**Evolution of HTTP**

Invented by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN in the years 1989–1991, HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) is the underlying communication protocol of World Wide Web. **HTTP functions as a request–response protocol in the client–server computing model.** HTTP standards are developed by the [Internet Engineering Task Force](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Engineering_Task_Force) (IETF) and the [World Wide Web Consortium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Web_Consortium) (W3C), culminating in the publication of a series of [Requests for Comments](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Requests_for_Comments) (RFCs). HTTP has four versions — HTTP/0.9, HTTP/1.0, HTTP/1.1, and HTTP/2.0. Today the version in common use is HTTP/1.1 and the future will be HTTP/2.0.

## **HTTP/0.9 — The One-line Protocol**

* Initial version of HTTP — a simple client-server, request-response, telenet-friendly protocol
* Request nature: single-line (method + path for requested document)
* Methods supported: GET only
* Response type: hypertext only
* Connection nature: terminated immediately after the response
* No HTTP headers (cannot transfer other content type files), No status/error codes, No URLs, No versioning

## **HTTP/1.0 — Building extensibility**

* Browser-friendly protocol
* Provided header fields including rich metadata about both request and response (HTTP version number, status code, content type)
* Response: not limited to hypertext (Content-Type header provided ability to transmit files other than plain HTML files — e.g. scripts, stylesheets, media)
* Methods supported: GET , HEAD , POST
* Connection nature: terminated immediately after the response

**HTTP/1.1 — The standardized protocol**

* This is the HTTP version currently in common use.
* Introduced critical performance optimizations and feature enhancements — persistent and pipelined connections, chunked transfers, compression/decompression, content negotiations, virtual hosting (a server with a single IP Address hosting multiple domains), faster response and great bandwidth savings by adding cache support.
* Methods supported: GET , HEAD , POST , PUT , DELETE , TRACE , OPTIONS
* Connection nature: long-lived

HTTP/2.0 –

The HTTP/2 protocol has several prime differences from the HTTP/1.1 version:

* It is a binary protocol rather than text. It can no longer be read and created manually. Despite this hurdle, improved optimization techniques can now be implemented.
* It is a multiplexed protocol. Parallel requests can be handled over the same connection, removing the order and blocking constraints of the HTTP/1.x protocol.
* It compresses headers. As these are often similar among a set of requests, this removes duplication and overhead of data transmitted.
* It allows a server to populate data in a client cache, in advance of it being required, through a mechanism called the server push.