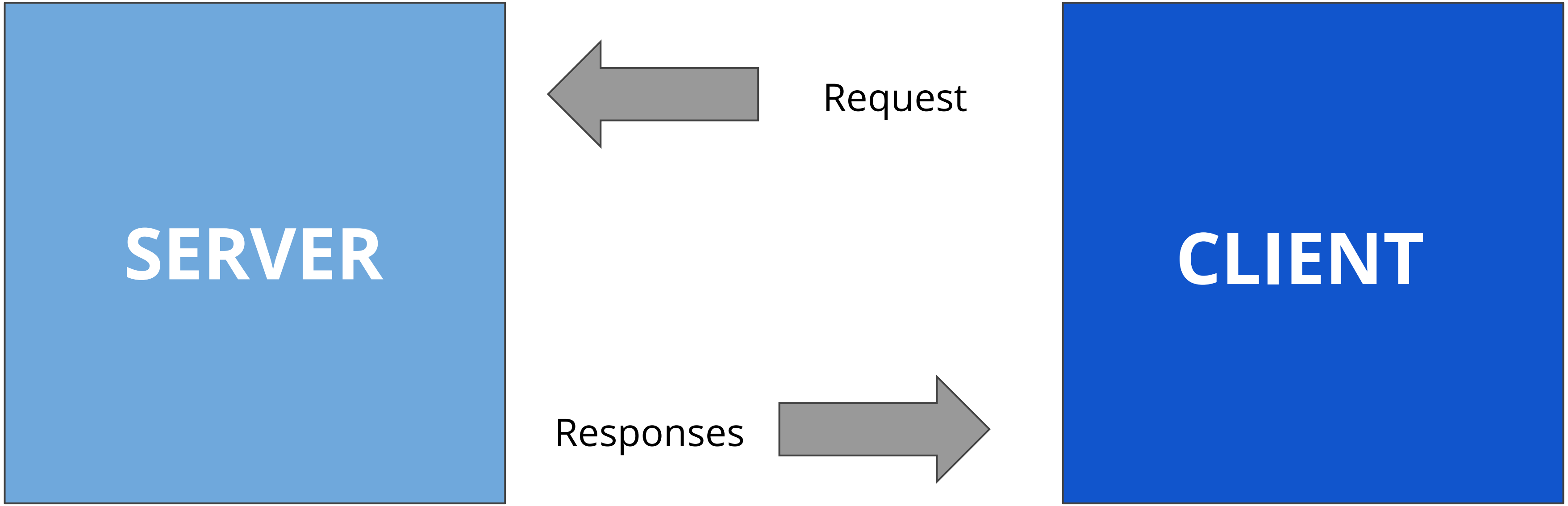
Introduction to Website Architecture

How the web works

As a web designer and or developer it is important to understand how the web works and the processes including hosting, serving and rendering websites.

We use our computers, smartphones, etc.., to access the the internet via WI-FI, LTE or however you choose. The browser you are accessing is called the “CLIENT” and when you type in an URL into the address bar the CLIENT is sending a REQUEST to SERVER which then sends a RESPONSE back to the CLIENT.

Below is simplified diagram of a client requesting and server responding



How the web works

Clients:

- Web user’s internet connected devices: computers, phones…
- Web accessing software: usually a web browsers (Chrome, Firefox, etc)

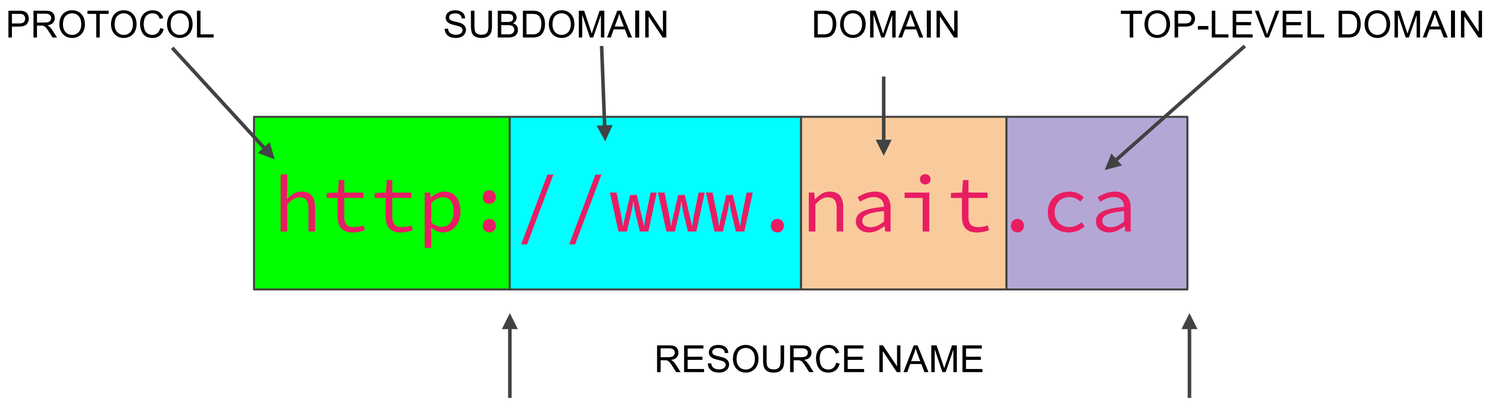
Servers:

- Are applications that store web-pages, sites and apps.
- When a client device accesses a website, the server downloads that web-page onto the client to be displayed

How a URL Works

URL: Uniform Resource Locator

Specialized string of characters that identifies the location of a desired resources.



How a URL works

Protocol:

- ➢ First Part of the link (url)
- ➢ http:// or https://

Resource Name:

Made up of several components

- ➢ Subdomain: (can have multiple, such as ftp, video, etc). You don’t necessarily need to type www into the address bar when
- ➢ Domain (name of the site)
- ➢ Top-level domain (.ca, .com, .edu)

How A Browser Works

Browsers use HTTP (Hypertext transfer protocol) to communicate with web servers and request pages and content (going back to the how the web works).

When a user clicks a link or inputs an url into the address bar, the browser sends a request document to the server. The server then sends the requested page and assets back to the browser.

Once the page is requested, usually a HTML document, is fed to the browser, the browser than uses its internal rendering engine to translate the page and render it on the screen.

And… that's all you need to know about this for now!