

The World Wide Web

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Really everybody can design an own website



Overview

- Internet / Web Concepts
- Three-tier architectures
- Presentation layer
- Middle tier

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History: The Internet and the Web

- 12xx Incas use Quipu
- 1945 idea of linking together microfiche published by Vannevar Bush
- 1960s Internet as (D)ARPA project: fault-tolerant, heterogeneous WAN (cold war!) term "Hypertext" coined by Ted Nelson at ACM 20th National Conference



- 1976 Queen Elizabeth sends her first email. First state leader.
- 1980 Berners-Lee at CERN writes notebook program to link arbitrary nodes
- 1989 Berners-Lee makes a proposal on information management at CERN
- 1990 Berners-Lee's boss approves purchase of a NeXT cube Berners-Lee begins hypertext GUI browser+editor and dubs it "WorldWideWeb" First web server developed
- 1991 May 17 general release of WWW on central CERN machines
- 1992 more browsers: Viola & Erwise released
- 1994 > 200 web servers by start of year Mosaic: first inline images; later "Netscape"

Advanced Databases – © P. Baumann

Internet & WWW

- Internet originally 4 basic services, based on TCP & IP:
 - telnet, ftp, mail, news
 - Later many more: IRC, SSL, NTP, ...
- Each computer has worldwide unique id
 - IP address: n.n.n.n (32 bit IPv4, 128 bit IPv6)
 - Domain name: subdomain.host.top-level-domain
 - **DNS** to resolve
- World-Wide Web just another Internet service
 - HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol
 - HTML: Hypertext Markup Language
 - **URIs** (Uniform Resource Identifiers)

[wikipedia]









Hypertext Transfer Protocol

- What is a communication protocol?
 - Set of rules that defines the structure of messages & communication process
 - Examples: TCP, IP, HTTP
- What happens if you click on www.cs.wisc.edu/~dbbook/index.html?
 - Client connects to server, transmits HTTP request to server
 - Server generates response, transmits to client
 - Both disconnect
- HTTP header describes content/action (text = ISO-8859-1), content for data
 - RFC 2616

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HTTP Request Structure

Request line GET ~/index.html HTTP/1.1 Http method field (GET and POST, more later) local resource field HTTP version field

Type of client

User-agent: Mozilla/4.0

What types of files (MIME types) the client will accept

Accept: text/*, image/gif, image/jpeg

- MIME = Multipurpose Internet Mail (!) Extensions = file type naming system
- MIME types other than text/*, image/jpeg, image/gif, image/png need browser plug-in or helper application

HTTP Response Structure

Status line

- HTTP version: HTTP/1.1
- Status code
- Server message, textual
- Date when the object was created
- Number of bytes being sent
- What type is the object being sent
- ...plus potentially many more items, such as server type, server time, etc.
- The payload!

•200 OK: Request succeeded
•400 Bad Request: Request could not be fulfilled by the server
•404 Not Found: Requested object does not exist on the server

•505 HTTP Version not supported

Last-Modified: Mon, 01 Mar 2002 09:23:24 GMT

Content-Length: 1024

Content-Type: text/html

<html>...</html>

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HTTP/1.1 200 OK



Conventions

- index.html (Windows: index.htm), .php, ...
 - If local path ends with directory, this file is assumed
 - *Ex:* http://www.myserver.foo/Downloads
 - If not found: directory listing is displayed
 - Put dummy index.html if you don't want this, or disable default in server
- Local path ~name/path
 - leads to ~name/public_html/path where name is local user name



HTTP Sample Request/Response

Client sends:

GET ~dbbook/index.html HTTP/1.1 User-agent: Mozilla/4.0 Accept: text/*, image/gif, image/jpeg

Try this: \$ telnet google.com 80 GET / HTTP/1.1 <3x newline>

Server responds:

HTTP/1.1 200 OK Date: Mon, 04 Mar 2002 12:00:00 GMT Server: Apache/1.3.0 (Linux) Last-Modified: Mon, 01 Mar 2002 09:23:24 GMT Content-Length: 1024 Content-Type: text/html

<html> <head></head> <body> <h1>Burns and Nobble Internet Bookstore</h1> Our inventory: <h3>Science</h3> The Character of Physical Law

</body></html>



HTML Primer

- HTML is a data exchange format
 - Unformatted ASCII
 - Proper indentation increases readability
 - Text interspersed with tags, some with attributes; usually start and end tag:
 - Opening tags: "<" element name ">"
 - Closing tags: "</" element name ">"
 - Tags can be nested:

<h1 align="center">headline</h1>

<h1>my text</h1>

- Many editors automatically generate HTML directly from your document
 - But you need to know HTML too, want to generate it lateron!
 - And tool's code sometimes has bad quality, cf. Microsoft Word "Save as html"



HTML Primer (contd.)

 <title>My first HTML document</title> <h1>An important heading</h1> <h2>A slightly less important heading</h2> This is the first paragraph. My link list: < u >This is a link to W3C This a link to Peter's page Go to top



HTML Primer (contd.)

Text structuring



Lists



HTML Primer (contd.)



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CSS: Cascading Style Sheets

- Idea: Separate display style from structure & contents
 - W3C recommendation = standard
- Define appearance of particular items
 - HTML element: body { font-family: Arial, sans-serif; } Self-defined: { color: red; } a:link .special { color: green; font-size: large; } Special: <html> <body> <h1>Title in Arial, but bold</h1> <div id="special">I am different</div> All HTML code of site references link in red </body> common CSS file \rightarrow Corporate Design </html> k rel="style sheet" type="text/css" href="books.css">



Summary: WWW and HTML

- WWW: another Internet service, aimed at easily traversing interconnected documents
- Protocol: HTTP, data exchange format: HTML
 - captures document structure according to fixed schema
- Browser = program that
 - gets page address; fetches HTML (+ likely additional files); renders page for display
- Separation of concerns:
 - HTML for structure and contents
 - CSS for layout
 - JavaScript for Dynamic HTML