CS450 Computer Networks

The slides used in class are derived from the slides available on
our text book companion website:
http://wps.pearsoned.com/ecs_kurose_compnetw_6/

CS450 - Lecture 4
Application Layer - WEB and HTTP

Our goal:

Understand key Web application concepts:

- Basic HTTP protocol
- Cookies
- Web Caching

Web and HTTP

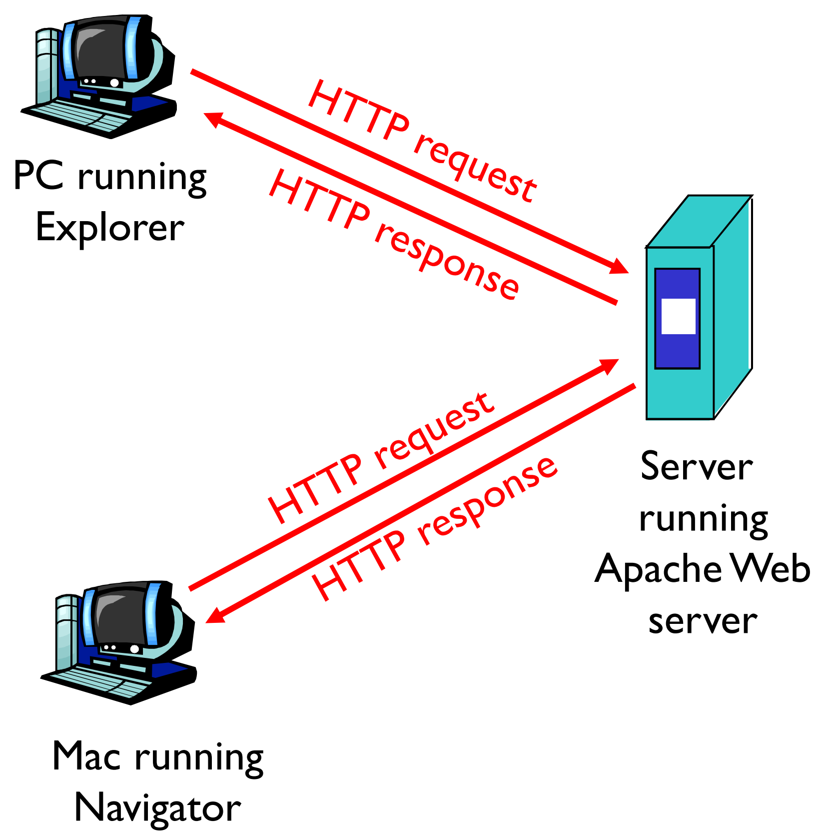
- web page consists of objects
- object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,…
- web page consists of base HTML-file which includes several referenced objects
- each object is addressable by a URL
- example URL:

$$\underbrace{\texttt{www.someschool.edu}}_{\text{host name}}\underbrace{\texttt{/someDept/pic.gif}}_{\text{path name}}$$

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

- Web's application layer protocol
- client/server model
  - *client:* browser that requests, receives, "displays" Web objects
  - *server:* Web server sends objects in response to requests



HTTP overview (continued)

Uses TCP:

- client initiates TCP connection (creates socket) to server, port 80
- server accepts TCP connection from client
- HTTP messages (application-layer protocol messages) exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- TCP connection closed

HTTP is "stateless"

- server maintains no information about past client requests

aside

protocols that maintain "state" are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained
- if server/client crashes, their views of "state" may be inconsistent, must be reconciled

HTTP connections

non-persistent HTTP

- at most one object sent over TCP connection
  - connection then closed
- downloading multiple objects required multiple connections

persistent HTTP

- multiple objects can be sent over single TCP connection between client, server.

Nonpersistent HTTP

suppose user enters URL:
`www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index`

(contains text, references to 10 jpeg images)

1a. HTTP client initiates TCP connection to HTTP server (process) at www.someSchool.edu on port 80

1b. HTTP server at host www.someSchool.edu waiting for TCP connection at port 80. "accepts" connection, notifying client

2. HTTP client sends HTTP *request message* (containing URL) into TCP connection socket. Message indicates that client wants object someDepartment/home.index

3. HTTP server receives request message, forms *response message* containing requested object, and sends message into its socket

time

Nonpersistent HTTP (cont.)

4. HTTP server closes TCP connection.

5. HTTP client receives response message containing html file, displays html. Parsing html file, finds 10 referenced jpeg objects

time

6. Steps 1-5 repeated for each of 10 jpeg objects

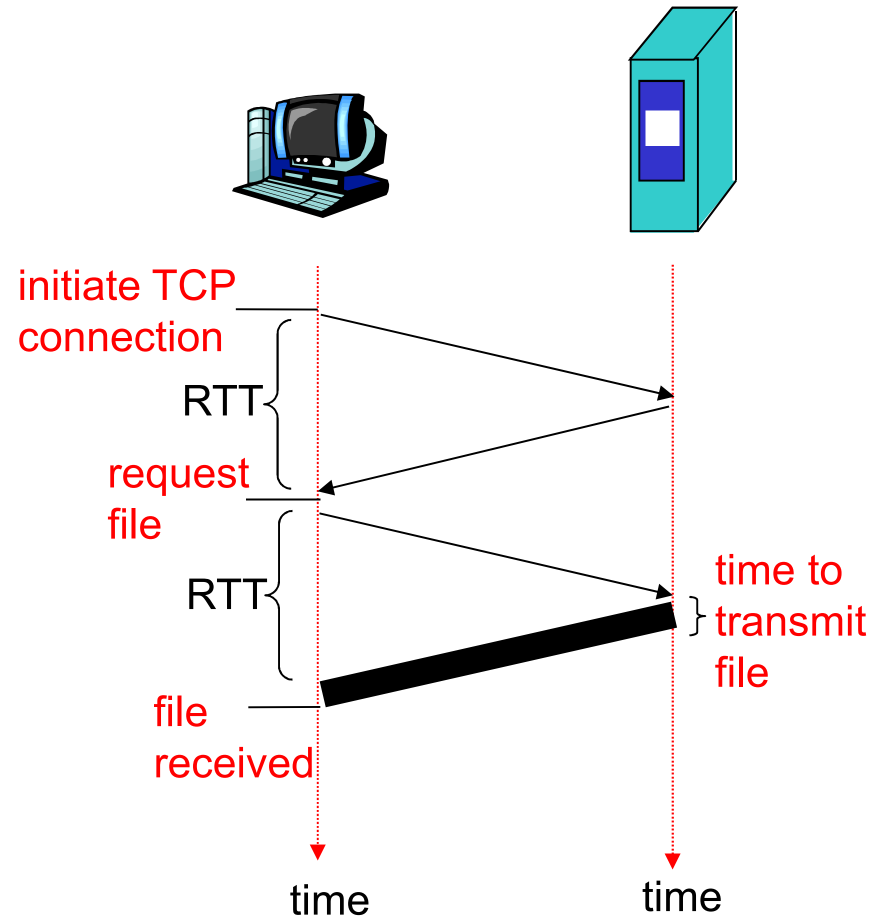
Non-Persistent HTTP: Response time

definition of RTT: time for a small packet to travel from client to server and back.

response time:

- one RTT to initiate TCP connection
- one RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
- file transmission time

total = 2RTT+transmit time



Persistent HTTP

non-persistent HTTP issues:

- requires 2 RTTs per object
- OS overhead for *each* TCP connection
- browsers often open parallel TCP connections to fetch referenced objects

persistent HTTP

- server leaves connection open after sending response
- subsequent HTTP messages between same client/server sent over open connection
- client sends requests as soon as it encounters a referenced object
- as little as one RTT for all the referenced objects

HTTP request message

- two types of HTTP messages: *request, response*
- HTTP request message:
  - ASCII (human-readable format)

carriage return character

line-feed character

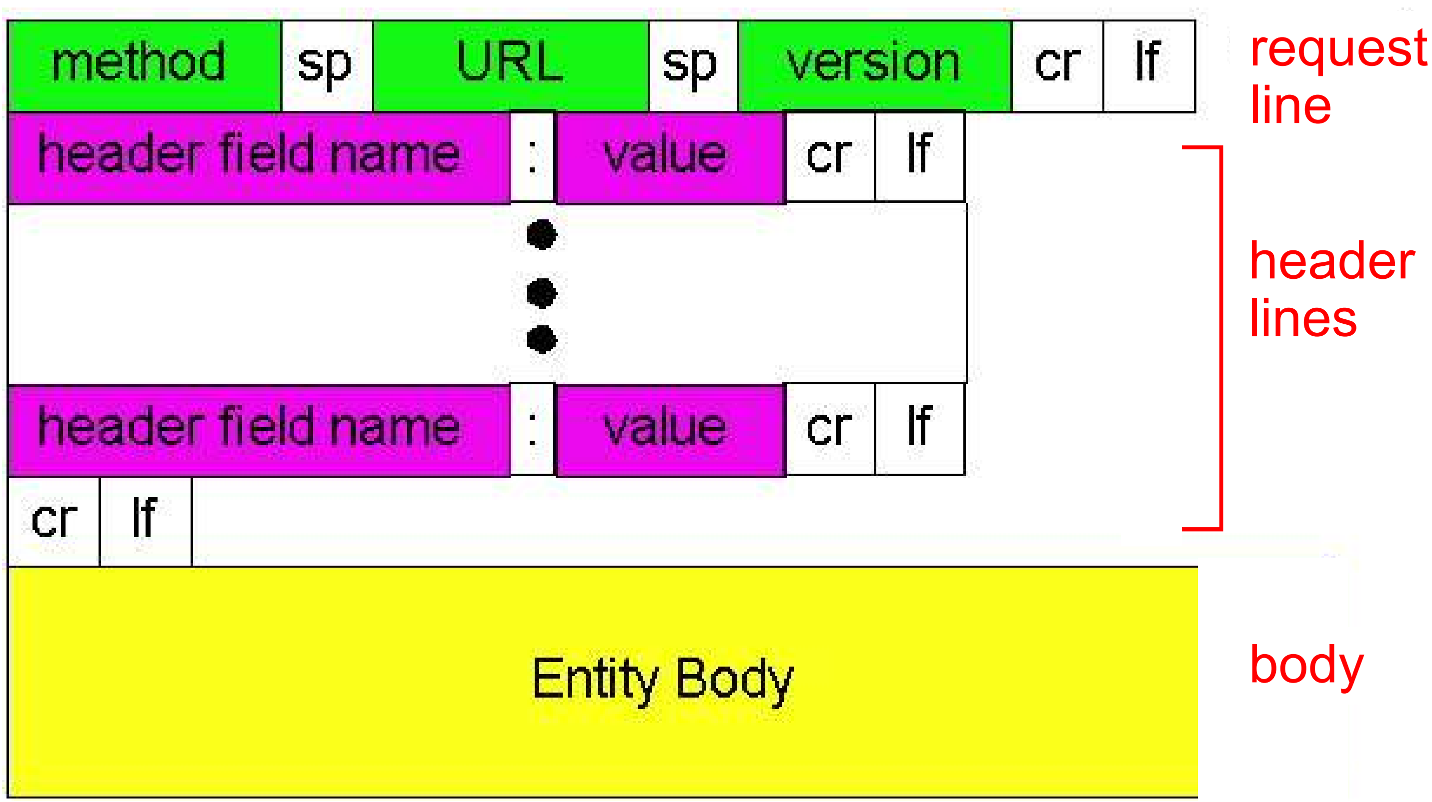
request line (GET, POST, HEAD commands)

header lines

carriage return, line feed at start of line indicates end of header lines

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: www-net.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Firefox/3.6.10\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml\r\n
Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate\r\n
Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7\r\n
Keep-Alive: 115\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
\r\n
```

HTTP request message: general format



Uploading form input

POST method:

- web page often includes form input

- input is uploaded to server in entity body

URL method:

- uses GET method
- input is uploaded in URL field of request line:

`www.somesite.com/animalsearch?monkeys&banana`

Method types

HTTP/1.0

- GET
- POST
- HEAD
  - asks server to leave requested object out of response

HTTP/1.1

- GET, POST, HEAD
- PUT
  - uploads file in entity body to path specified in URL field
- DELETE
  - deletes file specified in the URL field

HTTP response message

status line (protocol status code status phrase)

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
Date: Sun, 26 Sep 2010 20:09:20 GMT\r\n
Server: Apache/2.0.52 (CentOS)\r\n
Last-Modified: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 17:00:02
   GMT\r\n
ETag: "17dc6-a5c-bf716880"\r\n
Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n
Content-Length: 2652\r\n
Keep-Alive: timeout=10, max=100\r\n
Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-
   1\r\n
\r\n
data data data data data ...
```

header lines

data, e.g., requested HTML file

HTTP response status codes

- status code appears in 1st line in server->client response message.
- some sample codes:

`200 OK`

- request succeeded, requested object later in this msg

`301 Moved Permanently`

- requested object moved, new location specified later in this msg (Location:)

`400 Bad Request`

- request msg not understood by server

`404 Not Found`

- requested document not found on this server

`505 HTTP Version Not Supported`

Trying out HTTP (client side) for yourself

1. Telnet to your favorite Web server:

```
telnet mscs.mum.edu 80
```

opens TCP connection to port 80 (default HTTP server port) at cis.poly.edu. anything typed in sent to port 80 at cis.poly.edu

2. type in a GET HTTP request:

```
GET program-overview/ HTTP/1.1
Host: mscs.mum.edu
```

by typing this in (hit carriage return twice), you send this minimal (but complete) GET request to HTTP server

3. look at response message sent by HTTP server!

(or use Wireshark!)

Trying out HTTP Wireshark

http://wps.pearsoned.com/wps/media/objects/13865/14198700/wiresharkLabs/Wireshark_HTTP_v6.1.pdf

The Basic HTTP GET/response interaction. Do questions 1-7

User-server state: cookies

Cookies:

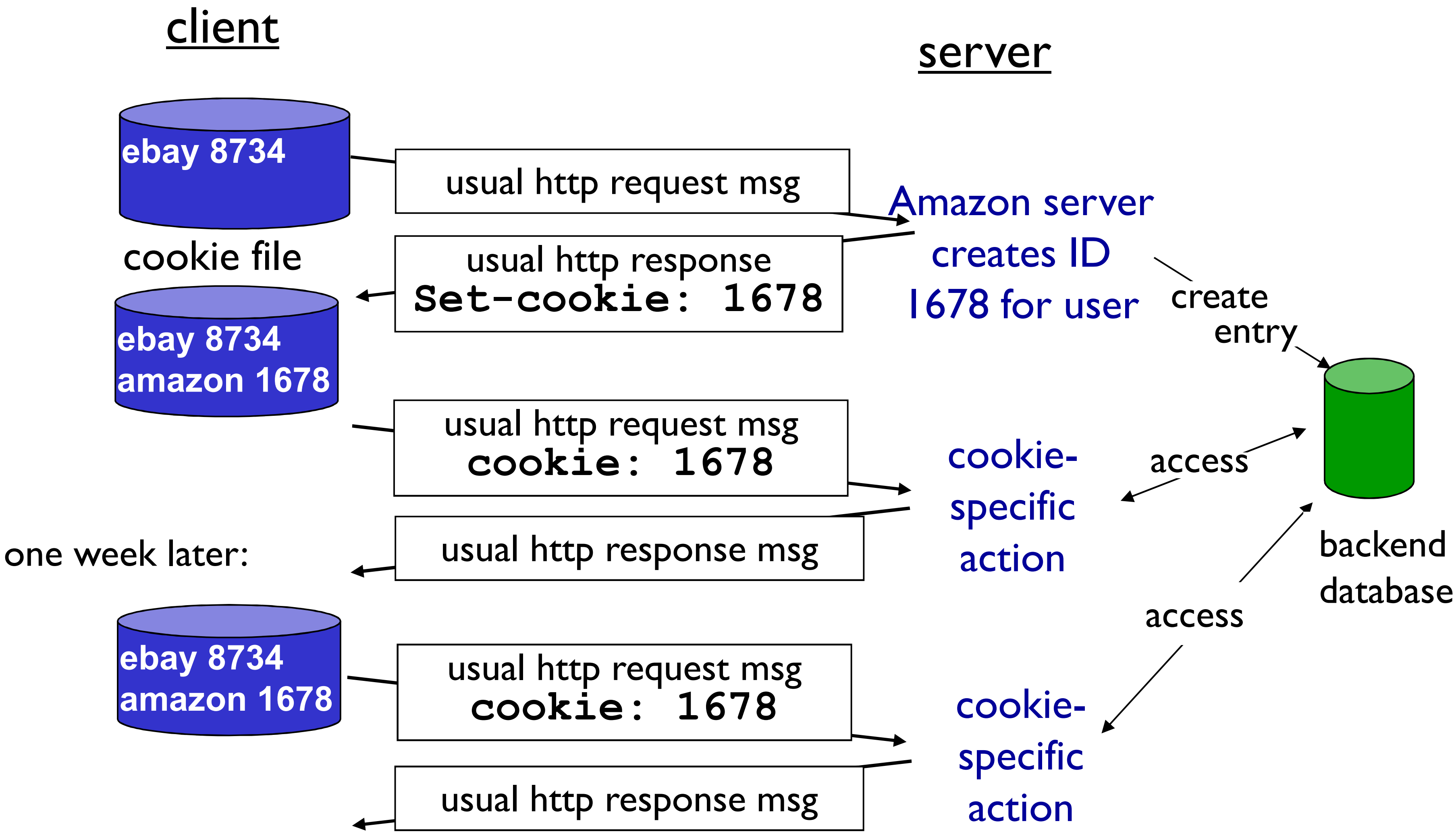
four components:

1) cookie header line of HTTP *response* message
2) cookie header line in HTTP *request* message
3) cookie file kept on user's host, managed by user's browser
4) back-end database at Web site

example:

- Susan always access Internet from PC
- visits specific e-commerce site for first time
- when initial HTTP requests arrives at site, site creates:
  - unique ID
  - entry in backend database for ID

Cookies: keeping "state" (cont.)



Cookies (continued)

what cookies can bring:

- authorization
- shopping carts
- recommendations
- user session state (Web e-mail)

aside

cookies and privacy:

- cookies permit sites to learn a lot about you
- you may supply name and e-mail to sites

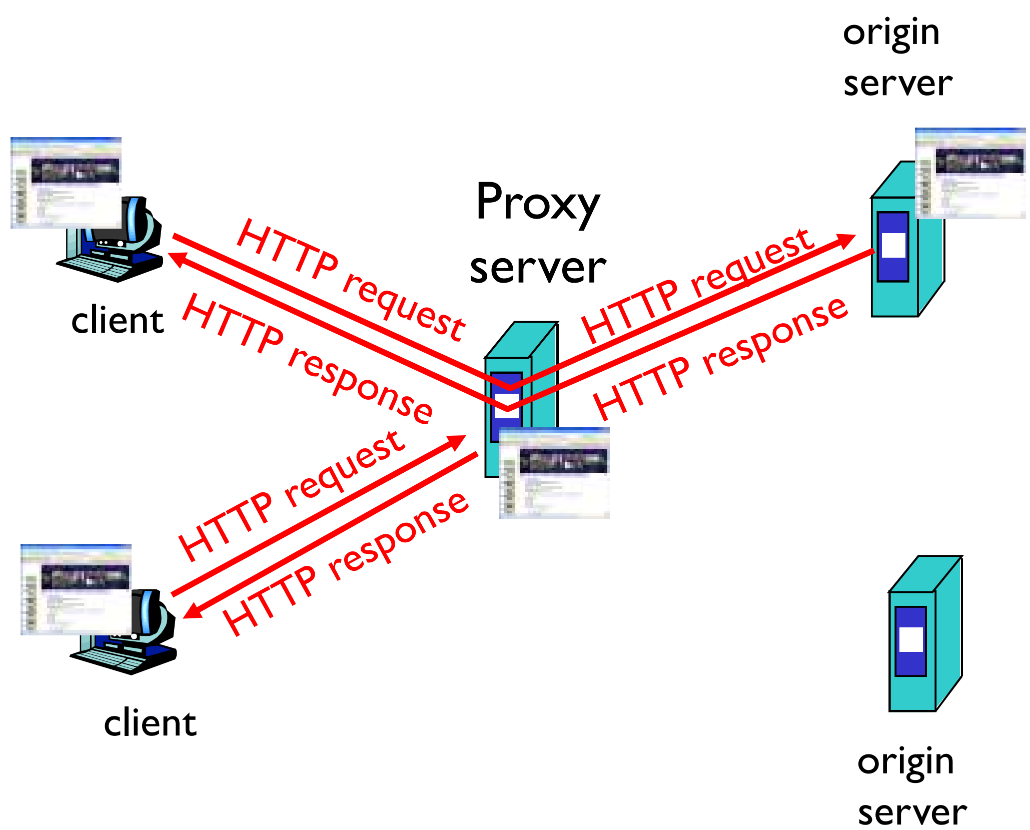
how to keep "state":

- protocol endpoints: maintain state at sender/receiver over multiple transactions
- cookies: http messages carry state

Web caches (proxy server)

Goal: satisfy client request without involving origin server

- user sets browser: Web accesses via cache
- browser sends all HTTP requests to cache
  - object in cache: cache returns object
  - else cache requests object from origin server, then returns object to client



More about Web caching

- cache acts as both client and server
  - server for original requesting client
  - client to origin server
- typically cache is installed by ISP (university, company, residential ISP)

why Web caching?

- reduce response time for client request
- reduce traffic on an institution's access link
- Internet dense with caches: enables "poor" content providers to effectively deliver content (so too does P2P file sharing)

Caching example:

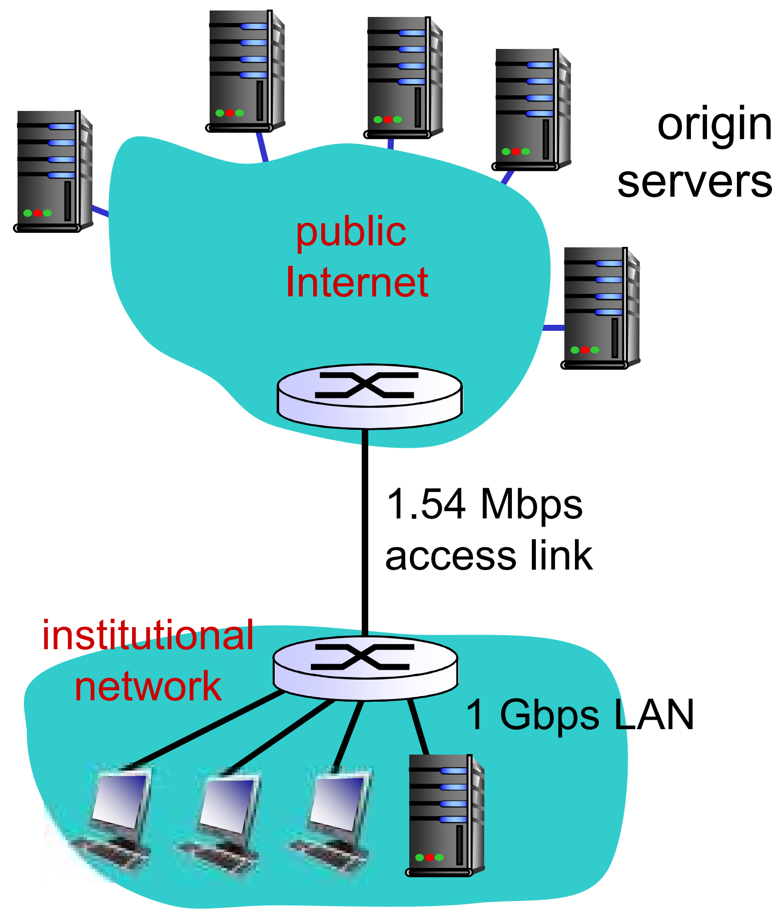
assumptions:

- avg object size: 100K bits
- avg request rate from browsers to origin servers:15/sec
- avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- access link rate: 1.54 Mbps

consequences:

- LAN utilization: 15%
- access link utilization = 99% *problem!*
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

  = 2 sec + minutes + usecs



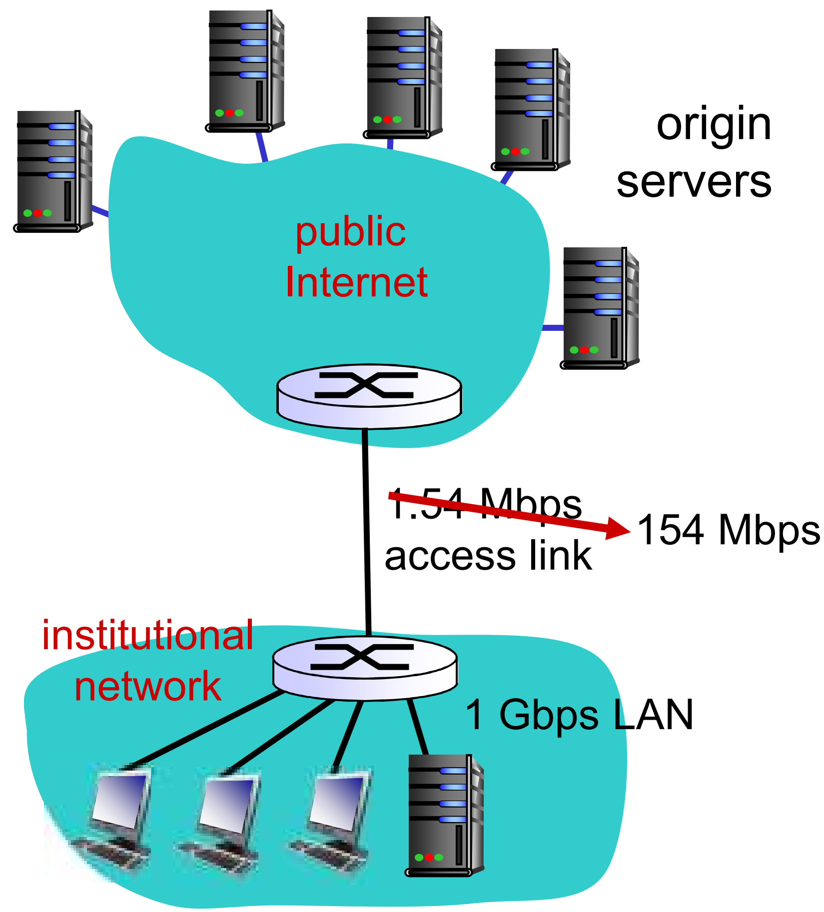
Caching example: fatter access link

assumptions:

- avg object size: 100K bits
- avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
- avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- access link rate: ~~1.54 Mbps~~ 154 Mbps

consequences:

- LAN utilization: 15%
- access link utilization = ~~99%~~ 9.9%
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay
  = 2 sec + ~~minutes~~ msecs + usecs



Cost: increased access link speed (not cheap!)

Caching example: install local cache

assumptions:

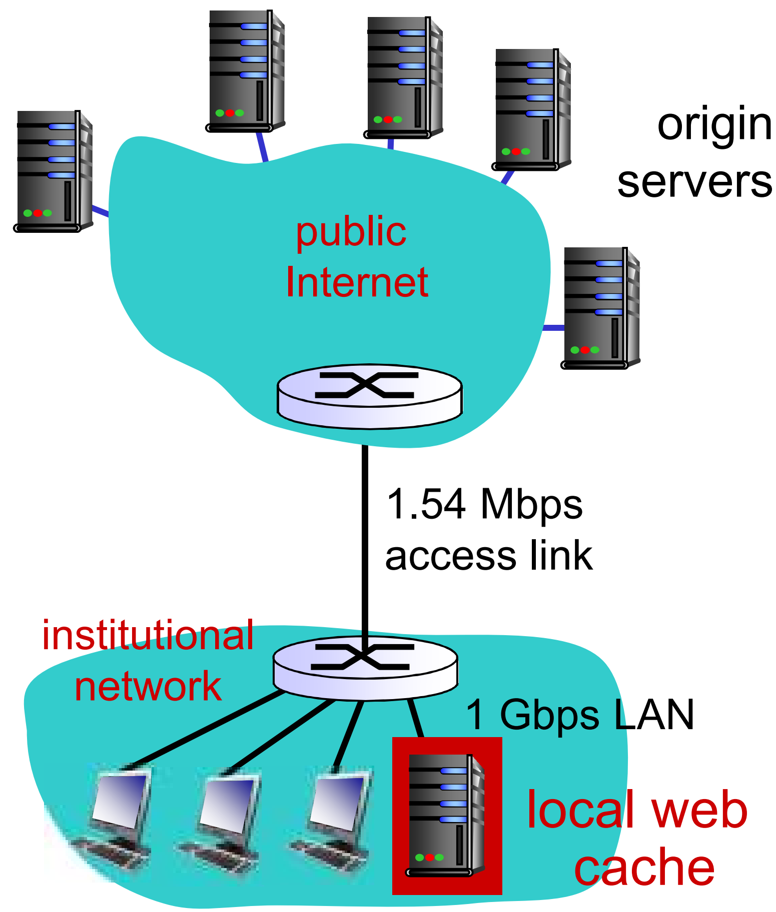
- avg object size: 100K bits
- avg request rate from browsers to origin servers:15/sec
- avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- access link rate: 1.54 Mbps

consequences:

- LAN utilization: 15%
- access link utilization = ?
- total delay = ?

How to compute link utilization, delay?

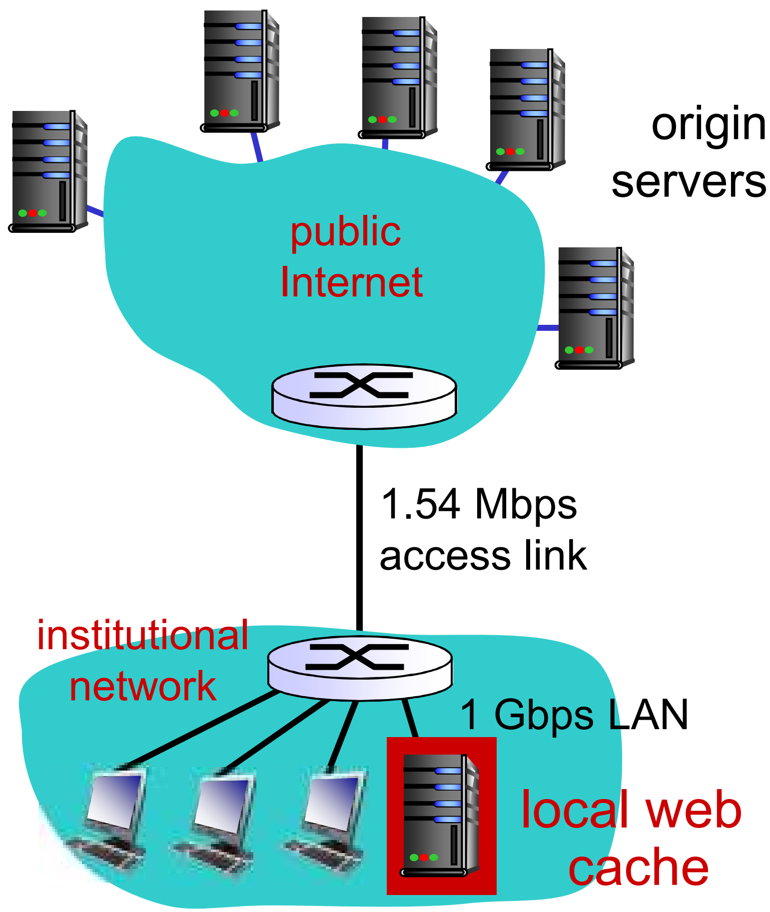
Cost: web cache (cheap!)



Caching example: install local cache

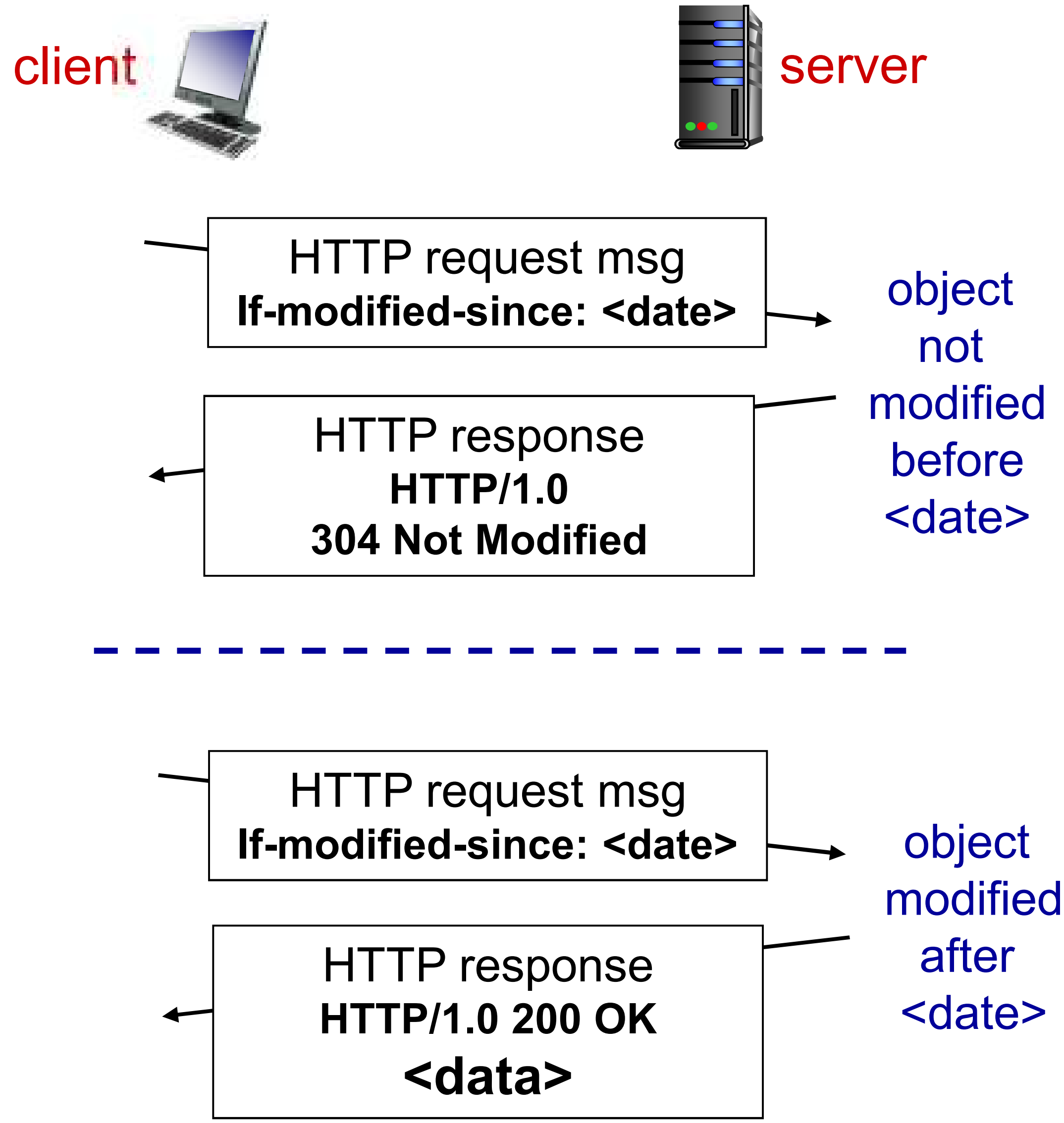
Calculating access link utilization, delay with cache:

- suppose cache hit rate is 0.4
  - 40% requests satisfied at cache, 60% requests satisfied at origin
- access link utilization:
  - 60% of requests use access link
- data rate to browsers over access link = 0.6*1.50 Mbps = .9 Mbps
  - utilization = 0.9/1.54 = .58
- total delay
  - = 0.6 * (delay from origin servers) +0.4 * (delay when satisfied at cache)
  - = 0.6 (2.01) + 0.4 (~msecs)
  - = ~ 1.2 secs
  - less than with 154 Mbps link (and cheaper too!)



Conditional GET

- *Goal:* don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version
  - no object transmission delay
  - lower link utilization
- *cache:* specify date of cached copy in HTTP request
  If-modified-since: <date>
- *server:* response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:
  HTTP/1.0 304 Not Modified



Trying out HTTP Wireshark - part 2

http://wps.pearsoned.com/wps/media/objects/13865/14198700/wiresharkLabs/Wireshark_HTTP_v6.1.pdf

The HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction. Do questions 8-11

Lesson 4: Summary

HTTP has evolved to efficiently support the Web

- web client-server architecture
- Simple client state tracking – cookies
- Web Caching