

Chapter 2

Application Layer

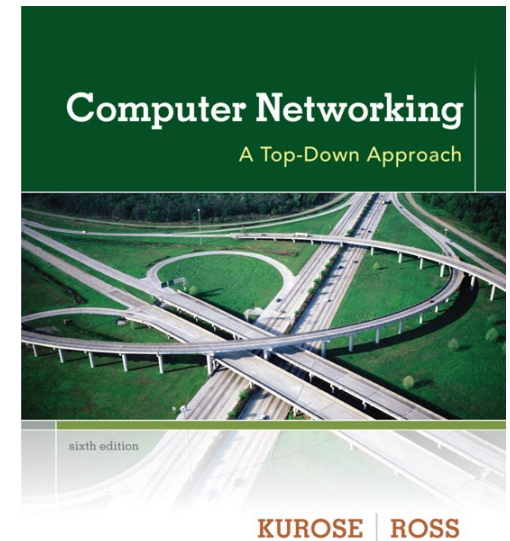
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Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach

6th edition

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Addison-Wesley

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Chapter 2: outline

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 UDP and TCP

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
- ❖ creating network applications
 - socket API

Some network apps

- ❖ e-mail
- ❖ web
- ❖ text messaging
- ❖ remote login
- ❖ P2P file sharing
- ❖ multi-user network games
- ❖ streaming stored video (YouTube, Hulu, Netflix)
- ❖ voice over IP (e.g., Skype)
- ❖ real-time video conferencing
- ❖ social networking
- ❖ search
- ❖ ...
- ❖ ...

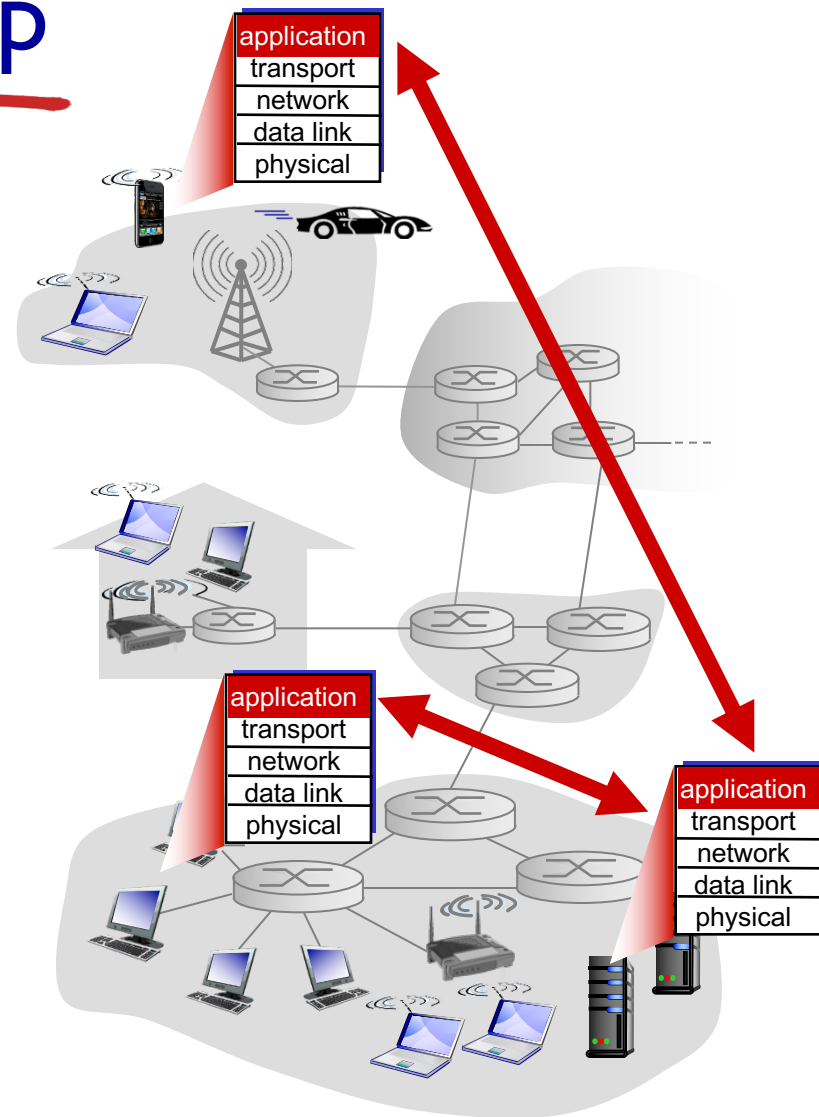
Creating a network app

write programs that:

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

no need to write software for
network-core devices

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

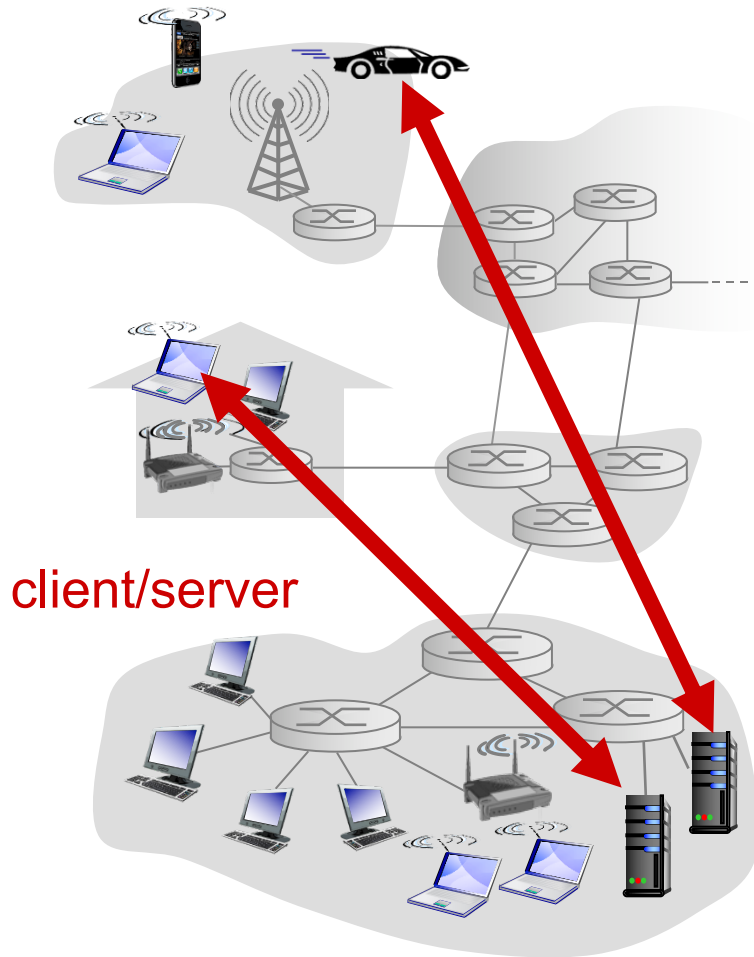


Application architectures

possible structure of applications:

- ❖ client-server
- ❖ peer-to-peer (P2P)

Client-server architecture



server:

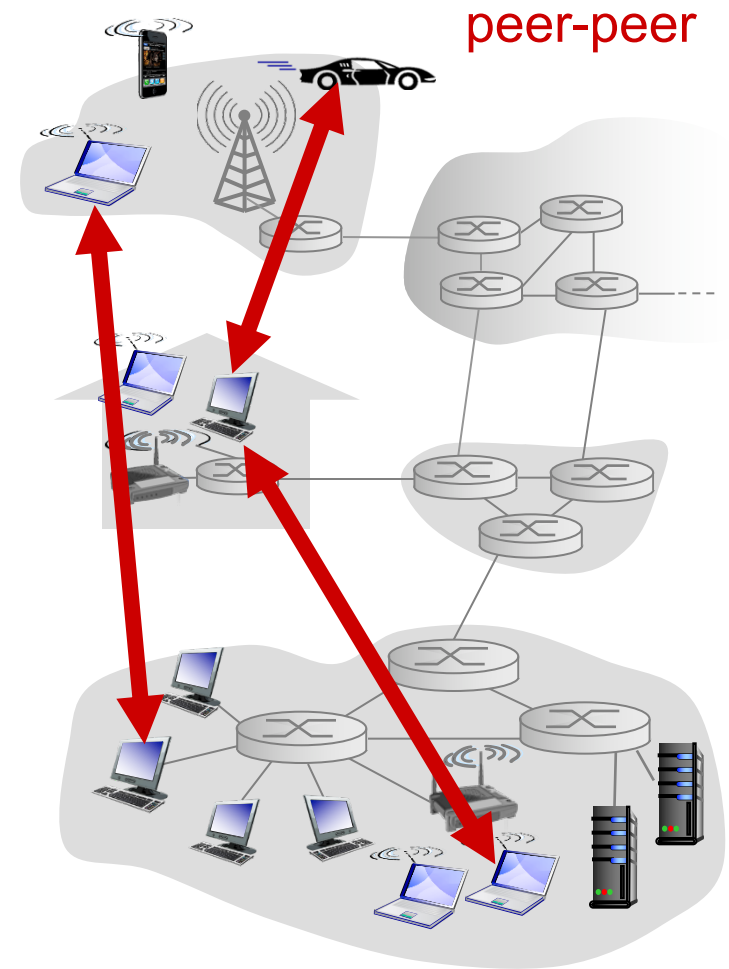
- ❖ always-on host
- ❖ permanent IP address
- ❖ data centers for scaling

clients:

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

P2P architecture

- ❖ no always-on server
- ❖ arbitrary end systems directly communicate
- ❖ peers request service from other peers, provide service in return to other peers
 - *self scalability* – new peers bring new service capacity, as well as new service demands
- ❖ peers are intermittently connected and change IP addresses
 - complex management



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**

clients, servers

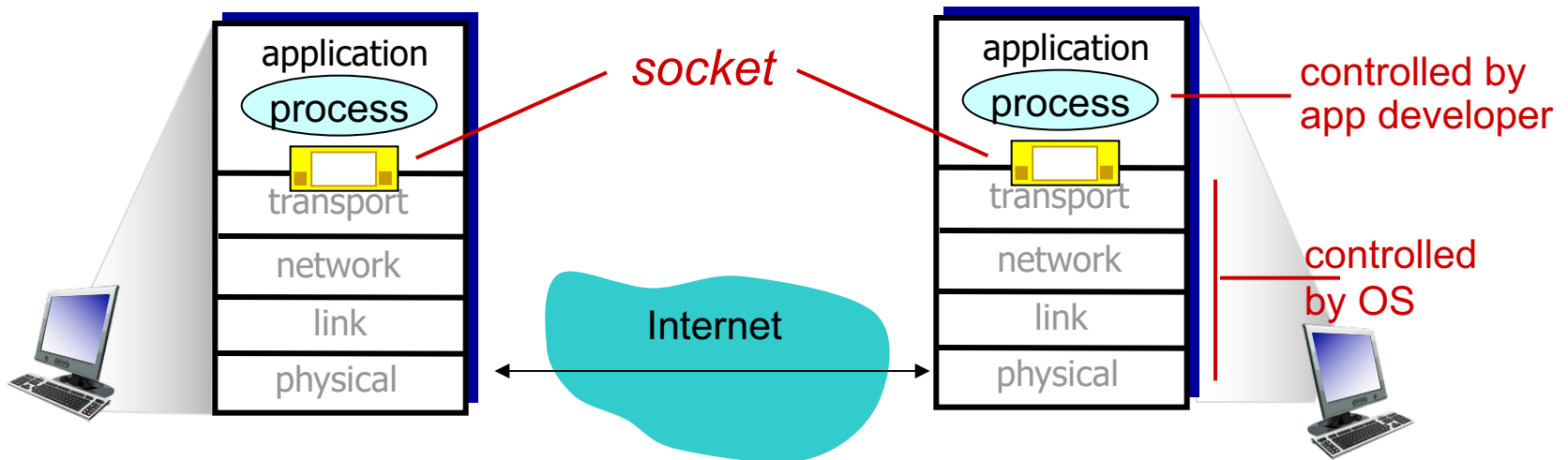
client process: process that initiates communication

server process: process that waits to be contacted

- ❖ aside: 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 to deliver message to socket at receiving 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

open protocols:

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

proprietary protocols:

- ❖ e.g., Skype

What transport service does an app need?

data integrity

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

timing

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

throughput

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

security

- ❖ encryption, data integrity, ...

Transport service requirements: common apps

application	data loss	throughput	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	
interactive games	loss-tolerant	few kbps up	yes, few secs
text messaging	no loss	elastic	yes, 100' s msec yes and no

Internet transport protocols services

TCP service:

- ❖ *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 throughput guarantee, security
- ❖ *connection-oriented*: setup required between client and server processes

UDP service:

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

Q: why bother? Why is there a UDP?

Internet apps: application, transport protocols

application		application layer protocol	underlying transport protocol
remote terminal access	e-mail	SMTP [RFC 2821]	TCP
	Web	HTTP [RFC 2616]	TCP
	file transfer	FTP [RFC 959]	TCP
	streaming multimedia	HTTP (e.g., YouTube), RTP [RFC 1889]	TCP or UDP
	Internet telephony	SIP, RTP, proprietary (e.g., Skype)	TCP or UDP

Securing TCP

TCP & UDP

- ❖ no encryption
- ❖ cleartext passwds sent into socket traverse Internet in cleartext

SSL

- ❖ provides encrypted TCP connection
- ❖ data integrity
- ❖ end-point authentication

SSL is at app layer

- ❖ Apps use SSL libraries, which “talk” to TCP

SSL socket API

- ❖ cleartext passwds sent into socket traverse Internet encrypted
- ❖ See Chapter 7

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Web and HTTP

First, a review...

- ❖ *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*, e.g.,

`www.someschool.edu/someDept/pic.gif`

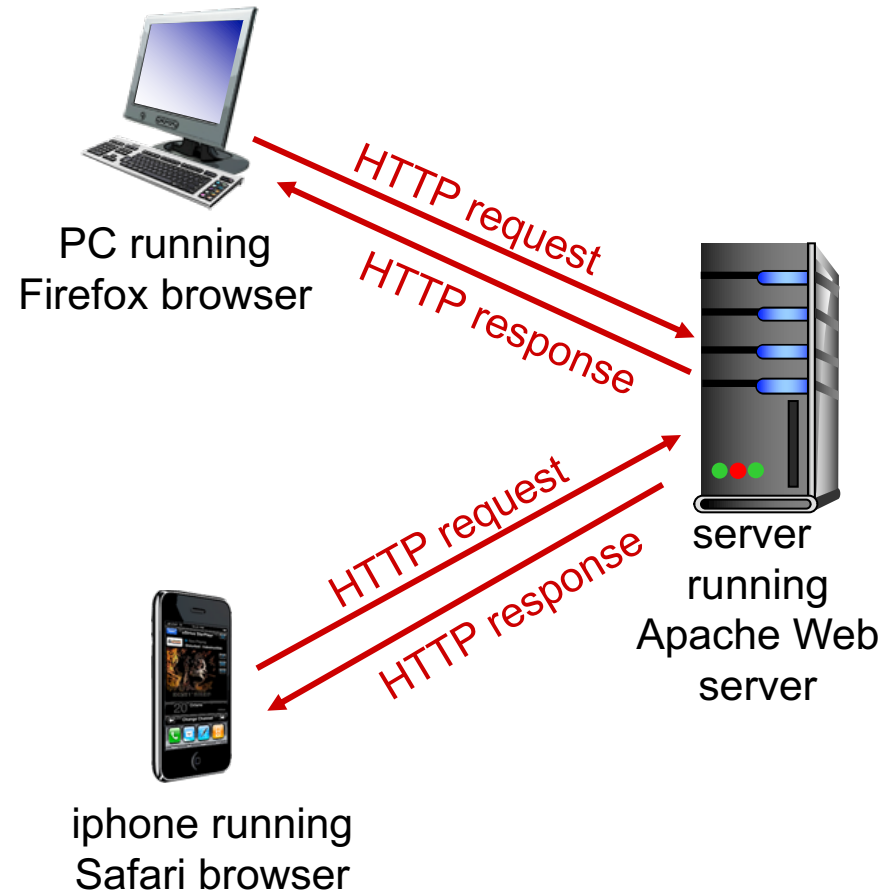
host name

path name

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

- ❖ Web's application layer protocol
- ❖ client/server model
 - **client**: browser that requests, receives, (using HTTP protocol) and "displays" Web objects
 - **server**: Web server sends (using HTTP protocol) objects in response to requests



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

non-persistent HTTP

- ❖ at most one object sent over TCP connection
 - connection then closed
- ❖ downloading multiple objects required multiple connections

persistent HTTP

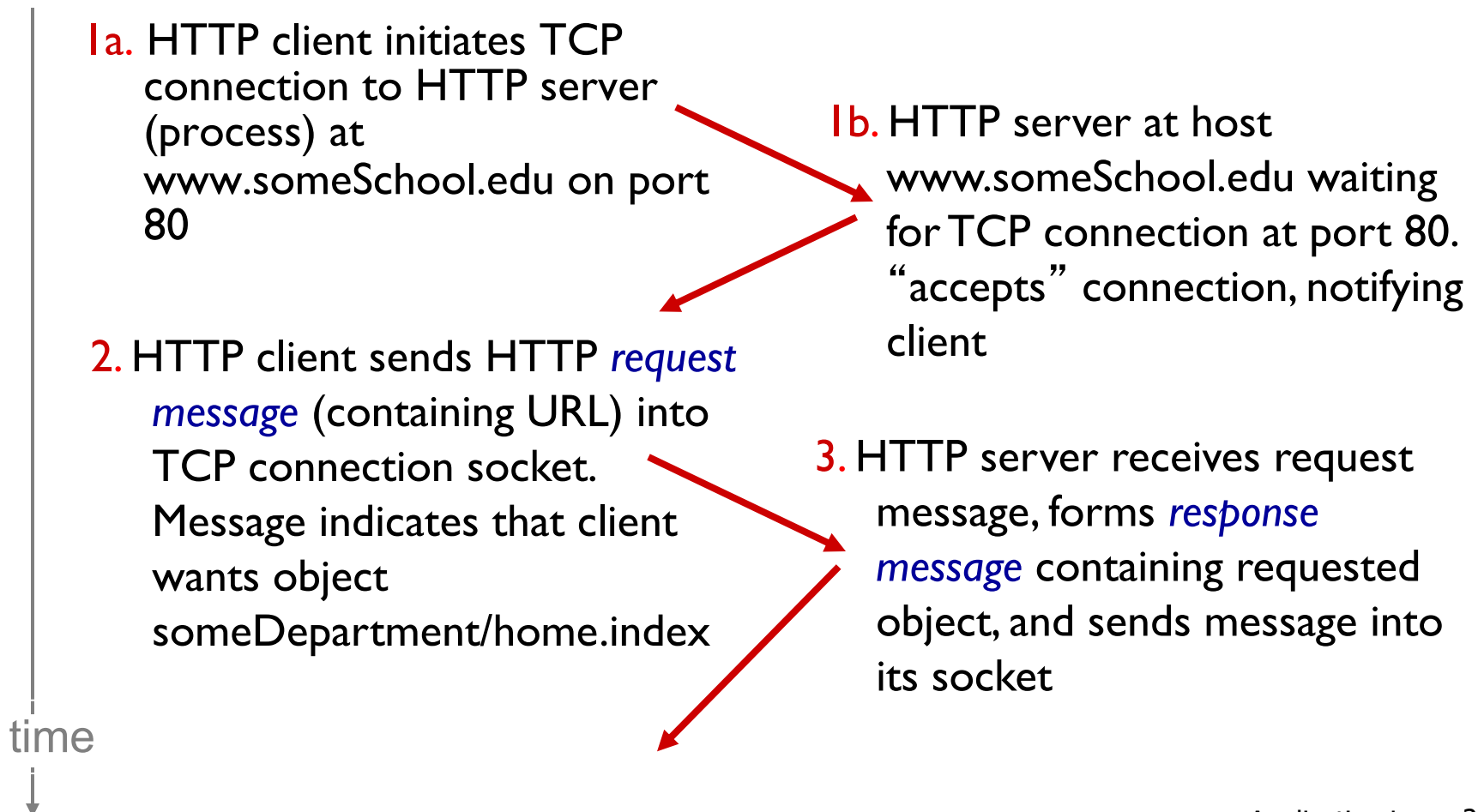
- ❖ multiple objects can be sent over single TCP connection between client, server

Non-persistent HTTP

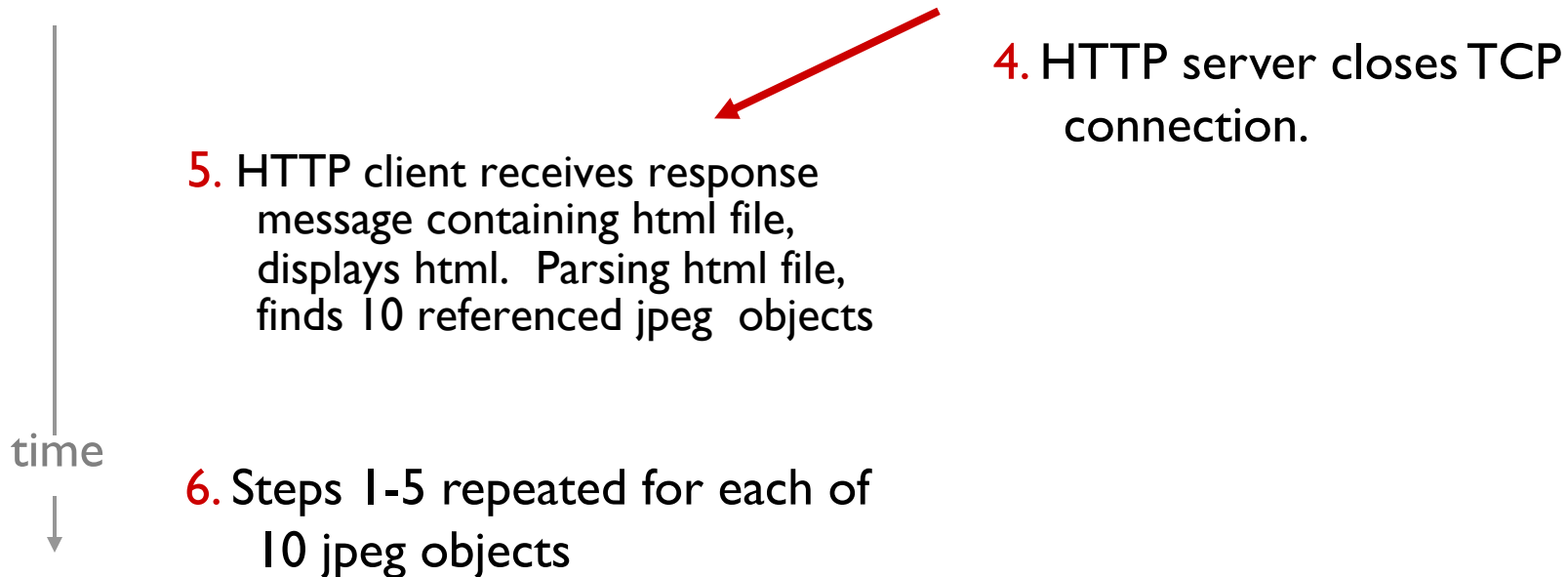
suppose user enters URL:

`www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index`

(contains text,
references to 10
jpeg images)



Non-persistent HTTP (cont.)

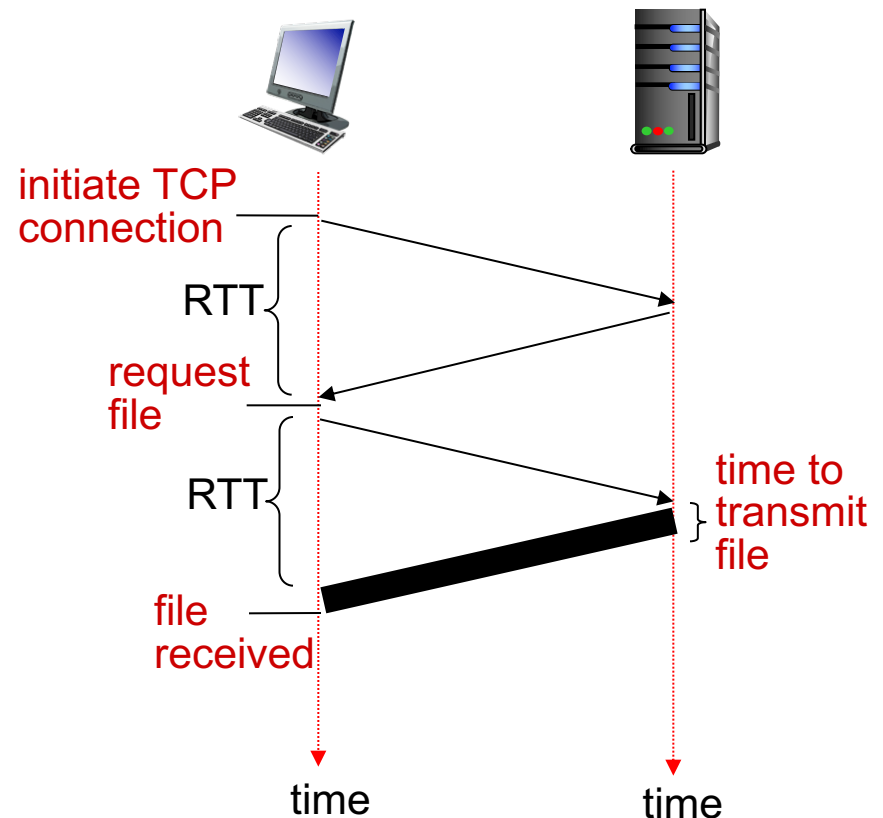


Non-persistent HTTP: response time

RTT (definition): time for a small packet to travel from client to server and back

HTTP 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
- ❖ non-persistent HTTP response time =
 $2\text{RTT} + \text{file transmission time}$



Persistent HTTP

non-persistent 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
- ❖ 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)

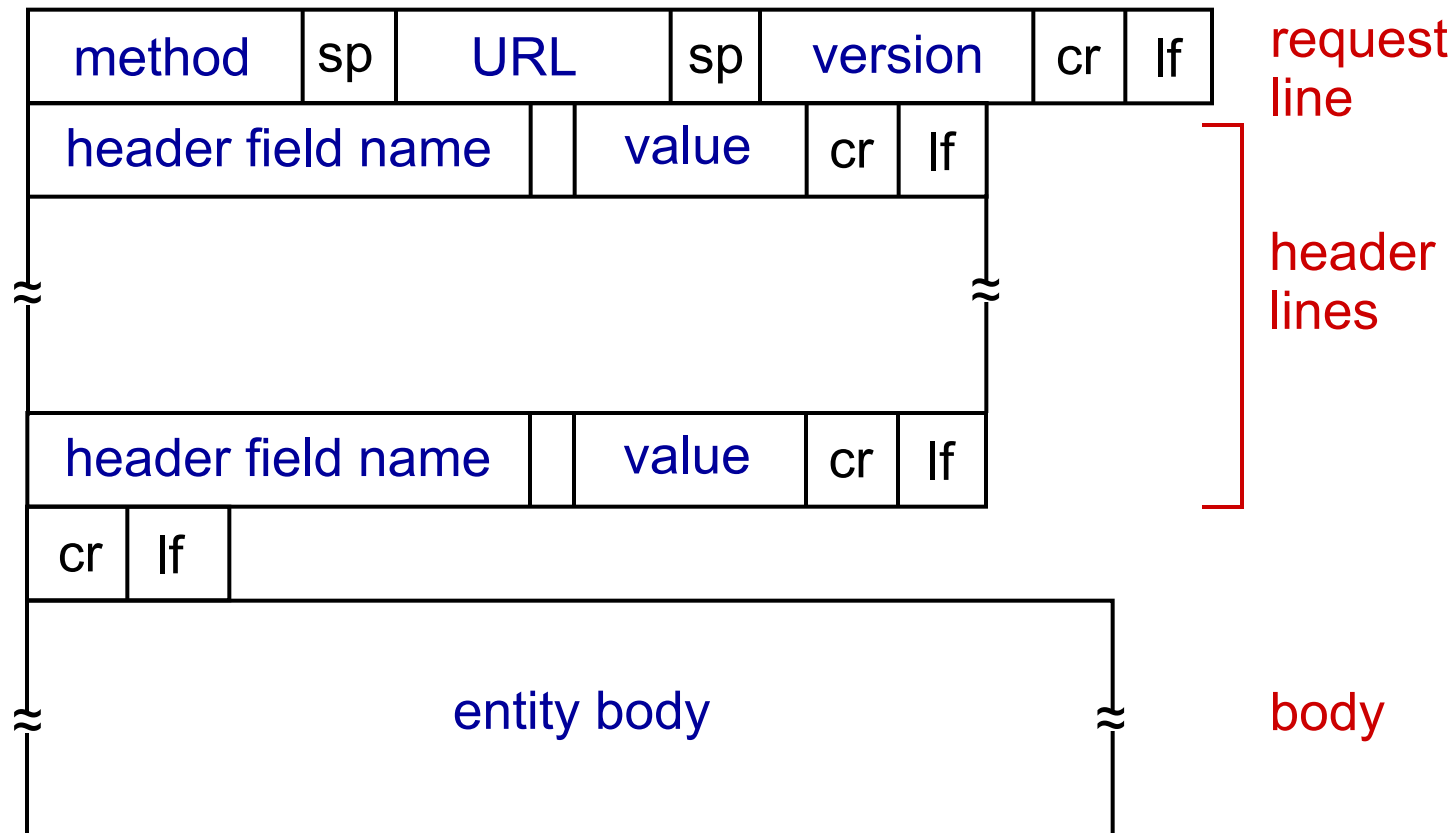
header
lines

carriage return,
line feed at start
of line indicates
end of header lines

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: www-net.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Firefox/3.6.10\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml\r\n
Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate\r\n
Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7\r\n
Keep-Alive: 115\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
\r\n
```

carriage return character
line-feed character

HTTP request message: general format



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

status line

(protocol

status code

status phrase)

header
lines

data, e.g.,
requested
HTML file

HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n

Date: Sun, 26 Sep 2010 20:09:20 GMT\r\n

Server: Apache/2.0.52 (CentOS)\r\n

Last-Modified: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 17:00:02
GMT\r\n

ETag: "17dc6-a5c-bf716880"\r\n

Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n

Content-Length: 2652\r\n

Keep-Alive: timeout=10, max=100\r\n

Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n

Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-
1\r\n

\r\n

data data data data data ...

HTTP response status codes

- ❖ status code appears in 1st line in server-to-client response message.
- ❖ some sample codes:

200 OK

- request succeeded, requested object later in this msg

301 Moved Permanently

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

400 Bad Request

- request msg 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!

(or use Wireshark to look at captured HTTP request/response)

User-server state: cookies

many Web sites use cookies

four components:

- 1) cookie header line of HTTP *response* message
- 2) cookie header line in next 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 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.)

client



server



cookie file



ebay 8734
amazon 1678

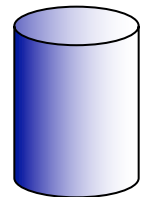
usual http request msg

Amazon server
creates ID
1678 for user

usual http response
set-cookie: 1678

create
entry

backend
database



usual http request msg
cookie: 1678

cookie-
specific
action

access

usual http response msg

access

cookie-
specific
action

one week later:



ebay 8734
amazon 1678

usual http request msg
cookie: 1678

usual http response msg

Cookies (continued)

what cookies can be used for:

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

cookies and privacy: aside

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

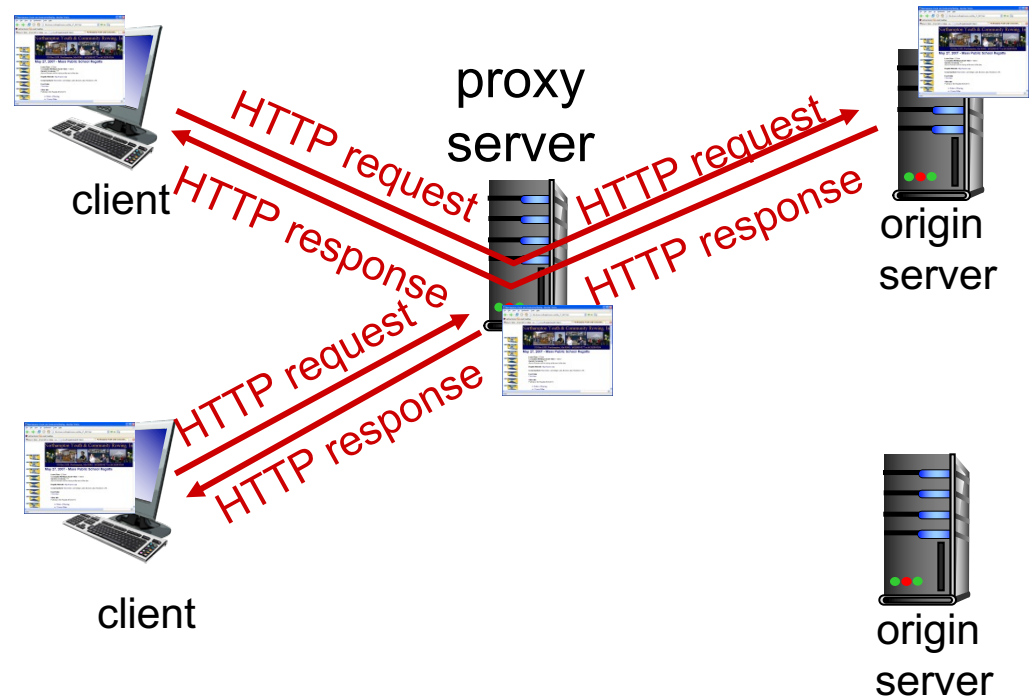
how to keep “state”:

- ❖ 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
 - server for original requesting client
 - client to origin 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 (so too does P2P file sharing)

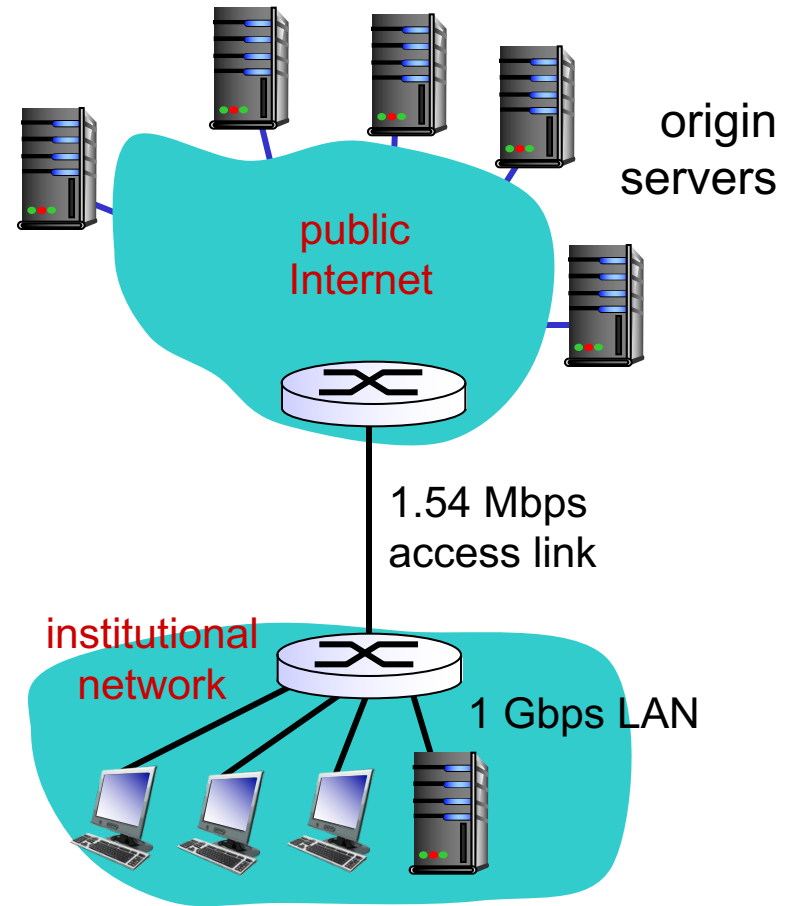
Caching example:

assumptions:

- ❖ avg object size: 100K bits
- ❖ avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
- ❖ avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- ❖ RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- ❖ access link rate: 1.54 Mbps

consequences:

- ❖ LAN utilization: 15%
- ❖ access link utilization = **99%** *problem!*
- ❖ total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay
= 2 sec + minutes + usecs



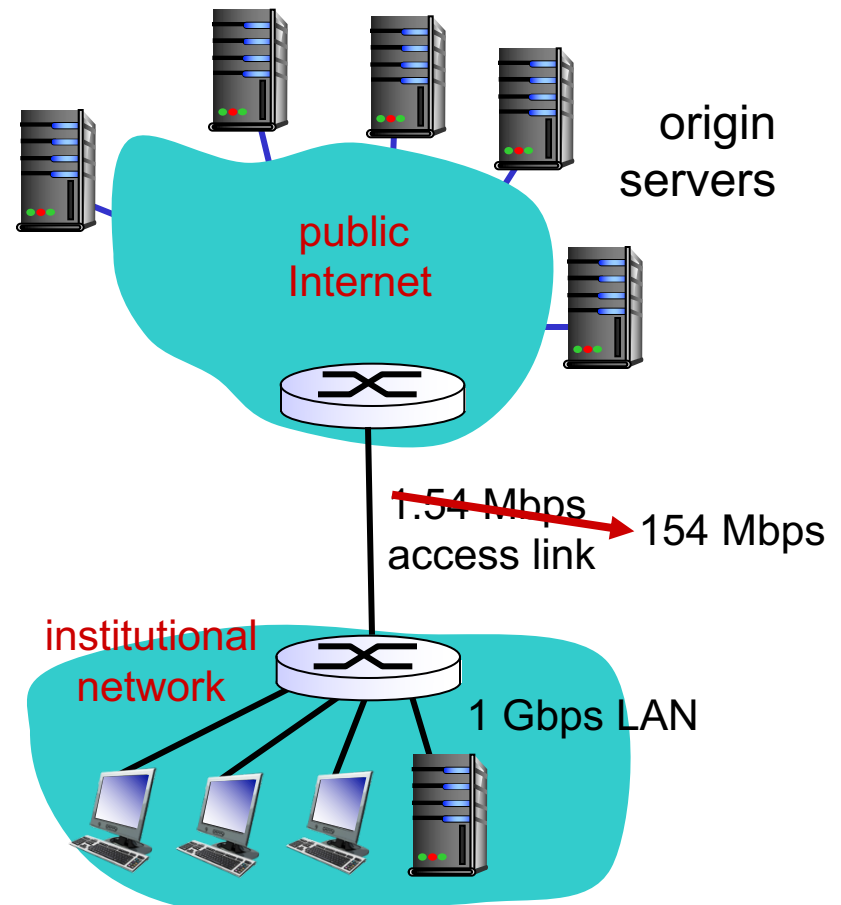
Caching example: fatter access link

assumptions:

- ❖ avg object size: 100K bits
- ❖ avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
- ❖ avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- ❖ RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- ❖ access link rate: ~~1.54 Mbps~~ → 154 Mbps

consequences:

- ❖ LAN utilization: 15%
- ❖ access link utilization = ~~99%~~ → 9.9%
- ❖ total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay
= 2 sec + ~~minutes~~ → msec



Cost: increased access link speed (not cheap!)

Caching example: install local cache

assumptions:

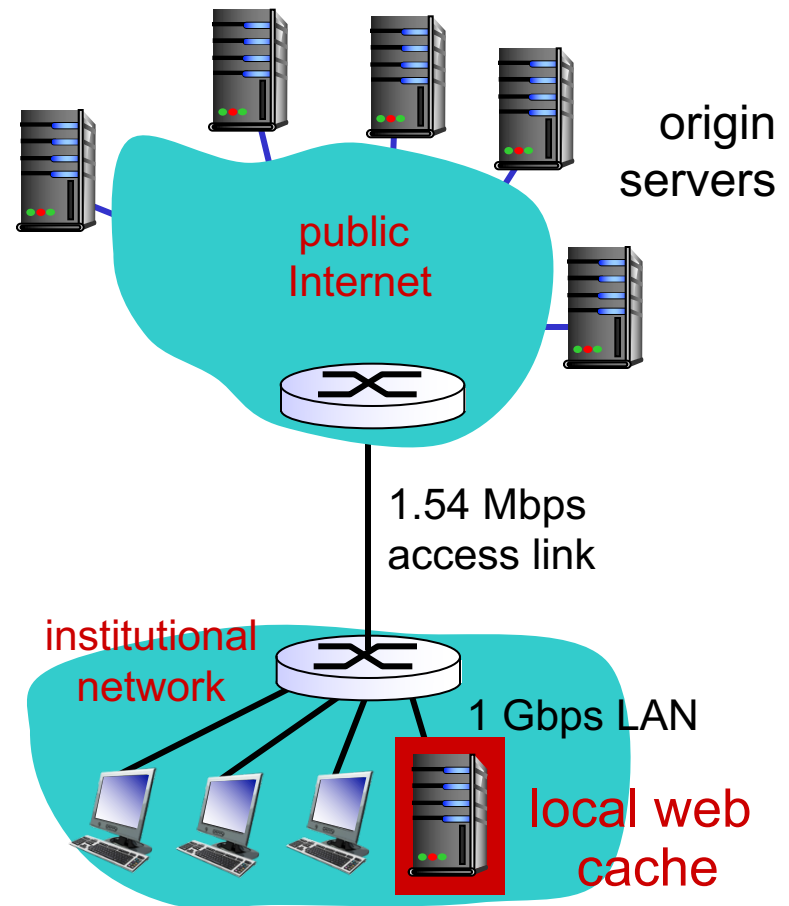
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consequences:

- ❖ LAN utilization: 15%
- ❖ access link utilization = ?
- ❖ total delay = ?

How to compute link utilization, delay?

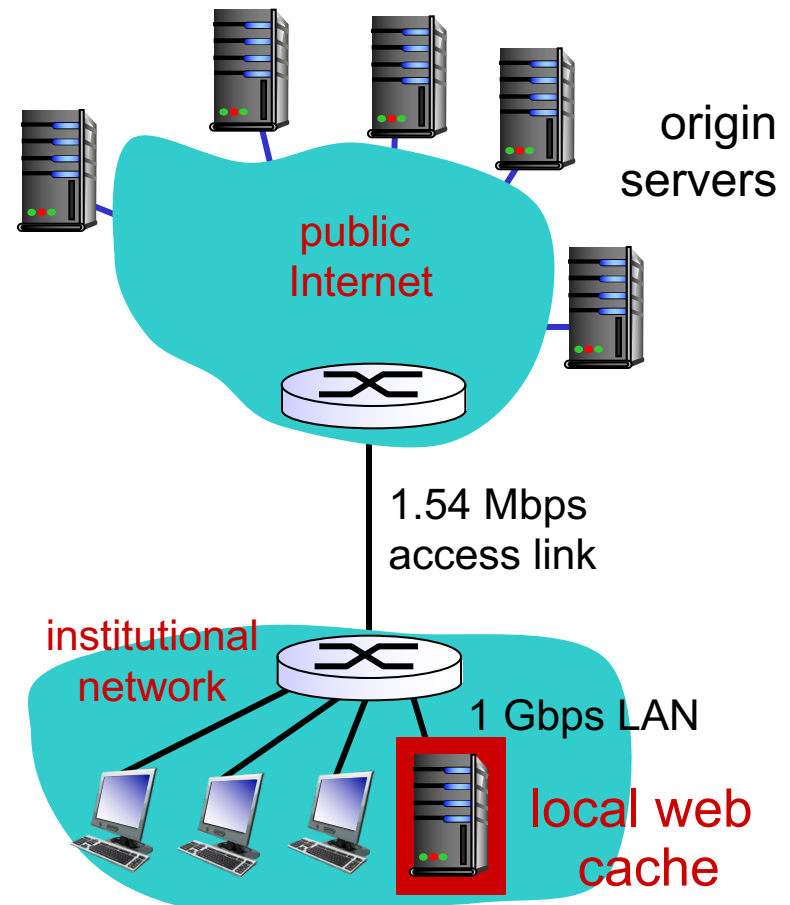
Cost: web cache (cheap!)



Caching example: install local cache

Calculating access link utilization, delay with cache:

- ❖ suppose cache hit rate is 0.4
 - 40% requests satisfied at cache, 60% requests satisfied at origin
- ❖ access link utilization:
 - 60% of requests use access link
- ❖ data rate to browsers over access link
 $= 0.6 * 1.50 \text{ Mbps} = .9 \text{ Mbps}$
 - utilization $= 0.9 / 1.54 = .58$
- ❖ total delay
 - $= 0.6 * (\text{delay from origin servers}) + 0.4 * (\text{delay when satisfied at cache})$
 - $= 0.6 (2.01) + 0.4 (\sim \text{msecs})$
 - $= \sim 1.2 \text{ secs}$
 - less than with 154 Mbps link (and cheaper too!)



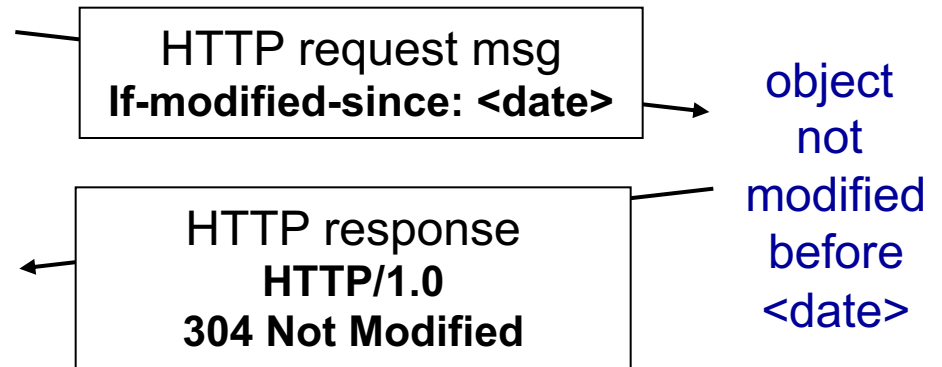
Conditional GET

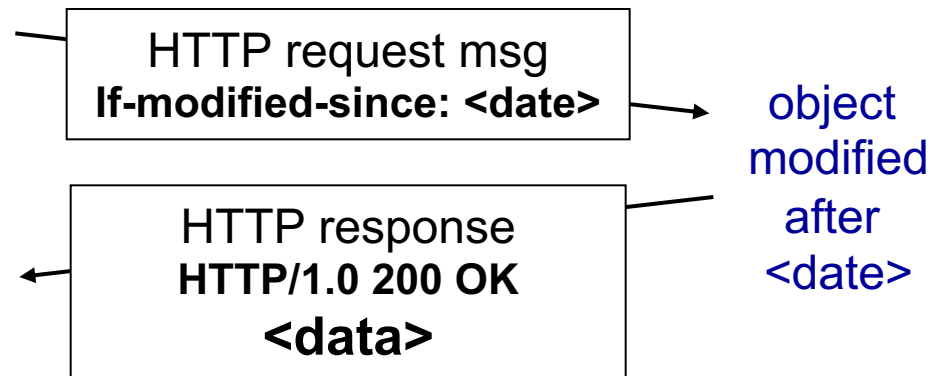
- ❖ **Goal:** don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version
 - no object transmission delay
 - lower link utilization
- ❖ **cache:** specify date of cached copy in HTTP request
`If-modified-since: <date>`
- ❖ **server:** response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:
`HTTP/1.0 304 Not Modified`

client



server





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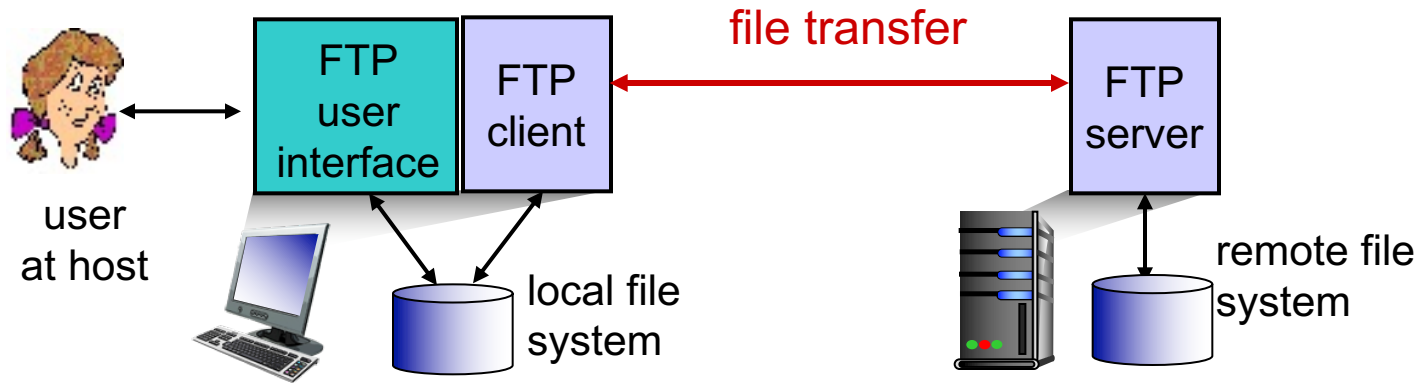
- SMTP, POP3, IMAP

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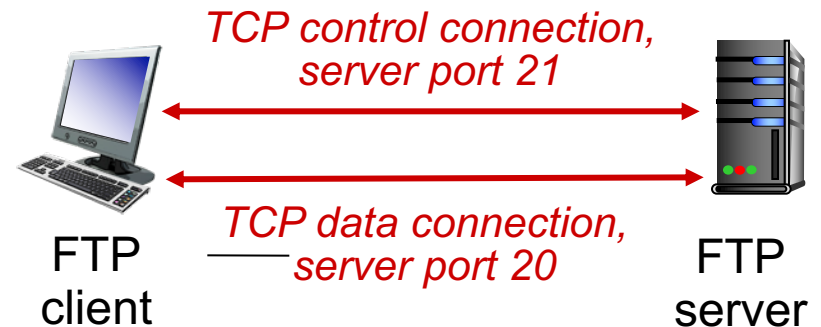
FTP: the file transfer protocol



- ❖ 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, using TCP
- ❖ client authorized over control connection
- ❖ client browses remote directory, sends commands over control connection
- ❖ when server receives file transfer command, **server** opens 2nd TCP data 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

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**

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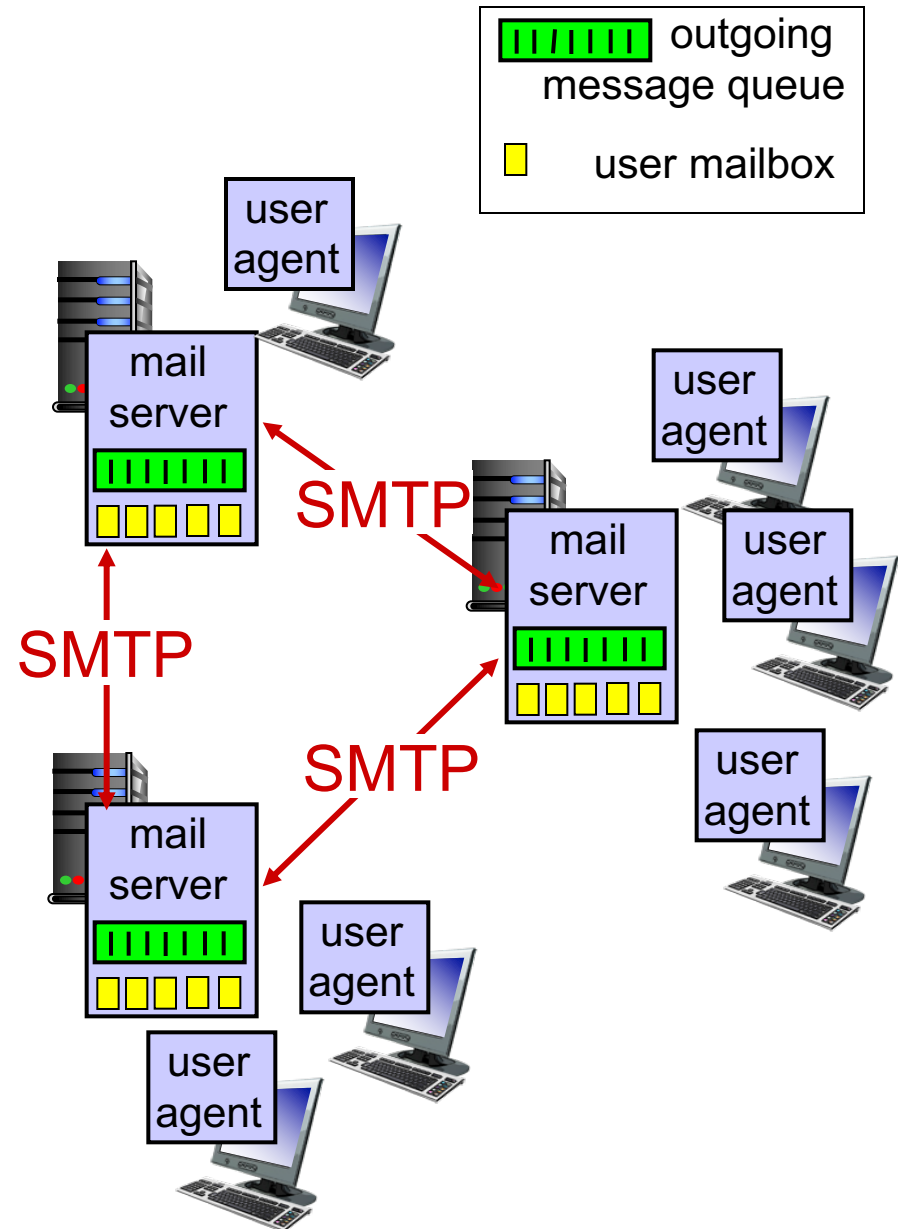
Electronic mail

Three major components:

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

User Agent

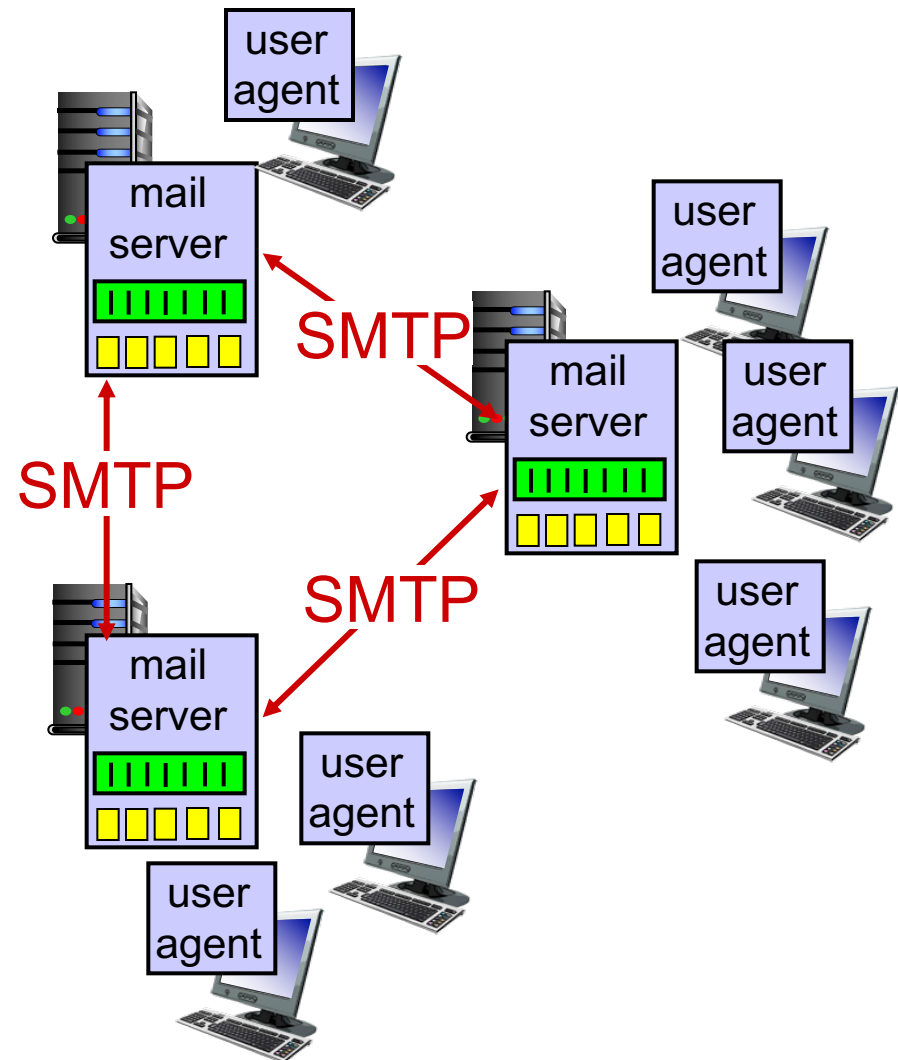
- ❖ a.k.a. “mail reader”
- ❖ composing, editing, reading mail messages
- ❖ e.g., Outlook, Thunderbird, iPhone mail client
- ❖ outgoing, incoming messages stored on server



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

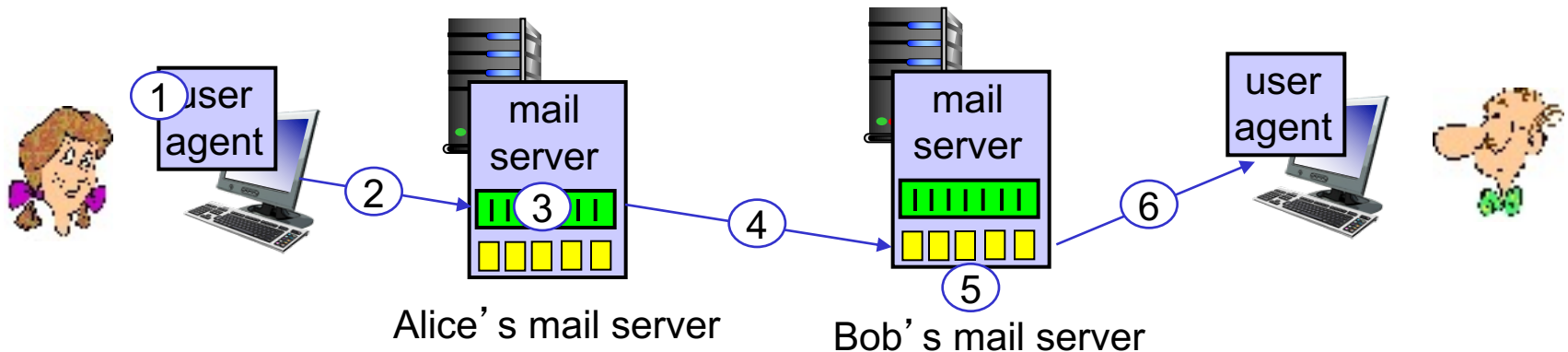


Electronic Mail: SMTP [RFC 2821]

- ❖ 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 (like HTTP, FTP)
 - **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 "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:

- ❖ `telnet servername 25`
- ❖ see 220 reply from server
- ❖ enter HELO, 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:

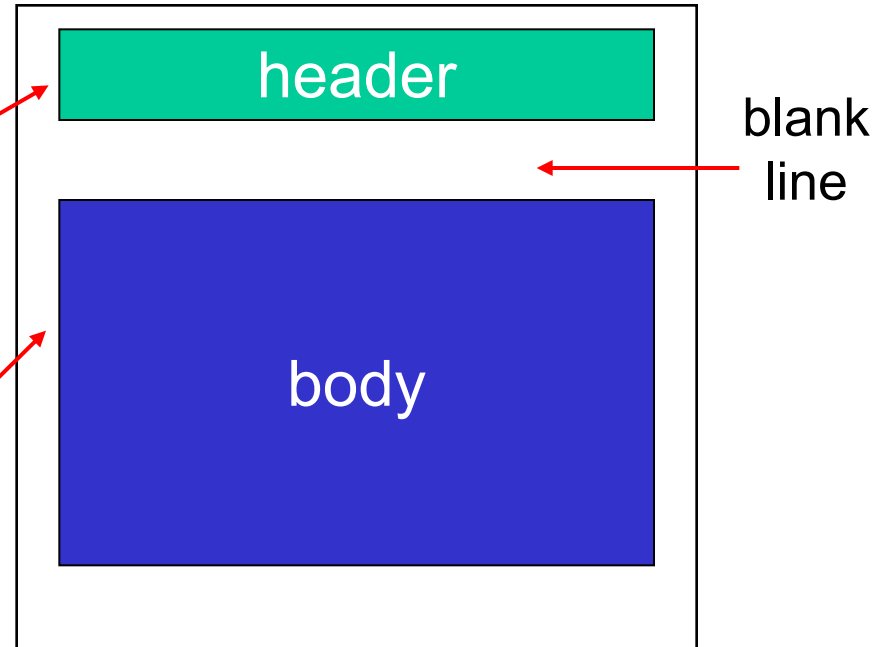
❖ header lines, e.g.,

- To:
- From:
- Subject:

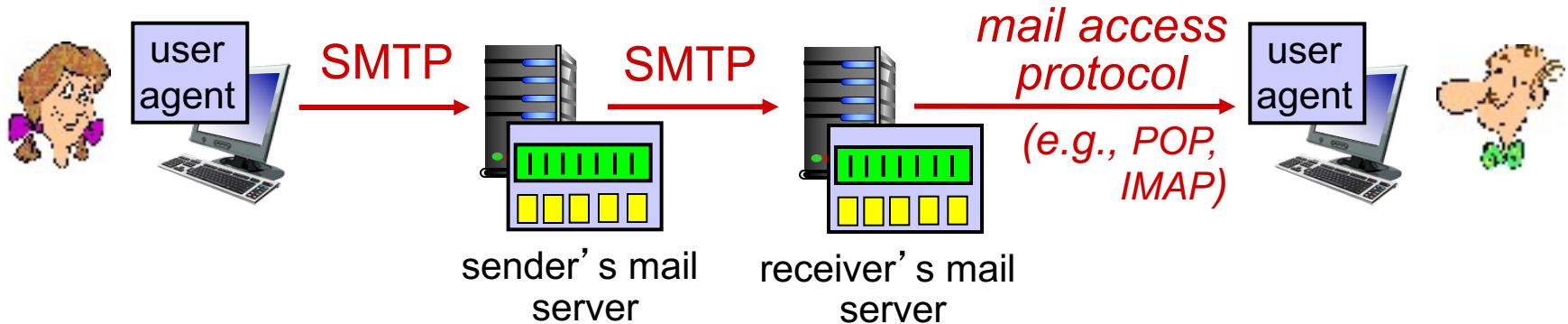
different from SMTP MAIL
FROM, RCPT TO:
commands!

❖ Body: the “message”

- ASCII characters only



Mail access protocols



- ❖ **SMTP**: delivery/storage to receiver's server
- ❖ mail access protocol: retrieval from server
 - **POP**: Post Office Protocol [RFC 1939]: authorization, download
 - **IMAP**: Internet Mail Access Protocol [RFC 1730]: more features, including 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 POP3 “download and delete” mode
 - Bob cannot re-read e-mail if he changes client
- ❖ POP3 “download-and-keep”: copies of messages on different clients
- ❖ POP3 is stateless across sessions

IMAP

- ❖ keeps all messages in one place: at server
- ❖ allows user to organize messages in folders
- ❖ keeps user state across sessions:
 - names of folders and mappings between message IDs and folder name