

# 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/Single-page_application)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive\\_web\\_applications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Progressive_web_applications)