

# CMPT 371 Mini-Project 1 Report

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## Step One: HTTP Status Code Documentation

Status Code 200: OK	
Requirements	The HTTP request format must be correct, and the server must be able to perform the request successfully
HTTP Methods	GET
HTTP Request Section	All request and header lines must contain all necessary information for the request to succeed
Simplified Example HTTP Request Message	
<pre>GET /test.html HTTP/1.1 Host: localhost:8088</pre>	

Status Code 304: Not Modified	
Requirements	The HTTP request format must be correct, and the modification date of the server file must not be newer than the modification date of the if-modified-since header
HTTP Methods	GET
HTTP Request Section	The timestamp of the HTTP if-modified-since header if it is present
Simplified Example HTTP Request Message	
<pre>GET /test.html HTTP/1.1 Host: localhost:8088 If-Modified-Since: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:53:25 GMT</pre>	

Status Code 400: Bad Request	
<b>Requirements</b>	The HTTP request is incorrect, and the server cannot parse or process the request. On our web server, this can be caused by unsupported query strings
<b>HTTP Methods</b>	GET
<b>HTTP Request Section</b>	The URL in the HTTP request line
Simplified Example HTTP Request Message	
<pre>GET /test.html?key=1 HTTP/1.1 Host: localhost:8088</pre>	

Status Code 403: Forbidden	
<b>Requirements</b>	The HTTP request format is correct, but the credentials or permissions to perform the request are absent or incorrect. On our web server, we will require the <code>Authorization</code> field for the <code>auth.html</code> file
<b>HTTP Methods</b>	GET
<b>HTTP Request Section</b>	Missing or incorrect authorization field in the HTTP header if the path is <code>auth.html</code>
Simplified Example HTTP Request Message	
<pre>GET /auth.html HTTP/1.1 Host: localhost:8088 Authorization: Basic dGVzdDppbmNvcnJlY3QgcGFzc3dvcmQ=</pre>	

Status Code 404: Not Found	
<b>Requirements</b>	The HTTP request format is correct, but the specified resource cannot be found by the server
<b>HTTP Methods</b>	GET
<b>HTTP Request Section</b>	The request line specifying the target resource
Simplified Example HTTP Request Message	
<pre>GET /nonexistentfile.html HTTP/1.1 Host: localhost:8088</pre>	

We did not implement HTTP methods other than GET because they are not required by the project description.

## Step Two: Web server and testing

The zip folder contains the Python server files and three test files. Place the test.html and auth.html files in the same folder as the server. To run the server, navigate to the server file directory and run web\_server.py using `python`. Enter

<http://localhost:8088/test.html> in your browser, and you should be greeted with the following screen:



Congratulations! Your Web Server is Working!

### Web Server Specifications

Host name: localhost or 127.0.0.1

Port: 8088

Socket: TCP

Threading: Multi-threaded

Resources: test.html & auth.html (requires authorization)

Username: test

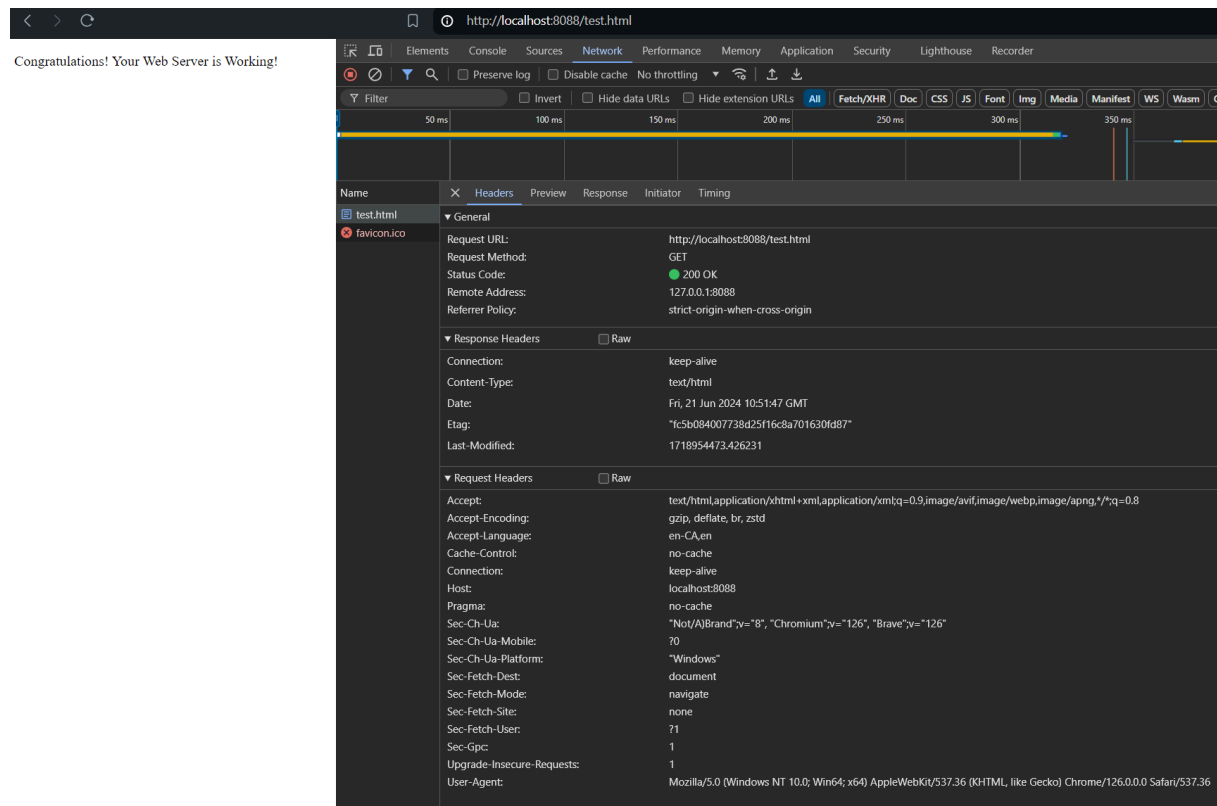
Password: test

Authorization base64 encoding: Basic dGVzdDp0ZXN0

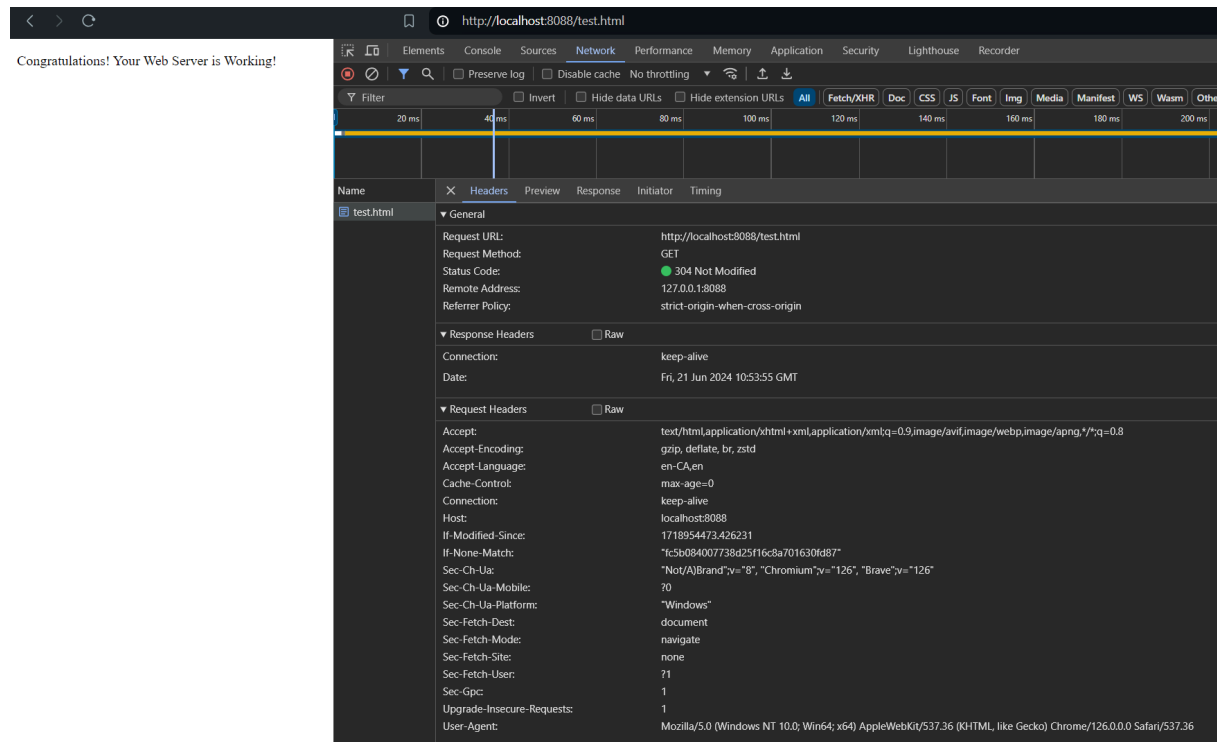
### Testing the web server

Note: Some additional headers are included when compared to the example HTTP requests specified earlier. These are added by the browser, but functionally, they should have no effect.

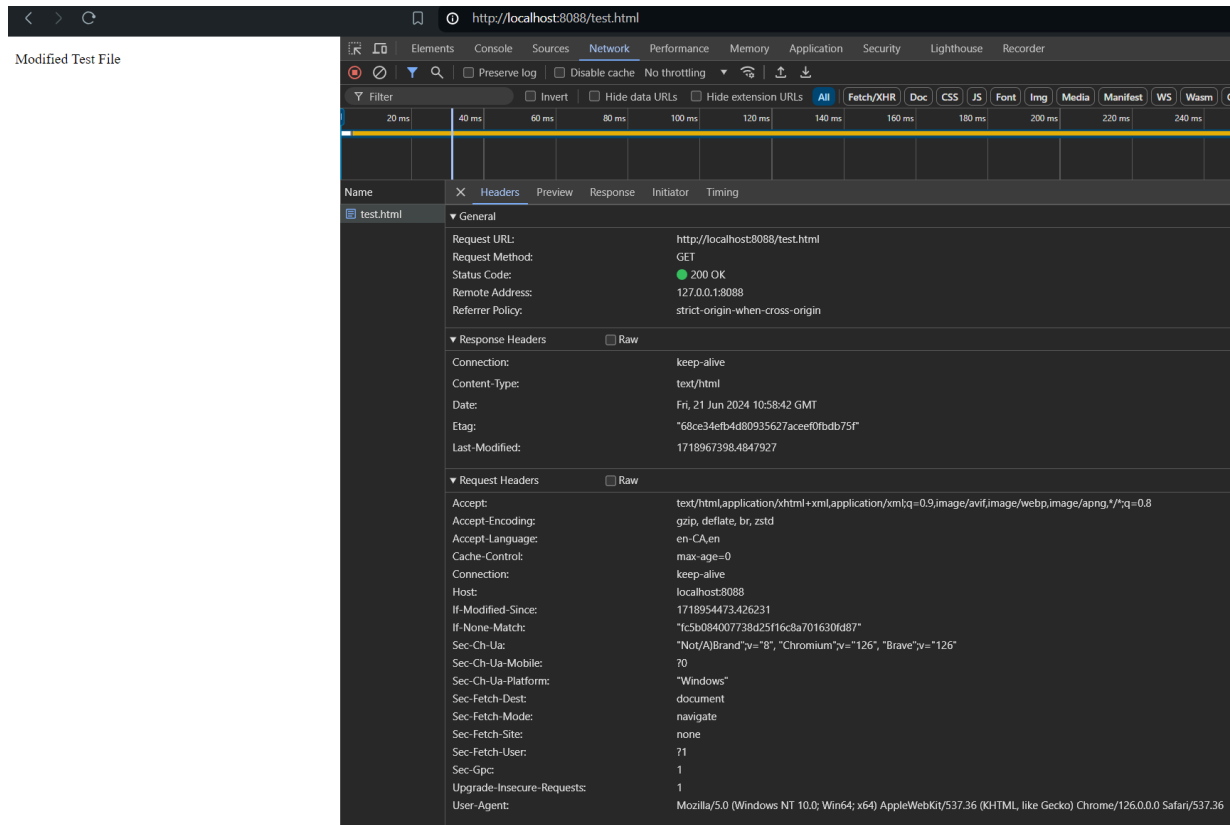
Let's test the web server. When we fetch the resource for the first time, it should return a 200 OK status code.



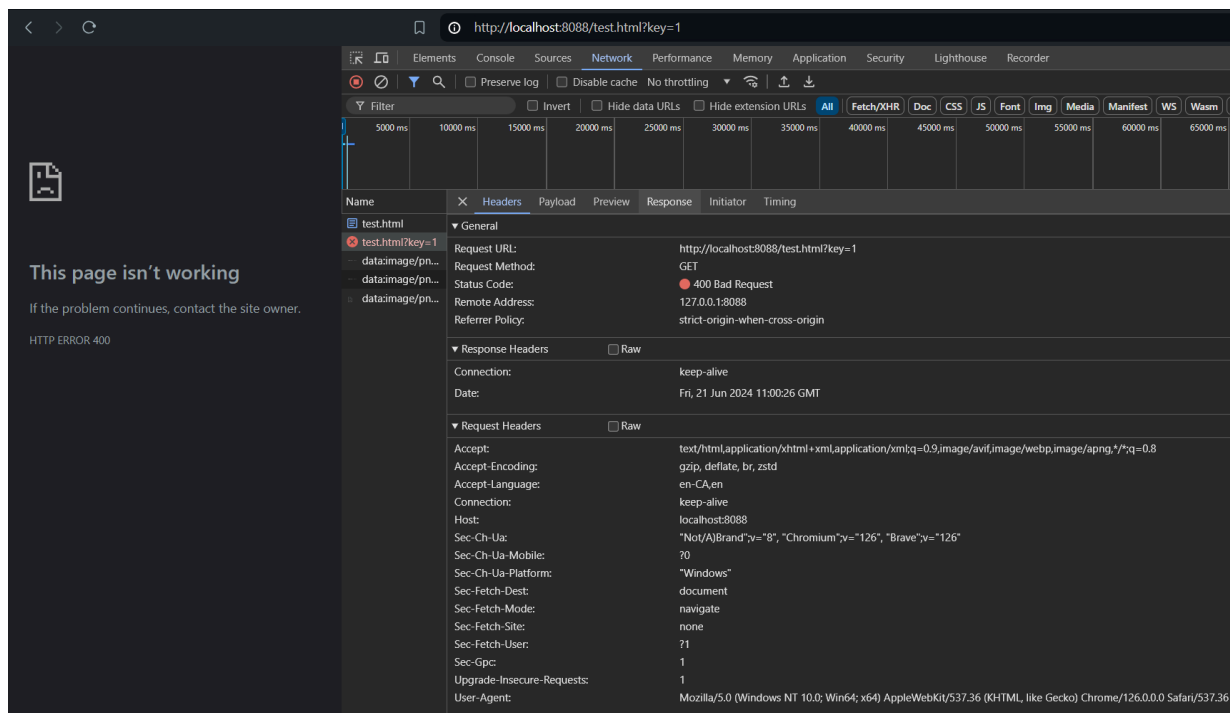
This worked as intended. If we request the same resource again, it should give a 304 Not Modified response because we have not modified it.



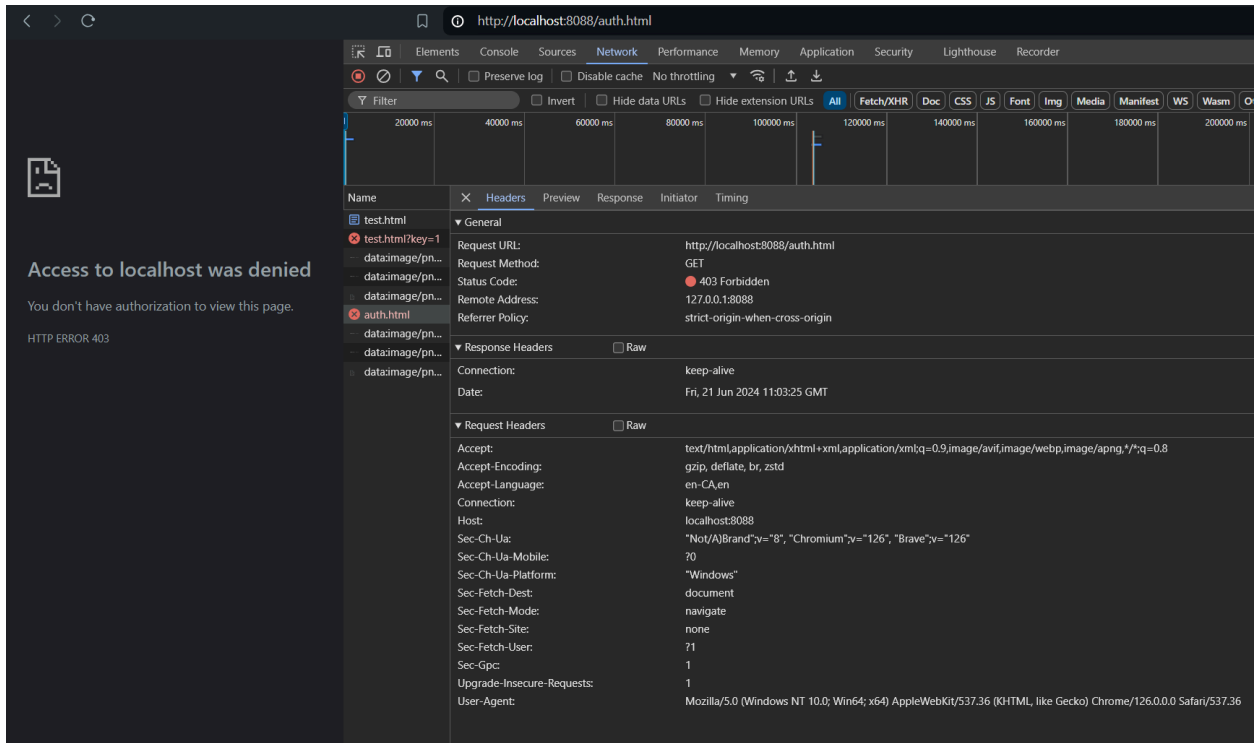
If we modify and save test.html on the server, then when we request test.html again, it should return the newly modified file along with the status code 200.



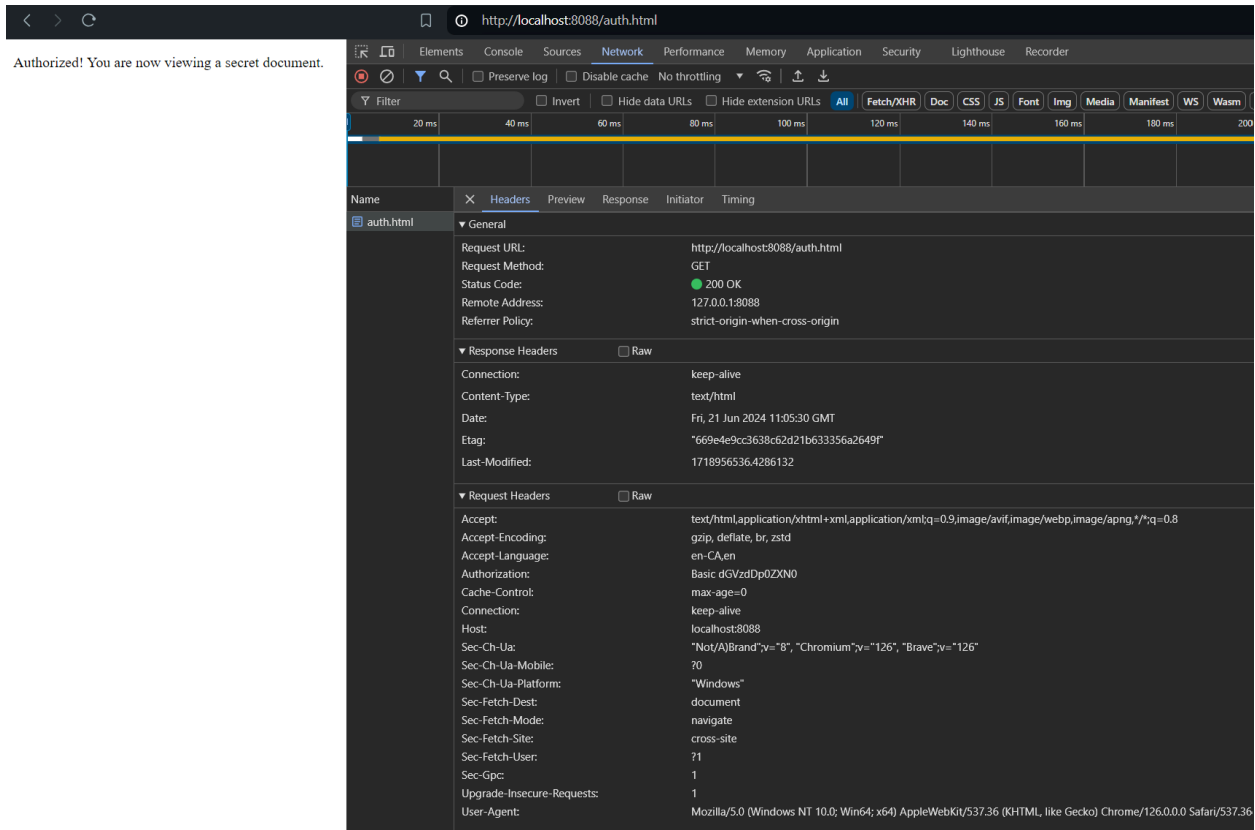
If we add some unsupported query strings to our request, then the server will return a 400 Bad Request response.



Let's try to access `auth.html` now.



It throws a 403 Forbidden error because an authorization is not provided. Now, let's add the required authorization headers and values.



If we enter an incorrect username or password, then 403 Forbidden is thrown again.

The screenshot shows a web browser with the address bar displaying `http://localhost:8088/auth.html`. The page content on the left indicates "Access to localhost was denied" and "HTTP ERROR 403". The Network tab in the developer tools is open, showing a list of requests. The selected request is `auth.html`, which has a status code of **403 Forbidden**. The request headers include `Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8`, `Host: localhost:8088`, and `User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/126.0.0.0 Safari/537.36`.

Finally, let's try to access a non-existent file.

The screenshot shows a web browser with the address bar displaying `http://localhost:8088/nonexistentfile.html`. The page content on the left indicates "This localhost page can't be found" and "HTTP ERROR 404". The Network tab in the developer tools is open, showing a list of requests. The selected request is `nonexistentfile.html`, which has a status code of **404 Not Found**. The request headers are identical to the previous screenshot, including `Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8`, `Host: localhost:8088`, and `User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/126.0.0.0 Safari/537.36`.

This returned a 404 Not Found response.

## Step Three: Proxy Server and Performance

In our minimal proxy server, we assume that the proxy always caches the newest version of a web server file. This simplifies the implementation and reduces the need for the proxy to contact the web server to check if its cache is up-to-date. The proxy will process non-authorization requests and return either 200 OK or 304 Not Modified if a copy exists in its cache. Otherwise, 400 Bad Request will be returned by the proxy if the request is invalid, and the remaining requests will be forwarded to the web server, which then returns a response to the proxy, and the proxy relays it to the client.

Our proxy server does not include additional features such as saving cache from the origin server and cache freshness. This is because they are not outlined in the project requirements or lecture slides.

To run the proxy server, navigate to the proxy folder inside the zip folder and run the proxy\_server.py file. The proxy folder will be the proxy server's cache directory, and any files placed inside the folder will be part of the proxy's cache. When running the proxy server, ensure that the main web server is also online.

## Proxy Server Specifications

Host name: localhost or 127.0.0.1

Port: 8080

Socket: TCP

Threading: Multi-threaded

Supported response codes: 200, 304, 400

Forwarded requests: If cache miss or authorization-required files

## Testing the proxy server

We can first try to request test.html on port 8080 when the proxy server cache is empty.

The screenshot displays three windows illustrating the proxy server's operation:

- Web Browser:** Shows the URL `http://localhost:8080/test.html` and the message "Congratulations! Your Web Server is Working!".
- Web Server Terminal:** Shows the following log output:

```
Web: connection from ('127.0.0.1', 10018)
GET test.html {}
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
content-type: text/html
date: Sat, 22 Jun 2024 07:28:27 GMT
connection: keep-alive
last-modified: 1718968440.2209487

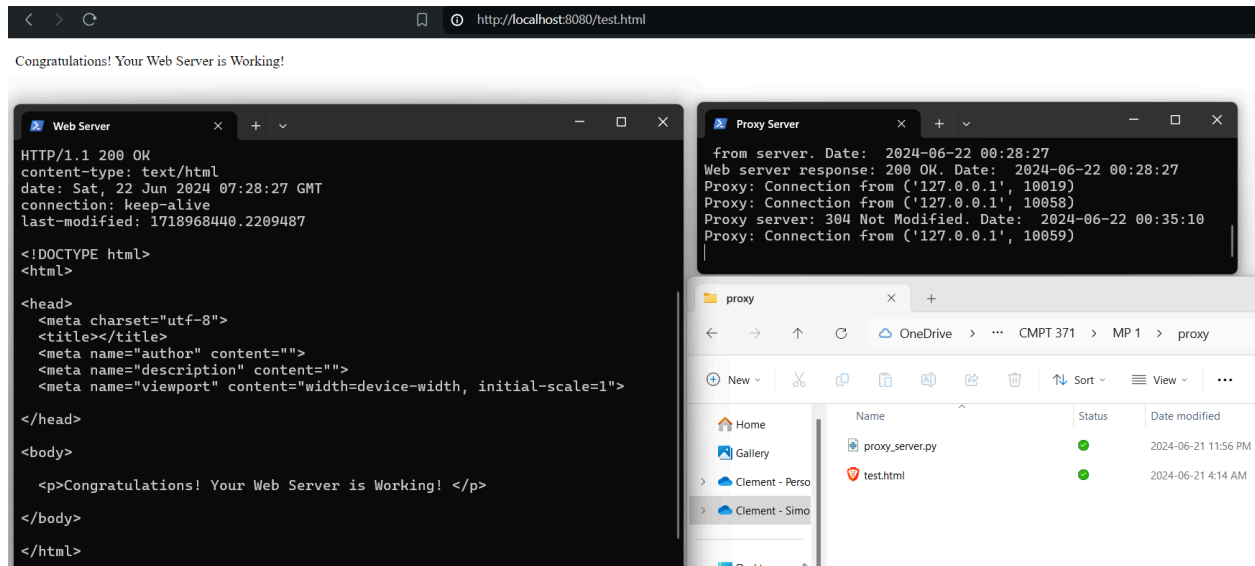
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title></title>
  <meta name="author" content="">
  <meta name="description" content="">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
</head>
<body>
  <p>Congratulations! Your Web Server is Working! </p>
</body>
</html>
```
- Proxy Server Terminal:** Shows the following log output:

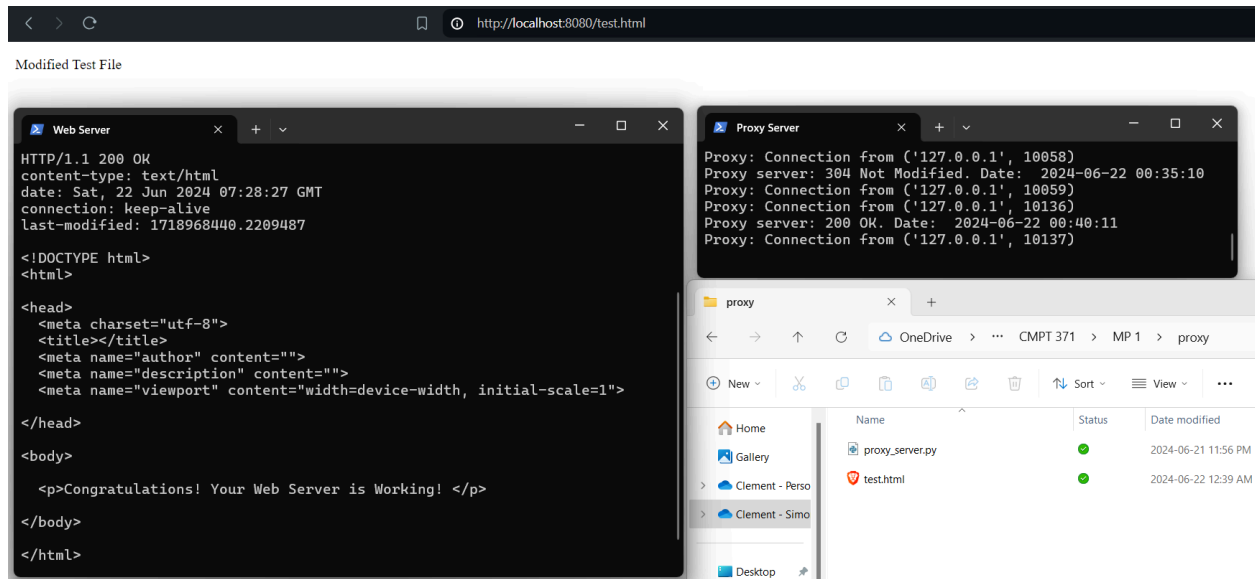
```
C:\Users\OWNER\OneDrive - Simon Fraser University (lsfu)\SF
U\Summer 2024\CMPT 371\MP 1\proxy> python .\proxy_server.py
Proxy Server is listening...
Proxy: Connection from ('127.0.0.1', 10017)
Proxy server: File not found or file is auth.html, fetching
from server. Date: 2024-06-22 00:28:27
Web server response: 200 OK. Date: 2024-06-22 00:28:27
```
- File Explorer:** Shows the directory structure for the proxy server, including the `proxy` folder and the `proxy_server.py` file.



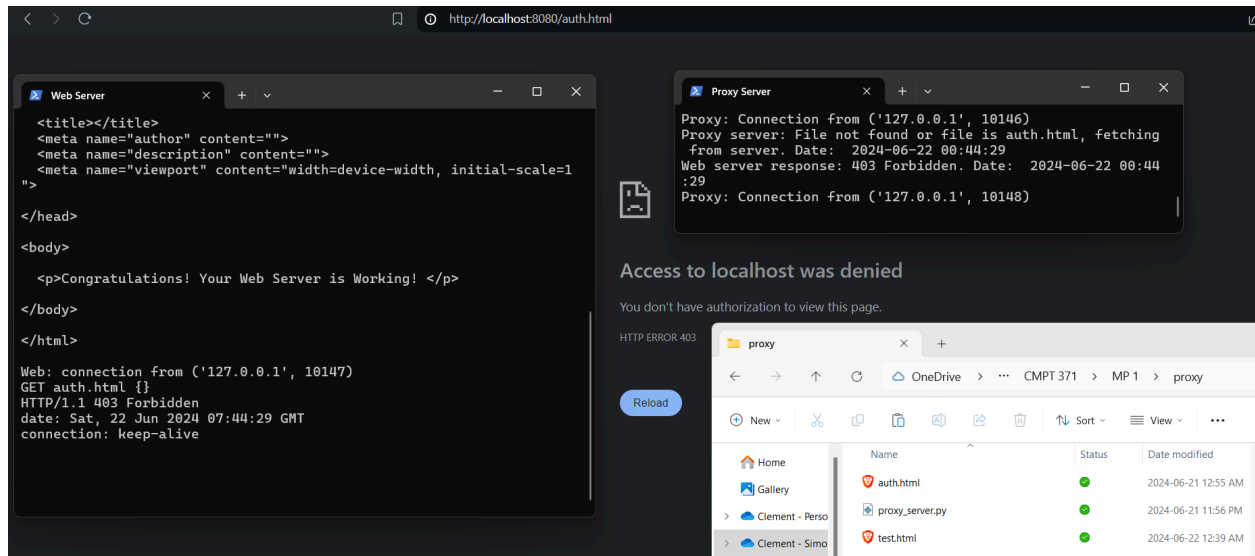
From the server logs, we can see that the proxy server fails to locate the requested resource, and the request is fulfilled by the web server. The proxy receives the 200 OK response from the web server and relays it to the client. Now, let's try to add the same test.html to the proxy server cache.



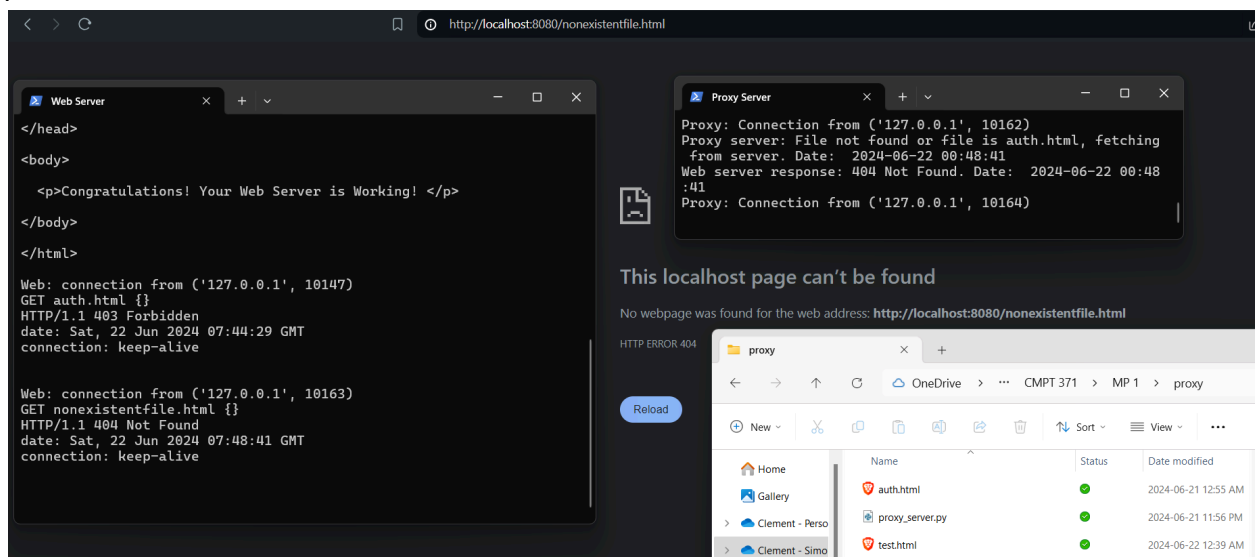
The proxy server processes the request by responding with a 304 Not Modified, while no new requests are sent to the web server. This works as expected because the test.html file is the same and was not modified. We can try to modify the test.html file in the cache, and it should return a 200 OK only on the proxy server.



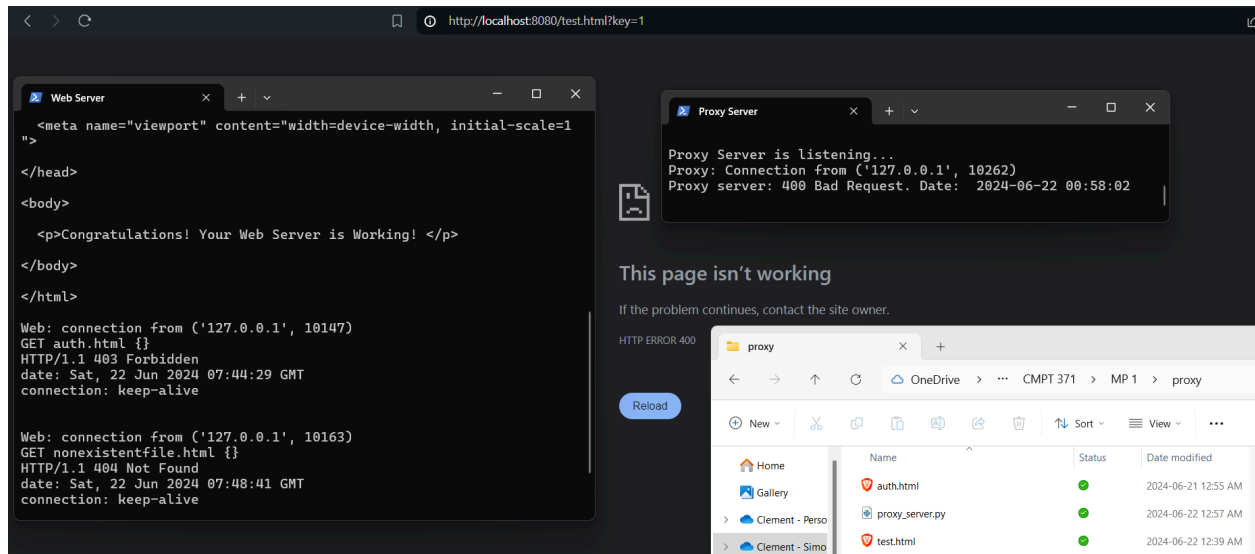
The proxy server responds as expected without invoking the web server. If we try to access the auth.html document (even if it is in the proxy cache somehow) with an invalid authorization, the proxy server should redirect the authentication process to the web server.



As you can see, the proxy server redirects the request to the web server, which responds with a 403 Forbidden. Let's test with a non-existent file and see the 404 Not Found generation process.



Once again, the proxy server forwards the request to the web server because the requested file was not found in its cache (i.e. a cache miss). The web server checks its directory as well and returns a 404 Not Found when the resource cannot be found. Finally, let's try with an invalid request. The proxy server should intercept the bad request and respond directly to the client.



The proxy server handles the bad request directly without calling the web server.

## Multi-threading

Our server uses multi-threading for each TCP connection. New threads are created when a new incoming connection is intercepted. This is done in the main function of our server code using Python's `threading.Thread` function:

```
while True:
    # Establish a connection
    client_socket, addr = server_socket.accept()
    # main process
    threading.Thread(target=handle_client, args=(client_socket,
addr)).start()
```

After a connection is closed, the thread is closed as well.

In terms of performance, multi-threading significantly speeds up the server processing time if there are multiple connections, as each connection can be handled concurrently. A single-threaded server will need to handle and finish a connection before processing another, which can create long queues if a server has a high traffic volume.

## Step Four: HOL Problem

According to module 2, slide 37, using HTTP/2 can be an effective approach to mitigate and avoid HOL blocking. Therefore, we rewrote our web server using the `hyper-h2` library to serve HTTP/2 instead of HTTP/1.1. The new server can be found in the zip file under the name `web_server_http2.py`. Note that it will not be compatible with the proxy as it serves HTTP/1.1 instead. The HTTP/2 server has the same specifications as the HTTP/1.1 web server, except for the HTTP version.

To run the server, you need to install the `hyper-h2` library using the command `pip install h2`. In addition, the server will most likely not work in browsers due to them sending HTTP/1.1

requests initially. As a result, you will need to use the curl command line tool along with the --http2-prior-knowledge flag. The following screenshots show some functionalities of our HTTP/2 server. (Note that the IP is 192.168.1.108 instead of localhost because of WSL restrictions).

```
ch155@C:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge http://192.168.1.108:8088/test.html
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x55ce70336e90)
> GET /test.html HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
>
< HTTP/2 200
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:46:03 GMT
< content-type: text/html
< last-modified: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 11:57:12 GMT
<
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title></title>
  <meta name="author" content="">
  <meta name="description" content="">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
</head>

<body>

  <p>Congratulations! Your Web Server is Working! </p>

</body>

</html>
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact
```

### *Simple GET for 200 OK*

```
ch155@C:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge -H "if-modified-since: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 11:57:12 GMT" http://192.168.1.108:8088/test.html
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x56519bdf8e90)
> GET /test.html HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
> if-modified-since: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 11:57:12 GMT
>
< HTTP/2 304
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:47:27 GMT
< content-type: text/html
<
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact
```

### *Another GET for 304 Not Modified*

```

ch155@C:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge -X POST http://192.168.1.108:8088/test.html?key=1
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x55d56c194e90)
> POST /test.html?key=1 HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
>
< HTTP/2 400
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:48:59 GMT
< content-type: text/html
<
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact

```

### *A 400 Bad Request using the POST method and unsupported query strings*

```

ch155@C:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge -H "authorization: Basic dGVzdDp0ZXN0" http://192.168.1.108:8088/auth.html
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x5576ffdd2e90)
> GET /auth.html HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
> authorization: Basic dGVzdDp0ZXN0
>
< HTTP/2 200
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:50:46 GMT
< content-type: text/html
< last-modified: Fri, 21 Jun 2024 07:55:36 GMT
<
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title></title>
  <meta name="author" content="">
  <meta name="description" content="">
  <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
</head>

<body>

  <p>Authorized! You are now viewing a secret document.</p>

</body>

</html>
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact

```

### *Successful access to auth.html using the correct authorization*

```

ch155@C:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge -H "authorization: Basic b2s6b2s=" http://192.168.1.108:8088/auth.html
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x55670f992e90)
> GET /auth.html HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
> authorization: Basic b2s6b2s=
>
< HTTP/2 403
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:52:19 GMT
< content-type: text/html
<
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact

```

### *403 Forbidden from incorrect authorization*

```
chl55@c:~$ curl -v --http2-prior-knowledge http://192.168.1.108:8088/nonexistentfile.html
* Trying 192.168.1.108:8088...
* Connected to 192.168.1.108 (192.168.1.108) port 8088 (#0)
* Using HTTP2, server supports multiplexing
* Connection state changed (HTTP/2 confirmed)
* Copying HTTP/2 data in stream buffer to connection buffer after upgrade: len=0
* Using Stream ID: 1 (easy handle 0x55f47161fe90)
> GET /nonexistentfile.html HTTP/2
> Host: 192.168.1.108:8088
> user-agent: curl/7.81.0
> accept: */*
>
< HTTP/2 404
< date: Tue, 25 Jun 2024 12:53:25 GMT
< content-type: text/html
<
* Connection #0 to host 192.168.1.108 left intact
```

*404 Not Found for an non-existent file*

## Reference

We would like to acknowledge that we referenced the hyper-h2 documentation

(<https://python-hyper.org/projects/h2/en/stable/basic-usage.html>) for parts of the implementation phase for our HTTP/2 server. Any additional features compared to the tutorial are our own work.