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# Which concept has given you the most difficulty so far in the context of Homework 3?

- A. Understanding the index file layout
- **B.** C++ Classes & Inheritance
- C. C++ STL
- D. Query Processor Algorithm
- E. Debugging/GDB
- F. Style considerations
- G. Prefer not to say

# **Hypertext Transfer Protocol**

CSE 333 Winter 2023

**Guest Instructor:** Timmy Yang

**Teaching Assistants:** 

Adina Tung Danny Agustinus Edward Zhang

James Froelich Lahari Nidadavolu Mitchell Levy

Noa Ferman Patrick Ho Paul Han

Tacrick ric

Saket Gollapudi Sara Deutscher Tim Mandzyuk

Timmy Yang Wei Wu Yiqing Wang

Zhuochun Liu

# **Relevant Course Information**

- Midterm grades have been released
  - Regrades are open until Wednesday (3/1)
- Exercise 10 due Wednesday (3/1)
  - Client-side programming
- Exercise 11 due Friday (3/3)
  - Server-side programming
  - Can use ex10 client solution to send messages to ex11 server
- Homework 4 due next Thursday (3/09)
  - Can still use 2 late days for hw4 (hard deadline of 3/12)
  - Part of section this week will cover tools for debugging hw4

# **Homework 4 Summary**

- Build a Multithreaded Web Server (333gle)
  - You will host the querying service that you built in your previous homework on a web server

L21: HTTP

#### Running your server

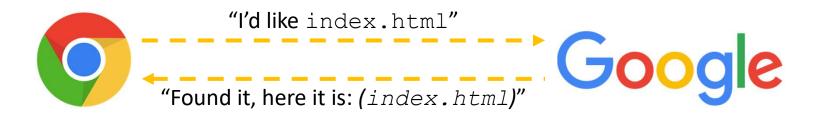
- ./http333d <port> <static files> <unit indices>
- Static files are the files on disk corresponding to our index files
- You (and others) can access it on any browser now!

#### Implementation

- Using network protocols to communicate between client/server
- Handling some additional security flaws
- Note: Multithreading is already implemented for you

# **Client and Server Communication**

- Lecture 20 (Client-side and Server-side Networking) has already shown how to to this in C/C++
  - sendreceive.cc and server accept rw close.cc
- This is what actually happens on the web!
  - Clients establish a stable TCP connection the server
  - Lots of bytes are interchanged/processed between each other



# **Case Study of Protocols: HTTP**

- A protocol defines a set of rules governing the format and exchange of messages in a computing system
  - Syntax: The formatting or grammar of the system
  - Semantics: What messages are being exchanged
  - Allows everyone be on the same page of communication
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol: Request/Response Protocol
  - HTTP defines how we should send information between a client and a server
  - A request will send a message to the server (about anything)
  - A response will process and respond to that message
  - And it's human readable!

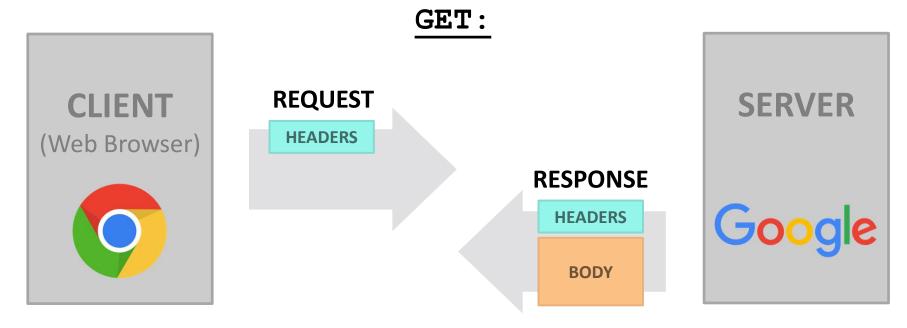
# Requests: Client Sending Messages

- A client wants to talk to a server about something
  - Initiates a conversation (establish or using existing connection)
  - Generally, this is for retrieving a resource, using Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)

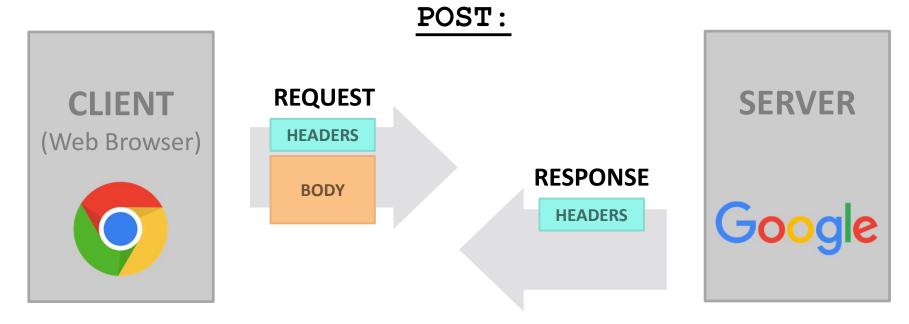
#### Standard Syntax:

```
[METHOD] [request-uri] HTTP/[version]\r\n
[headerfield1]: [fieldvalue1]\r\n
[headerfield2]: [fieldvalue2]\r\n
[...]
[headerfieldN]: [fieldvalueN]\r\n
\r\n
[request body, if any]
```

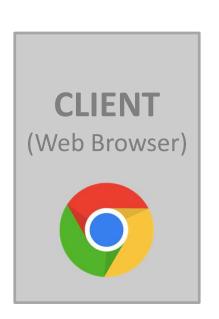
- There are three commonly-used HTTP methods:
  - **GET**: "Please send me the named resource"

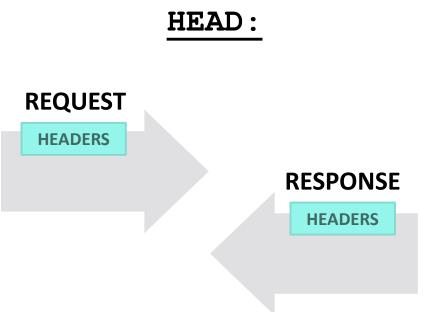


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  - **HEAD**: "Send me the headers for the named resource"
    - Doesn't send resource; often to check if cached copy is still valid





- There are three commonly-used HTTP methods:
  - GET: "Please send me the named resource"
  - POST: "I'd like to submit data to you" (e.g. file upload)
  - HEAD: "Send me the headers for the named resource"
    - Doesn't send resource; often to check if cached copy is still valid
- Other methods exist, but are much less common:
  - PUT, DELETE, TRACE, OPTIONS, CONNECT, PATCH, . . .
    - For instance: TRACE "show any proxies or caches in between me and the server"
  - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Methods

# **Client Headers**

- The client can provide one or more request "headers"
  - These provide information to the server or modify how the server should process the request
- You'll encounter many in practice
  - Host: the DNS name of the server
  - User-Agent: an identifying string naming the browser
  - Accept: the content types the client prefers or can accept
  - Cookie: an HTTP cookie previously set by the server
  - https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2616.html#section-5.3

# A Real Request

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: attu.cs.washington.edu:3333
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)
AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/66.0.3359.181 Safari/537.36
Cookie:
SESS0c8e598bbe17200b27e1d0a18f9a42bb=5c18d7ed6d369d56b69a1
c0aa441d
...
```

❖ Demo: use nc to see a real HTTP request

# **Response: Server Responding**

- A server parses and sends a response to a user
  - Indicate how the server processed the request (accepted or not)
  - Send requested resource back to the client

#### General form:

```
HTTP/[version] [status code] [reason]\r\n
  [headerfield1]: [fieldvalue1]\r\n
  [headerfield2]: [fieldvalue2]\r\n
  [...]
  [headerfieldN]: [fieldvalueN]\r\n
  \r\n
  [response body, if any]
```

#### **Status Codes and Reason**

- Code: numeric outcome of the request easy for computers to interpret
  - A 3-digit integer with the 1<sup>st</sup> digit indicating a response category
    - 1xx: Informational message
    - 2xx: Success
    - 3xx: Redirect to a different URL
    - 4xx: Error in the client's request
    - 5xx: Error experienced by the server
- Reason: human-readable explanation
  - e.g. "OK" or "Moved Temporarily"

#### **Common Statuses**

- \* HTTP/1.1 200 OK
  - The request succeeded and the requested object is sent
- \* HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
  - The requested object was not found
- \* HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
  - The object exists, but its name has changed
    - The new URL is given as the "Location:" header value
- \* HTTP/1.1 500 Server Error
  - The server had some kind of unexpected error

# **Server Headers**

- The server can provide zero or more response "headers"
  - These provide information to the client or modify how the client should process the response
- You'll encounter many in practice
  - Server: a string identifying the server software
  - Content-Type: the type of the requested object
  - Content-Length: size of requested object
  - Last-Modified: a date indicating the last time the request object was modified
  - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTTP/Headers
  - https://developer.mozilla.org/en US/docs/Web/HTTP/Basics of HTTP/MIME types

# A Real Response

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 21 May 2018 07:58:46 GMT
Server: Apache/2.2.32 (Unix) mod_ssl/2.2.32
OpenSSL/1.0.1e-fips mod_pubcookie/3.3.4a mod_uwa/3.2.1
Phusion_Passenger/3.0.11
Last-Modified: Mon, 21 May 2018 07:58:05 GMT
Content-Length: 82
Content-Type: text/html
...
<html><body>
<font color="chartreuse" size="18pt">Awesome!!</font>
</body></html>
```

Demo: Use telnet to see real HTTP responses

# **Poll Everywhere**

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# Which statement is FALSE about the HTTP/1.1 Protocol?

- A. HTTP is a standard communication protocol for the web
- B. A client always sends a message first before the server
- C. An HTTP Request can only request one resource at a time
- D. An HTTP Response needs to have a response body
- E. I'm not really sure...

# HTTP/1.1 Protocol

- HTTP / 1.1 (1997) The protocols accepted by all current browsers and servers
  - Built after HTTP/0.9 (1991) and HTTP/1.0 (1996)
  - Better performance, richer caching features, better support for multihomed servers, and much more
- "Chunked Transfer-Encoding" Send responses in multiple pieces (Transfer-Encoding: chunked)
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of HTTP header fields#transf er-encoding-response-header
- Persistent Connections: TCP connections can handle multiple requests (Connection: keep-alive)

# Improvements: HTTP/2 and HTTP/3

- Human-readable text protocols can only go so far
- HTTP/2 (2015) was a push to optimize HTTP/1.1
  - Built off Google Project SPDY which aimed to reduce latency
  - Compressed headers and message body
  - Many larger companies quickly transitioned
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP/2
- HTTP/3 (2022) builds even more on HTTP/2
  - Mainly using UDP-based protocol called QUIC (holds a standard connection like TCP)
  - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP/3

# **Slow to Change: HTTP Protocols**

- HTTP/1.1 is still used today (1996 Present)
  - https://almanac.httparchive.org/en/2022/http#fig-1
  - ~20% of requests still use HTTP/1.1
  - https://almanac.httparchive.org/en/2019/http#fig-3
  - Down from ~50% of requests 4 years ago
- Why is the transition taking so long?
  - Lack of knowledge about HTTP/2+
  - A good portion of web servers are still using HTTP/1.1
  - It takes engineering work to support a new HTTP protocol
  - HTTP/1.1 is human readable
  - Amongst more...

#### Probably want to restructure this slide a bit. Timmy Yang, 2023-02-21T22:06:11.451 TY0

# Thanks Everyone for Listening to my Lectures!

- Honestly super cool to be able to lecture to a bunch of students. Wish time permitted for more guest lectures!
- I will be the Summer Instructor for CSE 333 (23su), so if you are interested in working with me, please contact me:
  - Email: tzyang2@cs.uw.edu
  - I will probably send an Ed post in Spring quarter
- Best of luck with the rest of the quarter! You got this!

#### Extra Exercise #1

- Write a program that:
  - Creates a listening socket that accepts connections from clients
  - Reads a line of text from the client
  - Parses the line of text as a DNS name
  - Connects to that DNS name on port 80
  - Writes a valid HTTP request for "/"

```
GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: <DNS name>\r\n
Connection: close\r\n
\r\n
```

Reads the reply and returns it to the client