

The Web

Prof. Zili Meng

Fall 2024

ELEC 3120: Computer Networks

https://www.foggynetwork.com



Warmup

- Identify four communications mediums: two may be computer communications, but two should be for other types of communication!
- Define the term *velocity factor*. Why is it relevant to communications networks? [velocity factor = $\frac{\text{speed of light in the medium}}{\text{speed of light in the vacuum}}$]
- Bob transmits a 10000 byte message over a 10kbps link which is 10km long and has a velocity factor of 0.6.
 - How long does it take for Bob's message to reach the other side?
 - Bob wants to make his message arrive faster, so he switches to a link which is exactly the same, but only 5km long. Will Bob see a significant performance improvement?

Moving on to Applications!



The Application Layer is what most users see.





Some network apps

- social networking
- Web
- text messaging
- e-mail
- multi-user network games
- P2P file sharing

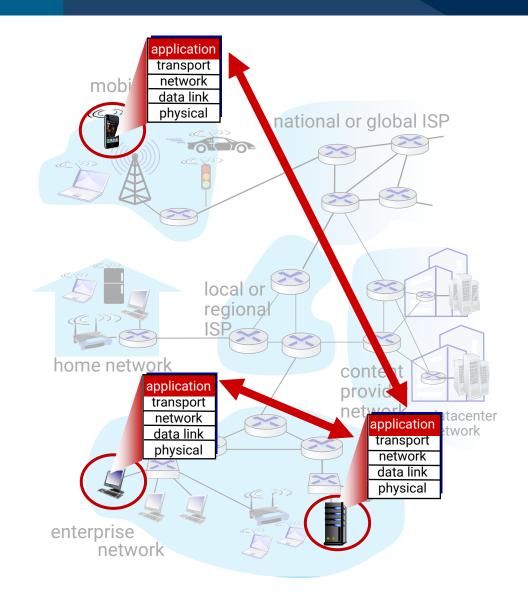
- streaming stored video (YouTube, Hulu, Netflix)
- Real-time video conferencing (e.g., Zoom)
- Internet search
- remote login

• ...



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





Client-server paradigm

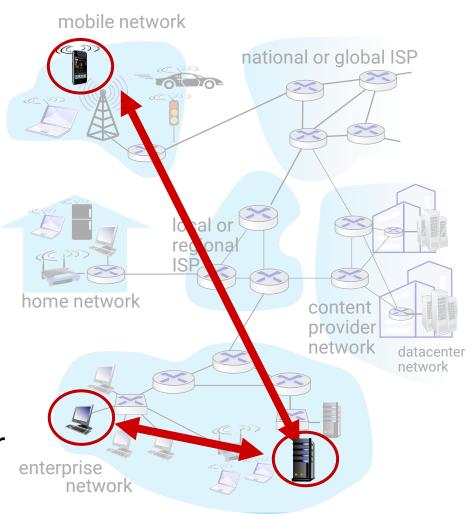
Server:

- always-on host
- permanent IP address
- often in data centers, for scaling
- Think of it like a restaurant that has its door open waiting for customers to arrive.

Clients:

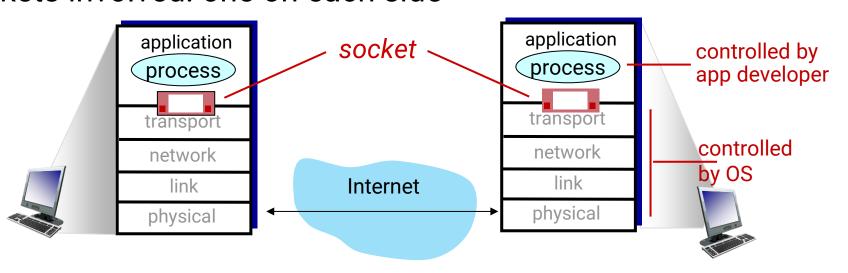
- contact, communicate with server
- may be intermittently connected
- may have dynamic IP addresses
- · do not communicate directly with each other

Examples: HTTP, IMAP, FTP



Sockets

- Process sends/receives messages to/from its socket
- Socket analogous to door
 - Sending process shoves message out 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



Moving on to HTTP...



1945: Vannevar Bush

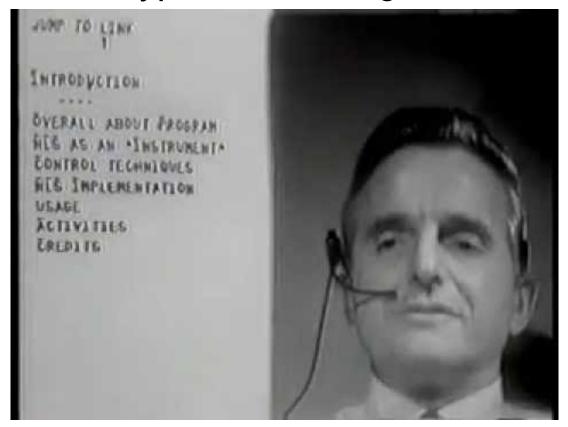
- "As we may think", Atlantic Monthly, July, 1945.
- Describes the idea of a distributed hypertext system
- A "memex" that mimics the "web of trails" in our minds





Dec 9, 1968: "The Mother of All Demos"

- First demonstration of Memex-inspired system
- Working prototype with hypertext, linking, use of a mouse...





Many other hypertext systems before the World Wide Web

- MINITEL in France.
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minitel
- Project Xanadu.
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Project_Xanadu



1989: Tim Berners-Lee

- 1989: Tim Berners-Lee (CERN) writes internal proposal to develop a distributed hypertext system
 - Connects "a web of notes with links".
 - Intended to help CERN physicists in large projects share and manage information
- 1990: TBL writes graphical browser for Next machines
- 1992-1994: NCSA/Mosaic/Netscape browser release



Why is hypertext so powerful?

- Enables "browsing" through files on any web servers...
 - Exploring a "web" of connections not just on one server, but across servers.
- My opinion: transformed our mentality of Internet use from "point to point" communications (email, files on a single server) to one of exploration of all of the information online.



- Uniform Resource Locator
- A reference to a resource on the network specifying
 - it's host's location in the network ("authority")
 - the resource's location on the host ("path")
 - the protocol to use to retrieve it ("scheme")

- Uniform Resource Locator
- A reference to a resource on the network specifying
 - it's host's location in the network ("authority")
 - the resource's location on the host ("path")
 - the protocol to use to retrieve it ("scheme")

https:// ece.hkust.edu.hk /index.php



This is a web page to access using the https protocol. Other protocols you might see here: "mailto:" "ftp:" "http:"

- Uniform Resource Locator
- A reference to a resource on the network specifying
 - it's host's location in the network ("authority")
 - the resource's location on the host ("path")
 - the protocol to use to retrieve it ("scheme")

https:// ece.hkust.edu.hk /index.php



Domain name or IP address. Optionally, you can put a : and manually specify what port to use, e.g. "ece.hkust.edu.hk:443"



- Uniform Resource Locator
- A reference to a resource on the network specifying
 - it's host's location in the network ("authority")
 - the resource's location on the host ("path")
 - the protocol to use to retrieve it ("scheme")

https:// ece.hkust.edu.hk /in

/index.php

Path: this is information on where to find the file on the server you are contacting

- Uniform Resource Locator
- A reference to a resource on the network specifying
 - it's host's location in the network ("authority")
 - the resource's location on the host ("path")
 - the protocol to use to retrieve it ("scheme")

• URLs are a subclass of a more general "Uniform Resource Identifier" but this is all we need to know for now.

Using Hypertext: HTML

- Originally:
 - A simple language for displaying text, images, and hypertext to be used in the web.

Using Hypertext: HTML

Originally:

 A simple language for displaying text, images, and hypertext to be used in the web.

Today:

- A much richer language that orchestrates multiple different languages and files to generate web applications.
 - Integrates with cascading style sheets, JavaScript, and other technologies to create interactive online services.

Loading a "Single Web Page" Means Loading Many Files!



Main page Contents Current events Random article About Wikipedia Contact us Donate

Contribute

Help Learn to edit Community portal Recent changes Upload file

Tools

What links here Related changes Special pages Permanent link Page information Wikidata item

Print/export

Download as PDF Printable version

In other projects

Wikimedia Commons MediaWiki Meta-Wiki

outermost edge of its distribution in life? Multilingual Wikisource



Welcome to Wikipedia.

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit 6,567,166 articles in English

From today's featured article



Mini scule is a species of microhylid frog endemic to Madagascar that was described in 2019. The scientific name of the species refers to its size, being a pun on the word minuscule. It is very small, measuring only 8.4 to 10.8 mm (0.33 to 0.43 in) in snout-vent length. It has bronze underparts with a brown groin and back of the

thigh, cream upperparts with brown flecking, a dark brown side of the head, and a red iris. On the hind feet, the first toe is absent and the second and fifth toes are strongly reduced. The frog is known only from the Sainte Luce Reserve, where it inhabits areas with deep leaf litter near semi-permanent water bodies. Specimens of frogs from Mandena, the Vohimena mountains, the southern Anosy Mountains, and Tsitongambarika may also be of this species. Along with Mini mum and Mini ature, the other two species in its genus, it received media attention when first described due to the wordplay in its scientific name. (Full article...)

Recently featured: Mischief Makers · Second Battle of Cape Finisterre · Oryzomys

Archive By email More featured articles About

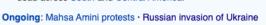
Did you know ...

- ... that the relative rarity of the radiodont Titanokorys (video featured) in Marble Canyon suggests that the deposits in which it was found may represent the
- ... that Iragi poet Isa Hasan al-Yasiri ran away from school at 10 years old, before travelling with a camel. Titanekorys reconstruction

In the news

- Rishi Sunak (pictured) succeeds Liz Truss as Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- Xi Jinping is named General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party for a third term after the conclusion of the Party Congress.
- Ulf Kristersson is elected Prime Minister of Sweden following a four-party agreement.
- Hurricane Julia leaves more than 90 people dead across South and Central America.

Recent deaths: John Jay Osborn Jr. · Ash Carter ·



Blanche Lemco van Ginkel · Galina Pisarenko · Rodney Graham · Libor Pešek

Nominate an article

On this day

October 27

- 1904 The first underground segment of the New York City Subway opened, connecting New York City Hall with Harlem.
- 1942 World War II: The Imperial Japanese Navy achieved a pyrrhic victory against the United States at the Battle of the Santa Cruz



Rishi Sunak





Main Page Talk

Loading a "Single Web Page" Means Loading Many Files!

https://en.wikipedia.org/static/images/project-logos/enwikizpngutions Create account Log in

WikipediA The Free Encyclopedia

Main page Contents Current events Random article About Wikipedia Contact us

Contribute

Donate

Help Learn to edit Community porta Recent changes Upload file

Tools

What links here Related changes Special pages Permanent link Wikidata iten

Print/export

Download as PDF Printable version

In other projects

Wikimedia Commons MediaWiki

 ... that Iraqi poet Isa Hasan al-Yasiri ran away from Multilingual Wikisource

Welcome to Wikipedia.

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/71/Mini_sculegowikipedia/commons/thu

From today's featured article



Mini scule is a species of microhylid frog endemic to Madagascar that was described in 2019. The scientific name of the species refers to its size, being a pun on the word minuscule. It is very small, measuring only 8.4 to 10.8 mm (0.33 to 0.43 in) in snout-vent length. It has bronze underparts with a brown groin and back of the

thigh, cream upperparts with brown flecking, a dark brown side of the head, and a red iris. On the hind feet, the first toe is absent and the second and fifth toes are strongly reduced. The frog is known only from the Sainte Luce Reserve, where it inhabits areas with deep leaf litter near semi-permanent water bodies. Specimens of frogs from Mandena, the Vohimena mountains, the southern Anosy Mountains, and Tsitongambarika may also be of this species. Along with Mini mum and Mini ature, the other two species in its genus, it received media attention when first described due to the wordplay in its scientific name. (Full article...)

Recently featured: Mischief Makers · Second Battle of Cape Finisterre · Oryzomys

Archive By email More featured articles About

Did you know ...

- ... that the relative rarity of the radiodont Titanokorys (video featured) in Marble Canyon suggests that the deposits in which it was found may represent the outermost edge of its distribution in life?
- school at 10 years old, before travelling with a camel. Titanokorys reconstruction

In the news

 Rishi Sunak (pictured) succeeds Liz Truss as Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Read View source View history Search Wikipedia

- Xi Jinping is named General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party for a third term after the conclusion of the Party Congress.
- Ulf Kristersson is elected Prime Minister of Sweden following a four-party agreement.
- Hurricane Julia leaves more than 90 people dead across South and Central America.

Ongoing: Mahsa Amini protests · Russian invasion of Ukraine Recent deaths: John Jay Osborn Jr. · Ash Carter

On this day

October 27

- 1904 The first underground segment of the New York City Subway opened, connecting New York City Hall with Harlem.
- 1942 World War II: The Imperial Japanese Navy achieved a pyrrhic victory against the United States at the Battle of the Santa Cruz



Q

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Titanokorysp5%6%pstp5%tip1%p6%80%bm %A1%D5%B6.ipa

Images and Videos

https://upload.wikimedia.or mb/a/af/%D5%8E%D5%A1 %D5%A6%D5%A3%D5%A5 %D5%B6 %D5%8D%D5%A1 %D6%80%D5%A3%D5%BD %D5%B5%D5%A1%D5%B6.i pg/127px-%D5%8F%D5%A1%D5%A6% D5%A3%D5%A5%D5%B6 % 5%A3%D5%BD%D5%B5%D5



Main Page Talk

From today's featured article

Loading a "Single Web Page" Means Loading Many Files!

A Not logged in Talk Contributions Create account Log in

Q



Contents Current events Random article About Wikipedia Contact us Donate

Contribute

Recent changes Upload file

What links here Related changes Special pages Permanent link Page information Wikidata item

Print/export

Download as PDF Printable version

In other projects

Wikimedia Commons MediaWiki

... that Iraqi poet Isa Hasan al-Yasiri ran away from



Mini scule is a species of microhylid frog endemic to

Madagascar that was described in 2019. The scientific

word minuscule. It is very small, measuring only 8.4 to

10.8 mm (0.33 to 0.43 in) in snout-vent length. It has

bronze underparts with a brown groin and back of the

thigh, cream upperparts with brown flecking, a dark brown side of the head, and a red

iris. On the hind feet, the first toe is absent and the second and fifth toes are strongly

with deep leaf litter near semi-permanent water bodies. Specimens of frogs from

Mandena, the Vohimena mountains, the southern Anosy Mountains, and

reduced. The frog is known only from the Sainte Luce Reserve, where it inhabits areas

Tsitongambarika may also be of this species. Along with Mini mum and Mini ature, the

other two species in its genus, it received media attention when first described due to the

Recently featured: Mischief Makers · Second Battle of Cape Finisterre · Oryzomys

name of the species refers to its size, being a pun on the

In the news

Welcome to Wikipedia.

the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit 6.567,166 articles in English

Read View source View history

- Rishi Sunak (pictured) succeeds Liz Truss as Leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- Xi Jinping is named General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party for a third term after the conclusion of the Party Congress.
- Ulf Kristersson is elected Prime Minister of Sweden following a four-party agreement.
- Hurricane Julia leaves more than 90 people dead across South and Central America.

Ongoing: Mahsa Amini protests · Russian invasion of Ukraine Recent deaths: John Jay Osborn Jr. · Ash Carter ·

Blanche Lemco van Ginkel · Galina Pisarenko · Rodney Graham · Libor Pešek

Nominate an article

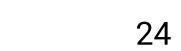
Rishi Sunak

On this day

October 27

- 1904 The first underground segment of the New York City Subway opened, connecting New York City Hall with Harlem.
- 1942 World War II: The Imperial Japanese Navy achieved a pyrrhic victory against the United States at the Battle of the Santa Cruz

Invisible: Scripts and Stylesheets





Main page

Help Learn to edit Community portal

Tools

Multilingual Wikisource

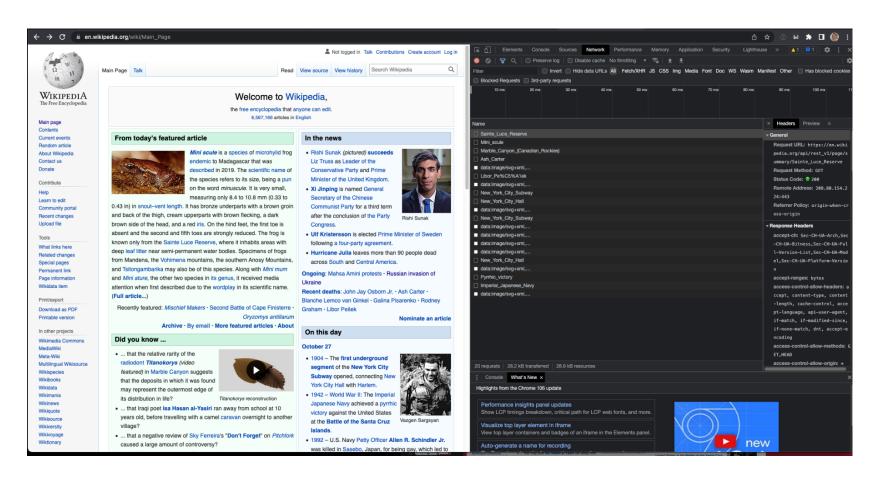
... that the relative rarity of the radiodont Titanokorys (video featured) in Marble Canyon suggests that the deposits in which it was found may represent the outermost edge of its distribution in life?

wordplay in its scientific name. (Full article...)

school at 10 years old, before travelling with a camel. Titanekorys reconstruction



Loading a "Single Web Page" Means Loading Many Files!



Google Chrome showing me all the files it loaded to generate this page.



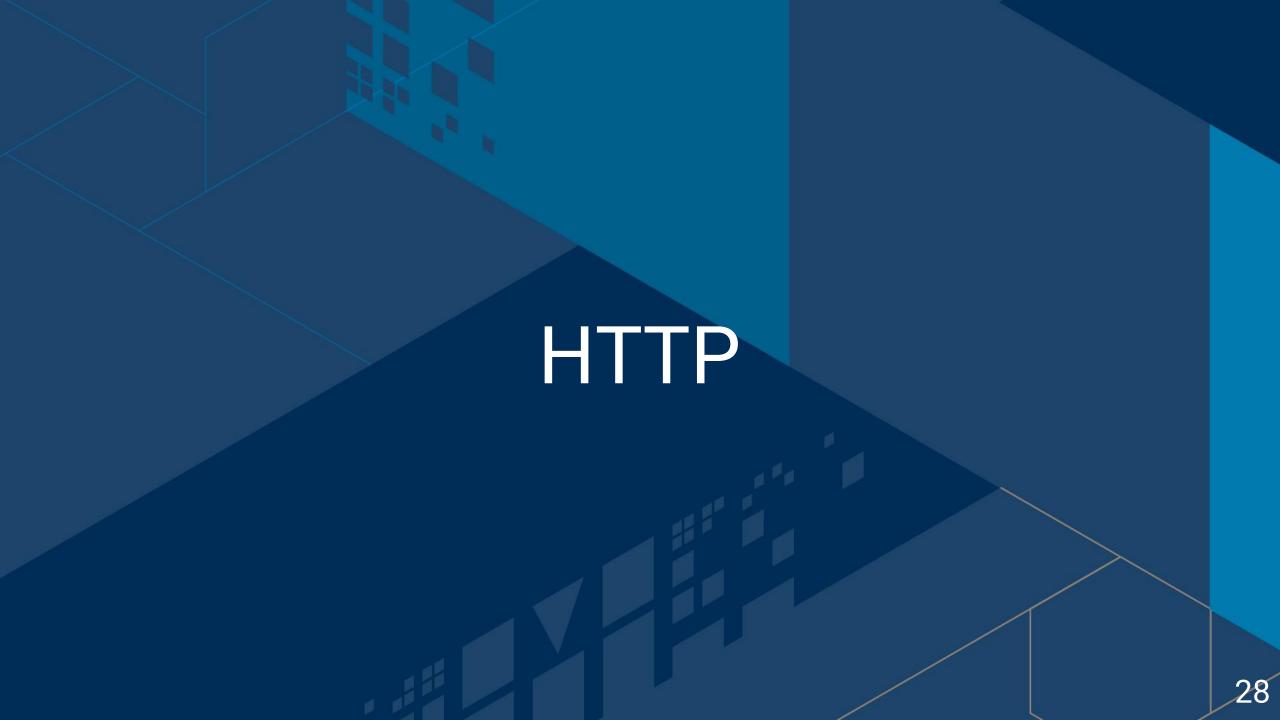
How many domains are on one Web page?

- 10% of website home pages have more than 58 different domains!
 - Top domains in Top 200: dailymail.co.uk, cnn.com, ...
- https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.18030, Figure 1(a) My measurement!



Learning More about Web Applications

- Go to YouTube. That's easy.
- You can build your own website (homepage, blog, etc.) using the GitHub Pages easily.
 - And you will get a human-readable domain name: username.github.io
 - https://pages.github.com/
- This class: we are going to learn more about the underlying protocol beneath the web
 - HTTP: The Hypertext Transfer Protocol





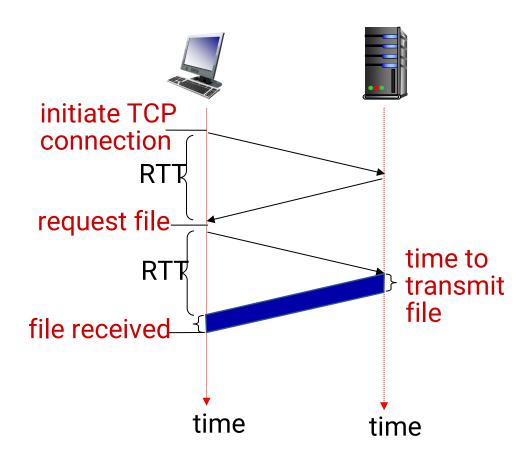
Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

- Client-server architecture
 - Server is "always on" and "well known"
 - Recall the restaurant with the open door
 - Clients initiate contact to server
 - · Instead of ordering dinner, they order up Wikipedia
- Synchronous request/reply protocol
 - Client asks sends a request, server replies



HTTP 1.0: response time

- RTT (round-trip time)
 - Definition: time for a small packet to travel from client to server and back
- HTTP response time (per object):
 - One RTT to initiate TCP connection
 - One RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
 - Object/file transmission time



HTTP 1.0 response time = 2RTT+ file transmission time



Client-to-Server Communication

- HTTP Request Message
 - Request line: method, resource, and protocol version
 - Request headers: provide information or modify request
 - Bodyr optional data (e.g., to "POST" data to the server)

```
request line

GET /somedir/page.html(HTTP/1.1

Host: www.someschool.edu

User-agent: Mozilla/4.0

Connection: close

Accept-language: fr

(blank-line)
```

carriage return line feed (CRLF) indicates end of message

file

Server-to-Client Communication

- HTTP Response Message
 - Status line: protocol version, status code, status phrase
 - Response headers: provide information
 - Body: optional data

```
status line
                    HTTP/1.16200 OK
(protocol, status
                    Connection close
code, status
                    Date: Thu, 06 Aug 2006 12:00:15 GMT
phrase)
                    Server: Apache/1.3.0 (Unix)
      header lines
                    Last-Modified: Mon, 22 Jun 2006 ...
                    Content-Length: 6821
                    Content-Type: text/html
                     (blank line)
data
                    data data data data ...
e.g., requested HTML
```

A Protocol Designed by a Physicist

- Wild ideas:
 - HTTP is plain-text.
 - You can read it, just by looking at it!
 - HTTP is variable-length.
 - There are no fixed byte-offsets.
- Leads to more complex parsing in software
 - But, easier for humans to reason about.
 - And, very extensible...
 - Maybe we should learn from physicists.

One more note: HTTP is Stateless

- Each request-response treated independently
 - Servers not required to retain state
 - Abstraction is just "requesting and receiving files"
- Good: Improves scalability on the server-side
 - Failure handling is easier
 - Can handle higher rate of requests
 - Order of requests doesn't matter
- Bad: Some applications need persistent state
 - Need to uniquely identify user or store temporary info
 - e.g., Shopping cart, user profiles, usage tracking, ...



One more note: HTTP is Stateless

- Solution: push state elsewhere
- To the client:
 - Cookies: web browser keeps some identifiers (e.g., an authentication token) or state and returns this information to the web server with its request.
- At the server side:
 - Database: store information relevant to client history here; when you receive a request from a client with a cookie, look up the right information from the database before assembling your response



One more note: HTTP is Stateless

- Solution: push state elsewhere
- To the client:
 - Cookies: web browser keeps some identifiers (e.g., an authentication token) or state and returns this information to the web server with its request.
- At the server side:
 - Database: store information relevant to client history here; when you receive a request from a client with a cookie, look up the right information from the database before assembling your response

Take note: some pages will take longer to assemble than others

Can we make HTTP fast?

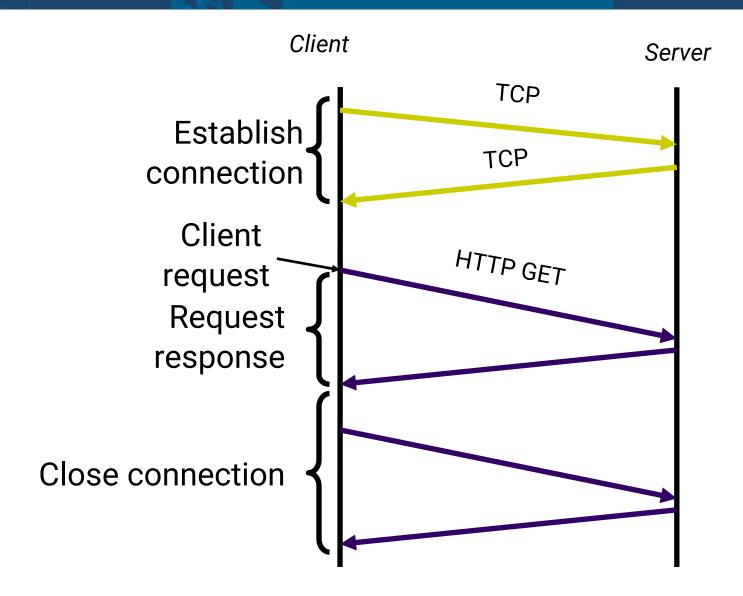
Why make pages load faster?

- Back in the day, you would click and... wait!
- 100ms is typically cited as the "limit" of human perception
 - If you can get something to happen in 100ms or less, it feels "instant" to people.

- Oft-cited statistic from a study at Amazon that every additional 100ms of page load time (PLT) would cost them 1% in profit!
 - Sometimes you will see PLT called "latency" I don't like this because the word "latency" is used to mean many things. PLT is more precise.



Let's start here with HTTP 1.0...



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, i.e., one "GET" per TCP connection
 - Really limits the state on the server
 - Solution used in HTTP 0.9, and 1
- New TCP connection per (small) object!
 - Lots of handshakes

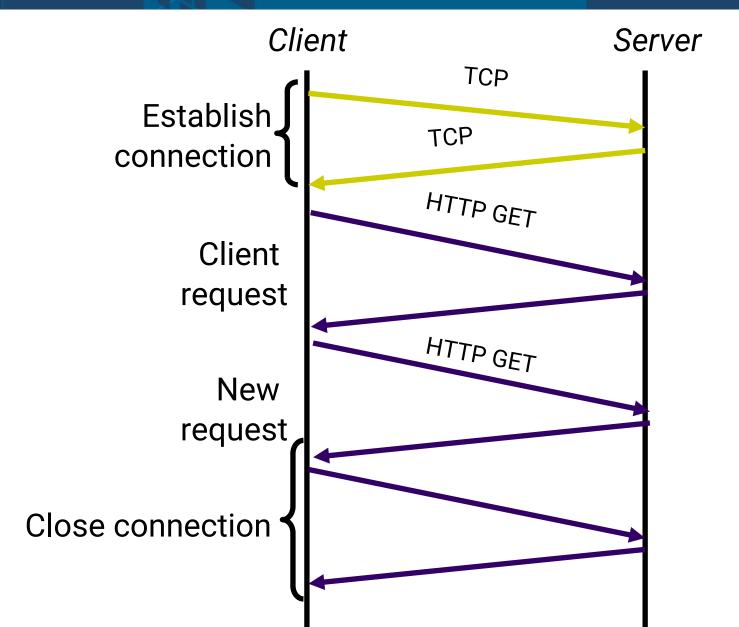


Persistent Connections

- Maintain TCP connection across multiple requests
 - Including transfers subsequent to current page
 - Client or server can tear down connection
- Performance advantages:
 - Avoid overhead of connection set-up and tear-down
 - Allow network conditions to be reused
 - i.e., leverage previously discovered bandwidth



HTTP with persistent connections





Quick check...

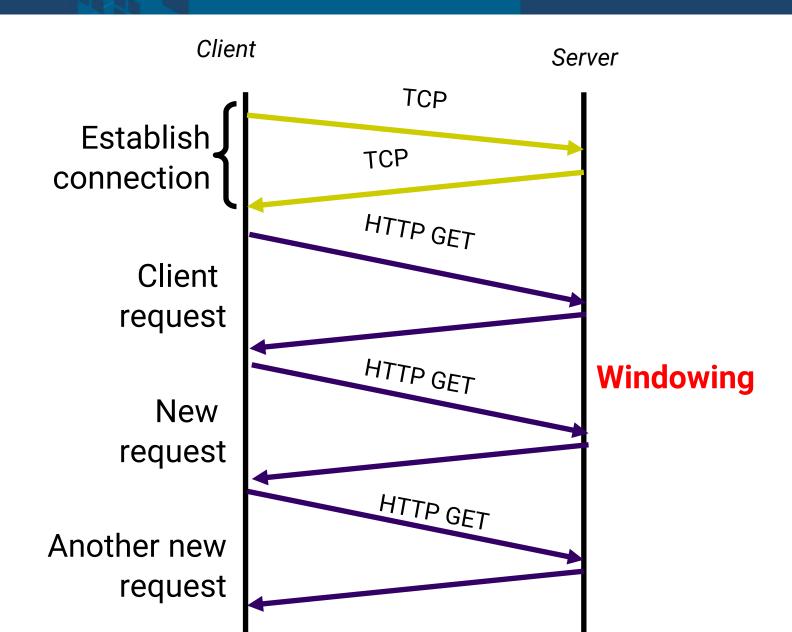
- I have a web page with n files I need to request. Each file fits into one packet, but I need to make n requests.
- How many RTTs would it take for me to download these n files without persistent connections?
- How many RTTs would it take for me to download these n files with persistent connections?

Quick check...

- I have a web page with n files I need to request. Each file fits into one packet, but I need to make n requests.
- How many RTTs would it take for me to download these five files without persistent connections? 3n
- How many RTTs would it take for me to download these five files with persistent connections? n + 2

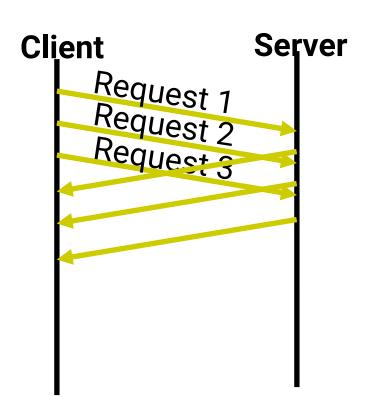


Can we go faster?



Pipelined Requests & Responses

- Key idea: don't need to wait until the previous request has received a response to send the next request.
- Send a series of requests, and server can respond one by one (in order) as they receive them.
- This approach more efficiently "fills the pipe."





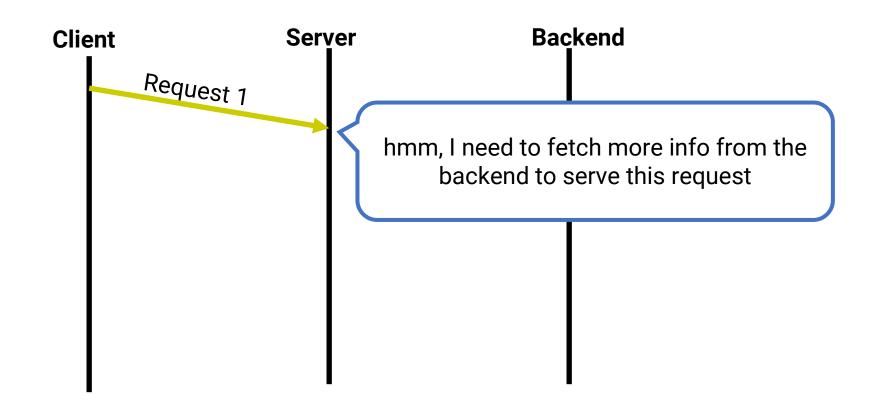
Problems with Pipelining

- Pipelining works very well if all of the requested objects are immediately available and "ready to serve" at the time of request
- What if some objects take a long time for the server to produce?
 - Example: I need to load a small image from the web server AND I need to load a complex data visualization that requires that the web server fetch information from an external database...

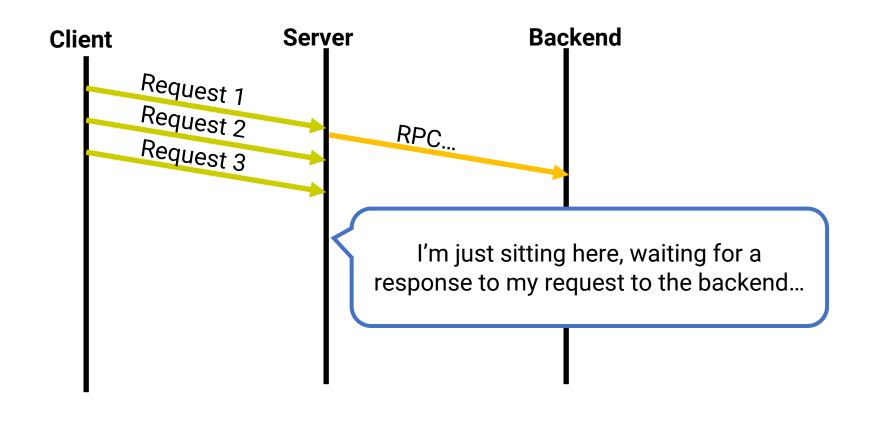
Head of Line (HoL) Blocking

- When multiple tasks are queued to be performed by a system, and one task at the "head" of the queue cannot be served, the other tasks have to wait.
- This means that time goes by where the system is not doing work!
 - It is idle, because it cannot serve the first task.
 - Even though there are other tasks in the system, since they are queued behind the first task, they can't be served either.
- This means that the systems not being work-conserving which is inefficient.

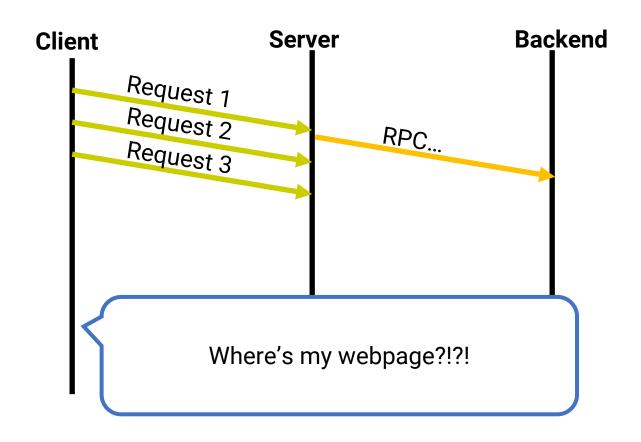




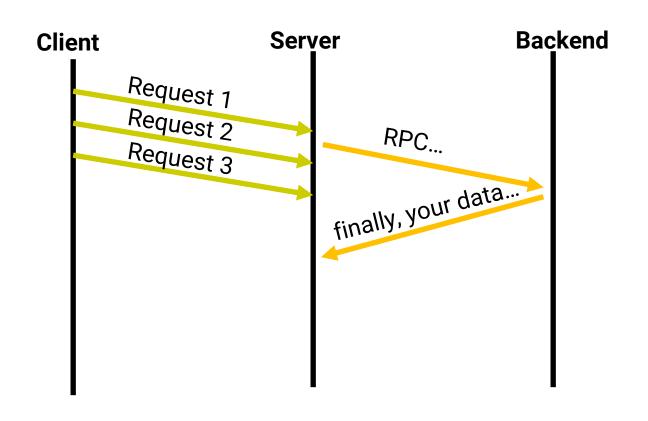




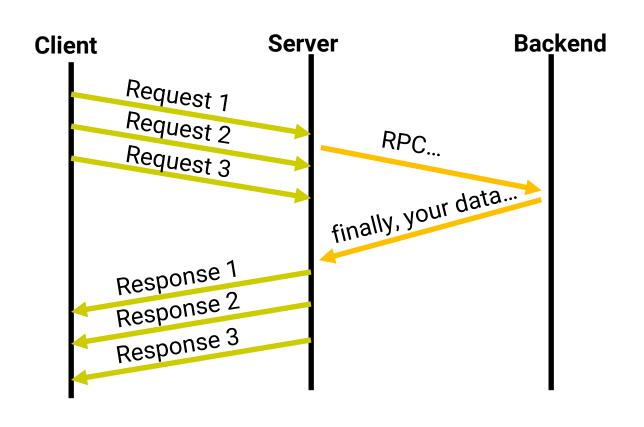




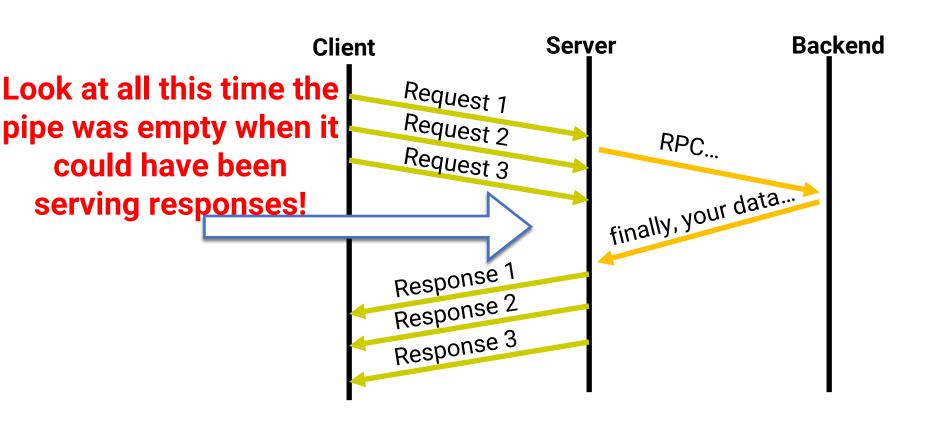










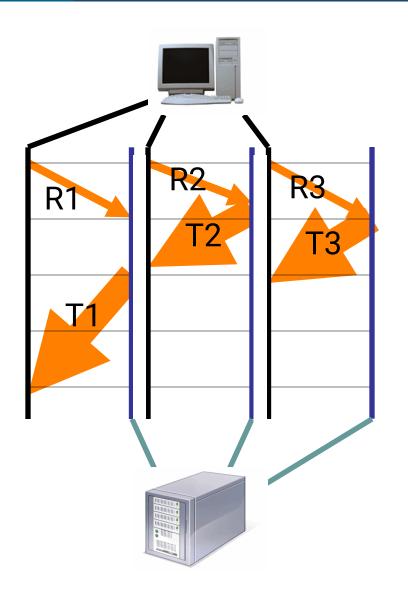


Three Generations of "Fixes" to HOL Blocking

- Generation #1: Concurrent/Parallel Requests
 - Not ideal
- Generation #2: HTTP 2.0 Streams
 - Fixes part of the problem, but not all of it...
- Generation #3: HTTP 3.0 with UDP (QUIC)
 - State of the art, but not yet widely used...

Concurrent Requests & Responses Over Parallel TCP Sessions

- Use multiple connections in parallel
 - Speeds up retrieval by ~m
- Does not necessarily maintain order of responses
- Partially deals with HOL blocking
 - Client =
 - Content provider =
 - Network = Why?

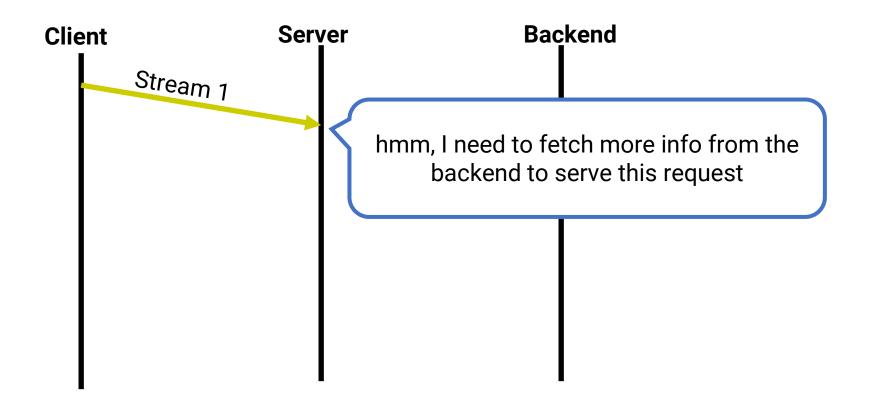


HTTP 2.0 to the Rescue

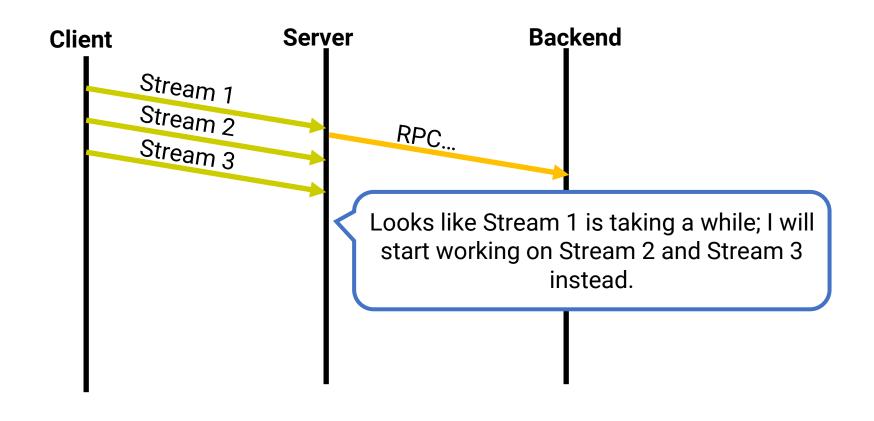
- Still uses one persistent connection for multiple requests
 - Fewer handshakes, more traffic allowed in the pipe (let underlying congestion window grow)
- Request/Response pairs now abstracted into the idea of a "stream"
 - Each request/response is labeled with a Stream ID
 - Server is free to send responses for different streams out of order
 - This avoids HOL blocking since "fast" objects can be sent right away while processing continues for "slow" objects
- Another benefit in HTTP 2.0: HTTP headers are compressed to make header overhead smaller



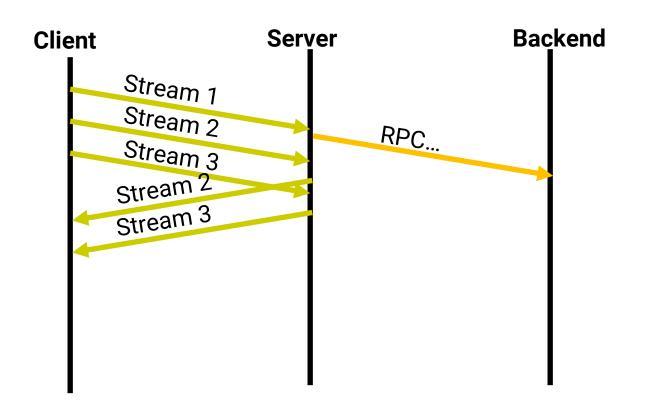
Avoiding HOL Blocking in HTTP 2.0



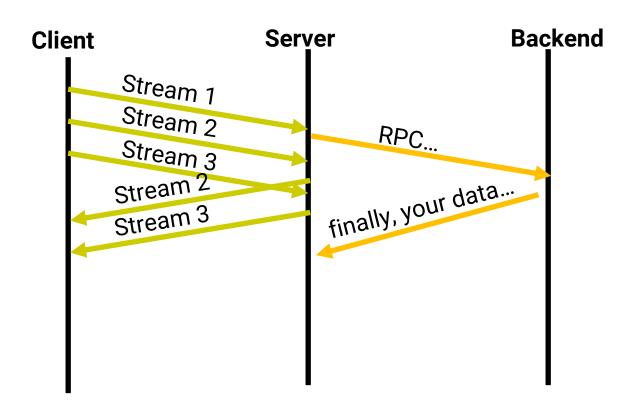




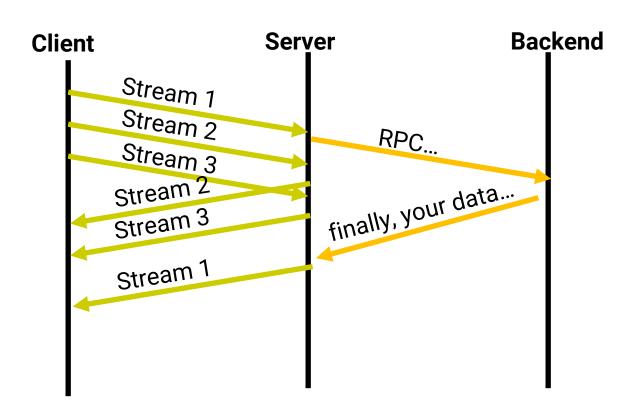








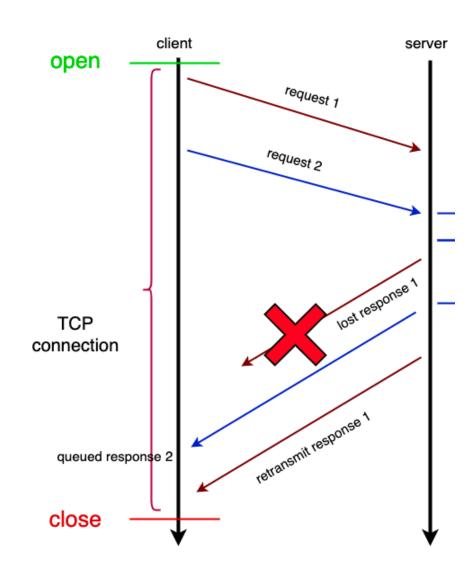




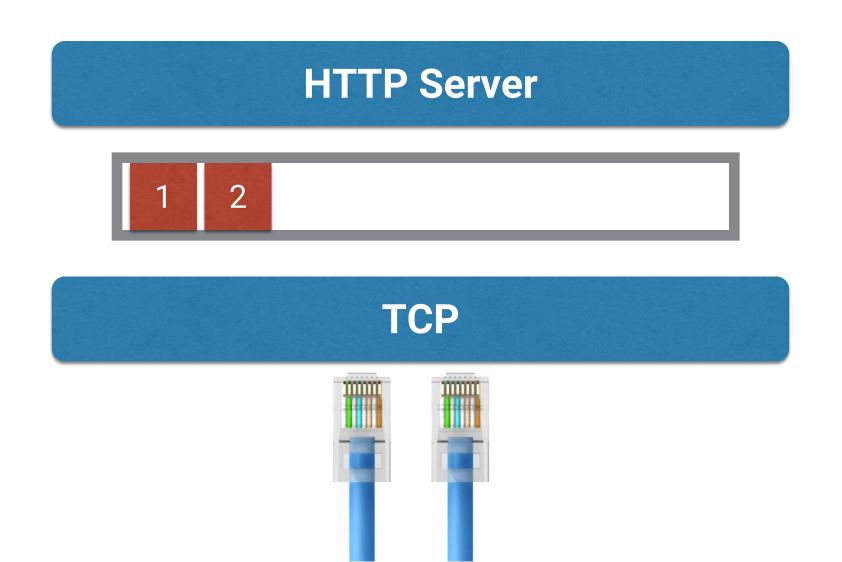
Problem solved?



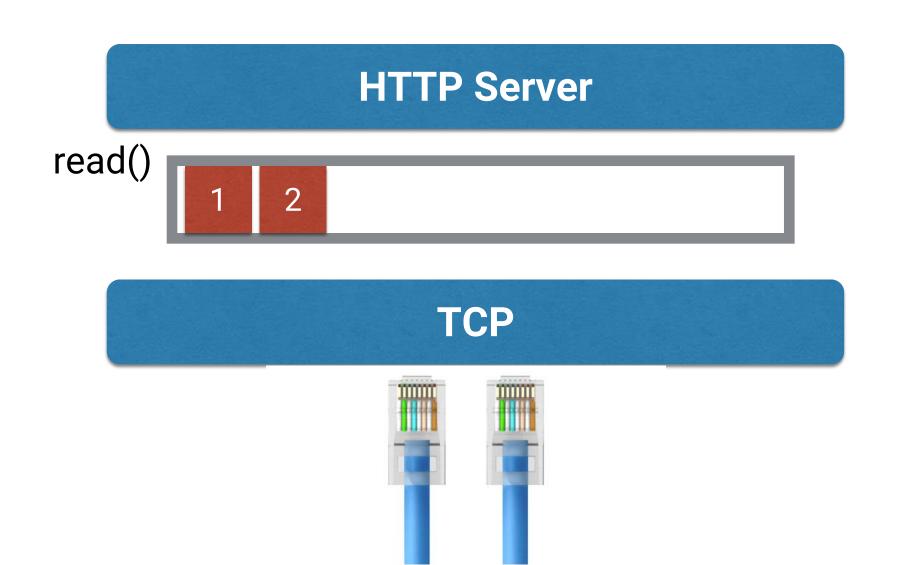
HTTP 2.0 fixes HoL at Layer 7, but not at Layer 4



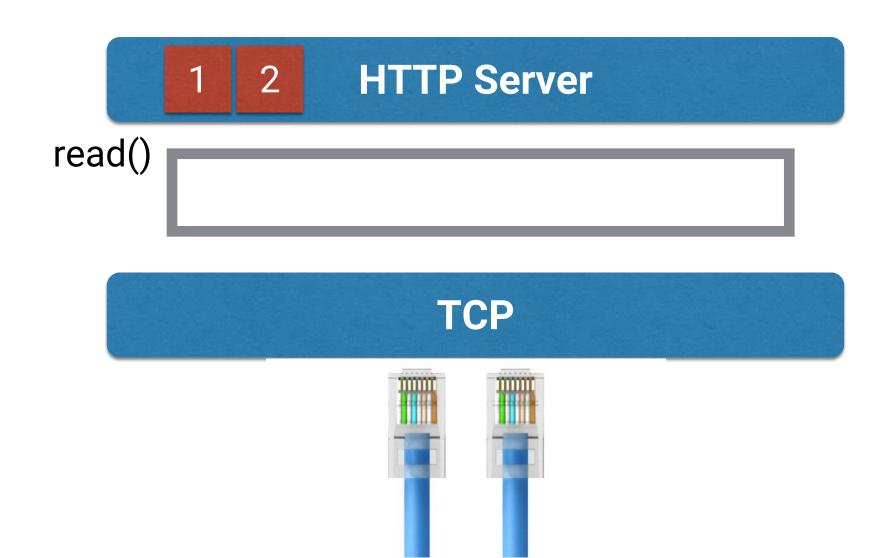




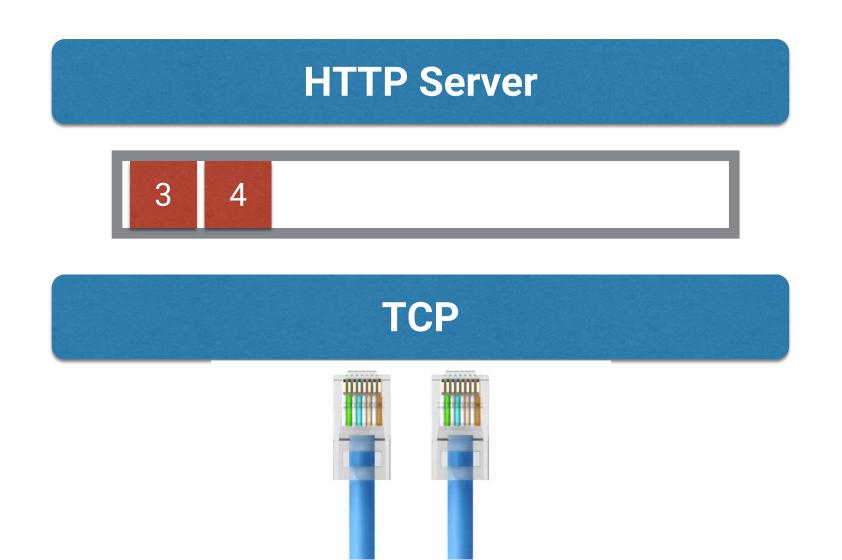




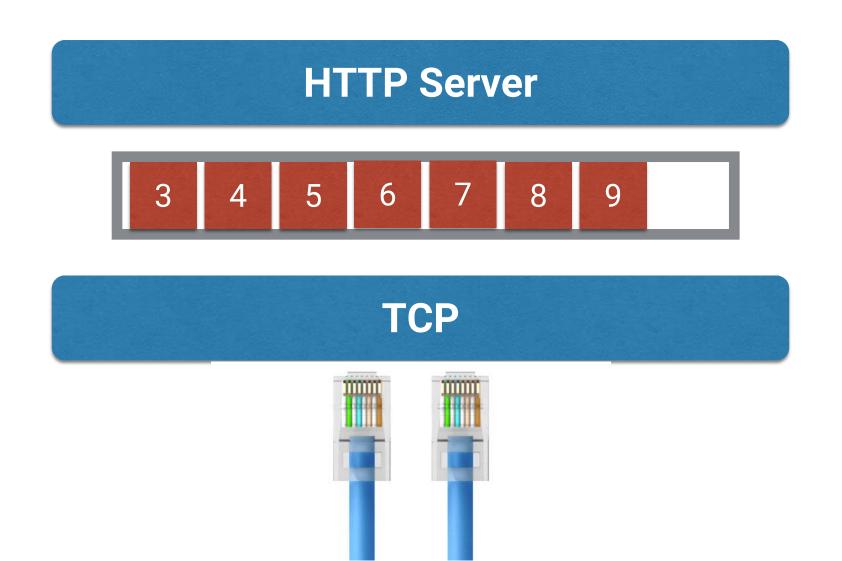




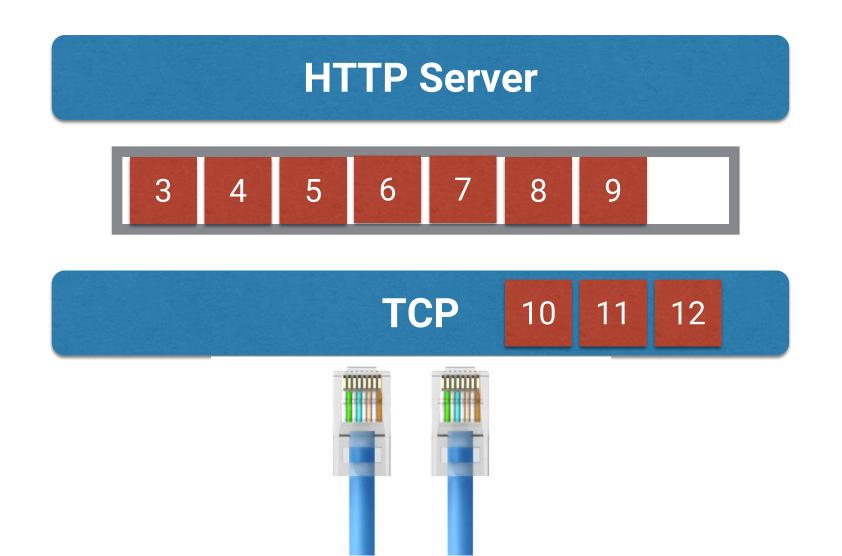




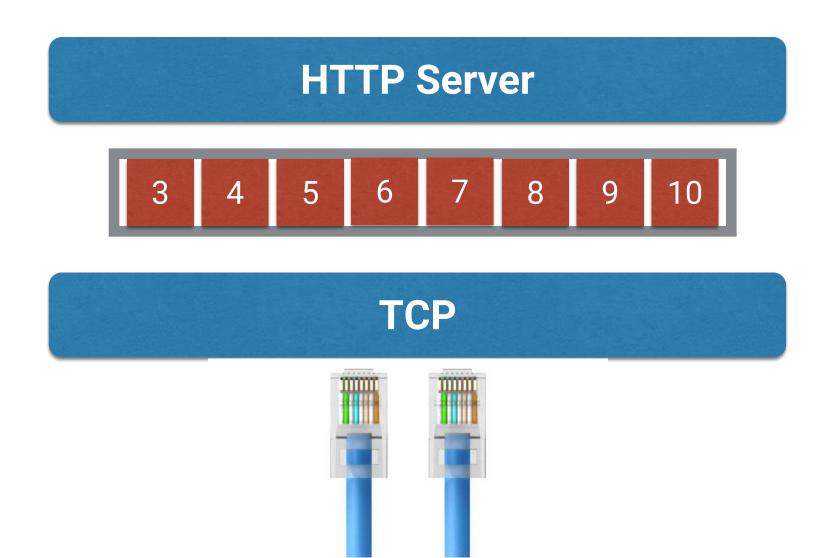




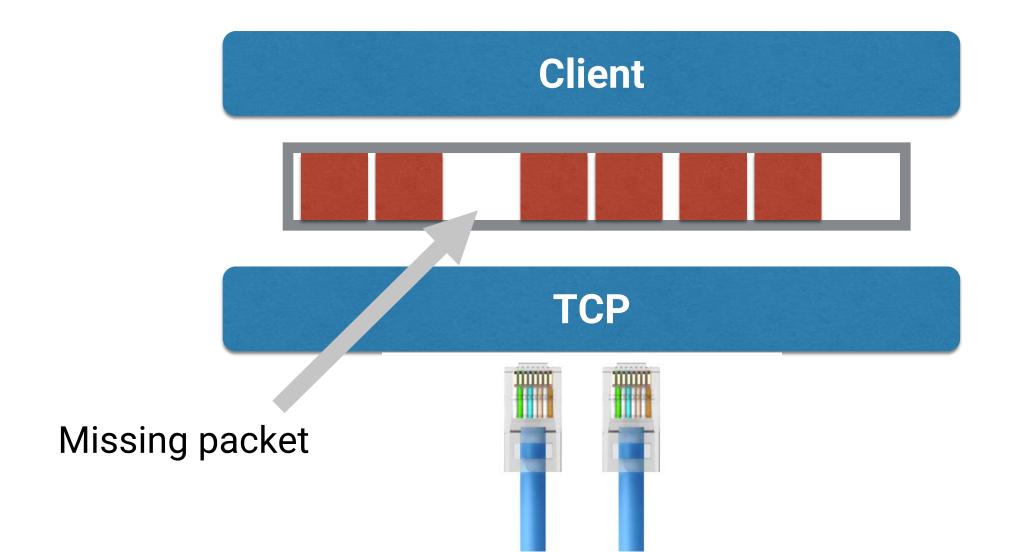




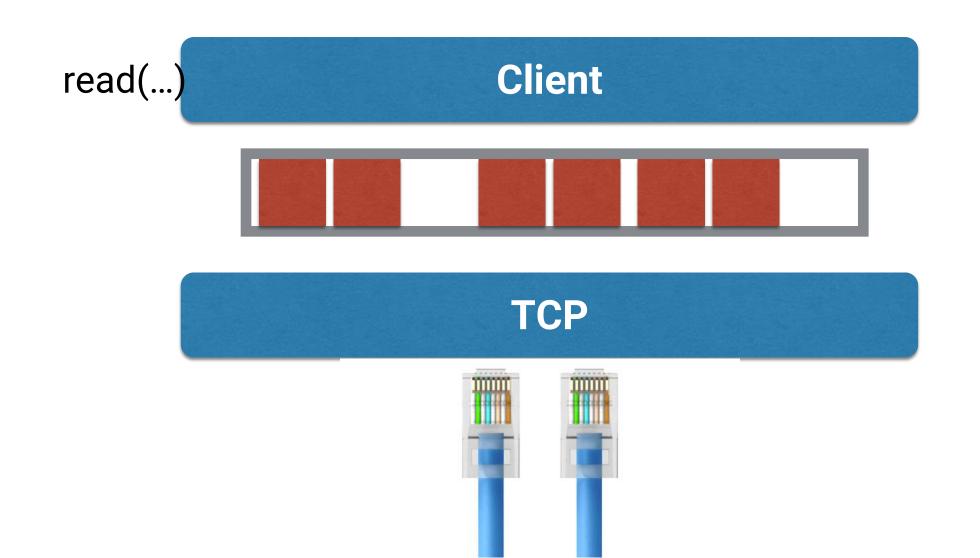




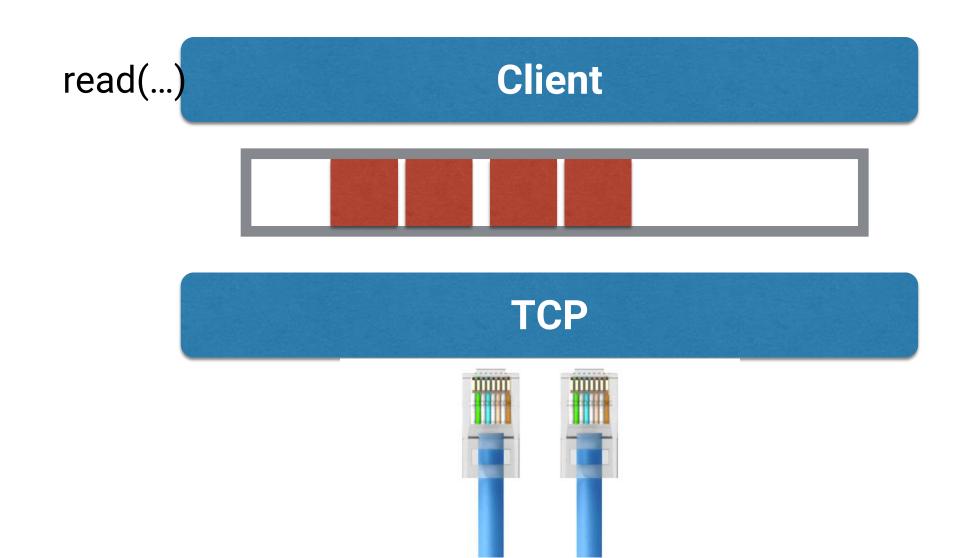


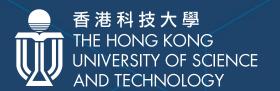


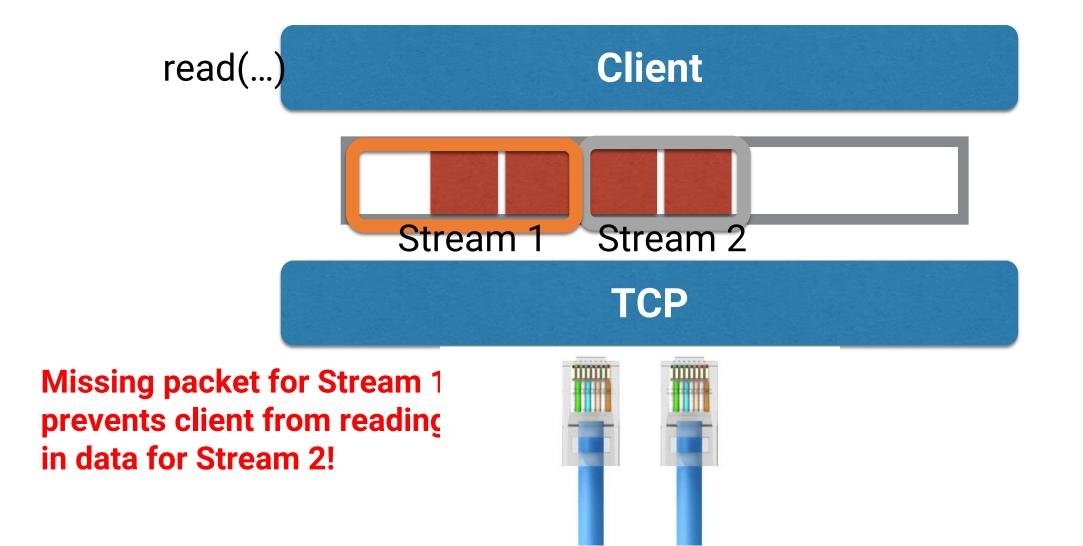












HTTP 3.0: Coming

- Persistent connections + pipelining + re-orderable streams...
- Now all over UDP!
 - Allows application to pull in data for streams as soon as data for that stream is complete, even if data for other streams has been lost in the network.
- Quick UDP Internet Connections (QUIC)
 - Standardized in 2021
 - The QUIC Transport Protocol: Design and Internet-Scale Deployment
 - https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3098822.3098842 [SIGCOMM'17]
 - https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/rfc9000/ IETF RFC 9000



Recap: HTTP Evolution

- Persistent connections to avoid setup/teardown overheads
- Pipelining/windowing to keep lots of requests/responses "in-flight"
- Concurrent connections can help with re-ordering, but come with their own drawbacks
- Out-of-order processing solves head-of-line blocking and improves work conservation.

Recap: HTTP Evolution

- The previous few slides are just a "highlights reel" of big ideas in the evolution of HTTP to make pages load faster.
- Why teach these ideas, and not other things in HTTP?
- Turns out that these concepts highlighted pipelining, parallelism, out-of-order processing — all appear throughout computer systems.
- You might see versions of these ideas in this semester and other areas (e.g., databases).

Recap: Study Cheat Sheet

My Course Roadmap

HTTP Protocol

Cookies

Databases

JavaScript and Web Applications

Persistent Connections

Pipelining

Parallel Connections

香港科技大學 THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tutorial

The TA will go through the checkpoint 1 in the next tutorial.

• Tutorial T1 Mo 9:30AM - 10:20AM Rm 1034, LSK Bldg

• Tutorial T2 Mo 6:00PM - 6:50PM Rm 6573, Lift 29-30

https://www.foggynetwork.com