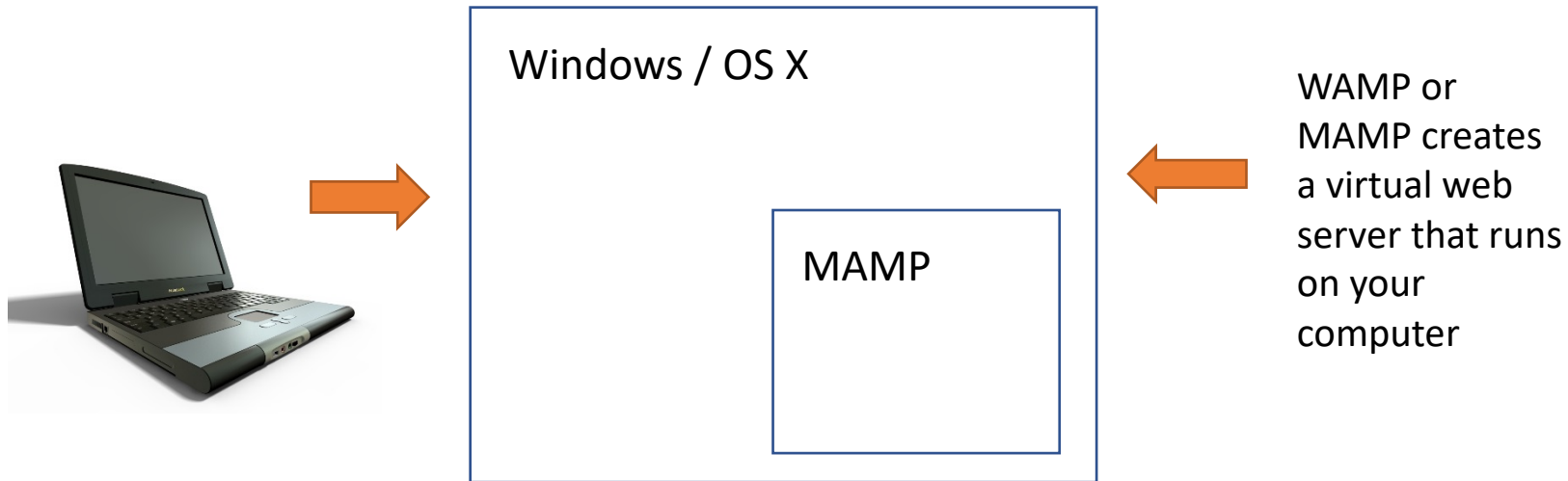# COMP 1950

Day 11

Intro to PHP

Introduction to PHP

Creating a Local Web Server

- A web server is a computer that servers files to client computers that request web site files such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript files

- A local web server means running virtual web server on your local computer such as your PC or your Mac Book.

- A popular programs for running a web server on your computer is:
  - MAMP on Macs and Windows
  - WAMP on WIndows

Windows / OS X

MAMP

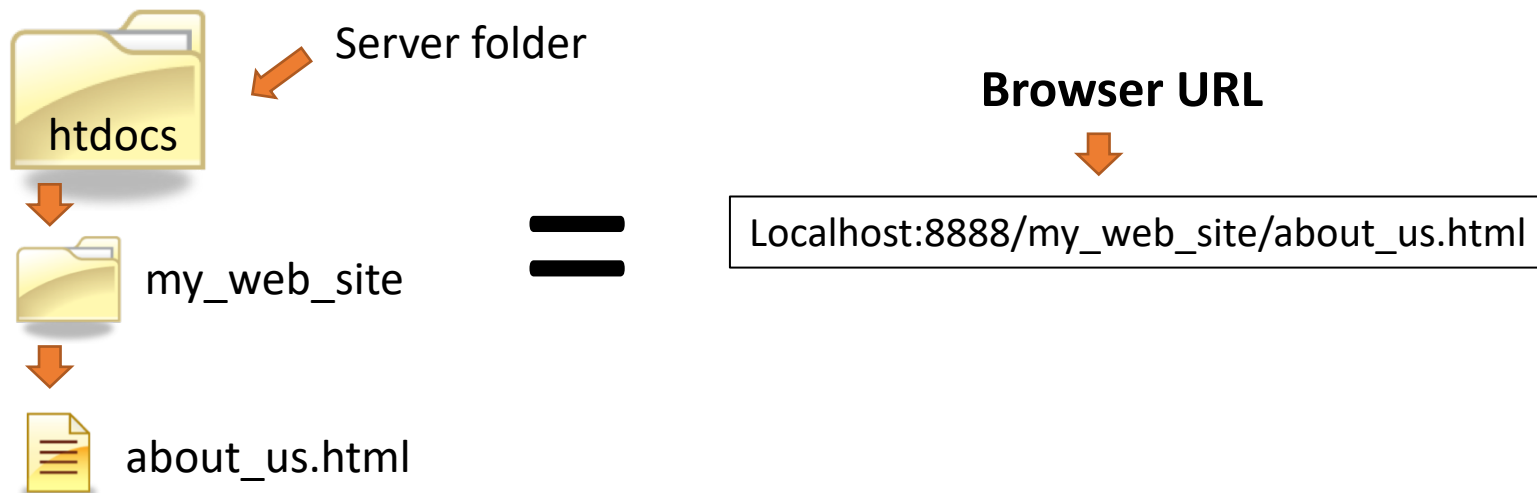WAMP or MAMP creates a virtual web server that runs on your computer

Why Use A Local Web Server

- Simulates how web sites work when they are running on a real web server

- Allows you to develop dynamic web sites using PHP (which WordPress uses) locally without having to deploy to a public web server

- Allows you to develop projects on a more private local web server that is not easily accessible to the general public

Accessing Files on a Local Web Server

- Think of a Local web server as acting similarly to a real web server. You have to place files on the server for them to be accessible

- On a Windows PC the WAMP server stores its files in a folder called "www"

- On a Mac the MAMP server stores web files in a folder that is called "htdocs"

- Files must be placed in these folders in order for them to be accessible to you in the web browser

- To access these files in a browser on a PC you must use the url "localhost" followed by any folder name that the file is stored in, and then file name itself

Server folder

Browser URL

htdocs

my_web_site

= Localhost:8888/my_web_site/about_us.html
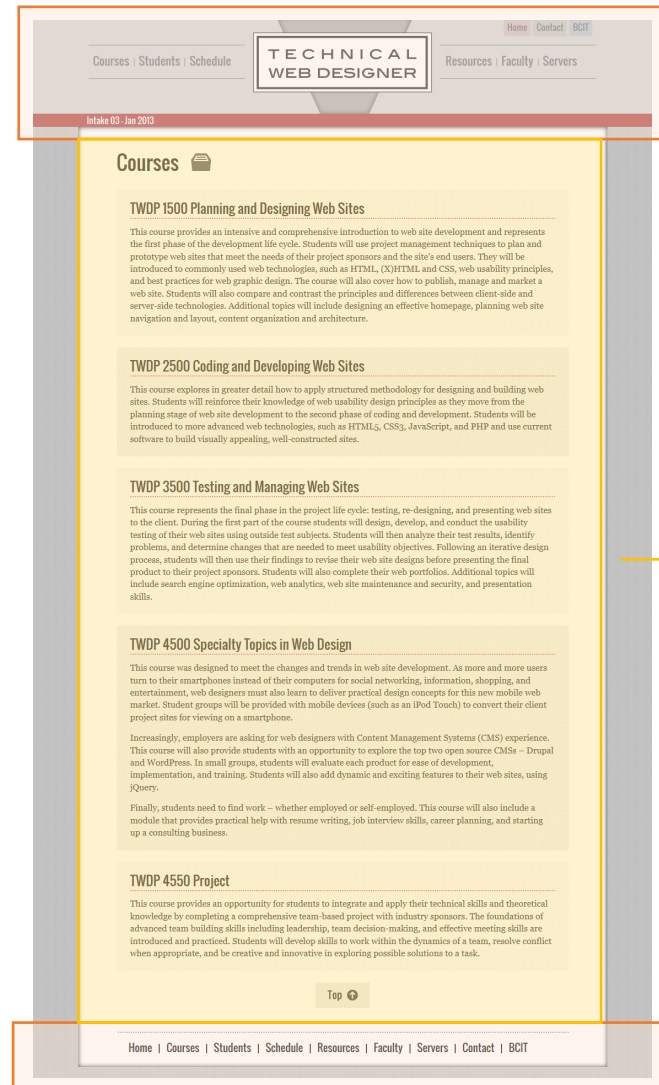
about_us.html

Introduction to PHP

- PHP = PHP Hypertext Pre-Processor

- PHP is a server side language that runs on a web server not on a clients machine
  - This is different to other web languages such as HTML, CSS and JavaScript which are interpreted on client machines

- PHP can be used to construct dynamic web sites that are compiled together on a web server from PHP template files

Dynamic Web Sites with PHP

- One of the uses for PHP is for the creation of dynamic web pages
- Most web sites have pages that have similar areas from page to page such as the header and the footer area
  - Rather than re-build these sections for each page on your web site it is more efficient to create template files once and re-use the code on each page
  - PHP is able to dynamically create HTML files by constructing pages from partial PHP files

Dynamic Web Page Created with PHP

header.php

content area

footer.php

PHP combines these files and html code to create a single web page