

Web Security

Week 12 - DNS rebinding attacks

Old Dominion University

Department of Computer Science

CS 495/595 Spring 2022

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2022-04-11

Business ▶ The Channel

Demo shows how web attack threatens fabric of the universe

All hail the power of DNS rebinding

By Dan Goodin 9 Apr 2008 at 03:16

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RSA Showing how the web's underpinnings can be abused to attack assets presumed to be secure, a researcher unveiled a website that can log into a home router and change key settings, such as administrator passwords and servers used to access trusted web destinations.

Rather than creating a trojan or other piece of specialized malware to access servers or other devices behind a firewall, researcher Dan Kaminsky, a director of penetration testing firm IOActive, showed how a

https://www.theregister.com/2008/04/09/dns_rebinding_attack/

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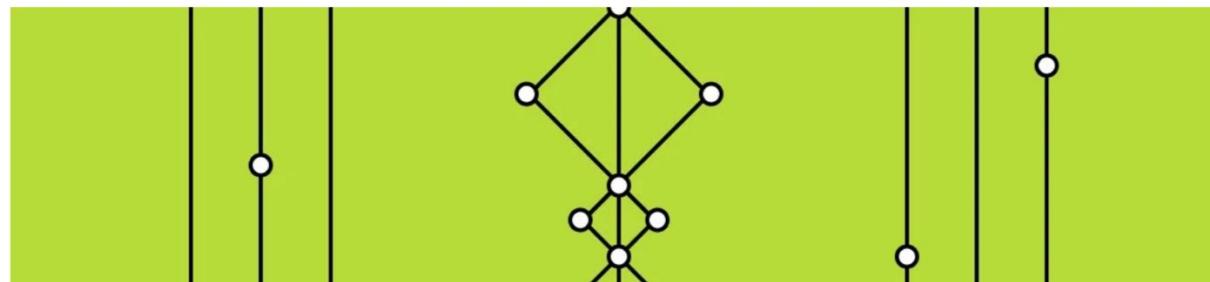
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LILY HAY NEWMAN

SECURITY 06.19.2018 04:51 PM

Millions of Streaming Devices Are Vulnerable to a Retro Web Attack

Using a technique called DNS rebinding, one amateur hacker found vulnerabilities in devices from Google, Roku, Sonos, and more.



<https://www.wired.com/story/chromecast-roku-sonos-dns-rebinding-vulnerability/>

DNS rebinding attacks

- Pretty much every IoT device is/was vulnerable
- Pretty much every local server is/was vulnerable
- For a long time, folks did not take DNS rebinding attacks seriously
- Very effective attack, and yet very little awareness about it in industry

DNS rebinding attacks

- 165 million printers, or 66 percent, are vulnerable to DNS rebinding attacks. The company named Hewlett Packard, Epson, Konica, Lexmark, and Xerox as examples of representative manufacturers shipping vulnerable printers.
- 160 million, or 75 percent, of IP cameras by manufacturers such as Axis Communications, GoPro, Sony, and Vivotek are vulnerable.
- 124 million, or 77 percent, of IP phones are vulnerable; manufacturers include Avaya, Cisco, Dell, NEC, and Polycom.
- 28 million, or 57 percent, of smart TVs – Roku-integrated, Samsung, and Vizio – are vulnerable.
- 14 million, or 87 percent, of switches, routers and access points are vulnerable; manufacturers include Cisco, Netgear, Extreme, Aruba, and Avaya.
- 5.1 million, or 78 percent, of streaming media players and smart speakers by Apple, Google, Roku, and Sonos are vulnerable.

<https://www.armis.com/resources/iot-security-blog/dns-rebinding-exposes-half-a-billion-iot-devices-in-the-enterprise/>

Radio Thermostat CT50



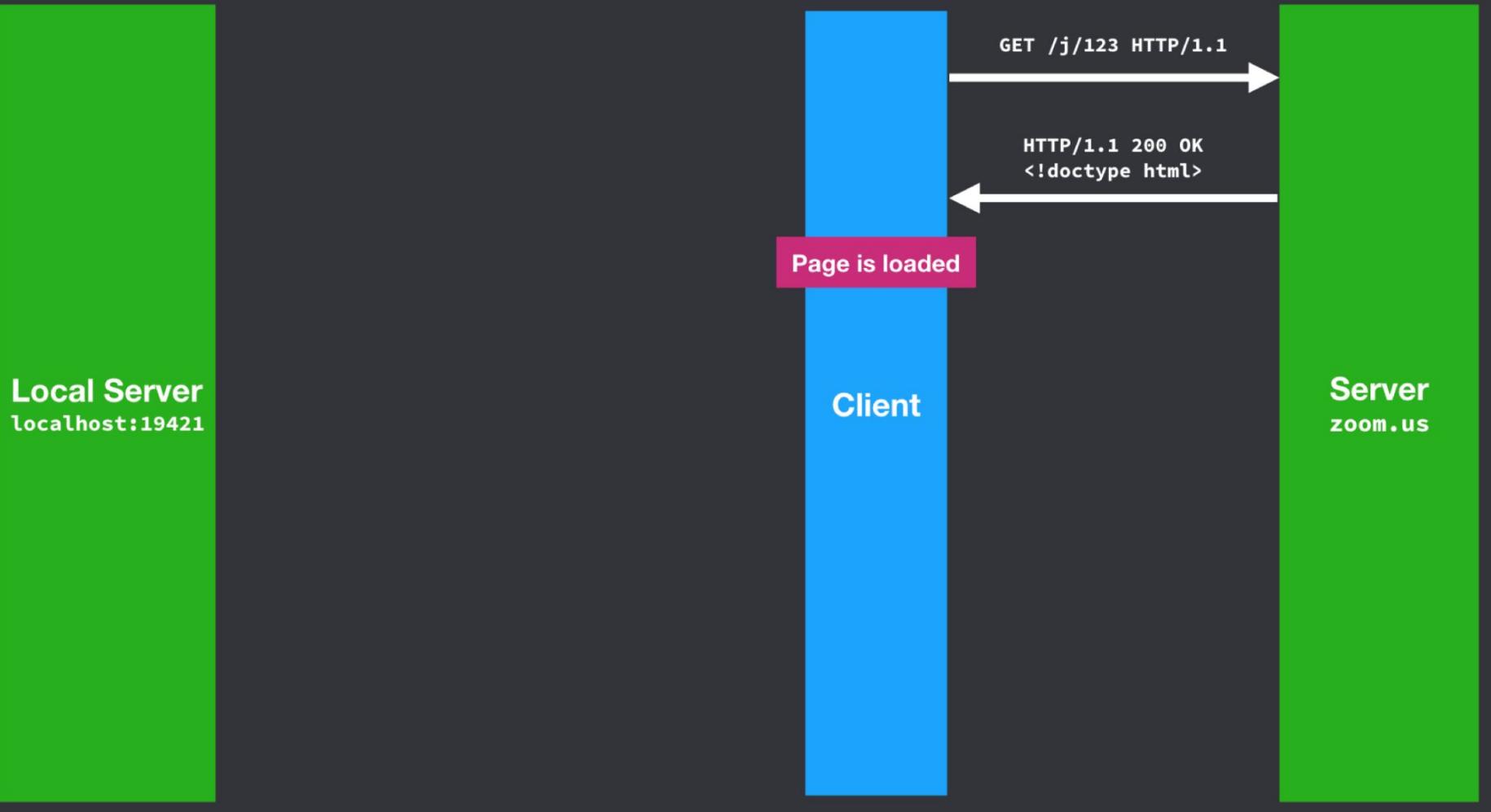
DNS rebinding attacks

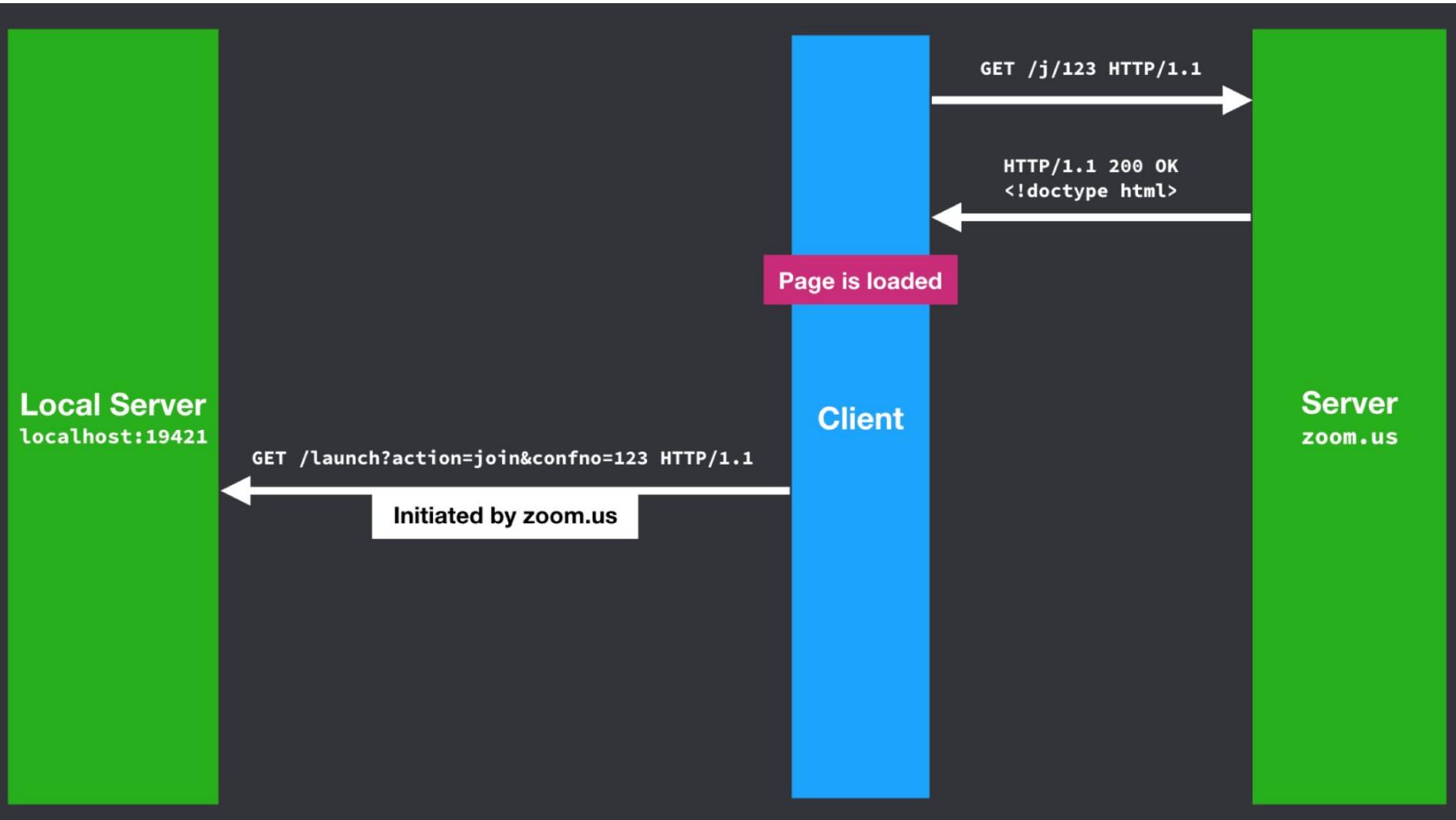
The Radio Thermostat CT50 & CT80 devices have by far the most consequential IoT device vulnerabilities I've found so far. These devices are some of the cheapest "smart" thermostats available on the market today. I purchased one to play with after being tipped off to their lack of security by CVE-2013-4860, which reported that the device had no form of authentication and could be controlled by anyone on the network. [...]

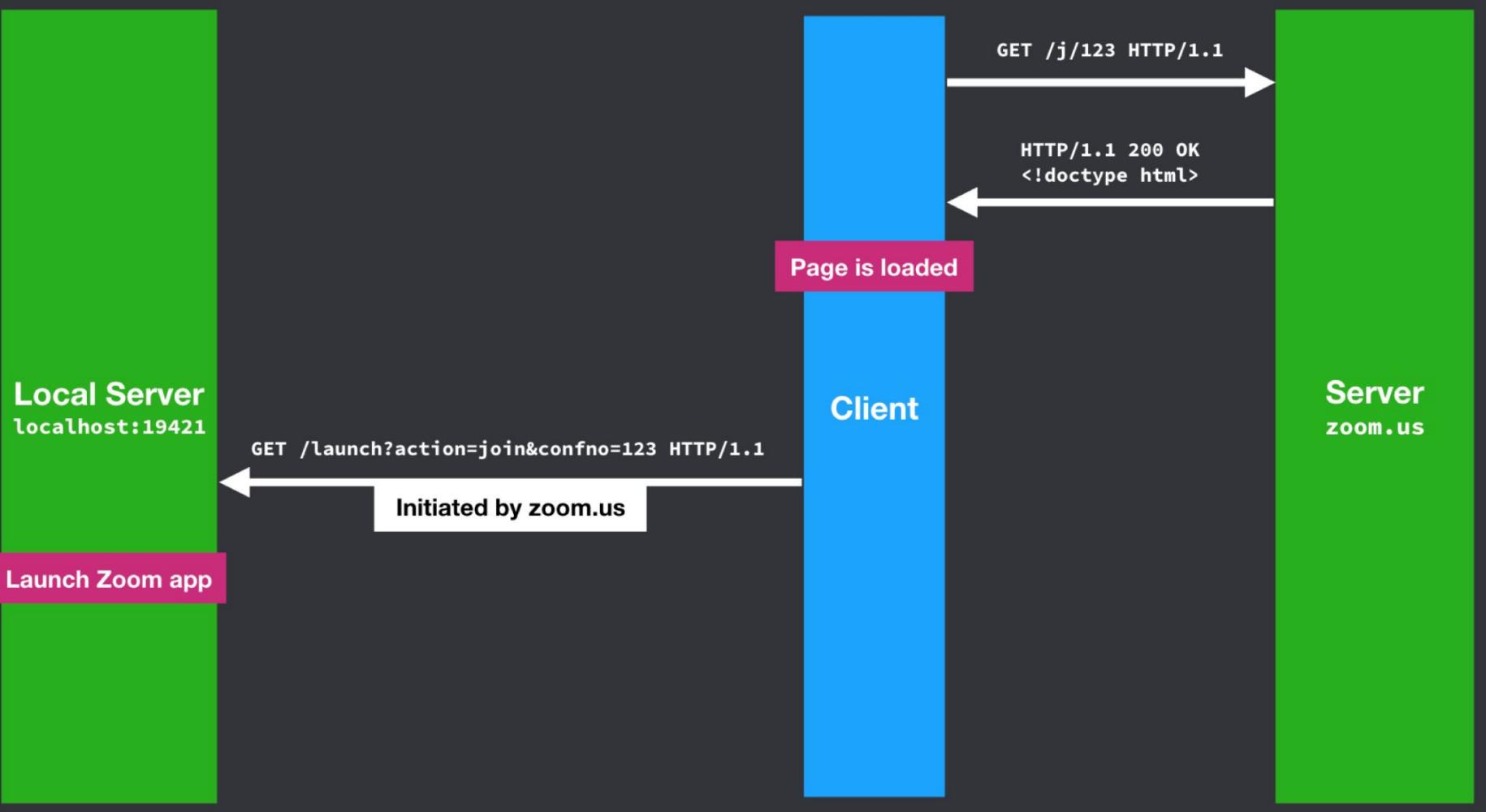
That assumption turned out to be correct and the thermostat's control API left the door wide open for DNS rebinding shenanigans. It's probably pretty obvious the kind of damage that can be done if your building's thermostat can be controlled by remote attackers. The PoC at <http://rebind.network> exfiltrates some basic information from the thermostat before setting the target temperature to 95° F. That temperature can be dangerous, or even deadly in the summer months to an elderly or disabled occupant. Not to mention that if your device is targeted while you're on vacation you could return home to a whopper of a utility bill.

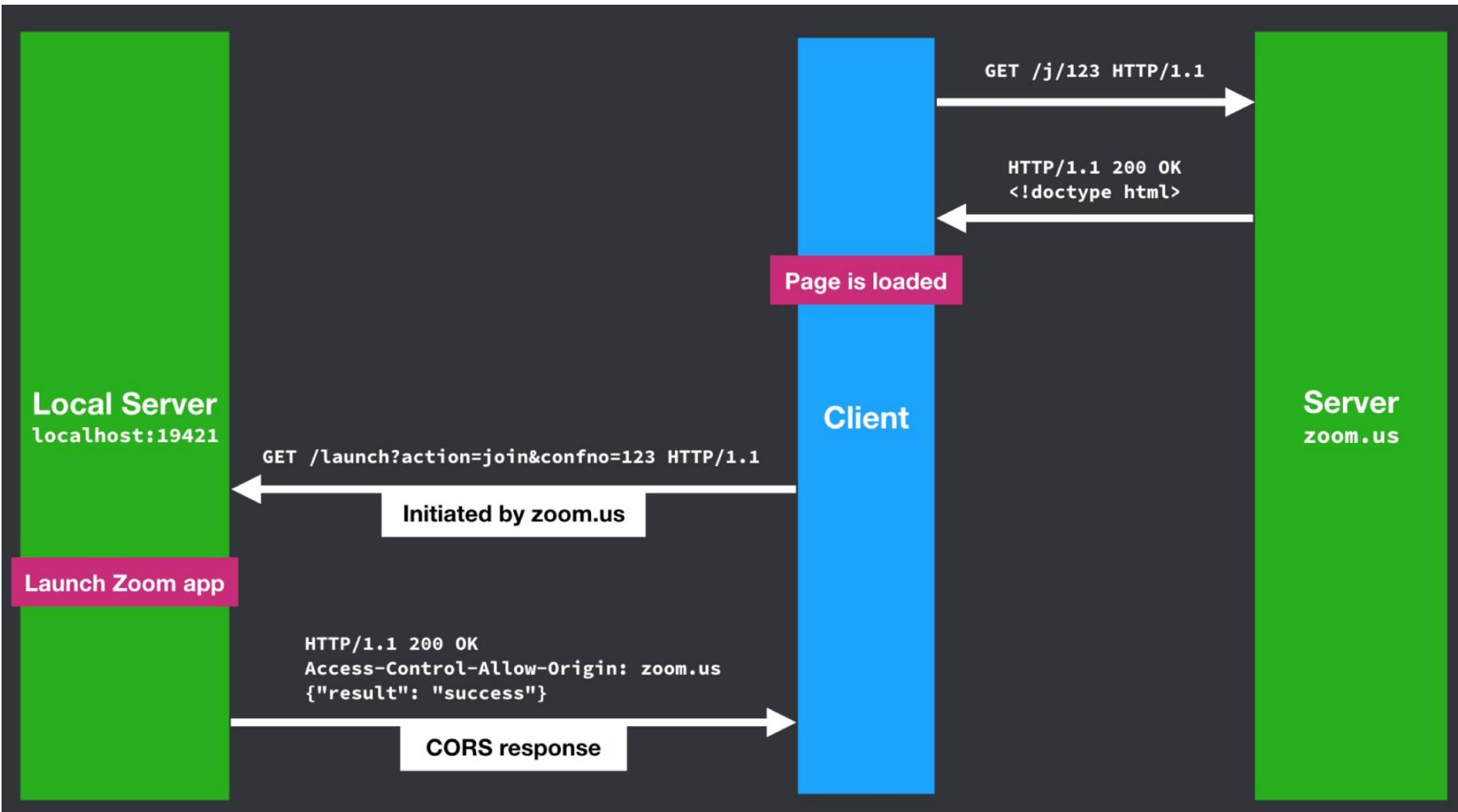
<https://medium.com/@brannondorsey/attacking-private-networks-from-the-internet-with-dns-rebinding-ea7098a2d325>

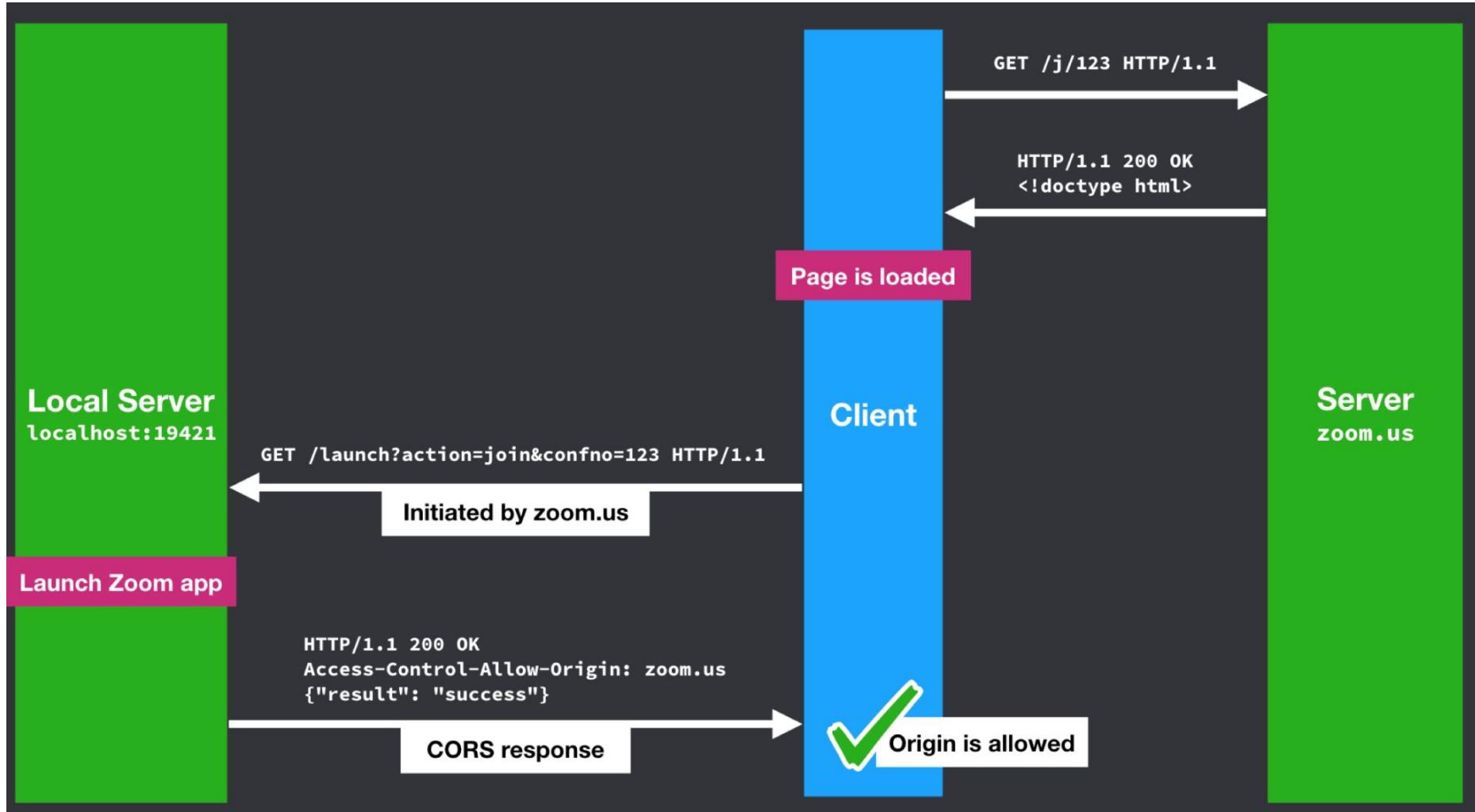
Recall from last week:
User joins a zoom call
(with CORS endpoint)
(vulnerable)



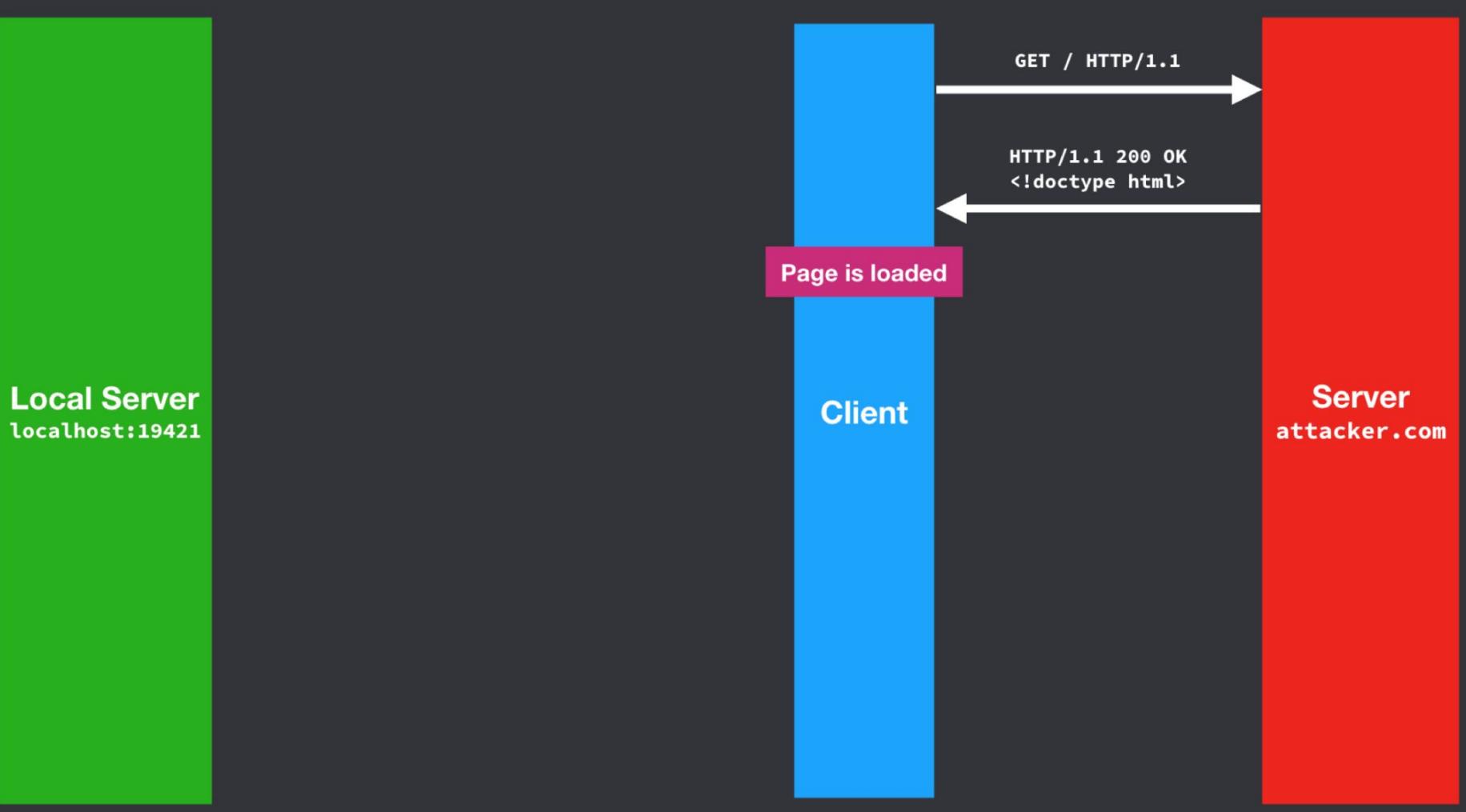


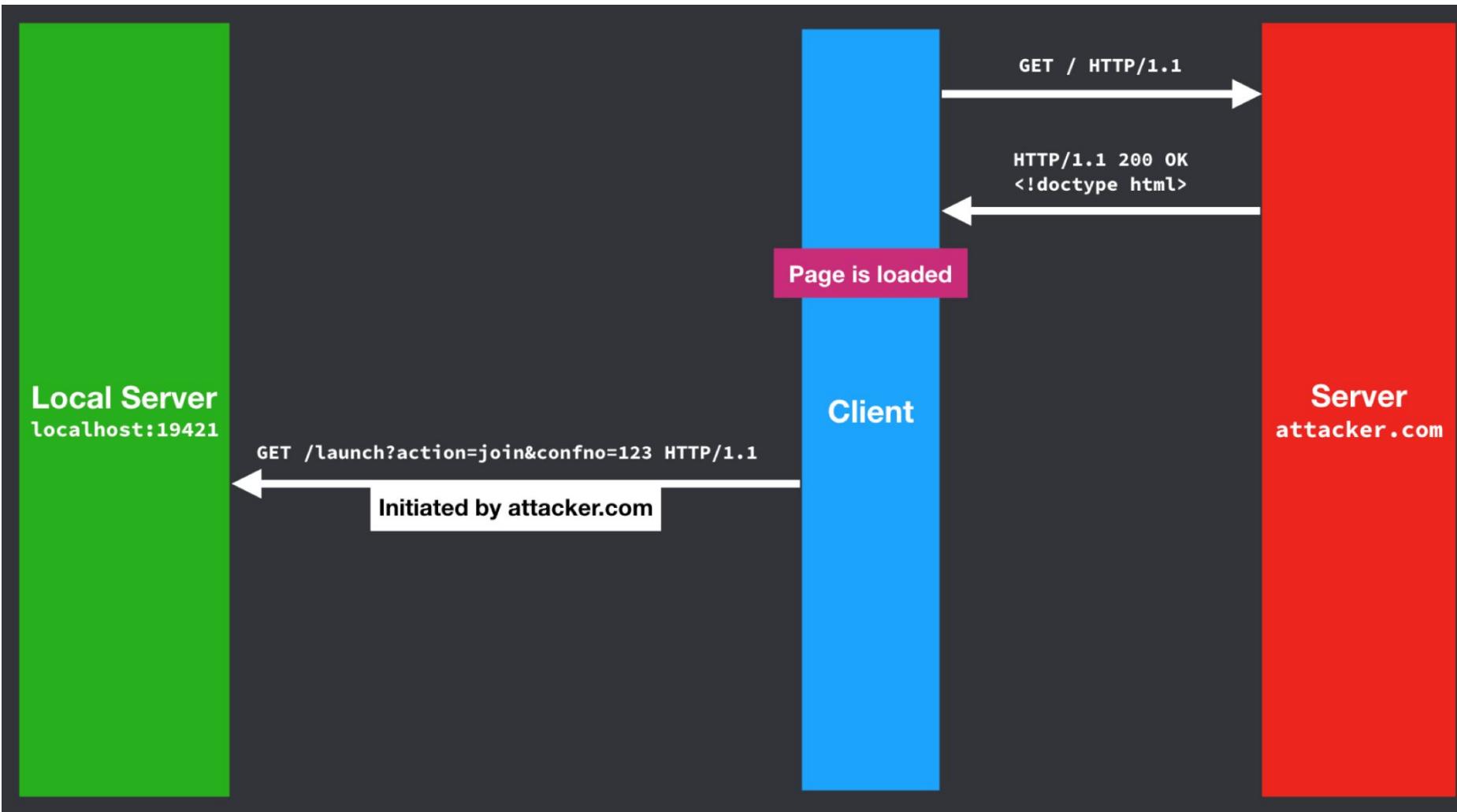


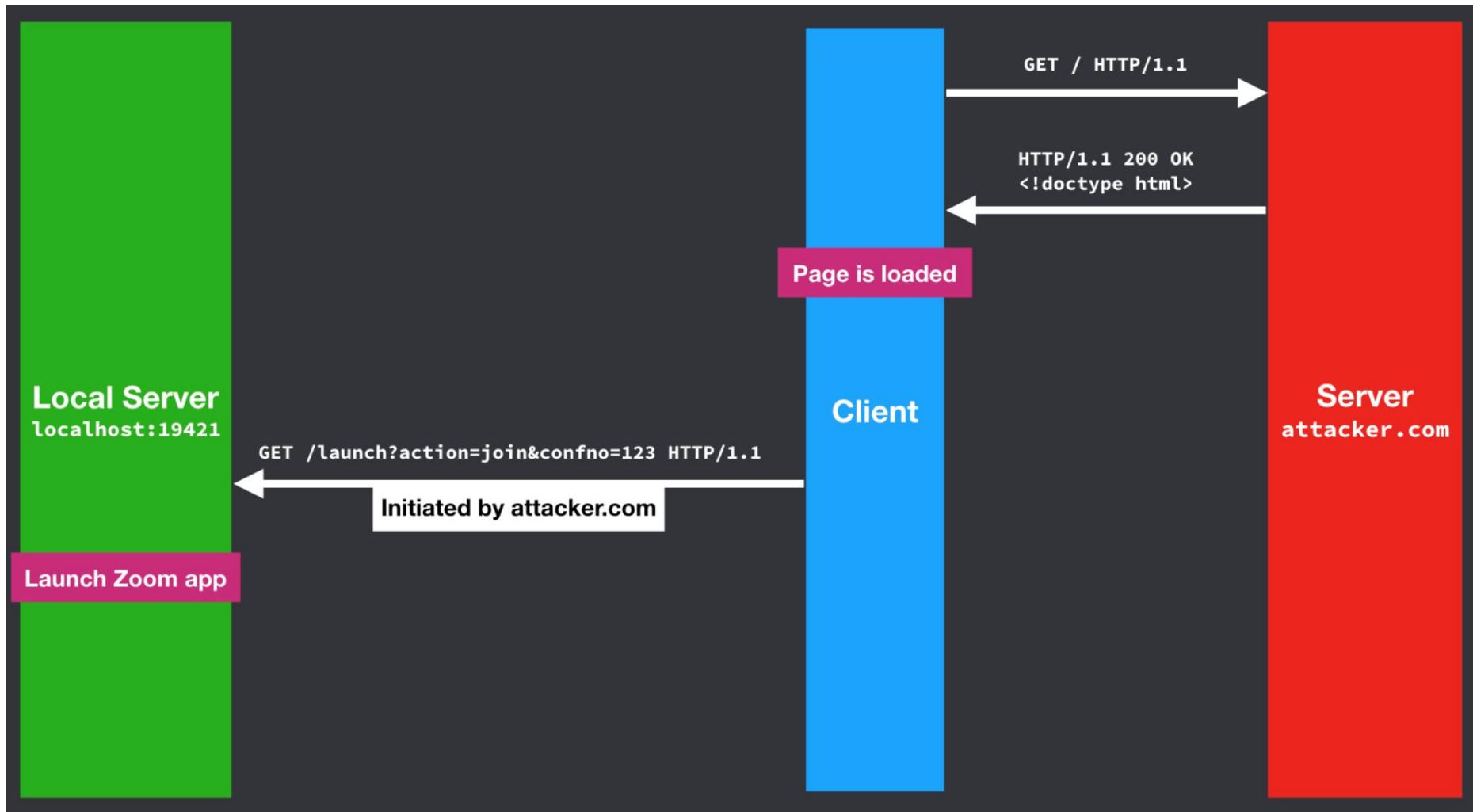


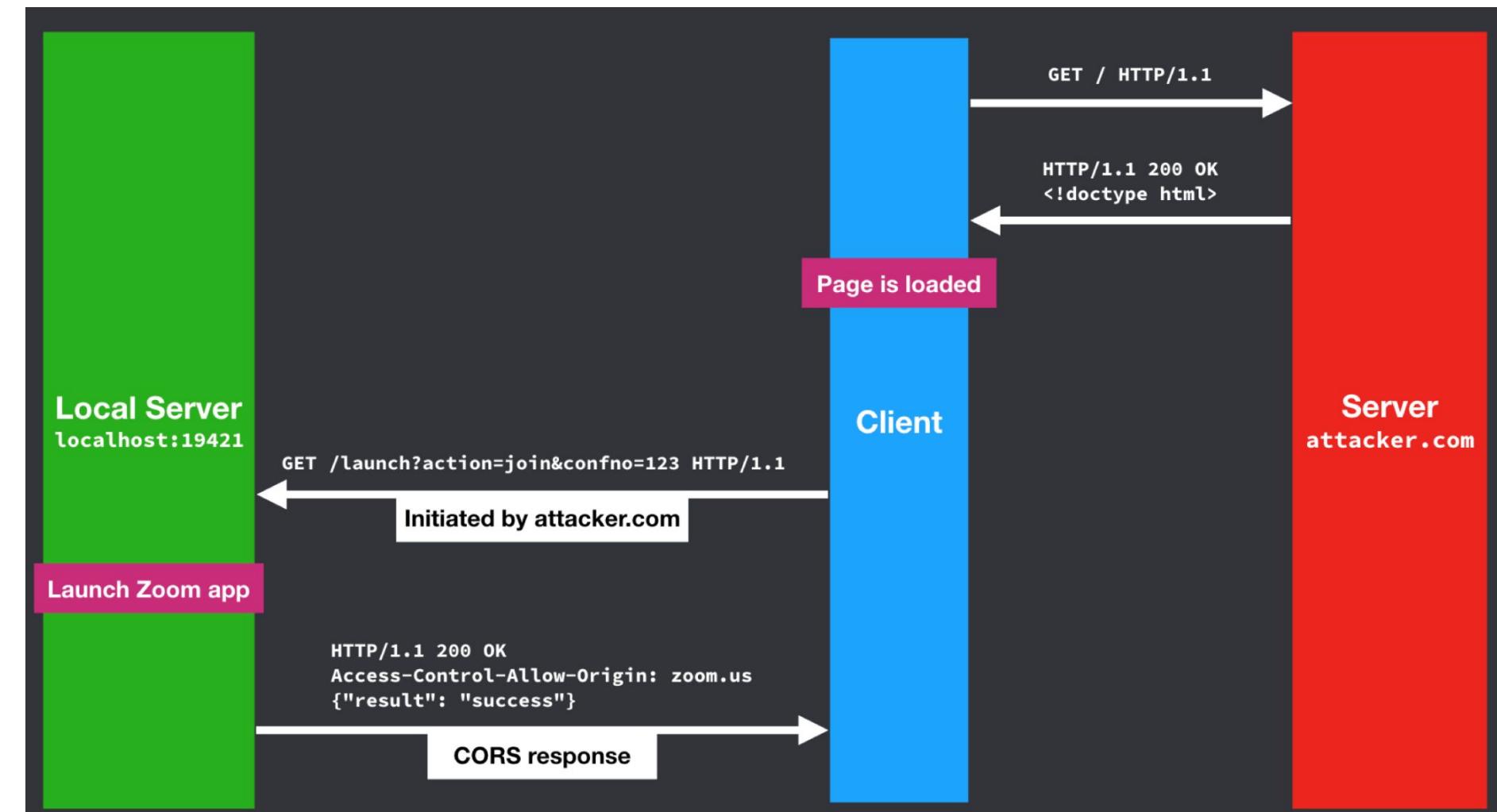


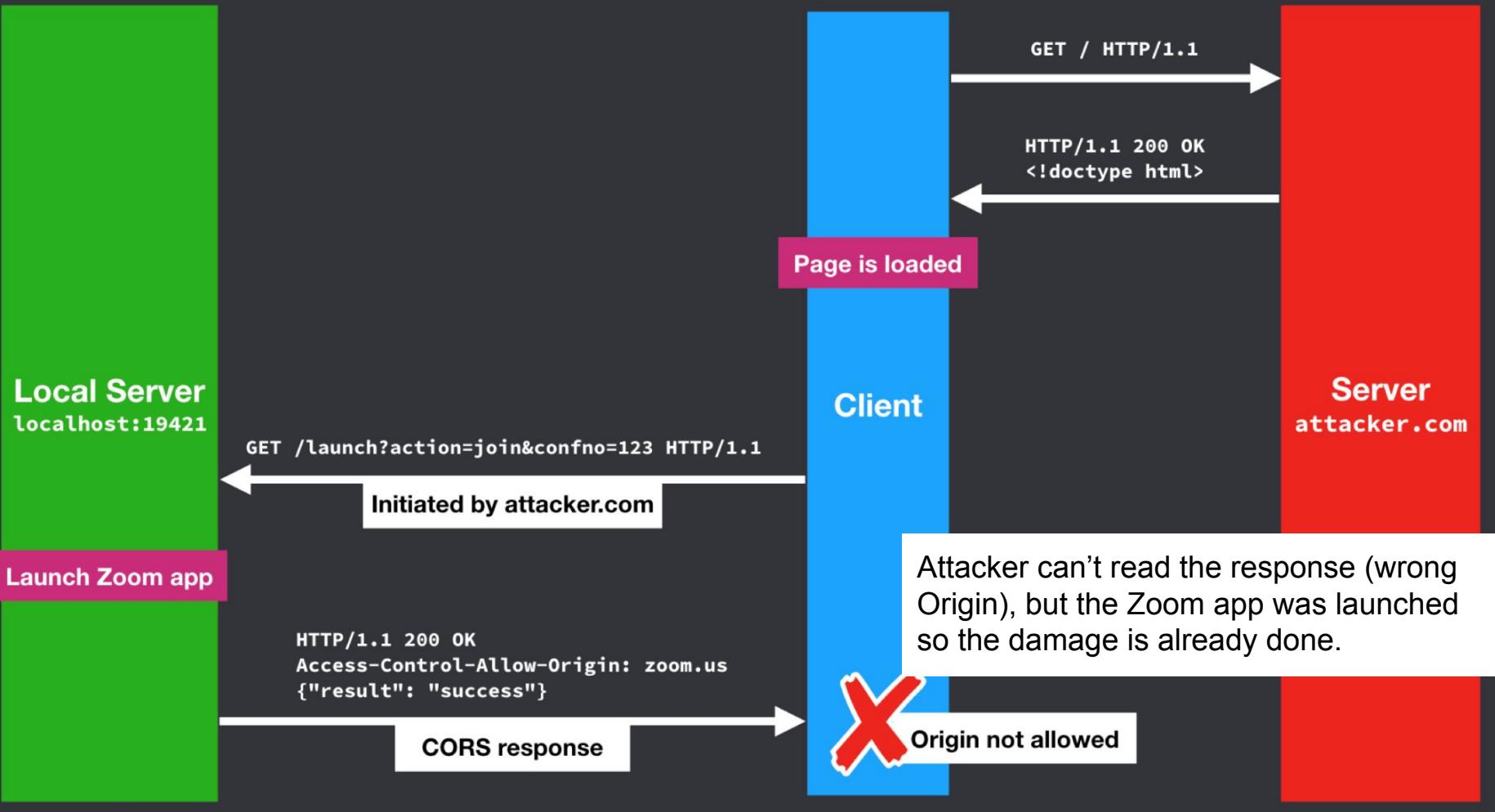
Attacker joins user into a zoom call (with CORS endpoint)











Let's fix the issue

- Best solution: remove the local HTTP server and just register a `zoom://` scheme (protocol handler)
 - <https://www.iana.org/assignments/uri-schemes/uri-schemes.xhtml>
- However, let's assume we need to keep the local HTTP server (probably a bad idea)
- Ideas for securing it:
 - Require user interaction before joining, don't allow host to automatically enable video
 - Only allow `zoom.us` to communicate with the local server

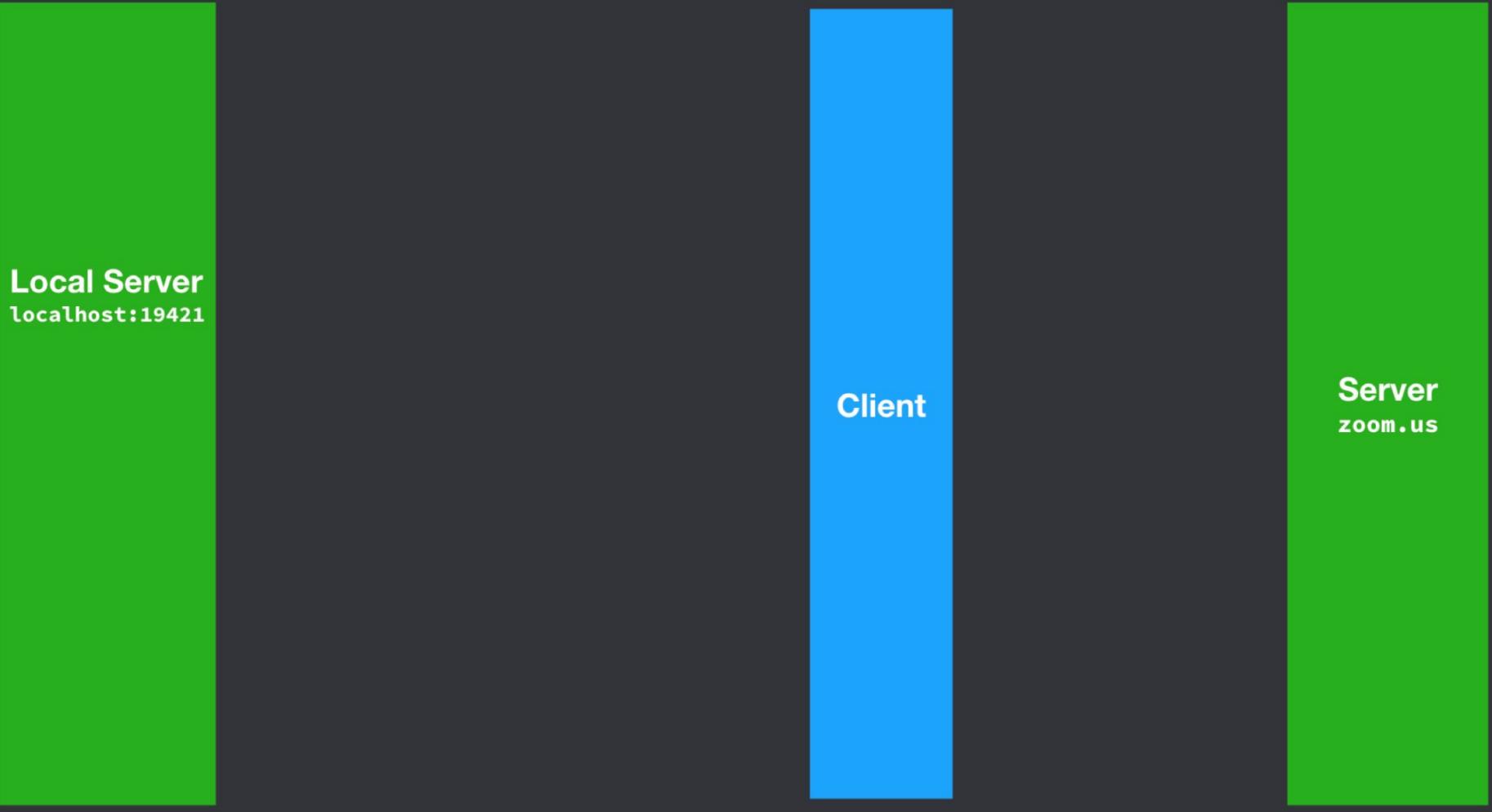
"Simple" HTTP requests

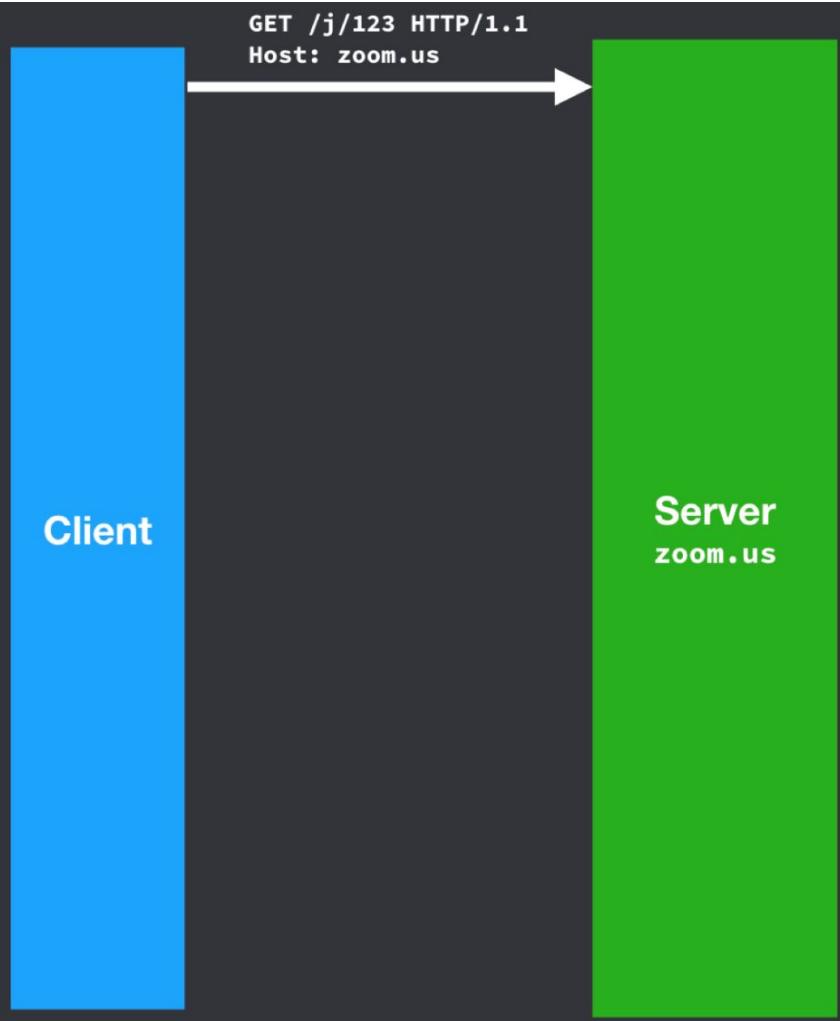
- An HTTP/1.1 GET, HEAD or a POST is the request method
- In the case of a POST, the Content-Type of the request body is one of
application/x-www-form-urlencoded,
multipart/form-data, or text/plain
- No custom HTTP headers are set (or, only CORS-safelisted headers are set)
- In other words, “simple” requests are requests that your browser can make *without* using Javascript

"Preflighted" HTTP requests

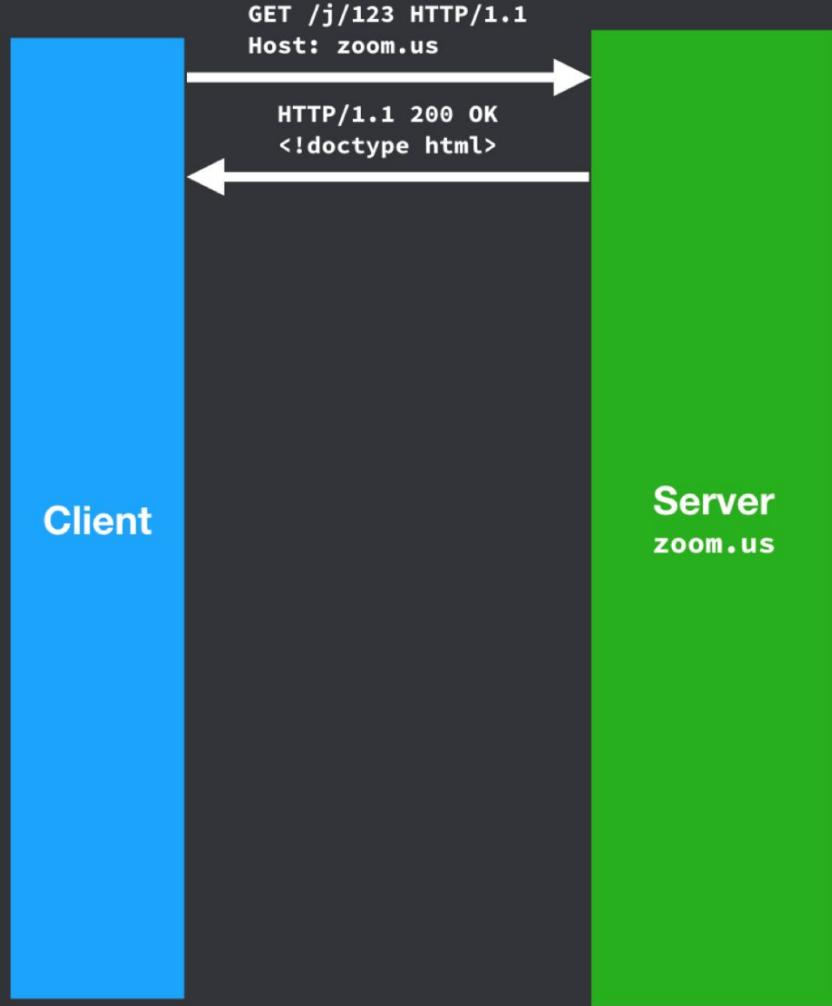
- Before a "preflighted" requests can be sent to the target server, the browser must check that it is safe to send
- So it first sends an HTTP request with the OPTIONS method to the same URL
- If server doesn't support OPTIONS (either because it is old or because it doesn't want to support preflighted requests) then, preflighted requests are denied

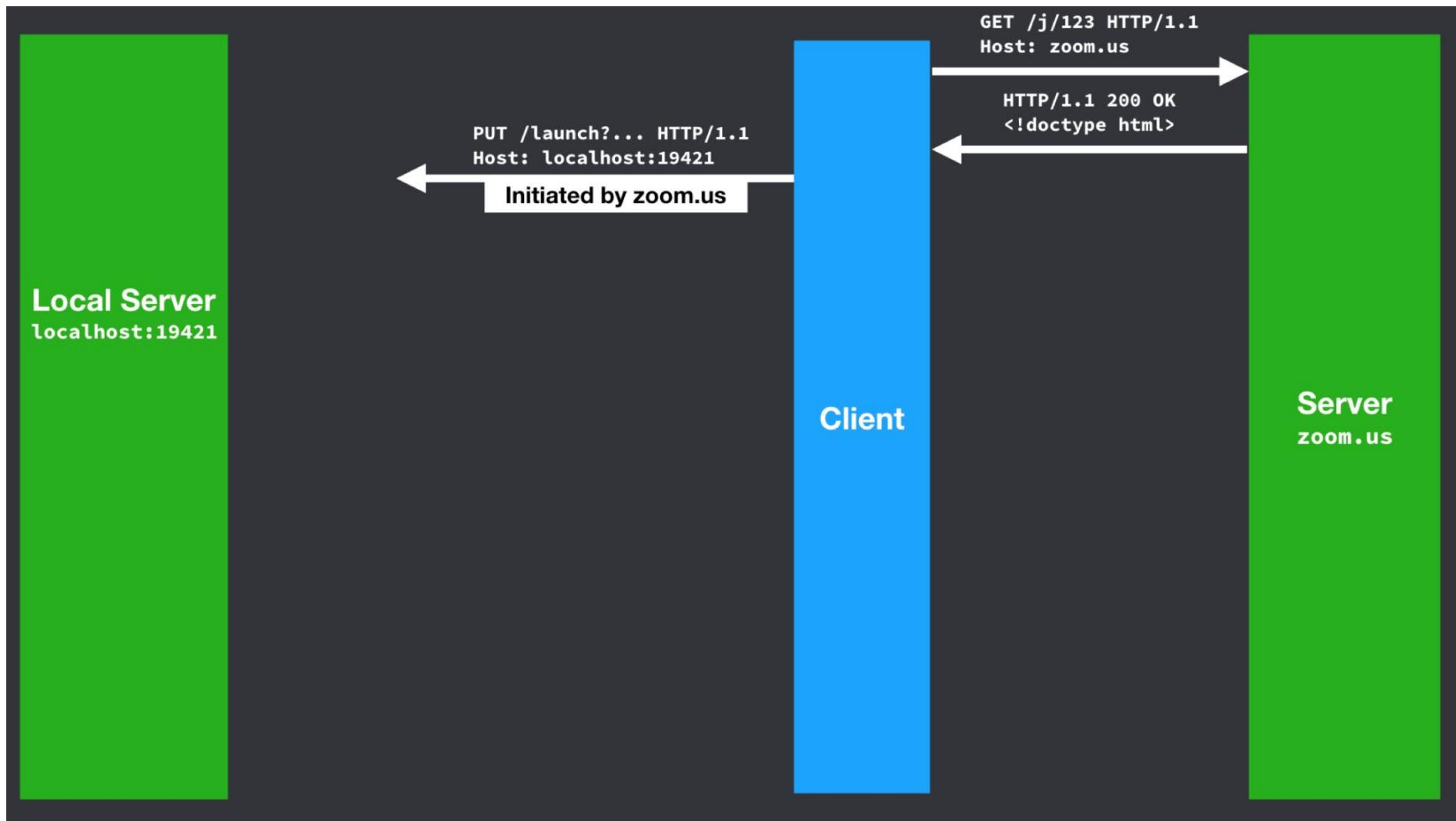
User joins a zoom call (local server
requires “preflighted” request

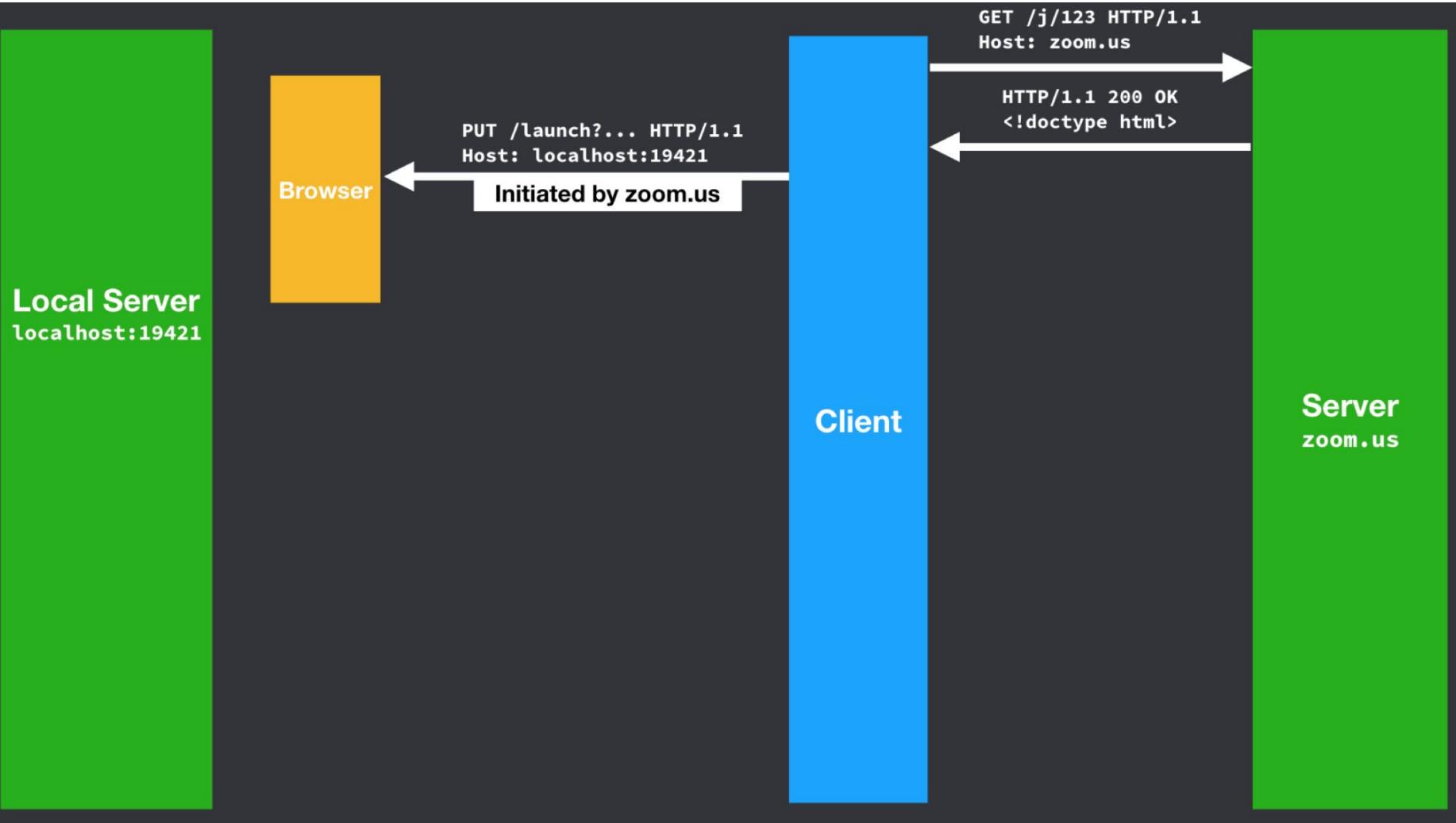


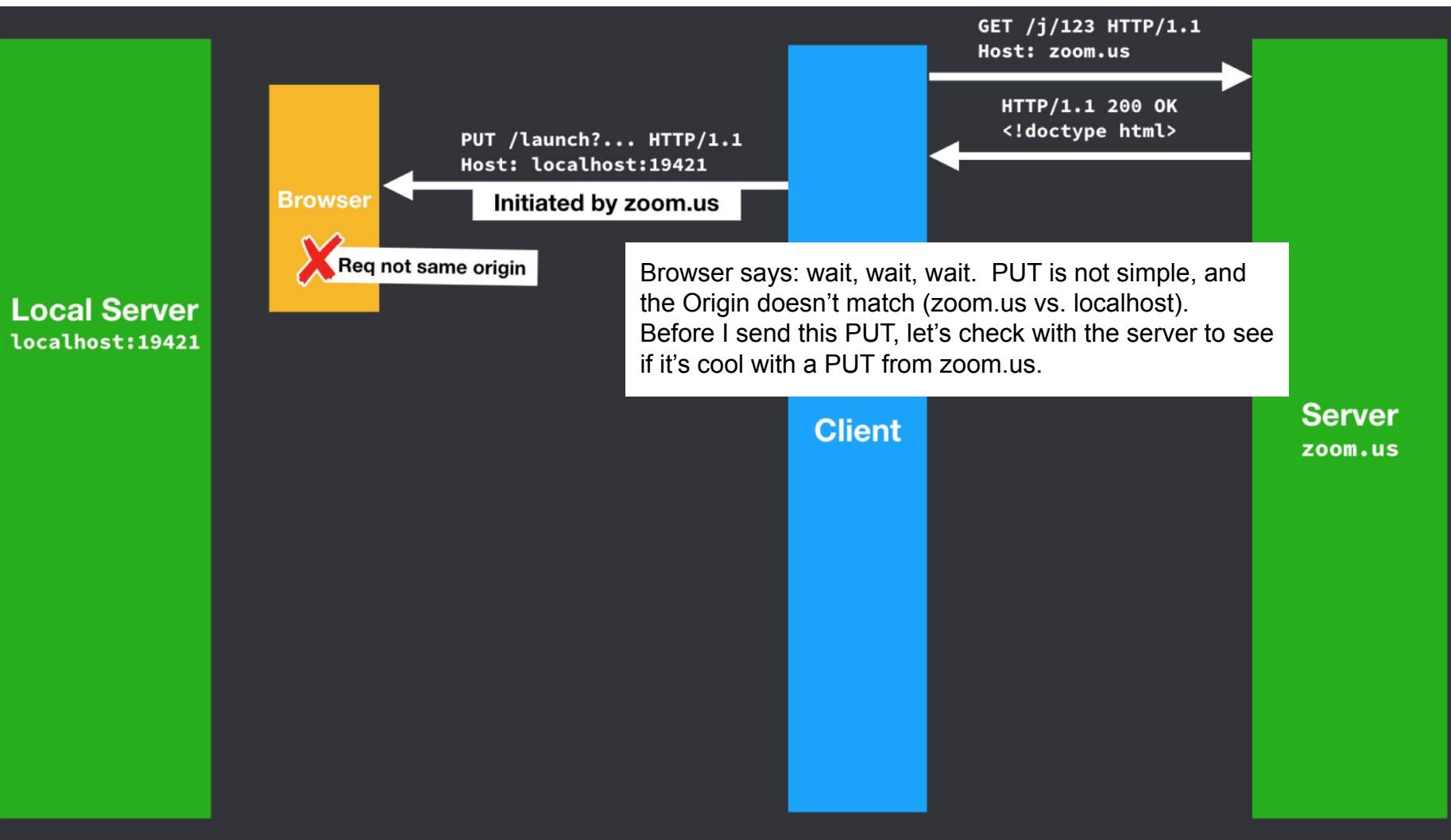


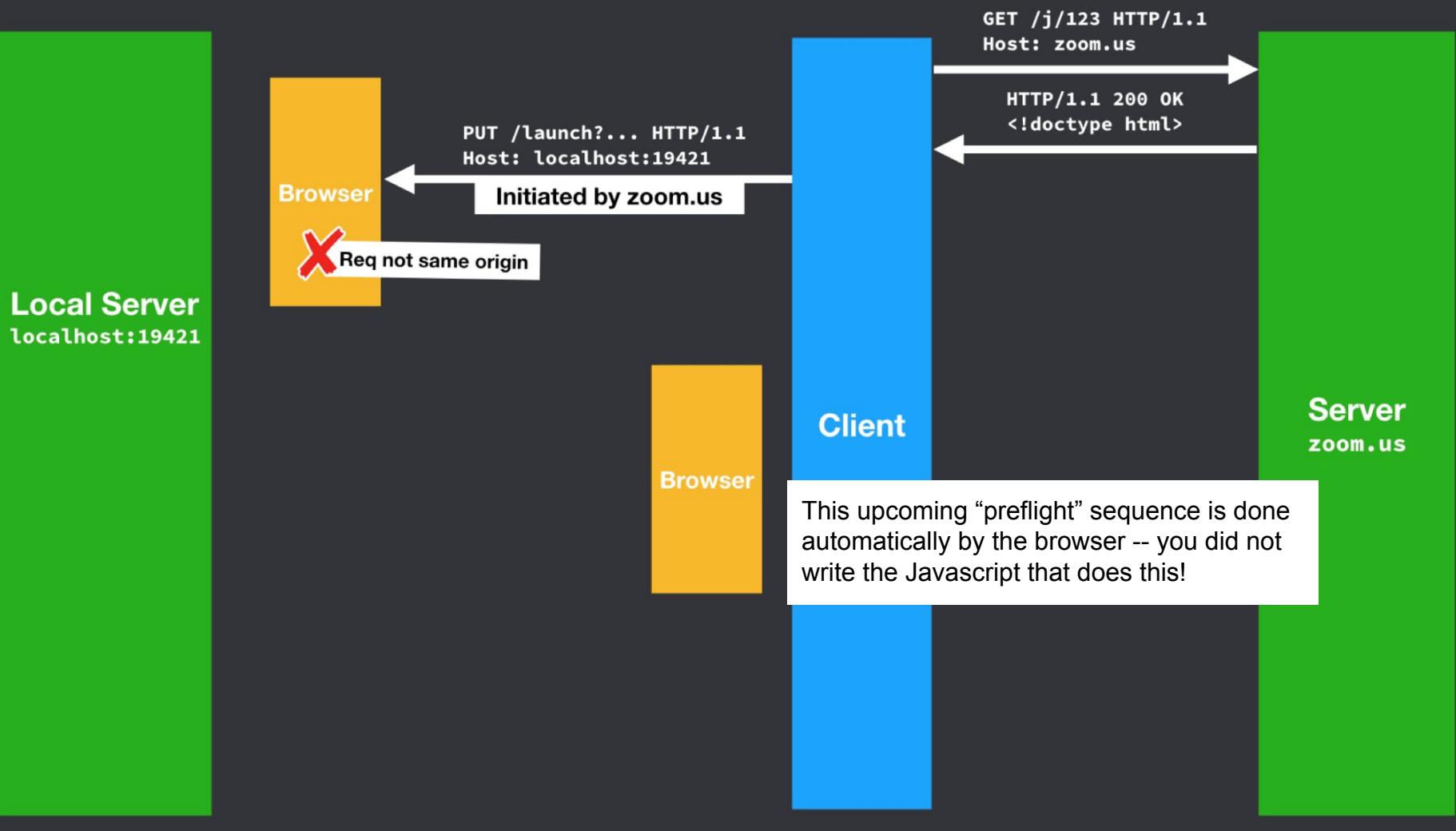
Local Server
localhost:19421

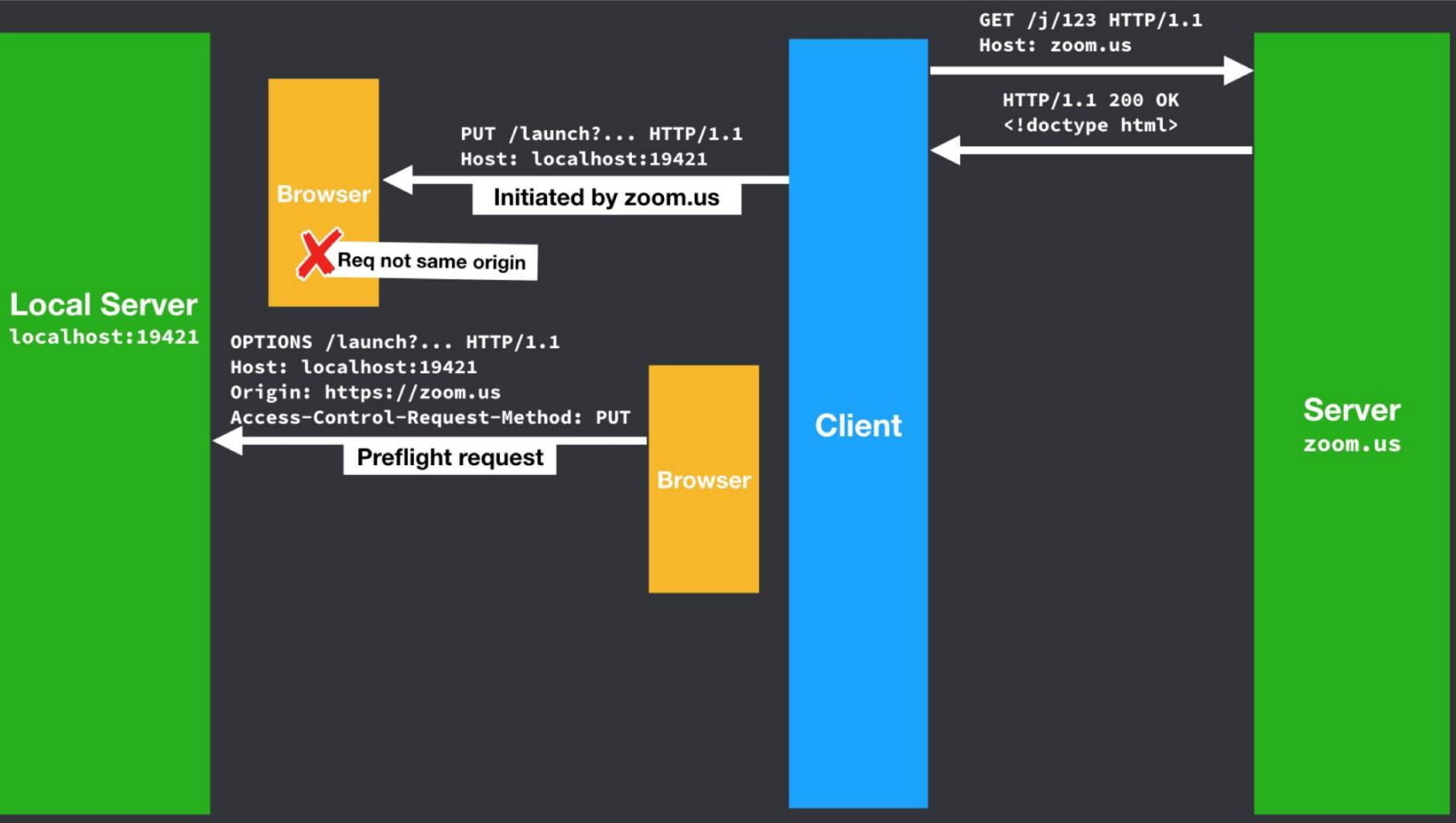


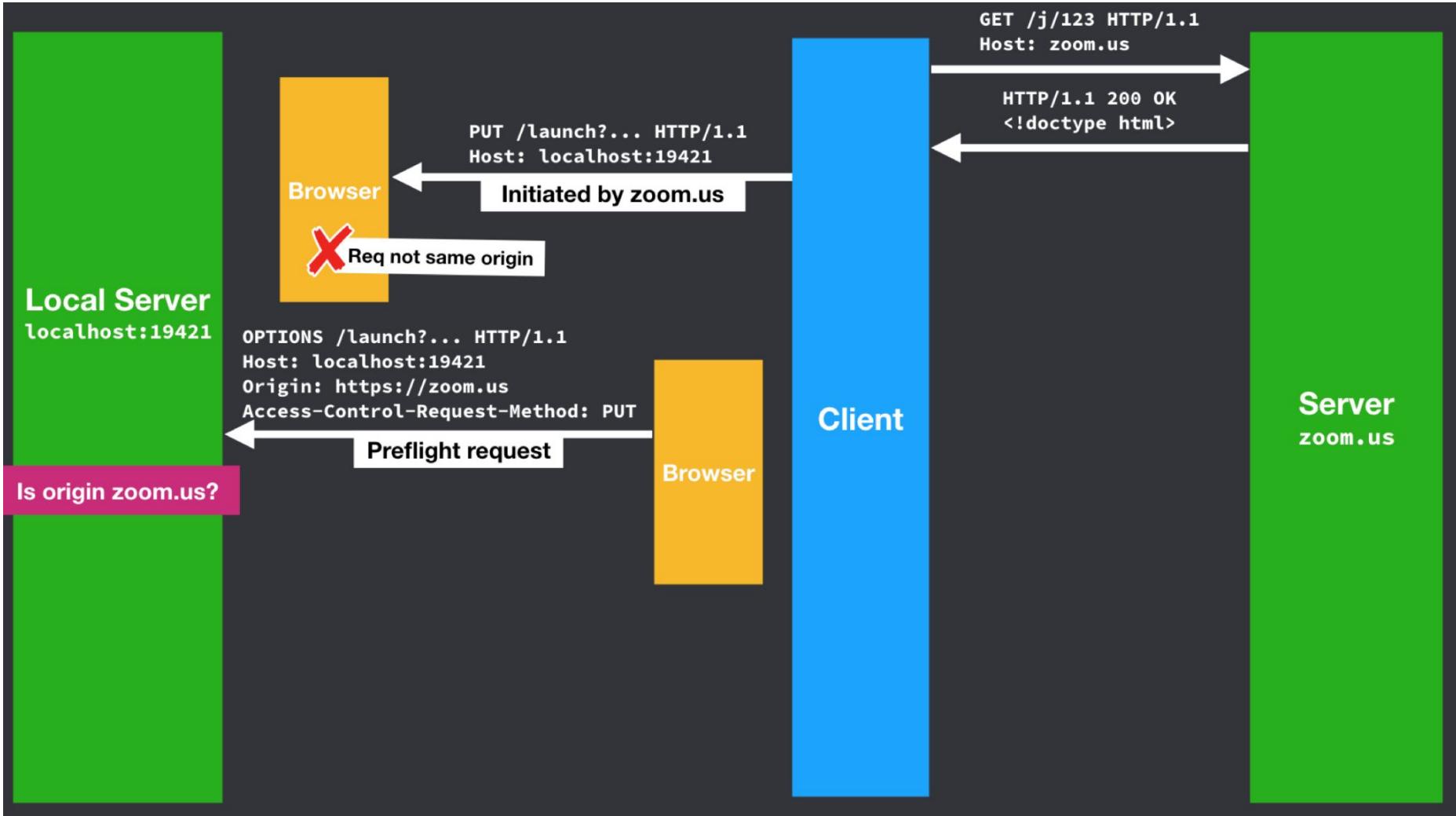


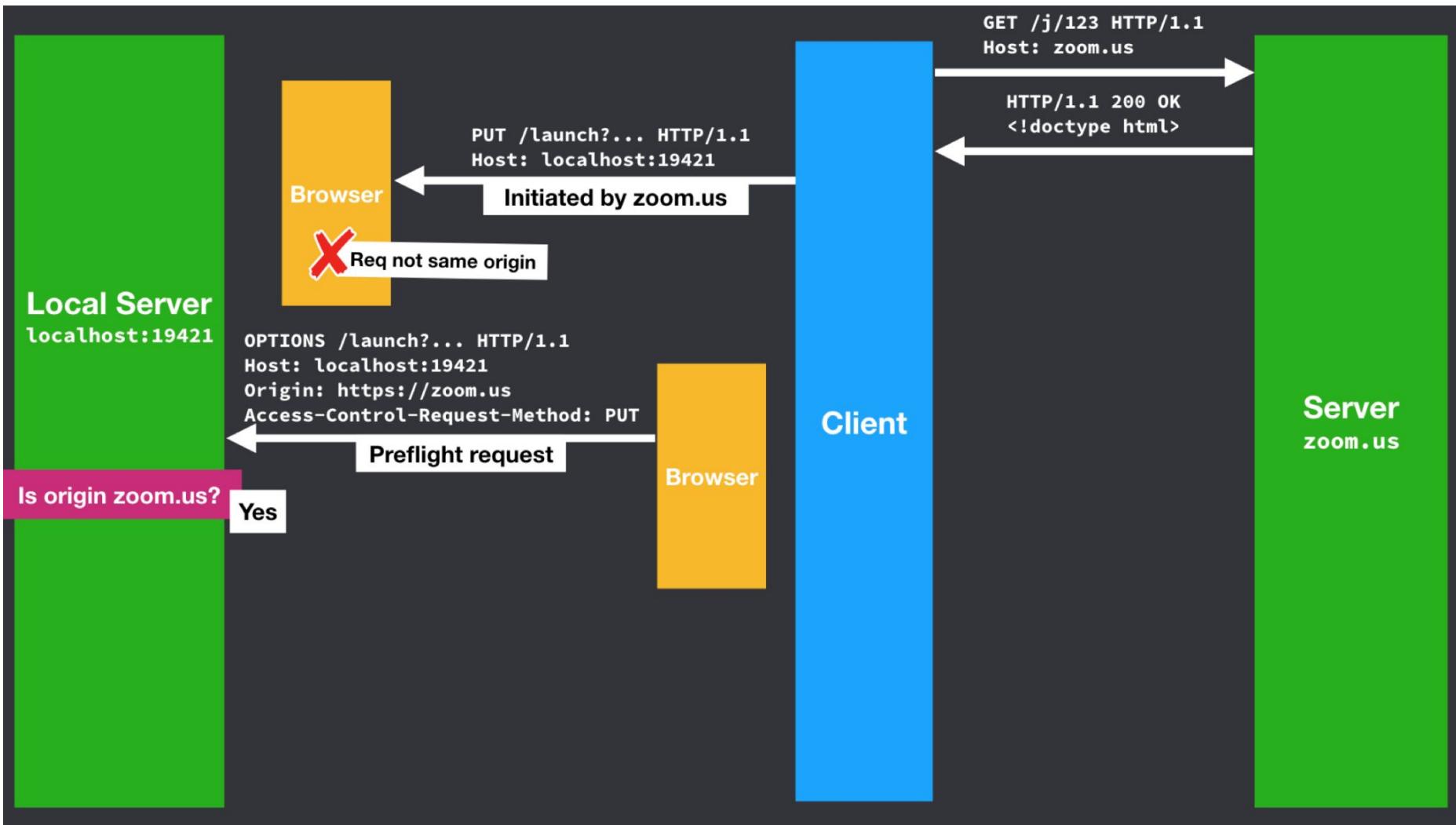


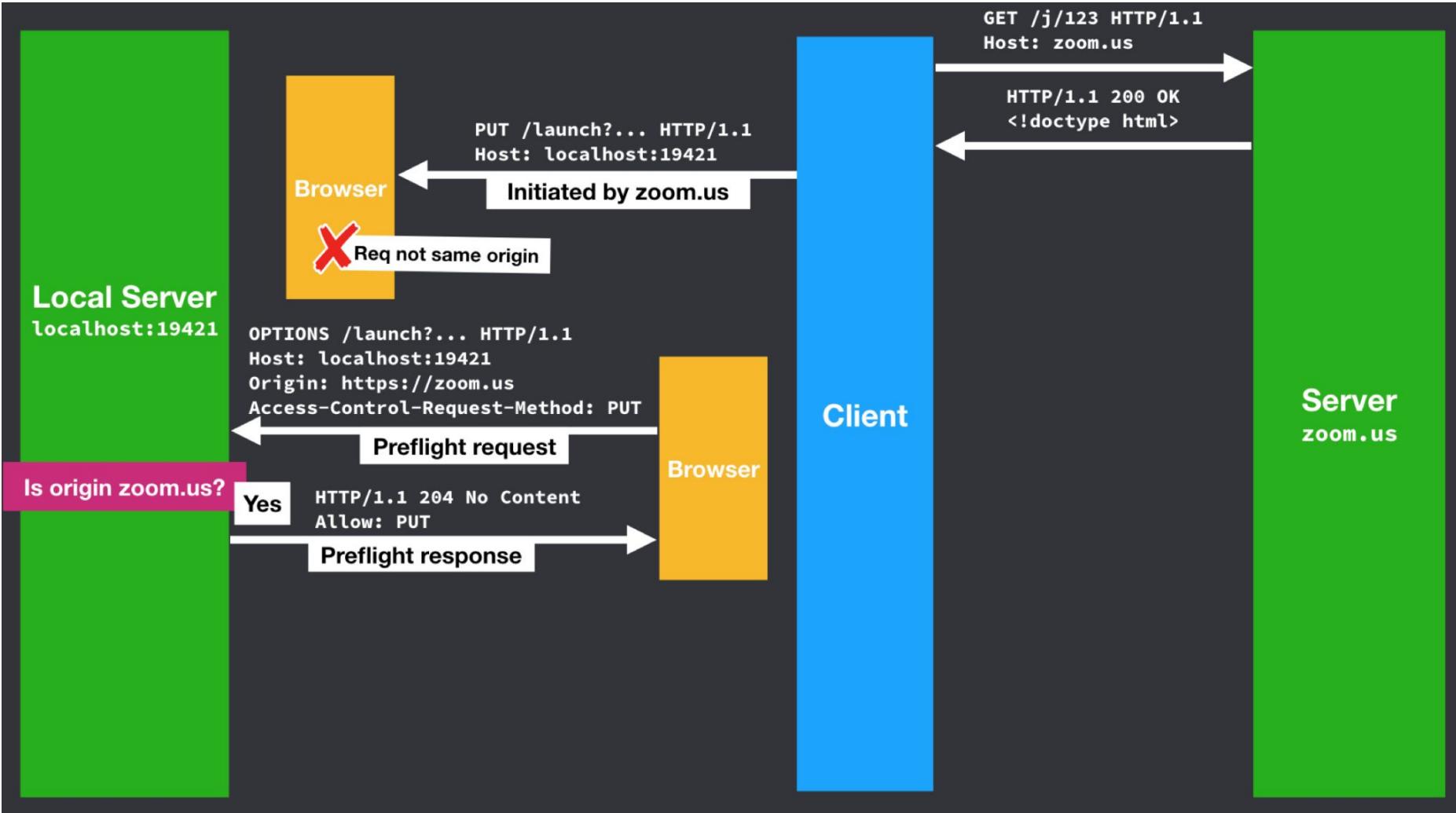


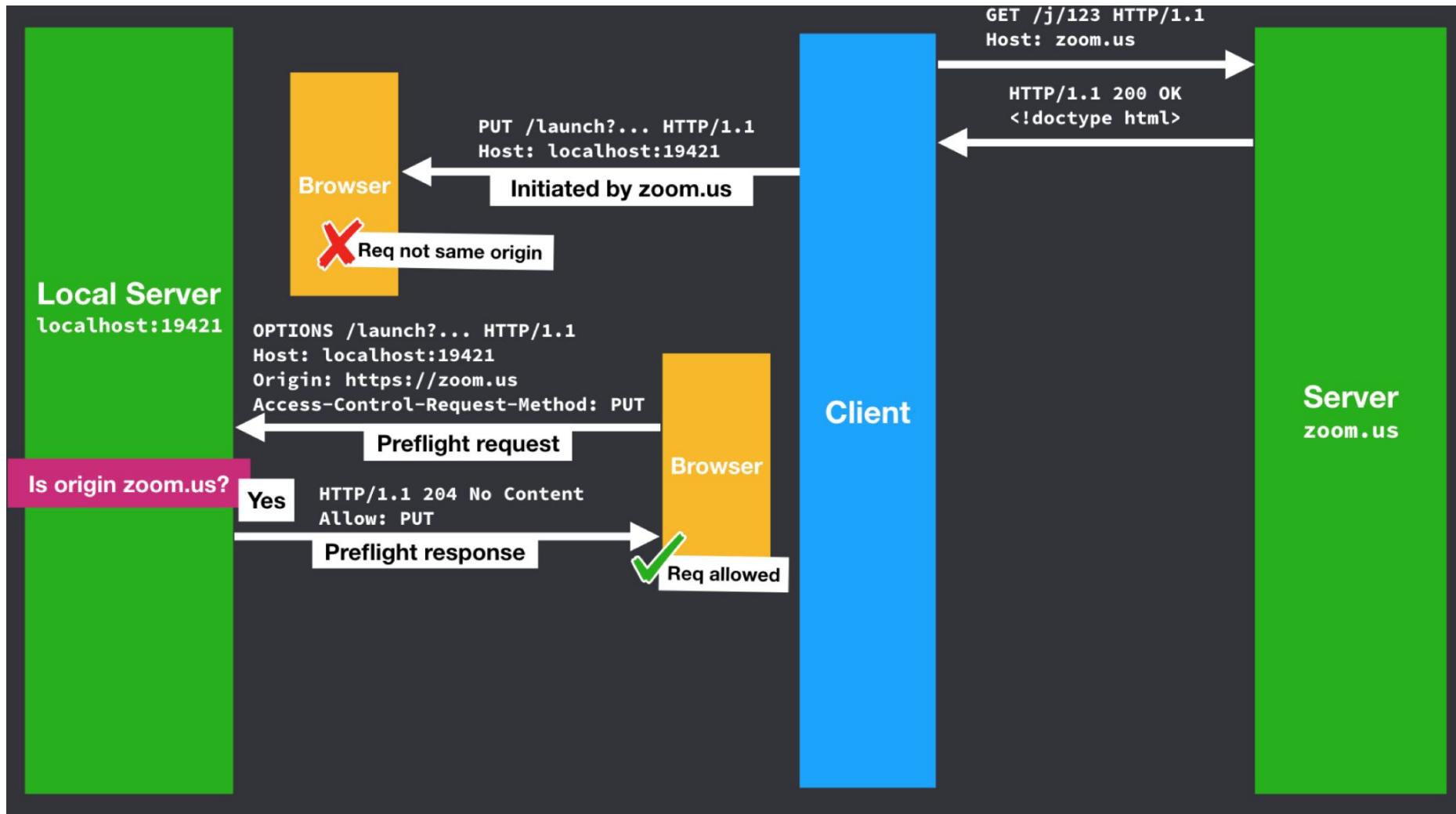


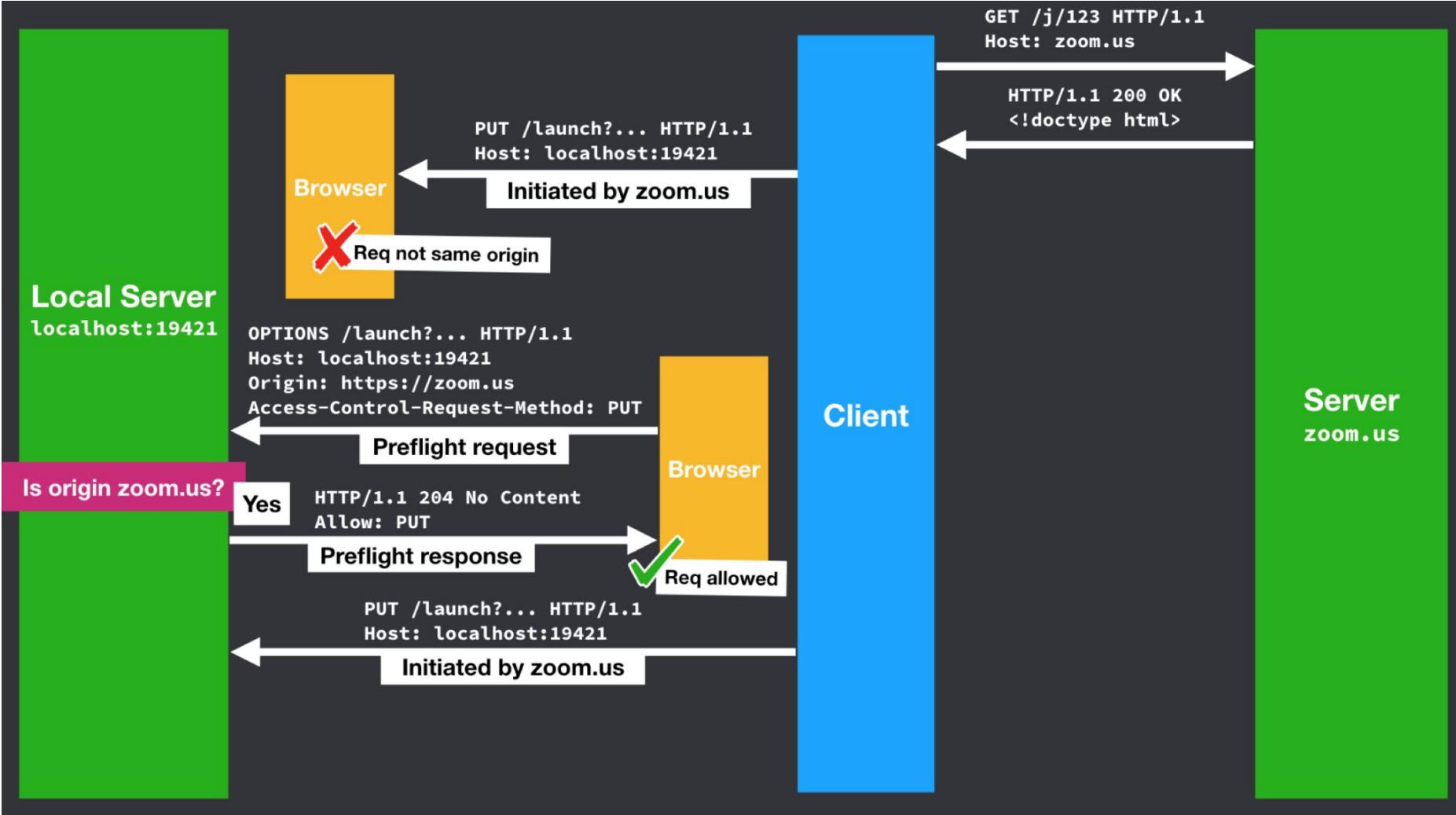


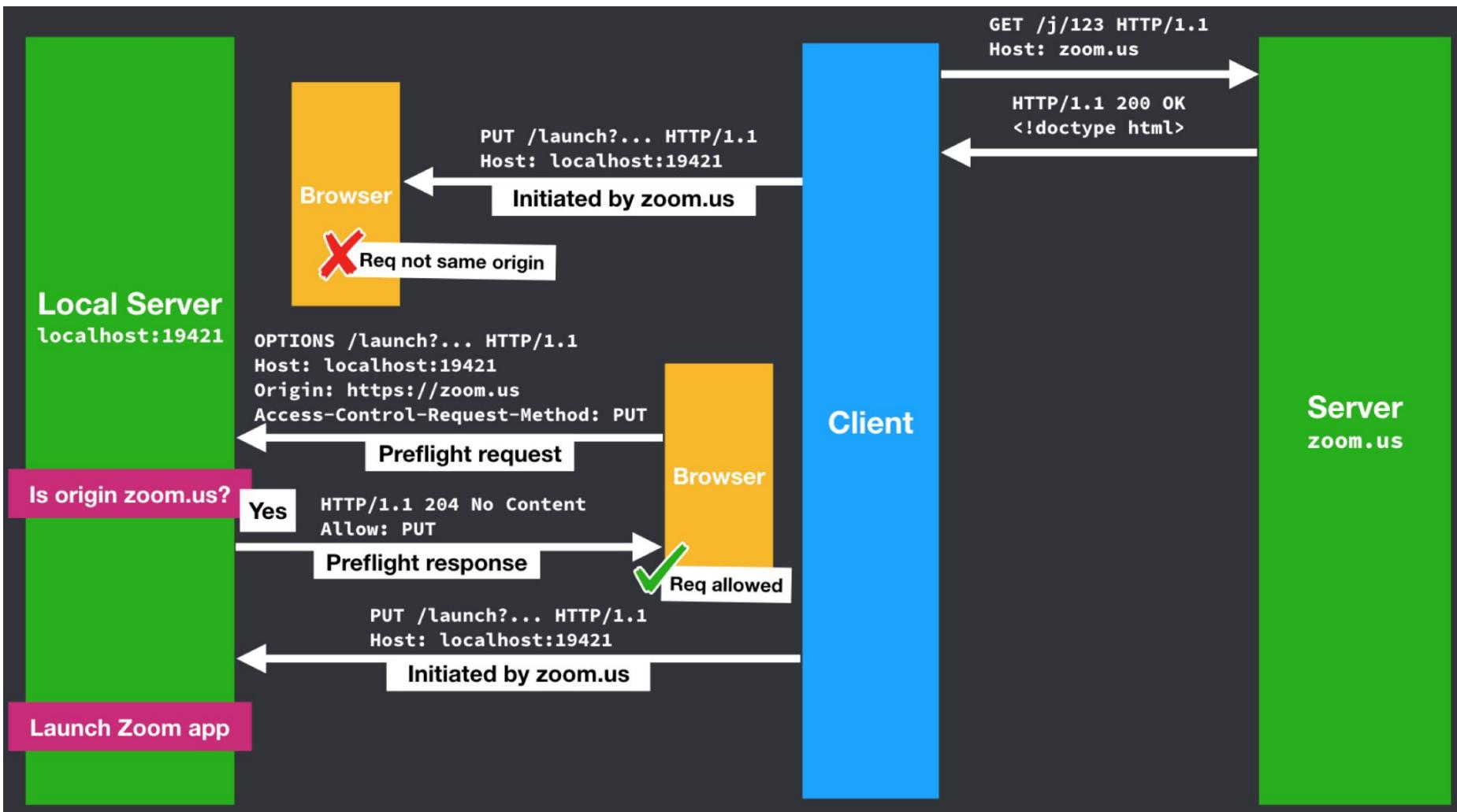


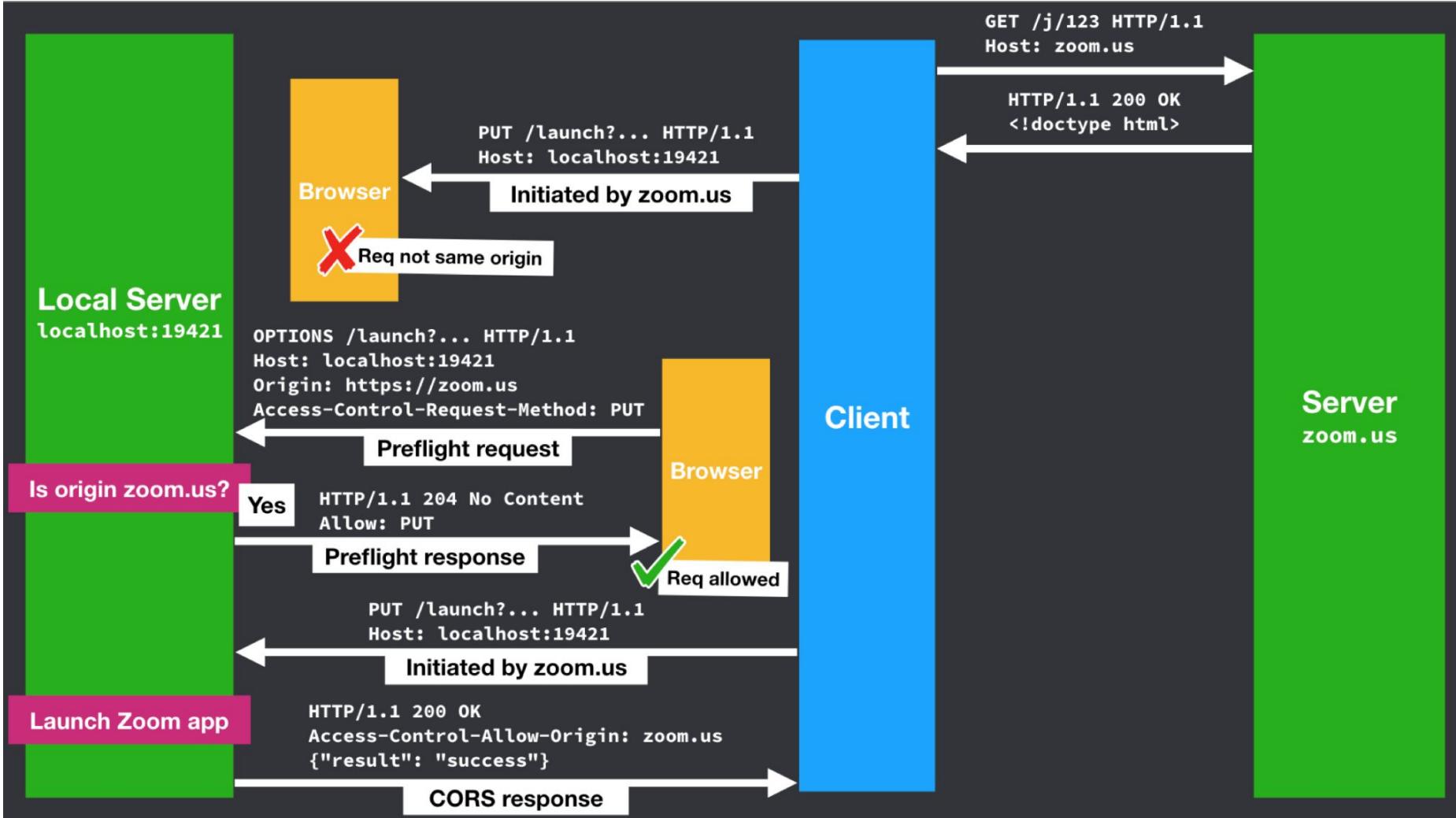


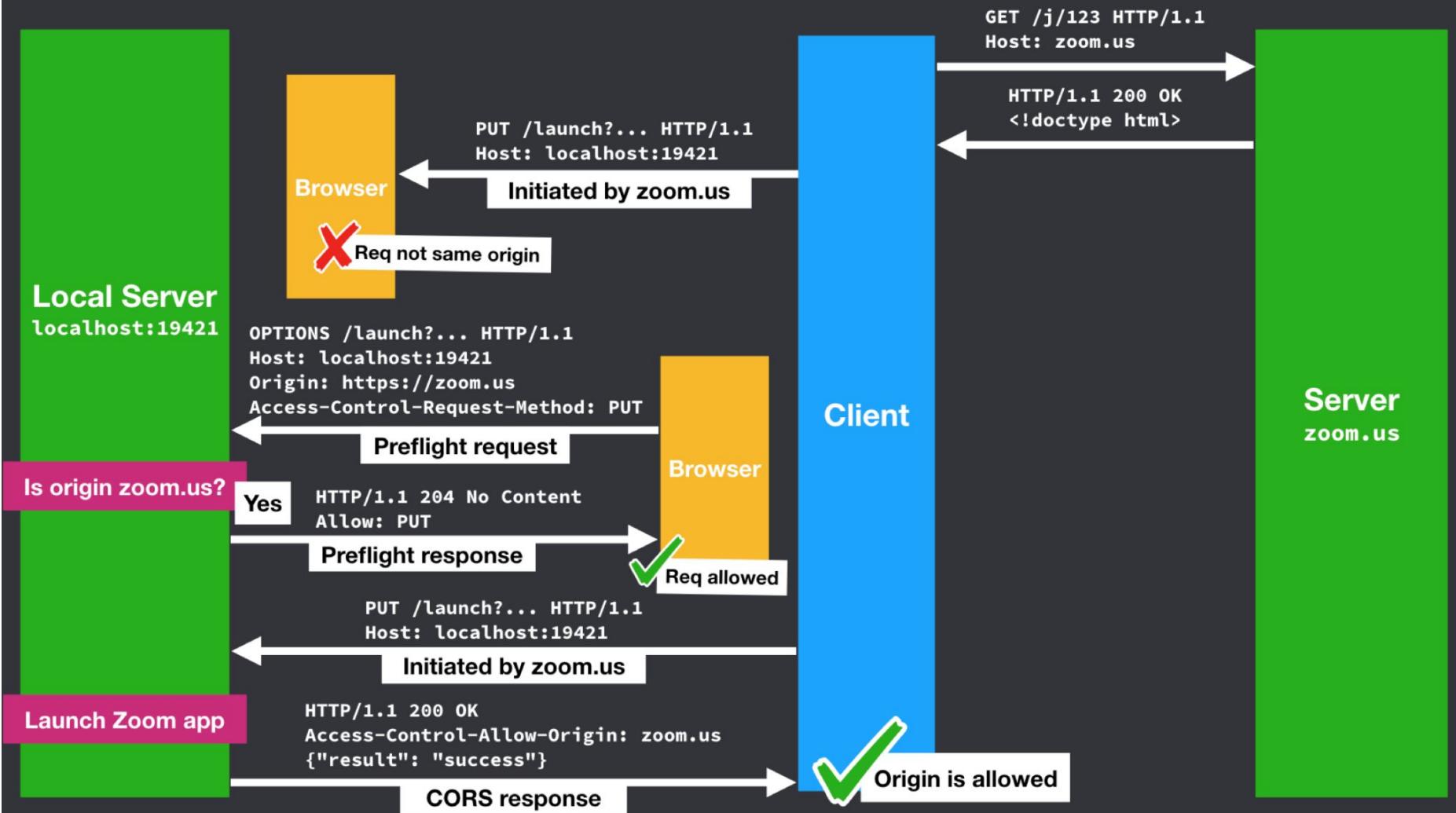




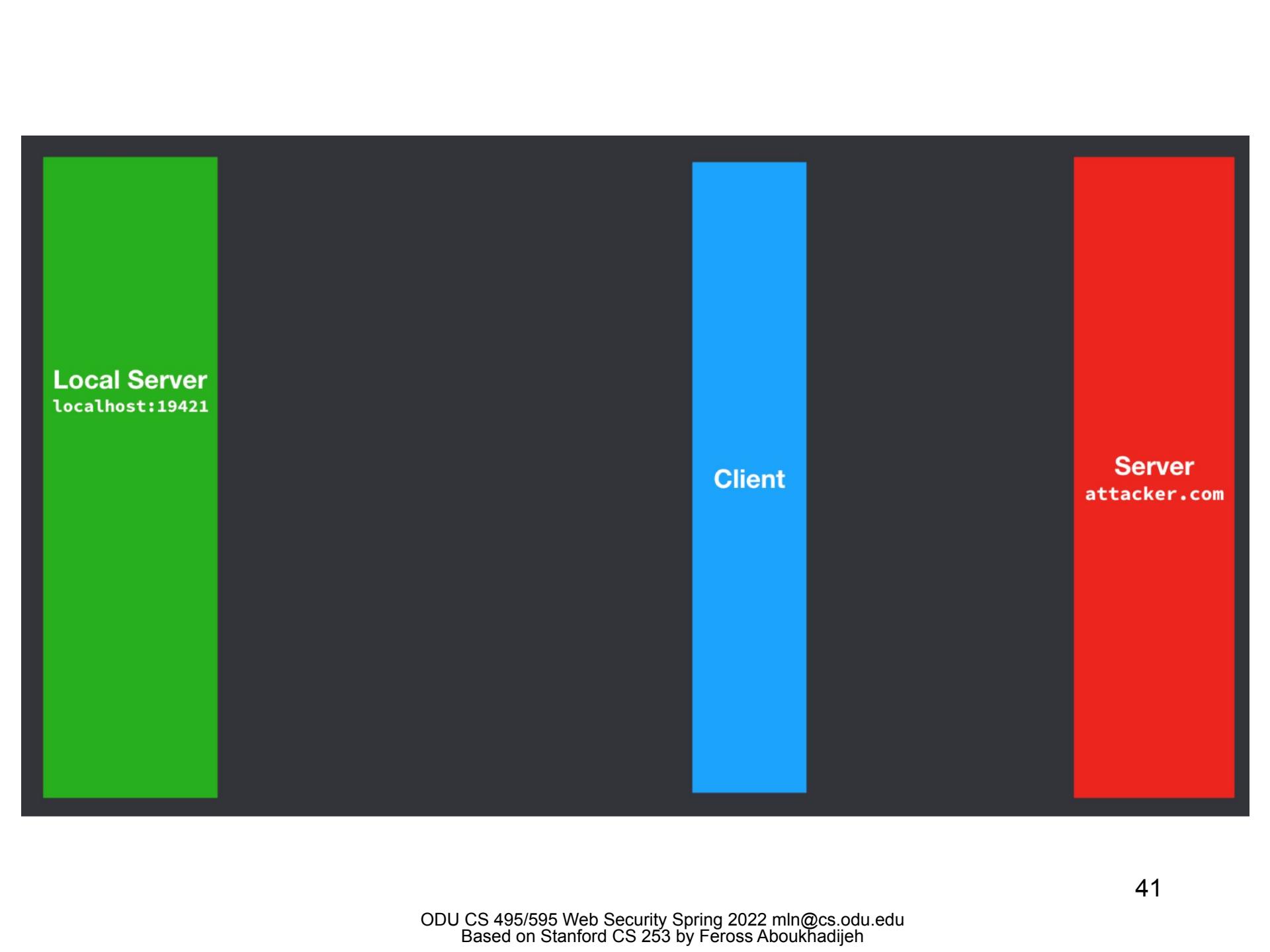








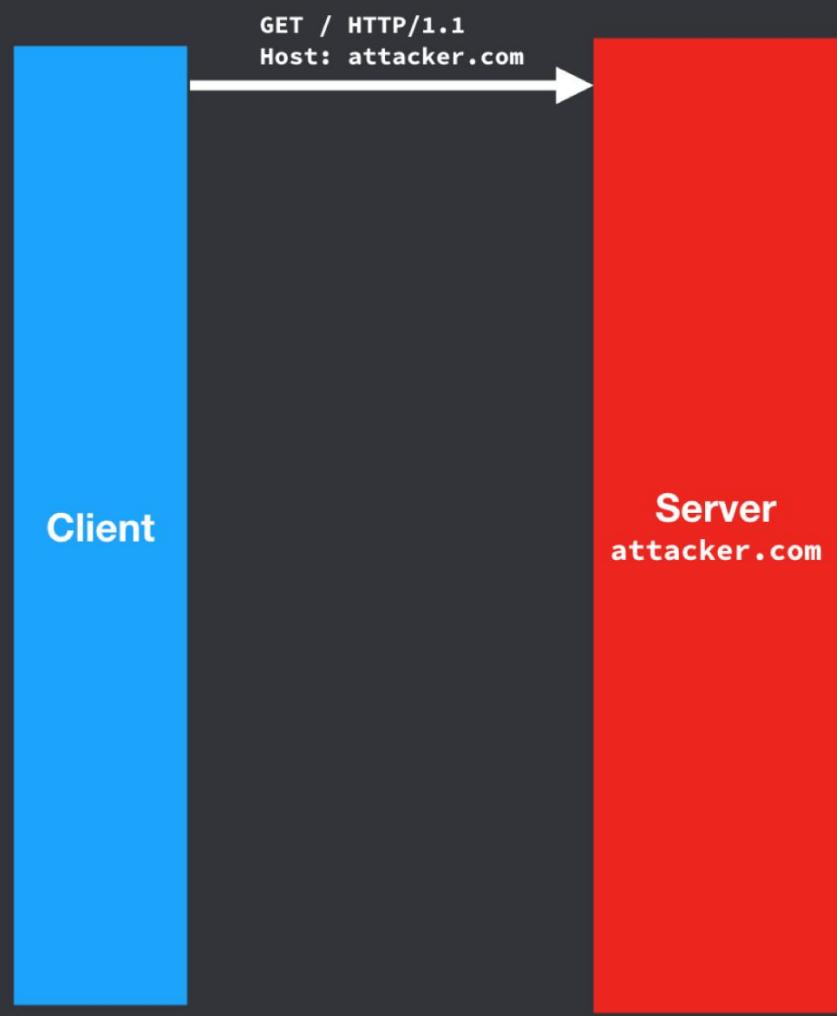
Attacker joins a zoom call (local server requires “preflighted” request

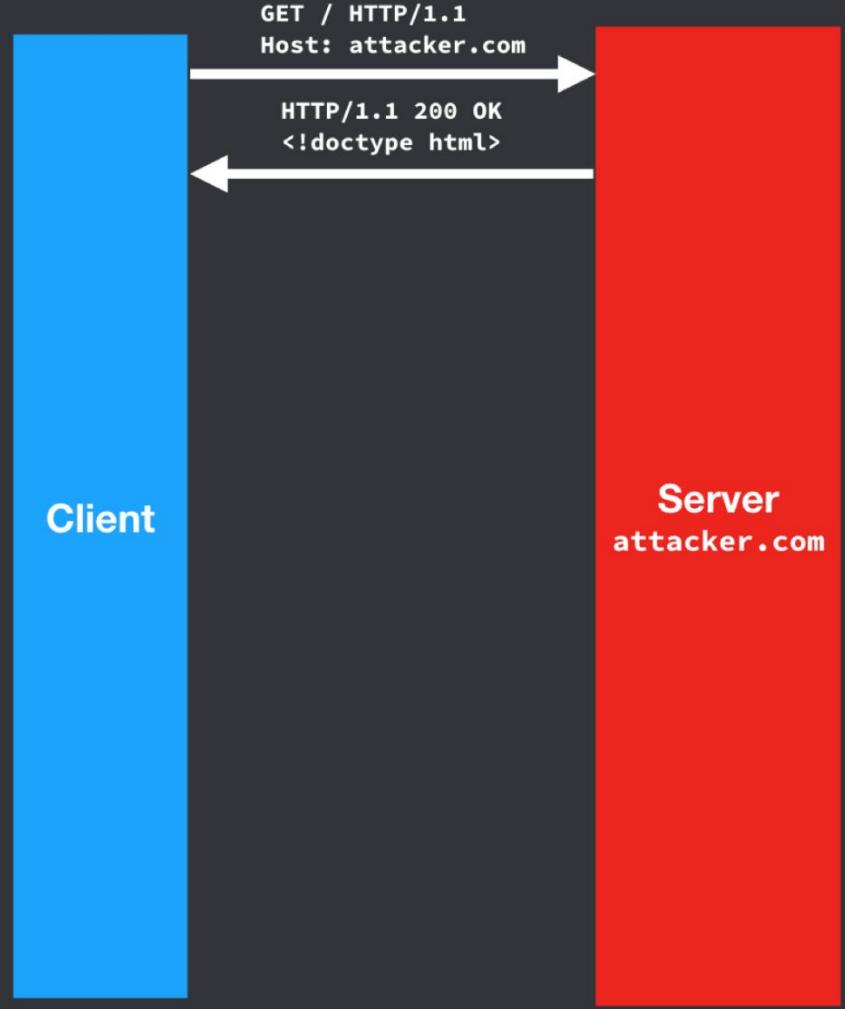


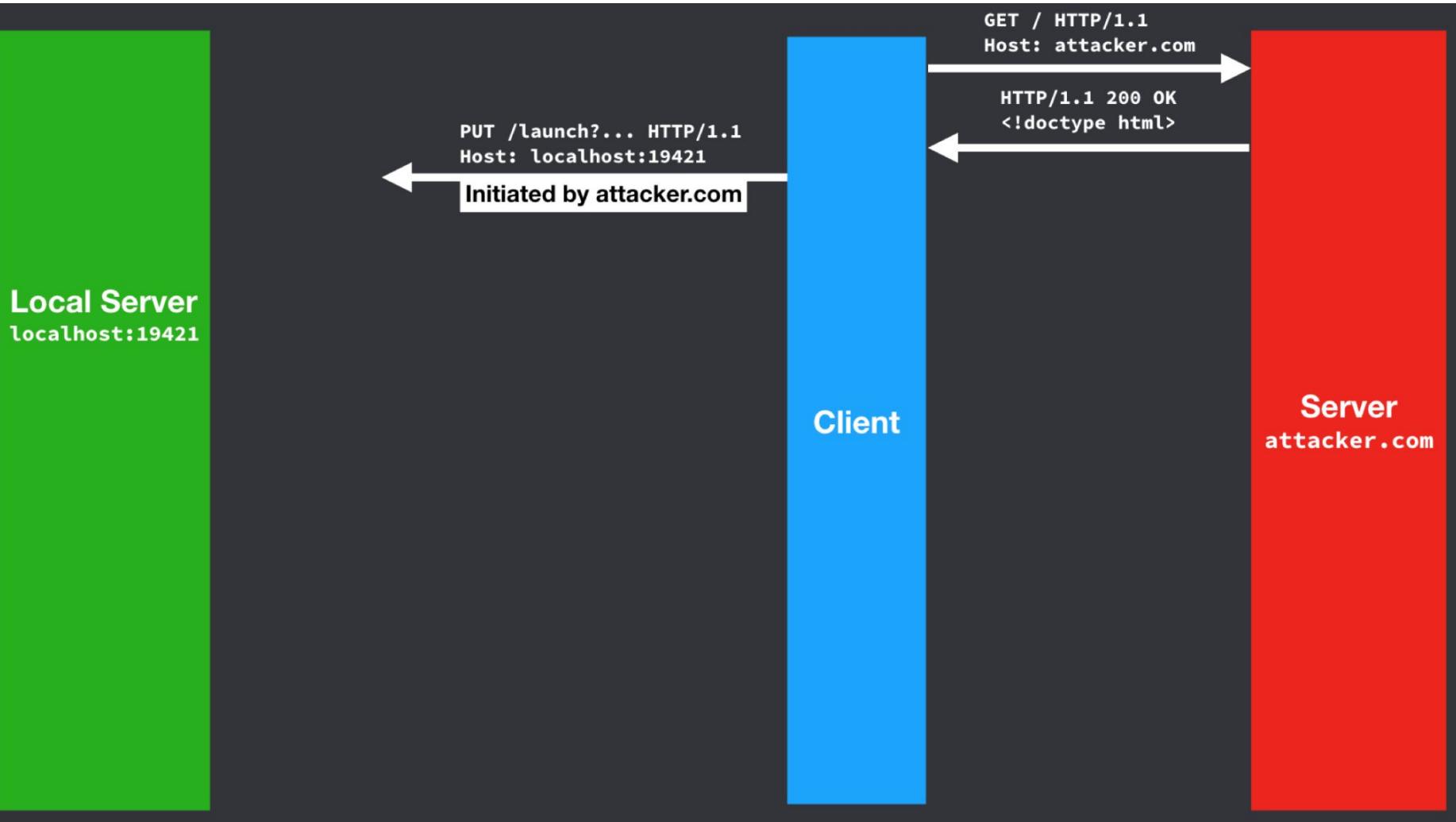
Local Server
`localhost:19421`

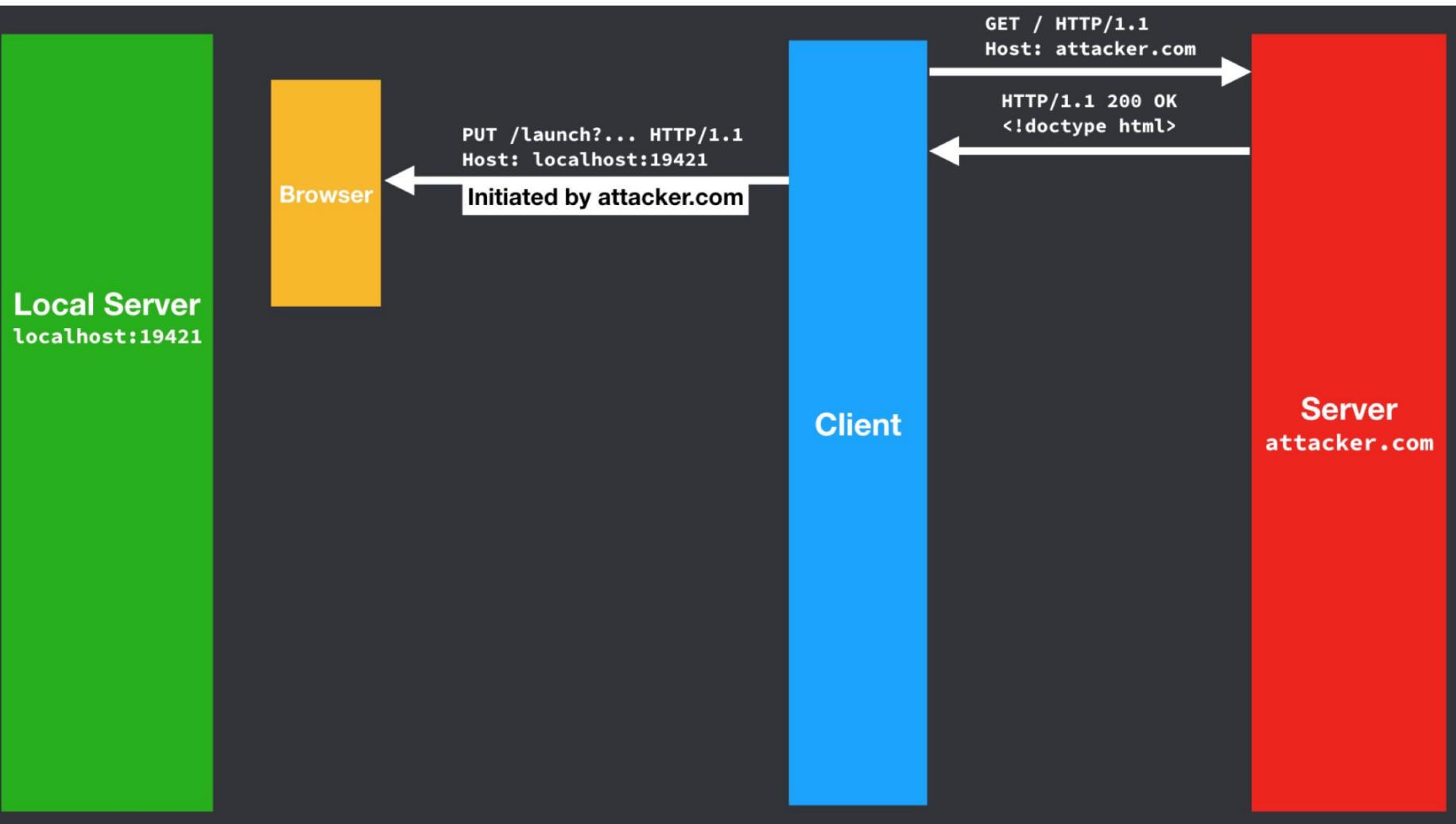
Client

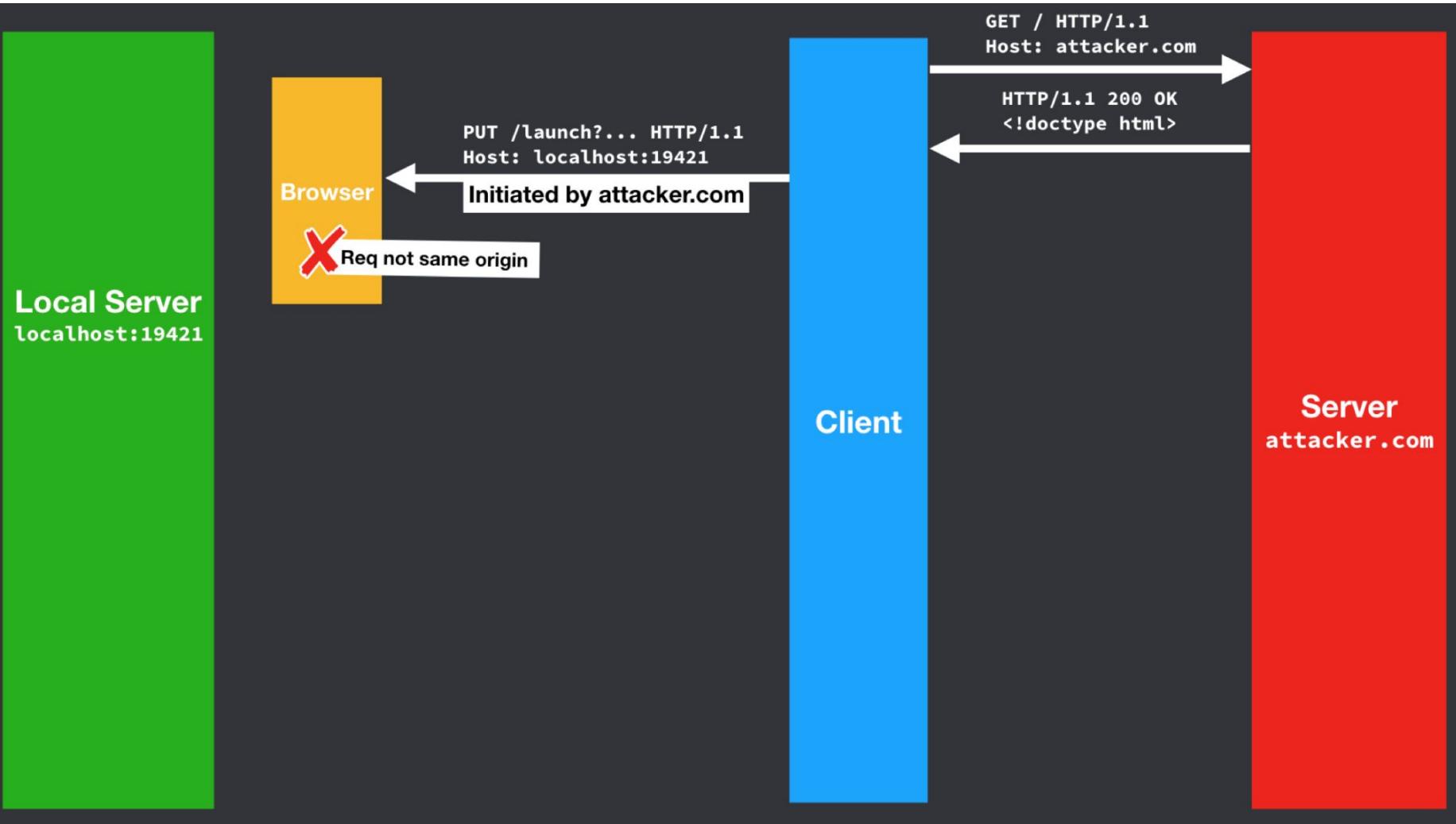
Server
`attacker.com`

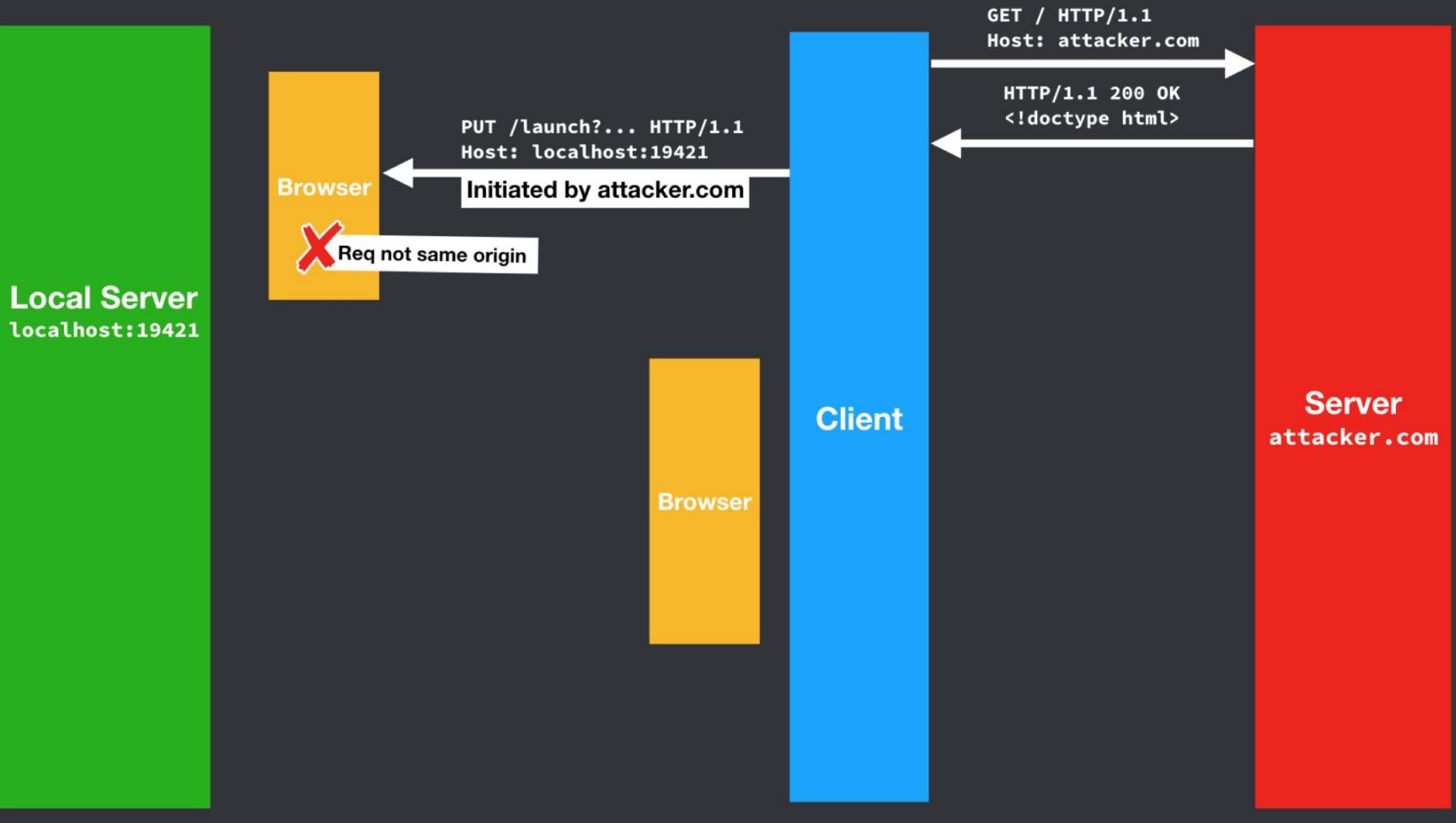


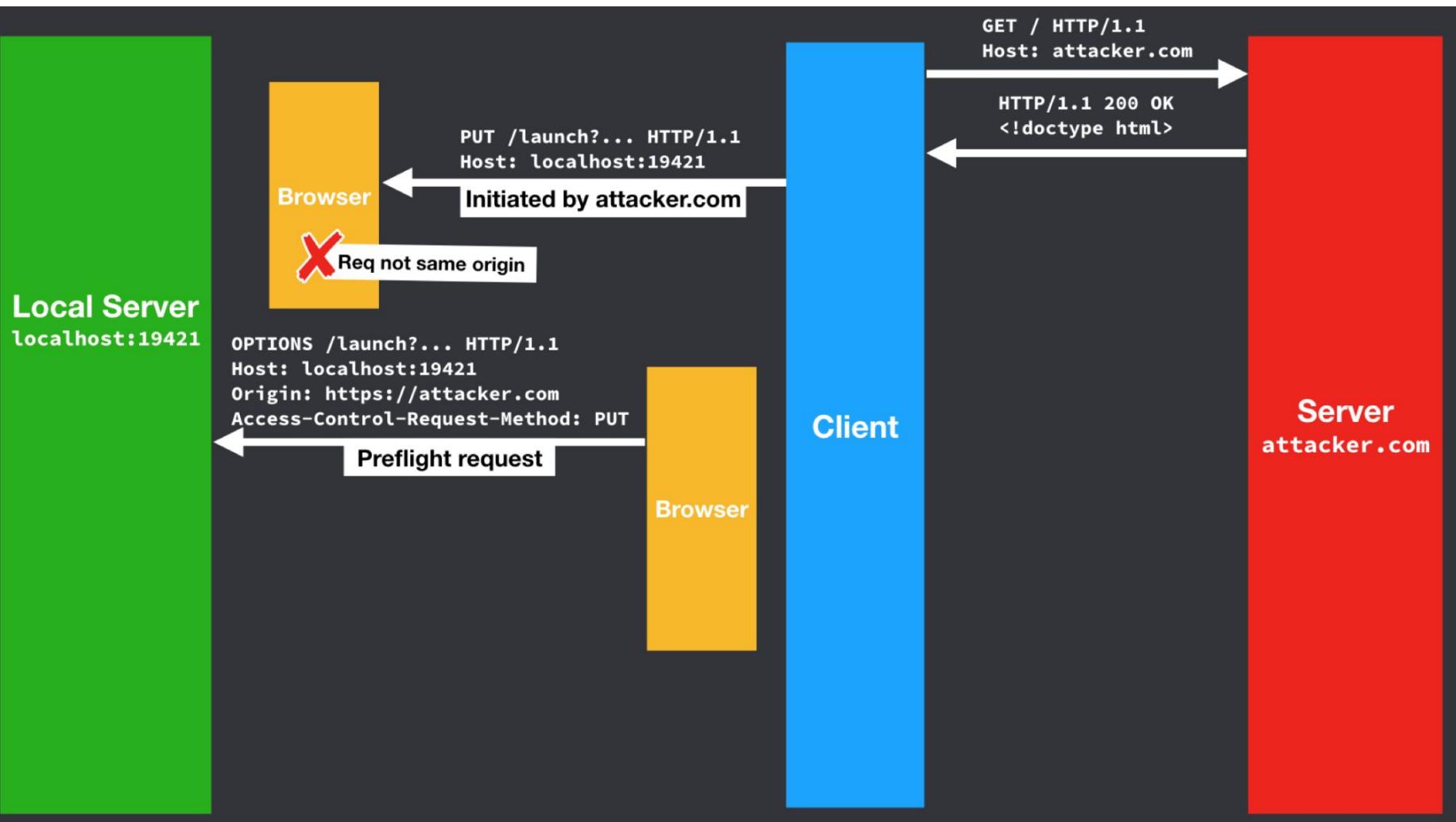


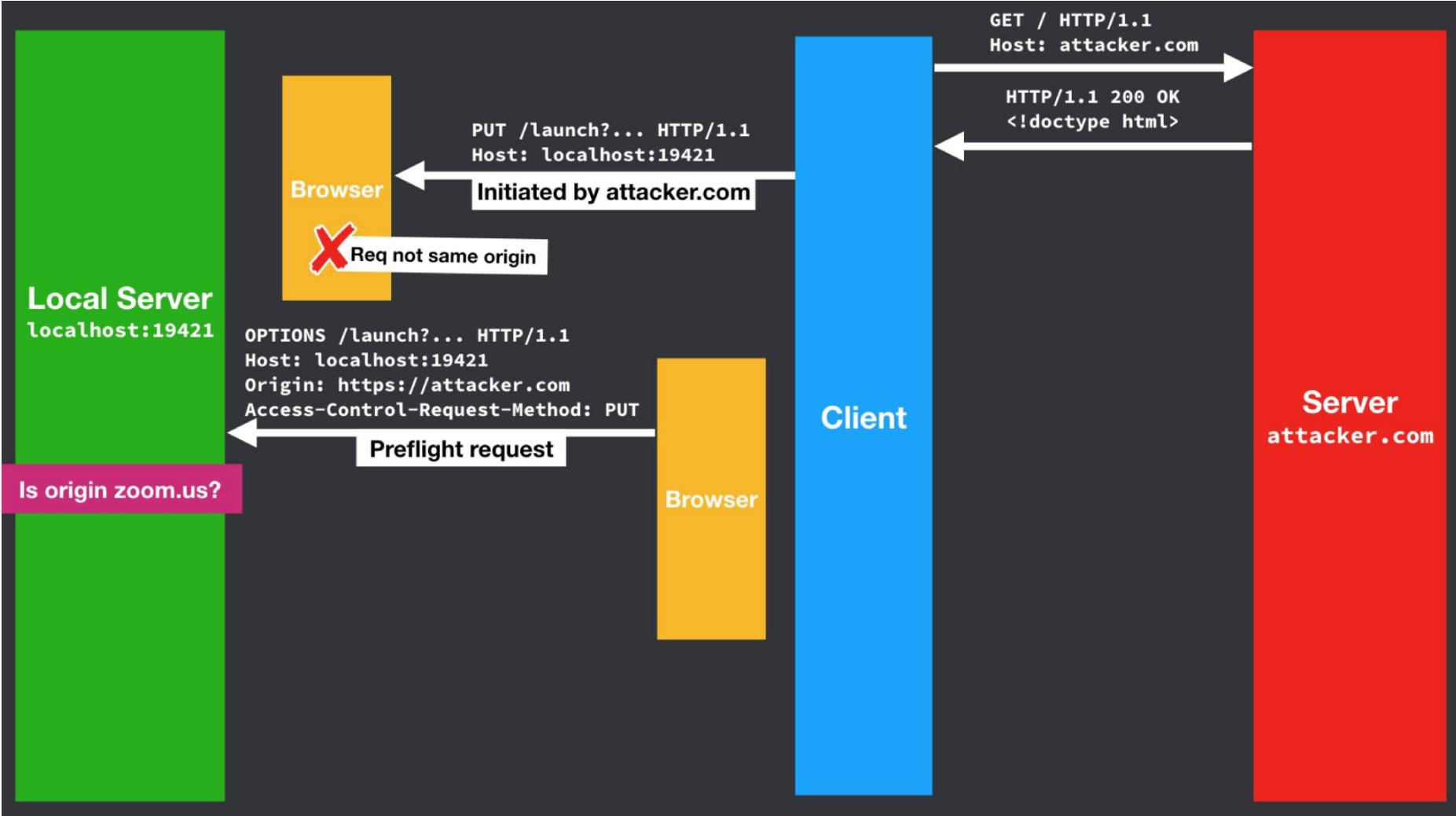


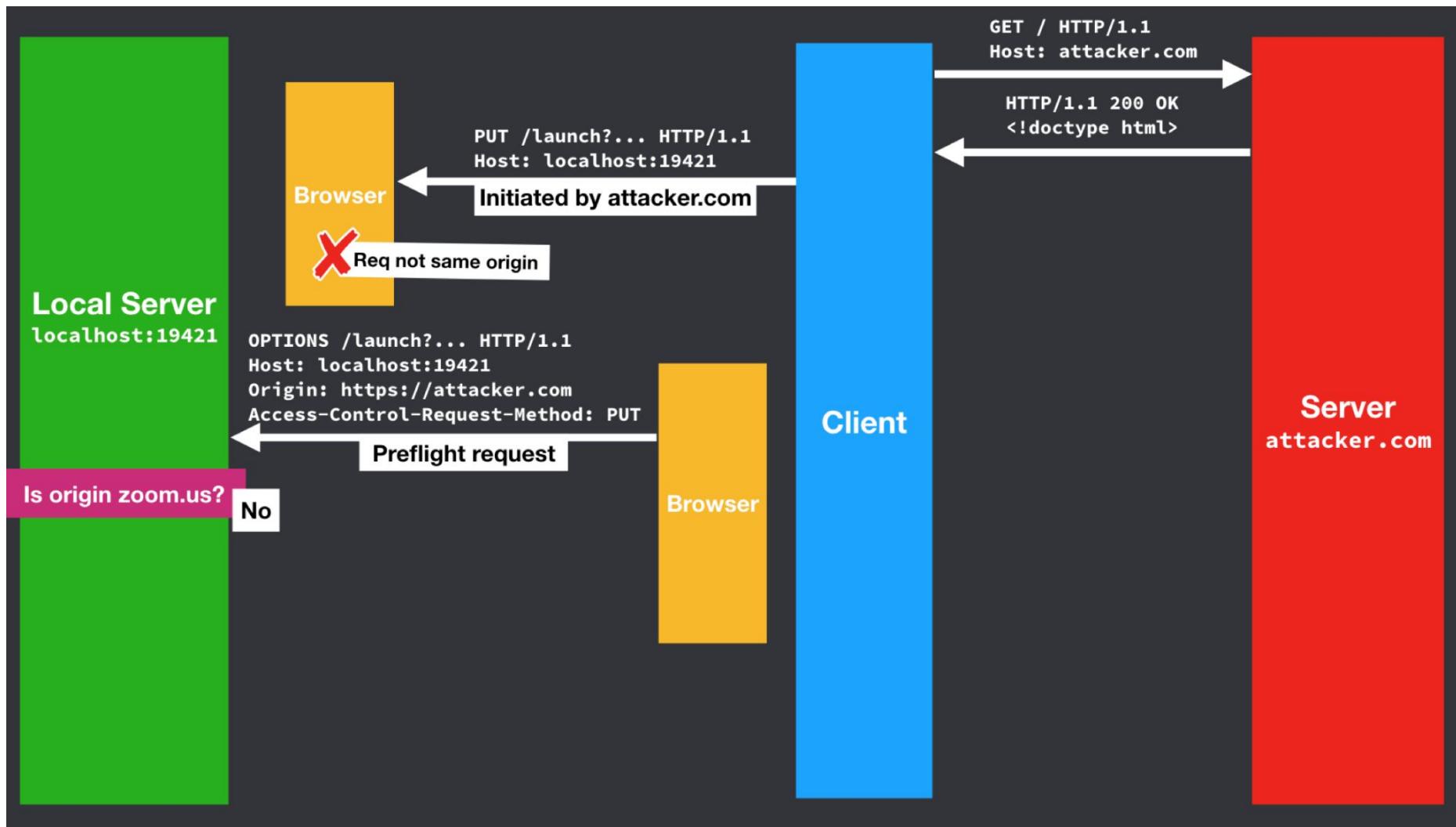


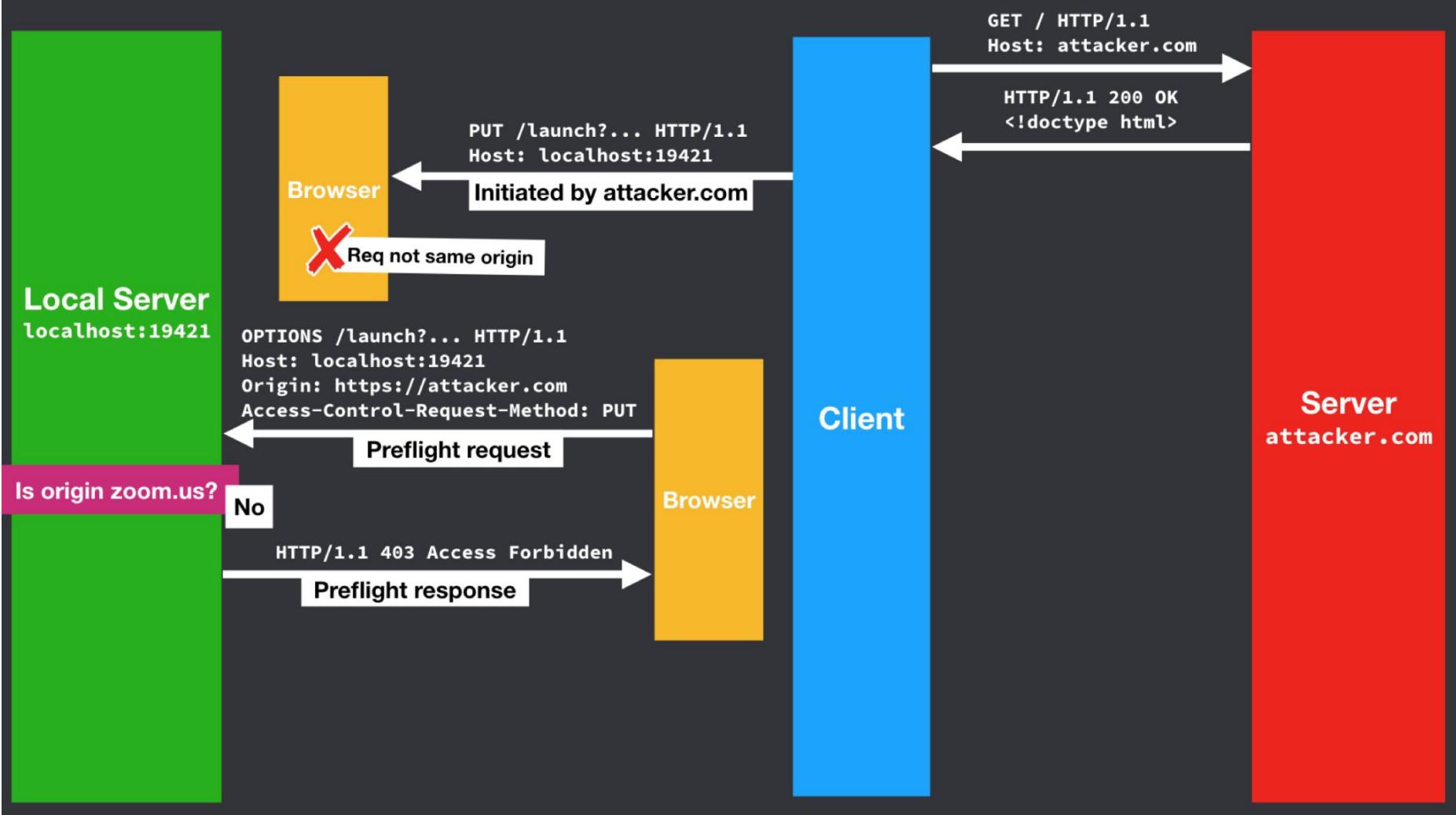


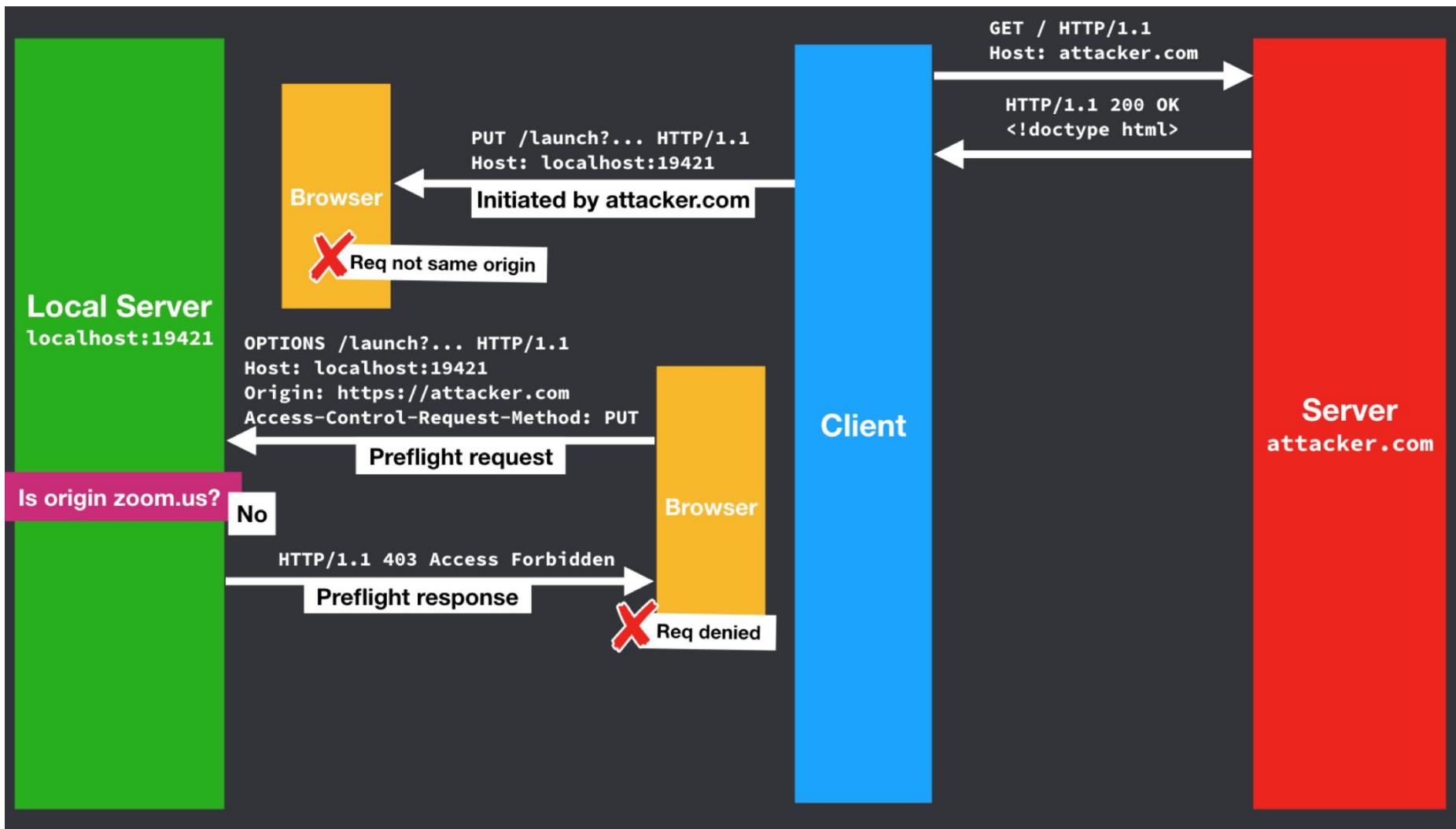












Who can still launch the app from the local server?

- Preflight requests seems to allow the local server to distinguish requests from zoom.us and those from random sites
- However, other native apps running on the same device can still fool the local server
 - The browser enforces that sites can't tamper with the `Origin` header, but a native app (e.g., a Node.js or Python script) can make a request and set the `Origin` header to `https://zoom.us`
 - Note: if a script is already running on your local machine, you have a whole lot of other (potential) problems

One more thing...

- Every site on the web can send requests to our local HTTP server!
 - Works against the server that required "preflighted" requests as well as the server which just checked the `Origin` header
- “localhost” seems simple but is actually highly magical -- what if you could redefine what “localhost” meant?

DNS Rebinding Attack

- DNS rebinding allows a remote attacker to:
 - Bypass cross-origin resource sharing (CORS) rules
 - Bypass a victim's network firewall and use their web browser as a proxy to communicate directly with vulnerable servers on the local network
- DNS rebinding exploits limitations in the same origin policy:
 - Origin is just defined as protocol + hostname + port
 - The actual IP address that the hostname resolves to is not included

demo

- dictionary.js
 - dns-attack-1.js
 - dns-attack-2.js
- dictionary-2.js
 - dns-attack-2.js
- dictionary-3.js
 - dns-attack-3.js
- dictionary-4.js
 - dns-attack-3.js

adding attacker.com to /etc/hosts

```
$ ifconfig en0
en0: flags=8863<UP,BROADCAST,SMART,RUNNING,SIMPLEX,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
      ether b8:e8:56:40:6d:78
      inet6 fe80::bae8:56ff:fe40:6d78%en0 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x4
       inet 192.168.0.211 netmask 0xffffffff broadcast 192.168.0.255
      inet6 2600:8805:1510:a600:bae8:56ff:fe40:6d78 prefixlen 64 autoconf
      inet6 2600:8805:1510:a600:10bd:2de2:4e94:4ca2 prefixlen 64 deprecated
autoconf temporary
      inet6 2600:8805:1510:a600::eb52 prefixlen 64
      inet6 2600:8805:1510:a600:282c:c0a5:8025:17ac prefixlen 64 autoconf
temporary
      nd6 options=1<PERFORMNUD>
      media: autoselect
      status: active
$ sudo vi /etc/hosts
$ more /etc/hosts
##
# Host Database
#
# localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
# when the system is booting.  Do not change this entry.
##
127.0.0.1      localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
::1            localhost
fe80::1%lo0    localhost
192.168.0.211  attacker.com
192.168.0.211  mln-phonedude.com
```

OPTIONS preflight

The screenshot shows a web browser window with three tabs: "Notifications / Twitter", "Web Science and Digital Library", and "attacker.com:4001". The main content area displays a "Dictionary" page from "attacker.com" with a search bar and links to "Dictionary", "Thesaurus", "Apple", and "Wikipedia". The developer tools Network tab is open, showing a list of requests. One request for "attacker.com" is selected, revealing its details. The request URL is "http://localhost:4000/" and the method is "OPTIONS". The response headers include "Access-Control-Allow-Methods: PUT", "Access-Control-Allow-Origin: http://attacker.com:4001", and "Connection: keep-alive". The request headers show "Access-Control-Request-Method: PUT", "Origin: http://attacker.com:4001", and "Referer: http://attacker.com:4001/". The entire "Response Headers" and "Request Headers" sections are highlighted with red boxes.

Welcome to attacker.com!

Success

Dictionary

Type a word to look up in...

New Oxford American Dictionary
Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus
Apple Dictionary
Wikipedia

attacker.com

Request URL: http://localhost:4000/
Request Method: OPTIONS
Status Code: 200 OK
Remote Address: 127.0.0.1:4000
Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade

General

Access-Control-Allow-Methods: PUT
Access-Control-Allow-Origin: http://attacker.com:4001
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Length: 2
Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2021 16:16:50 GMT
ETag: W/"2-eoX0dku9ba8cNUXvu/DyeabcC+s"
Keep-Alive: timeout=5
X-Powered-By: Express

Response Headers

Request Headers

Provisional headers are shown

Access-Control-Request-Method: PUT
Origin: http://attacker.com:4001
Referer: http://attacker.com:4001/

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_5) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/67.0.3396.87 Safari/537.36

3 requests | 1.2 KB transferred | F...

PUT after preflight

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Title Bar:** Notifications / Twitter, Web Science and Digital Library, attacker.com:4001, Michael.
- Address Bar:** attacker.com:4001
- Content Area:** Welcome to attacker.com!
Success
Dictionary
Type a word to look up in...
New Oxford American Dictionary
Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus
Apple Dictionary
Wikipedia
- Developer Tools Network Tab:** Shows a timeline from 200 ms to 1000 ms. A red box highlights the "General" section of the request details.
- Request Details (General):**
 - Request URL: http://localhost:4000
 - Request Method: PUT
 - Status Code: 200 OK
- Response Headers (highlighted by a red box):**
 - Access-Control-Allow-Origin: http://attacker.com:4001
 - Connection: keep-alive
 - Content-Length: 7
 - Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
 - Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2021 16:16:50 GMT
 - ETag: W/"7-Qqj2Udef0AXurAYS32RCuY0gEYQ"
 - Keep-Alive: timeout=5
 - X-Powered-By: Express
- Request Headers (highlighted by a red box):**
 - ⚠ Provisional headers are shown
 - Origin: http://attacker.com:4001
 - Referer: http://attacker.com:4001/

Enterprise Firewall





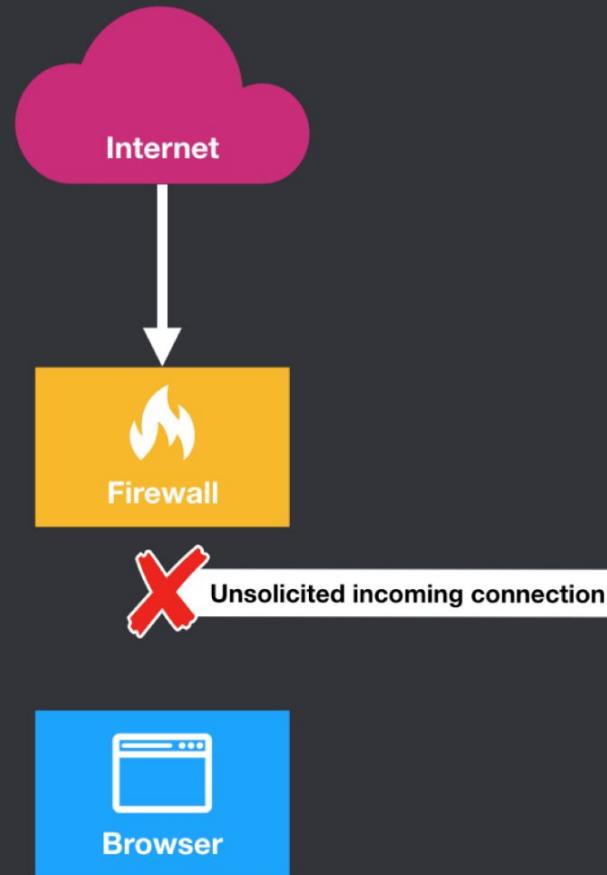


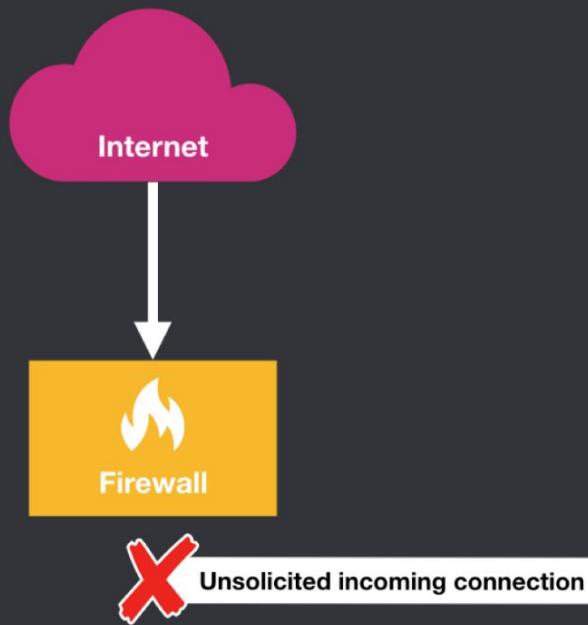


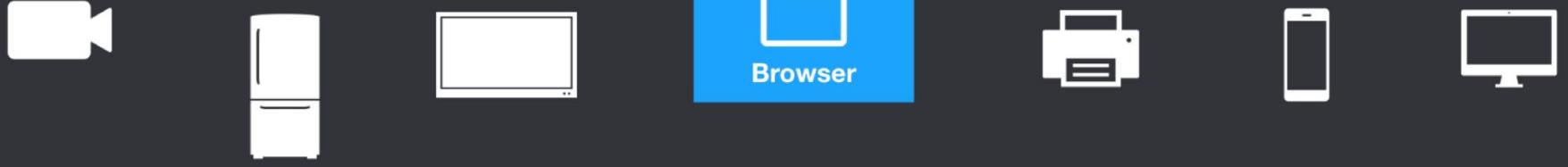


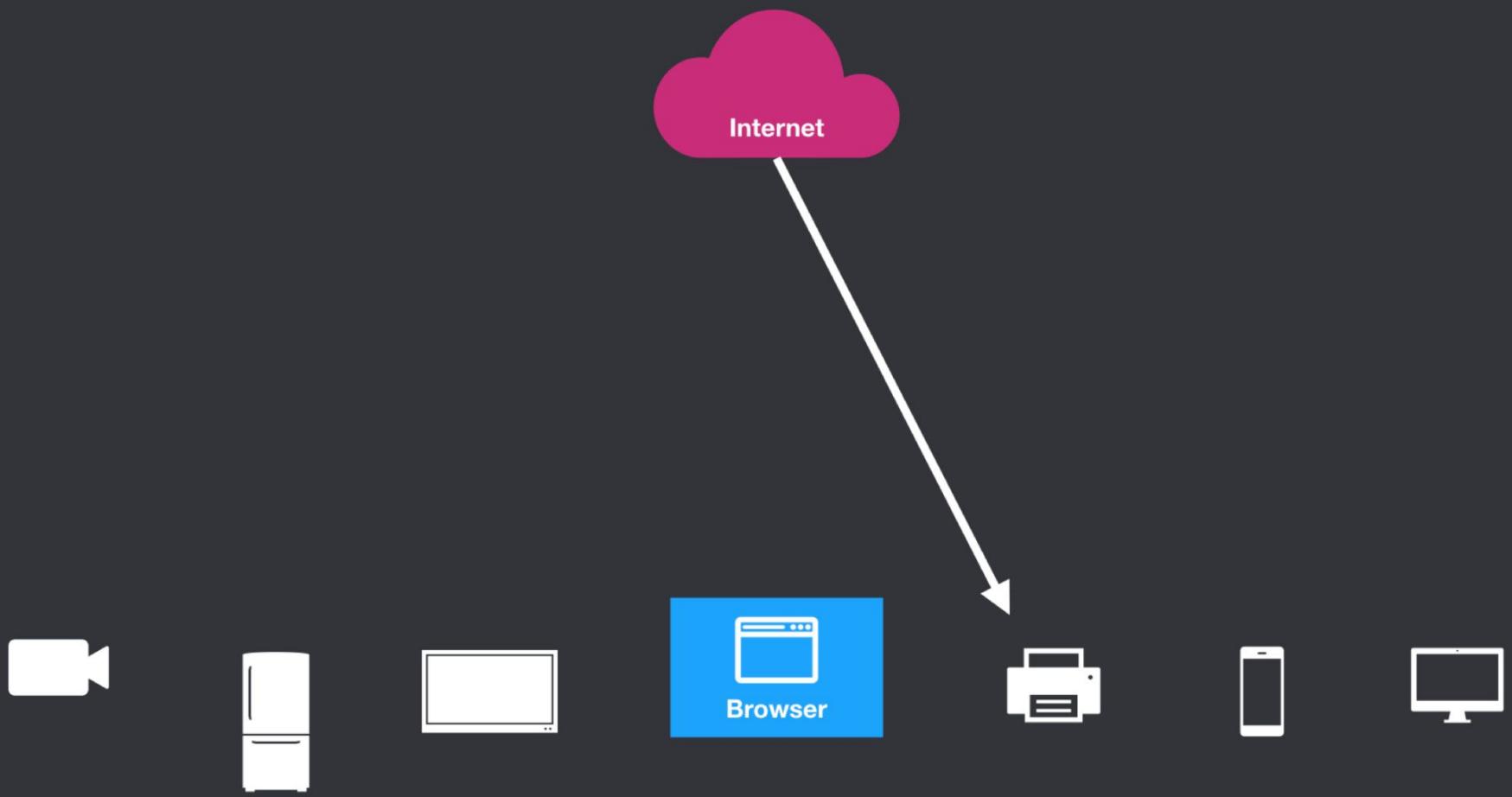


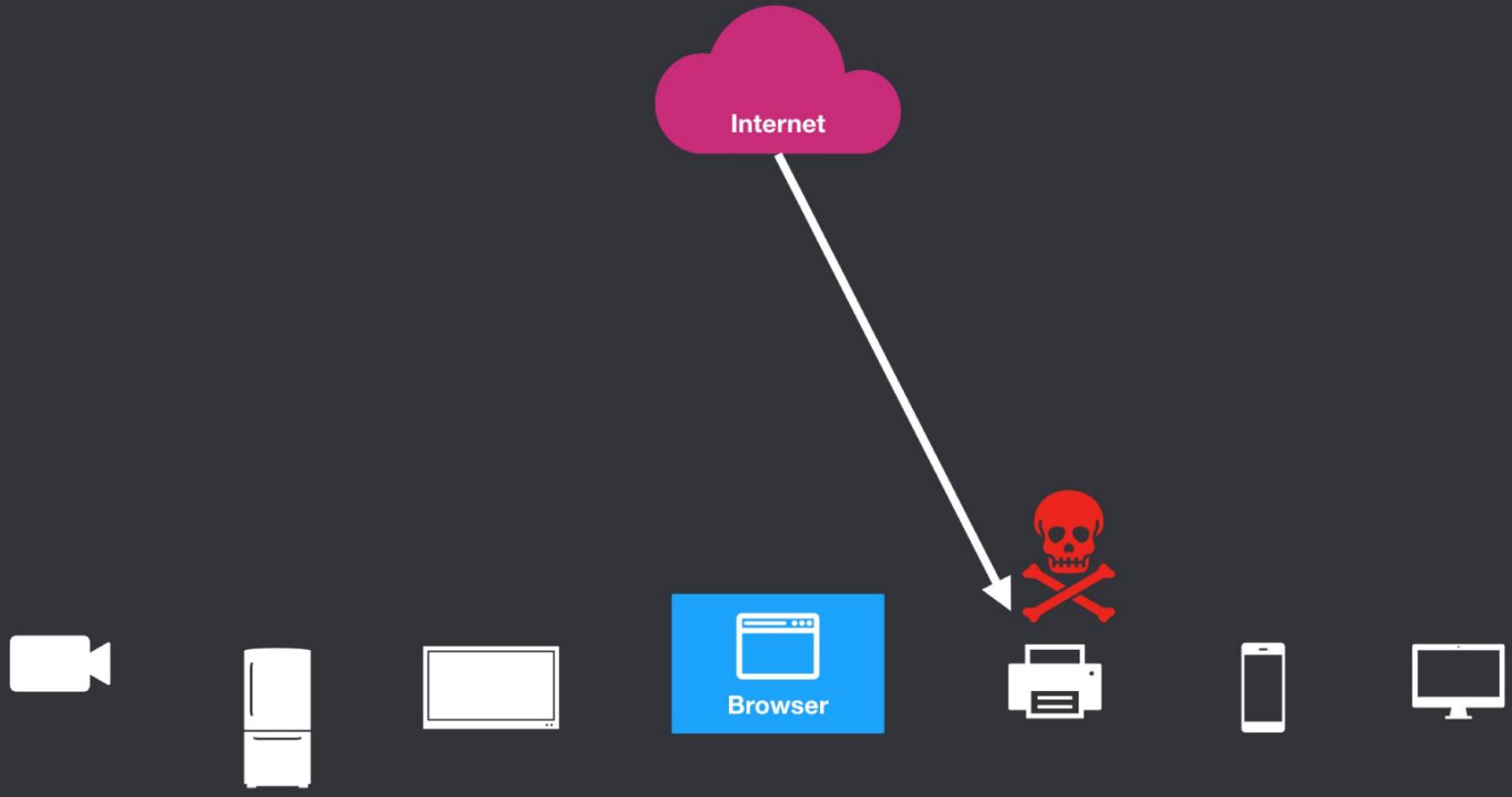


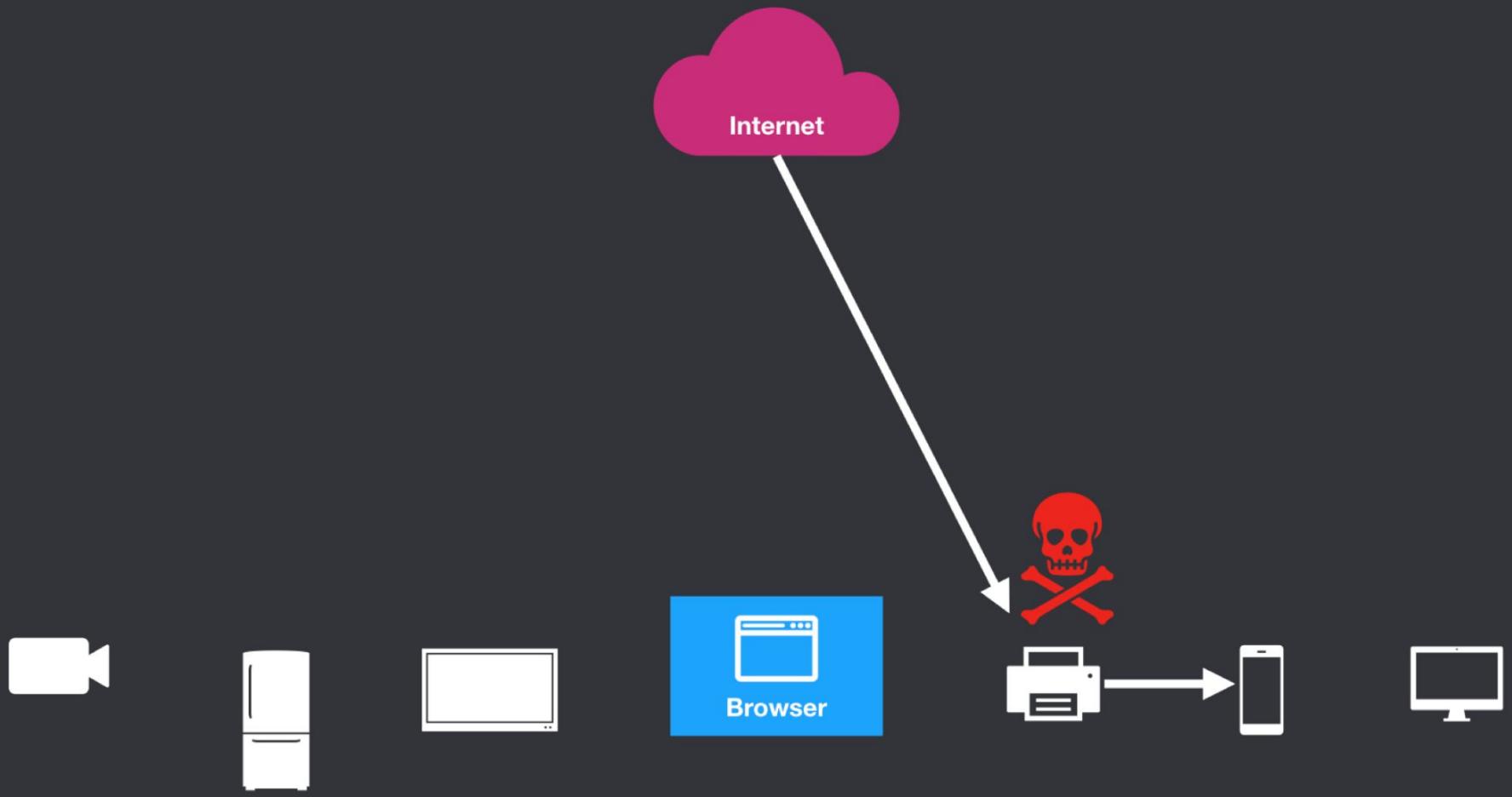


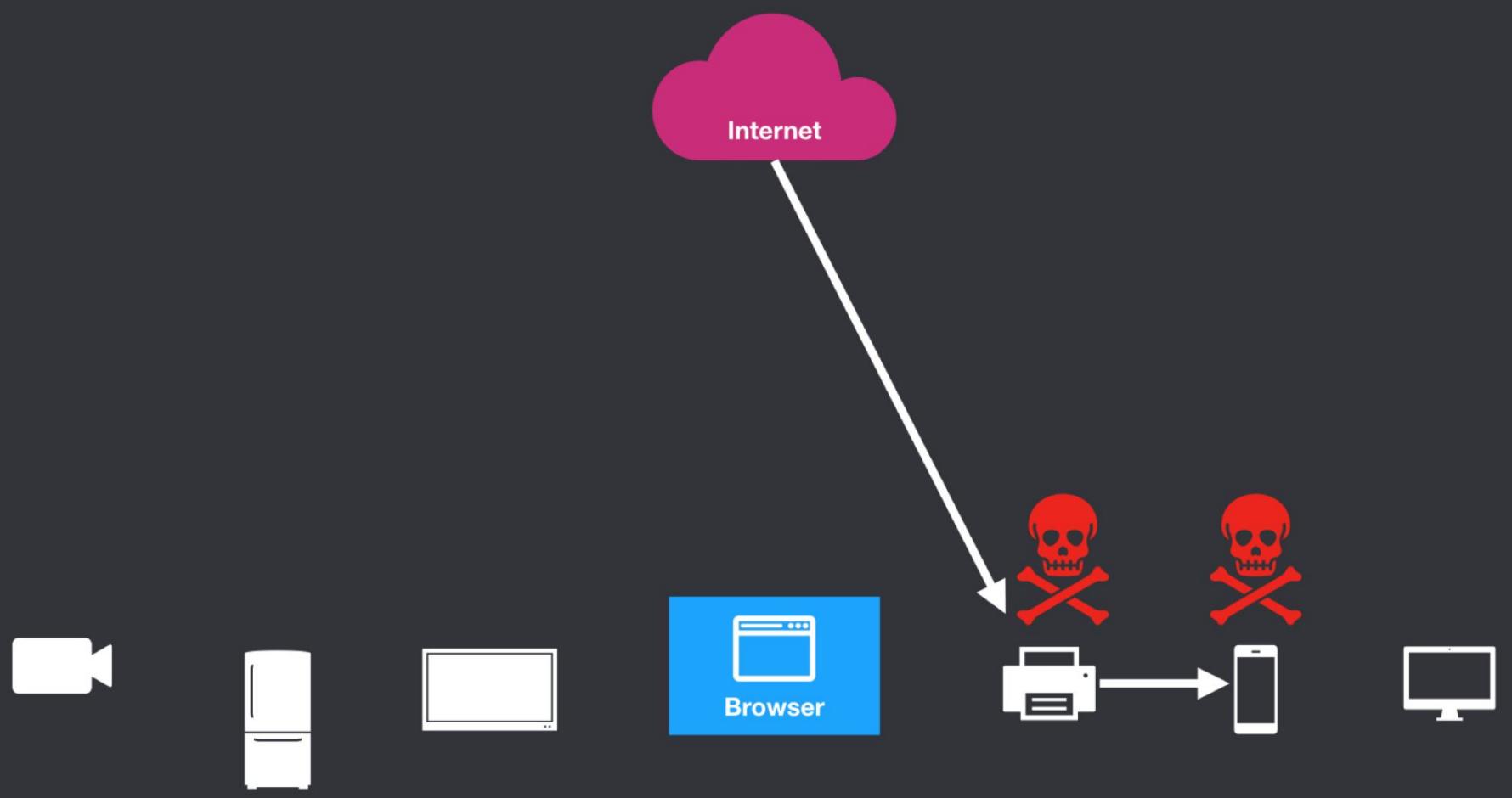


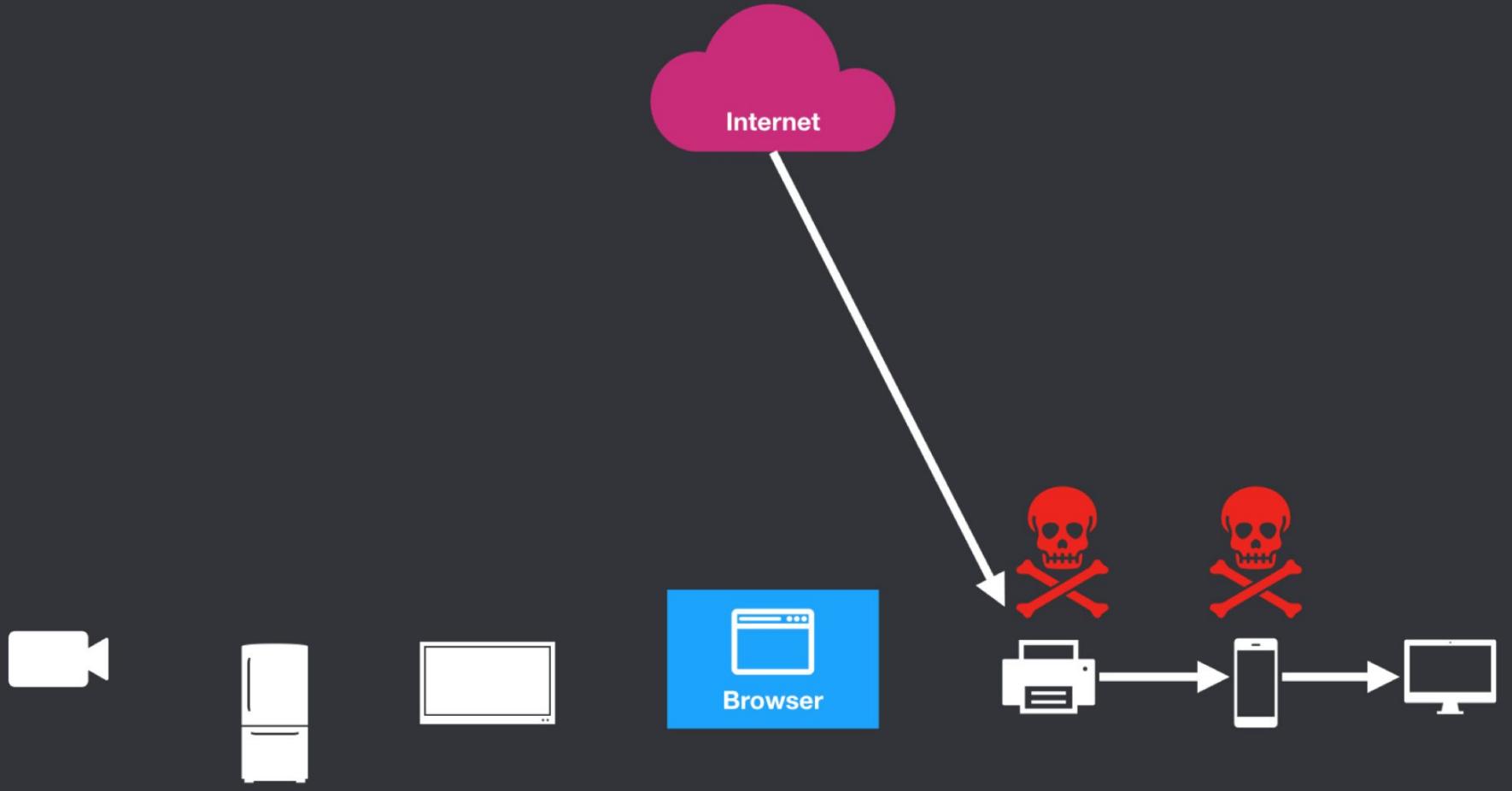


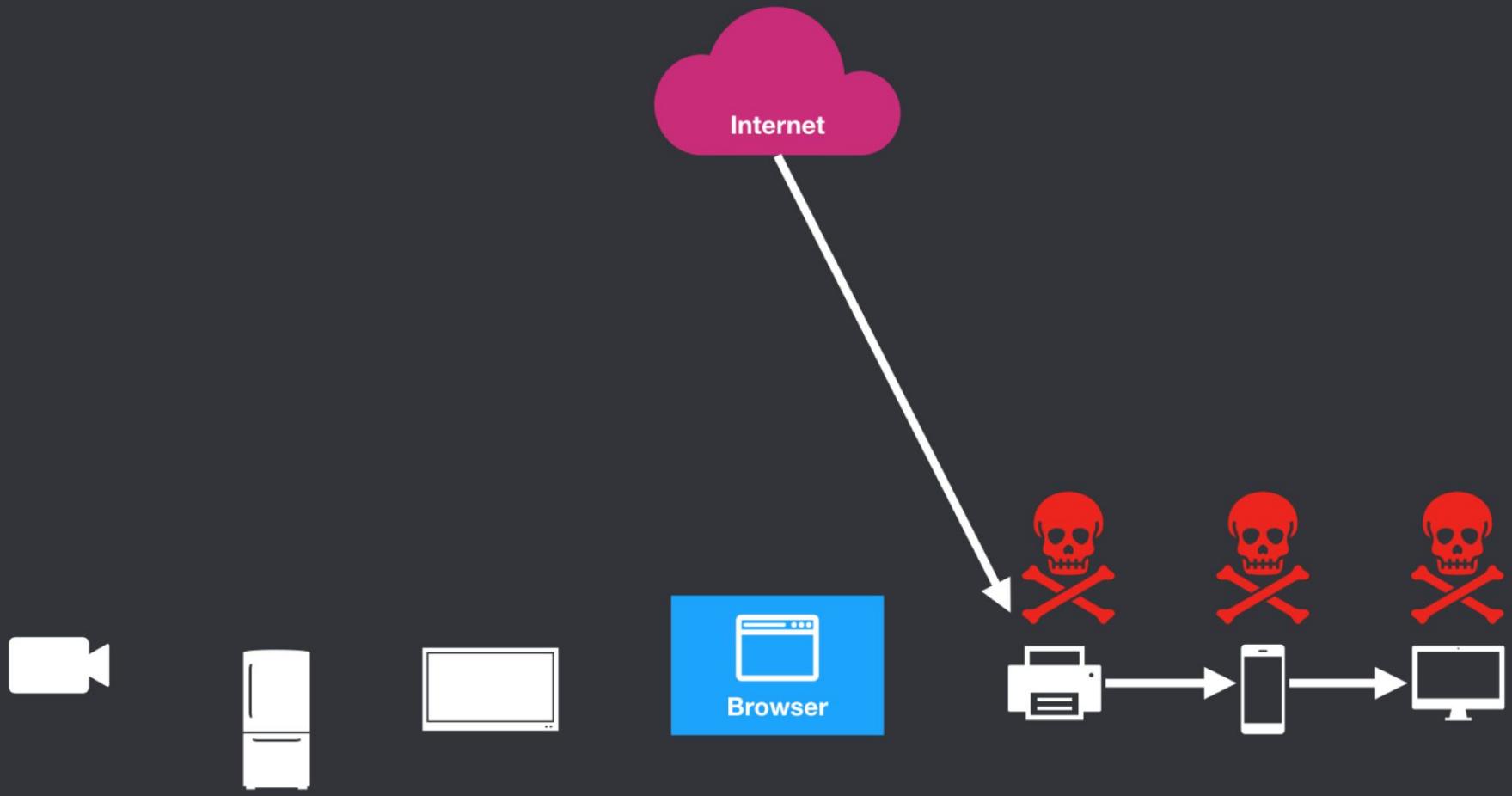


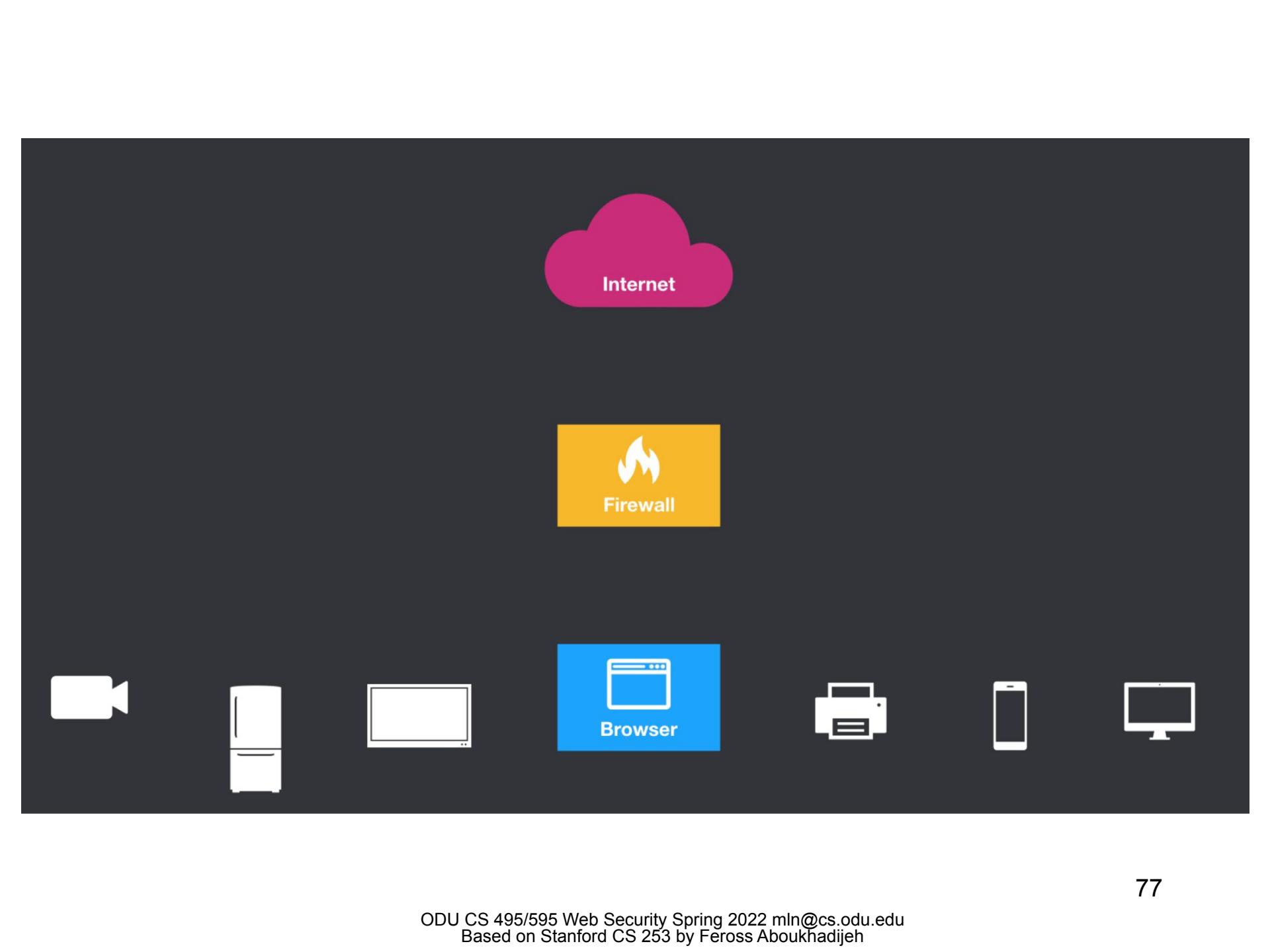


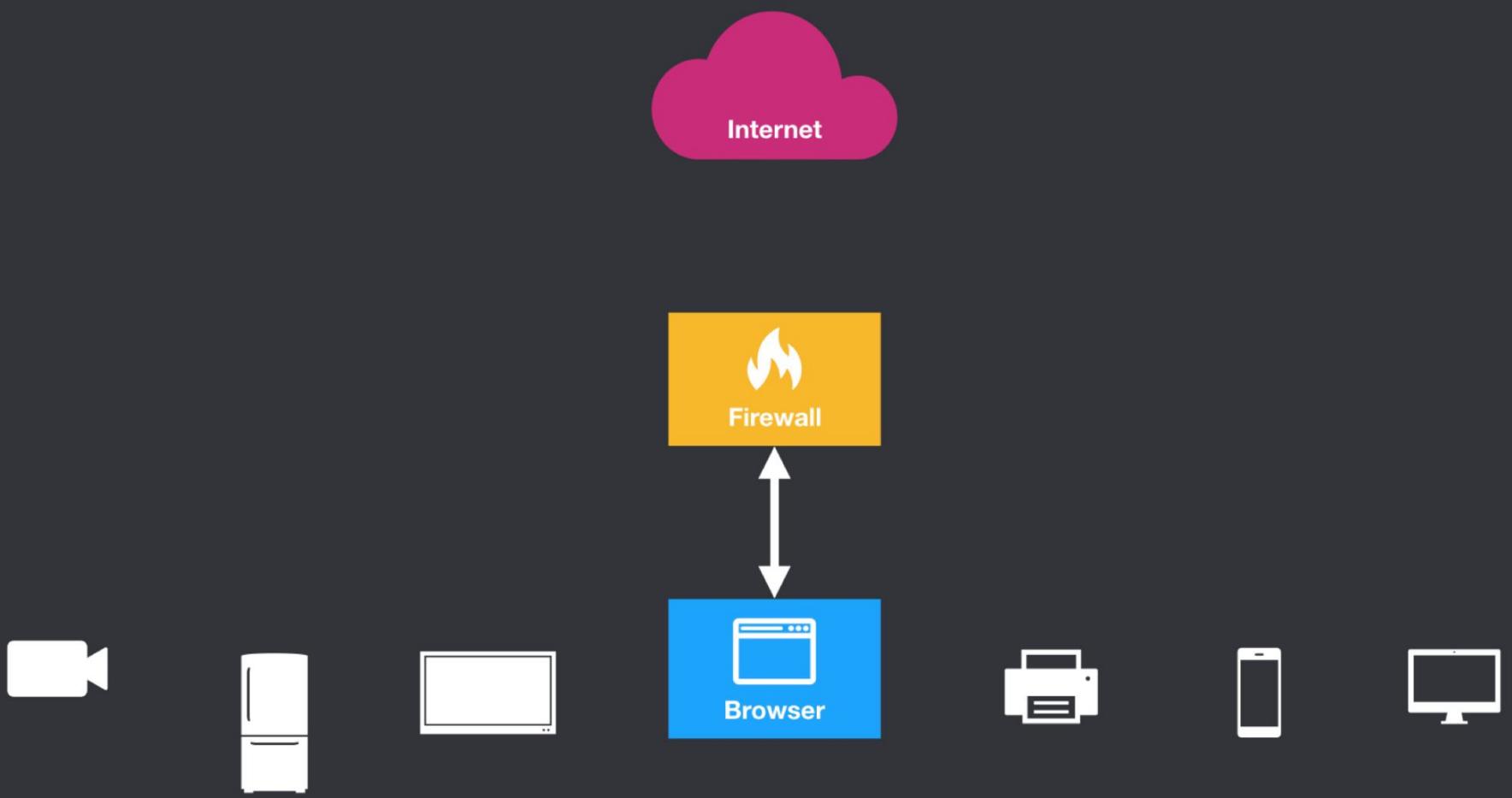


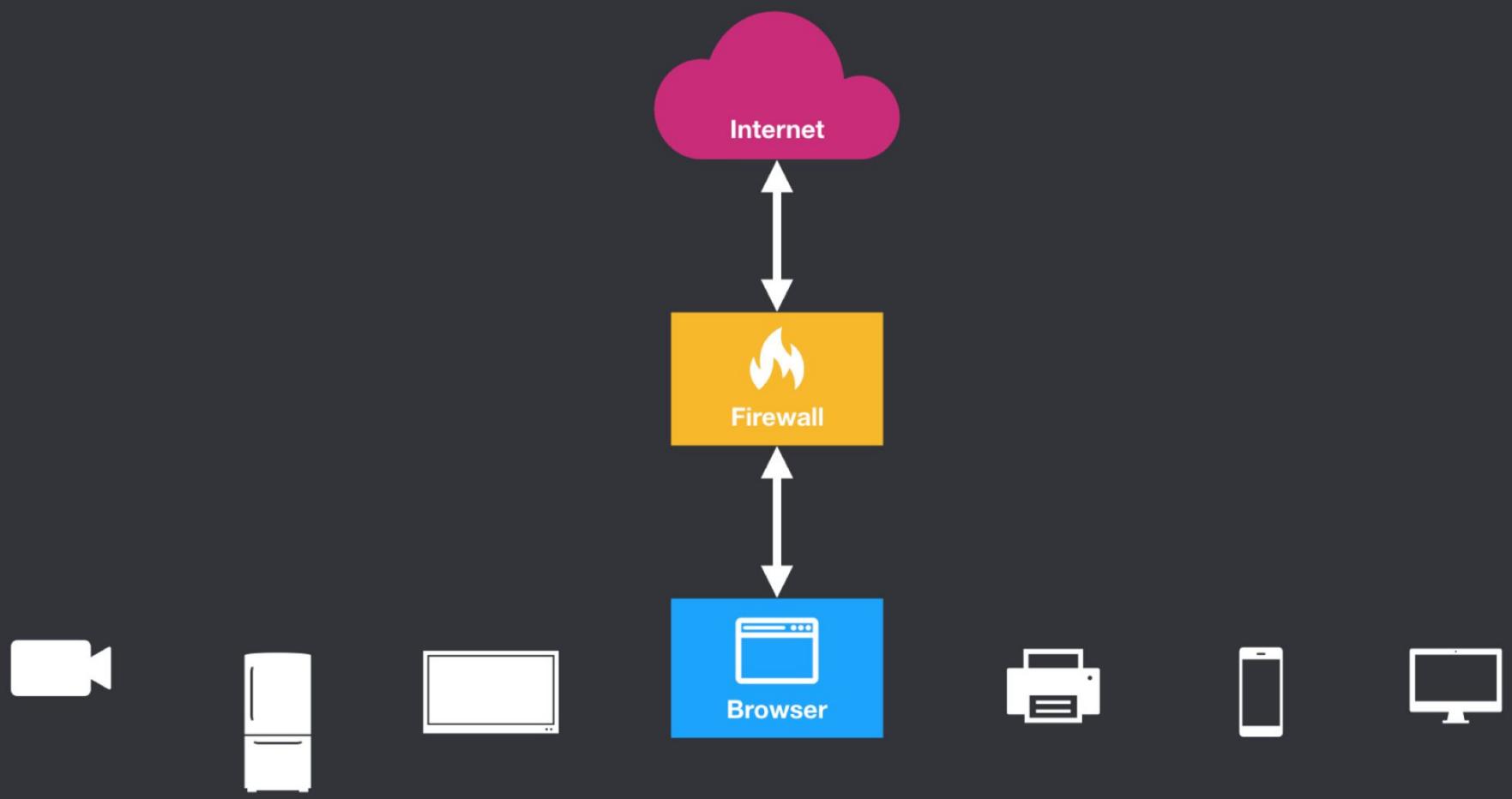


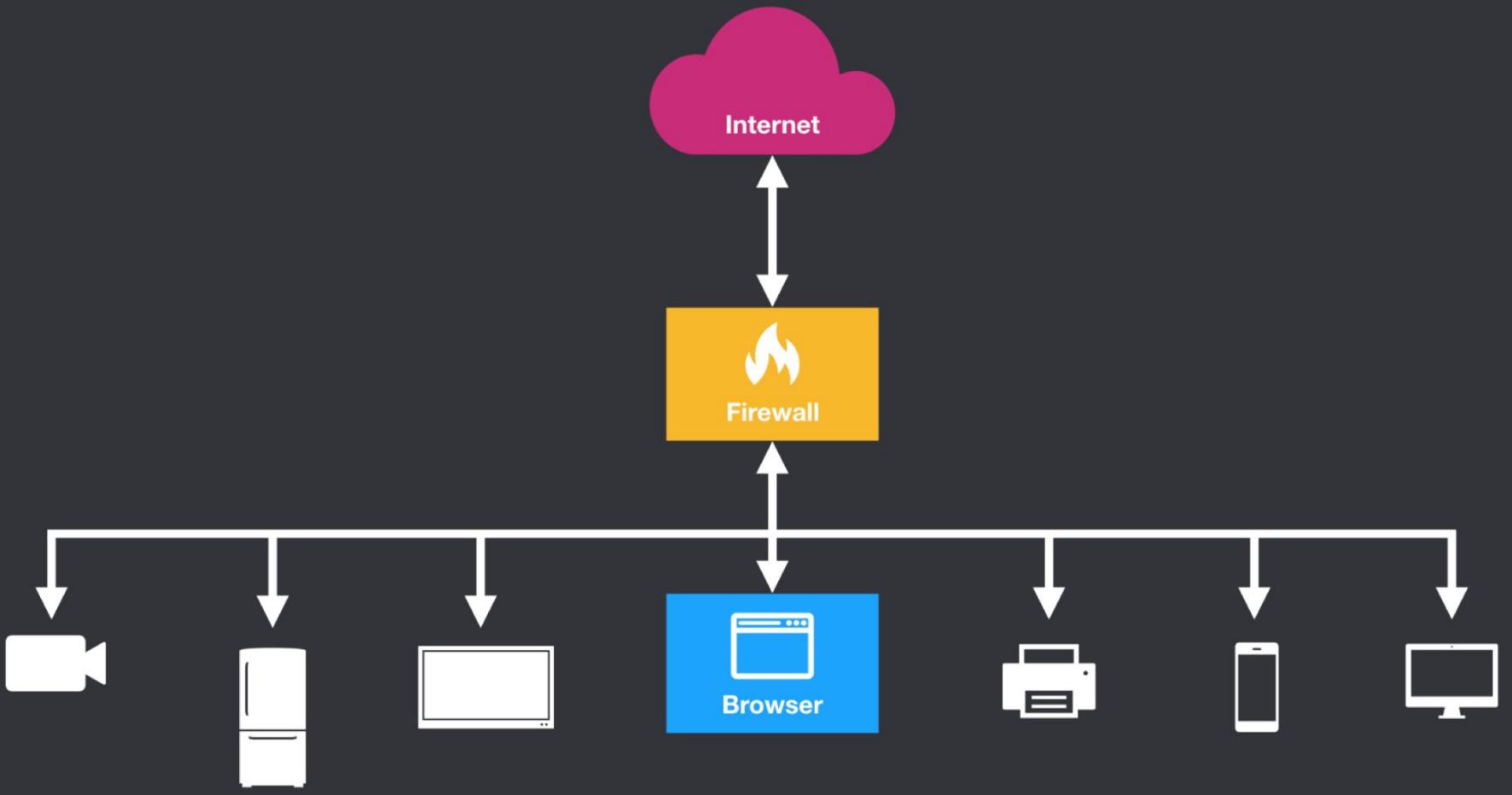




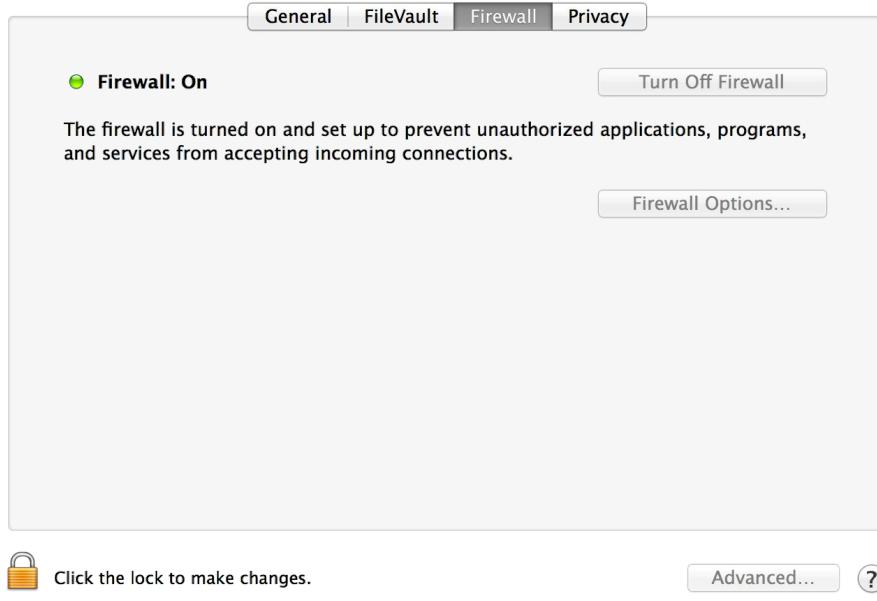






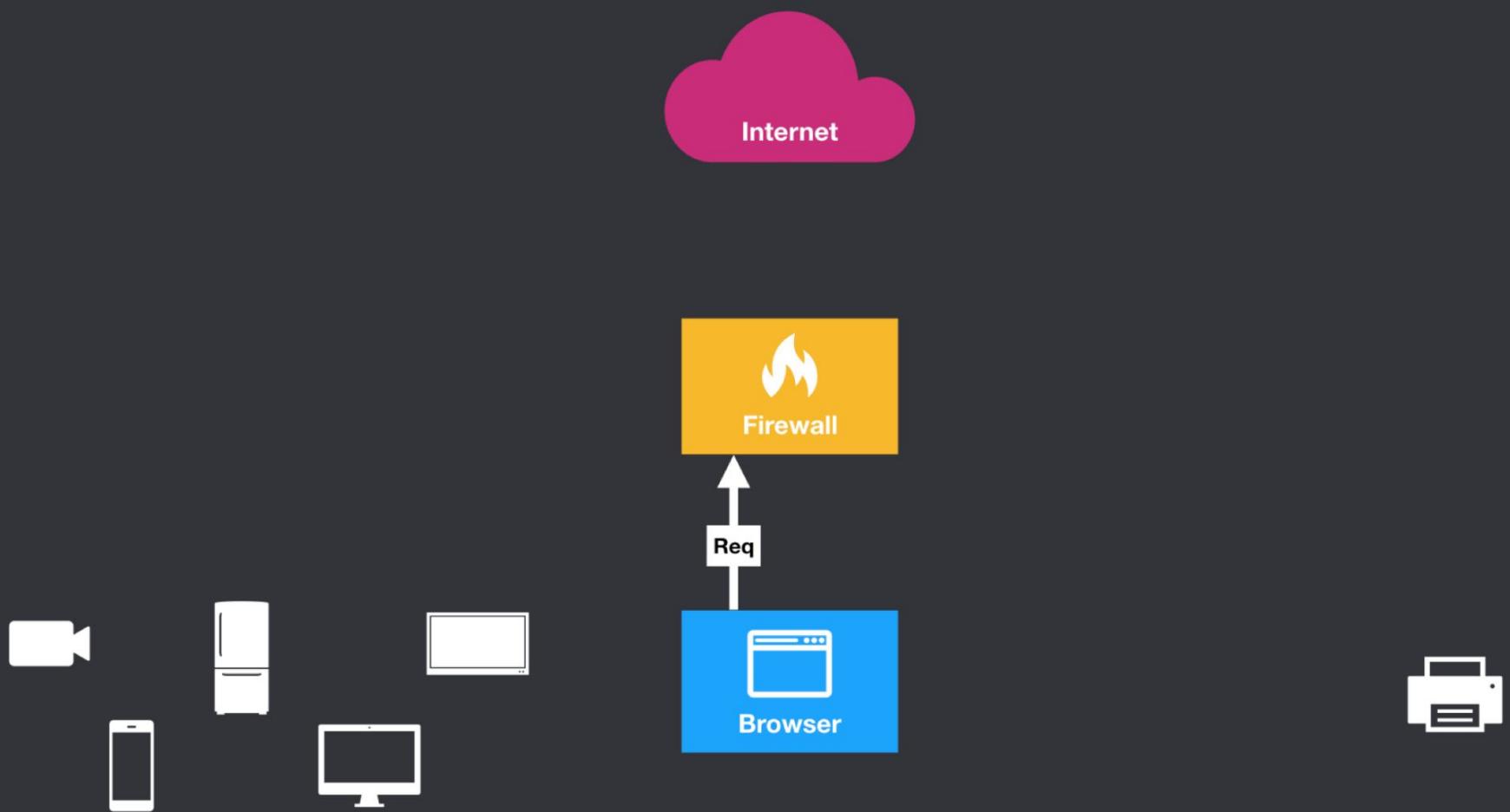


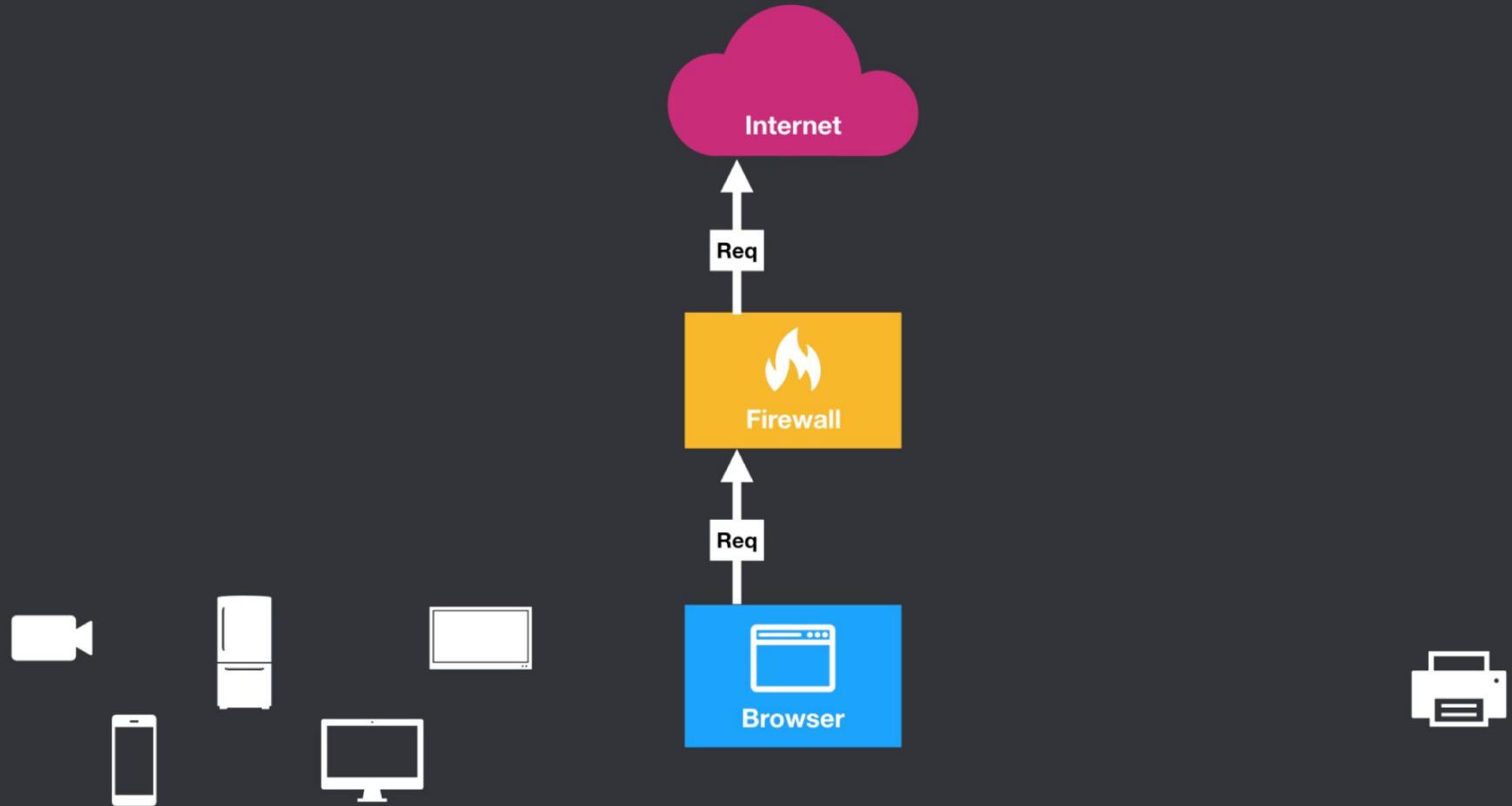
Your OS has a firewall too

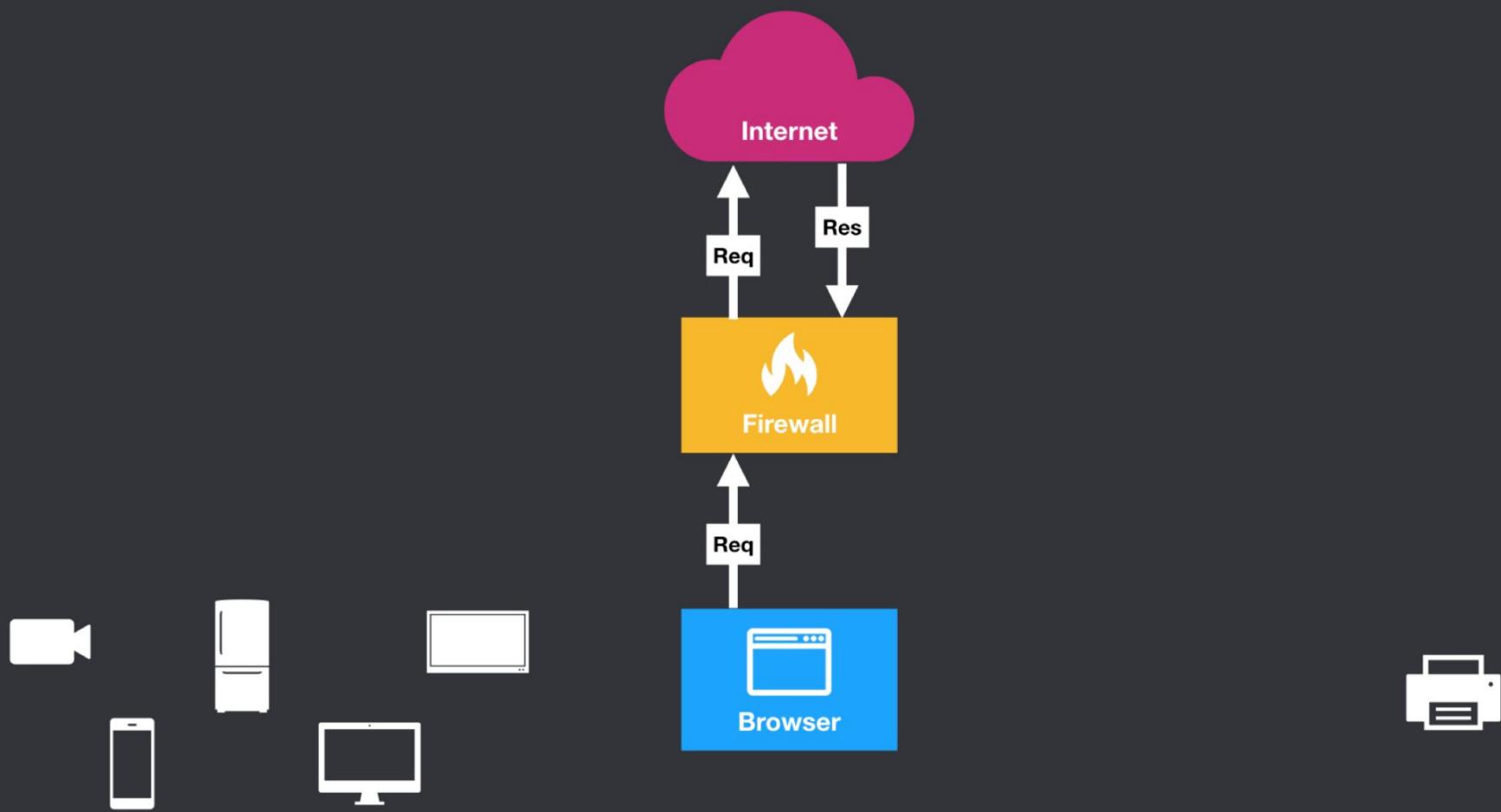


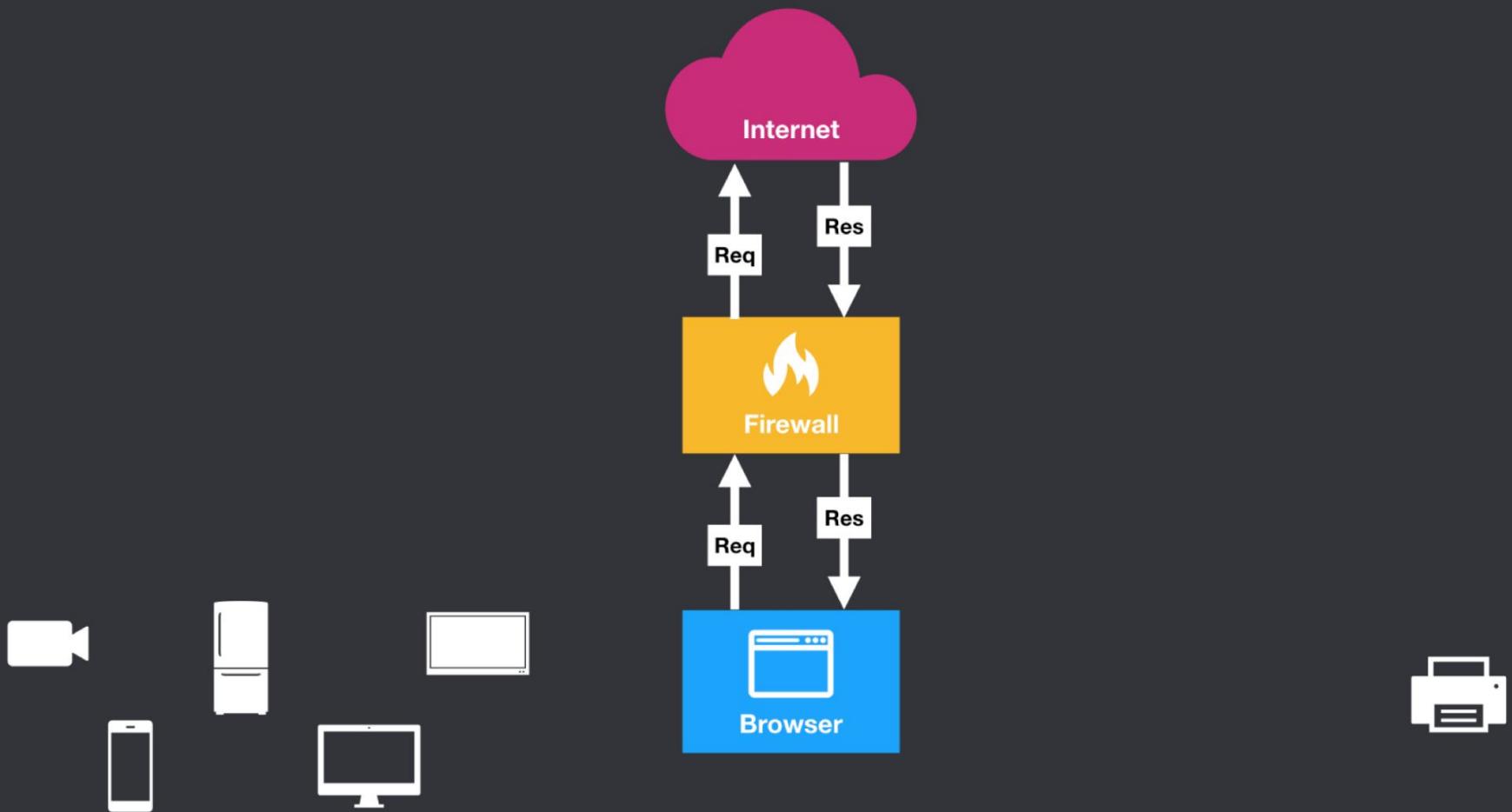
Using the browser as a proxy to make requests to the local network

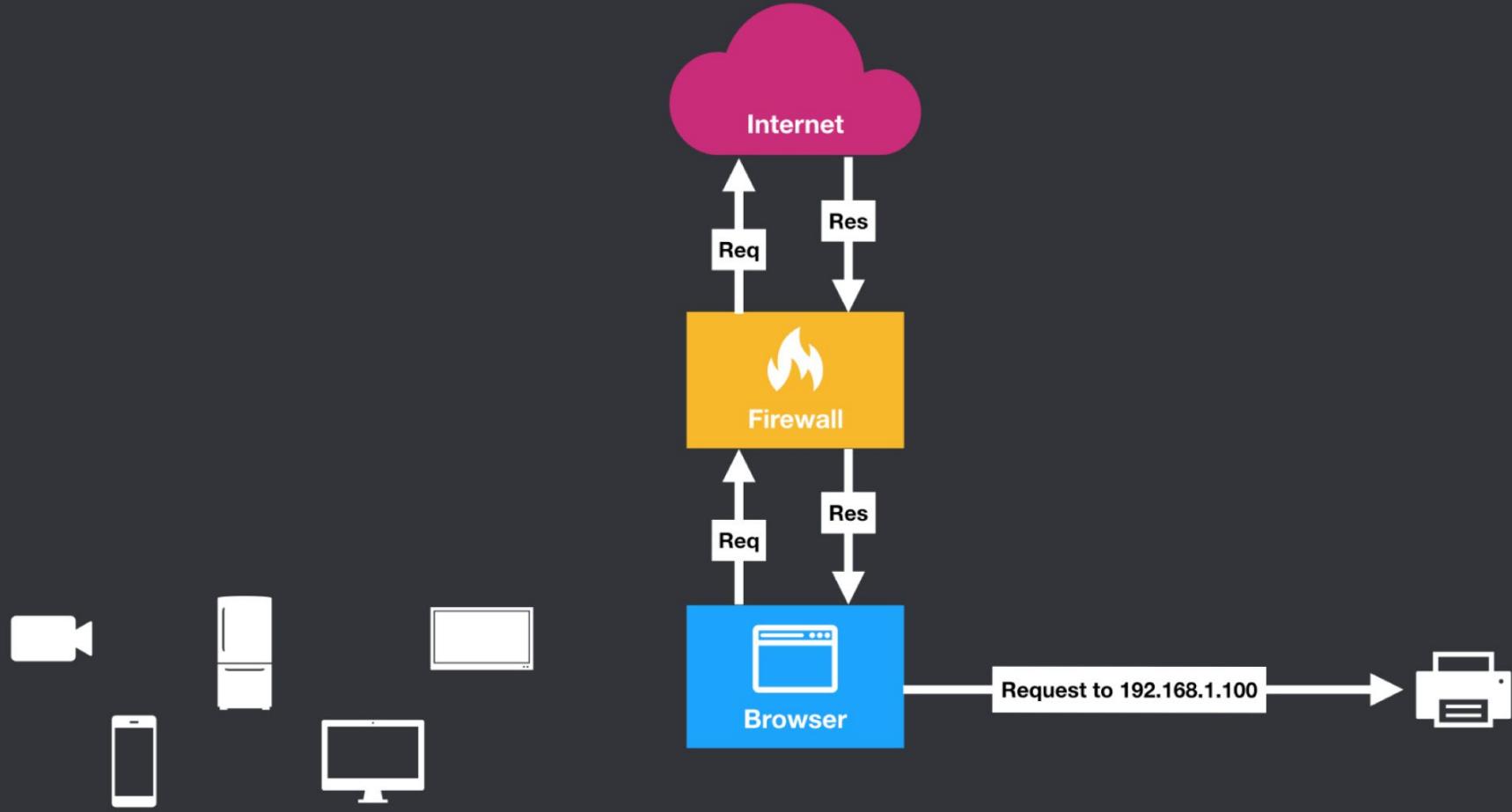


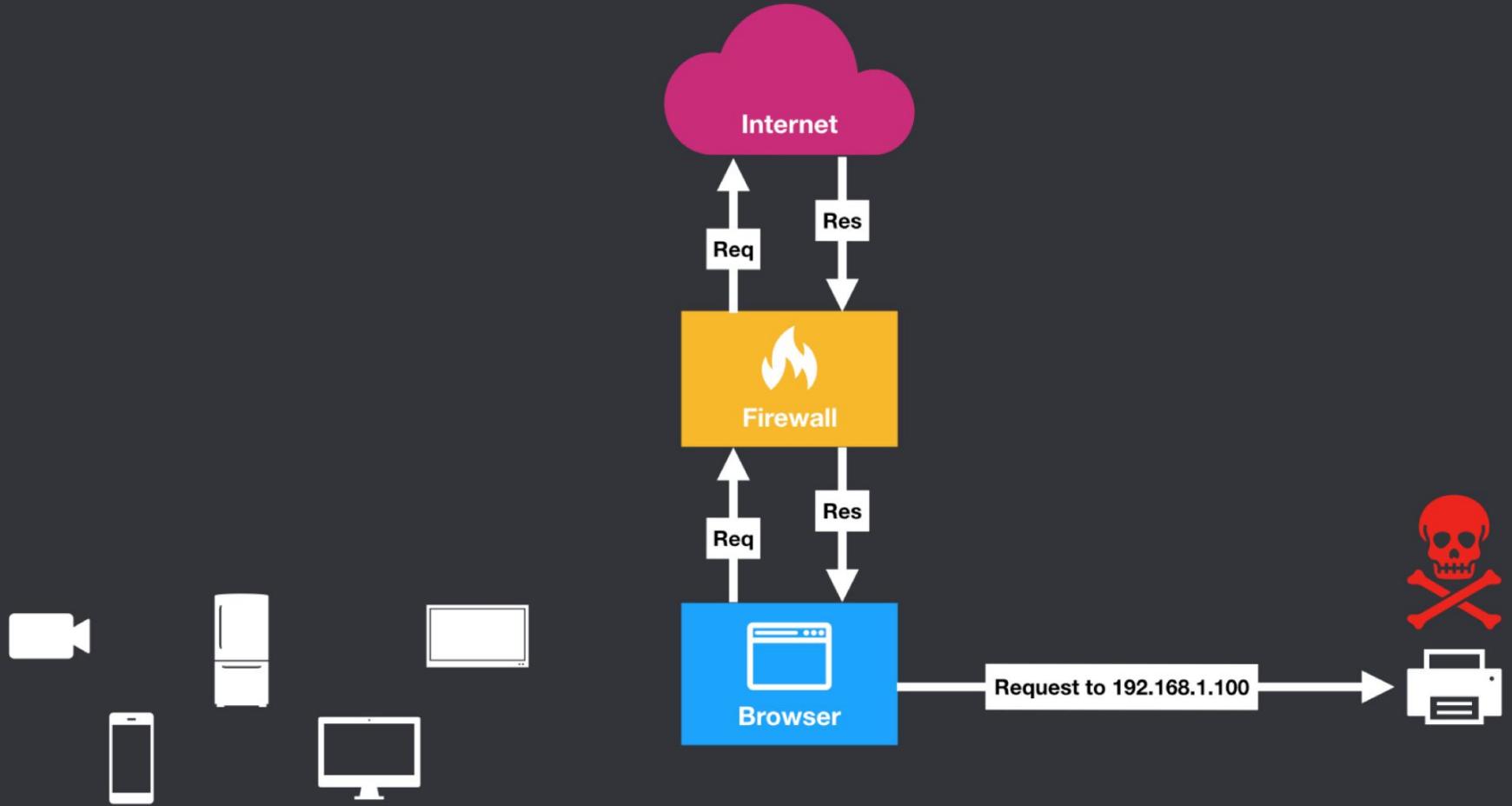










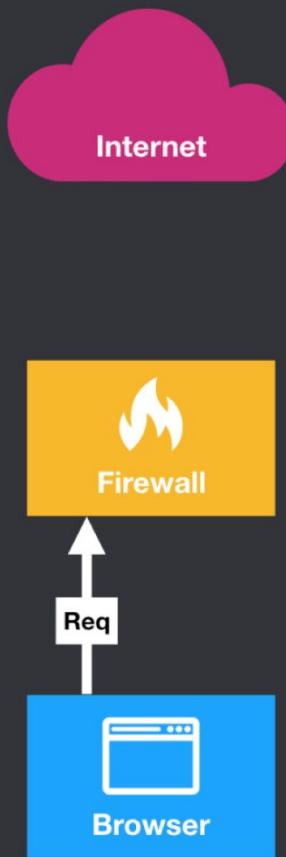


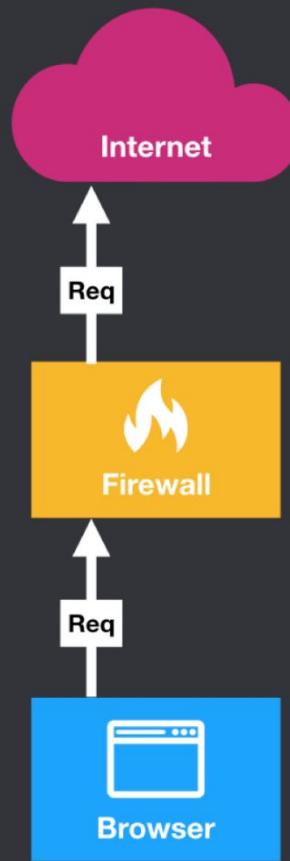
Using the browser as a proxy to make requests to local HTTP servers

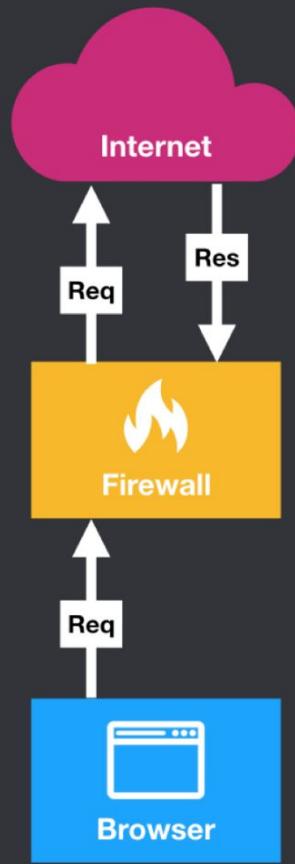
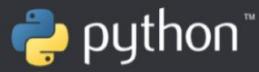


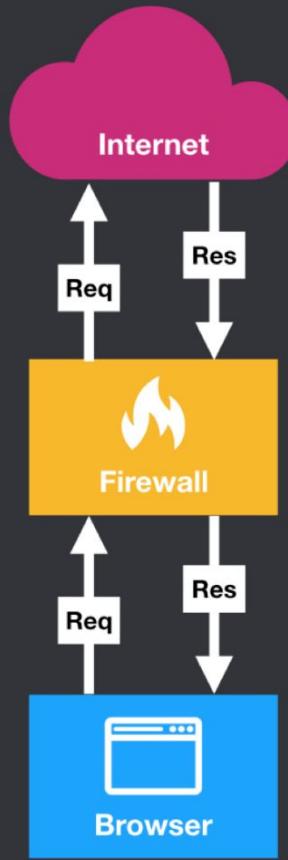
python™

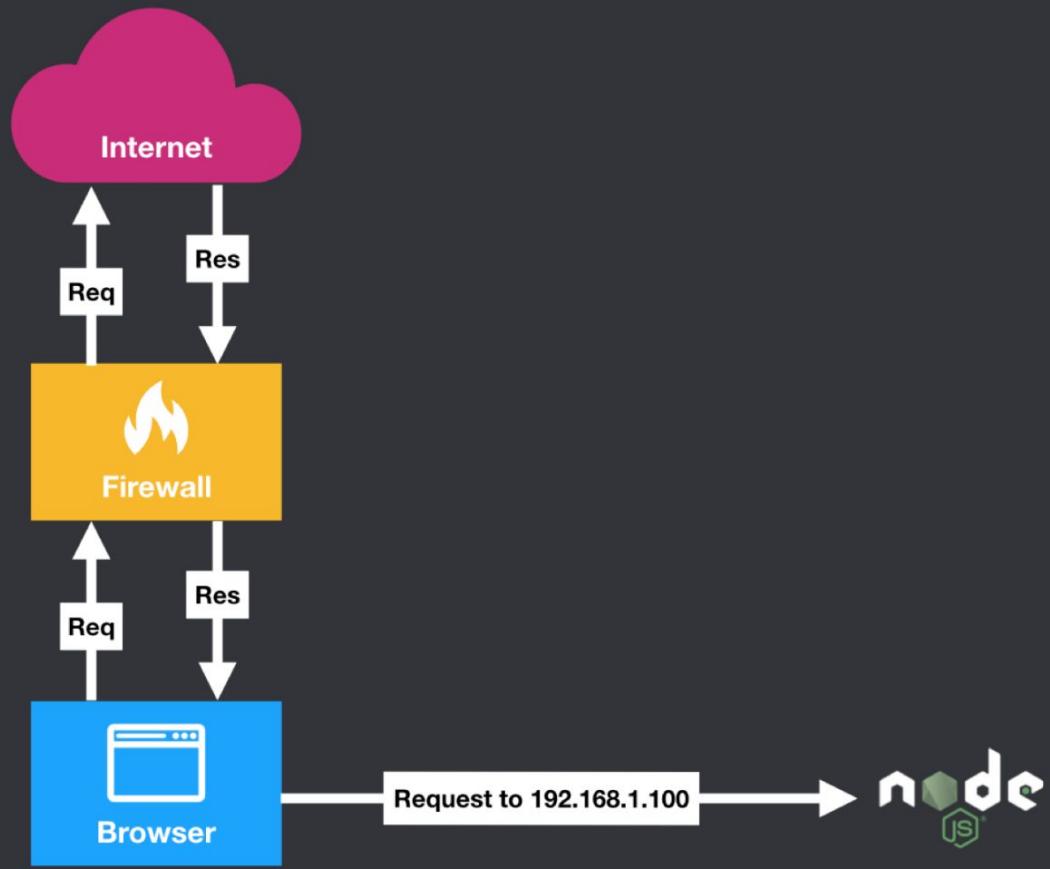


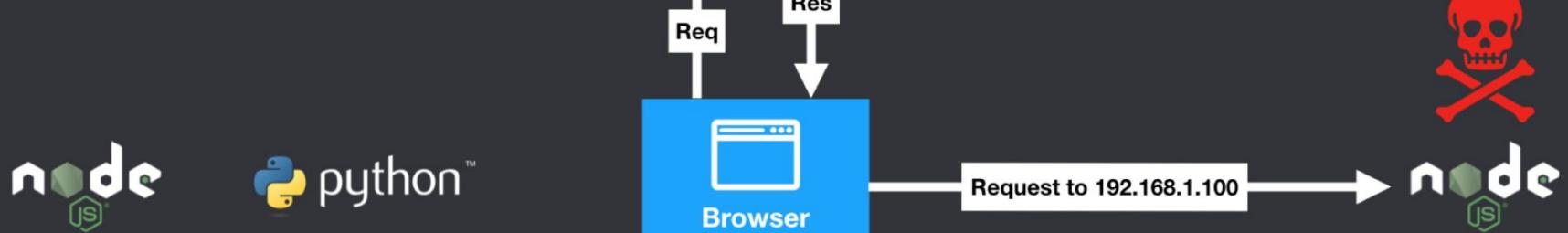










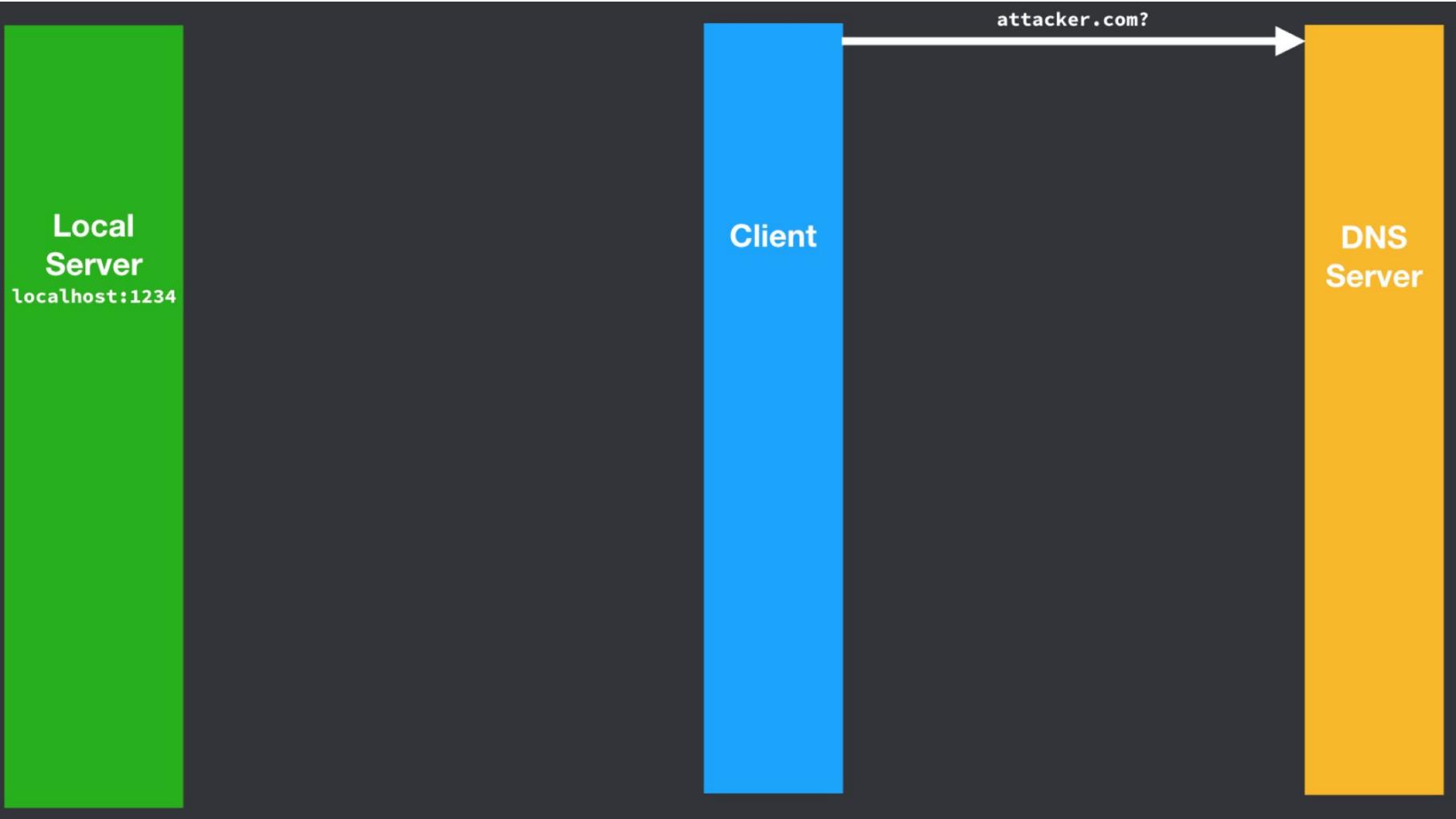


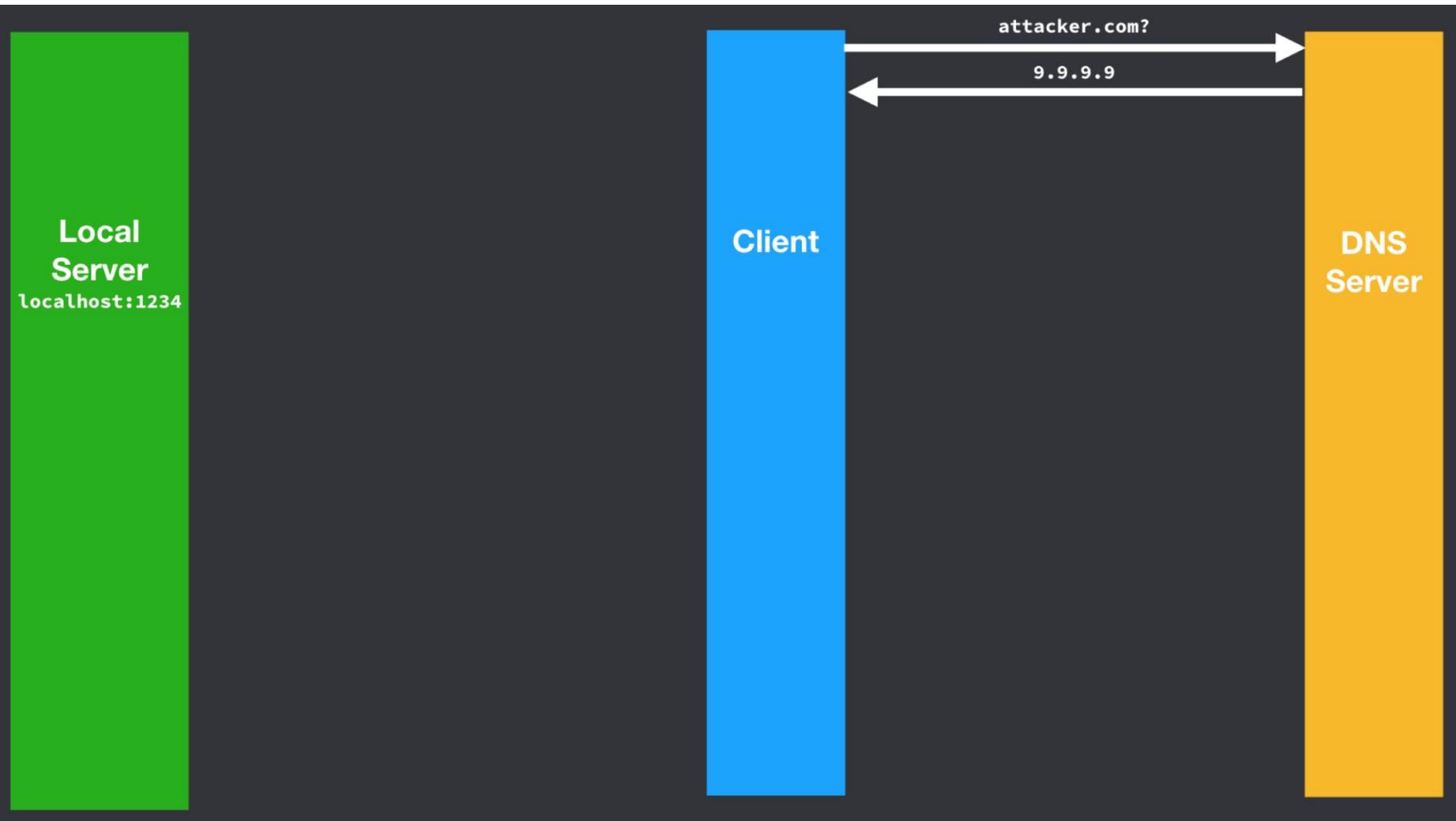
Demo DNS

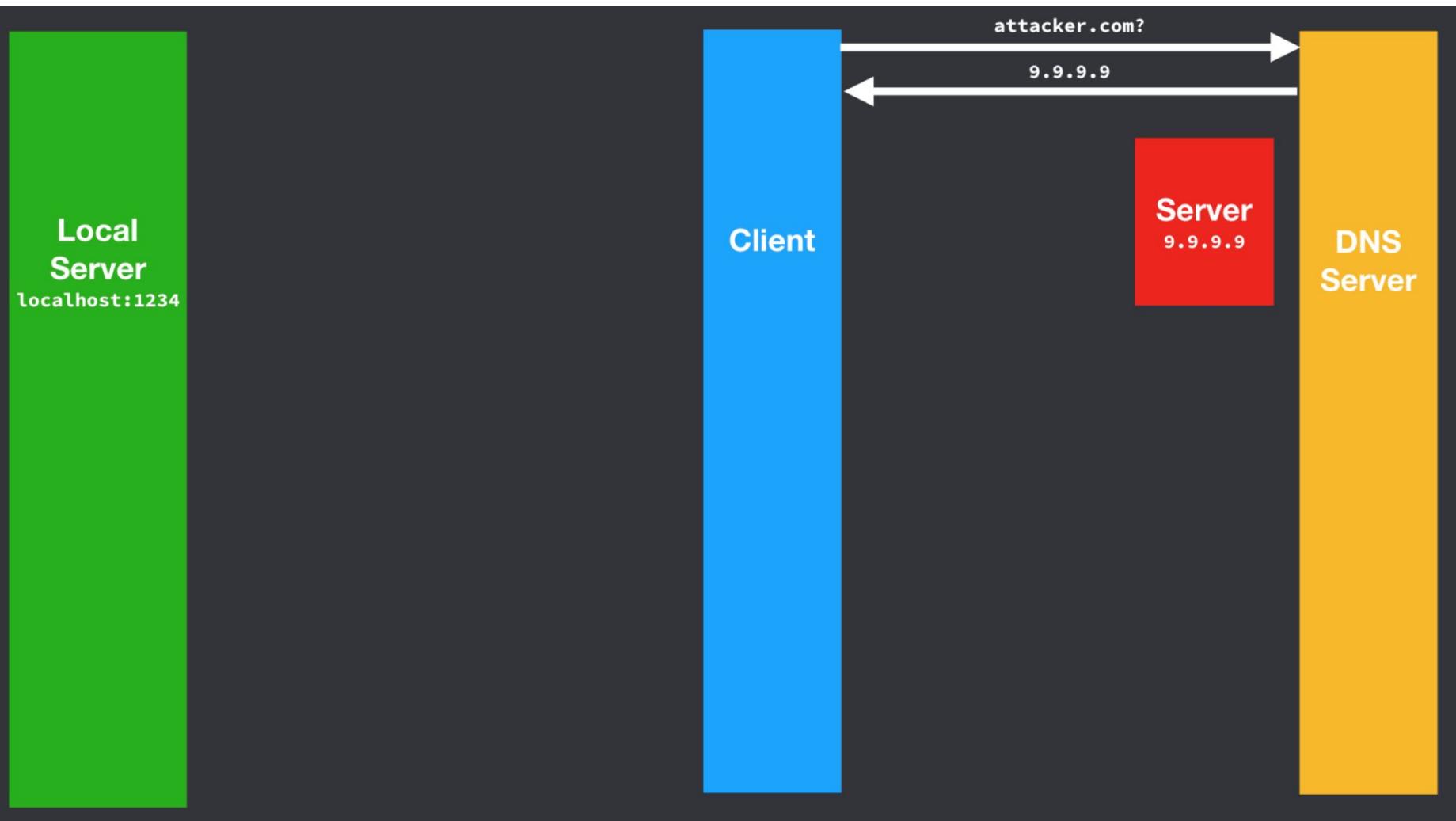
DNS rebinding attack

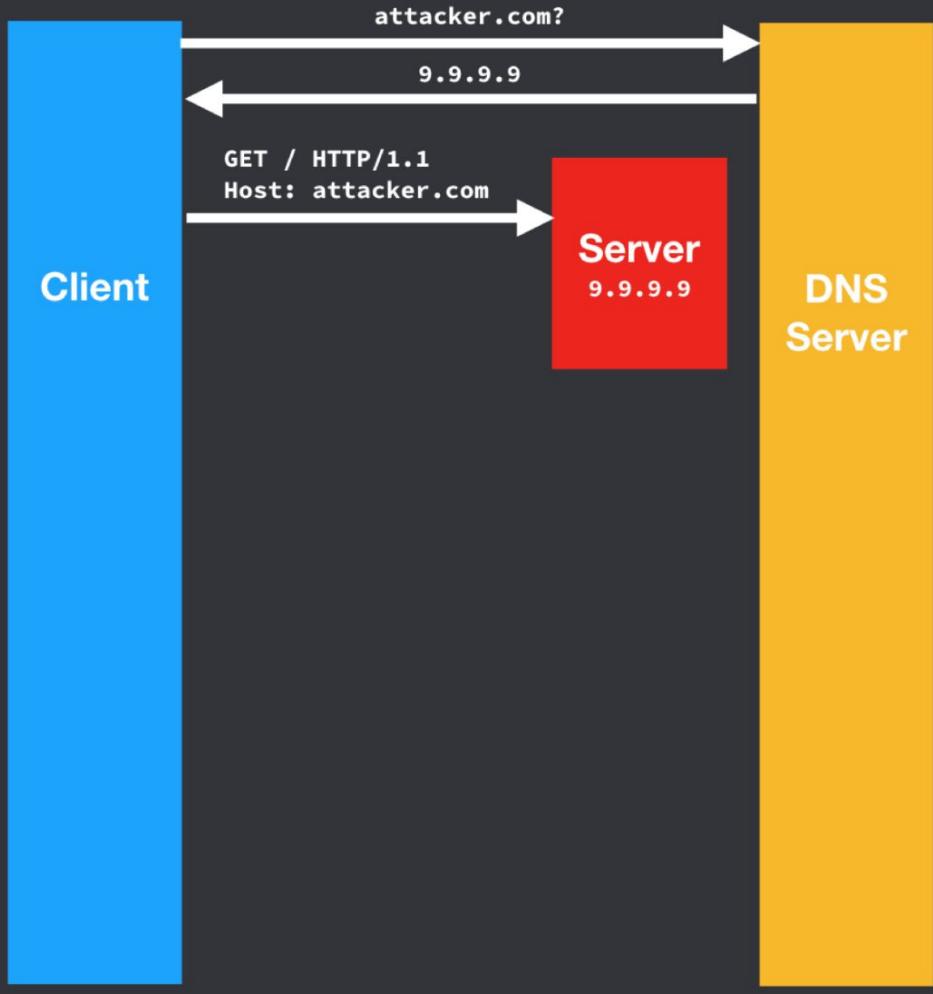
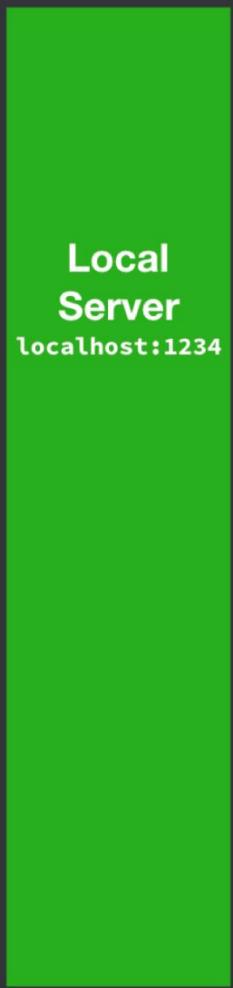


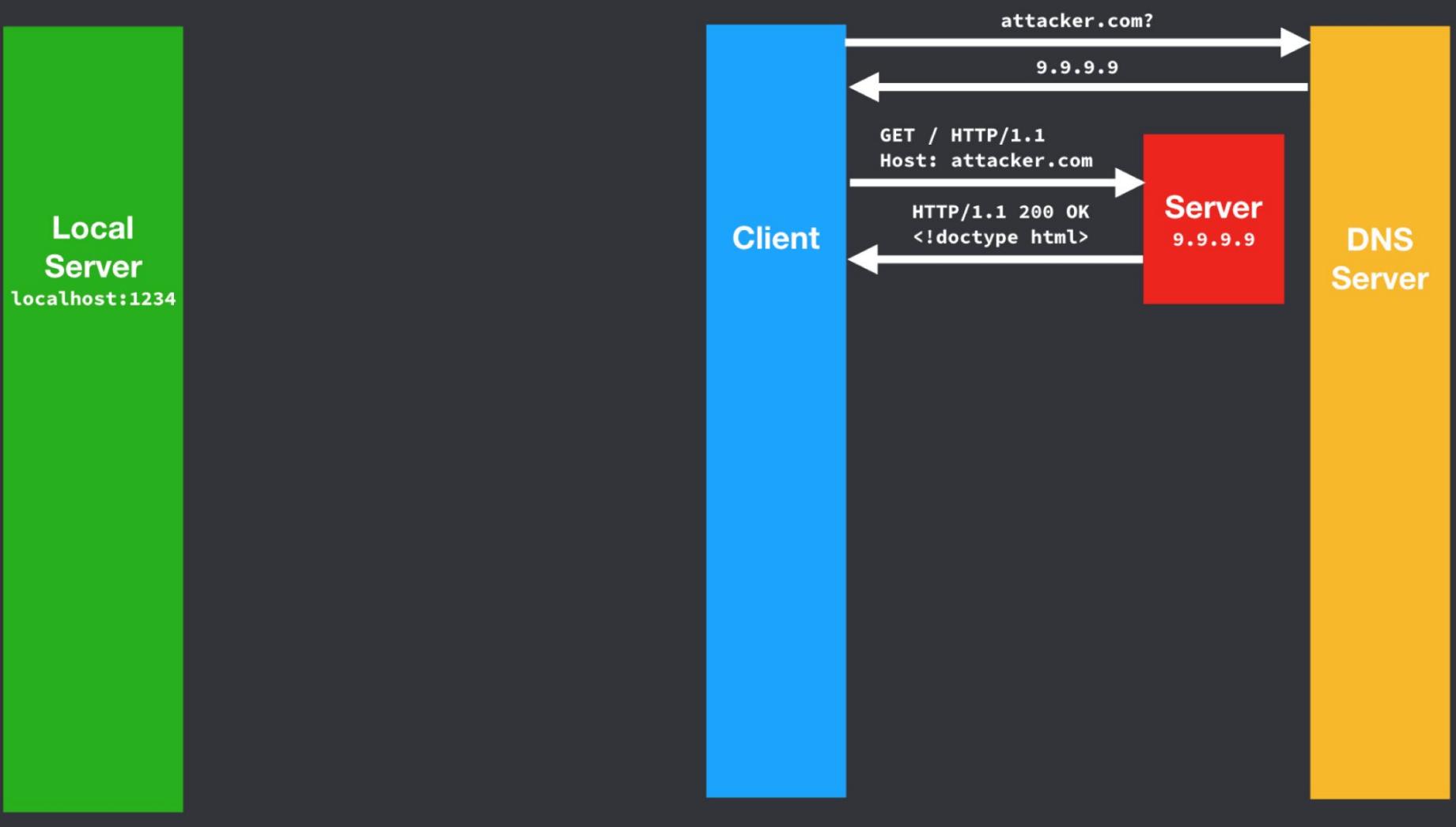
100

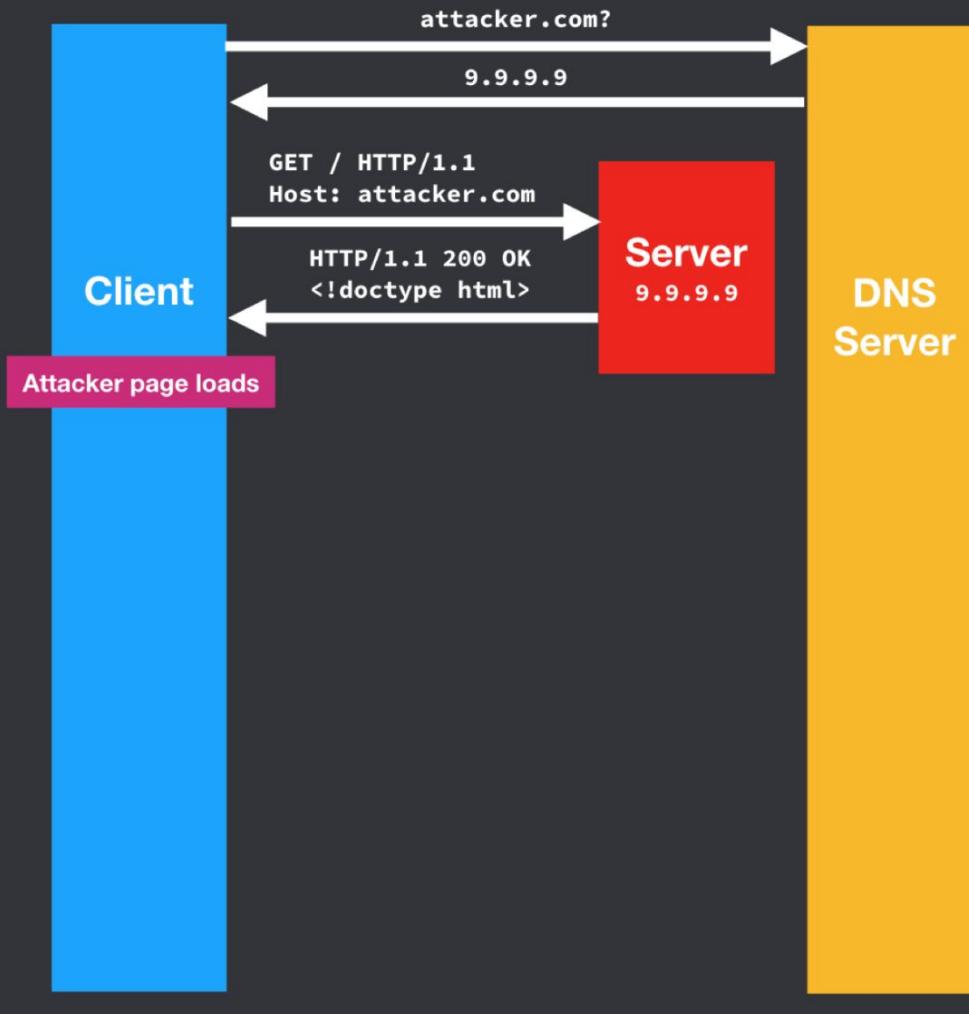


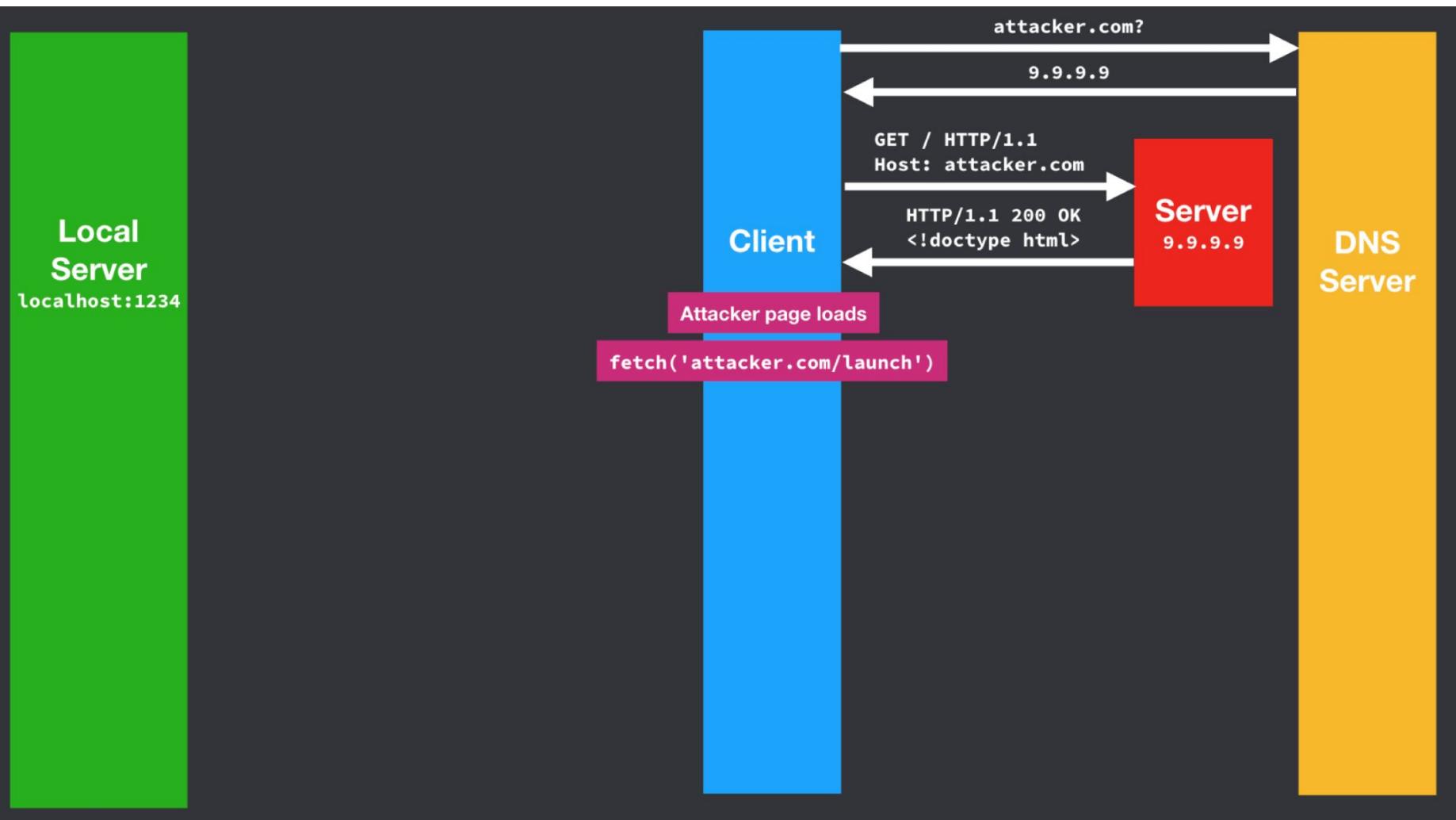


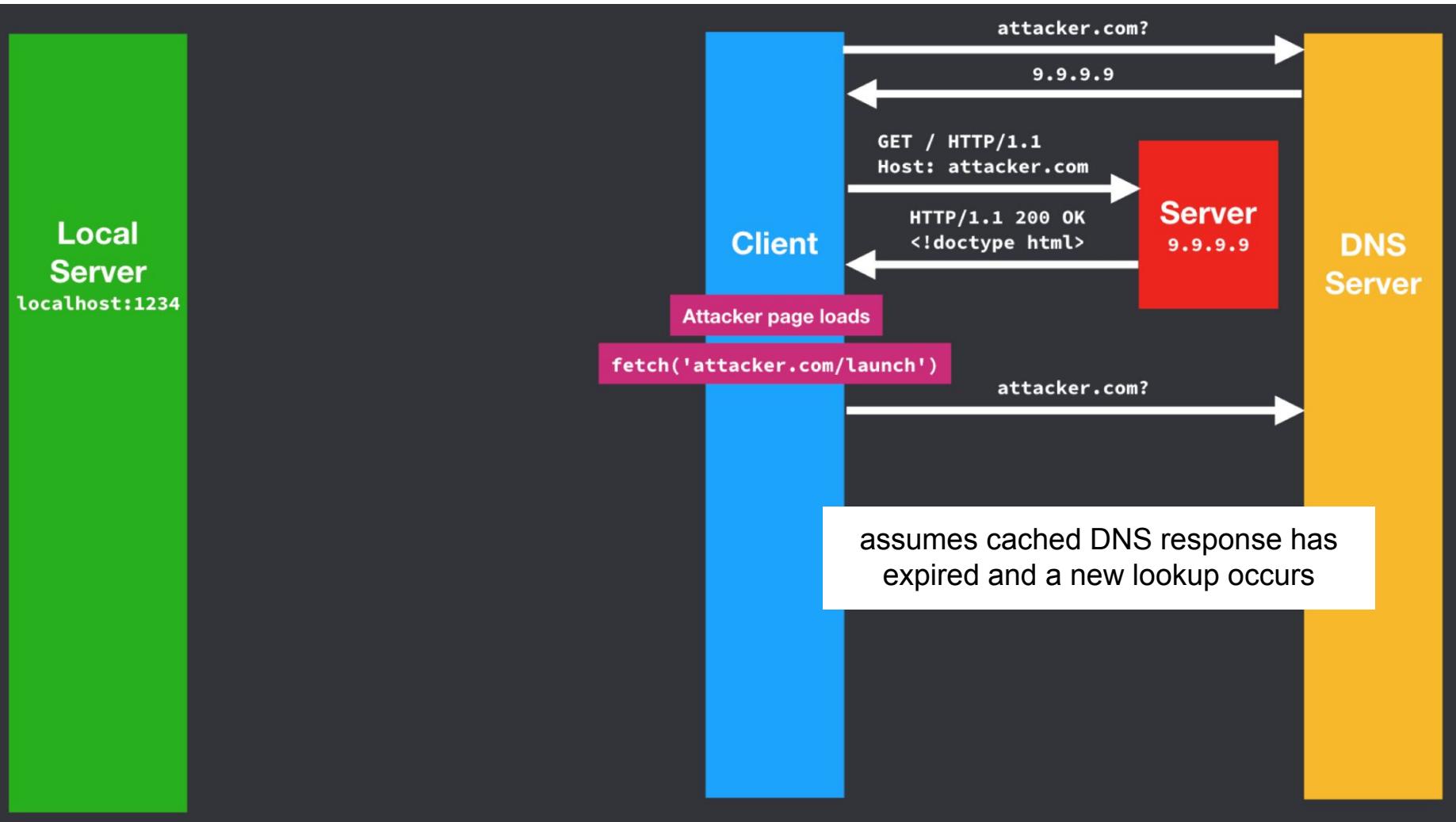


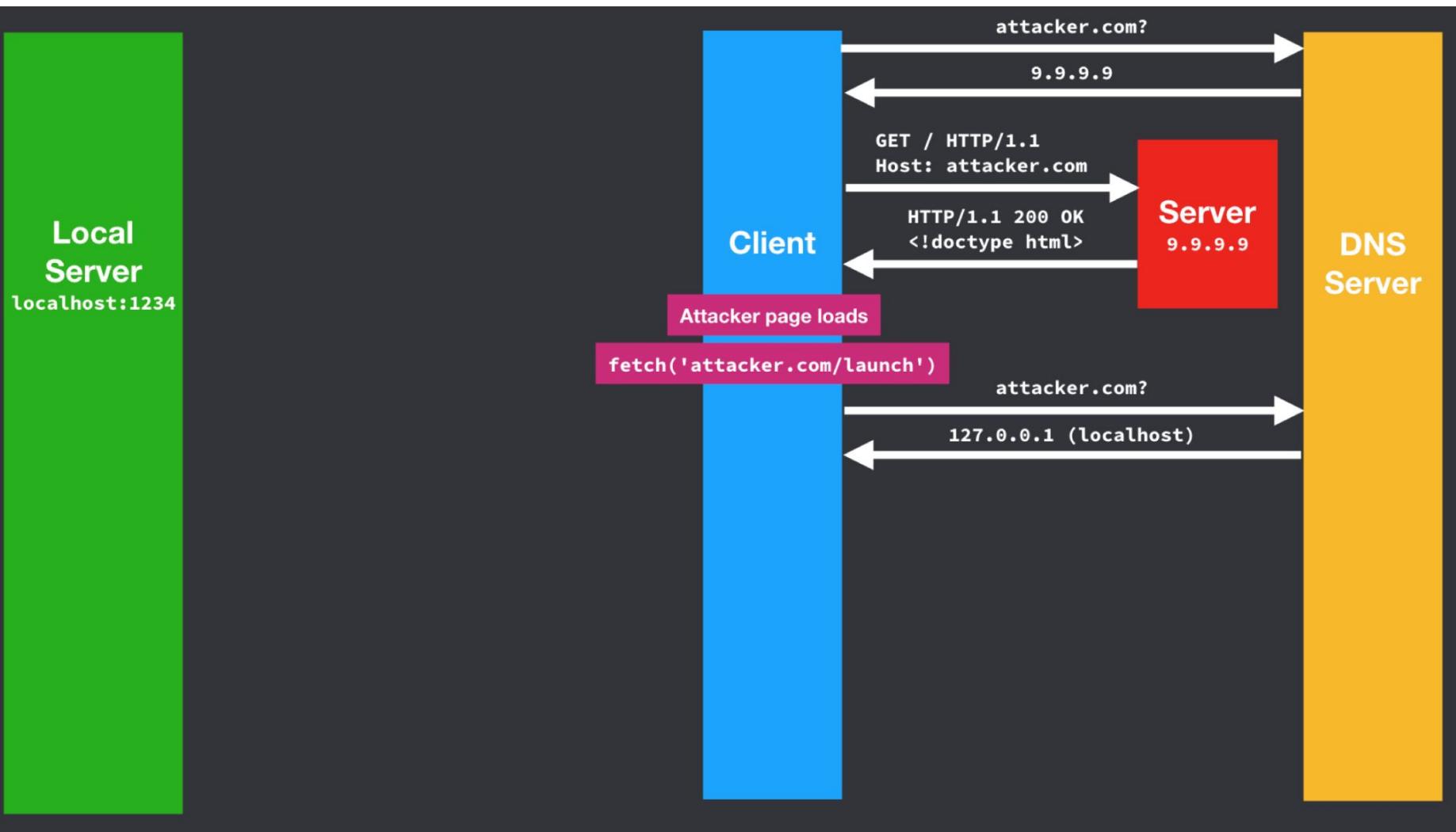


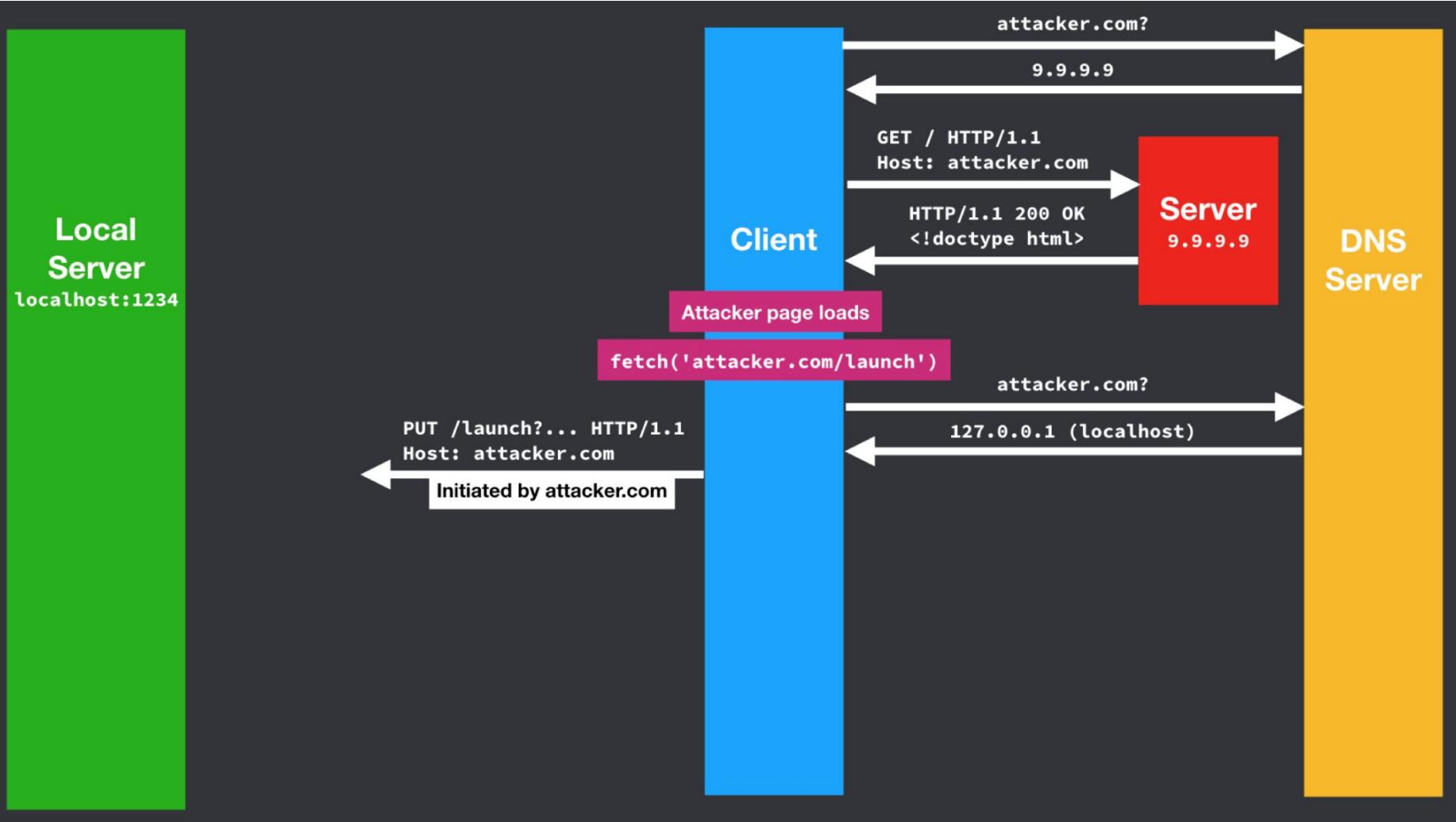


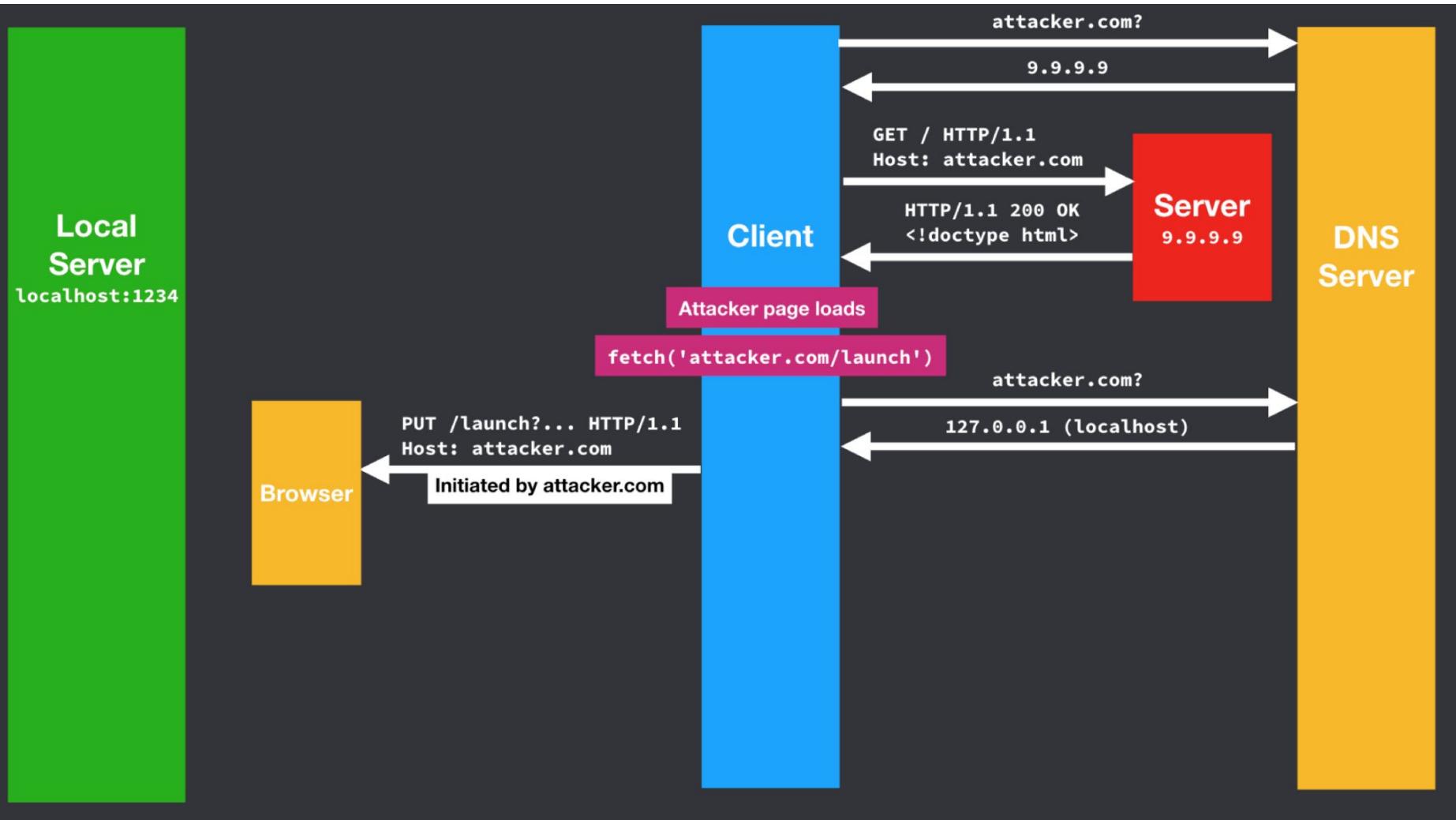


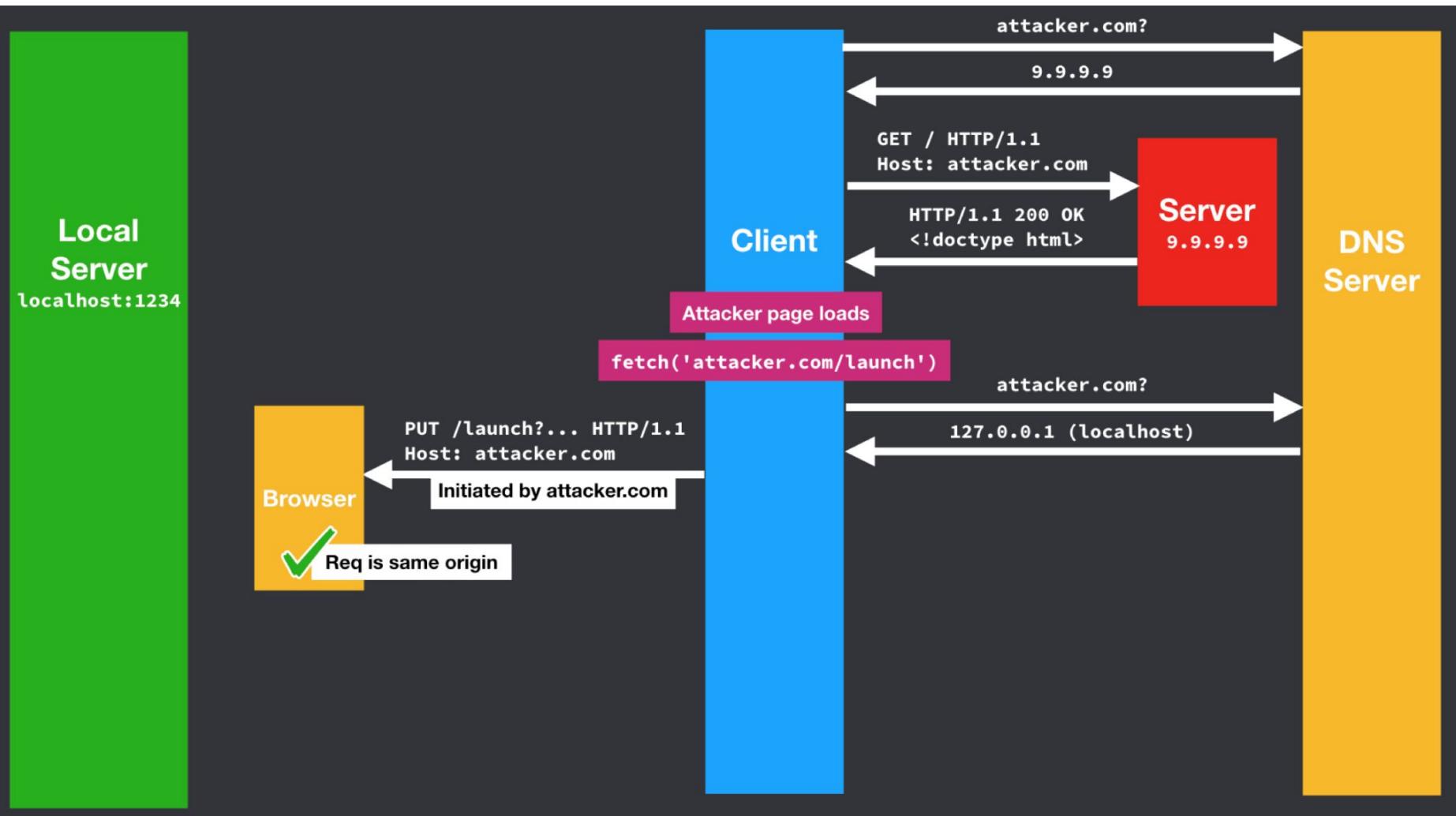


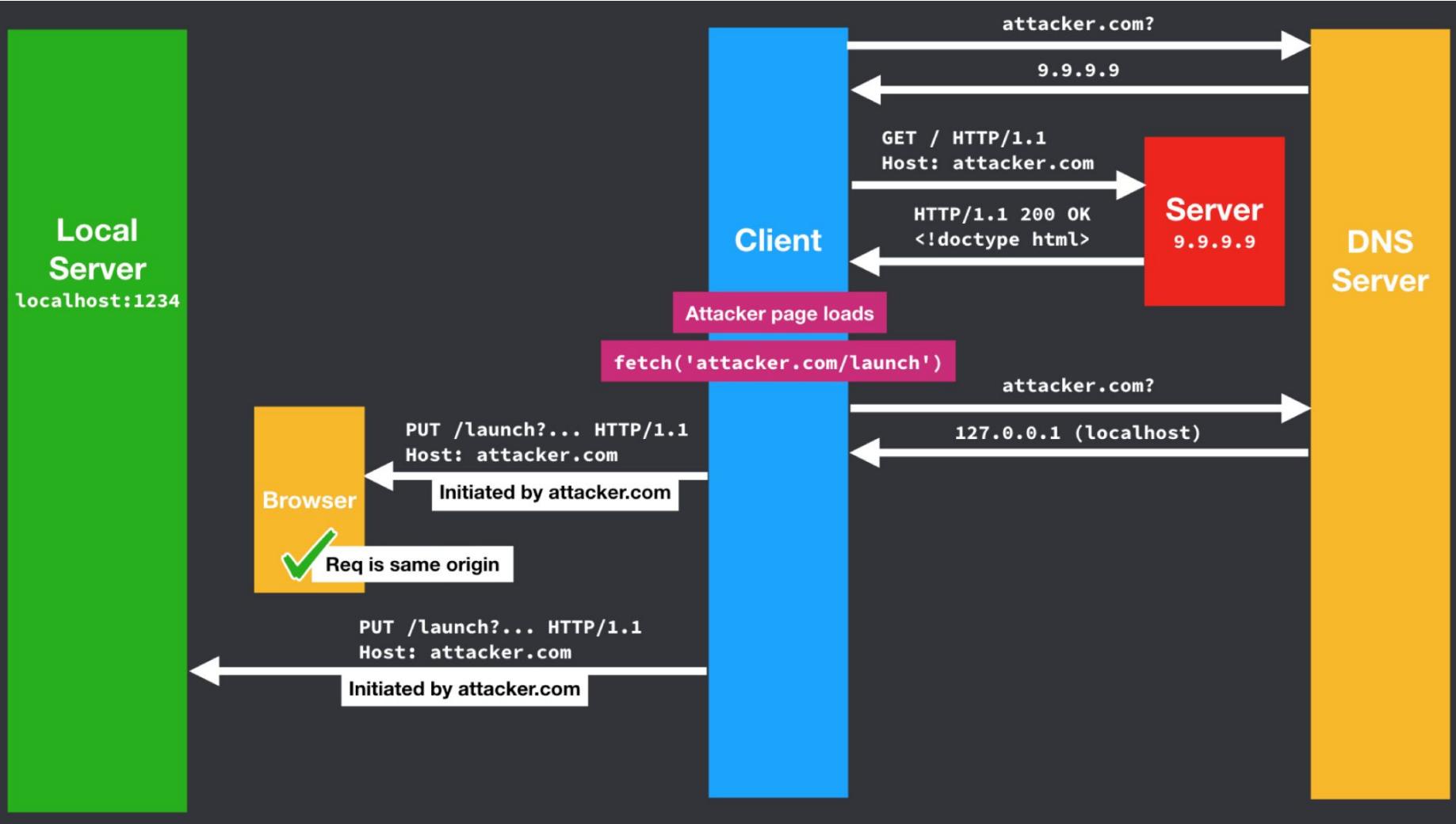


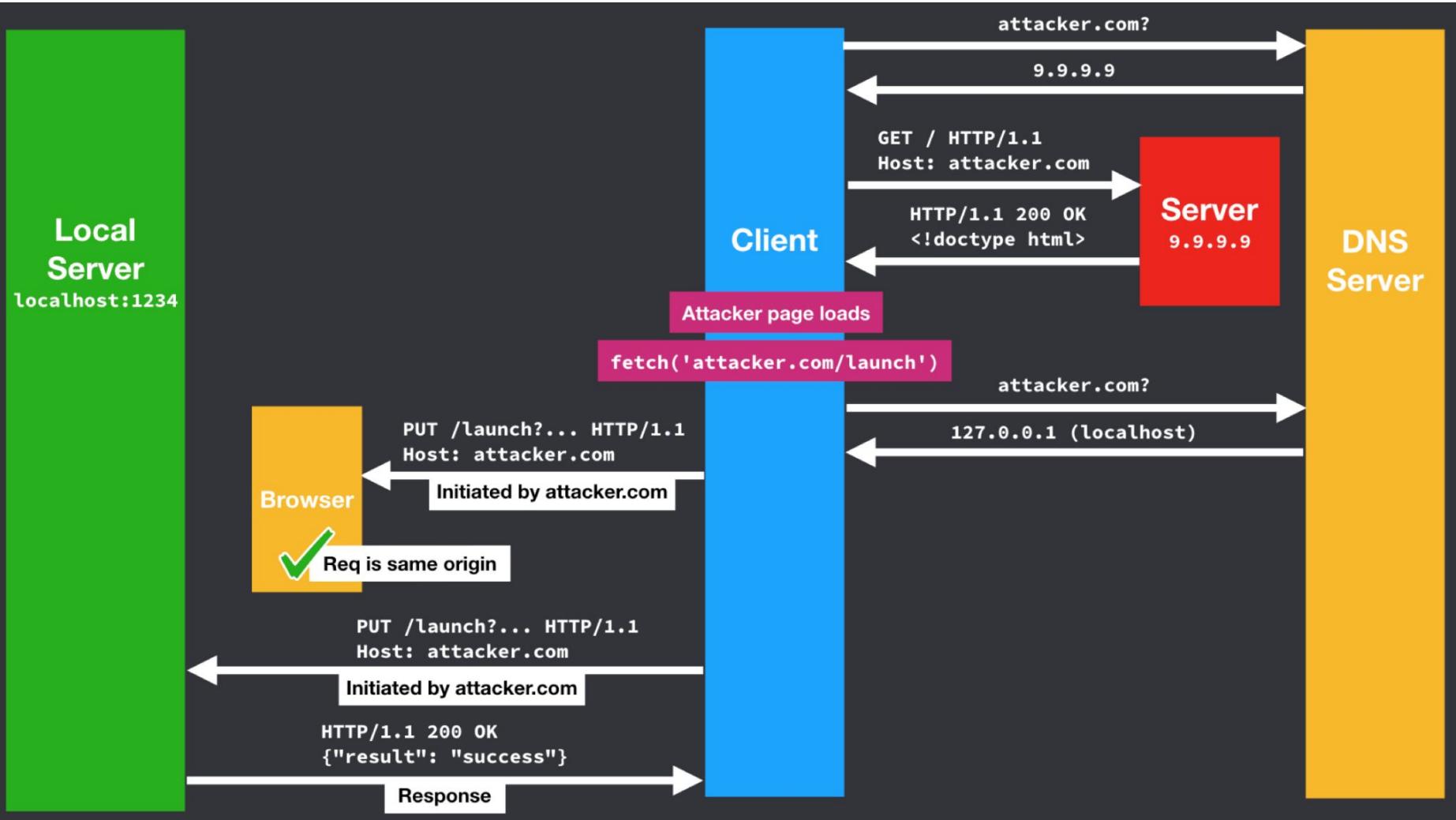












Preventing DNS rebinding attacks

demo

Works better with two different machines running servers on the same port. We're going to fake it by starting "node dns-attack-4.js", then killing it. Then we'll swap the DNS entries and start "node dictionary-5.js".

attacker.com is 192.168.0.211

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'attacker.com:4001'. The developer tools are open, specifically the Network tab, which displays a single request for 'attacker.com' with a status of 304 and a size of 179 B. The terminal window below shows the command to attack the host file:

```
$ node dns-attack-4.js &
$ grep attacker.com /etc/hosts
192.168.0.211    attacker.com
#127.0.0.1    attacker.com
```

attacker.com is 127.0.0.1

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'attacker.com:4001'. The page content is a dictionary interface with links to 'New Oxford American Dictionary', 'Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus', 'Apple Dictionary', and 'Wikipedia'. A button labeled 'Send a PUT to attacker.com:4001' is visible. Below the content, there is a message 'Success'.

The developer tools Network tab is open, showing a single XHR request to 'attacker.com'. The request details are as follows:

- Request URL: <http://attacker.com:4001/>
- Request Method: PUT
- Status Code: 200 OK
- Remote Address: 127.0.0.1:4001
- Referrer Policy: no-referrer-when-downgrade

The response headers include:

- Access-Control-Allow-Origin: <http://attacker.com:4001>
- Connection: keep-alive
- Content-Length: 7
- Content-Type: text/html; charset=utf-8
- Date: Thu, 15 Apr 2021 20:00:09 GMT
- ETag: W/"7-Qqj2Udef0AXurAYS32RCuY0gEYQ"
- Keep-Alive: timeout=5
- X-Powered-By: Express

The request headers are:

- Accept: */*
- Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
- Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
- Connection: keep-alive
- Content-Length: 0
- Host: attacker.com:4001
- Origin: <http://attacker.com:4001>
- Referer: <http://attacker.com:4001/>
- User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_9_5) Ap

A red box highlights the status code and remote address, and another red box highlights the response headers. To the right of the browser window, a note states: "doesn't do preflight or send Origin: because the Origin is the same!"

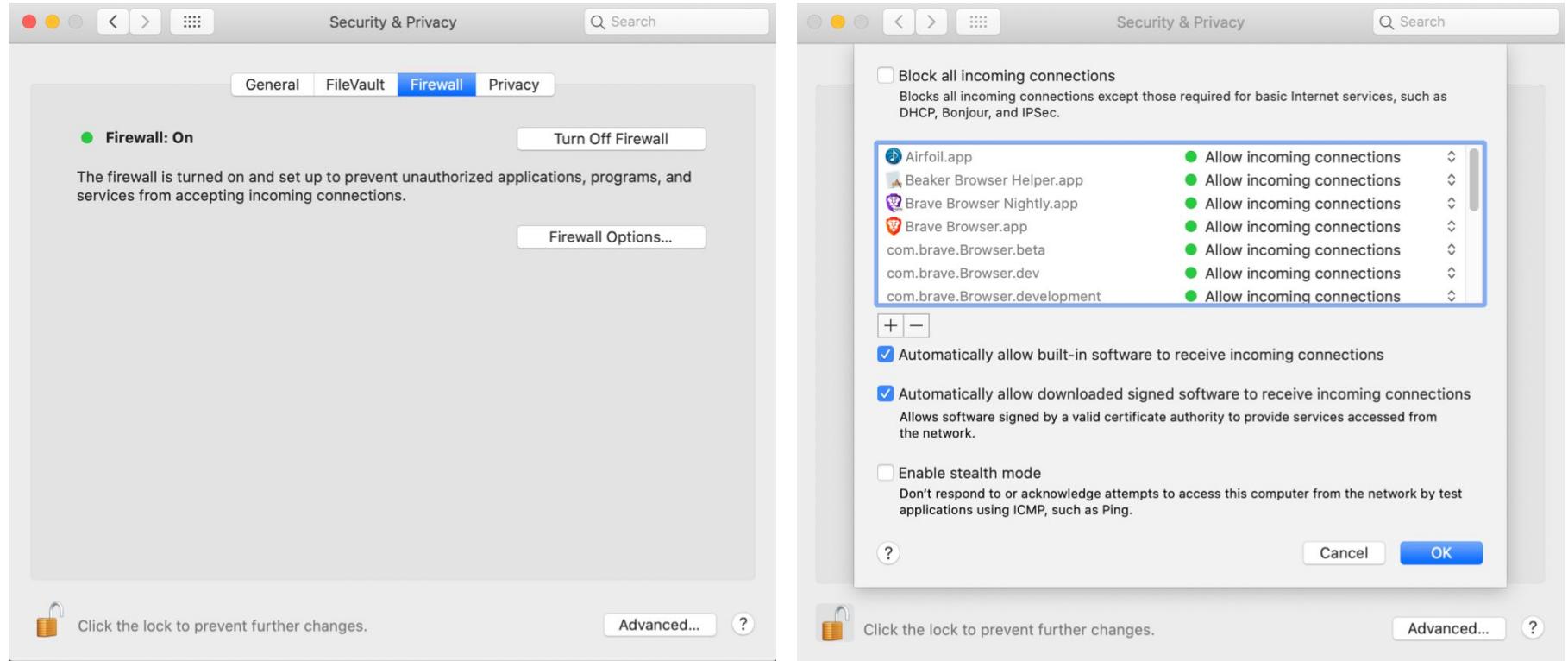
```
$ kill %1
$ node dictionary-5.js &
$ sudo vi /etc/hosts
$ grep attacker.com /etc/hosts
#192.168.0.211    attacker.com
127.0.0.1        attacker.com
```

Prevent DNS rebinding

- **Idea:** DNS rebinding allows the attacker to trick the browser into thinking the local victim server is same origin to `attacker.com`
- **Solution:** Ensure that the `Host` header is not for a random origin, but instead for `localhost` or equivalent
- **Remember:** Cannot rely on `Origin` header
 - `Origin` header is not sent for same origin requests

Attack surface of local servers

- Usually bound to localhost with `server.listen(4000, '127.0.0.1')` so other devices on the network cannot connect
- When bound to all interfaces, incoming connections are usually still blocked by the operating system firewall
- Vulnerable to DNS rebinding unless proactive measures are taken (check the `Host` header!)





X



Windows Firewall has blocked some features of this app

Windows Firewall has blocked some features of Input Personalization Server on all public and private networks.



Name: Input Personalization Server
Publisher: Microsoft Corporation
Path: C:\program files\common files\microsoft shared\ink\inputpersonalization.exe

Allow Input Personalization Server to communicate on these networks:

Private networks, such as my home or work network

Public networks, such as those in airports and coffee shops (not recommended because these networks often have little or no security)

[What are the risks of allowing an app through a firewall?](#)

Allow access

Cancel

Attack surface of IoT devices

- Usually bound to all interfaces since they expect connections from other devices on the network
- Usually no operating system firewall or configured to allow incoming connections
- Vulnerable to DNS rebinding unless proactive measures are taken (check the `Host` header!)
- Hard or impossible to update after shipped to the customer, cheaply produced, price pressure, consumers don't care about IoT security

[Home](#) > [Security](#)

FEATURE

The Mirai botnet explained: How teen scammers and CCTV cameras almost brought down the internet

Mirai took advantage of insecure IoT devices in a simple but clever way. It scanned big blocks of the internet for open Telnet ports, then attempted to log in default passwords. In this way, it was able to amass a botnet army.

By [Josh Fruhlinger](#)

CSO | MAR 9, 2018 3:00 AM PST



<https://www.csoonline.com/article/3258748/the-mirai-botnet-explained-how-teen-scammers-and-cctv-cameras-almost-brought-down-the-internet.html>

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IoT devices botnet (Mirai)

- Minecraft game server hosts launch DDoS attacks against their rivals, hoping to knock their servers offline and attract their business
- Many IoT devices use weak default passwords
- Mirai can launch both HTTP flood and network-level attacks
- Mirai is hard-wired to avoid IPs owned by GE, Hewlett-Packard, and the U.S. DoD
- Contains Russian-language strings which were a red herring

DNS rebinding attack: Blizzard games

- All Blizzard games install a tool called "Blizzard Update Agent"
- The tool starts an HTTP server which accepts commands to install, uninstall, change settings, update and other maintenance related options
- Used a scheme where the HTTP request sender has to prove they can read response data (which is not allowed cross-origin)
- Server was vulnerable to DNS rebinding allowing remote code execution (RCE) from JavaScript on any origin
- See: <https://bugs.chromium.org/p/project-zero/issues/detail?id=1471>

DNS rebinding attack: Transmission

- Transmission is a BitTorrent app, installed locally on the user's device
- Uses a client/server architecture where the UI is a client to the app logic which resides in the server
- Used a scheme where the HTTP request sender has to prove they can read response data (which is not allowed cross-origin)
- Server was vulnerable to DNS rebinding allowing remote code execution (RCE) from JavaScript on any origin
- See: <https://bugs.chromium.org/p/project-zero/issues/detail?id=1447>

DNS rebinding attack: WebTorrent

- WebTorrent has a feature that allows users to serve torrent contents via a local HTTP server
- Useful for streaming video to apps like VLC, allows dynamic piece prioritization
- Server was vulnerable to DNS rebinding allowing attacker to read torrent content (i.e. see the what torrent the user is viewing)
- See: <https://github.com/webtorrent/webtorrent/commit/eea73a38ed8552c6a99cdd0dea5c9619dc955a21#diff-c945a46d13b34fcaff544d966cffcaba>
- See: <https://github.com/webtorrent/webtorrent/commit/30adf6a19b50b6e013c8ad9532c7e59d349df461#diff-c945a46d13b34fcaff544d966cffcaba>

See also:

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread from user Feross (@feross). The thread starts with a tweet from Feross announcing exciting news about a project he's been working on for two months. He then promotes the Wormhole app, describing it as the fastest way to send files with end-to-end encryption. He encourages users to send files in just 2 seconds by visiting wormhole.app. Below the tweets, there is a screenshot of the Wormhole app interface, which displays a message saying "Your files are ready to send!" and provides a link for copying.

Feross on Twitter: "Exciting"

<https://twitter.com/feross/status/1377528461464645633>

Origin vs. Host

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread from Feross (@feross) with the title "Exciting news! I'm ready to share the project I've been working on for the past 3 months". The browser's developer tools Network tab is open, displaying a list of requests and their details. A red box highlights the Request Headers section, which includes the following entries:

- Accept: */*
- Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, br
- Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
- Connection: keep-alive
- DNT: 1
- Host: video.twimg.com
- Origin: https://twitter.com
- Referer: https://twitter.com/
- User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.9; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0

Why isn't DNS rebinding an effective attack against remote servers?

- attacker.com doesn't have the authority to change amazon.com (104.72.7.31; see below) to point to its site
- attacker.com could change its DNS so attacker.com points to amazon.com, but browser:
 - won't send amazon.com cookies to attacker.com
 - thinks it's talking to attacker.com but the certs will be for amazon.com, so TLS handshake will fail
- DNS rebinding works against localhost because most local HTTP servers (unwisely) trust anyone who can send them a connection

```
$ nslookup www.amazon.com
Server:      68.105.28.11
Address:     68.105.28.11#53

Non-authoritative answer:
www.amazon.com canonical name = tp.47cf2c8c9-frontier.amazon.com.
tp.47cf2c8c9-frontier.amazon.com      canonical name = www.amazon.com.edgekey.net.
www.amazon.com.edgekey.net      canonical name = e15316.e22.akamaiedge.net.
Name:      e15316.e22.akamaiedge.net
Address:   104.72.7.31
```

Final thoughts

- Don't ship a local HTTP server with your software
- If you do, it better be for a really good reason
- If you do, you better understand DNS rebinding attacks
- Check the value of the Host header!