HTTP and HTML

Web Programming and Testing



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Objectives

- The objective of this session is the following:
 - The students are able to distinguish the role of HTTP and HTML.
 - The students are able to elaborate the role of HTML.
 - The students are able to structure information using HTML.



Outlines

- 1. HTTP Protocol.
- 2. HTML.



HTTP: A Little Deeper



HTTP

- Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
 - It runs on top of TCP/IP's Application Layer.



- It has compression and reuse connection features.
- HTTP/1.1 is the default protocol.







 HTTP is responsible to handle data exchange in the form of hypertext.



- HTTPS is the **secure** version of HTTP.
 - It encrypts the transmitted data with RSA.
 - HTTP uses port number 80, whereas HTTPS uses 443.









Use the combination of HTTPS and HTTP/2 every time possible.



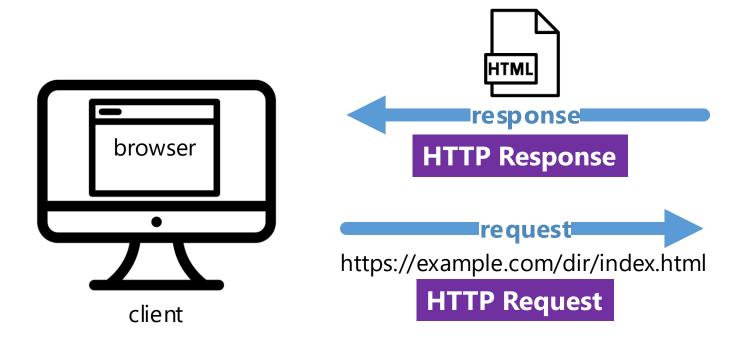
HTTP Methods

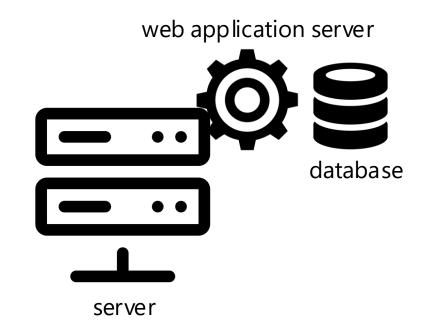
- GET: to retrieve a resource.
- POST: to store a new resource.
- PUT: to replace an existing resource(partially or wholly).
- PATCH: to modify an existing resource.
- DELETE: to remove an existing resource.
- HEAD: to retrieve the head-only response.
- OPTIONS: to get the available methods for a specific resource.

In general context, GET and POST are the most used methods.



Request-Response Cycle







HTTP Request and Response

- HTTP Request and HTTP Response are 'mails', they have:
 - The metadata contains information about both the sender and the targeted recipient (**header**).
 - A payload to store the actual data being transmitted (body).



The body can be empty sometimes. When?

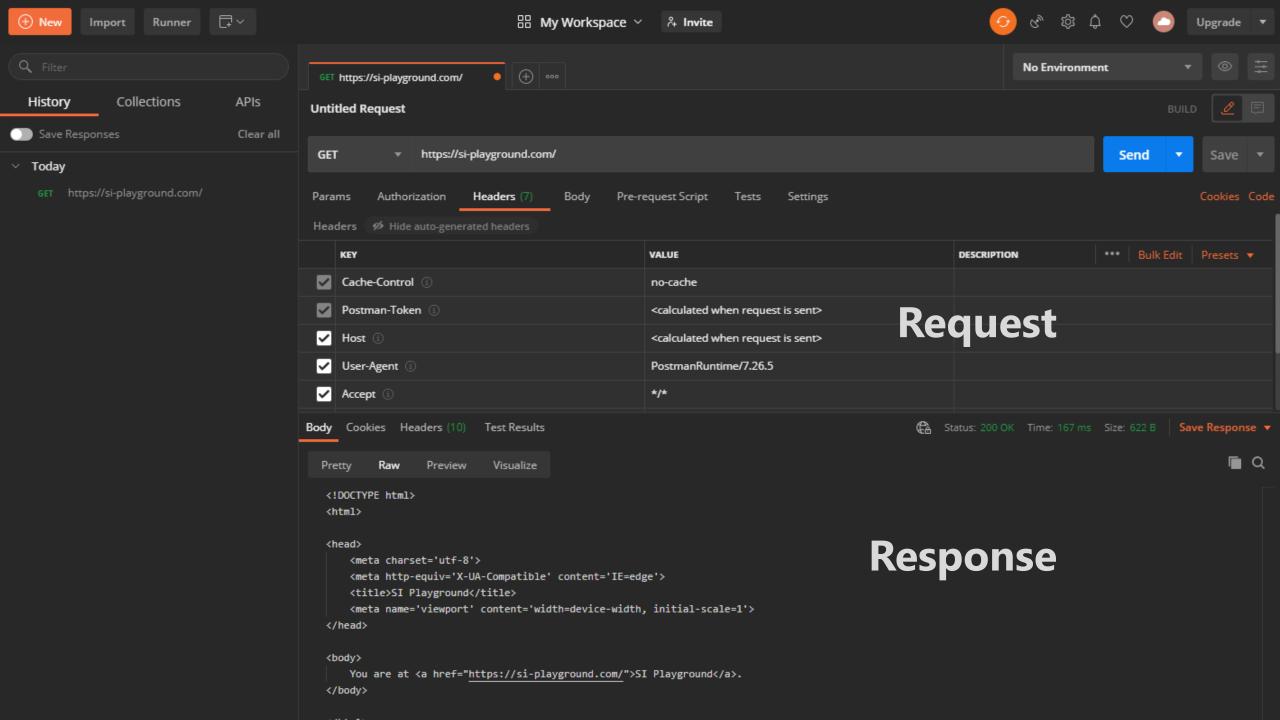
Is it possible to send an HTTP Request without any header?

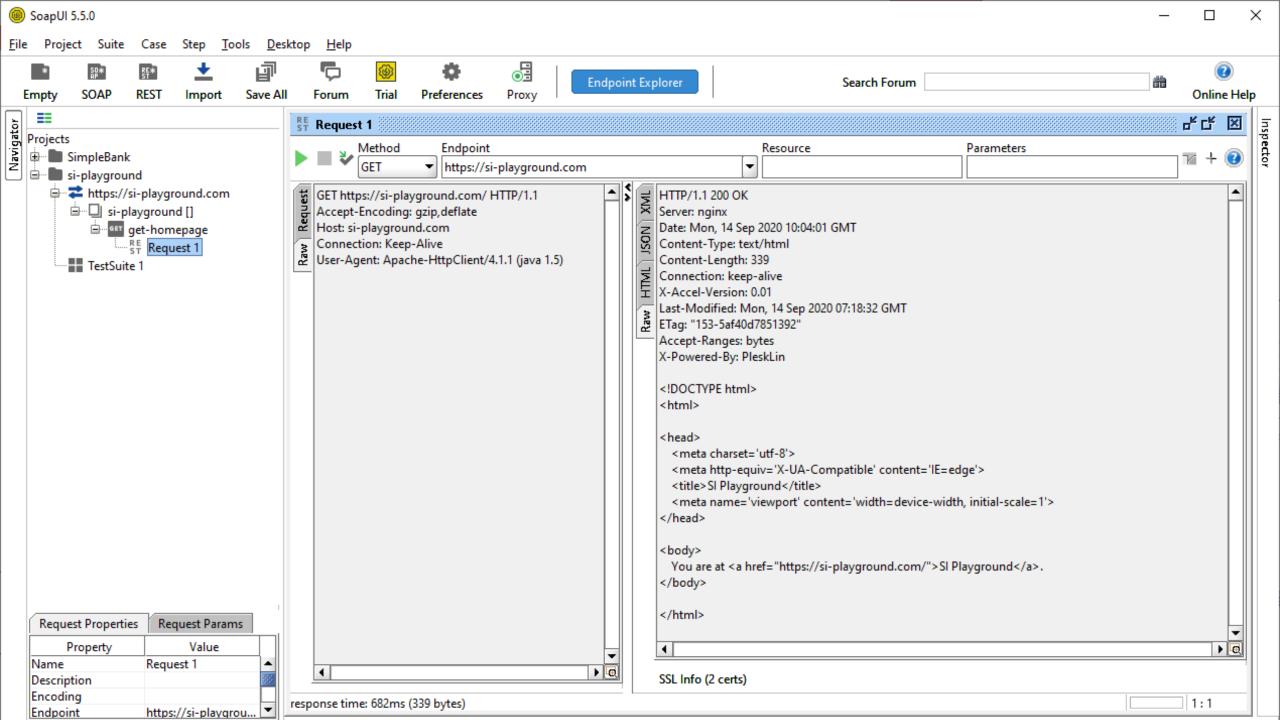


HTTP Response Codes

- We will discuss about the HTTP Response Codes a little bit later.
 - For those who are impatient, please see:
 - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Status







HTML



HTML

- Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)
 - Is a language to structure information.
 - It marks up (styles) the look and feel.
 - The today's version is called HTML5.

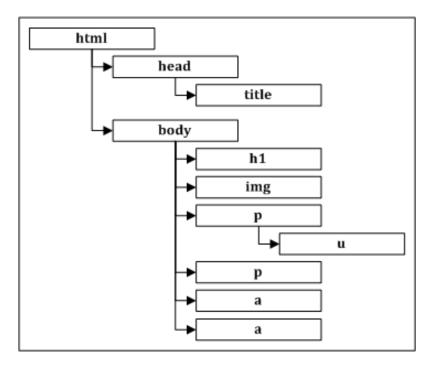


The language is very similar to XML (eXtensible Markup Language)

Unlike XML, HTML tags are predefined.



HTML Element



- Information are structured in elements.
 - An element may have one or more child elements.
 - The structure may looks like a tree.
 - An element is written in a tag.
 - A tag may have one or more attributes.

<tag attribute="attributevalue">elementvalue</tag>



```
XI File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help
     o index.html ×
      o index.html > ...
            DOCTYPE html
            <html>
مړ
            <head>
                <meta charset='utf-8'>
                <meta http-equiv='X-UA-Compatible' content='IE=edge'>
                <title>SI Playground</title>
                <meta name='viewport' content='width=device-width, initial-scale=1'>
            </head>
            <body>
       11
                You are at <a href="https://si-playground.com/">SI Playground</a>.
       12
            </body>
       13
```

A Simple HTML Document

15

</html>

External Resources

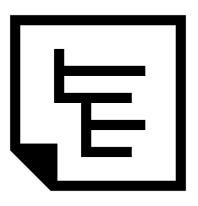
- An HTML document may refers to one or more external resources.
 - CSS styling, JS, or a set of images.
- What would happen if the external resources are unavailable?
 - The page will still be loaded, but:
 - Doesn't look pretty.
 - Doesn't have a fancy features.



HTML Document Object Model

- When an HTML document is loaded by a browser, it creates an abstract model that structures the page.
 - This abstract model is called as **Document Object Model**.
 - or simply DOM.







HTTP vs HTML



HTTP vs. HTML

• HTTP is about the data transmission between hosts.

• HTML is about structuring and formatting information.



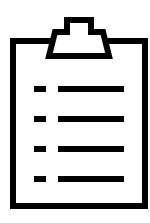
HTTP is the mailing ecosystem

HTML is the mail being sent



To-dos

- 1. Understand the role of:
 - HTTP and HTML in a web application.
 - Element value and attribute.
- 2. Find out the feature that:
 - The HTTP/2 has but HTTP/1.1 doesn't.
 - The HTML5 has but HTML4 doesn't.
- 3. Try some basic tags by building a simple page.





References

Srinivasan, M. (2012). Web Technology: Theory and Practice. Pearson.

RFC7303. XML Media Types.

https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7303.txt

HTML Standard https://html.spec.whatwg.org/

HTML5 Differences from HTML4.

https://www.w3.org/TR/html5-diff/

Mozilla. HTML Element Reference.

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Element





