

Web Server

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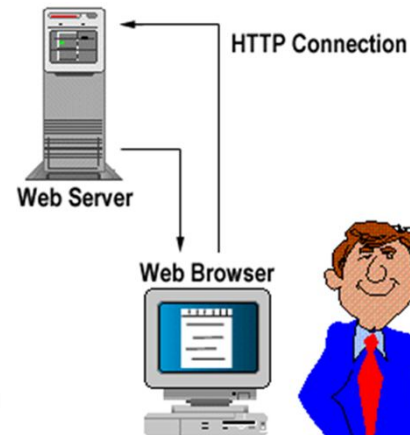
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Web Server

- The term **web server**, can refer to either the hardware (the computer) or the software (the computer application) that helps to deliver web content that can be accessed through the Internet.
- The most common use of web servers is to host websites, but there are other uses such as gaming, data storage, running enterprise applications, handling email, FTP, or other web uses.
- The primary function of a web server is to store, process and deliver web pages to clients. The communication between client and server takes place using the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP).
- Pages delivered are most frequently HTML documents, which may include images, style sheets and scripts in addition to text content.

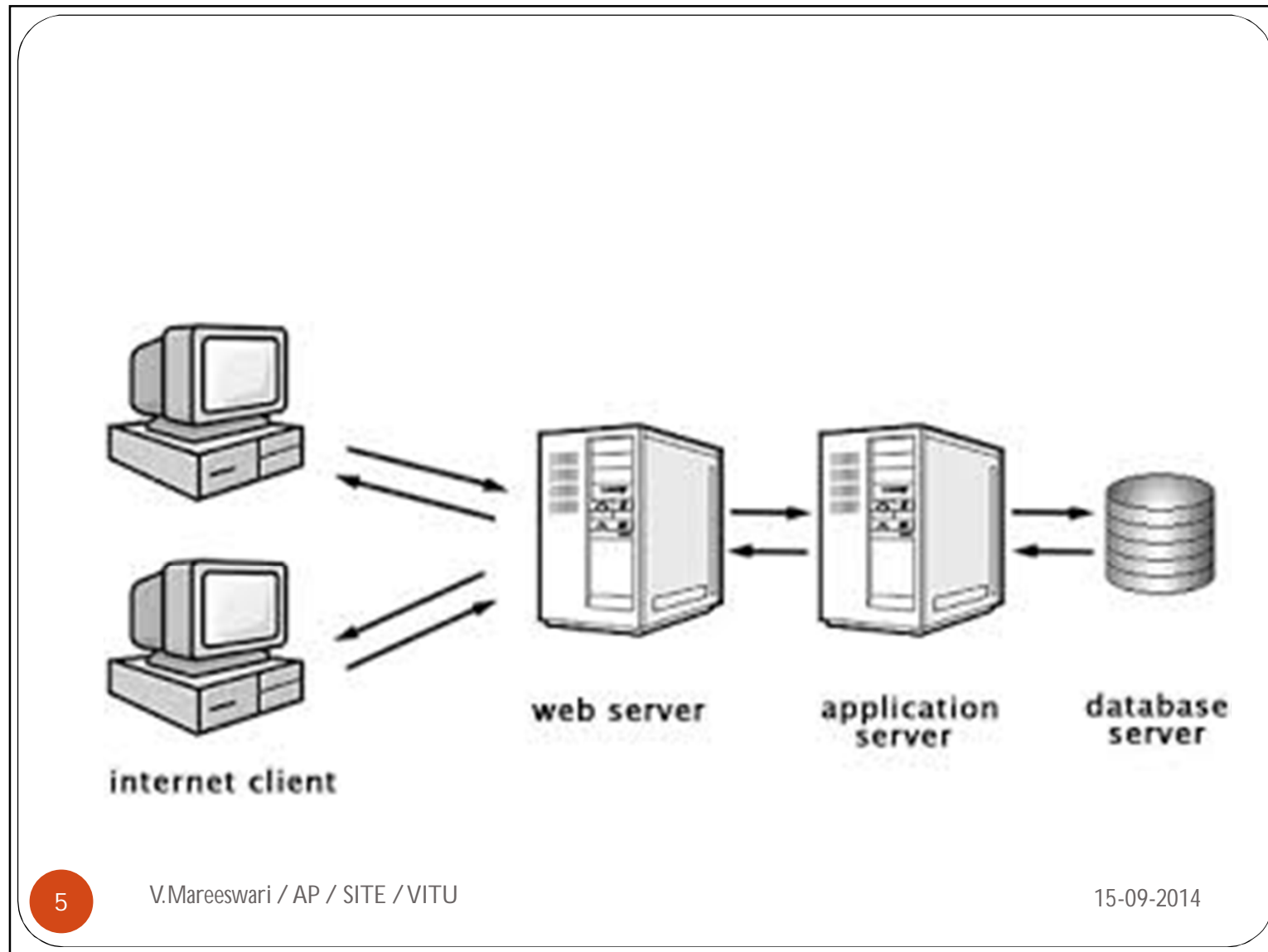
History

- In 1989 Tim Berners-Lee proposed a new project to his employer CERN, with the goal of easing **the exchange of information between scientists by using a hypertext system**. The project resulted in Berners-Lee writing two programs in 1990:
- A **browser** called WorldWideWeb.
- The world's first **web server**, later known as CERN httpd, which ran on NeXTSTEP.



Path Translation

- Web servers are able to map the path component of a Uniform Resource Locator (**URL**) into:
 - A local file system resource (for static requests)
 - An internal or external program name (for dynamic requests)
- For a *static request* the URL path specified by the client is relative to the web server's root directory.
- Consider the following URL as it would be requested by a client:
 - `http://www.example.com/path/file.html`



Market Share

Below are the latest statistics of the market share of the top web servers on the Internet by [Netcraft Survey April, May 2014](#).

Product	Vendor	May 2014	Percent
Apache	Apache	366,262,346	37.56%
IIS	Microsoft	325,854,054	33.41%
nginx	NGINX, Inc.	142,426,538	14.60%
GWS	Google	20,685,165	2.12%