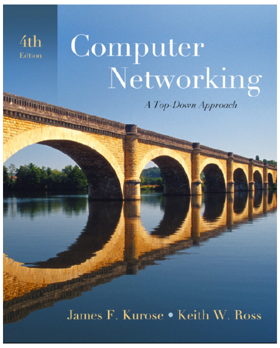
Chapter 2
Application Layer



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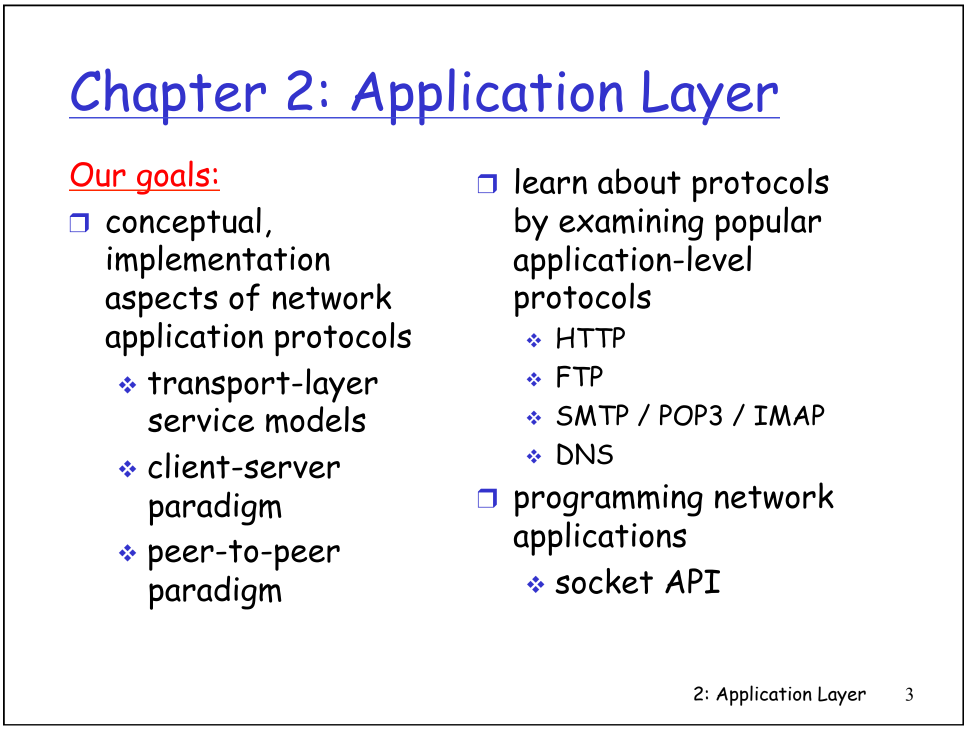
Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach,
4th edition.
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Addison-Wesley, July 2007.

Chapter 2: Application layer

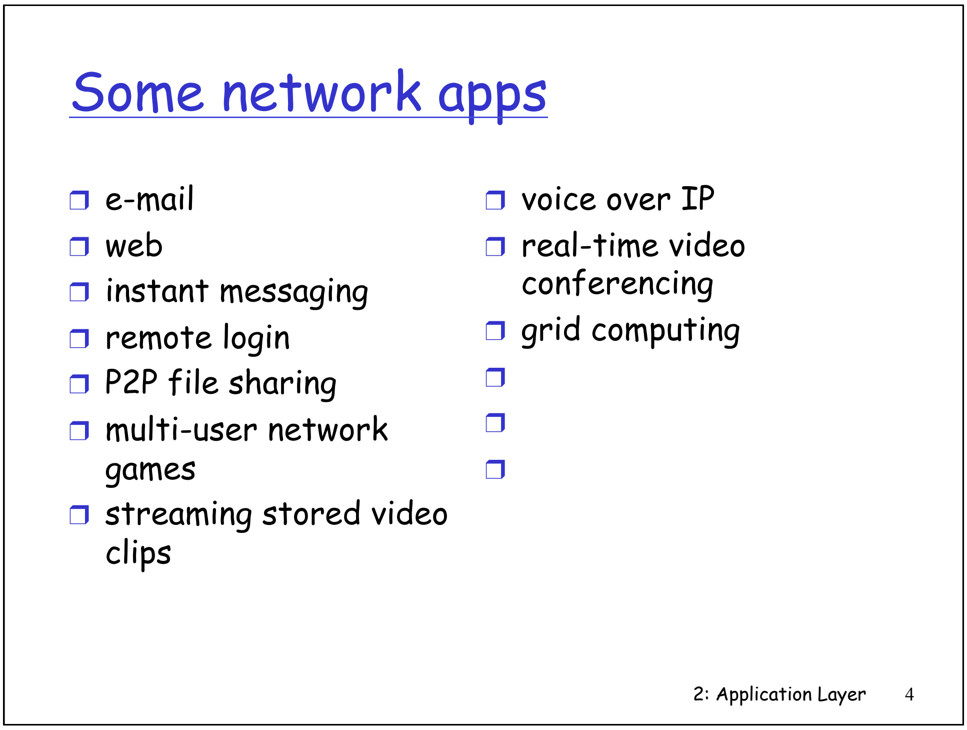
- 2.1 Principles of network applications
- 2.2 Web and HTTP
- 2.3 FTP
- 2.4 Electronic Mail
  - SMTP, POP3, IMAP
- 2.5 DNS
- 2.6 P2P Applications
- 2.7 Socket programming with TCP
- 2.8 Socket programming with UDP



Chapter 2: Application Layer

Our goals:

- conceptual, implementation aspects of network application protocols
  - transport-layer service models
  - client-server paradigm
  - peer-to-peer paradigm
- learn about protocols by examining popular application-level protocols
  - HTTP
  - FTP
  - SMTP / POP3 / IMAP
  - DNS
- programming network applications
  - socket API



Some network apps

- e-mail
- web
- instant messaging
- remote login
- P2P file sharing
- multi-user network games
- streaming stored video clips
- voice over IP
- real-time video conferencing
- grid computing
-
-
-

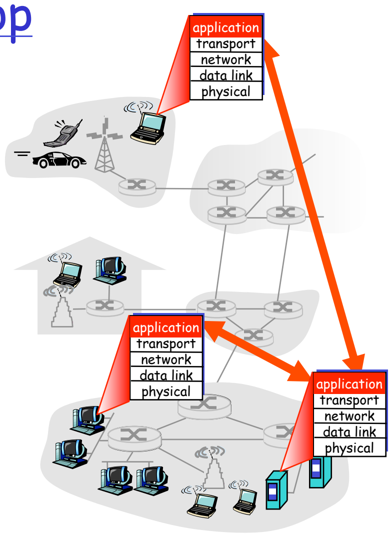
Creating a network app

write programs that

- run on (different) **end systems**
- communicate over network
- e.g., web server software communicates with browser software

little software written for devices in network core

- network core devices do not run user applications
- applications on end systems allows for rapid app development, propagation



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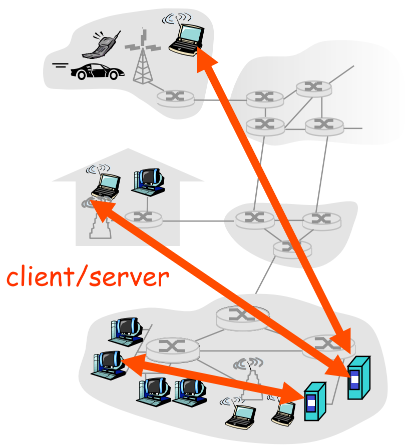
- 2.7 Socket programming with TCP
- 2.8 Socket programming with UDP
- 2.9 Building a Web server

Application architectures

- ❒ Client-server
- ❒ Peer-to-peer (P2P)
- ❒ Hybrid of client-server and P2P

Client-server architecture

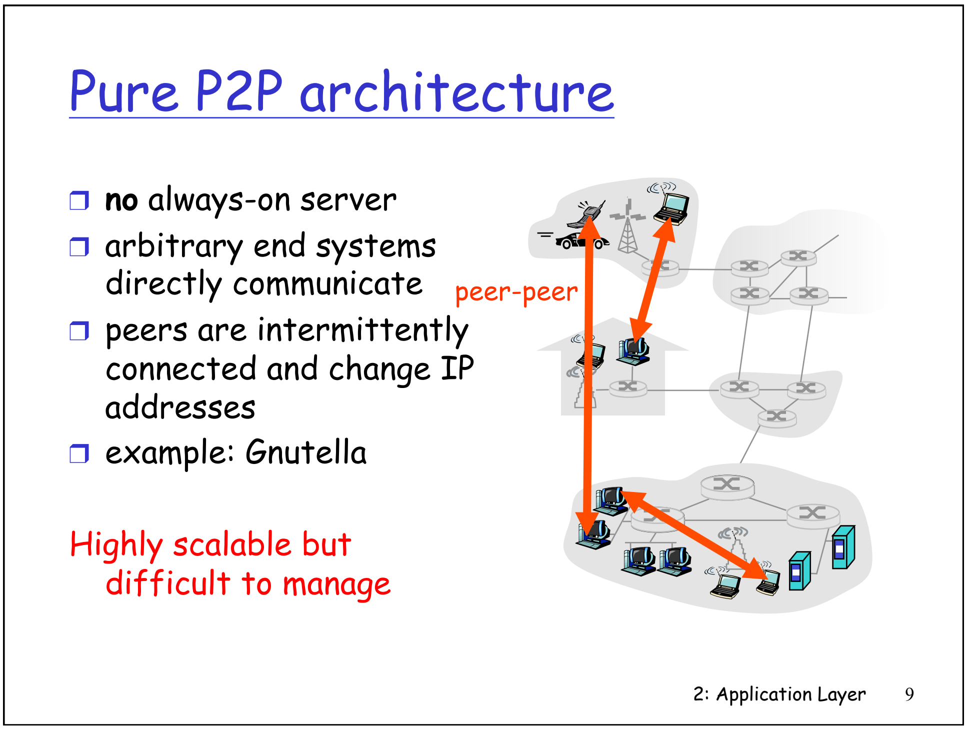


server:

- ❖ always-on host
- ❖ permanent IP address
- ❖ server farms for scaling

clients:

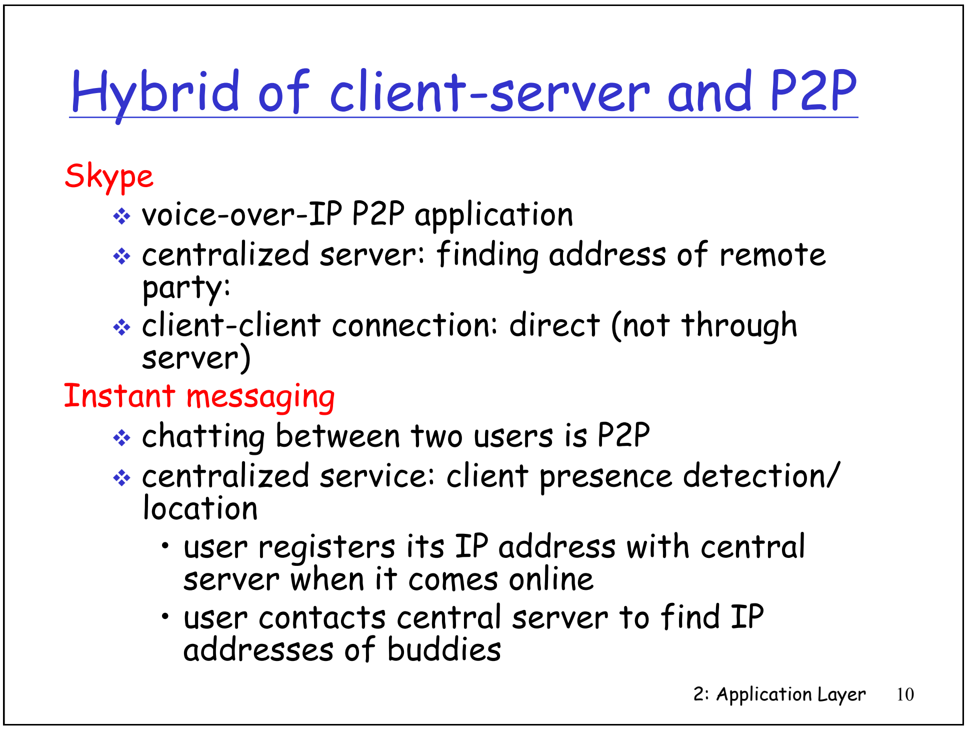
- ❖ communicate with server
- ❖ may be intermittently connected
- ❖ may have dynamic IP addresses
- ❖ do not communicate directly with each other



Pure P2P architecture

- ❒ **no** always-on server
- ❒ arbitrary end systems directly communicate
- ❒ peers are intermittently connected and change IP addresses
- ❒ example: Gnutella

Highly scalable but
difficult to manage



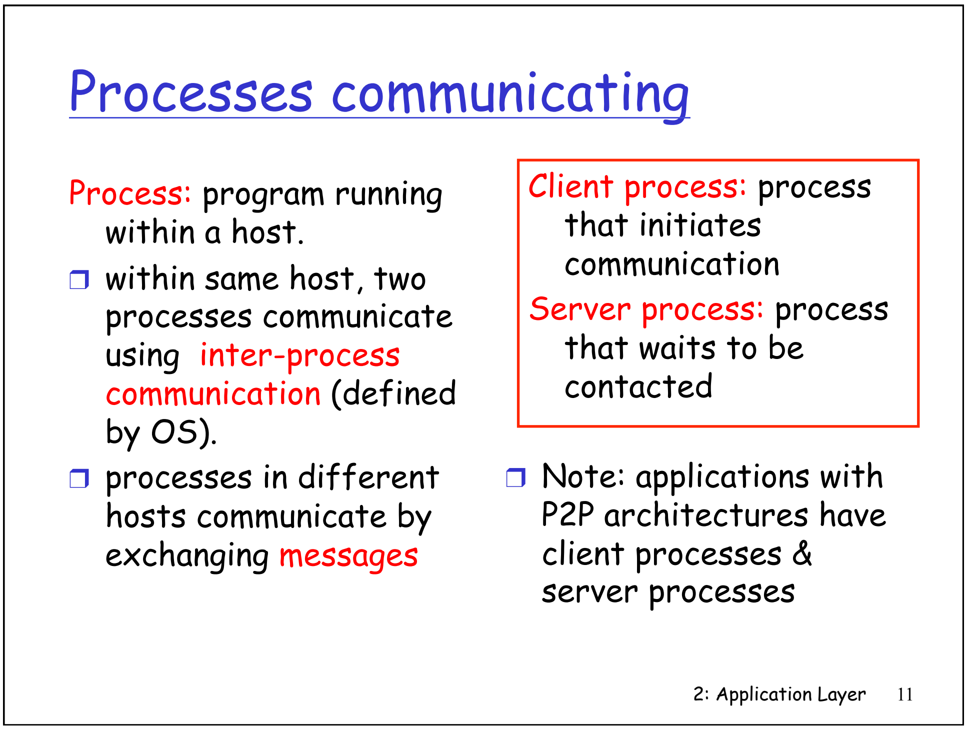
Hybrid of client-server and P2P

Skype

- ❖ voice-over-IP P2P application
- ❖ centralized server: finding address of remote party:
- ❖ client-client connection: direct (not through server)

Instant messaging

- ❖ chatting between two users is P2P
- ❖ centralized service: client presence detection/ location
  - user registers its IP address with central server when it comes online
  - user contacts central server to find IP addresses of buddies



Processes communicating

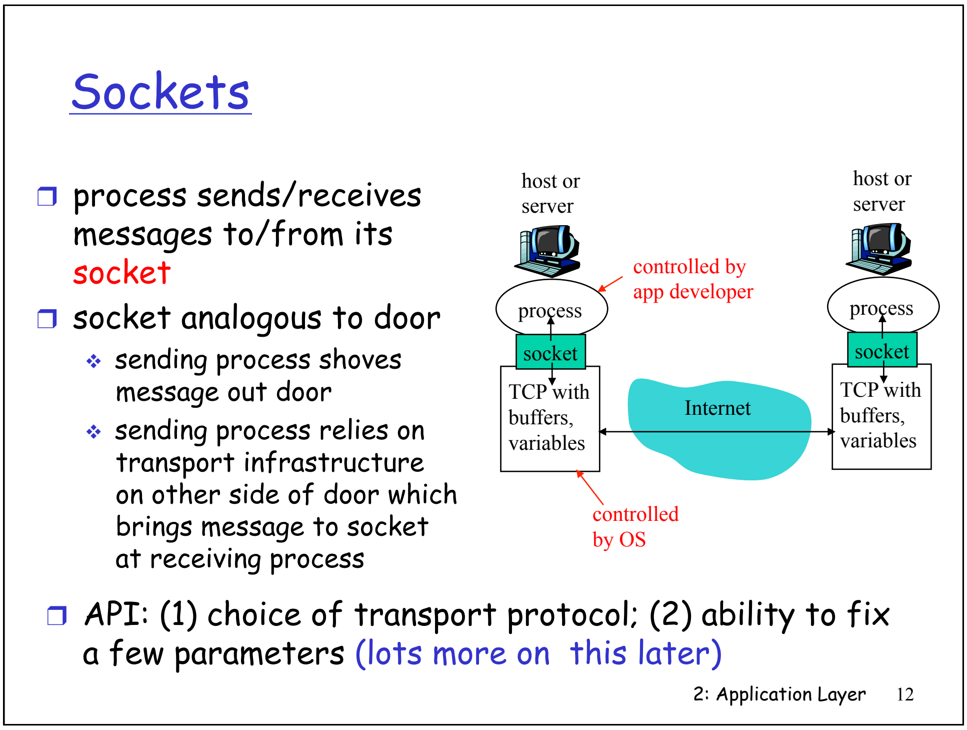
Process: program running within a host.

- within same host, two processes communicate using inter-process communication (defined by OS).
- processes in different hosts communicate by exchanging messages

Client process: process that initiates communication

Server process: process that waits to be contacted

- Note: applications with P2P architectures have client processes & server processes

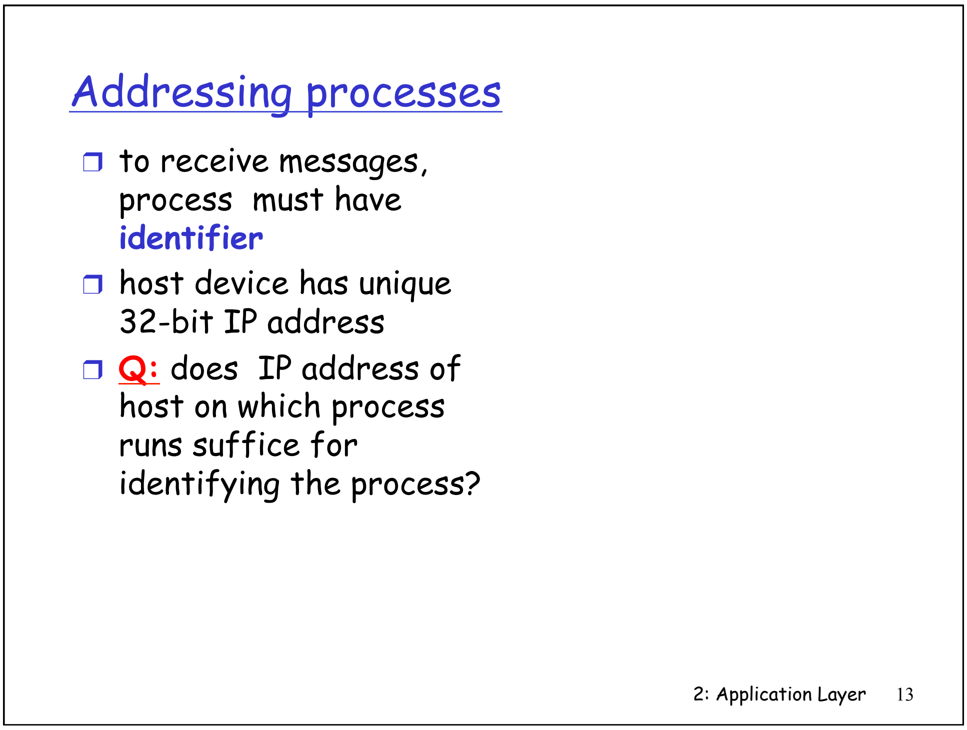


Sockets

- process sends/receives messages to/from its socket
- socket analogous to door
  - sending process shoves message out door
  - sending process relies on transport infrastructure on other side of door which brings message to socket at receiving process

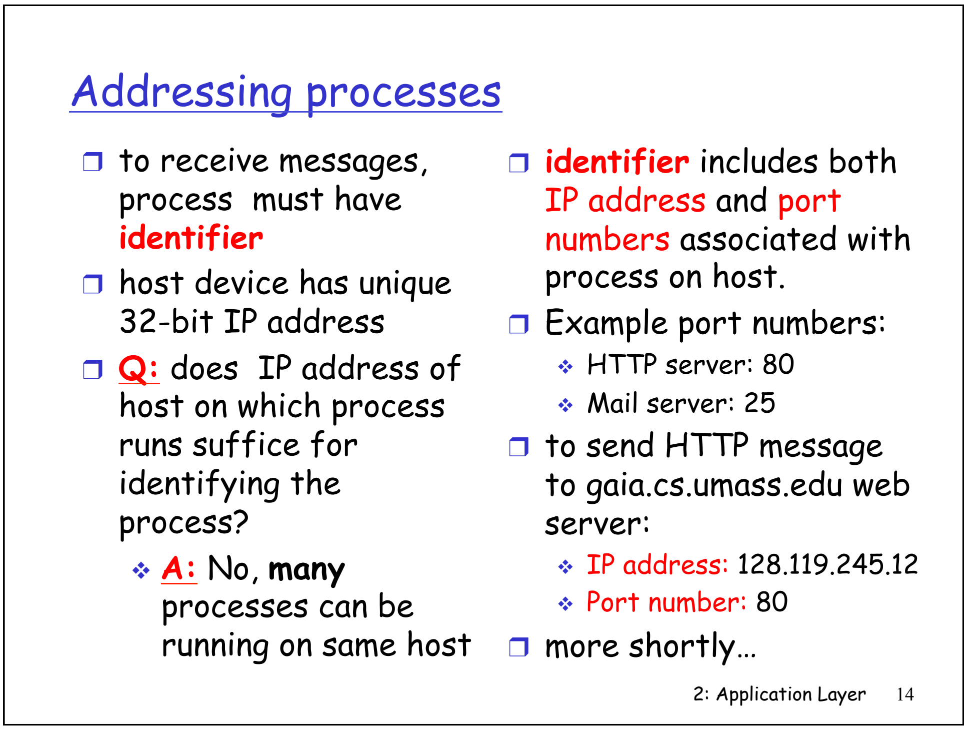
host or server
process
socket
TCP with buffers, variables
controlled by app developer
Internet
controlled by OS
host or server
process
socket
TCP with buffers, variables

- API: (1) choice of transport protocol; (2) ability to fix a few parameters (lots more on this later)



Addressing processes

- to receive messages, process must have **identifier**
- host device has unique 32-bit IP address
- Q: does IP address of host on which process runs suffice for identifying the process?



Addressing processes

- to receive messages, process must have **identifier**
- host device has unique 32-bit IP address
- Q: does IP address of host on which process runs suffice for identifying the process?
  - A: No, **many** processes can be running on same host
- **identifier** includes both IP address and port numbers associated with process on host.
- Example port numbers:
  - HTTP server: 80
  - Mail server: 25
- to send HTTP message to gaia.cs.umass.edu web server:
  - IP address: 128.119.245.12
  - Port number: 80
- more shortly…

App-layer protocol defines

- Types of messages exchanged,
  - e.g., request, response
- Message syntax:
  - what fields in messages & how fields are delineated
- Message semantics
  - meaning of information in fields
- Rules for when and how processes send & respond to messages

Public-domain protocols:

- defined in RFCs
- allows for interoperability
- e.g., HTTP, SMTP

Proprietary protocols:

- e.g., Skype

What transport service does an app need?

Data loss

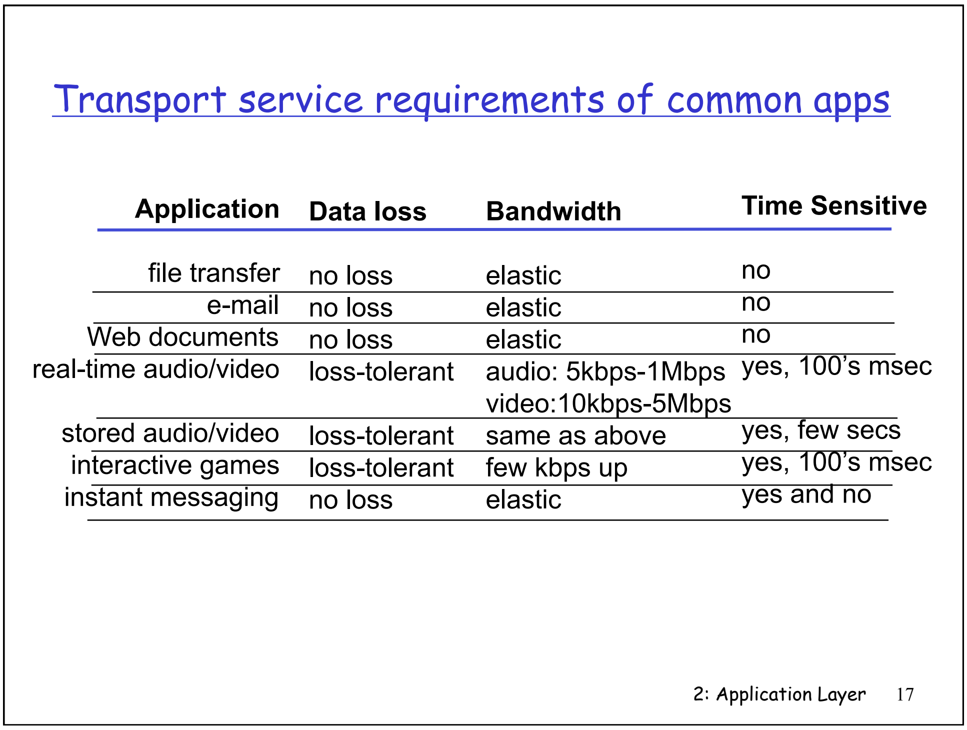
- some apps (e.g., audio) can tolerate some loss
- other apps (e.g., file transfer, telnet) require 100% reliable data transfer

Timing

- some apps (e.g., Internet telephony, interactive games) require low delay to be "effective"

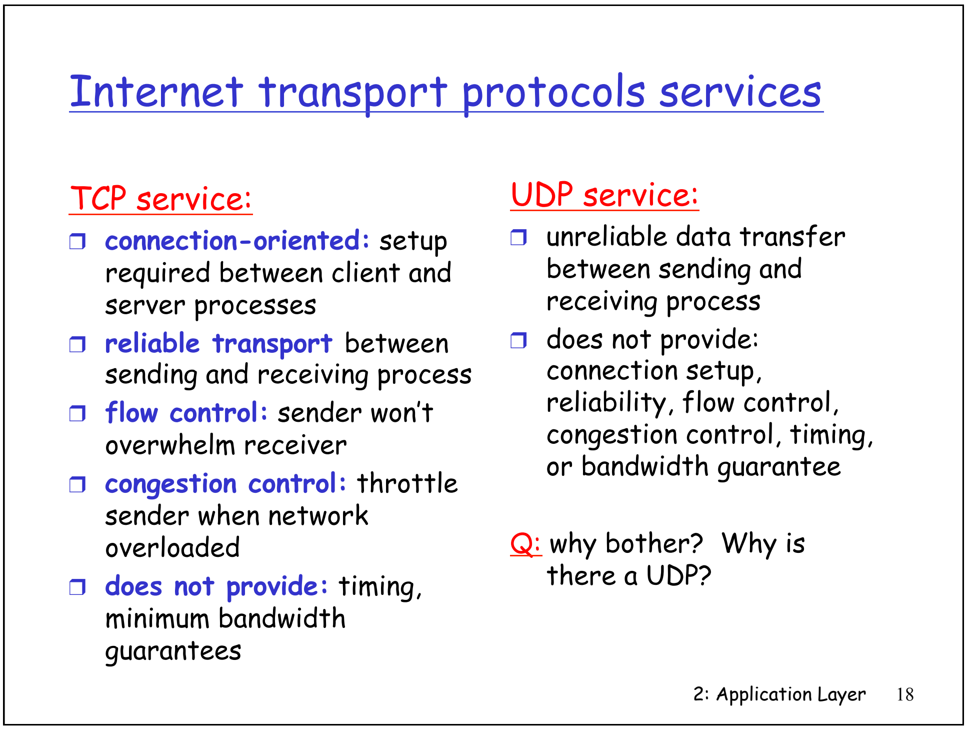
Bandwidth

- some apps (e.g., multimedia) require minimum amount of bandwidth to be "effective"
- other apps ("elastic apps") make use of whatever bandwidth they get



Transport service requirements of common apps

Application	Data loss	Bandwidth	Time Sensitive
file transfer	no loss	elastic	no
e-mail	no loss	elastic	no
Web documents	no loss	elastic	no
real-time audio/video	loss-tolerant	audio: 5kbps-1Mbps video:10kbps-5Mbps	yes, 100's msec
stored audio/video	loss-tolerant	same as above	yes, few secs
interactive games	loss-tolerant	few kbps up	yes, 100's msec
instant messaging	no loss	elastic	yes and no



Internet transport protocols services

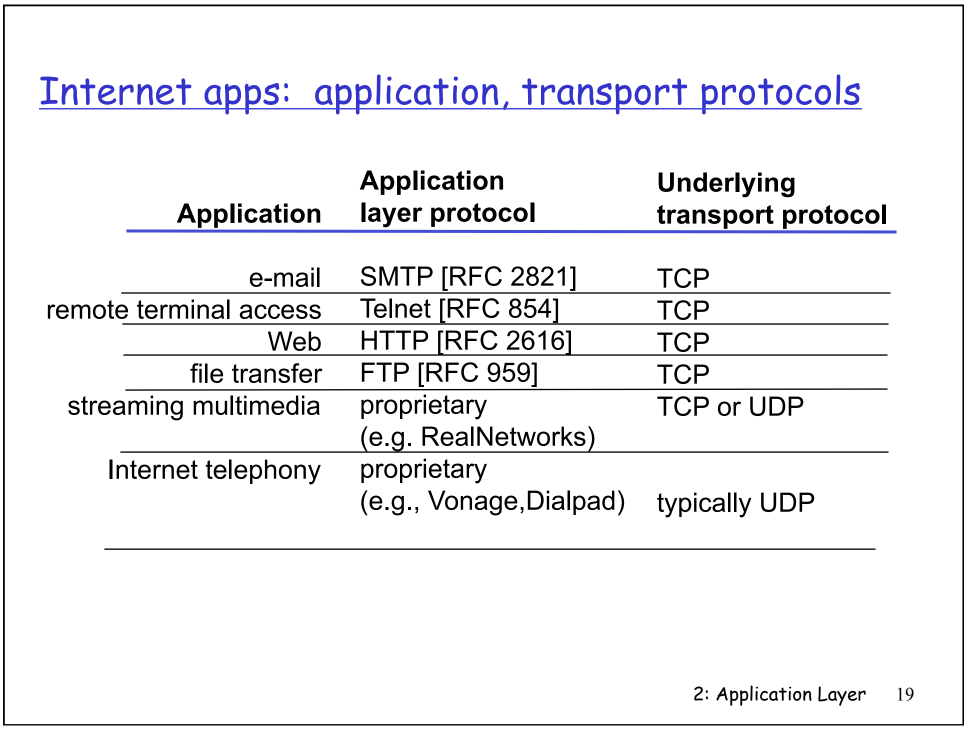
TCP service:

- **connection-oriented:** setup required between client and server processes
- **reliable transport** between sending and receiving process
- **flow control:** sender won't overwhelm receiver
- **congestion control:** throttle sender when network overloaded
- **does not provide:** timing, minimum bandwidth guarantees

UDP service:

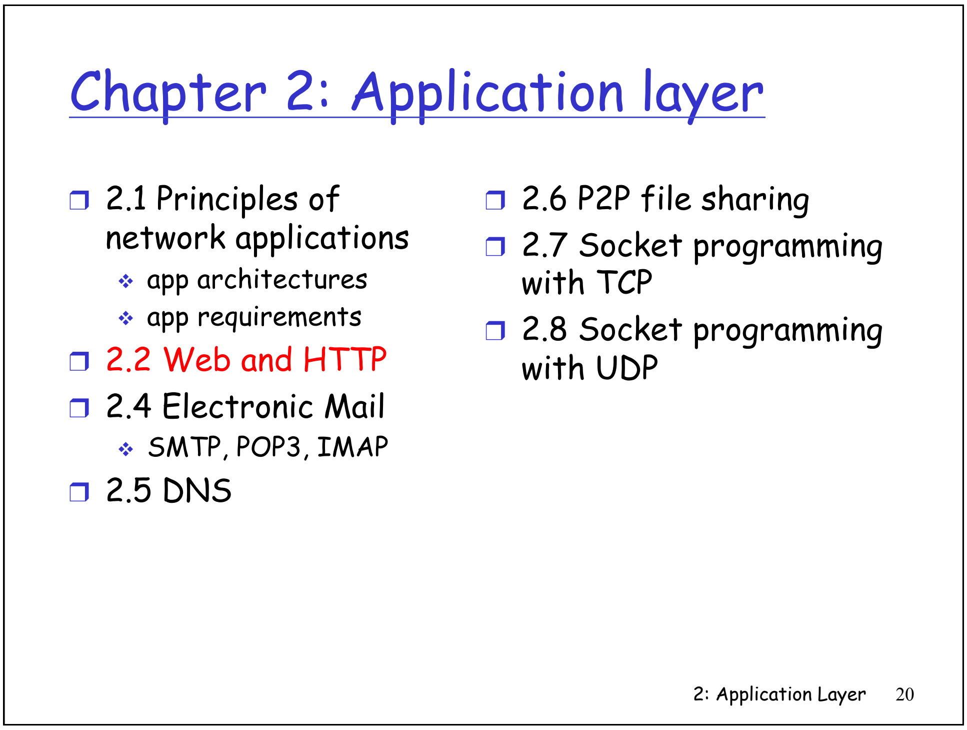
- unreliable data transfer between sending and receiving process
- does not provide: connection setup, reliability, flow control, congestion control, timing, or bandwidth guarantee

Q: why bother? Why is there a UDP?



Internet apps: application, transport protocols

Application	Application layer protocol	Underlying transport protocol
e-mail	SMTP [RFC 2821]	TCP
remote terminal access	Telnet [RFC 854]	TCP
Web	HTTP [RFC 2616]	TCP
file transfer	FTP [RFC 959]	TCP
streaming multimedia	proprietary (e.g. RealNetworks)	TCP or UDP
Internet telephony	proprietary (e.g., Vonage,Dialpad)	typically UDP



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  - app architectures
  - app requirements
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Web and HTTP

First some jargon

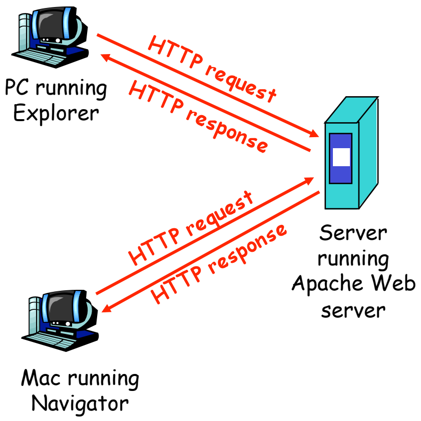
- Web page consists of objects
- Object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,…
- Web page consists of base HTML-file which includes several referenced objects
- Each object is addressable by a URL
- Example URL:

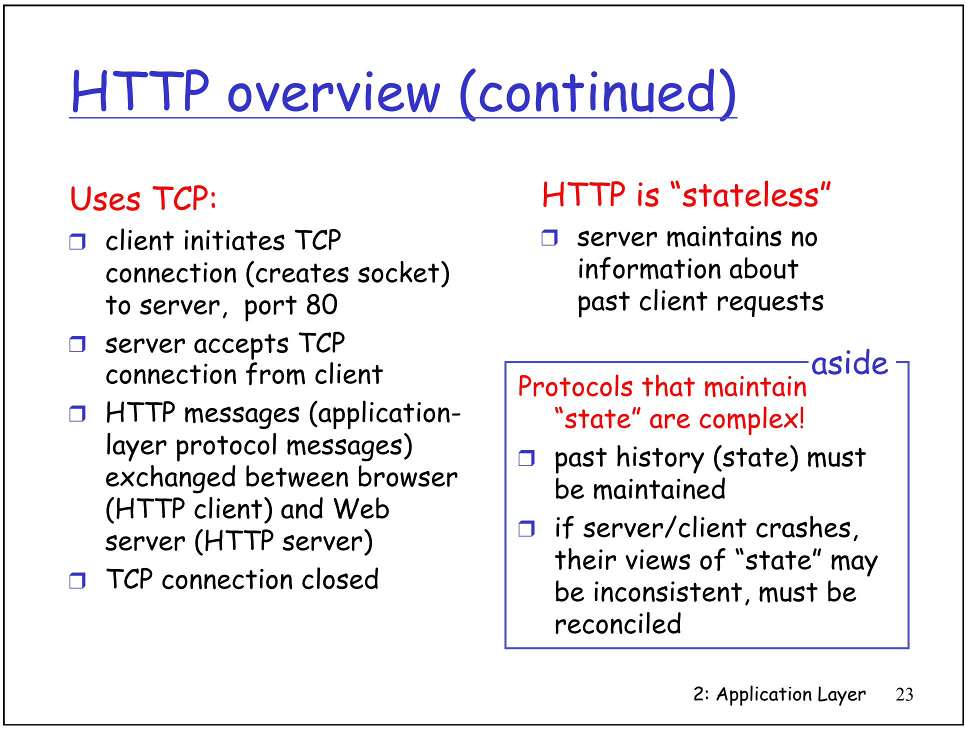
$$\underbrace{\texttt{www.someschool.edu}}_{\text{host name}}\underbrace{\texttt{/someDept/pic.gif}}_{\text{path name}}$$

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

- Web's application layer protocol
- client/server model
  - client: browser that requests, receives, "displays" Web objects
  - server: Web server sends objects in response to requests
- HTTP 1.0: RFC 1945
- HTTP 1.1: RFC 2068





HTTP overview (continued)

Uses TCP:

- client initiates TCP connection (creates socket) to server, port 80
- server accepts TCP connection from client
- HTTP messages (application-layer protocol messages) exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- TCP connection closed

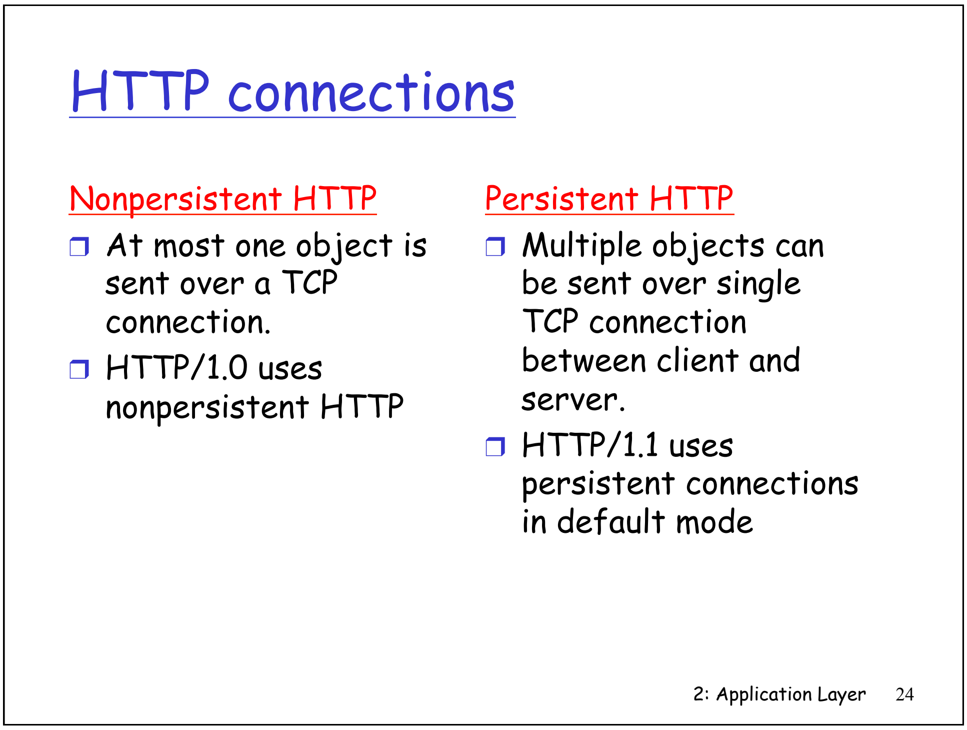
HTTP is "stateless"

- server maintains no information about past client requests

aside

Protocols that maintain "state" are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained
- if server/client crashes, their views of "state" may be inconsistent, must be reconciled



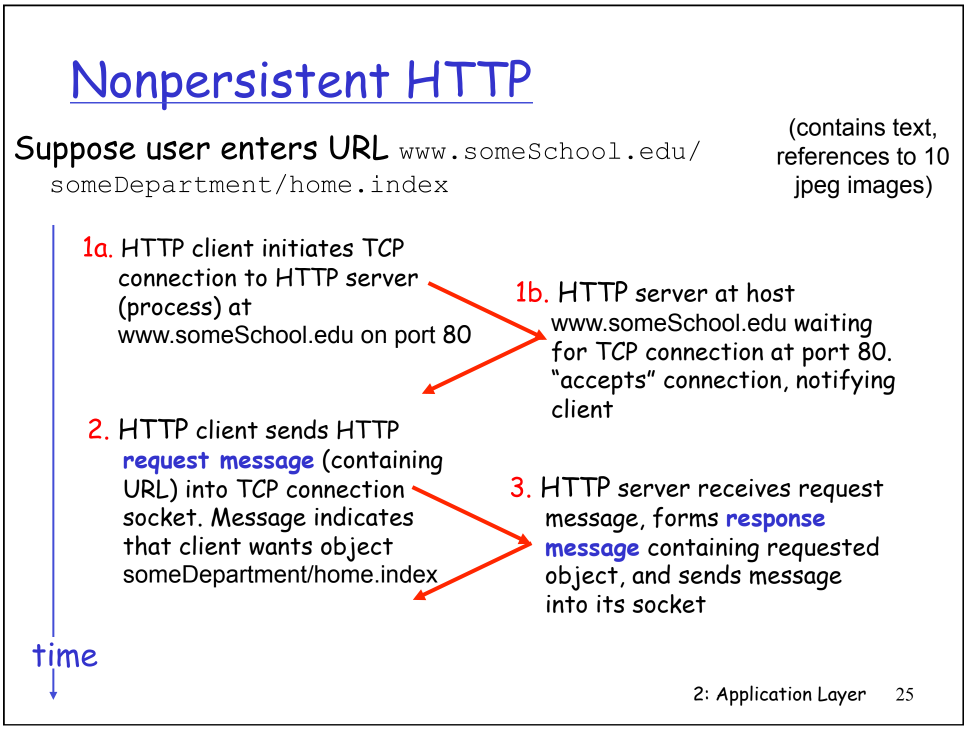
HTTP connections

Nonpersistent HTTP

- At most one object is sent over a TCP connection.
- HTTP/1.0 uses nonpersistent HTTP

Persistent HTTP

- Multiple objects can be sent over single TCP connection between client and server.
- HTTP/1.1 uses persistent connections in default mode



Nonpersistent HTTP

Suppose user enters URL `www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index`

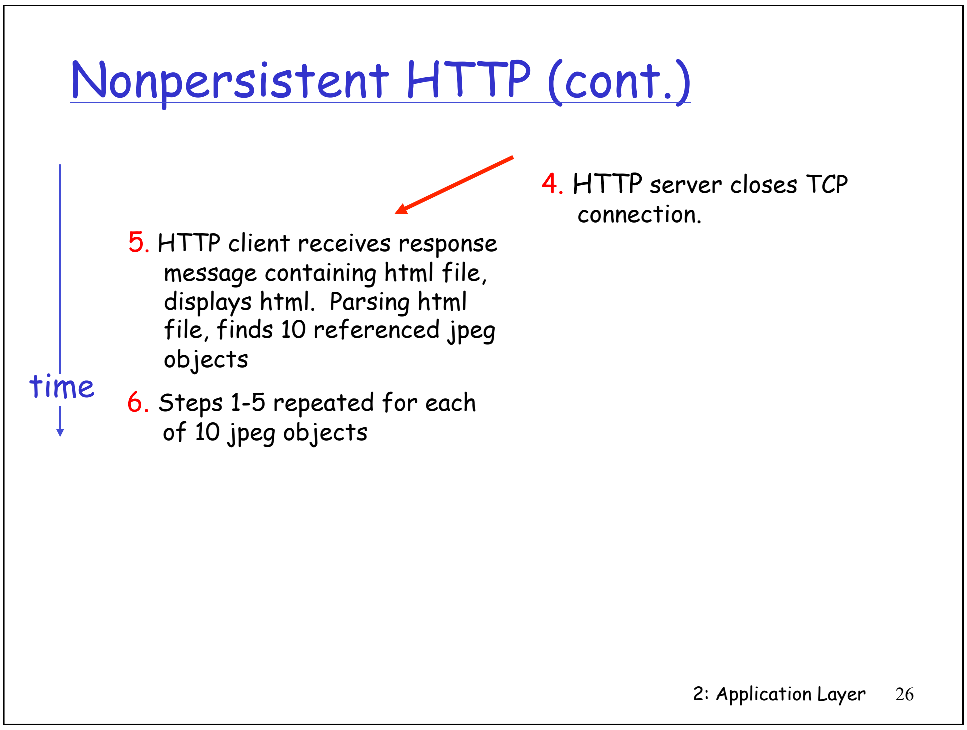
(contains text, references to 10 jpeg images)

1a. HTTP client initiates TCP connection to HTTP server (process) at www.someSchool.edu on port 80

1b. HTTP server at host www.someSchool.edu waiting for TCP connection at port 80. "accepts" connection, notifying client

2. HTTP client sends HTTP **request message** (containing URL) into TCP connection socket. Message indicates that client wants object someDepartment/home.index

3. HTTP server receives request message, forms **response message** containing requested object, and sends message into its socket



Nonpersistent HTTP (cont.)

4. HTTP server closes TCP connection.

5. HTTP client receives response message containing html file, displays html. Parsing html file, finds 10 referenced jpeg objects

6. Steps 1-5 repeated for each of 10 jpeg objects

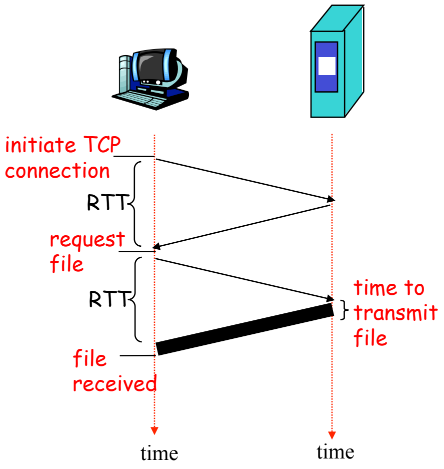
Non-Persistent HTTP: Response time

Definition of RTT: time to send a small packet to travel from client to server and back.

Response time:

- one RTT to initiate TCP connection
- one RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
- file transmission time

total = 2RTT+transmit time



Persistent HTTP

Nonpersistent HTTP issues:

- requires 2 RTTs per object
- OS overhead for **each** TCP connection
- browsers often open parallel TCP connections to fetch referenced objects

Persistent HTTP

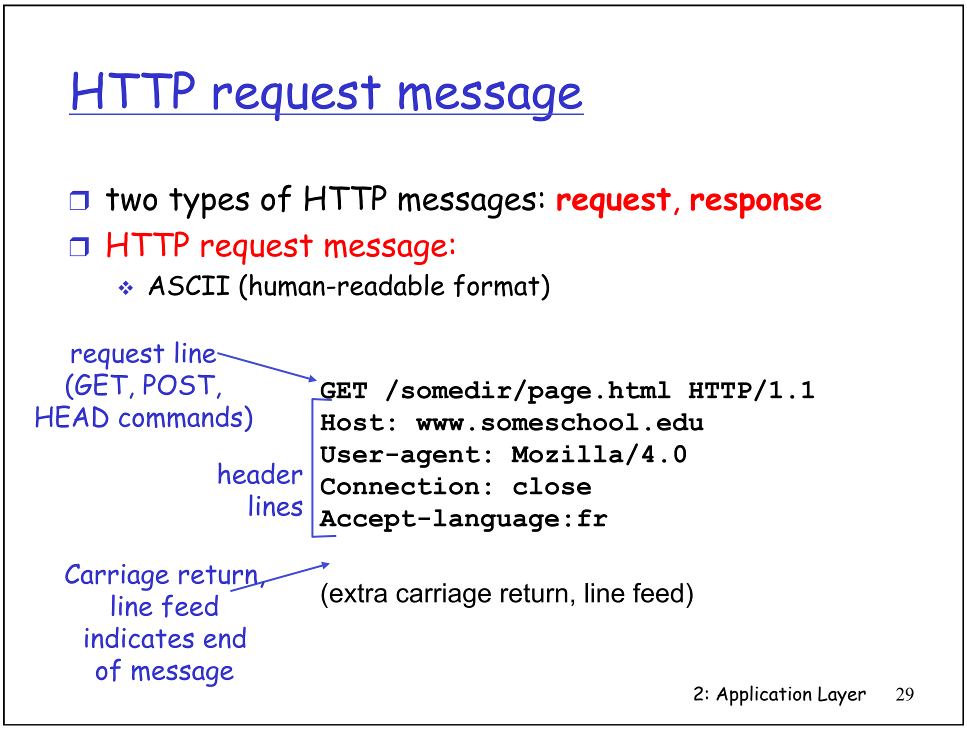
- server leaves connection open after sending response
- subsequent HTTP messages between same client/server sent over open connection

Persistent **without** pipelining:

- client issues new request only when previous response has been received
- one RTT for each referenced object

Persistent **with** pipelining:

- default in HTTP/1.1
- client sends requests as soon as it encounters a referenced object
- as little as one RTT for all the referenced objects



HTTP request message

- two types of HTTP messages: **request, response**
- HTTP request message:
  - ASCII (human-readable format)

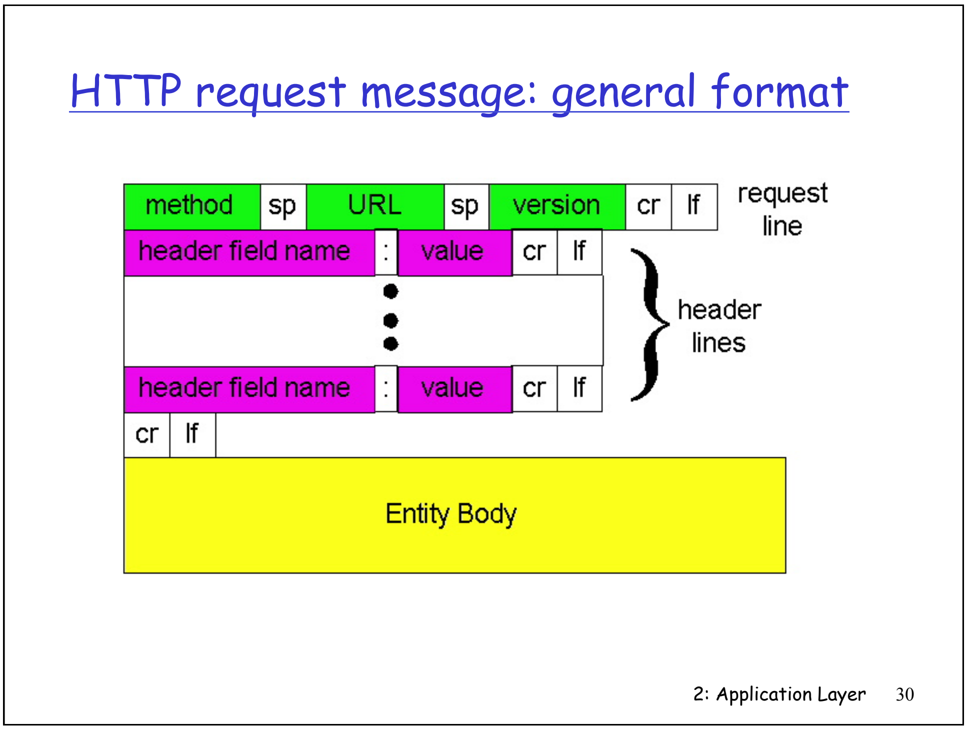
request line (GET, POST, HEAD commands)

```
GET /somedir/page.html HTTP/1.1
Host: www.someschool.edu
User-agent: Mozilla/4.0
Connection: close
Accept-language:fr
```

header lines

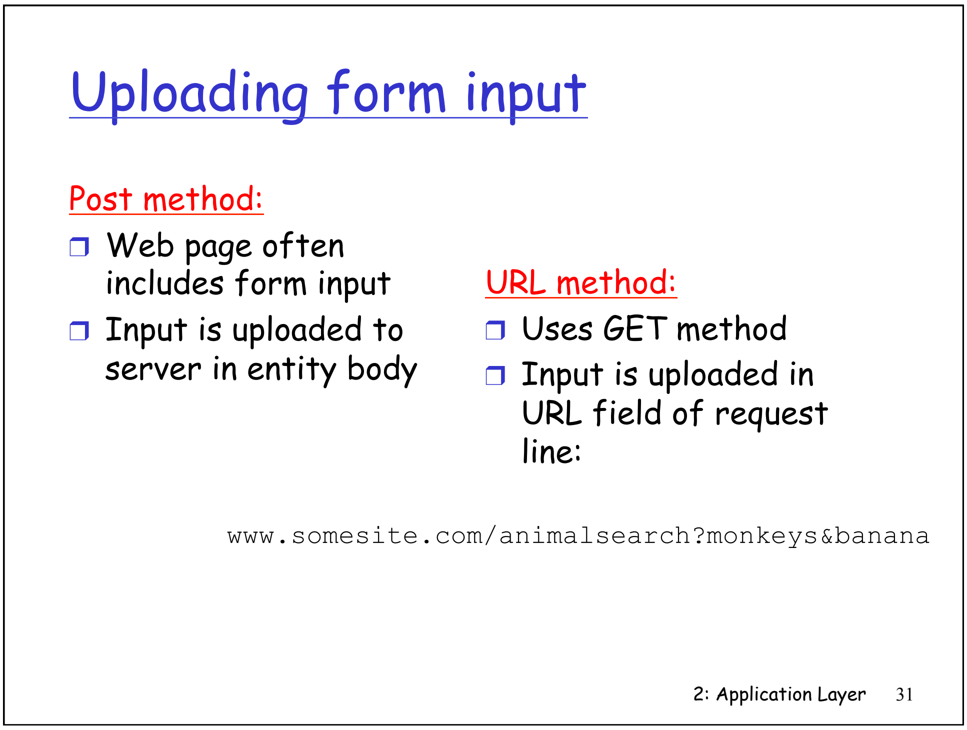
(extra carriage return, line feed)

Carriage return, line feed indicates end of message



HTTP request message: general format

method	sp	URL	sp	version	cr	lf	request line
header field name	:	value	cr	lf			header lines
⋮							
header field name	:	value	cr	lf			
cr	lf						
Entity Body							



Uploading form input

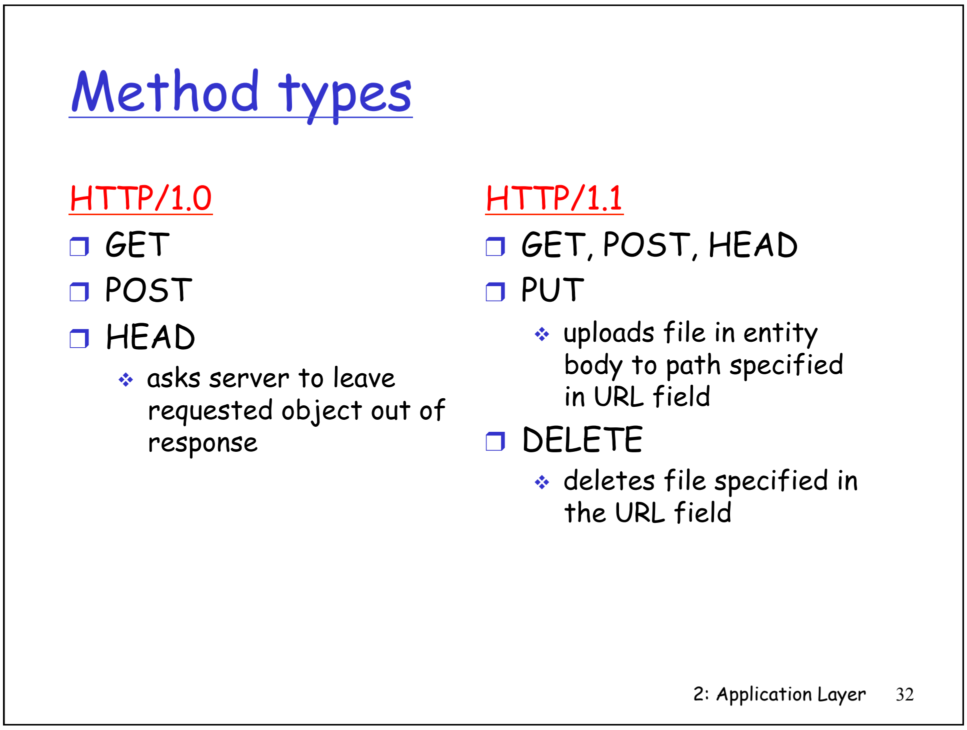
Post method:

- ❒ Web page often includes form input
- ❒ Input is uploaded to server in entity body

URL method:

- ❒ Uses GET method
- ❒ Input is uploaded in URL field of request line:

```
www.somesite.com/animalsearch?monkeys&banana
```



Method types

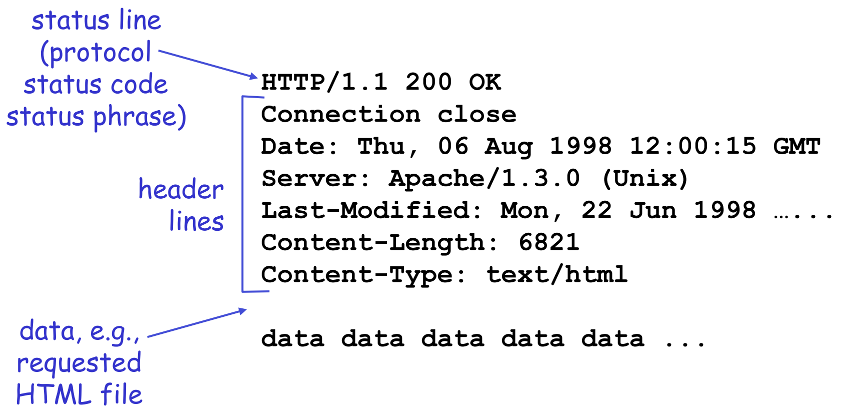
HTTP/1.0

- ❒ GET
- ❒ POST
- ❒ HEAD
  - ❖ asks server to leave requested object out of response

HTTP/1.1

- ❒ GET, POST, HEAD
- ❒ PUT
  - ❖ uploads file in entity body to path specified in URL field
- ❒ DELETE
  - ❖ deletes file specified in the URL field

HTTP response message



```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Connection close
Date: Thu, 06 Aug 1998 12:00:15 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.0 (Unix)
Last-Modified: Mon, 22 Jun 1998 …...
Content-Length: 6821
Content-Type: text/html

data data data data data ...
```

HTTP response status codes

In first line in server->client response message.

A few sample codes:

200 OK

- request succeeded, requested object later in this message

301 Moved Permanently

- requested object moved, new location specified later in this message (Location:)

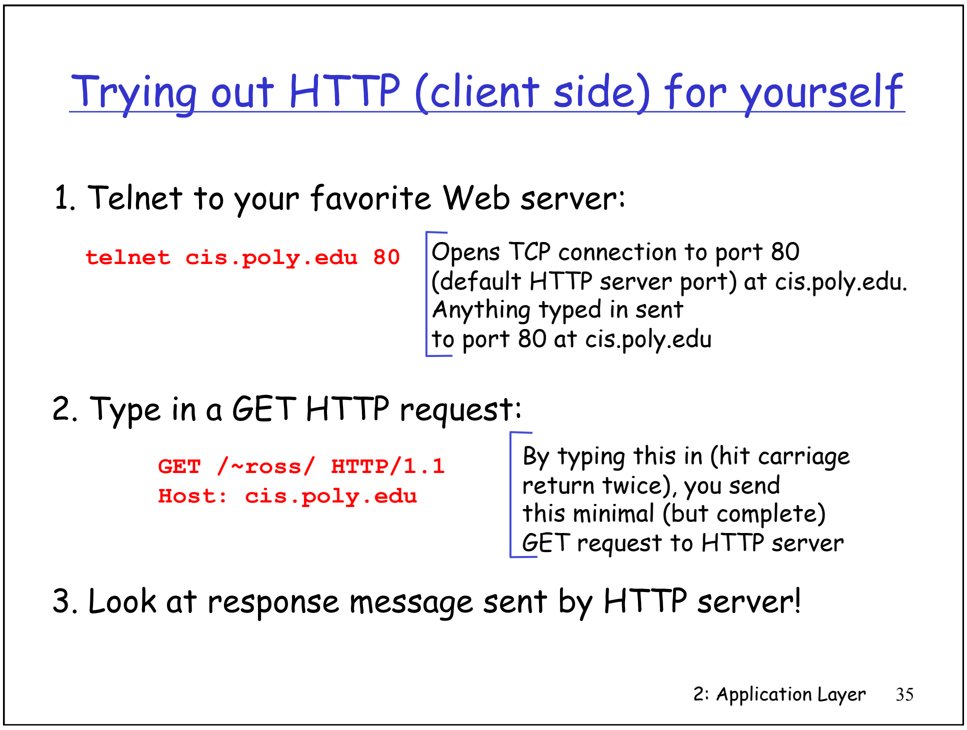
400 Bad Request

- request message not understood by server

404 Not Found

- requested document not found on this server

505 HTTP Version Not Supported



Trying out HTTP (client side) for yourself

1. Telnet to your favorite Web server:

```
telnet cis.poly.edu 80
```

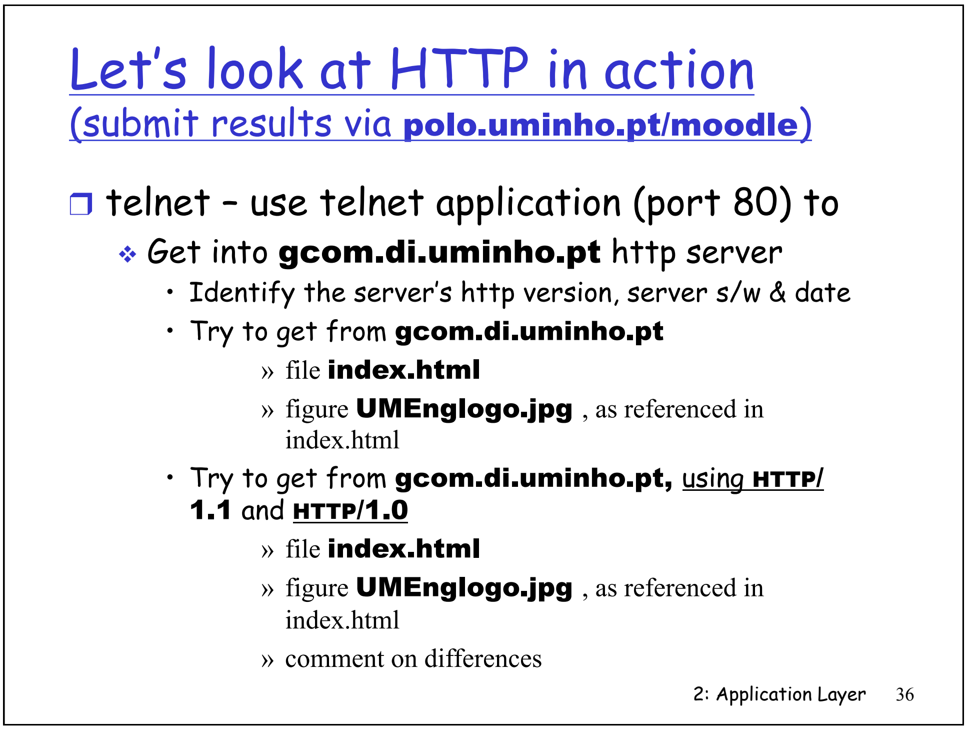
Opens TCP connection to port 80
(default HTTP server port) at cis.poly.edu.
Anything typed in sent
to port 80 at cis.poly.edu

2. Type in a GET HTTP request:

```
GET /~ross/ HTTP/1.1
Host: cis.poly.edu
```

By typing this in (hit carriage
return twice), you send
this minimal (but complete)
GET request to HTTP server

3. Look at response message sent by HTTP server!



Let’s look at HTTP in action
(submit results via **polo.uminho.pt/moodle**)

- telnet – use telnet application (port 80) to
  - Get into **gcom.di.uminho.pt** http server
    - Identify the server’s http version, server s/w & date
    - Try to get from **gcom.di.uminho.pt**
      - » file **index.html**
      - » figure **UMEnglogo.jpg** , as referenced in index.html
    - Try to get from **gcom.di.uminho.pt,** using **HTTP/1.1** and **HTTP/1.0**
      - » file **index.html**
      - » figure **UMEnglogo.jpg** , as referenced in index.html
      - » comment on differences

User-server state: cookies

Many major Web sites use cookies

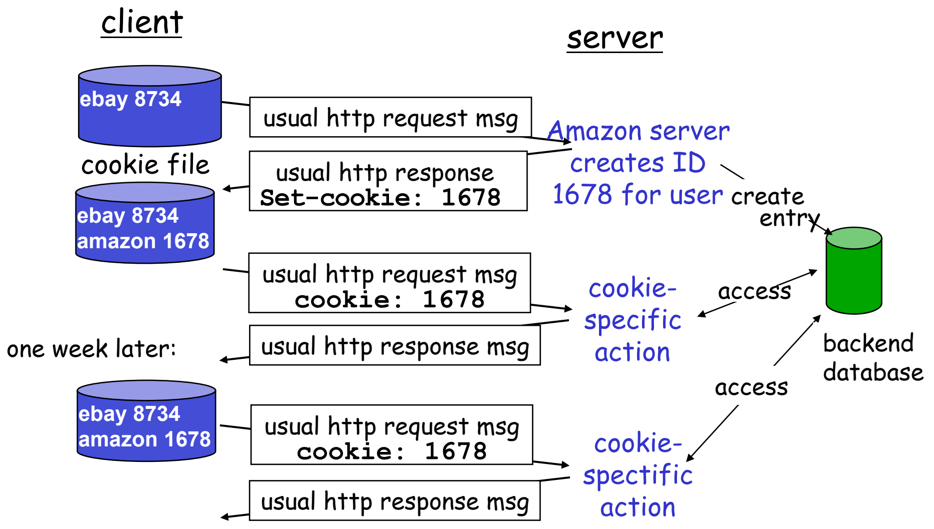
Four components:

1) cookie header line of HTTP **response** message
2) cookie header line in HTTP **request** message
3) cookie file kept on user's host, managed by user's browser
4) back-end database at Web site

Example:

- Susan always access Internet always from PC
- visits specific e-commerce site for first time
- when initial HTTP requests arrives at site, site creates:
  - unique ID
  - entry in backend database for ID

Cookies: keeping "state" (cont.)



Cookies (continued)

What cookies can bring:

- authorization
- shopping carts
- recommendations
- user session state (Web e-mail)

aside

Cookies and privacy:

- cookies permit sites to learn a lot about you
- you may supply name and e-mail to sites

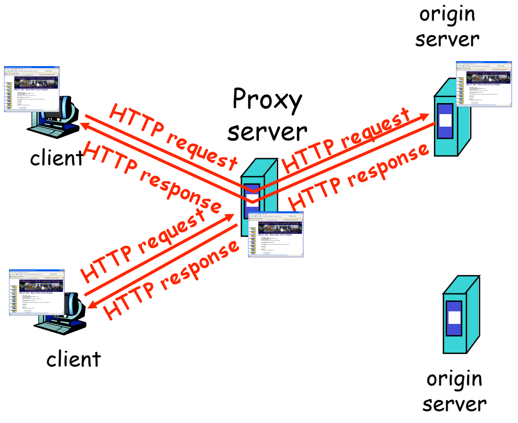
How to keep "state":

- protocol endpoints: maintain state at sender/receiver over multiple transactions
- cookies: http messages carry state

Web caches (proxy server)

Goal: satisfy client request without involving origin server

- user sets browser: Web accesses via cache
- browser sends all HTTP requests to cache
  - object in cache: cache returns object
  - else cache requests object from origin server, then returns object to client



More about Web caching

- cache acts as both client and server
- typically cache is installed by ISP (university, company, residential ISP)

Why Web caching?

- reduce response time for client request
- reduce traffic on an institution’s access link.
- Internet dense with caches: enables “poor” content providers to effectively deliver content (but so does P2P file sharing)

Caching example

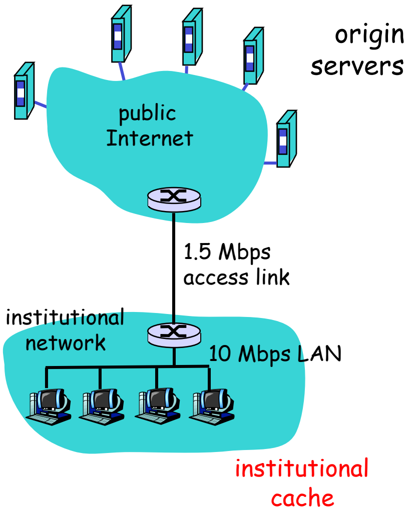
Assumptions

- average object size = 100,000 bits
- avg. request rate from institution’s browsers to origin servers = 15/sec
- delay from institutional router to any origin server and back to router = 2 sec

Consequences

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 100%
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

= 2 sec + minutes + milliseconds



Caching example (cont)

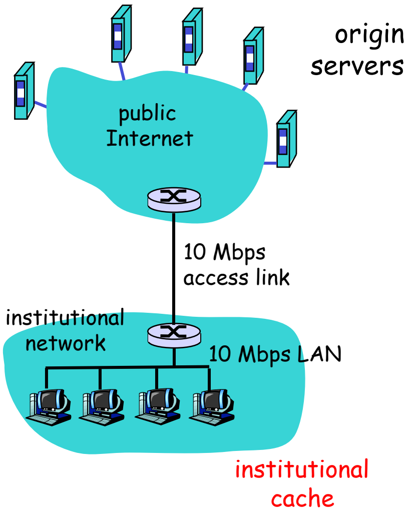
possible solution

- increase bandwidth of access link to, say, 10 Mbps

consequence

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 15%
- Total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

  = 2 sec + msecs + msecs
- often a costly upgrade



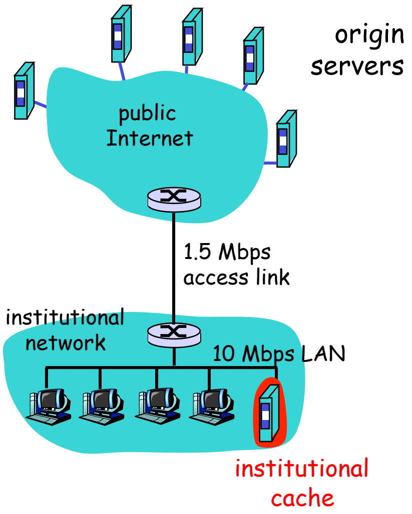
Caching example (cont)

possible solution: install cache

- suppose hit rate is 0.4

consequence

- 40% requests will be satisfied almost immediately
- 60% requests satisfied by origin server
- utilization of access link reduced to 60%, resulting in negligible delays (say 10 msec)
- total avg delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay = .6*(2.01) secs + .4*milliseconds < 1.4 secs

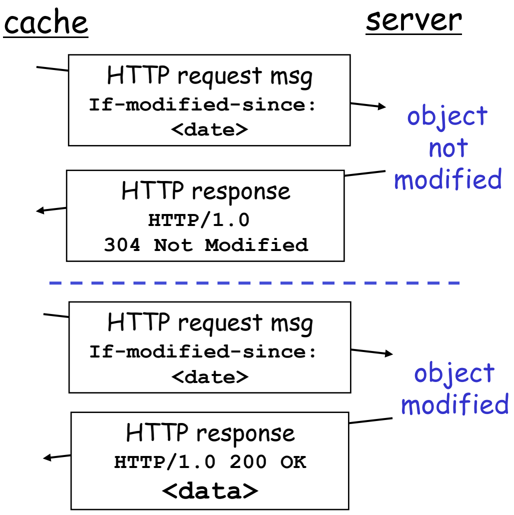


Conditional GET

- Goal: don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version
- cache: specify date of cached copy in HTTP request

  `If-modified-since: <date>`
- server: response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:

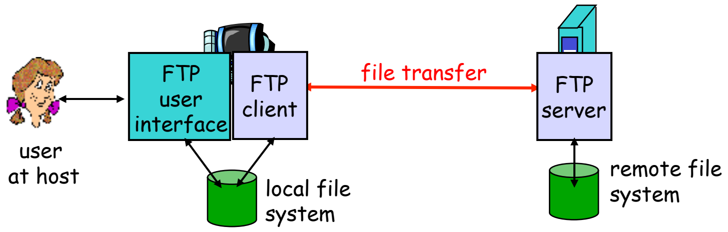
  `HTTP/1.0 304 Not Modified`



Chapter 2: Application layer

- 2.1 Principles of network applications
- 2.2 Web and HTTP
- 2.3 FTP
- 2.4 Electronic Mail
  - SMTP, POP3, IMAP
- 2.5 DNS
- 2.6 P2P file sharing
- 2.7 Socket programming with TCP
- 2.8 Socket programming with UDP
- 2.9 Building a Web server

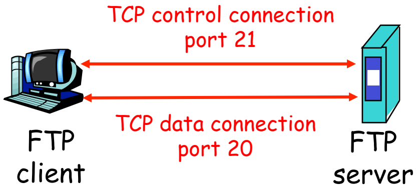
FTP: the file transfer protocol



- transfer file to/from remote host
- client/server model
  - **client:** side that initiates transfer (either to/from remote)
  - **server:** remote host
- ftp: RFC 959
- ftp server: port 21

FTP: separate control, data connections

- FTP client contacts FTP server at port 21, TCP is transport protocol
- client authorized over control connection
- client browses remote directory by sending commands over control connection.
- when server receives file transfer command, server opens 2nd TCP connection (for file) to client
- after transferring one file, server closes data connection.



- server opens another TCP data connection to transfer another file.
- control connection: "out of band"
- FTP server maintains "state": current directory, earlier authentication

FTP commands, responses

Sample commands:

- sent as ASCII text over control channel
- `USER` ***username***
- `PASS` ***password***
- `LIST` return list of file in current directory
- **`RETR filename`** retrieves (gets) file
- **`STOR filename`** stores (puts) file onto remote host
- **`CWD - Change the working directory`**

Sample return codes

- status code and phrase (as in HTTP)
- **`331 Username OK, password required`**
- **`125 data connection already open; transfer starting`**
- **`425 Can't open data connection`**
- **`452 Error writing file`**

FTP: let us try it out... and get /pub/rfcs/rfc-index.txt.pdf

(submit results via moodle)

Usage of commands:

Make a telnet connection to **ftp.di.uminho.pt , port 21, and use:**

- `USER` ***anonymous***
- `PASS` ***any-password***
- `PASV` enter the passive mode
- look and record PASV <response>
- **`Other commands: RETR filename, LIST filename, QUIT`**

Data connection:

A data connection must be opened. Where to?

- **`<response> = (X,Y,Z,W,PH,PL) where`**
- **`IP address = X.Y.Z.W (or X*256^3 + Y*256^2 + Z*256 + W)`**
- **`Port # = PH*256 + PL (or PH.PL)`**
- … … …

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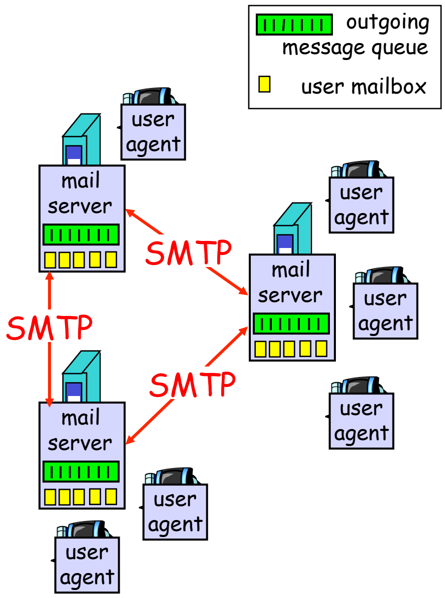
Electronic Mail

Three major components:

- user agents
- mail servers
- simple mail transfer protocol: SMTP

User Agent

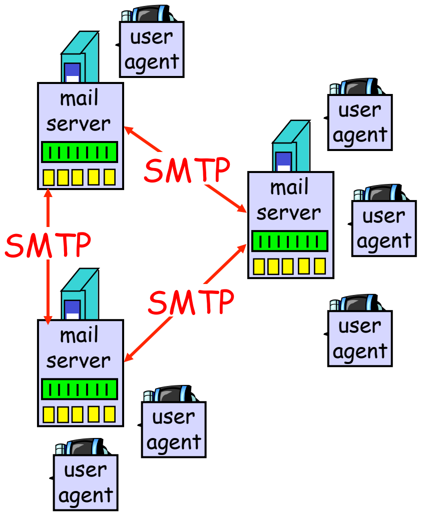
- a.k.a. "mail reader"
- composing, editing, reading mail messages
- e.g., Eudora, Outlook, elm, Mozilla Thunderbird
- outgoing, incoming messages stored on server



Electronic Mail: mail servers

Mail Servers

- mailbox contains incoming messages for user
- message queue of outgoing (to be sent) mail messages
- SMTP protocol between mail servers to send email messages
  - client: sending mail server
  - "server": receiving mail server



Electronic Mail: SMTP [RFC 2821]

- uses TCP to reliably transfer email message from client to server, port 25
- direct transfer: sending server to receiving server
- three phases of transfer
  - handshaking (greeting)
  - transfer of messages
  - closure
- command/response interaction
  - commands: ASCII text
  - response: status code and phrase
- messages must be in 7-bit ASCII

Scenario: Alice sends message to Bob

1) Alice uses UA to compose message and "to" `bob@someschool.edu`

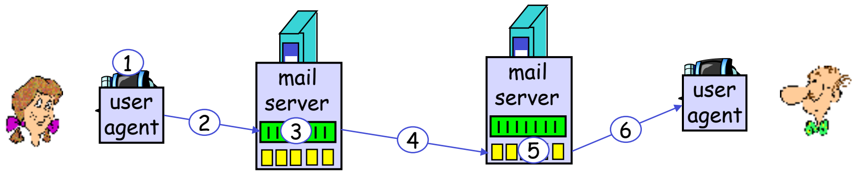
2) Alice's UA sends message to her mail server; message placed in message queue

3) Client side of SMTP opens TCP connection with Bob's mail server

4) SMTP client sends Alice's message over the TCP connection

5) Bob's mail server places the message in Bob's mailbox

6) Bob invokes his user agent to read message



Sample SMTP interaction

```
S: 220 hamburger.edu
C: HELO crepes.fr
S: 250  Hello crepes.fr, pleased to meet you
C: MAIL FROM: <alice@crepes.fr>
S: 250 alice@crepes.fr... Sender ok
C: RCPT TO: <bob@hamburger.edu>
S: 250 bob@hamburger.edu ... Recipient ok
C: DATA
S: 354 Enter mail, end with "." on a line by itself
C: Do you like ketchup?
C: How about pickles?
C: .
S: 250 Message accepted for delivery
C: QUIT
S: 221 hamburger.edu closing connection
```

Try SMTP interaction for yourself… (submit results via moodle)

- **`Identify a mail servername you can access (hint: use "dig" (DNS Mail eXchanger) MX)`**
- **`telnet servername 25`**
- see 220 reply from server
- enter HELO, EHLO, MAIL FROM, RCPT TO, DATA, QUIT commands

above lets you send email without using email client (reader)

SMTP: final words

- SMTP uses persistent connections
- SMTP requires message (header & body) to be in 7-bit ASCII
- SMTP server uses `CRLF.CRLF` to determine end of message

Comparison with HTTP:

- HTTP: pull
- SMTP: push
- both have ASCII command/response interaction, status codes
- HTTP: each object encapsulated in its own response msg
- SMTP: multiple objects sent in multipart msg

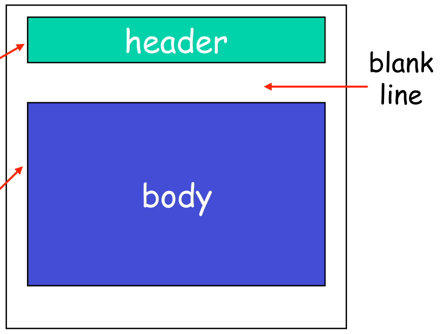
Mail message format

SMTP: protocol for exchanging email msgs

RFC 822: standard for text message format:

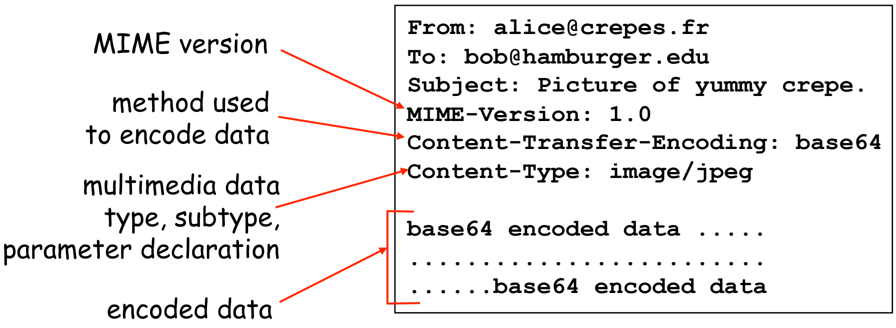
- header lines, e.g.,
  - To:
  - From:
  - Subject:

  different **from SMTP commands**!
- body
  - the "message", ASCII characters only



Message format: multimedia extensions

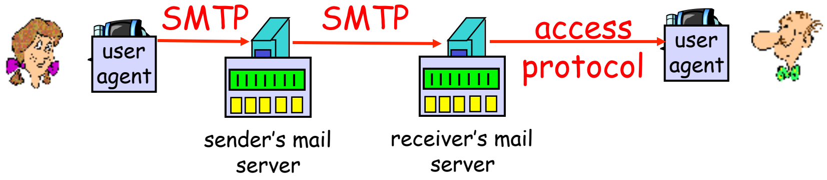
- MIME: multimedia mail extension, RFC 2045, 2056
- additional lines in msg header declare MIME content type


MIME version
method used to encode data
multimedia data type, subtype, parameter declaration
encoded data

```
From: alice@crepes.fr
To: bob@hamburger.edu
Subject: Picture of yummy crepe.
MIME-Version: 1.0
Content-Transfer-Encoding: base64
Content-Type: image/jpeg

base64 encoded data .....
.........................
......base64 encoded data
```

Mail access protocols



- SMTP: delivery/storage to receiver's server
- Mail access protocol: retrieval from server
  - POP: Post Office Protocol [RFC 1939]
    - authorization (agent <-->server) and download
  - IMAP: Internet Mail Access Protocol [RFC 1730]
    - more features (more complex)
    - manipulation of stored msgs on server
  - HTTP: gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, etc.

POP3 protocol

authorization phase

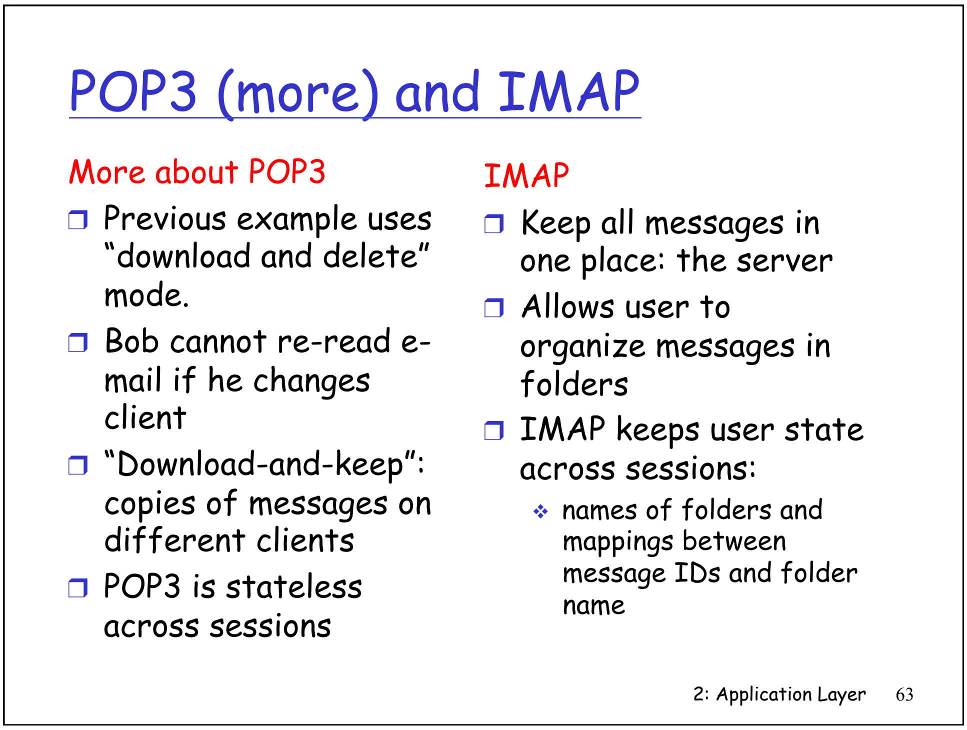
- client commands:
  - **user**: declare username
  - **pass**: password
- server responses
  - **+OK**
  - **-ERR**

transaction phase, client:

- **list**: list message numbers
- **retr**: retrieve message by number
- **dele**: delete
- **quit**

```
S:  +OK POP3 server ready
C:  user bob
S:  +OK
C:  pass hungry
S:  +OK user successfully logged on
```

```
C:  list
S:  1 498
S:  2 912
S:  .
C:  retr 1
S:  <message 1 contents>
S:  .
C:  dele 1
C:  retr 2
S:  <message 1 contents>
S:  .
C:  dele 2
C:  quit
S:  +OK POP3 server signing off
```



POP3 (more) and IMAP

More about POP3

- Previous example uses "download and delete" mode.
- Bob cannot re-read e-mail if he changes client
- "Download-and-keep": copies of messages on different clients
- POP3 is stateless across sessions

IMAP

- Keep all messages in one place: the server
- Allows user to organize messages in folders
- IMAP keeps user state across sessions:
  - names of folders and mappings between message IDs and folder name