



Spring – 2025

Internet of Things (IoT) Systems

Week 12

Raspberry Pi Programming

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OUTLINE

- Last Lecture Overview
- Controlling Raspberry Pi Sensors via the Internet
- Using Web Server and PHP

What We Want to Achieve

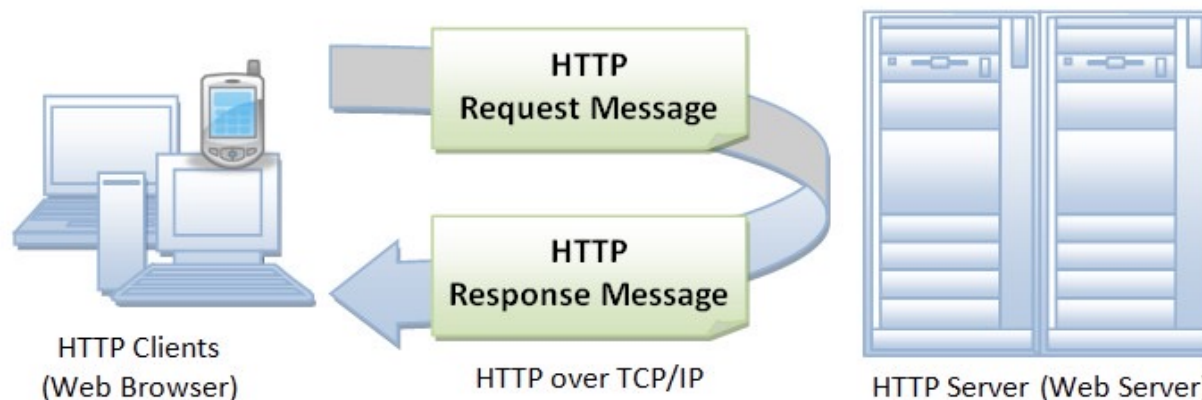
- Control different sensors from a phone or PC
- Build a web interface to send commands
 - Client: Web browser (PC or phone)
 - Server: Raspberry Pi
 - Protocol: HTTP
- **Goal:** Browser sends request → RPi executes command → sends back a response to the Client

What Tools Do We Need?

- **HTML**: HyperText Markup Language (**for web pages**)
 - HTML is used to **display contents on the client side**,
- **Lighttpd**: **light** + **tpd** (threaded process-based daemon) (**web server**)
 - lighttpd is used to **receive HTTP requests and serve web content**,
- **PHP** : **H**ypertext **P**reprocessor (**server-side logic**)
 - PHP is used to process the request and control sensors or generate responses,
- **HTTP**: **H**yper**T**ext **T**ransfer **P**rotocol (**Communication Protocol**)
 - HTTP is used to communicate between client (browser) and server (Raspberry Pi).
- **GPIO**: (Sensors and outputs)

HTTP

- HTTP is the communication protocol used to send and receive hypertext (HTML) documents on the Internet.
- HTTP functions as a **request–response** protocol in the **client–server** computing model
 - The client submits an HTTP request message to the server
 - The server returns a response message to the client



Overview of HTTP

■ HTTP Requests

- An HTTP request consists of a request **method**, a request **URL**, **header** fields, and a **body**
- HTTP 1.1 defines the following request **methods**:
 - **GET** retrieves the resource identified by the request URL(page or file)
 - **HEAD** returns the headers identified by the request URL
 - **POST** sends data of unlimited length to the web server (login form)

Method	Type of request (e.g., GET, POST)
URL	What resource is being requested (like /index.html)
Headers	Extra information (like browser type, language, cookies)
Body	Optional; usually used when sending form data (like login info)

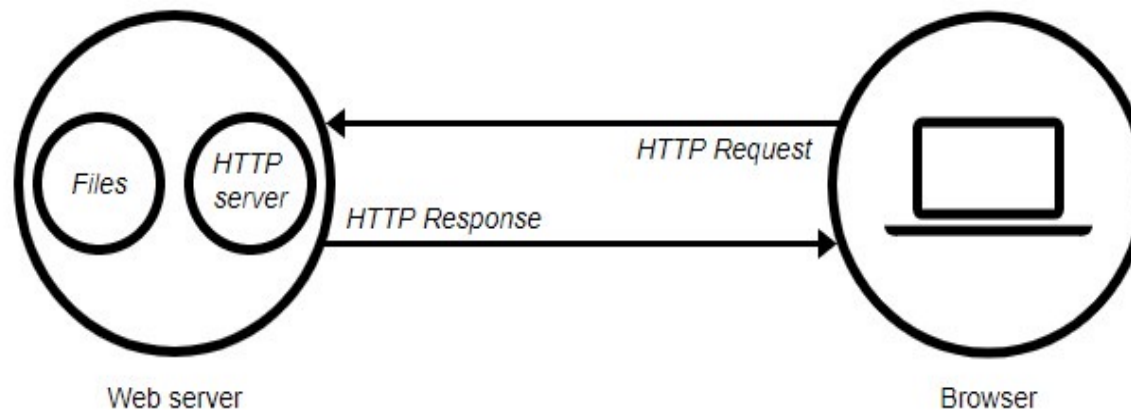
Overview of HTTP

■ HTTP Responses

- An HTTP response contains a **status code**, **header fields**, and a **body** containing fetched resource
- The HTTP protocol expects the result code and all header fields to be returned before any body content
- Some commonly used status codes include:
 - **200** OK – Everything worked fine
 - **404** indicates that the requested resource is not available
 - **401** indicates that the request requires HTTP authentication
 - **500** indicates an error inside HTTP server which prevented it from fulfilling the request
 - **503** indicates that HTTP server is temporarily overloaded and unable to handle the request

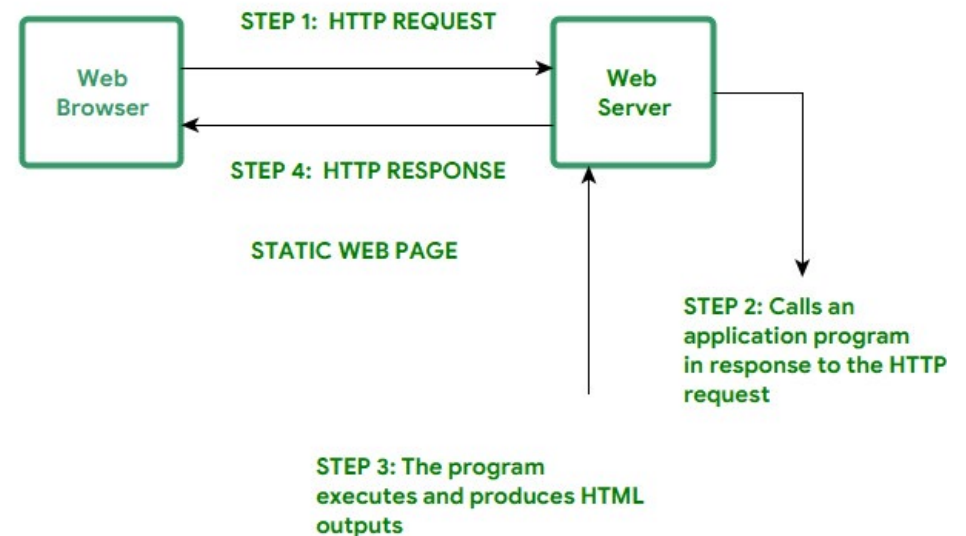
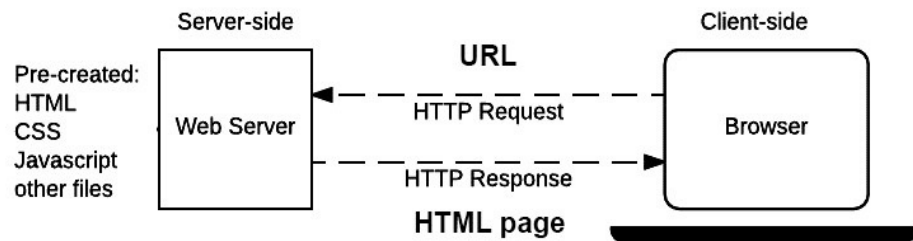
Web Server

- The term web server can refer to hardware or software or both.
 - Hardware side (Raspberry Pi, cloud server)
 - A web server is a computer that stores web server software and website files
 - Software side (Apache, Nginx, lighttpd,)
 - At a minimum, web server is an HTTP server, a software that understands URLs and HTTP.
 - It's a program that handles HTTP requests and send back HTTP responses.



Web Server

- A static web page is a web page that is delivered to the user's web browser exactly as stored
- A dynamic web page is one where contents are generated dynamically
- Static: Fixed content (HTML only)
- Dynamic: Changes based on user/action (HTML + PHP)



Web Server

- Client side and server side are web development terms that describe where application code runs
 - **Client-side scripting** simply means running scripts on the client device, usually within a browser, HTML, CSS
 - A script is a set of programming instructions that is interpreted at runtime
 - **Server-side scripts** run on the server instead of the client, often in order to deliver dynamic content to webpages in response to user actions
 - PHP
 - ASP
 - JSP
 - Perl

Lighttpd: A Lightweight Web Server

- Lighttpd stands for Light + threaded process-based daemon
- It is a fast, secure, and lightweight web server designed for low-resource systems like Raspberry Pi
- Ideal for serving static files or dynamic content using PHP (via FastCGI)
 - CGI (Common Gateway Interface) launches a new process for every request
 - FastCGI handle multiple requests
- Low memory usage and high performance
- Suitable for IoT and embedded applications

PHP

- PHP stands for Hypertext Pre-processor
- It is a server scripting language
- PHP scripts can only be interpreted on a server that has PHP installed.
- Can interact with files, databases, GPIO (on Raspberry Pi)
- Commonly used with web servers like lighttpd or Apache.

```
<html>
```

```
<body>
```

```
<?php
```

```
echo "My first PHP script!";
```

```
?>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

Web Server Installation

- **lighttpd** is an open-source web server optimized for speed-critical environments
- Install lighttpd

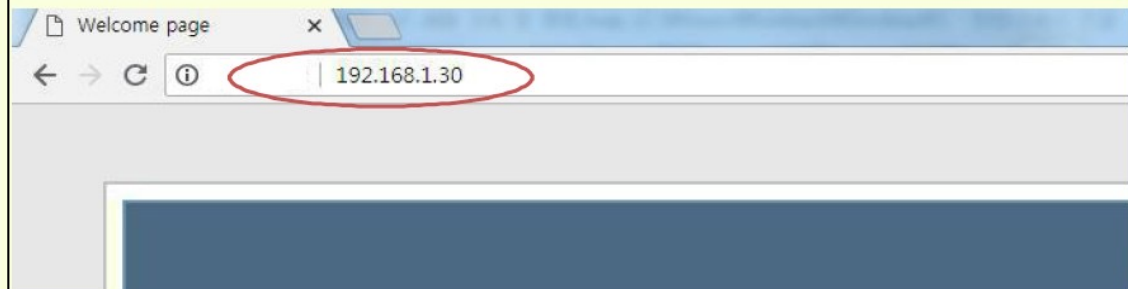
Enter 'sudo apt install lighttpd'

- Confirm installation

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Welcome</title>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Welcome to RPi</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ cd /var/www/html/
pi@raspberrypi:/var/www/html $ ls
index.lighttpd.html
```

[Figure 5-3] Confirming Lighttpd File



[Figure 5-4] Confirming Access to Lighttpd Web

PHP Installation

- Install PHP

Enter 'sudo apt install php'

- Install PHP CGI Package

```
sudo apt install php-cgi
sudo lighttpd-enable-mod fastcgi
sudo lighttpd-enable-mod fastcgi-php
sudo service lighttpd restart
```

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo apt install php-cgi
```

[Figure 5-6] Installign PHP CGI

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo lighttpd-enable-mod fastcgi fastcgi-php
Enabling fastcgi: ok
Met dependency: fastcgi
Enabling fastcgi-php: ok
already enabled
Run /etc/init.d/lighttpd force-reload to enable changes
```

[Figure 5-7] Activating PHP CGI

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo service lighttpd force-reload
```

[Figure 5-8] Restarting Lighttpd

PHP Installation

- Write PHP installation verification program

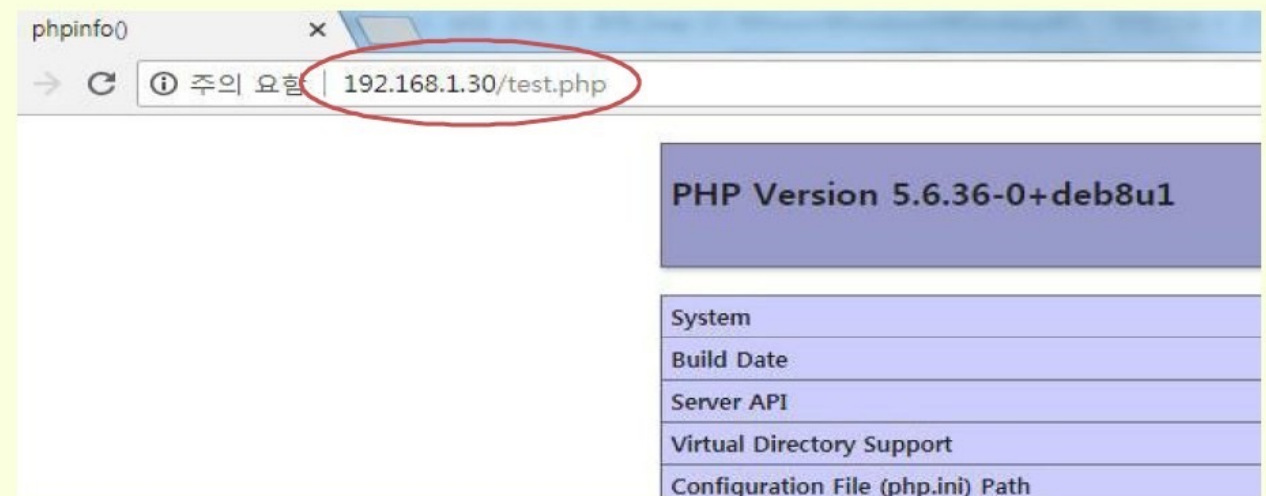
```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ cd /var/www/html/  
pi@raspberrypi:/var/www/html $
```

[Figure 5-9] Web Server Default Folder

```
pi@raspberrypi:/var/www/html $ sudo nano test.php
```

[Figure 5-10] Creating test.php File

```
<?php  
phpinfo();  
?>
```



[Figure 5-11] PHP Installation Information

Remote Control Using PHP

Program to control LED

```
1  #include <wiringPi.h>
2  #include <stdio.h>
3
4  #define PIN 7
5
6  int main(void) {
7      if(wiringPiSetup() == -1) return 1;
8      pinMode(PIN,OUTPUT);
9      digitalWrite(PIN,HIGH);
10     printf("1");
11 }
```

Part	Meaning
-rwsr-sr-x	File permissions and type
1	Number of hard links to the file
root	Owner (user) of the file
pi	Group that owns the file

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ gcc -o PHP_LEDON PHP_LEDON.c -lwiringPi
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo chown root PHP_LEDON
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo chmod +s PHP_LEDON
```

[Figure 6-6] Compiling File & Providing PHP Execution Permission

```
-rwsr-sr-x 1 root pi
```

[Figure 6-7] Changed Permissions & Owner

Remote Control Using PHP

Program to control LED

```
1  #include <wiringPi.h>
2  #include <stdio.h>
3
4  #define PIN 7
5
6  int main(void) {
7
8      if(wiringPiSetup() == -1) return 1;
9      pinMode(PIN,OUTPUT);
10     digitalWrite(PIN,LOW);
11     printf("0");
12 }
```

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ gcc -o PHP_LEDOFF PHP_LEDOFF.c -lwiringPi
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo chown root PHP_LEDOFF
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ sudo chmod +s PHP_LEDOFF
```

[Figure 6-9] Compiling File & Providing PHP Execution Permission

```
-rwsr-sr-x 1 root pi
```

[Figure 6-10] Changed Permissions & Owner

Create PHP file

```
pi@raspberrypi:~ $ cd /var/www/html
pi@raspberrypi:/var/www/html $ sudo nano remote_con.php
```

[Figure 6-11] Creating PHP File

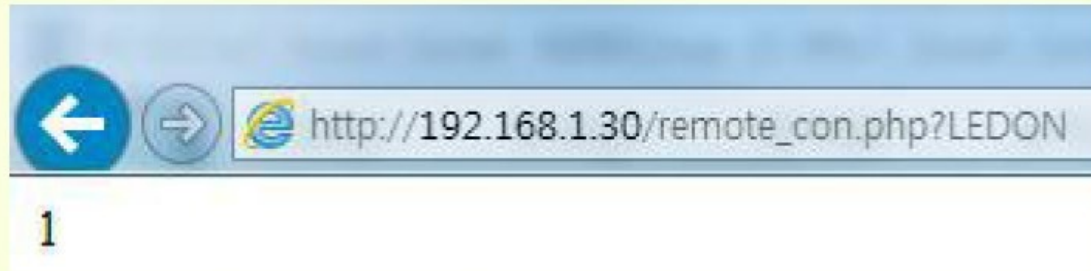
remote_con.php

```
<?php
    if(isset($_GET['LEDON'])){
        $value = shell_exec("/home/pi/PHP_LEDON");
        echo $value;
    }else if(isset($_GET['LEDOFF'])){
        $value = shell_exec("/home/pi/PHP_LEDOFF");
        echo $value;
    }
?>
```

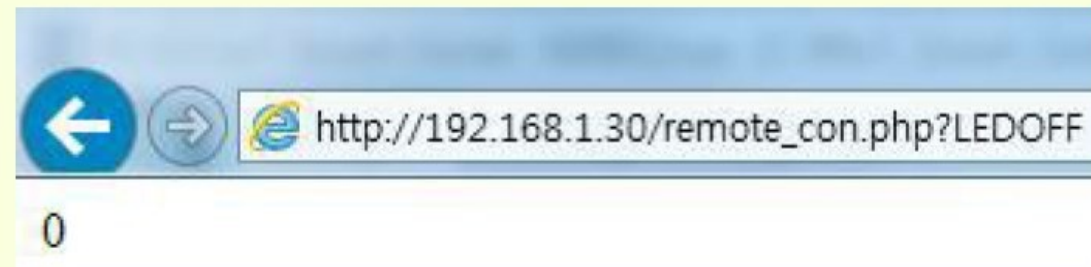
Make Sure:

- The file is executable (chmod +x)
- The path is correct and accessible to PHP
- Ownership and permissions are properly set

Check result



[Figure 6-12] Requesting LED ON



[Figure 6-13] Requesting LED OFF

Remote Control Using PHP

remote_con.php

```
<?php
    if(isset($_GET['LEDON'])){
        $value = shell_exec("/home/pi/PHP_LEDON");
        echo $value;
    }else if(isset($_GET['LEDOFF'])){
        $value = shell_exec("/home/pi/PHP_LEDOFF");
        echo $value;
    }
?>
```

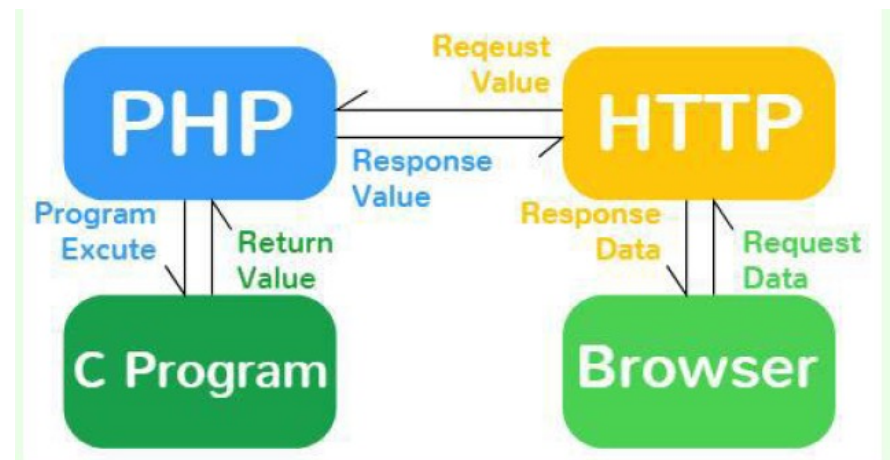
isset function returns true if the variable exists and is not NULL, otherwise it returns false

\$_GET can be used to collect data sent in the URL

shell_exec function is used to execute the commands via shell and return the complete output as a string

How this process work?

- Client (browser) sends an HTTP request (e.g., clicking a button).
- lighttpd web server receives the request.
- If the request is for a .php file, lighttpd sends it to the PHP engine.
- PHP script runs on the server (Raspberry Pi):
 - Reads the request
 - Decides what to do (e.g., turn on LED)
 - Interacts with the system (calls shell command or Python code)
- The PHP script sends a response back to the client (HTML, text, sensor values).
- Browser displays the result.





Any Questions!

