Week 8 Lab - HTTP Headers

Aims:

Inspect and understand HTTP headers.

Task 1 - HTTP headers

In this task we will examine the HTTP headers of the request-response interactions as an HTML page loads along with its styles and images to a Browser.

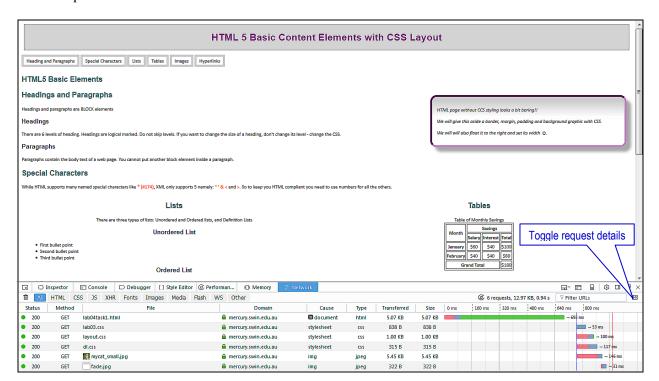
1. View the Web Developer | Network

The built-in Web Developer tools enables us to view the HTML/CSS/JavaScript source files as they are loaded into Firefox through the network.

We will examine the page we created in Lab 4, Task 1.

Load the page into Firefox from mercury.

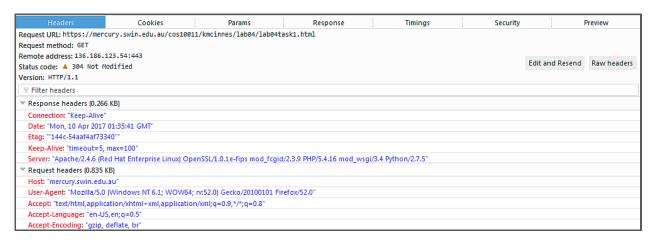
Under the Tools menu, click select Web Developer | Network. Reload the webpage. Notice the sequence of HTTP requests that the browser has sent to the server.



2. Viewing Headers

Refresh / reload the Web page. Toggle the request details icon. This should now show the Headers and other tabs. Select the Header tab, and this should now show Request and Response headers similar to below.

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3. Request Header

4.

| 1. | What version of HTTP is listed in the header? |
|----|--|
| 2. | What HTTP request method is being used? |
| 3. | What type of user-agent sent the request? |
| 4. | What MIME types will this user-agent accept ? |
| 5. | What do you think the entry "Connection: keep alive" means? |
| | Response Headers |
| 1. | What HTTP response status code was first returned? |
| 2. | What does this code mean? |
| 3. | What HTTP response status code is now returned? |
| 4. | What does this code mean? |
| 5. | What type of server generated the response? |
| 6. | What protocol describes the Remote address? (e.g. 136.xxx.xxx.xxx) |
| 7. | What does the port number mean? (e.g. :143) |

5. Try other websites

Load http://swin.edu.au and follow the 'trail' as the page is redirected to www.swin.edu.au and then www.swin.edu.au and then www.swin.edu.au and then

Type in a misspelled URL. What code is returned by the response header?

6. What else can you do with the Network tabs?

Open the 'Timings' tab and you can see more details about the time for the DNS resolution, connecting, sending, waiting, and receiving. Also see the 'Cookies' tab. Toggling the details icon, you can similarly, view the headers, timings, and so on, for other resources that make up this web page.

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