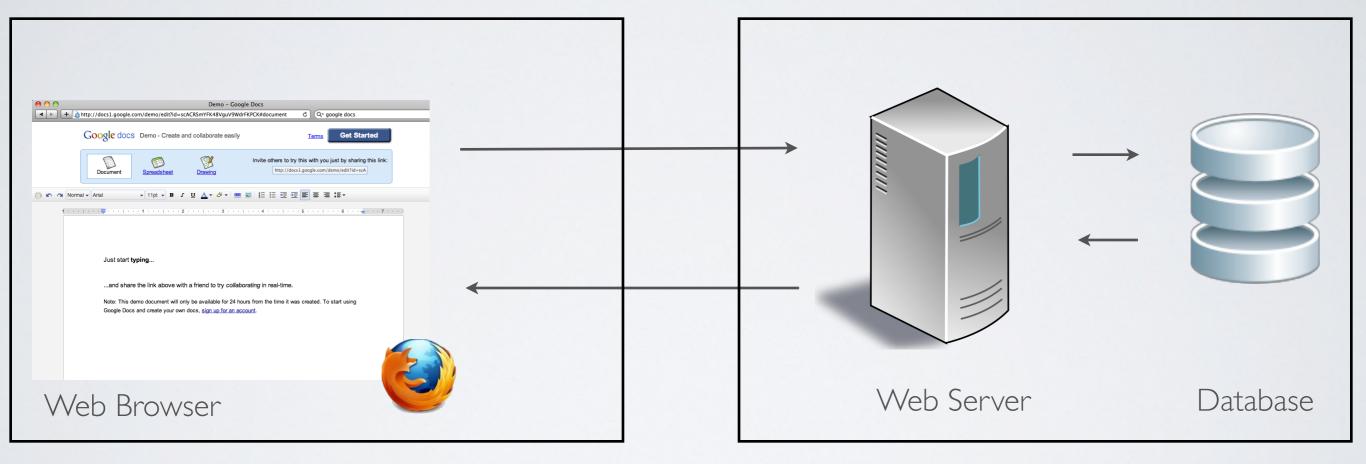
The HTTP protocol

Thierry Sans

Anatomy of a Web Application

Client Side

Server Side



The HTTP protocol

Network protocol for requesting/receiving data on the Web

- Standard TCP protocol on port 80 (by default)
- URI/URL specifies what resource is being accessed
- The request method specified with a command

Let's look at what a web server does

```
telnet to a web server
> telnet www.utsc.utoronto.ca 80
GET /
         enter HTTP requests
```

Anatomy of a URL



HTTP Request Methods

- **POST** add an unidentified resource
- **PUT** add a an identified resource
- **GET** get a resource
- PATCH update a resource
- **DELETE** delete a resource
- and others HEAD, TRACE, CONNECT, OPTIONS

HTTP Request

- Method POST, PUT, GET, PATCH, DELETE ...
- Url protocol + server + query string
- Headers key/value pairs
- [optional] Body data

Using the command curl

- \$ curl options url
 - -v verbose
 - -- request request method
 - --data request_body
 - --header header

HTTP response

- Status code
- Headers key/value pairs
- [optional] Body data

Simple HTTP server with node.js

```
var http = require('http');
const PORT=8080;
var handleRequest = function(request, response) {
    response.end('welcome to C09');
};
var server = http.createServer(handleRequest);
server.listen(PORT, function(){
    console.log("Server listening on http://localhost:%s", PORT);
});
```

HTTP response status codes

- 1xx information
- 2xx success
- 3xx redirection
- 4xx client error
- 5xx server errors

Method properties

An HTTP request

- may have a request body
- may have a <u>response body</u>
- may not have side effects a.k.a <u>safe</u>
- may have the same result when called multiple times a.k.a <u>idempotent</u>
- → the choice is left to the programmer

What the standard recommends

Method	Request Body	Request Body	Safe	Indempotent
POST			$\langle \times \rangle$	(X)
PUT			(x)	
GET	X			
PATCH			(x)	(X)
DELETE	(X)		$\langle \times \rangle$	