

Thin & Thick Clients

COEN 161

Thin Client Applications

- Traditional PHP forms, for example, perform data validation on the server side
- Little to no data is stored on the client side
- If the server goes down, data collection is stopped
- Needs constant communication with a server
- Example: PHP pages (pages with constant refresh)

Thick Client Applications

- Require more software at the client-side
- Handle more data processing on client side
- Reduce server demand, only needs to talk to server intermittently
- Stores local files on client
- Examples: Single Page Applications (AngularJS, React), Progressive Web Apps

Thin or Thick?



Thin Clients

Stand alone web pages/websites
Backend driven dynamic pages

Single Page Applications

Self-sufficient clients
Angular/React Apps
Mobile Apps (not technically SPA)

Progressive Web Apps

Anything supporting “offline mode” through the LocalStorage/SessionStorage APIs
i.e. Google Drive Suite, mobile apps that work on airplane mode

Thick Clients

Standalone desktop/Mobile apps
Rarely need internet connectivity

Resources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single-page_application

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_web_applications