

Proxy

A proxy server is a hardware or a piece of software that is placed between a client and an application to provide intermediary service in the communication.

Proxy server provides a gateway between the user and the internet.

Types

- Forward Proxy
- Reverse Proxy

Forward Proxy

It is a proxy server that hides the identity of the client from the requested server.

Example : If the user goes to a particular website and that website knows that the user from where it's coming from is banned, then the server will show an access denied message to the user. So if the user goes to Google and asks for that website's proxy IP, then he can access that website. As now the user doesn't know the user's incoming location as there is a forward proxy in between the client and the website/application.

Reverse Proxy

It is a proxy server that hides the identity of the server from the client.

Example : Amazon having different functionality

When to Use Reverse Proxy ?

- When I don't want to expose the server.
- To make user feel there is only a single server.
- Provide load balancing to a server.
- Allow administrators to swap the backend servers without distributing the traffic.
- Filter out some requests.