

The HTTP Protocol

Jogesh K. Muppala



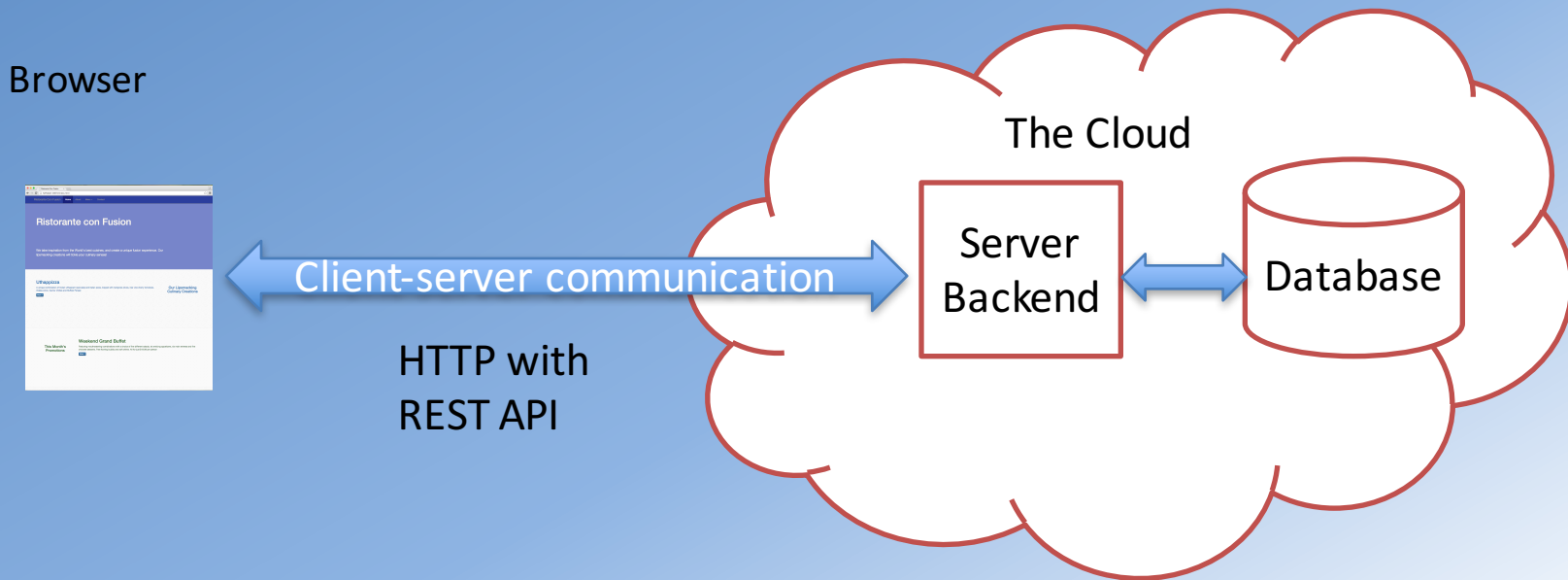
THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
計算機科學及工程學系



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

Client and Server

- Web applications are not stand-alone
- Many of them have a “Cloud” backend



The Networking Alphabet Soup



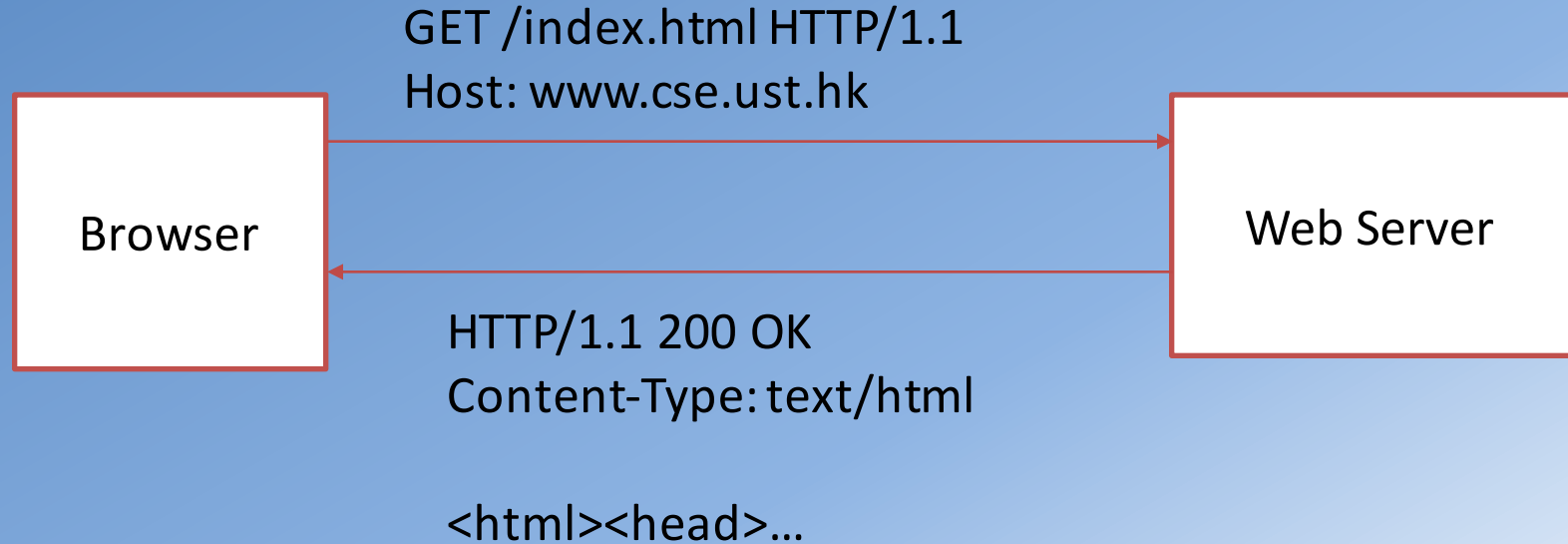
Client-Server Communication

- Network operations cause unexpected delays
- You need to write applications recognizing the asynchronous nature of communication
 - Data is not instantaneously available

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

- A client-server communications protocol
- Allows retrieving inter-linked text documents (hypertext)
 - World Wide Web.
- HTTP Verbs
 - HEAD
 - GET
 - POST
 - PUT
 - DELETE
 - TRACE
 - OPTIONS
 - CONNECT

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)



HTTP Request Message

GET /index.html HTTP/1.1

host: localhost:3000

connection: keep-alive

user-agent: Mozilla/5.0 . . .

accept-encoding: gzip, deflate, sdch

Blank Line

Empty Body

HTTP Response Message

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Connection: keep-alive

Content-Type: text/html

Date: Sun, 21 Feb 2016 06:01:43 GMT

Transfer-Encoding: chunked

Blank Line

```
<html><title>This is  
index.html</title><body><h1>Index.html</h1><p>This is  
the contents of this file</p></body></html>
```


HTTP Response Codes (Main ones)

Code	Meaning
200	OK
201	Created
301	Moved Permanently
304	Not Modified
400	Bad Request
401	Unauthorized
403	Forbidden
404	Not Found
422	Unprocessable Entry
500	Internal Server Error
505	HTTP Version Not Supported

HTTP Response

- Server may send back data in a specific format:
 - eXtensible Markup Language (XML)
 - Javascript Object Notation (JSON)