Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is a set of standards allowing internet users to exchange website information. There have been four HTTP iterations since its introduction in 1991.

HTTP/2 was released in 2015 as a major revision to the HTTP/1.1 protocol. It was derived from the SPDY protocol as a way to improve the online experience by speeding up page loads and reducing round-trip time (RTT), especially on resource-heavy web pages.Here we will be discussing why the new protocol was needed, its evolution from SPDY, how it differs from HTTP/1.1 and how a CDN can assist in making your site content HTTP/2 compatible.

HTTP/2 improved on HTTP/1.1 in a number of ways that allowed for speedier content delivery and improved user experience, including:

**Binary protocols** – Binary protocols consume less bandwidth, are more efficiently

parsed and are less error-prone than the textual protocols used by HTTP/1.1.

Additionally, they can better handle elements such as whitespace, capitalization

and line endings.

**Multiplexing** – HTTP/2 is multiplexed, i.e., it can initiate multiple requests in

parallel over a single TCP connection. As a result, web pages containing several

elements are delivered over one TCP connection. These capabilities solve the head-

of-line blocking problem in HTTP/1.1, in which a packet at the front of the line

blocks others from being transmitted.

**Header compression** – HTTP/2 uses header compression to reduce the overhead caused

by TCP’s slow-start mechanism.

**Server push** – HTTP/2 servers push likely-to-be-used resources into a browser’s

cache, even before they’re requested. This allows browsers to display content with

out additional request cycles.

**Increased security** – Web browsers only support HTTP/2 via encrypted connections,

increasing user and application security.