LE/EECS4413 B
Building E-commerce Systems
W 2024

Jan 08, 2024 Lecture 1.

1

Acknowledgements

Some of the covered materials is based on the previous EECS4413 offerings from:

- *Hamzeh Roumani*
- *Vincent Chu*
- *Marin Litiou*
- *Alvine Belle*
- *Kostas Kontogiannis.*

2

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2

overview

- course outline (bird's-eye view)
  - what this course is about
- logistics
  - course organization
  - Labs, tests, SMQ, projects..
  - grading scheme, etc.
- introduction to e-commerce system
  - High level view
  - layering principle, internet/web,
  - Client side (review):HTML/CSS/JS

3

The instructor

- Dr. Hui Wang
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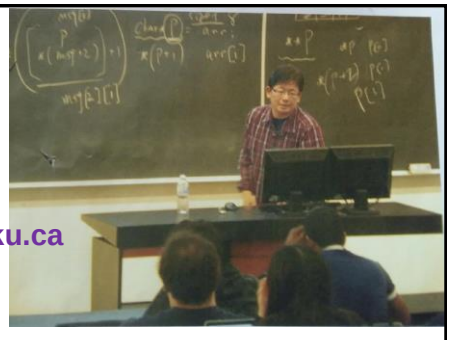
    hui.wang@yorku.ca



Don't leave eClass messages

- Usually teach EECS1012, 2030, 2031, 4413
- Worked as software developer in web applications (ERP)

4

course structure

- **lectures**
  - Sec M (Mondays 8:30-10:30) in LSB107
- **labs**
  - Mondays/Tuesdays 1:30-3:30
    - depends on your enrollment
  - Location: LAS1002
- **office hours**
  - Mondays 10:30 after class
  - Some time in Lab
  - Other time by appointment

5

What is this course about?

- This course will cover basic/advanced topics in the design and implementation of e-commerce applications
  - Typically (distributed) web application
- "Building e-commerce systems" = how to software engineer distributed web software
- We look at trends in web systems and applications, design trade-offs and implementation trade-offs.
- We will use labs and projects to illustrate the main issues

6

Course learning outcomes

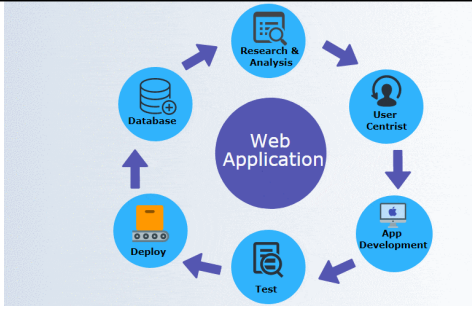
Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to

1. Become familiar with the various components that make up the web app and how these components interact with each other
2. Develop the expertise required to design and implement a whole web application consisting of a session management, database access, and analytics on the server side, and page formatting and interactivity on the client side
3. Develop the skills required to build restful web services that interact with Ajax powered client apps using a variety of transport protocols for data transfer
4. Learn and be able to comply with the best design practices and design patterns to implement a code that is maintainable, scalable, fosters interoperability, and minimizes exploitable vulnerabilities
5. Develop the expertise needed to implement complex applications collaboratively by leveraging abstractions and APIs, naming conventions, documentation, and organization
6. Compare and contrast existing frameworks and approaches and develop an insight into the various forces that are driving the current web trends

7

Course scope

- Software engineering process
  - Requirements
  - **Architecture and Design**
  - **Implementation**
  - Testing
  - Deployment
  - Maintenance and Operations



- We focus on
  - **Architecture and Design**
  - **Implementation**
    - "lower and medium level": Socket, LAMP, Servlet, JSP
- We also touch (but is not the main focus)
  - deployment
  - advanced tools: e.g., Angular, React, Spring boot
- Web systems are distributed software
  - We study many heterogenous components, in different languages (focus on Java) but also PHP, JS/jQuery
  - We study communication patterns among components

8

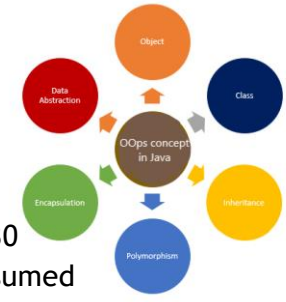
Main topics (tentative)

- Web App Architecture. Preliminary knowledge/Review
  - Client side: HTML, CSS, JavaScript
  - Java (cmd, thread, serialization), UML, design patterns
- Client-Server, low level: socket programming
- Web applications (server side)
  - LAMP/CGI
  - Java Servlets
  - JSP, JavaBean, MVC pattern
  - SQL, Database access: JDBC.
  - More: listeners, filters, Ajax, JSON
- Web (RESTful) services, micro services
- Advanced topics: More design patterns, performance, security
- Other Advanced topics (tutorials):
  Deployments: Docker container, Node JS, React, Angular, Springboot, JPA

9

9

Expected Background knowledge



- Official pre-requisite (only): LE/EECS2030
- Good knowledge of OOP, Core Java is assumed
  - Inheritance, polymorphism, interfaces, abstract classes
  - Collections…
- Familiarity with basic upper networking protocols, socket programming, HTML, CSS,JavaScript, and SQL are helpful/expected but not required (can catch up easily)
- Now, let me know your backgrounds…

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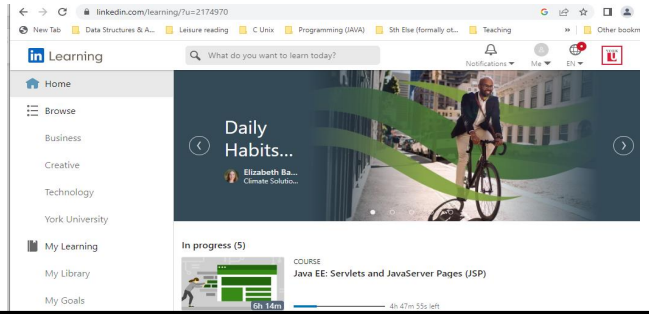
11

11

course resources

- eClass page *****
  - primary means of all communication: course lectures, lab instructions, online quizzes & uploading assignments, announcements & discussion forum, deadlines and evaluation, etc.
- web resources
  - no specific textbooks
  - we will use many web resources
  - Tons of them.. E.g. w3schools, LinkedIn learning



13

Evaluation tentative

- in this journey, you have
  - **7 labs some are graded 12%**
  - **3-4 In-class subject-matter quizzes 10%**
  - **2 lab tests 20-25%**
  - **1 project (in teams of 3 or 4) 25~30%**
  - **final exam 30%**
  - *the dates and further details will be available in the near future*
- letter grade computed using normal YorkU mapping

≥ 90	≥ 80	≥ 75	≥ 70	≥ 65	≥ 60	≥ 55	≥ 50	≥ 40	< 40
A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	E	F

14

labs

- Coding
- About one week to complete
  - "weekly programming assignments"
- Attendance not mandatory, welcome to drop by

In-class subject-matter quizzes

- 3-4 multiple-choice quizzes on 'key' subject material
  - About 15 minutes
  - relevant to the course

labtests

- Programming,
- in lab (with your laptop)

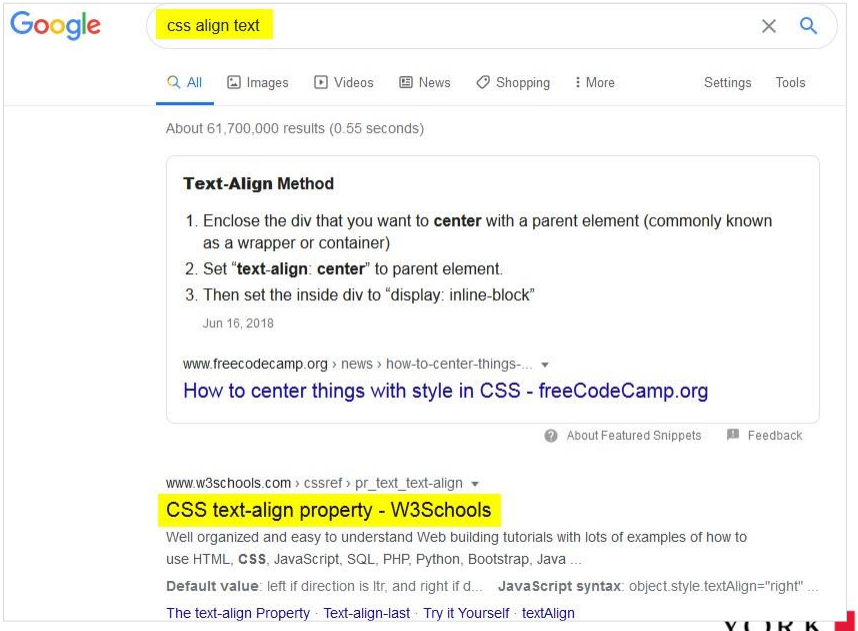
15

what would you need to do well?

- **`passion`,`passion`,`passion`**
  - be interested in solving problems, individually
  - be willing to learn details, individually
  - participate in a productive discussions during lecture, in the course **`forum`** with your peers, TAs, instructors…
- **lectures and labs are limited**
  - **yet, for your deep/advanced learning, sky's is the limit**
  - be curious, read news, try new things, experiment
  - Optional work in labs
- **Project is open to technologies**

20

also, look it up



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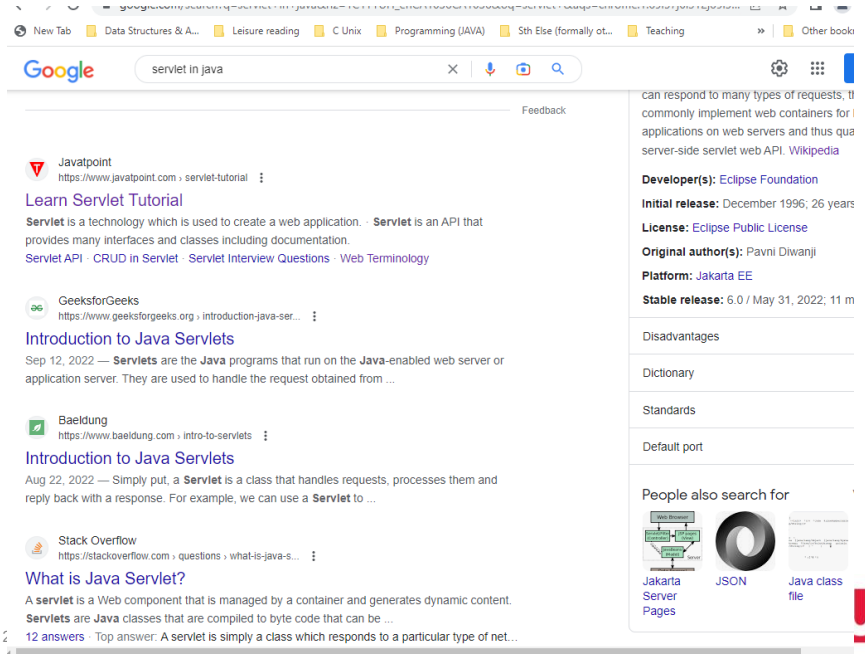

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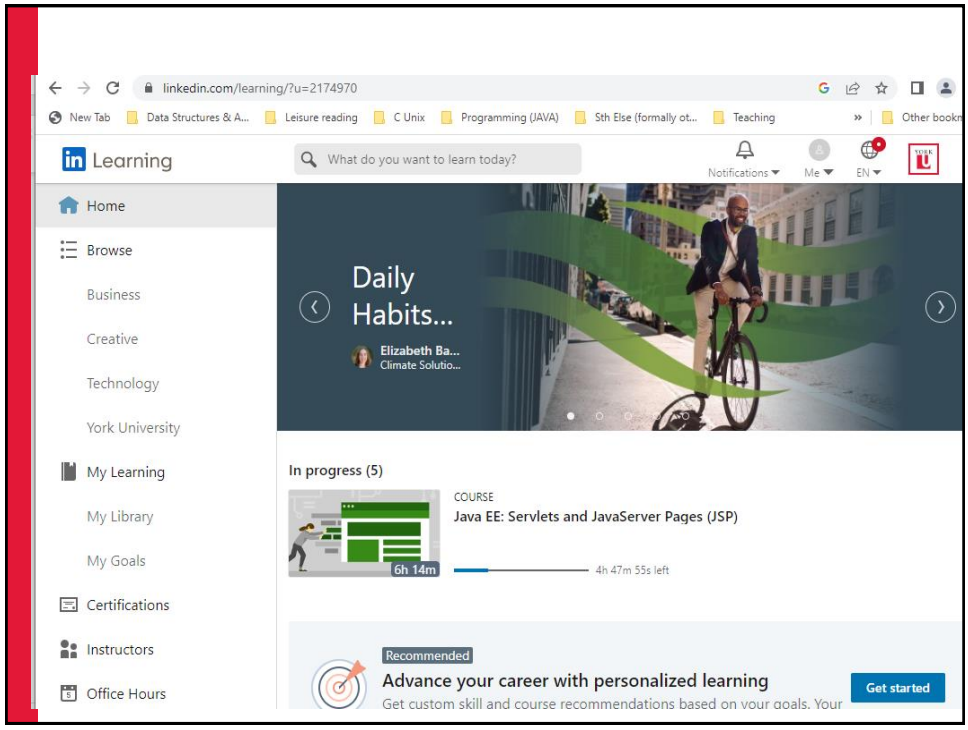

25

Useful suggestions

- Come to the lectures
- Watch videos, read the lecture notes!
  - Videos, Notes will be finalized shortly after class
- Do the labs on your own!
  - Discussion allowed only for labs. Not for others
  - Discussion != collaboration != sharing solutions

- Don't be shy to ask for help
  - come to the lab session, office hour
  - eClass forum
  - email me (specify "EECS4413")

- Practice, practice, and practice!

26

26

Academic Integrity

- Honesty, originality and academic integrity matters to us.
- Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated!
- Read https://lassonde.yorku.ca/academic-integrity for the consequences. Read slides on eClass

- Weekly labs: discussion 
  - Discussion != sharing solutions
- SMQ, tests, exam:
  - Discussion not allowed 

29

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29

- Any questions so far?

30

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30

now let's move on to concepts related to e-commerce web application design

31

Agenda

- What is E-commerce?
- What are the typical features of E-commerce systems?
- What are the challenges facing E-commerce system?
- What is the typical architecture of an E-commerce system?
- Which technologies can be used to develop E-commerce systems?

32

What is e-commerce?

- E-Commerce started in the 1960s
- It has quickly evolved especially with the emergence of smartphones
- It is also called e-Business or electronic business
- Watch this video to find out more.
- Read this article

Source: https://www.techtarget.com/searchcio/definition/e-commerce

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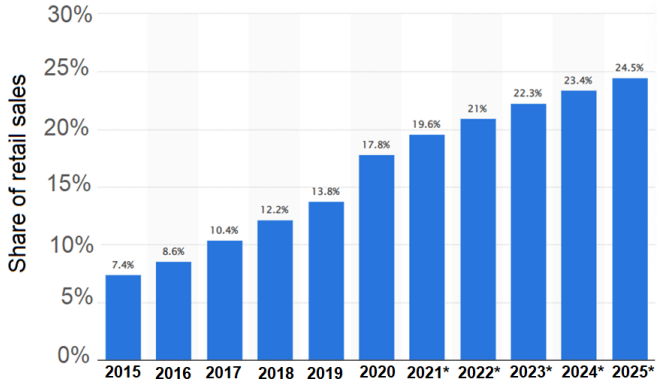
33

E-commerce worldwide sales/projections: 2015 to 2025

In 2022, E-commerce sales are expected to represent 21% of the total retail sales worldwide.



Source: https://www.statista.com/statistics/534123/e-commerce-share-of-retail-sales-worldwide/

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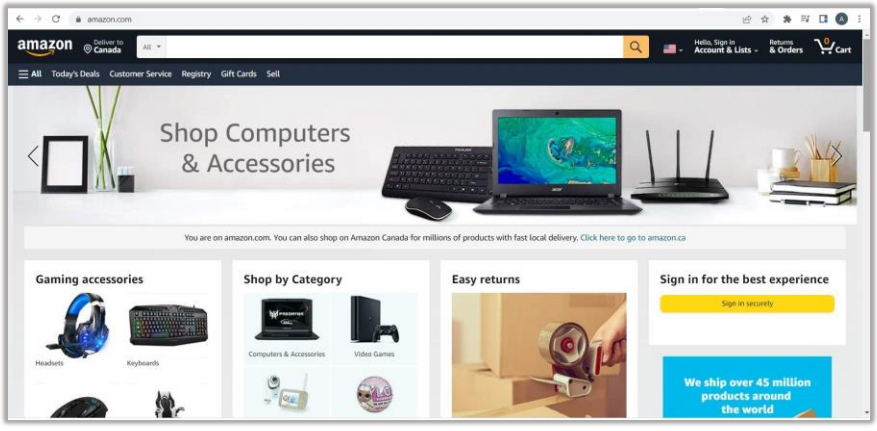
34

Are you familiar with Amazon.com?



Source: amazon.com

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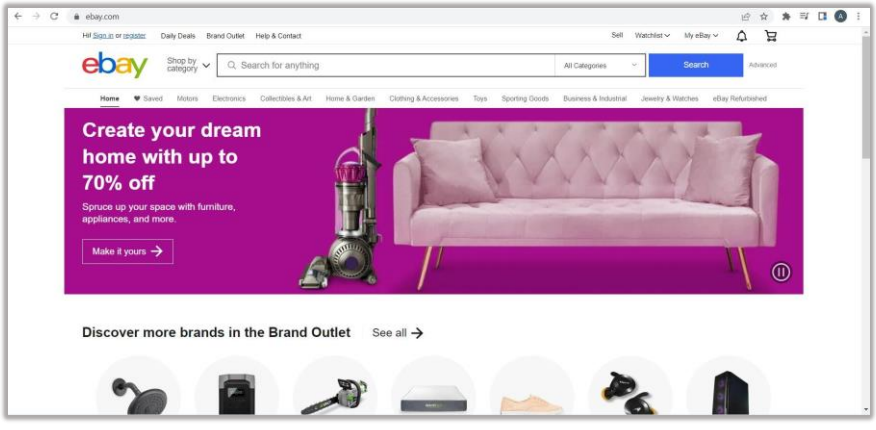
Are you familiar with ebay.com?



Source: ebay.com

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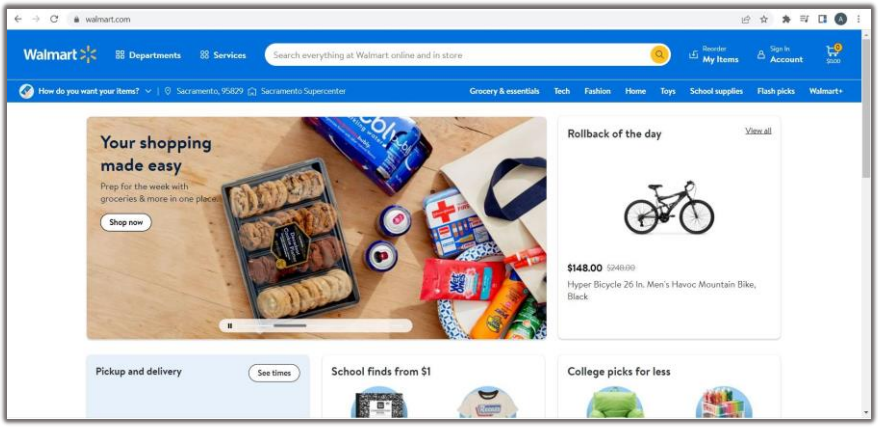
Are you familiar with walmart.com?



Source: Walmart.com

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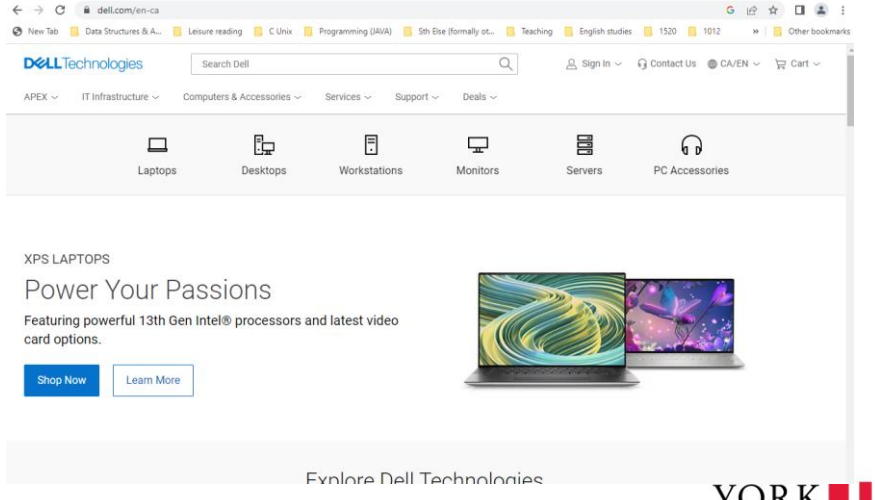
Are you familiar with dell.ca?



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38

Exercise (3-5 mins)

Browse the following e-commerce sites: **amazon.com**, **walmart.ca**, and **ebay.com** and **dell.ca**.

- What are the five common functions (or use cases) of these sites?
- Are there any features that seem to miss from these e-commerce sites?
- Can you name three common technologies (e.g., languages, protocols) used on these sites?
- How do these sites proceed to accommodate several users simultaneously?
- How do these sites proceed to achieve security and availability?
- Which of them supports the most effective search strategy?

9

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39

E-commerce systems

- Also called web systems.
- An E-commerce system is a website that allows accessing an online store to browse, purchase or sell tangible goods, digital products or services.
- By involving the electronical transfer of data and funds between two or more parties, E-commerce systems support online shopping.
  - No need to go anywhere physically: with just a few clicks, you can shop anything from anywhere (e.g., living room), anytime.
  - You just need a device connected to the Internet.

10

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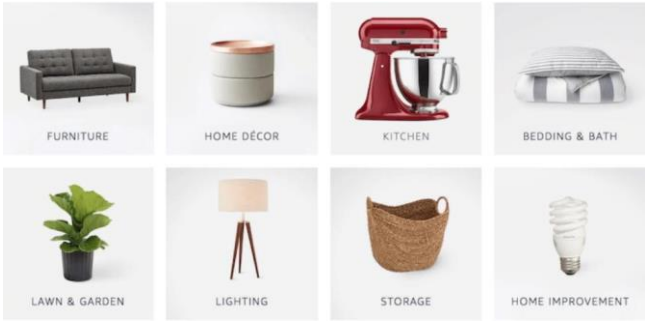
40

E-commerce systems: the word closer to your door…



You can find a variety of products on e-commerce websites: clothes, cars, gardening materials, food, etc.

11

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41

Examples of e-commerce systems

- Best Buy
- Amazon
- Dell
- Adidas
- Chewy
- Alibaba
- eBay
- Etsy
- Overstock

- Home Depot
- Bricks
- Costco
- Macy's
- Newegg
- Rakuten
- Walmart Marketplace
- Wayfair
- Craiglist
- ….
- ….

12

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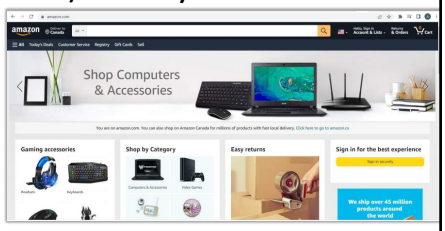
42

Main functionality of e-commerce systems

Their core functionality (client view) usually include:



- User management
- Catalog of products, information
- Online transactions
- Checkout/payment (e.g., Credit card, PayPal)
- Shipping product/delivery of service
- Mobile-friendliness
- Multi-media
- Live chat
- Social network support (e.g., forums, discussion groups)
- Analytics/promotion (e.g., recommender systems).

13

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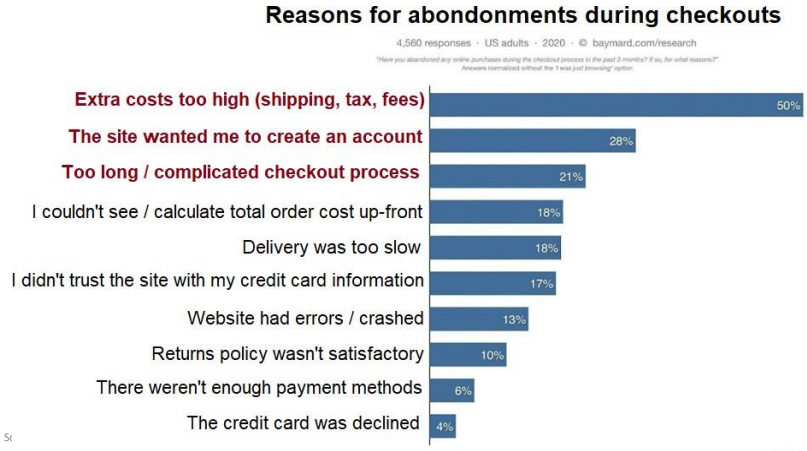
43

Common functionality: watch out!



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44

Types of e-commerce

B2B
Business to business
Businesses sell products or services to other businesses, such as through an online directory or product website.

B2C
Business to consumer
Businesses sell products or services to non-business customers, such as in an online retail store.

C2C
Consumer to consumer
Consumers sell products or services to other consumers, such as on eBay and Craigslist.

C2B
Consumer to business
Consumers sell products or services to businesses. For example, Google AdSense and influencer marketing services enable bloggers and other web content providers to sell advertising space to businesses.

B2A
Business to administration
Businesses conduct transactions with public administration or government bodies, such as an ammunition manufacturer selling to U.S. Army.

C2A
Consumer to administration
Consumers conduct transactions with public administration or government bodies, such as filing taxes.

Source: https://www.techtarget.com/searchcio/definition/e-commerce

15

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45

E-commerce: the good, the bad and …the shopping cart

+ 24/7 Availability
+ Access to a larger (international) market
+ Speed (no waiting line)
+ Less expensive
+ Product customization/recommendations
+ Access to detailed product information
+ Ease the retargeting/remarketing of customers
+ Easy access (you don't get lost in the wrong street when trying to find the online store)
+ Etc.

- Relative lack of customer service
- Need to wait days to receive the ordered product(s)
- Security issues (e.g., hacking)
- Websites crashes
- Need to have an internet connection
- **Not possible to try before buying**
- Complexity in taxation, and regulation.

16

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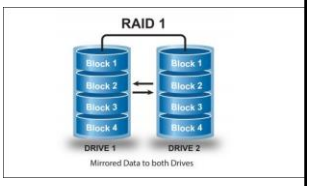
46

Challenges in developing e-commerce systems

- **Speed and performance**: load time should be significantly low
- **Scalability:** need to develop a highly scalable website that remains efficient when the number of users and resources increases significantly
- **Security**: need to protect sensitive information
  - Confidentiality (against disclosure),
  - Integrity, data persistence (against alteration)
  - availability (against interference, such as DOS)



- **Failure tolerance**: if a part of the system fails, the system should still function
  - Recovery from failures: the software should be able to "roll-back" to a stable and know state
  - Redundancy: services can tolerate failures by suing redundant components; most web applications run on clusters

23

47

Challenges in developing e-commerce systems

- **Distribution**: need to handle distributed software that is heterogeneous
  - software made of multiple components running on different computers in different geographic areas
  - Distributed software uses many architecture patterns, not encountered in monolithic applications
    - Client server, multi-tier, distributed MVC, P2P ..
  - Distributed software is heterogeneous: computers, networks, protocols, data, programming languages, operating systems
    - Middlewares hide the heterogeneity of the underlying software and hardware: web and http, web services
    - Communication protocols are as important as components, hence the importance of HTTP/REST/JSON/XML

23

48

Agenda

- What is E-commerce?
- What are the typical features of E-commerce systems?
- What are the challenges facing E-commerce system?

- **What is the typical architecture of an E-commerce system?**
- **Which technologies can be used to develop E-commerce systems?**

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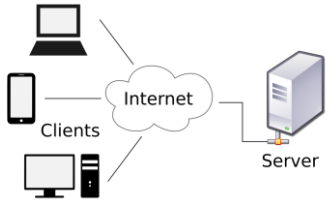
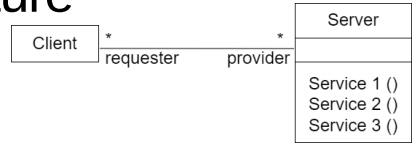
49

Client/Server architecture





A Client/Server architecture follows a Client/Server model:

- Also known as host, a **Client** is usually a device (e.g., computer, laptop, workstation), that needs to access a service or some information.
- A **Server** can be a physical device (e.g., a rack server, a virtual server) that can provide access to the data and services that the client needs.

A Client/Server architecture consists of a network application:

- It divides tasks and workloads between clients and servers that reside on the same system or are linked by a computer network.

17

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Users only interact with the client. Client calls on the Server, which performs some service and returns the result -- usually immediately

50

Traditional architecture of a web/E-commerce system

The traditional architecture of E-commerce system is an ***n-tier*** architecture and usually a tree-tier architecture.

- **The presentation (client) tier**: is the part that is presented to the customer. It consists of the user interface and communication layer of the architecture.
  - The customer uses it to interact with the website on the frontend, and the application collects data and processes requests from the backend.
- **The business tier**: it is the central part of the application. It uses business logic, a specific set of business rules, to collect and process information.
  - It is also able to add/delete/change information in the data tier.
- **The data tier**: third tier allowing to persist data and process requests. That data may be stored using a relational database.

18

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51

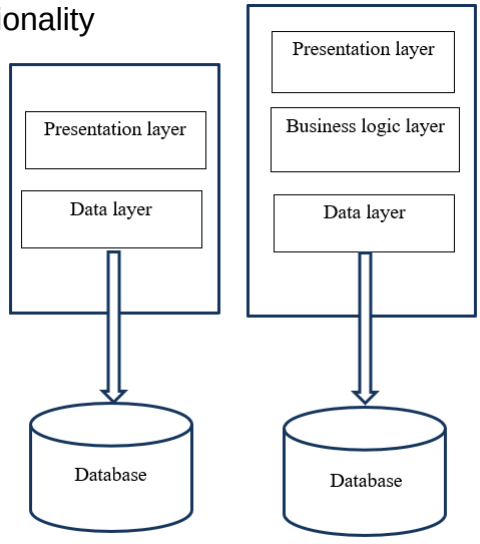
principle of layering

- dividing the application to 2+ groups/tiers/classes
  - that are functionally or logically related
  - conquering separately
- such that
  - each layer demonstrates (max) cohesion
  - dependency among classes is minimized
- **advantages:**
  - modularity, maintainability, reusability
- **disadvantages:**
  - reduced performance (some aspects)

52

2-3 layer architecture

- simple application functionality



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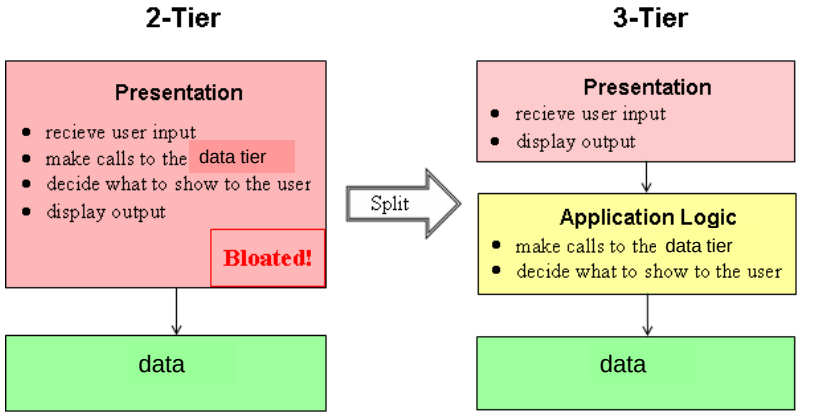

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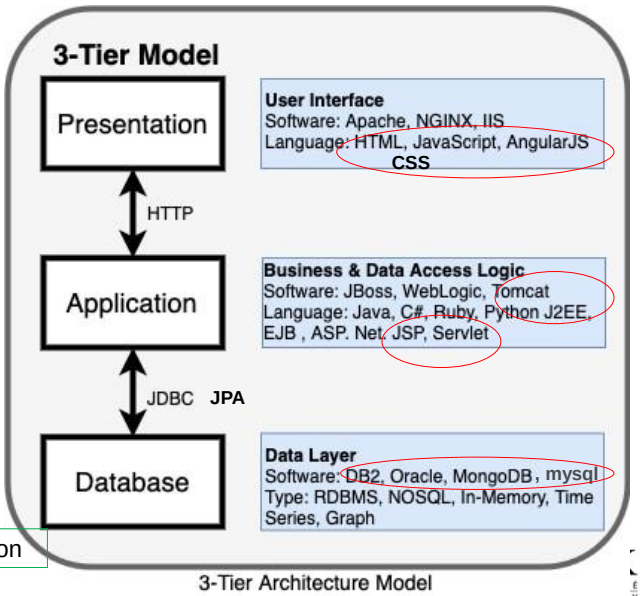
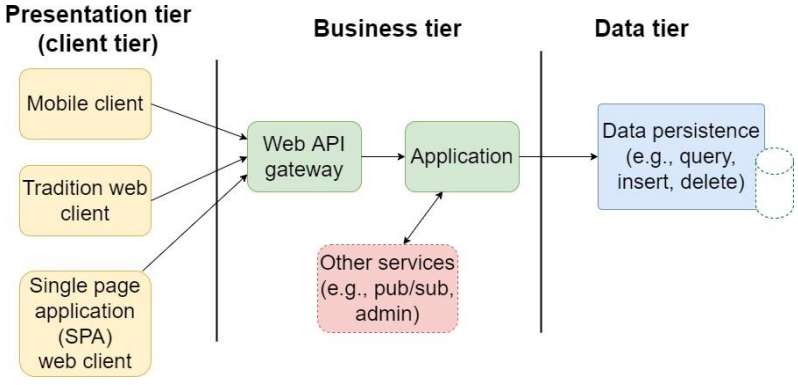


For your information

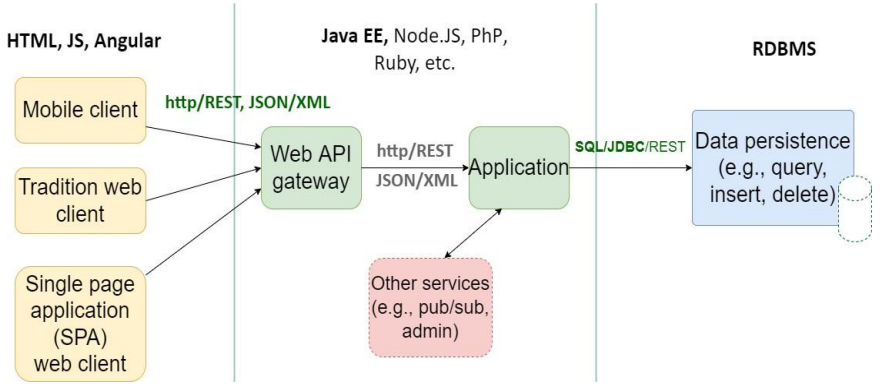
3-Tier Architecture Model

Traditional architecture of a web/E-commerce system: a three-tier client/server architecture (1/2)



Picture adapted from the slides of Prof. Marin Litoiu

Traditional architecture of a web/E-commerce system: a three-tier client/server architecture (2/2)



Picture adapted from the slides of Prof. Marin Litoiu

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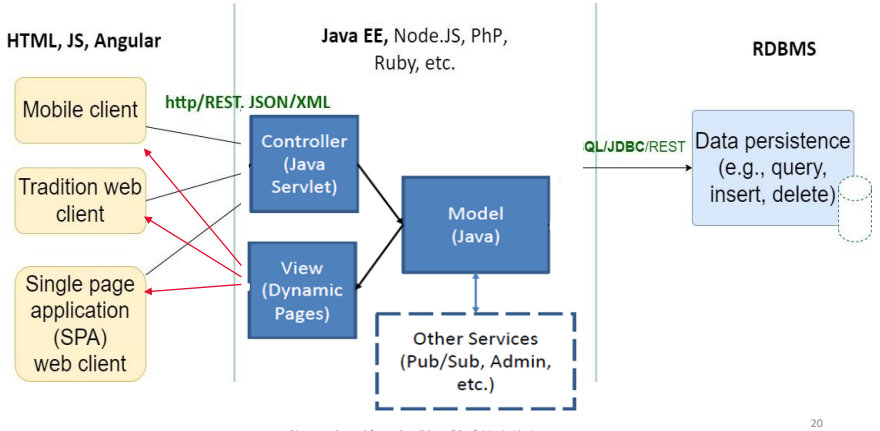
Traditional architecture of a web/E-commerce system: a three-tier client/server architecture, MVC pattern



Picture adapted from the slides of Prof. Marin Litoiu

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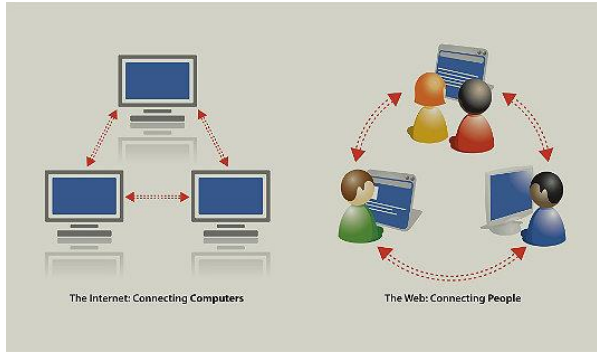
internet & services

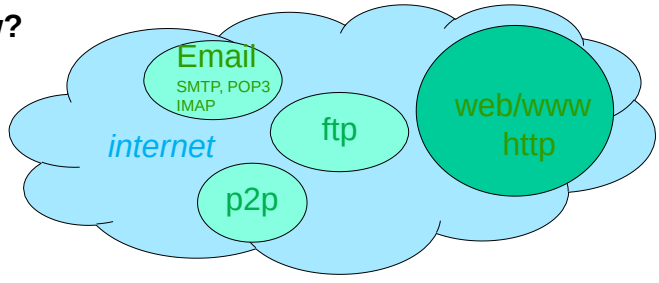
internet = www?

www ≠ internet
Internet: infrastructure
www: one of the services on internet

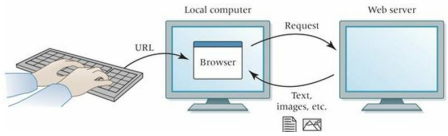


internet & services

internet = www?



www = web



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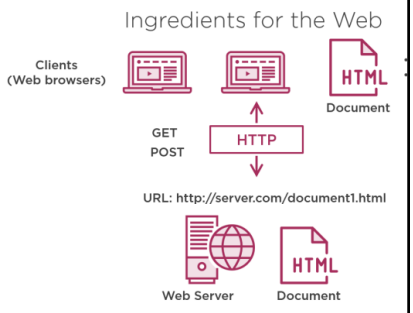

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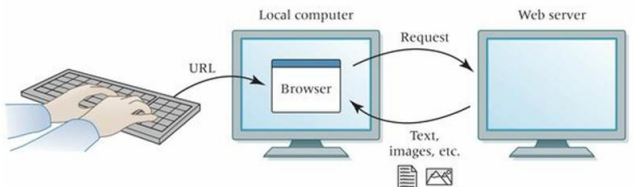

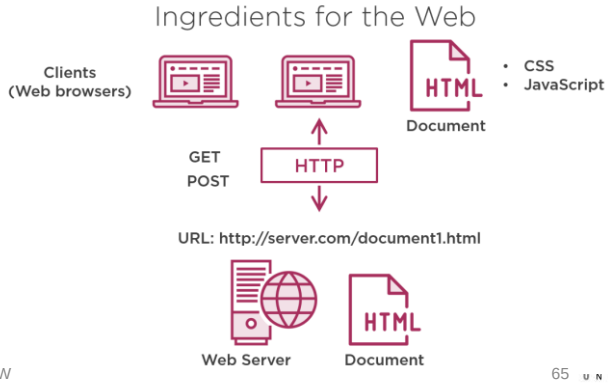

65

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

- Uniquely identifies any resource (e.g., file) on the Internet
- A combination of protocol, domain, and file path

- Example:

http://www.eecs.yorku.ca/courses/4413/Course_Outline.html

  - **Protocol:** http (see the next set slides on WWW)
  - **(top level) Domain:** www.eecs.yorku.ca (translated to 130.63.236.137)
  - **File path:** /courses/4413/Course_Outline.html

66

Some useful technologies: what is an URL? (1/2)

A **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator) is a type of **URI** (Uniform Resource identifier).

Also called **web address**, a URL specifies the address of a specific website, a web page, or a document on the web and the protocol (e.g., http, https, ftp) used to access it:

- To visit the Yorku website, you will go to this URL: http://yorku.ca/index.html.
- To send an email, you can use this URL: mailto:joe@foo.com
- To use a file transfer protocol, you can use this URL: ftp://ftp.donloadme.com/movie.exe .

Using a well-formed URL yields several advantages:

- Better user experience, improved rankings (e.g., resource visibility on the web), links, tracking in analytics.

25

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67

Some useful technologies: what is an URL? (2/2)

URL syntax:

scheme://subdomain.domain-name.domain-extension/path-to-resource?parameters

- **Scheme**: it specifies the email provider (e.g., **mailto**), standard protocol for transferring computer files (e.g., **ftp**), a protocol (e.g., **http** or **https**) used to access the resource
- **The colon** (:) **and two forward slashes** (//): used to separate the scheme from the rest of the URL
- **Sub-domain** (optional): consists of any words or phrases that come before a URL's first dot (e.g., **www**)
- **Domain name (hostname)**: it usually consists of a name specifying the location where a resource (e.g., a website) is located
- **Domain extension**: it is the bit following a website name (e.g., **.com**, **.org**, **.ca**, **.net**)
- **Path-to-resource** : reference to the folder structure of the website.
- **Parameters**: they are query strings or URL variables. They're the portion of a URL following a question mark (?). They can be used for several purposes (e.g., searching, filtering, translating).

https://webapp.eecs.yorku.ca/ltcloud?id=123

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68

Some useful technologies: web browsers

Also known as browser, a **web browser** is a program that provides an interface that allows finding, accessing, displaying, and viewing websites.

It retrieves information from various resources on the web and allows displaying that information to the user.

That information is transferred thanks to **HTTP**, which specifies how text, images and videos are transmitted on the web.

Double clicking a browser (e.g., Chrome) icon installed on a computer launches that browser and allows searching that browser or typing a URL into its address bar.

- A browser also allows e-mailing, transferring files, using social media sites, and participating in online discussion groups, etc.

27

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69

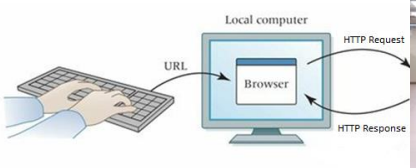
Some useful technologies: web servers

The web server stores web content (e.g., websites or information).

A user can request some of that content by using a browser, which is installed on the user's device (e.g., computer). That browser allows the user to visualize the requested web content.

Main technologies allowing to transfer information on the web, from servers to clients (computers of users):

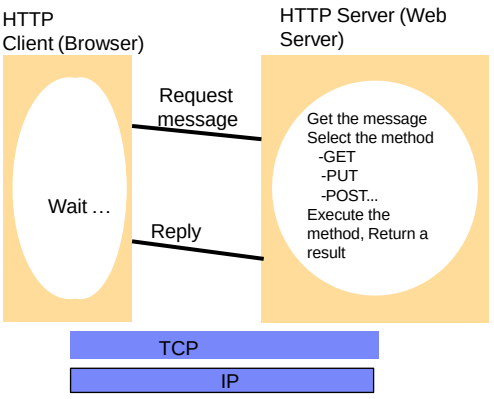
- **HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)**
- **HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) / HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure)**
- Web browsers.



70

Some useful technologies: HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol)

- **Client sends a message (request); the server responds with another message (reply)**
- **The message includes the method name, the arguments, the results of the method and how data is represented**
- **http/1.0 was connectionless**
  - The server closes its connection, release its resources after first request
- **http/1.1 connection-oriented**
  - The server keeps the connection open; subsequent requests from the same client are served faster
- **http/2.0**: partially adopted
- **http/3**-in progress



- **The server listens (usually) on port 80**
- **The messages are delivered through the underlying TCP/IP protocol.**

71

Some useful technologies: HTTP request and reply messages

	Method	URL or Pathname	HTTP version	Headers	Message body
Request	GET	https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/	HTTP/ 1.1		

	HTTP version	Status code	Reason	Headers	Message body
Response	HTTP/ 1.1	200	OK		Resource data

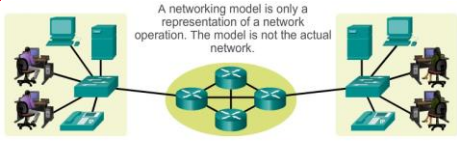
Methods

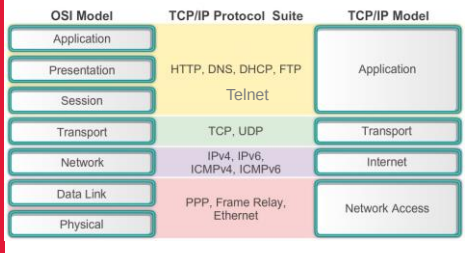
GET: requests a resource whose URL (locator) follows
POST: specify the URL of a resource that can process the data (used for forms, when you send user data to the server
HEAD: Identical to GET, does not return data, but info about the data (size, type, etc..)
PUT: store the data to the URL specified
DELETE: deletes the resource specified
TRACE: the server sends back the request message; used for diagnostic
OPTIONS: the server sends back the methods it supports and its special requirements
CONNECT: establishes a connection client server
PATCH: update the state of the server based on the request data

revisit

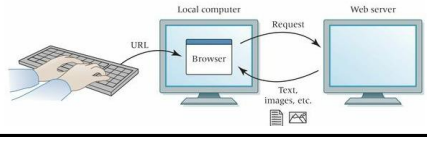
72

Under the hood – network layers





Web server A computer set up to respond to requests for web pages



HTTP over TCP/IP

1. Reformat the URL entered as a valid HTTP request message.
   - If the server is specified using a host name (rather than an IP address), use DNS to convert this name to the appropriate IP address.
2. **Establish a TCP connection using the IP address of the specified web server.**
3. Send the HTTP request over the TCP connection and wait for the server's response.
4. Display the document contained in the response. If the document is not a plain-text document but instead is written in a language such as HTML, this involves *rendering* the document

73

Under the hood – network layers

HTTP over TCP/IP

Network Models

TCP/IP MODEL	OSI MODEL	PROTOCOLS
Application Layer	Application Layer	FTP,HTTP,Telnet
	Presentation Layer	JPEG,MPEG
	Session Layer	NFS,SQL,PAP
Transport Layer	Transport Layer	TCP,UDP
Network Layer	Network Layer	IPv4,IPv6
Network Access Layer	Data Link Layer	ARP,CDP,STP
	Physical Layer	Ethernet,Wi-Fi

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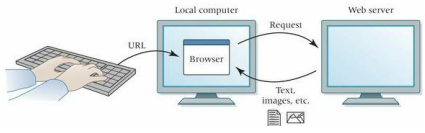

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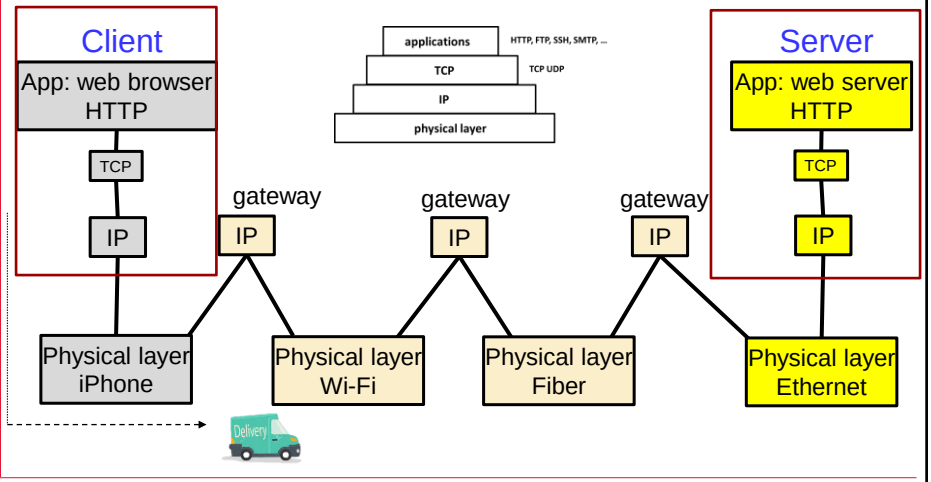
74

Information flow via TCP/IP



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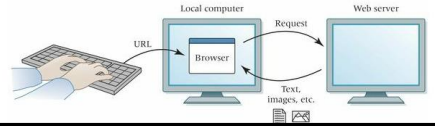
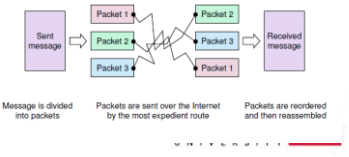


Internet



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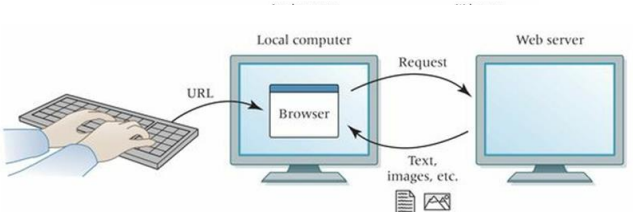
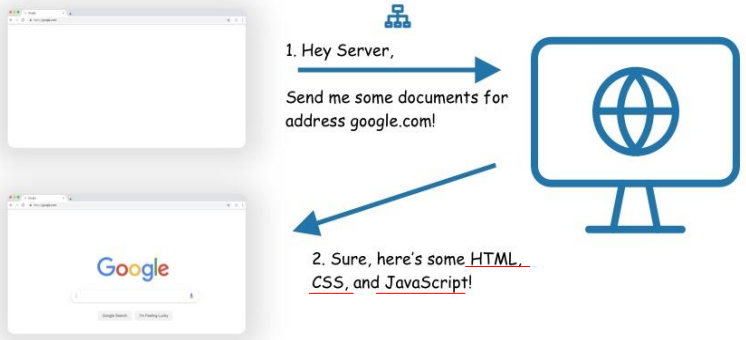
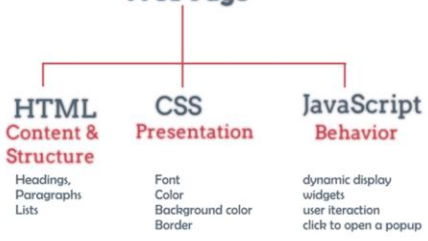


The "Explain It Like I'm 5" version of how web browsers work



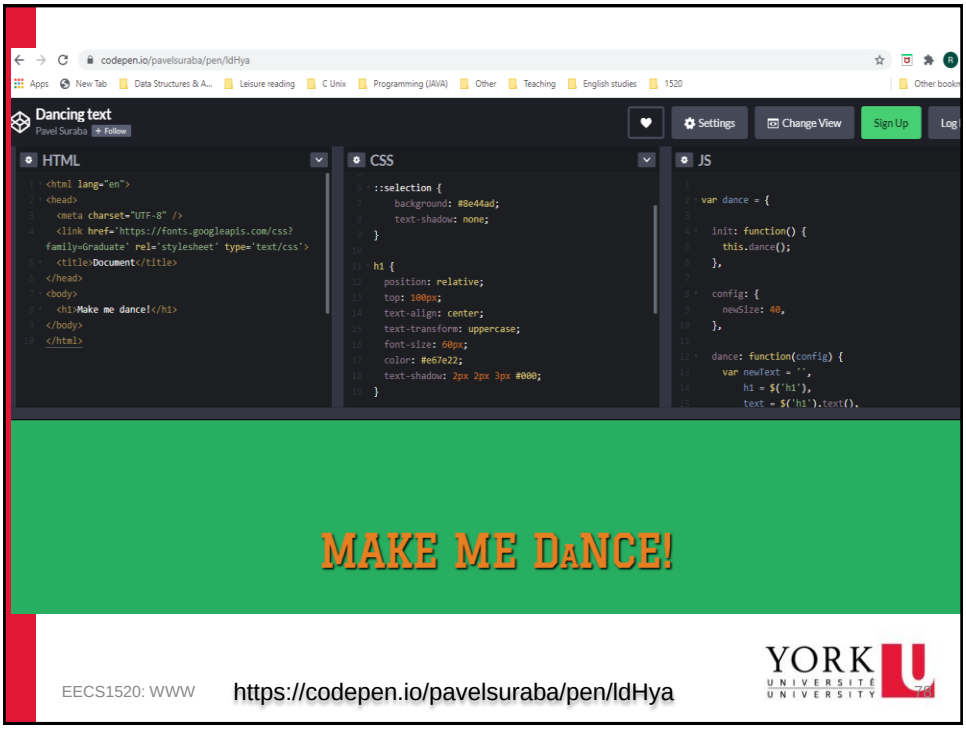
76

Web Page



	HTML	CSS	JS
Language	**HTML**	**CSS**	**Javascript**
Purpose	Structure, Objects, Things	Looks, Style	Actions
Syntax	<p> <h1> 	P {color: red;}	var x = 5;
Grammar	nouns	adjectives	verbs
Building	Walls, structure	Paint, curtains	Electrical, Plumbing, AC

77



78

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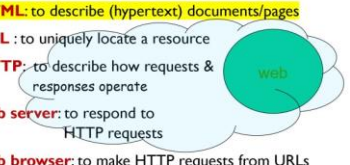

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We start with (review) of client side

- HTML
- CSS
- JavaScript

79