

Model of HTTP (Client)

- Location for HTTP spec:

<http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1945.html> (HTTP/1.0)

<http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc2616.html> (HTTP/1.1)

<http://www.w3.org/w9cdrom/60/60.html> (HTTP Next Generation)

- Clients:

- Send requests to servers (or caches)

- ▶ GET `http://java.csie HTTP/1.1`

- GET can be replaced by POST

- ▶ Headers ... (e.g.)(date)

- Content-Type: text/html

- Cache-Control: max-age=0

- ▶ (blank line)

- ▶ Data...

Model of HTTP (Server)

- Servers:

- Respond to the clients (or caches)
 - ▶ HTTP/1.1 200 OK (Status)
 - ▶ Headers ... (e.g.)(date)
 - Content-Type: text/html
 - If-Modified-Since: (date)
 - ▶ (blank line)
 - ▶ Data...

Get and Post

● Get:

GET `http://java.csie/test.cgi?a=b&c=d` HTTP/1.1

- Parameters in URL.
- No data content
- The corresponding form of HTML files

```
<form method="GET" action="test.cgi">
```

● Post:

POST `http://java.csie/test.cgi` HTTP/1.1

- Parameters `a=b&c=d` in Data Content.
- The corresponding form of HTML files

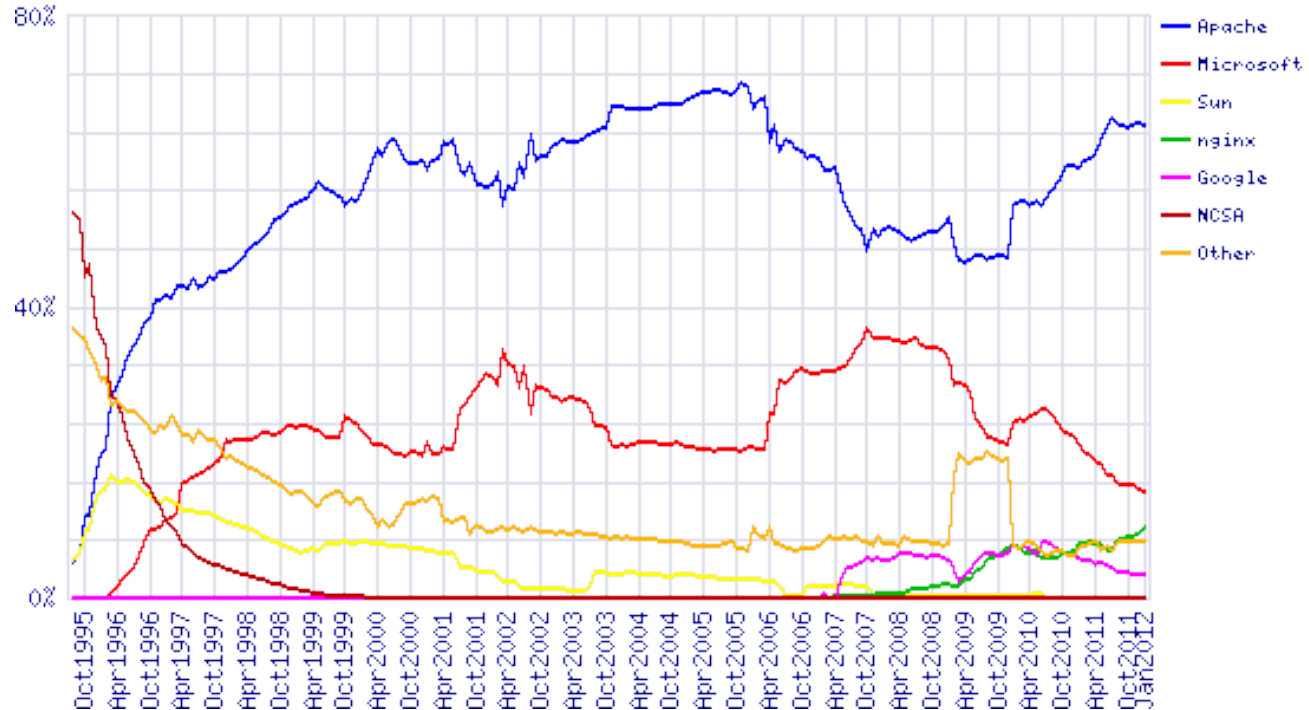
```
<form method="POST" action="test.cgi">
```

Get vs. Post

- Security issue:
 - Safer for POST (but not so significant)
- Size of parameters
 - The parameter size for GET is limited to a size, say 4k.
 - The parameter size for POST is unlimited.
- Prefetching (New semantics, due to Google Web Accelerator)
 - For POST, prefetching is not recommended.
 - ▶ Prefetching may do the “logout” operation.
 - For GET, prefetching is recommended.

Apache

- Location: <http://www.apache.org/>
- The most popular Web servers. (news.netcraft.com, Jan. 2012)
 - Apache: 50.48%,
 - Microsoft: 34.94%
 - Google: 4.90%
 - Sun: 1.64%
 - lighttpd: 1.12%
- Free



CGI Model

On a request,

- If it is a page request, return the page.
- If it is a CGI, do the following
 - Fork a child process
 - Set its “stdin” from client and “stdout” to client.
 - Set environment variables
 - Exec the CGI.

CGI Model (cont.)

- Parameters from HTML:

- keyword=value&keyword=value&...
 - ▶ ‘ ‘ \Rightarrow ‘+’ escape char \Rightarrow %xx
- Using HTTP “GET” method
 - ▶ 從環境變數 QUERY_STRING 取出 input string
 - ▶ `char* queryString=getenv("QUERY_STRING");`
- Using HTTP “POST” method
 - ▶ 從 STDIN 讀入 input string
 - ▶ 以環境變數 CONTENT_LENGTH 決定字數

Environment Variables

- CGI programs 透過環境變數與 http daemon 溝通
- 幾個重要的環境變數
 - QUERY_STRING
 - CONTENT_LENGTH
 - REQUEST_METHOD
 - ▶ REQUEST_METHOD="GET" or "POST"
 - SCRIPT_NAME
 - ▶ SCRIPT_NAME = "/~icwu/chat/cgi-bin/echo-cgi"
 - REMOTE_HOST
 - ▶ REMOTE_HOST="java.csie.nctu.edu.tw"
 - REMOTE_ADDR
 - ▶ REMOTE_ADDR="140.113.185.117"
 - AUTH_TYPE, REMOTE_USER, REMOTE_IDENT

Example: Simple I/O

- **Get data from input data**

```
char* length = getenv("CONTENT_LENGTH");  
int leng = atoi(length);  
fread(buffer, sizeof(char), leng, stdin);
```

- **Output a valid Web page**

```
main() {  
    char* s = "Test CGI";  
    printf("Content-type: text/html\n\n");  
    printf("<html>");  
    printf("<body>");  
    printf("<h2>%s</h2>", s);  
    printf("</body>");  
    printf("</html>");  
}
```

Example: Output GIF

● Output a GIF file

```
main() {  
    printf(Content-Length: %d\n", size);  
    printf(Content-type: image/gif\n\n");  
    in = fopen(IMAGE_FILE, "rb");  
    while(1) {  
        ch = getc(in);  
        if(ch==EOF)    break;  
        putc(ch, stdout);  
    }  
}
```

Caching in HTTP

- Motivation

- Performance
- Availability
- Disconnected operations

==> Relax the goal of semantic transparency, i.e., Caching.

- Eliminate some requests

- Use the **expiration** mechanism

- Eliminate some full requests

- Use the **validation** mechanism

Ref: [RFC 2068]

Expiration Model

- The cache can return the page without contacting the server before expiration.
- Server-Specified Expiration
 - Specify when to expire
 - ▶ Expires:
 - Problem: the clocks are not the same.
- Heuristic Expiration
 - Use heuristic method based on
 - ▶ Last_modified:
 - Problem: the clocks are not the same.
- Expiration Calculation (next page)
 - Age Calculation

Expiration Calculation

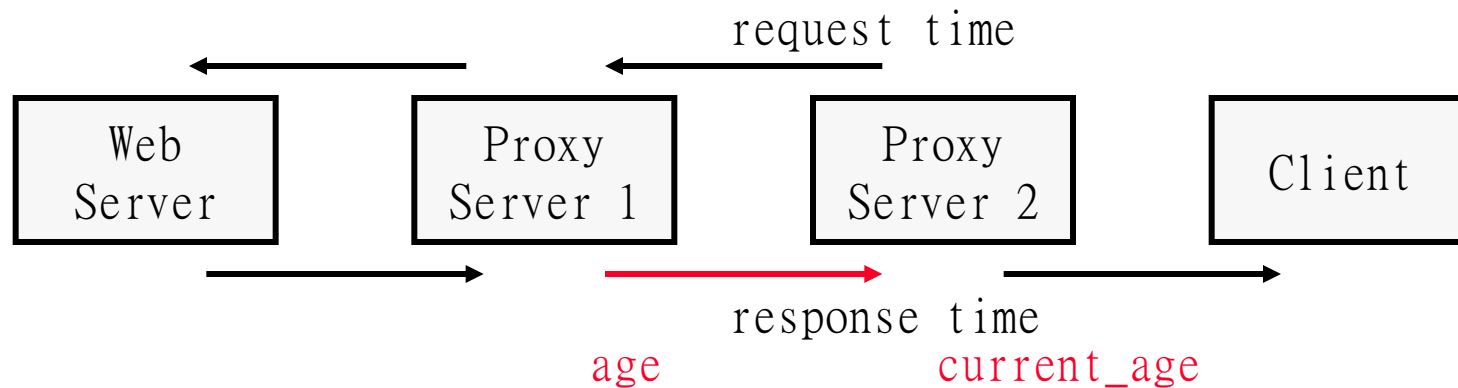
● Algorithm

- $\text{freshness_lifetime} = \text{max_age_value}$ (from server header), or
- $\text{freshness_lifetime} = \text{expires_value}$ (from server header) - date_value (from server header)
- is fresh? $\implies \text{freshness_lifetime} > \text{current_age}$ (see next page)

● Others:

- Cache-Control: max-age=0
 \implies force to validate the object again
- Cache-Control: no-cache
 \implies force to obtain a new copy

Age



- Age: the time from server to now
 - $\text{Current_age} = \text{age} + \text{propagation_time} + \text{resident_time}$
- What is the problem?
 - Each server has different timer.
- Principle:
 - Be as CONSERVATIVE as possible

Age Calculation

- Age calculation algorithm in cache:

- ▶ $\text{corrected_received_age} = \max(\text{age_value (from server header)}, \text{response_time} - \text{date_value (from server header)})$
- ▶ $\text{response_delay} = \text{response_time} - \text{request_time}$
- ▶ $\text{corrected_initial_age} = \text{corrected_received_age} + \text{response_delay}$
- ▶ $\text{resident_time} = \text{now} - \text{response_time};$
- ▶ $\text{current_age} = \text{corrected_initial_age} + \text{resident_time}$

- Note: if $\text{date_time} > \text{request_time}$, probably not first-hand

Validation Model

- If validator is matched, return 304 (not modified) and no entity-body.

Validator

- Last-modified dates (quite common)
 - Last-Modified (from server header) and If-Modified-Since (from client header)
 - For example, RSS (Really Simple Syndication) tool.
- Entity Tag Cache Validators
 - ETag: ... (used when the date is inconvenient.)
- Weak and Strong Validators
 - Strong Validator: the entity must be the same.
 - ▶ For sub-ranges, must use this.
 - Weak Validator: the entity is “semantically” the same. E.g.,
 - ▶ A counter won’t be changed in days or weeks.
 - ▶ A file should not be changed within one second.

Keep Alive

- For a homepage,
 - Open/Close a connection for each small file (like jpg, gif, etc)
- Problem:
 - Inefficient
- Solution
 - Allow many file requests to use one connection.
- More techniques:
 - Mix with pipeline. (Access more gif files while reading HTML files.)