# DBW – Databases and Web development



#### Aims

- Review a number of technologies to handle bioinformatics data:
  - Computer communication, design of web applications, basic database design and optimization.
  - This is NOT a programming course, it is about designing and building applications in an heterogenous scenario
- The final objective is to built a fully operative application using the appropriate combination of the techniques reviewed.

#### Bioinformatics & Internet

 Tools and data should be available through web

- Ex. Nucleic Acid Research reviews:
  - -Database Issue (January) 1170 DBs
  - -Web Server Issue (July) 1200 Servers



#### NAR Database issue recommendations

- "The pre-submission enquiry must present a working web accessible database"
- "The quality, quantity and originality of data as well as the quality of the web interface are the most important. Good data with a poor interface or vice versa are never sufficient for consideration."
- "Do get a domain name for your website. URLs to specific IP addresses/ports are unlikely to stand the test of time."
- (...)

  Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 35, Issue suppl\_1, 1 January 2007, Pages D1–D2

https://academic.oup.com/nar/article/35/suppl\_1/D1/1 088333

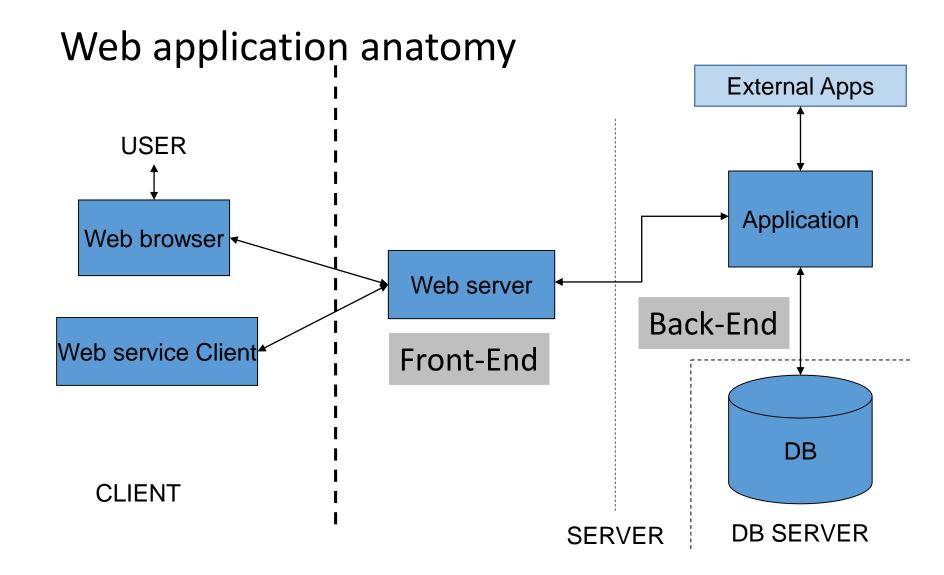
### Web applications by access type

#### Web interfaces

- Provide a user friendly interface (web based) to "human" users
  - Users known how to use the interface
  - There is no need to install software
  - Single operations (no large scale)
  - Must adapt to navigation uses (low latency, synchronous answers,...)

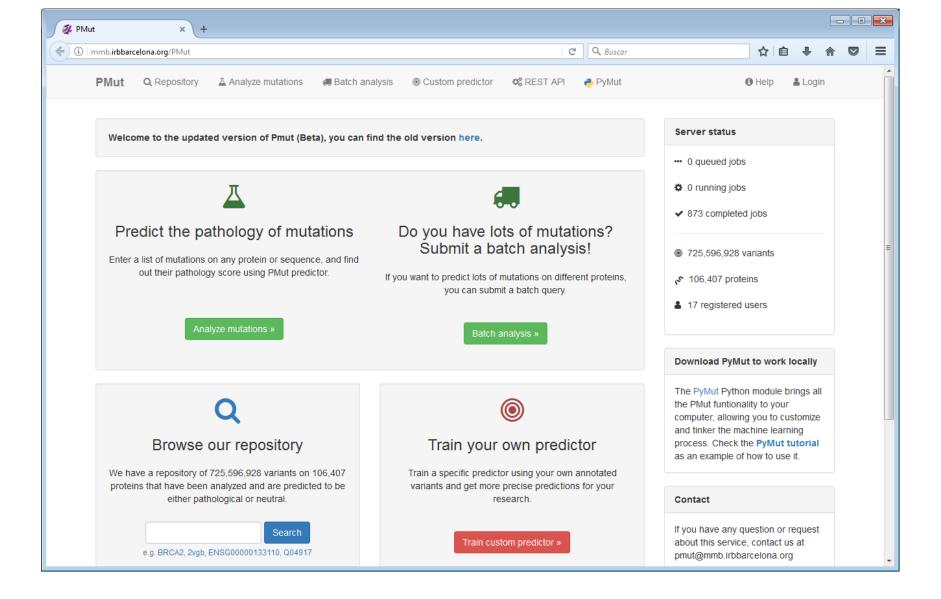
#### Web services

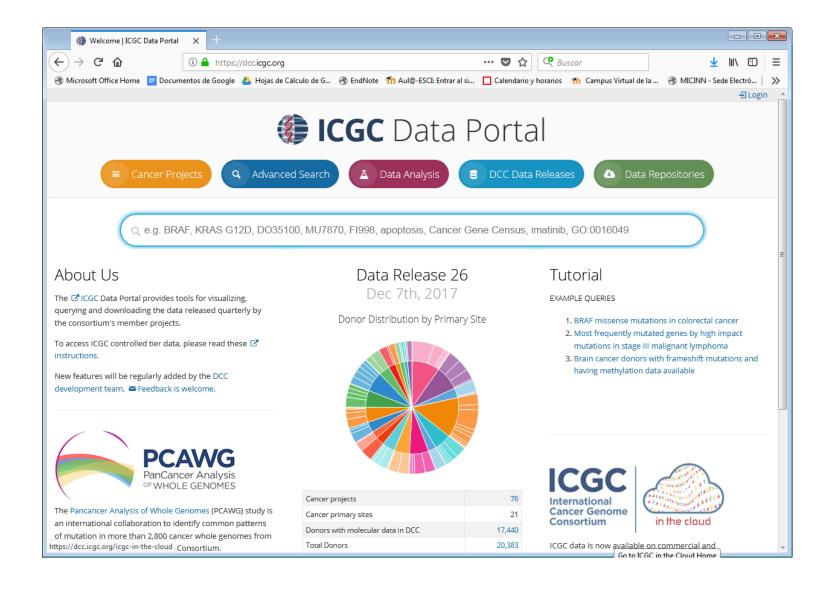
- Provide a programmatic interface (using Web protocols)
- Intented to interact with software, not humans
  - Well-defined data formats required.
  - Adequated for large scale operations
- Modern applications will normally offer both



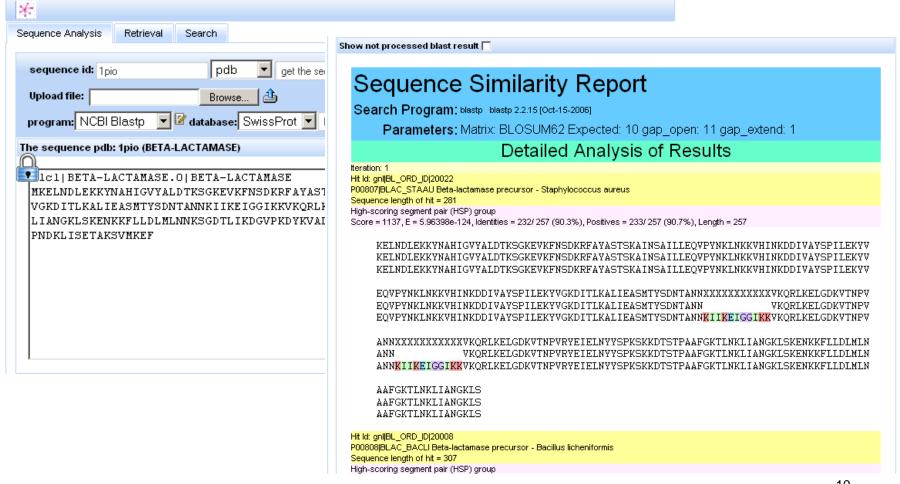
#### Web application styles

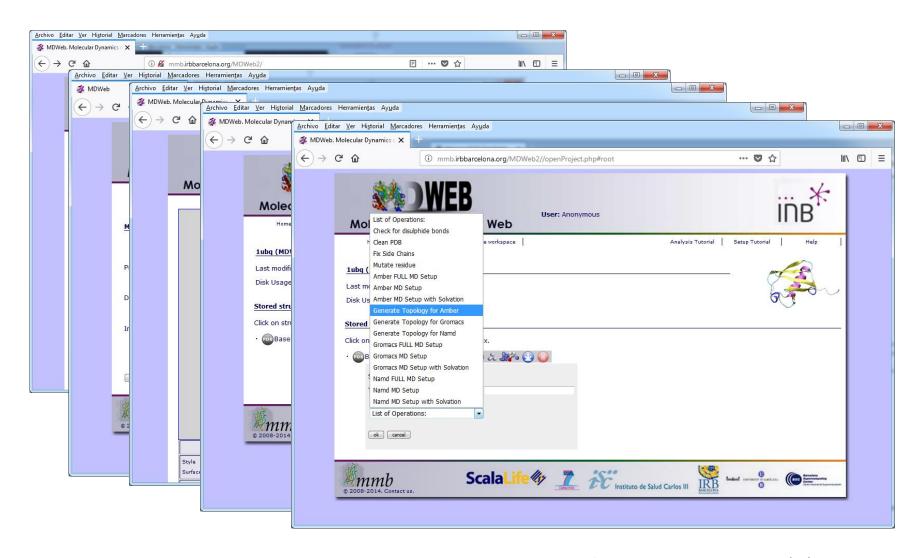
- Access to data
  - Friendly interface to data repositories
- Web Interfaces to stand-alone software
  - Collect input parameters and redirect output
- Workbenches (e.g. Galaxy)
- On-purpose applications & DBs
- Web services (programmatic access)



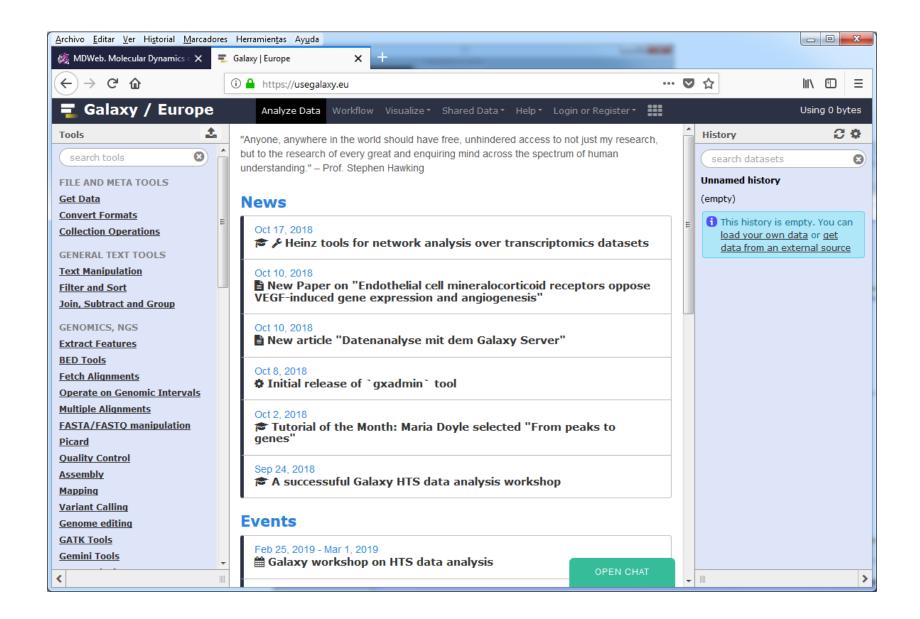


#### Web interfaces to apps.



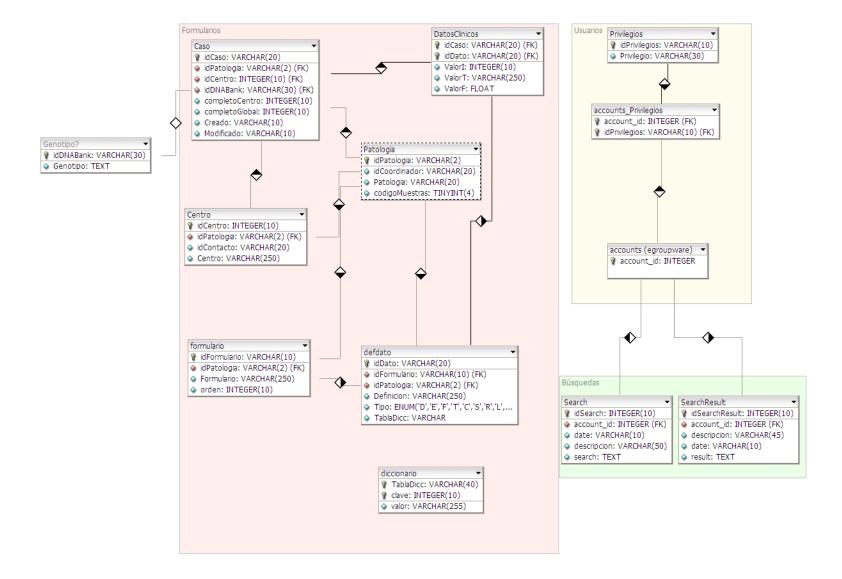


Bioinformatics. 2012 28(9):1278-9. doi: 10.1093/bioinformatics/bts139

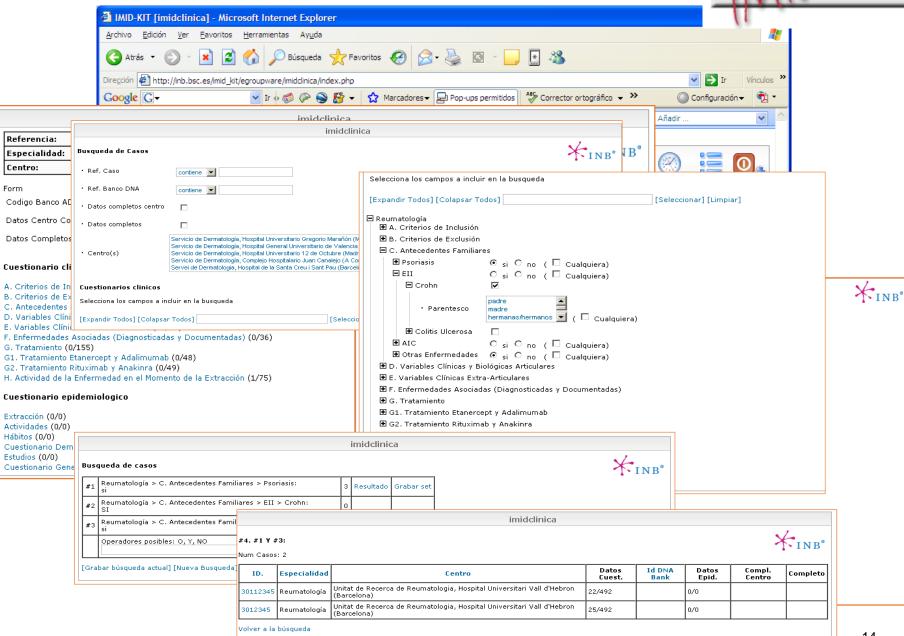




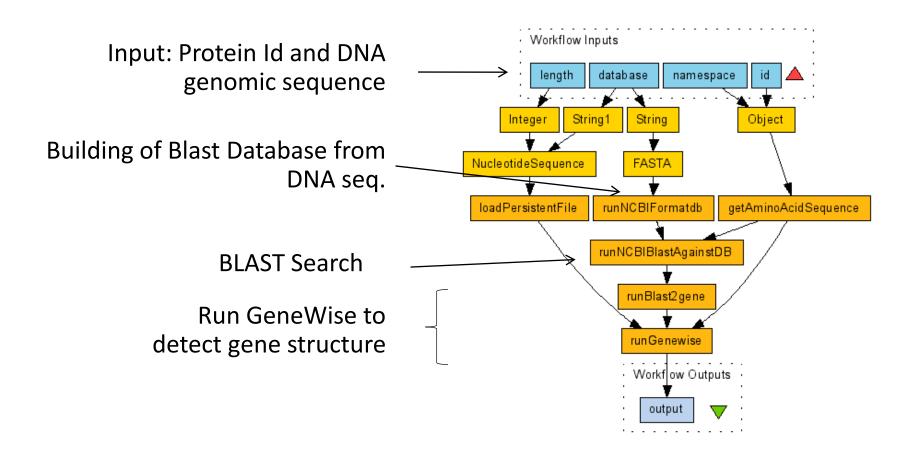
#### Special purpose applications & DBs



MD-Kit



#### Bioinformatics web-services and workflows



#### Building a (web) application

- 1. Define specifications
- 2. Analyze data and built a data model
- 3. Decide/prepare Database implementation
- 4. Build ETL if necessary
- Define interfaces
- 6. Define and prepare files/scripts layout
- 7. Write application code
- 8. Test, debug, document...

### Course logistics

- Web site(s)
  - Course materials:
    - <a href="http://mmb.pcb.ub.es/formacio/">http://mmb.pcb.ub.es/formacio/</a>
  - Personal sites:
    - http://mmb.pcb.ub.es/formacio/~dbwXX
  - SSH Access
    - ssh mmb.pcb.ub.es –p 22021 –l dbwXX
  - MySQL Access
    - Localhost only

#### Software to install

- Ideally Linux (may need root privileges)
- From Linux distribution
  - Apache Web Server (v. 2.x)
    - With PHP 5.x and mysql support
  - MYSQL server (v. 5.x)
  - MYSQL Workbench or phpMyAdmin
- Netbeans (PHP module) (optional)
- MongoDB (optional)

#### **Evaluation**

Exercices, in-class projects (20%)

Personal web site (20%)

- Web application project (60%)
  - Progress presentations
  - -Fully operative web application using DBs

#### **Evaluation**

- Web application project
  - -3-4 people / group
  - –Free subject (bioinformatics preferred)
  - Should include DB management, web interface, users management
  - May use fake data if necessary
  - Available at the personal web site
  - -Preferred languages: PHP, Perl, Mysql
  - Source code at github

#### **Evaluation**

- Web application project
  - -Steps:
    - Initial specification
    - Data analysis & Database design
    - Project Demo
    - Final application
- Installed on server
  - -mmb.pcb.ub.es/formacio/~dbwXX
    - Account dbwXX

# Basic computer communication protocols

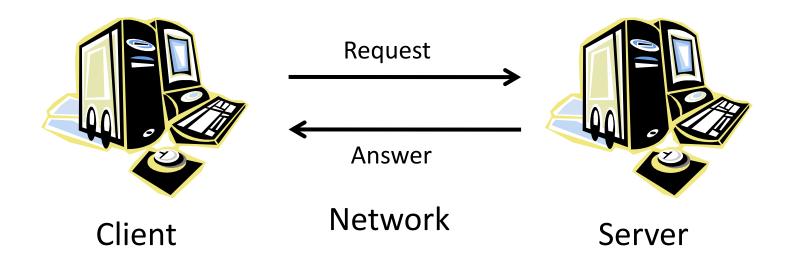
#### Aim & Outline

- Understand the basic components of computer communication protocols
  - Concepts of client and server
  - Addressing servers and data
    - Computer addresses (MAC Address, IP Address)
    - Ports
    - Resource identification
      - DNS
      - URL/URI concept
  - —Client/server transactions
    - HTTP protocol

#### Present internet

- Huge network of computers using common communication protocols (TCP/IP, HTTP)
- Distributed, no central servers
  - -(Well, not really true in bioinformatics)
- Common language: HTML/CSS (XML)
- Content mostly static, but dynamic behaviour is possible through web applications

#### Components



- Client and Server logic and physical addresses
- Data
- Data meta-information
  - Nature of data
  - Request (what to do)
  - Applications involved (email, web, etc.)

#### How it works: TCP/IP

- Packet switching
  - Packet switching breaks the signal in small fragments ("packets") each of them containing the complete information about source and destination
    - Packets can share a single communication line
  - Users have the idea of a dedicated line but, in fact, it is not. Of course, the bandwidth is limited.
- Computers connected to internet should have addresses
  - MAC Address: Address of the physical interface
  - IP Address: Address of the computer

#### IP addresses

- Allow to find destination irrespective of the nature of the network media.
- Each device has a "unique" IP address
- IPv4: 32 bits (4 x 1 byte (0-255) numbers)
  - Max:  $2^{32}$ : aprox 4.3 x  $10^9$
  - P.ex. 161.116.222.59 (mmb.pcb.ub.es)
  - 4 levels are hierarchical
- Some addresses are reserved, and some networks are "local"
- IPv6: 128 bits (16 bytes). Max: 2<sup>128</sup> (3.4 x 10<sup>38</sup>)

#### Names vs addresses (Domain Name System)

 IP addresses are not easy. Most hosts have also a "name":

f. ex. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.edu

- Host names have a structure similar to IP addresses: Top domains (.es, .edu, correspond to full class domains and subnets are indicated by prefixes.
  - ub.es (161.116.x.x)
  - bq.ub.es (161.116.154.x)
  - www.bq.ub.es (161.116.154.18)

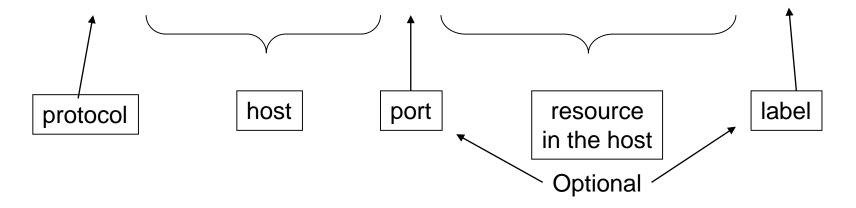
## How to address applications in a server: Portids.

- Each host has one IP address but has several ports for known services
- Ports are 2-Byte numbers.
  - 0-1023 are "Well known ports" (Telnet: 23, FTP: 21, HTTP: 80, ...).
  - 1024-49151 are "Registered ports", usually managed by applications (MySQL: 3306)
  - 49,152-65,535 are "Dynamic and/or private ports" freely usable.
- Communication to ports triggers the specific application to deal with the data
- However, different ports from official ones can be used to:
  - Hide applications
  - Have more then one server in the same IP address
  - Hide servers in internal networks.

#### **URI/URLs**

 Resources must be identified in a way that includes all the necessary details:

http://mmb.pcb.ub.es:80/courses/master.htm#top



Missing parts of the URL are filled by default!!

#### Client – server communication

 Most Web Applications use HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol), although sometimes FTP, SMTP

- HTTP is a client-server communication protocol
  - Link between client and server is dynamic
  - -Usually limited to a single transaction
  - Requests composed by a query operation and a variable set of headers.
  - –Answers: headers + data

#### Client – server communication

- Relevant Operations: GET, POST
  - GET: Simple retrieval, all information/parameters included in the URL
    - Simple queries, static information
    - Required to be used as hypertext links
  - POST: Query defines the resource, but input data follows
    - Input data can be of any type (including binaries, whole files) or size (within limits)
- Relevant HTTP headers
  - Content-type (POST): input data format
  - Content-type (Answer): Data MIME type (text/html, image/jpg, ...)
  - Location: Redirects browser
  - Set-cookie: Set a "cookie" on users' software.

#### Cookies

- Small information tags sent as HTTP headers and stored in the browser side
  - Are associated with a URL, and are sent back to the server whenever that URL is visited within a expiration date

```
Set-Cookie:
   PHPSESSID=bb56ee648aeac6923e3360a7b8284a6f;
   path=/
```

• Useful to "remember" clients, but some people disables them!