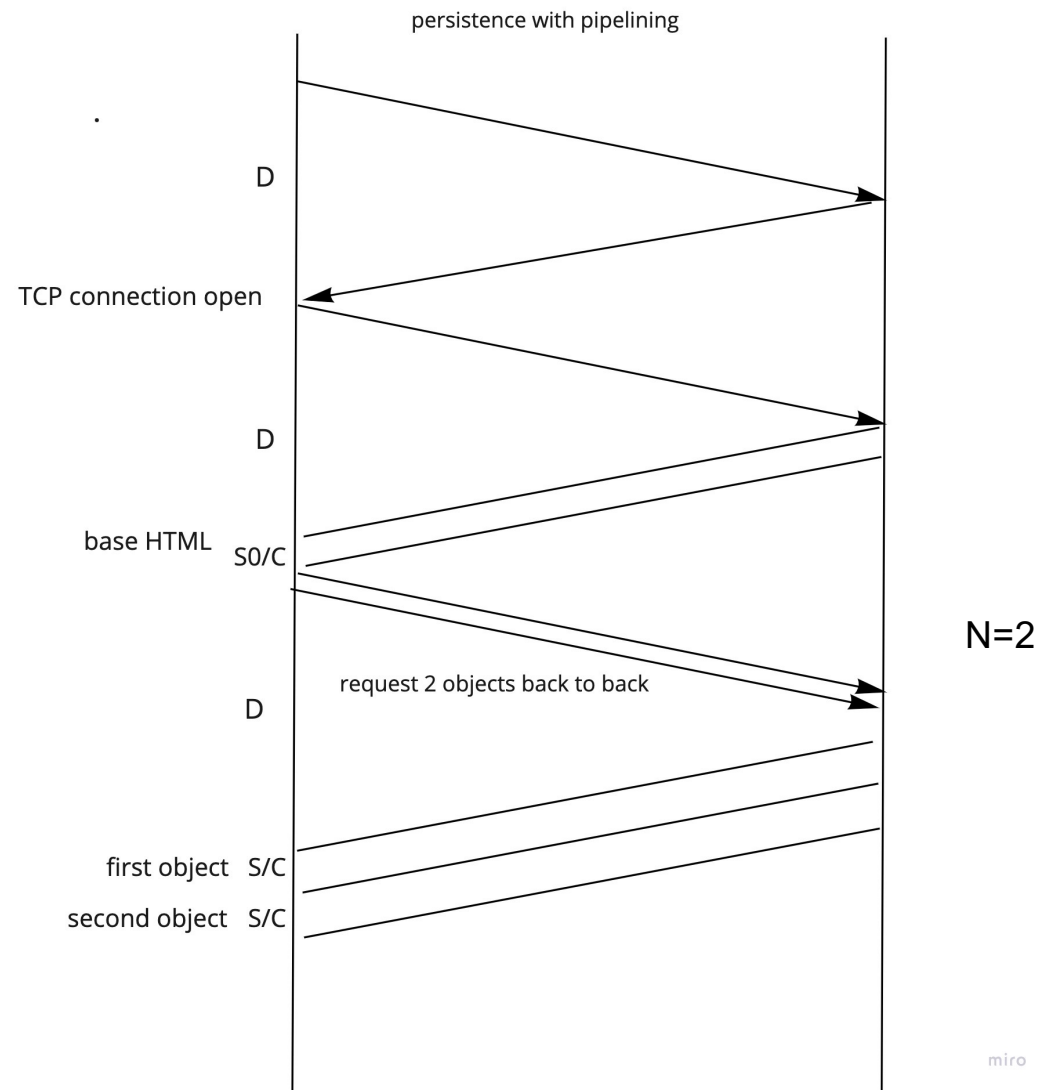
N=2

Quiz: HTTP (3)



Consider an HTML page with a base file of size S_0 bits and N inline objects each of size S bits. Assume a client fetching the page across a link of capacity C bits/s and RTT of D . How long does it take to download the page using **persistent HTTP with pipelining**?

- A. $2D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- B. $4D + (S_0 + NS)/C$
- C. $N(D + S/C)$
- D. $3D + S_0/C + NS/C$
- E. $2D + S_0/C + N(D + S/C)$



2. Application Layer: outline

2.1 principles of network applications

2.2 Web and HTTP

2.3 electronic mail

- SMTP, IMAP

2.4 DNS

2.5 P2P applications

2.6 video streaming and content
distribution networks (CDNs)

2.7 socket programming with
UDP and TCP

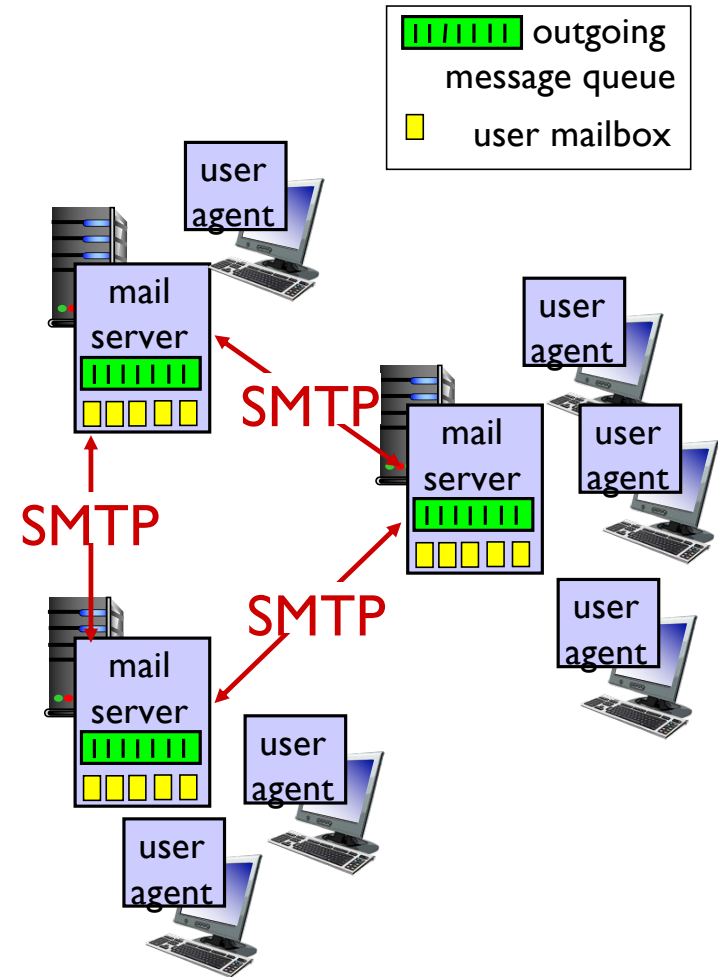
E-mail

Three major components:

- user agents
- mail servers
- simple mail transfer protocol: SMTP

User Agent

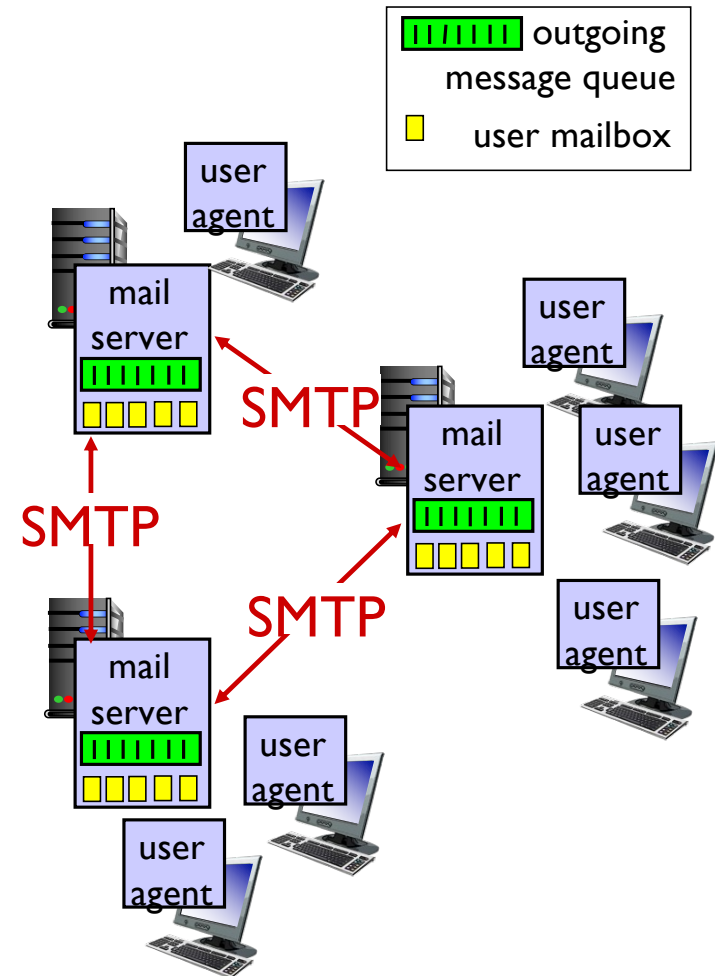
- a.k.a. “mail reader”
- composing, editing, reading mail messages
- e.g., Outlook, iPhone mail client
- outgoing, incoming messages stored on server



E-mail: mail servers

mail servers:

- *mailbox* contains incoming messages for user
- *message queue* of outgoing (to be sent) mail messages
- *SMTP protocol* between mail servers to send email messages
 - client: sending mail server
 - “server”: receiving mail server

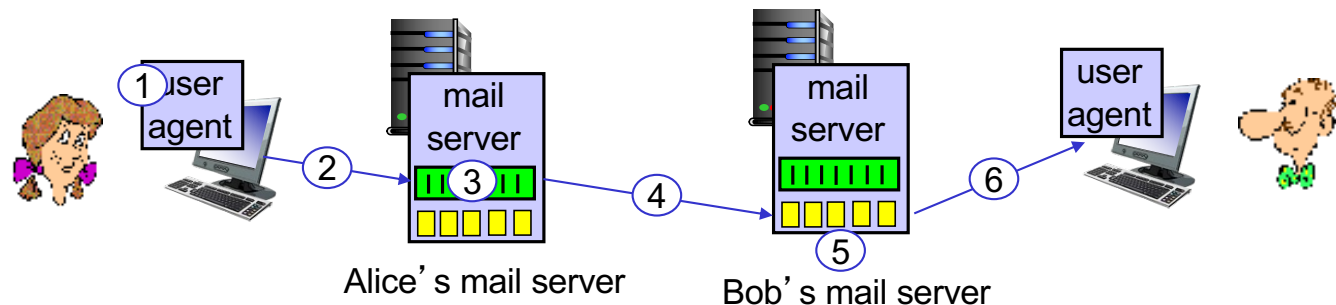


E-mail: the RFC (5321)

- uses TCP to reliably transfer email message from client (mail server initiating connection) to server, port 25
- direct transfer: sending server (acting like client) to receiving server
- three phases of transfer
 - handshaking (greeting)
 - transfer of messages
 - closure
- command/response interaction (like HTTP)
 - **commands**: ASCII text
 - **response**: status code and phrase
- messages must be in 7-bit ASCII

Scenario: Alice sends e-mail to Bob

- 1) Alice uses UA to compose e-mail message “to” bob@some school.edu
- 2) Alice’s UA sends message to her mail server; message placed in message queue
- 3) client side of SMTP opens TCP connection with Bob’s mail server
- 4) SMTP client sends Alice’s message over the TCP connection
- 5) Bob’s mail server places the message in Bob’s mailbox
- 6) Bob invokes his user agent to read message



Sample SMTP interaction

```
S: 220 hamburger.edu
C: HELO crepes.fr
S: 250 Hello crepes.fr, pleased to meet you
C: MAIL FROM: <alice@crepes.fr>
S: 250 alice@crepes.fr... Sender ok
C: RCPT TO: <bob@hamburger.edu>
S: 250 bob@hamburger.edu ... Recipient ok
C: DATA
S: 354 Enter mail, end with "." on a line by itself
C: Do you like ketchup?
C: How about pickles?
C: .
S: 250 Message accepted for delivery
C: QUIT
S: 221 hamburger.edu closing connection
```

SMTP: closing observations

comparison with HTTP:

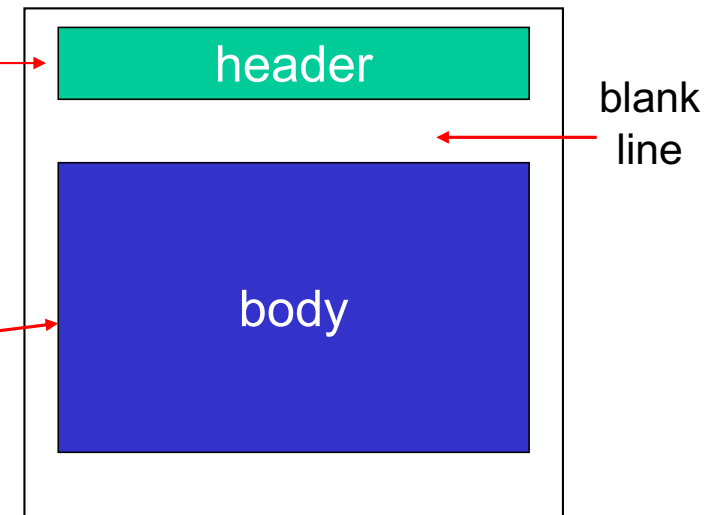
- HTTP: pull
- SMTP: push
- both have ASCII command/response interaction, status codes
- HTTP: each object encapsulated in its own response message
- SMTP: multiple objects sent in multipart message
- SMTP uses persistent connections
- SMTP requires message (header & body) to be in 7-bit ASCII
- SMTP server uses CRLF.CRLF to determine end of message

Mail message format

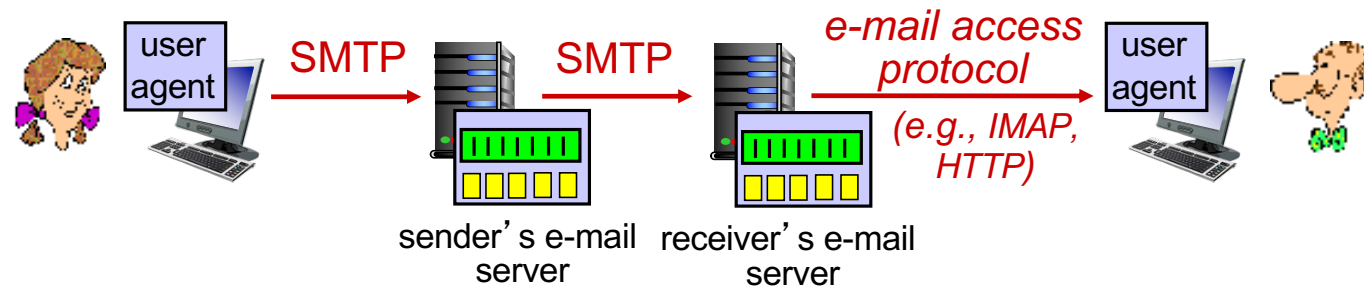
SMTP: protocol for exchanging e-mail messages, defined in RFC 531 (like HTTP)

RFC 822 defines *syntax* for e-mail message itself (like HTML)

- header lines, e.g.,
 - To:
 - From:
 - Subject:these lines, within the body of the email message area different from SMTP MAIL FROM., RCPT TO: commands!
- Body: the “message” ,ASCII characters only



Mail access protocols



- **SMTP**: delivery/storage of e-mail messages to receiver's server
- mail access protocol: retrieval from server
 - **IMAP**: Internet Mail Access Protocol [RFC 3501]: messages stored on server, IMAP provides retrieval, deletion, folders of stored messages on server
- **HTTP**: gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo!Mail, etc. provides web-based interface on top of SMTP (to send), IMAP (or POP) to retrieve e-mail messages

Quiz: SMTP

Why do we have Sender's mail server?

- User agent can directly connect with recipient mail server without the need of sender's mail server? What's the catch?

Quiz: SMTP

Why do we have a separate Receiver's mail server?

- Can't the recipient run the mail server on own end system?

Summary

- ❖ Application Layer (Chapter 2)
 - Principles of Network Applications
 - HTTP
 - E-mail
- ❖ Next:
 - DNS
 - P2P

