

CSC 405 Web Intro

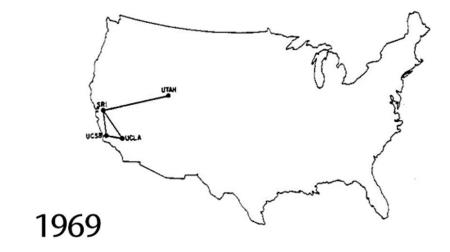
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Birth of the Internet

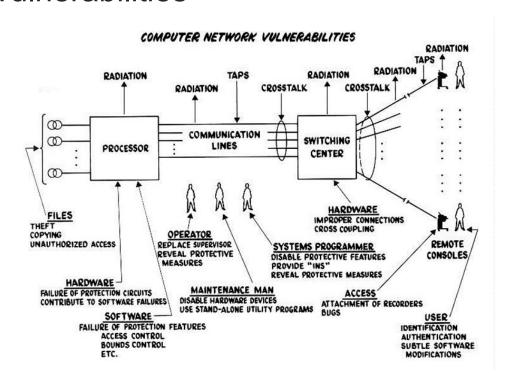
The US Dept of Defense wanted a redundant, networked communication system for the military

Dr. Larry Roberts designed **ARPAnet** in Dec 1969 for \$3.4m



Birth of the Internet

Willis H. Ware chairs <u>RAND R-609</u>, identifying all of ARPAnet's vulnerabilities



Birth of the Internet

In 1983, ARPAnet adopted TCP/IP and the Internet was born

Sir Tim Burners-Lee developed HTML and the World Wide Web

World Wide Web Project (the first webpage)



ACM Turing Award 2016







World Wide Web

The WorldWideWeb (W3) is a wide-area <u>hypermedia</u> information retrieval initiative aiming to give universal access to a large universe of documents.

www.w3.org/History/19921103-hypertext/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html

Everything there is online about W3 is linked directly or indirectly to this document, including an <u>executive summary</u> of the project, <u>Mailing lists</u>, <u>Policy</u>, November's <u>W3 news</u>, <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>.

What's out there?

Pointers to the world's online information, subjects, W3 servers, etc.

Help

on the browser you are using

Software Products

A list of W3 project components and their current state. (e.g. <u>Line Mode</u> ,X11 <u>Viola</u> , <u>NeXTStep</u> , <u>Servers</u> , <u>Tools</u> , <u>Mail robot</u> ,<u>Library</u>)

Technical

Details of protocols, formats, program internals etc

Bibliography

Paper documentation on W3 and references.

People

A list of some people involved in the project.

History

A summary of the history of the project.

How can I help?

If you would like to support the web..

Getting code

Getting the code by anonymous FTP, etc.

Birth of the Web

- Created by Tim Berners-Lee while he was working at CERN
 - First CERN proposal in 1989
 - Finished first website end of 1990

 Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web, Tim Berners-Lee



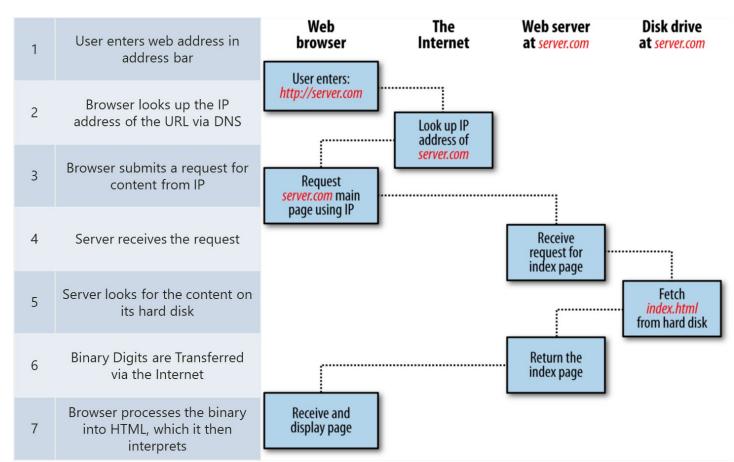
Design

 Originally envisioned as a way to share research results and information at CERN

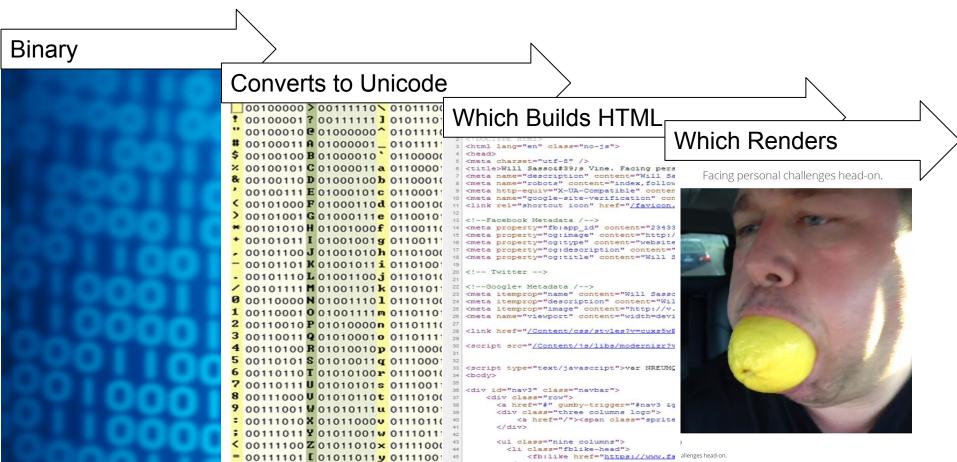
- Combined multiple emerging technologies
 - Hypertext
 - Internet (TCP/IP)

 Idea grew into "universal access to a large universe of documents"

Workflow



Workflow



Three Central Questions

How to name a resource?

How to request and serve a resource?

How to create hypertext?

Three Central Questions

How to name a resource?

Uniform Resource Identifier (URI/URL)

How to request and serve a resource?

Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

How to create hypertext?

Hypertext Markup Language (HTML)

Uniform Resource Identifier

Essential metadata to reach/find a resource

- Answers the following questions:
 - Which server has it?
 - How do I ask?
 - How can the server locate the resource?

• Latest definition in RFC 3986 (January 2005)

<scheme>:<authority>/<path>?<query>#<fragment>

```
<scheme>:<authority>/<path>?<query>#<fragment>
```

- scheme
 - The protocol to use to request the resource

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<scheme>:<authority>/<path>?<query>#<fragment>
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- scheme
 - The protocol to use to request the resource
- authority
 - The entity that controls the interpretation of the rest of the URI
 - Usually a server name
 - <username>@<host>:<port>

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- path
 - Usually a hierarchical pathname composed of "/" separated strings

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 - Used to pass non-hierarchical data

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 - The entity that controls the interpretation of the rest of the URI
 - Usually a server name
 - <username>@<host>:<port>
- path
 - Usually a hierarchical pathname composed of "/" separated strings
- query
 - Used to pass non-hierarchical data
- fragment
 - Used to identify a subsection or subresource of the resource

```
<scheme>:<authority>/<path>?<query>#<fragment>
```

Examples:

```
foo://example.com:8042/over/there?test=bar#nose
ftp://ftp.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1808.txt
mailto:classtech@ncsu.edu
https://example.com/test/example:1.html?/hello
```

URI – Reserved Characters

•	&
/	•
;	(
#)
[*
]	+
@	,
!	; ;
\$	=

URI – Percent Encoding

Must be used to encode anything that is **not** of the following:

```
Alpha [a-zA-Z]
```

Numeric [0-9]

Dash -

Period .

Underscore _

Tilde ~

URI – Percent Encoding

Encode a byte outside of the previous list with percent sign (%) followed by hexadecimal representation of byte

- & -> **%26**
- % -> %25
- <space> -> %20
- . . .

Let's fix our previous example:

https://example.com/test/example:1.html?/hello

 \downarrow

https://example.com/test/example%3A1.html?%2Fhello

HTTP – Overview

Client

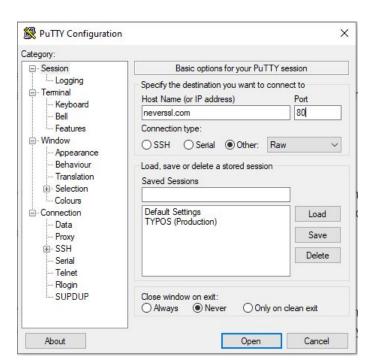
- Opens TCP connection to the server
- Sends request to the server

Server

- Listens for incoming TCP connections
- Reads request
- Sends response

Demo

Request by Client



GET / HTTP/1.1

User-Agent: curl/7.37.1

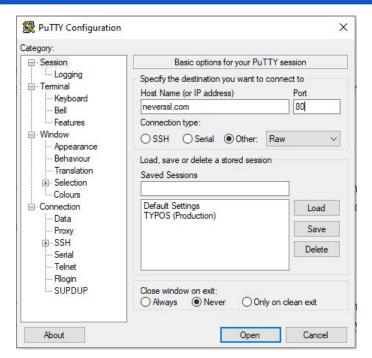
Host: neverssl.com

Accept: */*

Demo

Request by Client

Response by Server



```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.1
Host: neverssl.com
Accept: */*
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 09 Mar 2024 03:22:05 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.54 ()
Upgrade: h2,h2c
Connection: Upgrade
Last-Modified: Wed, 29 Jun 2022 00:23:33 GMT
ETag: "f79-5e28b29d38e93"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 3961
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
< html>
<head>
<title>NeverSSL - Connecting ... </title>
<style>
body {
font-family: Montserrat, helvetica,
```

Requests

- An HTTP request consists of:
 - method
 - resource (derived from the URI)
 - protocol version
 - header fields
 - body (optional)

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
```

User-Agent: curl/7.37.1

Host: neverssl.com

Accept: */*

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```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.1
Host: neverssl.com
Accept: */*
```

Requests – Methods

The method that that client wants applied to the resource

- GET request transfer of the entity referred to by the URI
- POST ask the server to process the included body as "data" associated with the resource identified by the URI
- PUT request that the enclosed entity be stored under the supplied URI
- HEAD identical to GET except server must not return a body

Requests – Methods

- OPTIONS request information about the communication options available on the request/response chain identified by the URL
- DELETE request the server deletes the resource identified by the URI
- TRACE invoke a remote, application-layer loop-back of the request message and the server should reflect the message received back to the client in its body
- **CONNECT** used with proxies

Web servers can also define arbitrary methods

Requests

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 - method
 - resource (derived from the URI)
 - protocol version
 - header fields
 - body (optional)

```
GET // HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.1
Host: neverssl.com
Accept: */*
```

Requests – Resources

- URI can specify the absolute location of the resource
 - https://example.com/test/help.html
- Or the URI can specify a location relative to the current resource
 - //example.com/example/demo.html
 - Relative to the current network-path (scheme)
 - /test/help.html
 - Relative to the current authority
 - ../../people.html
 - Relative to the current authority and path
- Context important in all cases
 - http://localhost:8080/test

Endpoint Attacks

 Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) attacks are one of the most common web attacks

Endpoint attacks spike early in 2023

The proliferation of cloud and endpoint attacks is making 2023 a more challenging year than many CISOs bargained — and budgeted — for. CISOs in the banking, financial services and insurance industries told VentureBeat, on condition of anonymity, that attacks on every type of endpoint have quadrupled in just four months. Data they can capture shows cloud infrastructure, Active Directory, ransomware, web application, vulnerability exploitation, and distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks spiking sharply in the last 120 days.

https://venturebeat.com/security/defining-endpoint-security-in-a-zero-trust-world/

```
GET /.env
GET //administrator/.env
GET //laravel/.env
GET /1674310391
GET / profiler/phpinfo
GET /actuator/health
GET /CSS/Miniweb.css
GET /go/add-on/business-continuity/api/plugin?folderName=&pluginName=../../../etc/passwd
GET /laravel/.env
GET /menu.jsp
GET /nmaplowercheck1672624376
GET /nmaplowercheck1675000731
GET /Portal0000.htm
GET /Public/home/js/check.js
GET /server-status
HEAD /
HEAD /login
POST /
                                                                                  URL Endpoint Scans from
POST //admin/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //api/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
                                                                                  https://typos.csc.ncsu.edu
POST //backup/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //blog/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //cms/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //demo/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //dev/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //laravel/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //lib/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //lib/phpunit/phpunit/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //lib/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //lib/phpunit/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //new/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //old/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //panel/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //phpunit/phpunit/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //phpunit/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
POST //protected/vendor/phpunit/phpunit/src/Util/PHP/eval-stdin.php
```

Common DDOS Web Attacks

- Computationally Expensive Operations
 - Database Lookups
 - PDF Generation
 - Large file uploads
 - ZIP Bombing
- Operations that take time to process result in taking up
 - memory
 - server connections
 - etc.

Requests

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 - protocol version
 - header fields
 - body (optional)

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.1
Host: neverssl.com
Accept: */*
```

Requests - Protocol

Based on TCP, uses port 80 by default

- HTTP/1.0
 - Defined in RFC 1945 (May 1996)
- HTTP/1.1
 - Defined in RFC 2616 (June 1999)
- HTTP/2.0
 - Based on SPDY, still under discussion
- HTTPS/2 and HTTPS/3 (Port 443)
 - Creates private encryption to strengthen communication

Requests

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 - protocol version
 - header fields
 - body (optional)

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.37.1
Host: neverssl.com
Accept: */*
```

Requests - Header Fields

- Defines information about the client
 - Key-Value Pairs transmitted in clear-text
 - Separated by CR-LF

- Accept: text/html
 - Define the media type client is expecting
- User-Agent: Googlebot/2.1 (+http://www.google.com/bot.html)
 - Identifies the software the client is using to access the server

• Full List

Modern Requests

```
GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: www.google.com
Accept-Encoding: deflate, gzip
Accept:
text/html,application/xhtml+xml,applicati
on/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel
Mac OS X 10 10 1) AppleWebKit/537.36
(KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/39.0.2171.95
Safari/537.36
```

Modern Requests

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_10_1) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/39.0.2171.95 Safari/537.36

- Mozilla/5.0
 - Indicates compatibility with Mozilla rendering engine
- (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10_10_1)
 - System browser is running
- AppleWebKit/537.36
 - Platform browser uses
- (KHTML, like Gecko)
 - Additional details
- Chrome/39.0.2171.95 Safari/537.36
 - Additional details

Header Attacks

- Slow Header Attacks (<u>SlowLoris</u>)
 - Establish multiple HTTP connections in parallel
 - However, never complete the requests, only sending partial headers
 - Server will assume the requests are genuine and wait for them to complete
 - To continue the attack, new HTTP headers get added to the attack
 - "Oh, the user is on an unreliable network, we can wait"

Header Attacks

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Slow POST Attacks

- Similar to Header Attacks, but partial POST data is sent
- The Content-Length header tells the server how much to expect, but the attacker delays sending the entire payload

SlowLoris Demo

Managing Header Attacks

- Increase maximum concurrent connections
 - Load Balancers to evenly distribute connections between servers

- Limit concurrent connections by a single IP address
 - fail2ban malicious IP addresses

- Limit time span a client request can stay alive
 - Apache: mod_reqtimeout, mod_qos
 - Nginx: client_header_timeout, client_body_timeout

Responses

- An HTTP response consists of:
 - protocol version
 - status code
 - short reason
 - headers
 - body

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Thu, 09 Mar 2024 03:22:05 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.54 ()
Upgrade: h2, h2c
Connection: Upgrade
Last-Modified: Wed, 29 Jun 2022 00:23:33 GMT
ETaq: "f79-5e28b29d38e93"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 3961
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
< html>
<head>
<title>NeverSSL - Connecting ... </title>
<style>
body {
font-family: Montserrat, helvetica,
```

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 - protocol version
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HTTP/1.1 ₹200 OK
Date. III., 09 Mar 2024 03:22:05 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.54 ()
Upgrade: h2, h2c
Connection: Upgrade
Last-Modified: Wed, 29 Jun 2022 00:23:33 GMT
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Responses – Status Codes

- 1XX Informational: request received, continuing to process
- 2XX Successful: request received, understood, and accepted
- 3XX Redirection: user agent needs to take further action to fulfill the request
- 4XX Client error: request cannot be fulfilled or error in request
- 5XX Server error: the server is aware that it has erred or is incapable of performing the request

Responses – Short Reason

- "200" -> OK
- "201" -> Created
- "202" -> Accepted
- "204" -> No Content
- "301" -> Moved Permanently
- "307" -> Temporary Redirect

Responses – Status Codes

• "401"

• "501"

• "502"

• "503"

• "403"

• "400"

• "404" -> Not Found

-> Bad Request

-> Unauthorized

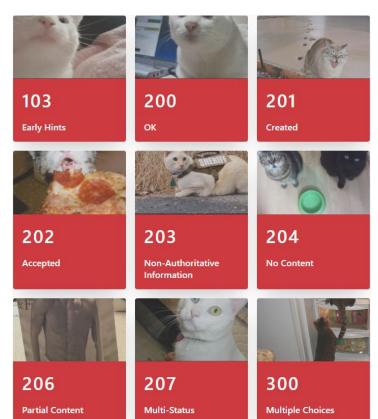
-> Forbidden

• "500" -> Internal Server Error -> Not Implemented

-> Bad Gateway

-> Service Unavailable

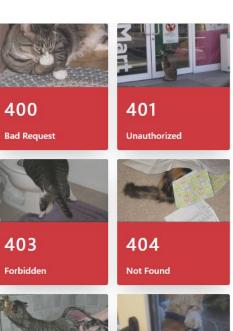
http.cat





Method Not Allowed

Not Acceptable



407

Required

Proxy Authentication

HTTP Authentication

- Based on a simple challenge-response scheme
- The challenge is returned by the server as part of a 401 (unauthorized) reply message and specifies the authentication schema to be used
- An authentication request refers to a realm, that is, a set of resources on the server
- The client must include an Authorization header field with the required (valid) credentials

HTTP Basic Authentication

 The server replies to an unauthorized request with a 401 message containing the header field

```
WWW-Authenticate: Basic realm="ReservedDocs"
```

 The client retries the access including in the header a field containing a cookie composed of a base64 encoded username and password (RFC 2045)

Authorization: Basic UmFscGllOkRyaW5rTW9yZU92YWx0aW5l==

Can you crack the username/password?

HTTP 1.1 Authentication

- Defines an additional authentication scheme based on cryptographic digests (<u>RFC 2617</u>)
 - Server sends a nonce as challenge
 - Client sends request with digest of the username, the password, the given nonce value, the HTTP method, and the requested URL

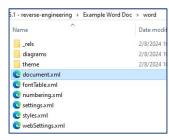
 To authenticate the users, the server needs access to clear-text user passwords

Monitoring and Modifying HTTP Traffic

- HTTP traffic can be analyzed in different ways
 - Sniffers can be used to collect traffic
 - Servers can be configured to create extensive logs
 - Browsers can be used to analyze the content received from a server
 - Client-side/server-side proxies can be used to analyze the traffic without having to modify the target environment
- Client-side proxies are especially effective in performing vulnerability analysis because they allow one to examine and modify each request and reply
 - Firefox extensions: LiveHTTPHeaders, Tamper Data
 - Burp Proxy

Hypertext Markup Language

- A markup language designed to 'present' data in a certain format with the ability to 'link' to other resources
- Based on Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) (ISO 8879:1986)
- HTML is a specialized version of a Document Object Model (DOM) for the web
 - Microsoft Office formats all of its files w/ a DOM



Tags

HTML contains **tags** that explain what the content is suppose to be

Most tags have an opening and closing tag (with a handful of exceptions)

Every HTML file starts with an <html> tag and ends with an </html> tag

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
   <div>
      I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
                Informs the application of the specific
  <head>
                DOM format used
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div>
       I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <head>
               Contains metadata about the document
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div>
      I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <head>
                   Like the resource's title
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <div>
      I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Hello World</title>
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="stylesheets/main.css">
  </head>
                                                  Or resources the page
                                                    needs to import
  <body>
    <div>
      I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <head>
    <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
               The body contains the actual
                contents of the resource
    <div>
       I am the example text
    </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
  <head>
     <title>Hello World</title>
  </head>
  <body>
                     And tags like <div> and  inform the
                   application about how the content should be
     <div>
                         organized (and formatted)
        I am the example text
     </div>
  </body>
</html>
```

- html // Document Language
 - head // Metadata
 - title
 - "Hello World"
 - body // Contents
 - ●div // Section
 - p // Paragraph
 - "I am the example text"

- Tags can have "attributes" that provide metadata about the tag
- Attributes live inside the start tag after the tag name
- <input type="text" name="email" disabled>
 - input is the tag name with...
 - type as an attribute with the value "text"
 - name as an attribute with the value "email"
 - disabled as an attribute with no value
 - input also does not need a closing </input>

HTML – Hyperlink

- anchor tag is used to create a hyperlink
- href attribute is used provide the URI
- Text inside the anchor tag is the text of the hyperlink

Example

<u>Example</u>

HTML – Browsers

 User agent is responsible for parsing and interpreting the HTML and displaying it to the user

HTML – Character References

How to include HTML special characters as text/data?

- Encode the character reference
- Also referred to in HTML < 5.0 as "entity reference" or "entity encoding"

HTML – Character References

- Three variations, each start with & and end with;
 - Named character reference
 - &efined_name>;
 - Decimal numeric character reference
 - &#<decimal unicode>;
 - Hexadecimal numeric character reference
 - &#x<hexadecimal_unicode>;
- Note: This will be the root of a significant number of vulnerabilities and is critical to understand

HTML – Character References Example

• The ampersand (&) is used to start a character reference, so it needs to be encoded as a character reference

• The ampersand (&) is used to start a character reference, so it needs to be encoded as a character reference

```
- & amp; \Rightarrow &
```

- & \Rightarrow & in ASCII
- & #x26; \Rightarrow & in HEX
- $\& #x00026; \Rightarrow \& in longer form HEX$



- é
- é
- é

Modern browsers can handle files with special characters, but these standards come from a time when they did not



- 🐛
- 🐛

- Why must '<' be encoded as a character reference?
 - <
 - <
 - 0
 - 0

- Because HTML is highly structured, it leaves it very susceptible to programs that extract information from the webpage
 - Can then render phishing pages to appear authentic
 - Or host other people's content with injected affiliate links
 - Or be genuine web indexing companies

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 - Can then render phishing pages to appear authentic
 - Or host other people's content with injected affiliate links
 - Or be genuine web indexing companies
- Good rule of thumb is to include a robots.txt file in the root directory to inform "good" bots what to not index
 - https://www.robotstxt.org/

```
- User-agent: *
  Disallow: /cgi-bin/
  Disallow: /~csc405/
  Disallow: *.gif
  Disallow: /flag/challengeXX.txt
```

- Because HTML is highly structured, it leaves it very susceptible to programs that extract information from the webpage
 - Can then render phishing pages to appear authentic
 - Or host other people's content with injected affiliate links
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Disallow: /flag/challengeXX.txt

- Good rule of thumb is to include a robots.txt file in the root directory to inform "good" bots what to not index
 - https://www.robotstxt.org/

```
- User-agent: *
Disallow: /cgi-bin/
Disallow: /~csc405/
Disallow: *.gif
Any robot
```

- Because HTML is highly structured, it leaves it very susceptible to programs that extract information from the webpage
 - Can then render phishing pages to appear authentic
 - Or host other people's content with injected affiliate links
 - Or be genuine web indexing companies
- Good rule of thumb is to include a robots.txt file in the root directory to inform "good" bots what to not index
 - https://www.robotstxt.org/

```
- User-agent: *
  Disallow: /cgi-bin/__
  Disallow: /~csc405/
```

Disallow: *.gif

Do not index /cgi-bin/, /~csc405/, any gifs, or explicitly do not index specific files

Disallow: /flag/challengeXX.txt



- Honeypots
 - Include Disallow: <location> in robots.txt but include a link to it in your webpage
 - Grab the IP address of the malicious bot for processing later

```
robots.txt
User-agent: *
Disallow: /honeypot/trap/
```

- Honeypots
 - Include Disallow: <location> in robots.txt but include a link to it in your webpage
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```
robots.txt
User-agent: *
Disallow: /honeypot/trap/
```

```
Website
<a href="/honeypot/trap/"></a>
```

- Honeypots
 - Include Disallow: <location> in robots.txt but include a link to it in your webpage
 - Grab the IP address of the malicious bot for processing later

```
robots.txt
User-agent: *
Disallow: /honeypot/trap/
Website
<a href="/honeypot/trap/"></a>
```

```
/honeypot/trap/index.php
file_put_contents('bad-bots.txt', GetIp() . "rn", FILE_APPEND);
```

- Frequently change the HTML structure
 - Auto generate random attribute values for tags with id and class attributes

- Frequently change the HTML structure
 - Regularly change the nesting structure of the page
 - Instead of

```
<div class="article-content" id="main">
  ...content...
</div>
use
<div class="U2ARCQs4oH" id="91JpNLuG51">
  <div class="rhG7k8p7q091JpNLuG51">
    ...content...
  </div>
</div>
```



Your Security Zen

SO YOU WANT TO STOP HOTLINKING AND BANDWIDTH THEFT

Would you like to stop hotlinkers? Is your web hosting bandwidth bill growing each month? Looking for <u>web hosting</u>? Want to <u>test image hotlink protection</u> for your web site? Here is information on using an **htaccess** file to stop <u>hotlinking</u> and bandwidth theft.

HOW DO I STOP HOTLINKING AND BANDWIDTH THEFT?

You can stop others from <a href="https://hot.org/hot.

Example: Your site url is www.mysite.com. To stop hotlinking of your images from other sites and display a replacement image called aX4w7.aif from an image host, place this code in your .htaccess file:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^http://(.+\.)?mysite\.com/ [NC]
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^$
RewriteRule .*\.(jpe?g|gif|bmp|png)$ https://i.imgur.com/ZtXiCBw.gif [L]
```

If a request for an image on my server <u>is not</u> coming from my server, redirect them to this image

Source: https://altlab.com/htaccess_tutorial.html

Your Security Zen - "Permissions" Bypass

Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education listed the Social Security numbers of teachers and administrators, hidden in the HTML of their webpage

Missouri governor threatens legal action against journalist who found flaw that exposed Social Security numbers

By Sean Lyngaas, CNN Published 7:11 PM EDT, Thu October 14, 2021

Source: https://www.cnn.com/2021/10/14/media/mike-parson-st-louis-post-dispatch/index.html