

→ Real - Time Communication and data exchange?

① Short Polling

② Long Polling

③ WebSockets

④ Server Sent Events

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Short Polling

- client sends msg to server at regular intervals using immediate HTTP GET reqs. → response with "no new data" msg
- not efficient use of resources
- freq & unnecessary msgs
- latency since client has to wait for server response even if no new data
- high n/w traffic
- increased server load
- not fully real-time system - depends on req. intervals

```
function fetchData():  
    response = make HTTP Request (method, URL)  
    if response.status == 200 :  
        processData(response.body)  
    else:  
        handleRequestError(response.status)
```

```
function initiateShortPolling():  
    loop forever:  
        fetchData()  
        wait(5 seconds)  
  
initiateShortPolling()
```

Long Polling

- reduces latency & server load
- server doesn't respond immediately
- server keeps req open until new data becomes avail or a timeout occurs.
- once new data is avail, server responds with updated info & client immediately sends another req to maintain connect
- near real-time communication
- still requires client to initiate new req every time

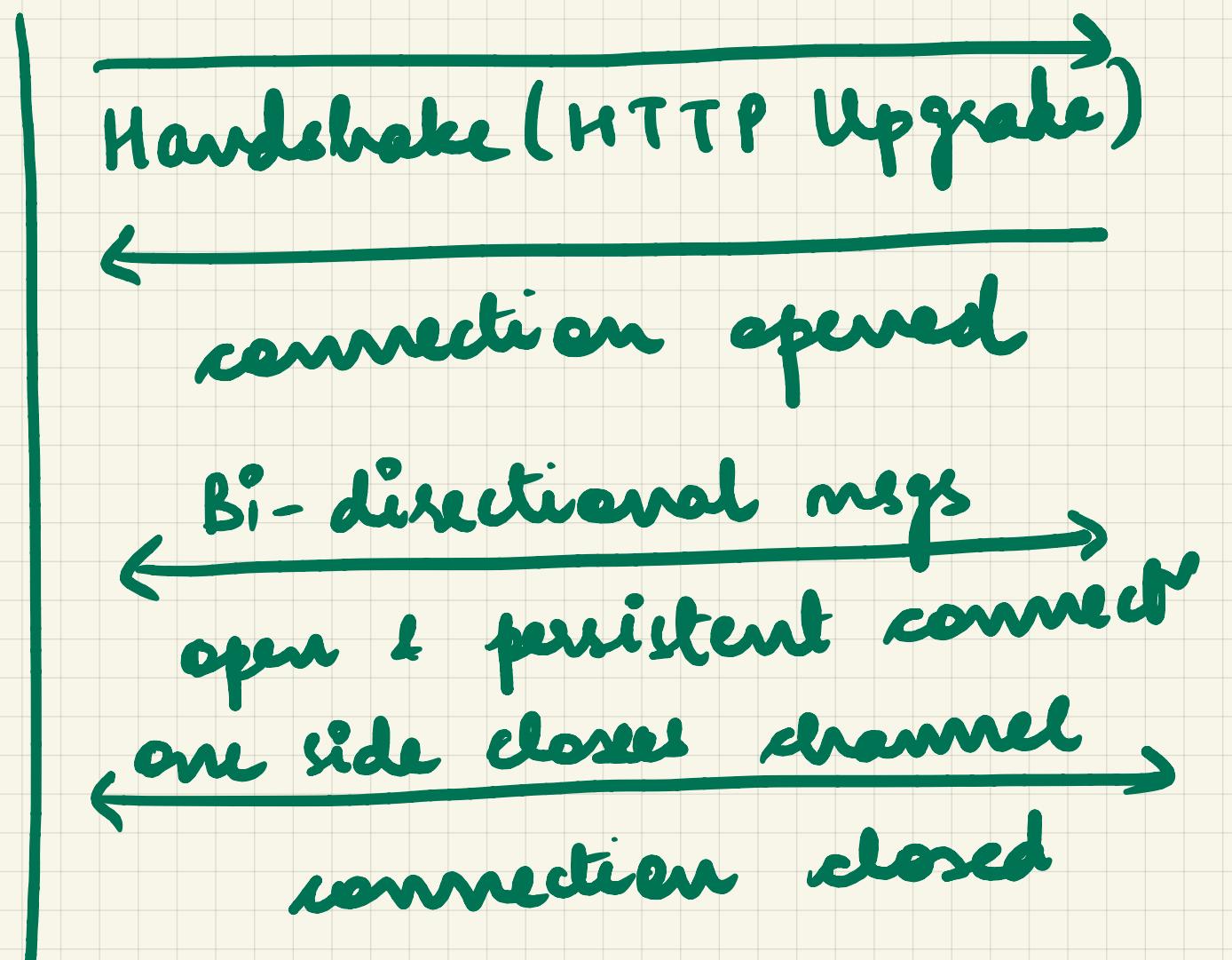
```
function initiateLongPolling():  
    response: makeHTTPRequest(Method, URL)  
  
    if response.status == 200:  
        processData(response.body)  
        initiateLongPolling()  
    else if response.status == 204:  
        initiateLongPolling() // no new data available  
    else  
        handleRequestError(response.status)  
  
initiateLongPolling()
```

Web Sockets

- full duplex communication channels over single TCP connect
- persistent connect
- allows both parties to send data to each other freely.
- bidirectional communication
- eliminates overhead of creating new connections, reduces new traffic, improved scalability
- lower latency, reduced delay
- eg- chat apps, collaborative editing tools & real-time dashboards

client

Server



③ Connection upgrade

④ Data Transmission - data sent in frames - header, payload
Msgs can be in text / binary format, can be of any length
Heartbeat & Keep-Alive - to ensure connection remains active, prevent it from being closed due to inactivity

① Handshake - client sends HTTP req to server, requesting to upgrade connection to ws.

Headers:

upgrade: websocket

connection: upgrade

② Server Response - HTTP 101

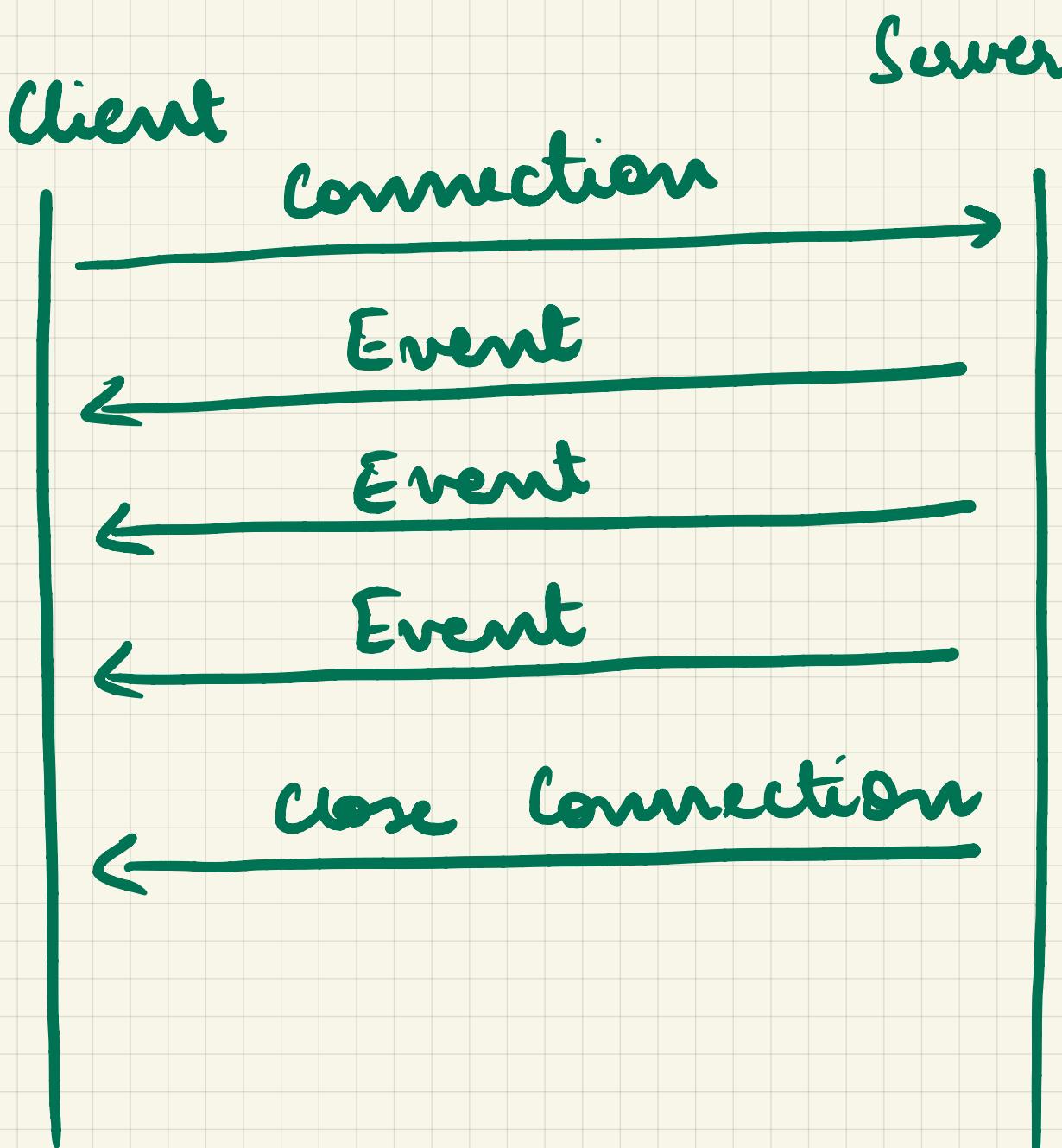
(switching protocol)
same headers included with
web-socket - Accept header

payload

⑥ Connection closure - either client or server can initiate by sending close frame. Other party ack & closes on their end as well.

Server Sent Events

- unidirectional "communicational" protocol
- allows server to push data to client over single HTTP connection
- focuses on server to client data streaming
- server sends data as stream of events
- server continuously pushes new events to client, client can handle these events as they arrive



Server

① Connection Establishment

- Client initiates HTTP GET req.
- header → "Accept: text/event-stream"
- Server receives & prepares to establish SSE connect

② SSE Stream Format

- Server starts sending data as SSE stream
- SSE stream - series of individual events sent as plain text using specific format

③ Event format:

event field, data (payload), id - identifier of event

- ④ Sending Events : Server constructs event & sends as part of SSE stream
- ⑤ Client side - listen for specific event types & process received data accordingly.
- ⑥ Connection Termination : SSE can be kept open indefinitely. either client or server can close. client can call 'close' method or server can send a specific instruction to close the connection with SSE stream.