Web Server VS Application Server

What is a Web Server?

Web servers are basically used for web applications. Web servers are used when you want to serve static content to the customers. When we use the web servers logic behind the application remains hidden and only static files are served. Web Server only supports HTTP (Hyper Text Transformation Protocol) protocol.

Static content mostly includes HTML and CSS files, Multimedia Files such as images, videos etc.

Examples of Web servers are Apache Tomcat and Resin.

A typical web server looks like this:

Explanation: Every Time a client makes a call, the web server looks into the database and makes the information available to the client.
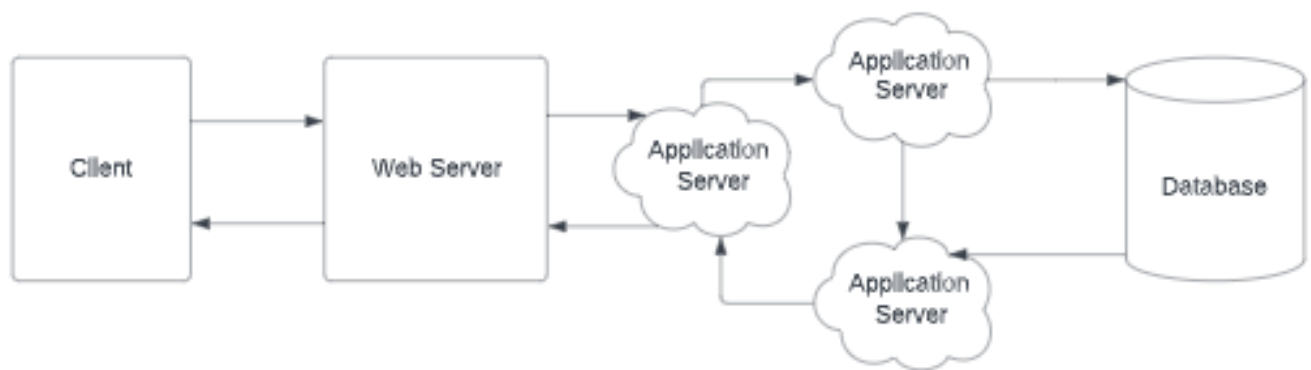
What is an Application Server?

Application servers are used when we are not only interested in the static content, we also want to interact with the application and want to participate in the logic of the application. Application servers are used for the creation of interactive and dynamic applications. Application servers are those servers which make your application logic available to the user. Application servers support multiple protocols.

For example: On Facebook, along with watching content on the feed, we like to react and comment on the content, and also wanted to create our own content. Apart from

creating content, we can interact with other users as well. Examples of Application servers are Weblogic, JBoss and Websphere.

A typical application server looks like this:

Explanation: In this scenario, We have a client, a web server and a database. Between the web server and database, we have an application server. The application server will be responsible for exposing the application logic. The client sends the request to the web server, the web server sends requests to the application server, the application server looks into the database and returns the response to the web server and the web server sent the response back to the client.

Differences between Web Server and Application Server

S. No.	Web Server	Application Server
1	Web servers are used to serve static content to the users.	Application servers are used to serve dynamic content to the users.
2	Web Server only supports HTTP protocol.	Application servers support multiple protocols.
3	Web Servers don't do heavy computation so web servers don't have much support for multithreading.	Application Servers support multithreading.
4	Web servers serves only web-based applications	Application servers serve web applications as well as enterprise-based applications.