The Web Browser’s Role

• The Web browser provides a platform-independent means of displaying Web pages that were written in HTML. HTML was designed to be able to render information on any operating system while placing no constraint on the window size This is why Web pages are considered platform independent.

• HTML was designed to “flow,” wrapping text as necessary to fit into the browser window.

• The Web browser also displays images and responds to hyperlinks to other pages. Each Web page request to the Web server results in the Web browser updating the screen to display the new information.

• Although the Web browser’s role is simply to present information and collect data from users, many new client-side technologies enable today’s Web browsers to execute code such as JavaScript and to support plug-ins that improve the user’s experience.

• Technologies such as Asynchronous JavaScript and XML (AJAX) and Microsoft Silver light allow Web browsers to communicate with Web servers without clearing the existing Web page from the browser window. These technologies make the user experience more dynamic and interactive.