

SWE 432 -Web Application Development

Spring 2023



George Mason
University

Dr. Kevin Moran

Week 1:
Course Overview
&
Introduction to Javascript





Welcome to SWE 432!

- Initial Logistics:
 - Welcome to the Lecture!
 - This Lecture is being recorded

Introductions



Instructor: Kevin Moran

Education: Ph.D. from William & Mary - 2018

Research Interests: Software Engineering ,
UI Analysis, Machine Learning

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

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Translating Video Recordings of Mobile App Usages into Replayable Scenarios

Carlos Bernal-Cárdenas
William & Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia, USA
cebernal@cs.wm.edu

Nathan Cooper
William & Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia, USA
nacoooper01@email.wm.edu

Kevin Moran
William & Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia, USA
kpmoran@cs.wm.edu

applications are committing to spending development resources im
user interfaces (UI) ing them. After these initial design drafts are cr
attract customers, critical that they are faithfully translated into co
nating tasks, and for the end-user to experience the design and u
esthetically in its intended form.
This process (which often involves mult
has been shown by past work and error p
in time-consuming, and error p
different teams (which i
Additionally, Additionaly,



Introductions

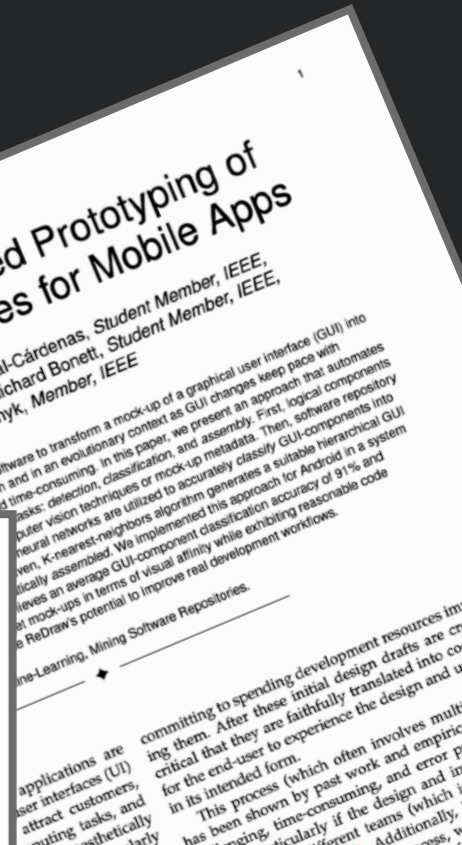
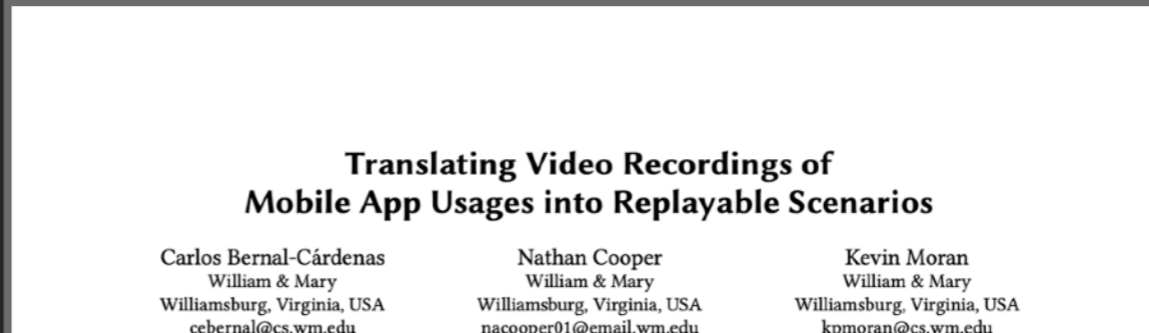


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Recent Web Development Work

REPORTED STEPS

LAST THREE REPORTED STEPS

BURT HELP

Hi P90, please **select the app** that is having the problem

- ATimeTracker v. 0.20
- Android Token v. 2.10
- AntennaPod v. 1.6.2.3
- Droid Weight v. 1.5.4

QUICK ACTIONS

- Finish reporting the bug
- Restart the conversation
- View the bug report

USEFUL TIPS

Feel free to **zoom in** this webpage on your browser to better see the chatbot and the app screenshots.

Write your message here

Introductions



Teaching Assistant: Oyindamola Oluyemo

Education/Employment: Current M.S. Student at GMU, and previous solutions architect at AWS

Office Hours (Hybrid): TBA



Today's Agenda

1. Provide an overview of the Course Logistics - (15-20 mins)
2. Discuss the History and Present of the Modern Web- (~30 mins)
3. Short Break (~10 mins)
4. Introduction to Javascript (30-40 mins)
5. In-class Activity on Javascript (20-30 mins)

Course Logistics





Course Lectures

- I am going to do my best to record course lectures.
- However, this is primarily for people that may have to miss class for illness, unforeseen circumstances
- You still need to attend class to take Quizzes and participate in in-class activities
- ***However, if you are feeling ill, please do not come to class. You can catch up on the lectures via recordings, and you can miss up to three quizzes.***



Course Resources

- Course Website: Syllabus, Schedule, Assignments, Lecture slides/recordings
- Ed Discussions: Announcements, Discussions
- Blackboard (MyMason): Grades
- Zoom: Hybrid/Virtual Office Hours



CourseWebsite

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu`. The page title is "SWE 432 - Spring 2023 - Web Application Development". The navigation menu includes "Home", "Schedule", "Assignments", "Hands On Sessions", "Syllabus", and "Resources". The main content area features a "Home" section with a "Course Description" and a "Welcome Video" section. The "Welcome Video" section includes a video player with a play button and a "Course Overview" section with an illustration of people working on a computer. A "Table of contents" sidebar is visible on the right side of the page.

Private < > kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu

SWE 432 - Spring 2023 - Web Application Development Search

Home Schedule Assignments Hands On Sessions Syllabus Resources

Home

Course Description

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to web app development, covering JavaScript, back end development, front end development, and user interface design.

Welcome Video

SWE 432 -Web Application Development

George Mason University

Dr. Kevin Moran

Course Overview

Table of contents

- Course Description
- Welcome Video
- General Course Information
 - Course Meeting Times
 - Virtual Course Spaces
- Welcome Letter to Students
- Course Philosophy
- Learning Outcomes
- Course Grading Information
 - Grading Breakdown & Scale



Course Materials

- There is no course textbook, however readings will be posted to the course website.
- There will be in-class activities for many lectures (*bring your laptop!*)



Grading Breakdown

- HW Assignments- (50%)
- In-Class Quizzes - (10%)
- Mid-Term Exam - (20%)
- Final Exam - (20%)



In-Class Activities

- Work together in small pairs/groups to gain experience trying out methods and concepts with examples
- No grades, but very important, as you will learn a lot from your classmates during these exercises



HW Assignments

- 5 Assignments over the course of the semester
- These will cover various web programming concepts, e.g., Javascript, Frontend/Backend development.
- ~2-3 weeks to complete each assignment
- Some code-related assignments will be auto-graded, we will also grade by hand for non-functional issues
- ***First HW Assignment will be posted tomorrow***
(Announcement will be made on Ed Discussions)



Late Policy - HW Assignments

- You will have ~2-3 weeks to complete each HW Assignment
- Can submit up to:
 - 24 hours late, lose 10%
 - 48 hours late, lose 20%
- HW submissions more than 48 hrs late will receive a 0
- ***If you have unforeseen problems, please contact me & Damola before the deadline!***



Quizzes

- In class offered through Google Forms (again, bring your laptop to class)
- Pass/Fail (Pass if you are in class and submit a quiz, Fail if you don't)
- You can *miss up to three quizzes* during the semester and it won't count against you (but no more)



Exams

- Midterm & non-comprehensive Final Exam
- Includes both in-class lectures and material from readings
- Multiple choice
- Synthesis-style, short essay questions
- Exams will be given in class, and during the assigned Final Exam period.



Honor Code

- Refresh yourself of the department honor code
- HW Assignments are 100% individual
 - Discussing assignments at high level: **OK**, sharing code: **NOT OK**
 - If in doubt, ask the instructor
 - If you copy code, we **WILL** notice (see some of my recent research results on Code Traceability)
- Quizzes must be completed by you, and while in class



Honor Code & AI Tools

- The use of AI tools to assist in coding **are allowed** (and even encouraged!) in this class.
- Some things to remember:
 - ***Put Effort into Crafting High Quality Prompts***
 - ***Be Aware of AI Limitations***
 - ***Give the Tool Proper Attribution***
 - ***Know when to use and not use AI Tools***

For more information see: <https://kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu/swe-432-s23/assignments/#collaboration-ai-assistant-policies>



Policies

- *My promises to you:*
 - Quiz results will be available by the next class; we will discuss quizzes in class
 - Homework will be graded within 1 week of submission
 - Exams will be graded within 1 week



“Hands On” Sessions

- Every Week, I will offer a “hands-on” session during one of my office hours
- During these sessions you can:
 - Try out concepts from class
 - Ask more detailed programming questions
- Sessions will be conducted virtually over Zoom (Zoom room is posted on course webpage)
- Resources from the Sessions will be posted on the course website.
- ***You are not required to attend***, but it may be helpful if you find certain subjects/concepts challenging.

A Brief Overview and History of the Modern Web





Web Sites vs Web Apps?

Interactive?

User-generated content?

Informational vs fun?



What is the web?

- A set of standards
 - TCP/IP, HTTP, URLs, HTML, CSS, ...
- A means for distributing structured and semi-structured information to the world
- Infrastructure

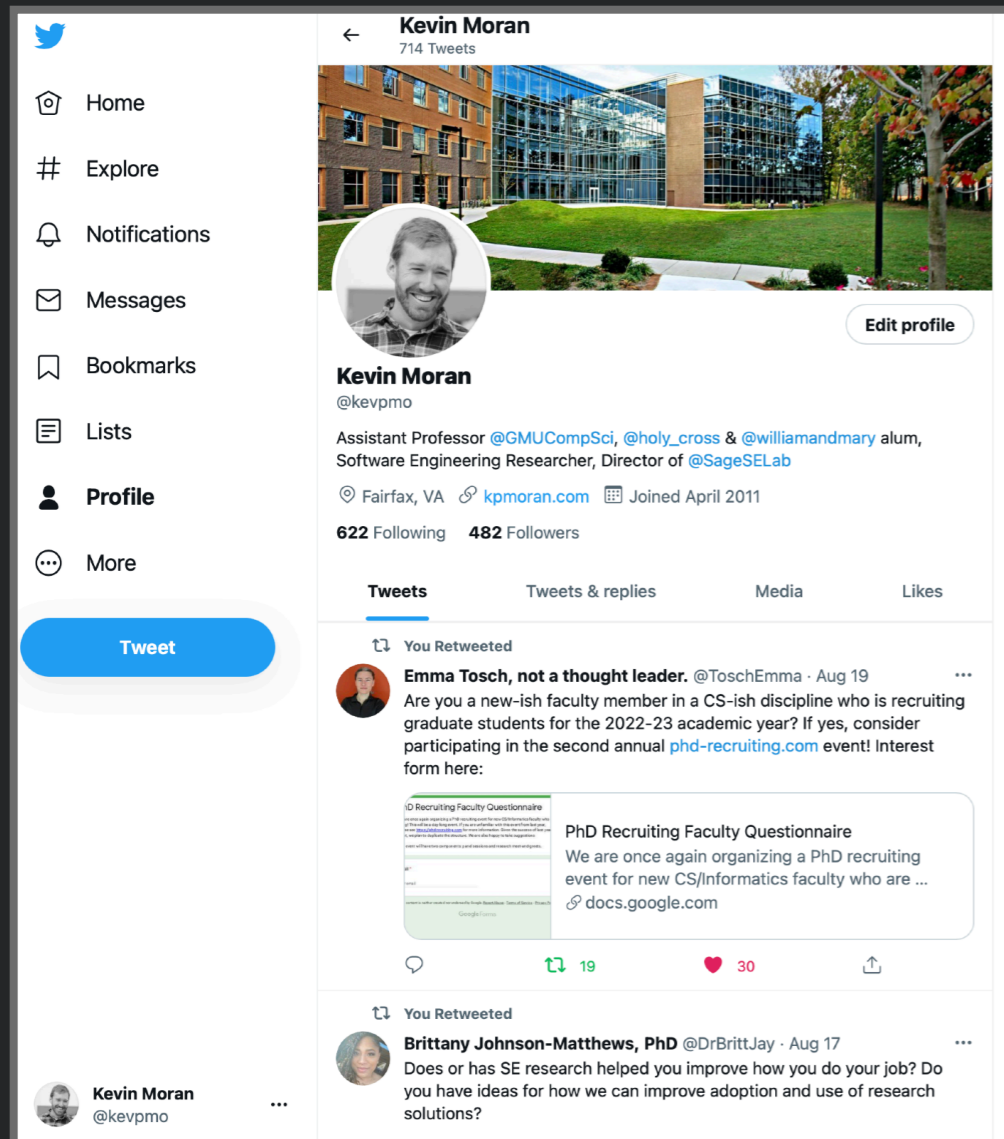


Perspectives in Web Development

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter profile for Kevin Moran. On the left is a navigation menu with icons for Home, Explore, Notifications, Messages, Bookmarks, Lists, Profile, and More. The profile header includes a back arrow, the name 'Kevin Moran', and '714 Tweets'. Below this is a large banner image of a modern building with a glass facade and a circular lawn. A circular profile picture of Kevin Moran is shown below the banner. To the right of the profile picture is an 'Edit profile' button. The bio reads: 'Assistant Professor @GMUCompSci, @holy_cross & @williamandmary alum, Software Engineering Researcher, Director of @SageSELab'. Location is 'Fairfax, VA', website is 'kpmoran.com', and joined date is 'April 2011'. It shows '622 Following' and '482 Followers'. Below the bio are tabs for 'Tweets', 'Tweets & replies', 'Media', and 'Likes'. A tweet is visible, retweeted by the user, from Emma Tosch (@ToschEmma) dated Aug 19. The tweet text is: 'Are you a new-ish faculty member in a CS-ish discipline who is recruiting graduate students for the 2022-23 academic year? If yes, consider participating in the second annual phd-recruiting.com event! Interest form here:'. Below the tweet is a link to a 'PhD Recruiting Faculty Questionnaire' with a small thumbnail of the questionnaire form.

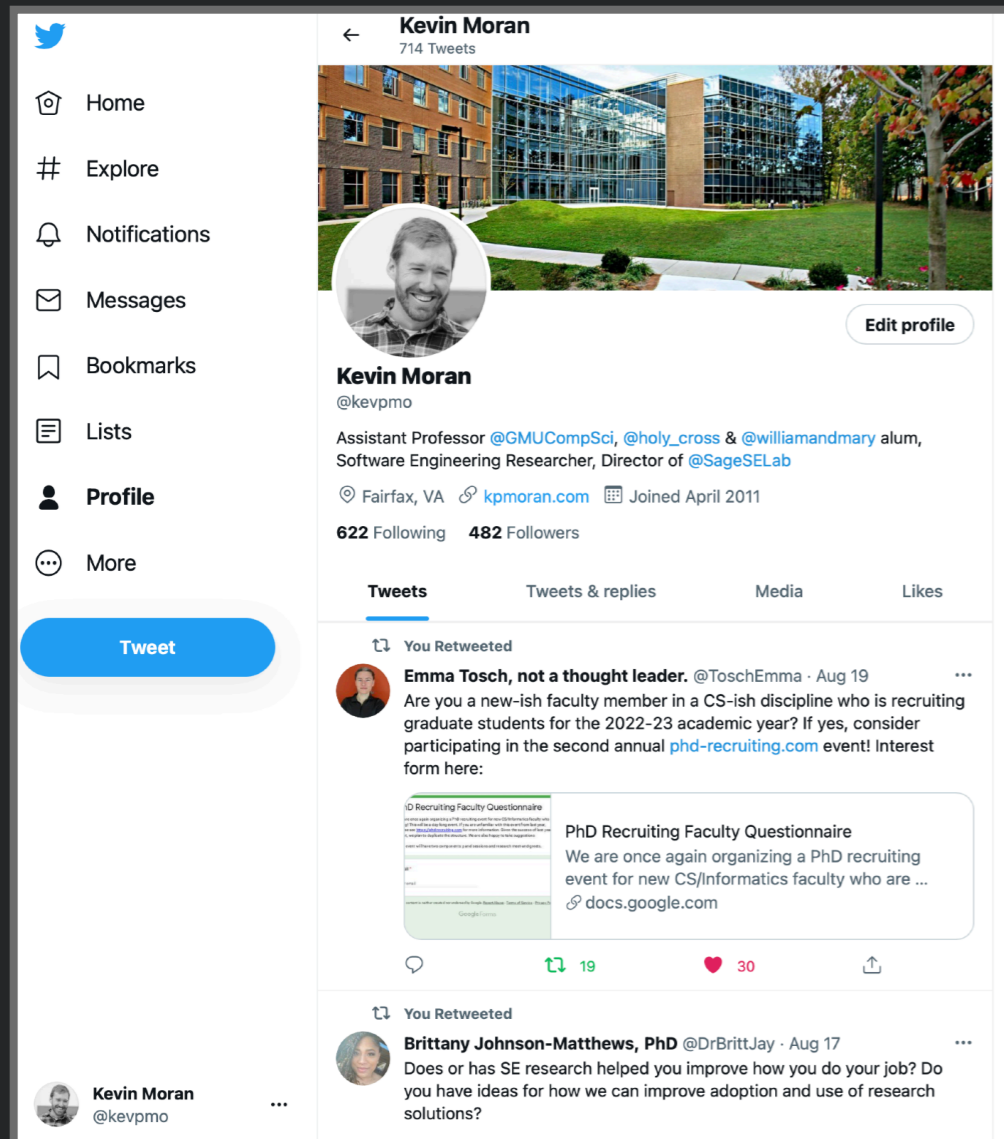
Tweet

Systems Perspective



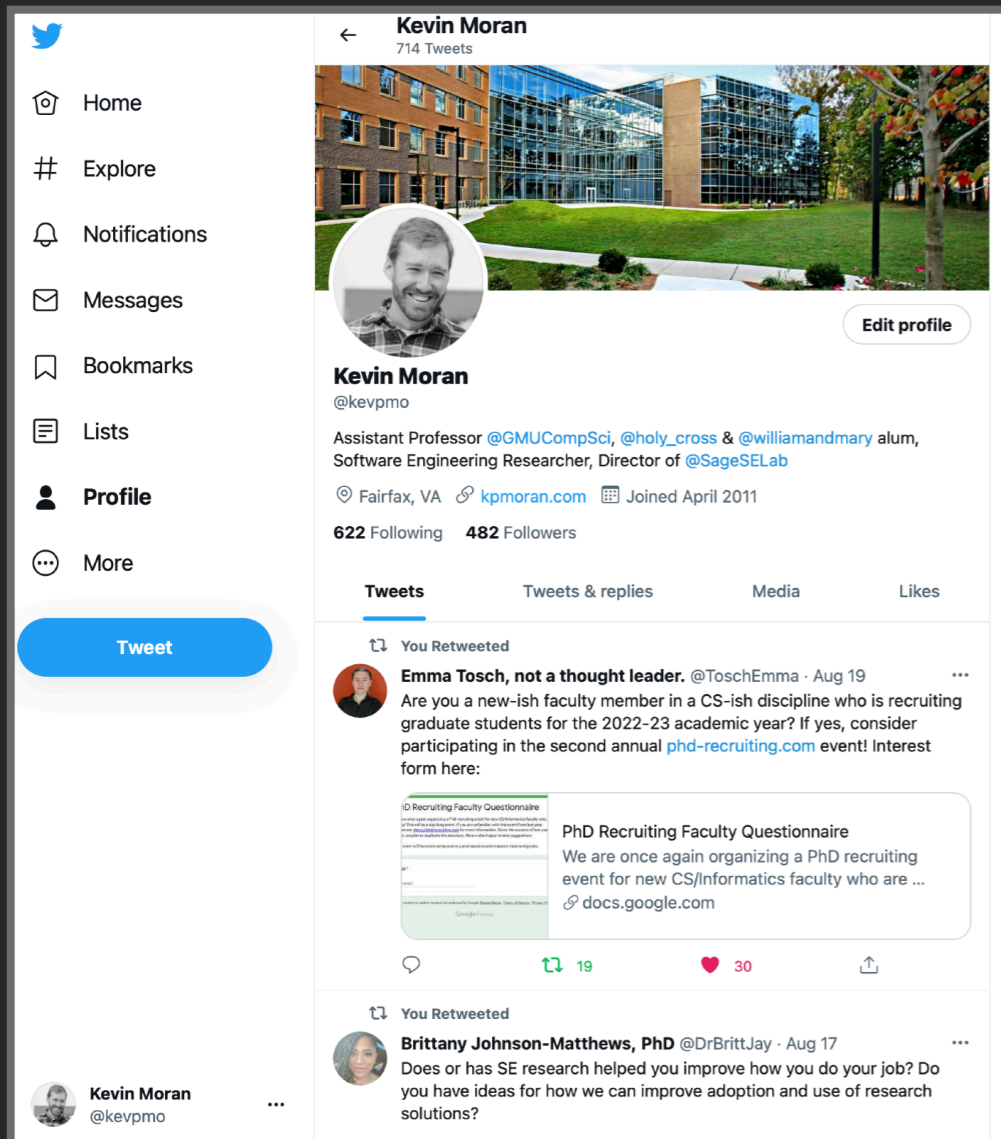
- How can we design **robust, efficient, & secure** interactions between computers?
- Individual web app may run on
 - Thousands of servers
 - Owned and managed by different orgs
 - *Millions* of clients
 - $>TBs$ of constantly changing data
- What happens when a server crashes?
- How do we prevent a malicious user from accessing user data on a server?

Software Engineering Perspective



- How can we design for **change & reuse**?
- Individual web app may have
 - *Hundreds* of developers
 - *Millions* of lines of code
 - New updates deployed many times a day
 - Much functionality reused from code built by other organizations
 - Offer API that allows other web apps to be built on top of it
- How can a developer successfully make a change without understanding the whole system?
- What happens when a new developer joins?

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) Perspective



- How can we design web apps that are ***usable*** for their intended purpose?
- Individual web app may
 - *Millions of users*
 - Tens of different needs
- What happens when a new user interacts with the web app?
- How can we make a web app less frustrating to use?



Pre-Web

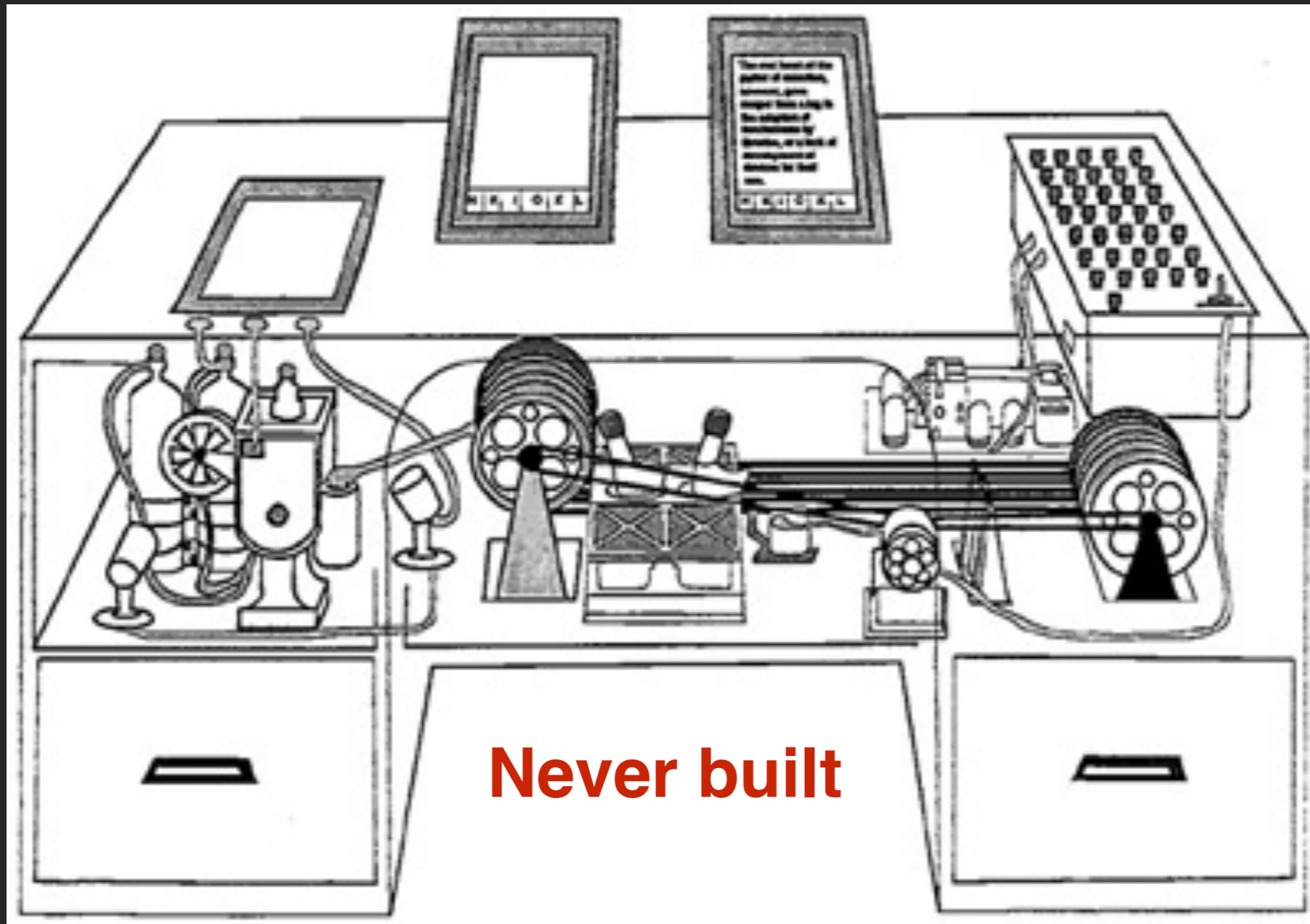
- “As We May Think”, by Vannevar Bush, in The Atlantic Monthly, July 1945
- Recommended that scientists work on inventing machines for storing, organizing, retrieving and sharing the increasingly vast amounts of human knowledge
- He targeted physicists and electrical engineers - there were no computer scientists in 1945



Pre-Web - Memex

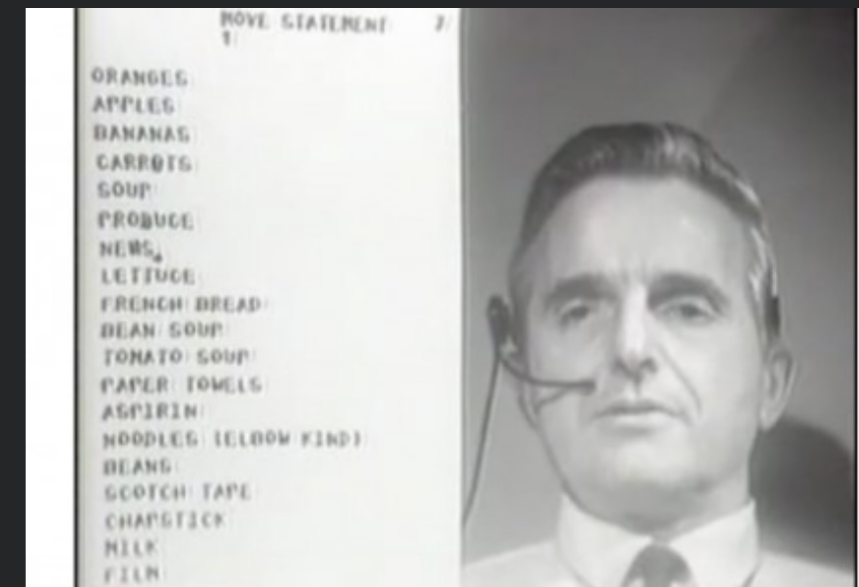
- MEMEX = MEMory EXtension
- Create and follow “associative trails” (links) and annotations between microfilm documents
- Technically based on “rapid selectors” Vannevar Bush built in 1930’s to search microfilm
- Conceptually based on human associative memory rather than indexing

Pre-Web - Memex



Hypertext and the WWW

- 1965: Ted Nelson coins “hypertext” (the HT in **HTML**) - “beyond” the linear constraints of text
- Many hypertext/hypermedia systems followed, many not sufficiently scalable to take off
- 1968: Doug Engelbart gives “the mother of all demos”, demonstrating windows, hypertext, graphics, video conferencing, the mouse, collaborative real-time editor
- 1969: ARPANET comes online
- 1980: Tim Berners-Lee writes ENQUIRE, a notebook program which allows links to be made between arbitrary nodes with titles

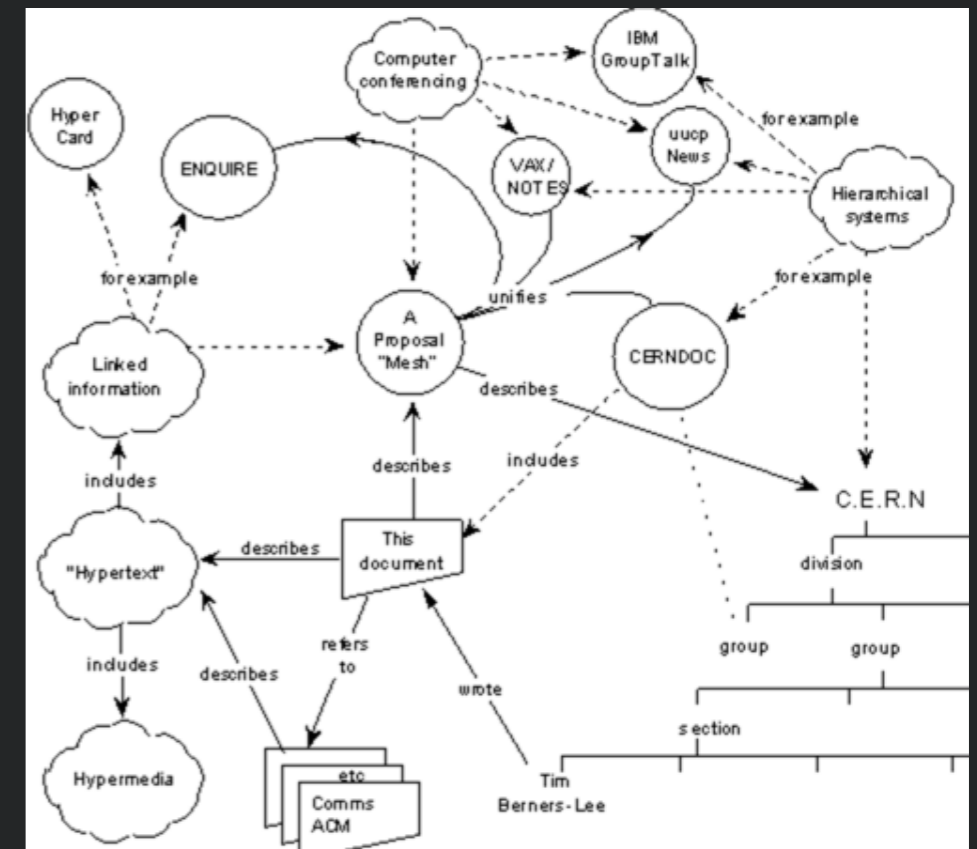


Origin of the Web

- 1989: Tim Berners-Lee, “Information Management: A Proposal”
- Became what we know as the WWW
- A “global” hypertext system full of links (which could be single directional, and could be broken!)



© CERN





Early Browsers

```
CERN Welcome
CERN
The European Laboratory for Particle Physics, located near Geneva[1] in
Switzerland[2] and France[3]. Also the birthplace of the World-Wide
Web[4].

This is the CERN laboratory main server. The support team provides a set of
Services[5] to the physics experiments and the lab. For questions and
suggestions, see WWW Support Contacts[6] at CERN

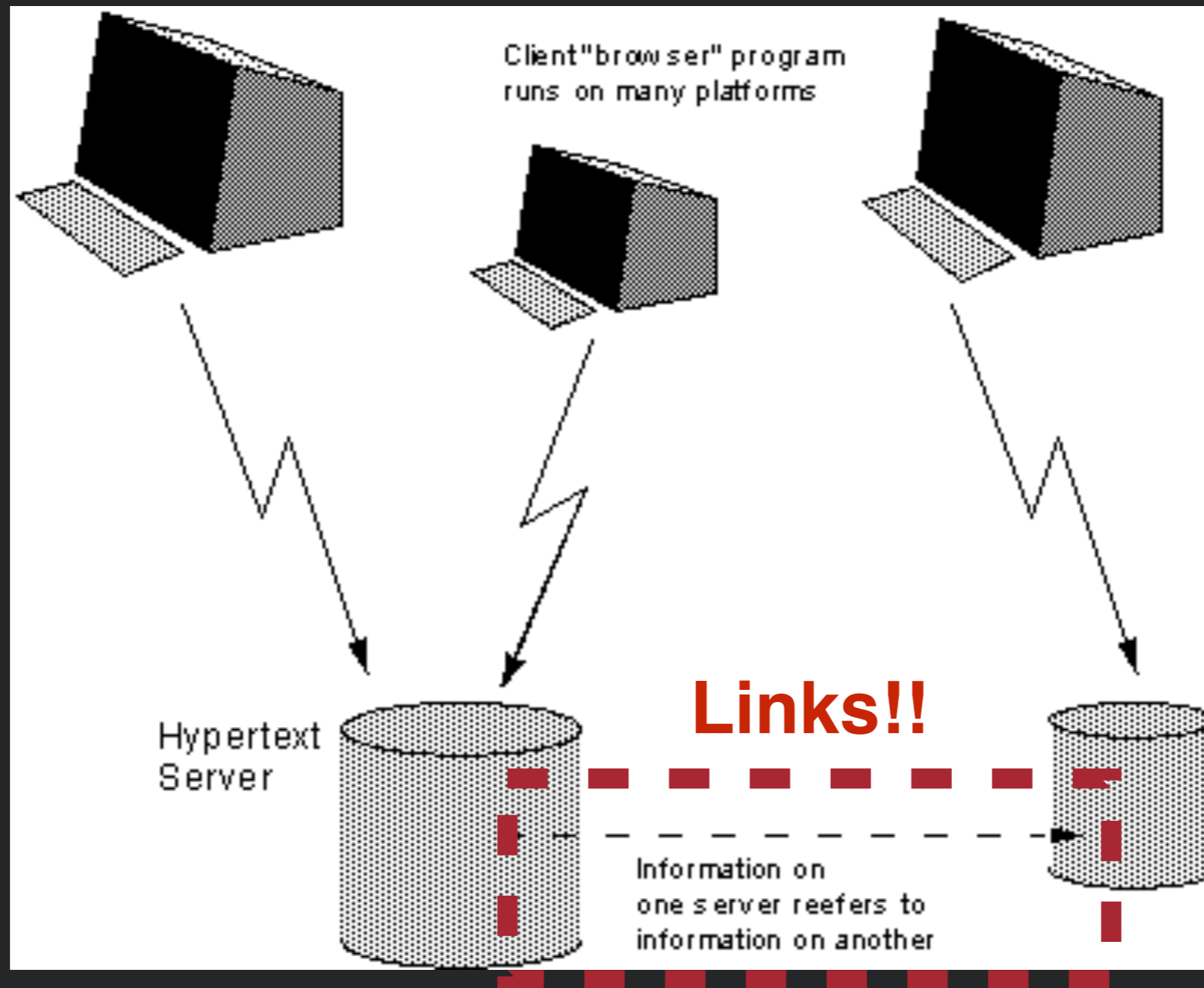
-----
About the Laboratory[7] - Hot News[8] - Activities[9] - About Physics[10] -
Other Subjects[11] - Search[12]
-----

About the Laboratory

Help[13] and General information[14], divisions, groups and
activities[15] (structure), Scientific committees[16]

Directories[17] (phone & email, services & people), Scientific
Information Service[18] (library, archives or Alice), Preprint[19] Server
1-45, Back, Up, <RETURN> for more, Quit, or Help: █
```

Original WWW Architecture





URI: Universal Resource Identifier

URI: <scheme>://<authority><path>?<query>

http://kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu/swe-432-f22.html

↑
“Use HTTP
scheme”

Other popular schemes:
ftp, mailto, file

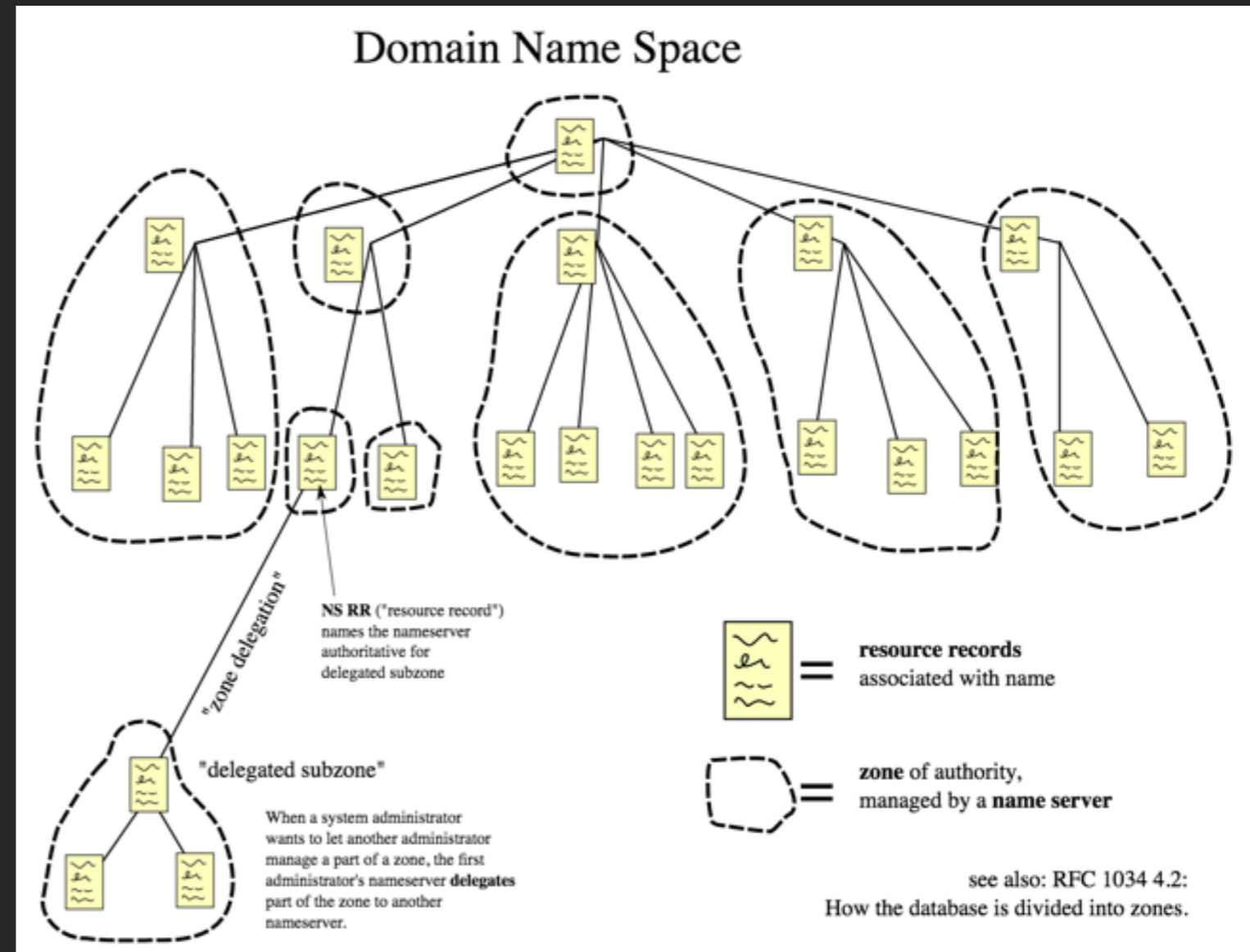
↑
“Connect to cs.gmu.edu”

May be host name or an IP address
Optional port name (e.g., :80 for port 80)

↖
“Request
~kpmoran/swe-432-f22.html”

DNS: Domain Name System

- Domain name system (DNS) (~1982)
- Mapping from names to IP addresses
- E.g. cs.gmu.edu -> 129.174.125.139

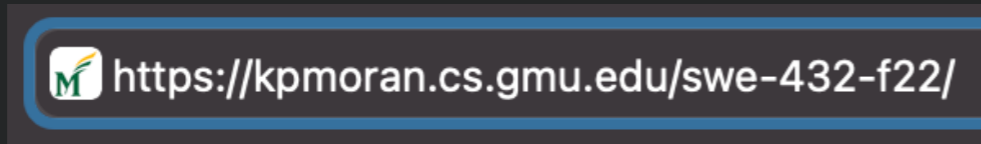
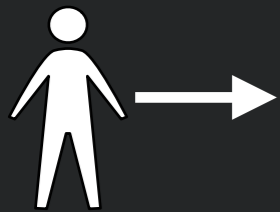


The hierarchical Domain Name System for class *Internet*, organized into zones, each served by a name server

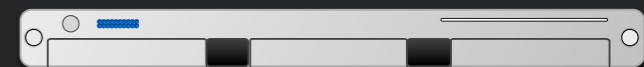


HTTP: HyperText Transfer Protocol

High-level protocol built on TCP/IP that defines how data is transferred on the web



web server



HTTP Request

GET /swe-432-f22.html HTTP/1.1

Host: kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu

Accept: text/html

Reads file from disk

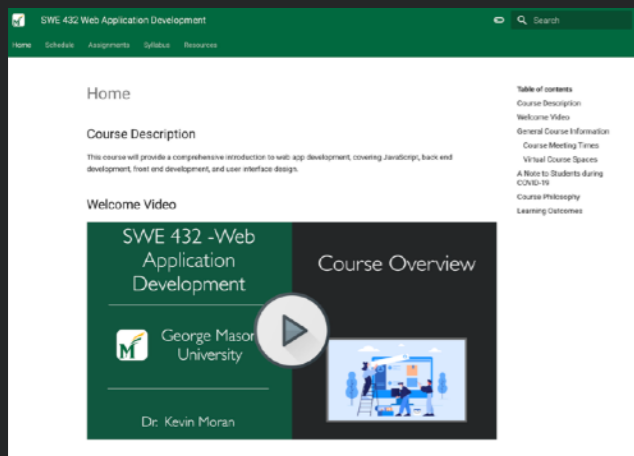


HTTP Response

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html><head>...





HTTP Requests

HTTP Request

```
GET /swe-432-f22.html HTTP/1.1  
Host: kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu  
Accept: text/html
```

“GET request”

Other popular types:
POST, PUT, DELETE, HEAD

“Resource”

- Request may contain additional *header lines* specifying, e.g. client info, parameters for forms, cookies, etc.
- Ends with a carriage return, line feed (blank line)
- May also contain a message body, delineated by a blank line



HTTP Responses

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 23 May 2005 22:38:34 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Content-Encoding: UTF-8
Content-Length: 138
Last-Modified: Wed, 08 Jan 2003 23:11:55 GMT
Server: Apache/1.3.3.7 (Unix) (Red-Hat/Linux)
ETag: "3f80f-1b6-3e1cb03b"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Connection: close

<html>
<head>
  <title>An Example Page</title>
</head>
<body>
  Hello World, this is a very simple HTML document.
</body>
</html>
```

[HTML data]

“OK response”

Response status codes:

- 1xx Informational
- 2xx Success
- 3xx Redirection
- 4xx Client error
- 5xx Server error

“HTML returned content”

Common MIME types:

- application/json
- application/pdf
- image/png



Properties of HTTP

- Request-response
 - Interactions always initiated by client request to server
 - Server responds with results
- Stateless
 - Each request-response pair independent from every other
 - Any state information (login credentials, shopping carts, etc.) needs to be encoded somehow



HTML: HyperText Markup Language

HTML is a **markup language** - it is a language for describing parts of a document

- NOT a programming language
- Tags are added to markup the text, encompassed with `<>`'s
- Simple markup tags: ``, `<i>`, `<u>` (bold, italic, underline)

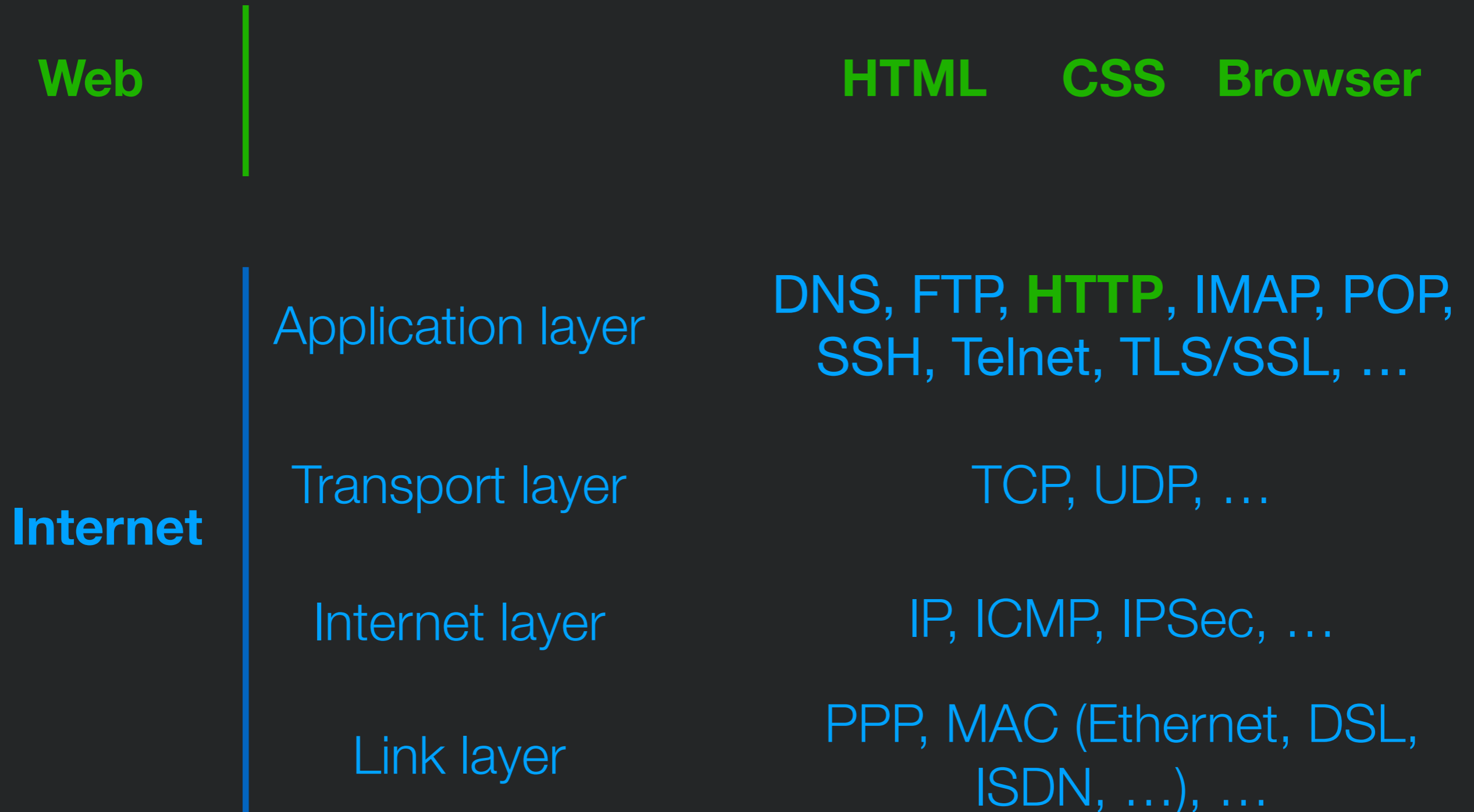
```
<b>This text is bold!</b>
```



This text is bold!



Web vs. Internet





The Modern Web

- Evolving competing architectures for organizing content and computation between browser (client) and web server
- 1990s: static web pages
- 1990s: server-side scripting (CGI, PHP, ASP, ColdFusion, JSP, ...)
- 2000s: single page apps (jQuery)
- 2010s: front-end frameworks (Angular, React, Vue...), microservices

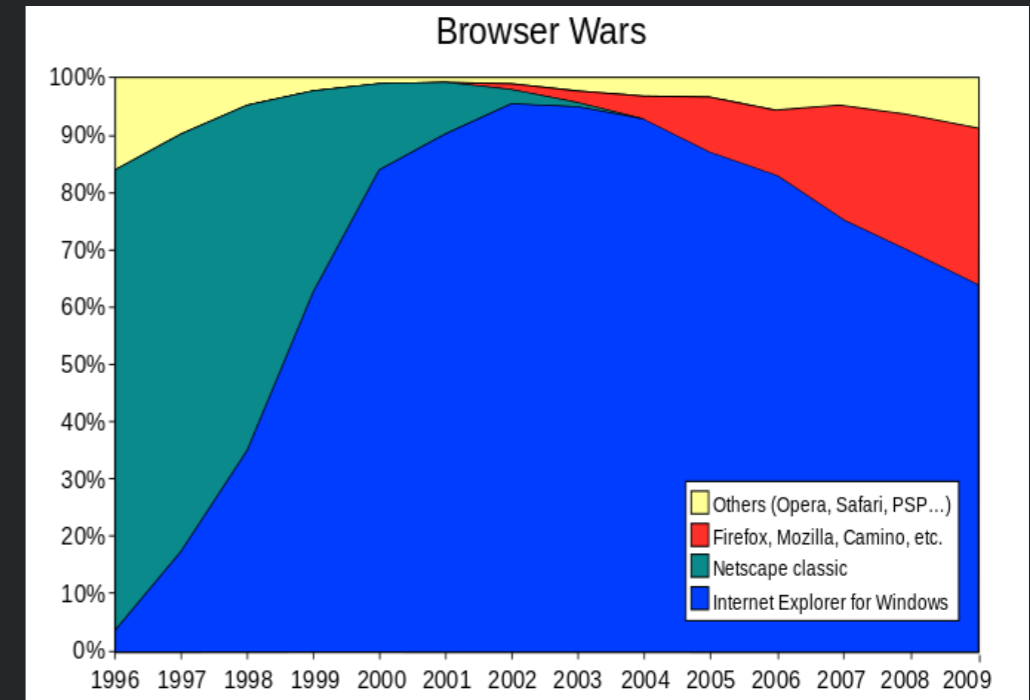


Static Web Pages

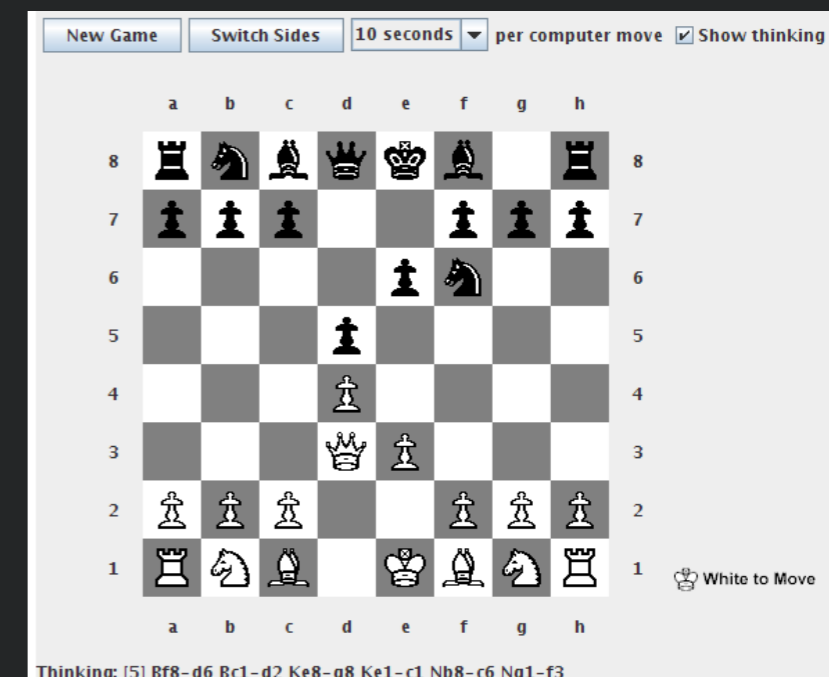
- URL corresponds to directory location on server
 - e.g. `http://domainName.com/img/image5.jpg` maps to `img/image5.jpg` file on server
- Server responds to HTTP request by returning requested files
- Advantages
 - Simple, easily cacheable, easily searchable
- Disadvantages
 - No interactivity

Web 1.0 Problems

- At this point, most sites were “read only”
- Lack of standards for advanced content - “browser war”
- No rich client content... the best you could hope for was a Java applet



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browser_wars

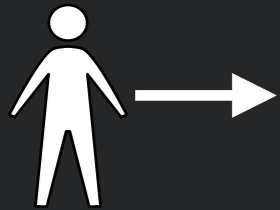



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_applet



Dynamic Web Pages

High-level protocol built on TCP/IP that defines how data is transferred on the web



 <https://kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu/swe-432-s23/>

HTTP Request

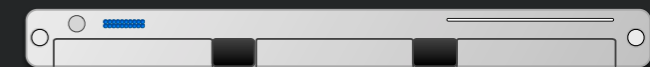
GET /swe-432-f22.html HTTP/1.1

Host: kpmoran.cs.gmu.edu

Accept: text/html



web server



RUNS a PROGRAM!!!

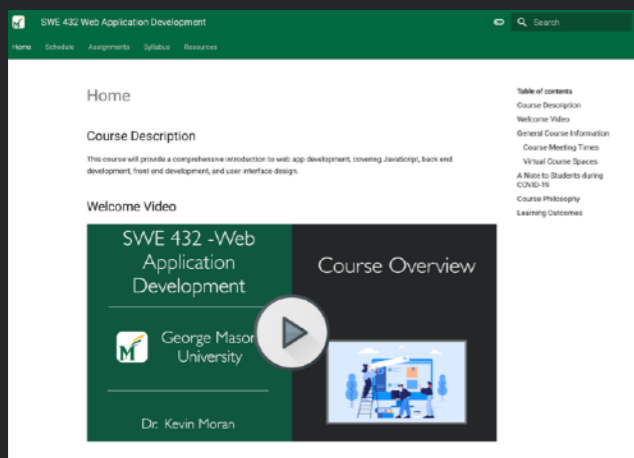


HTTP Response

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

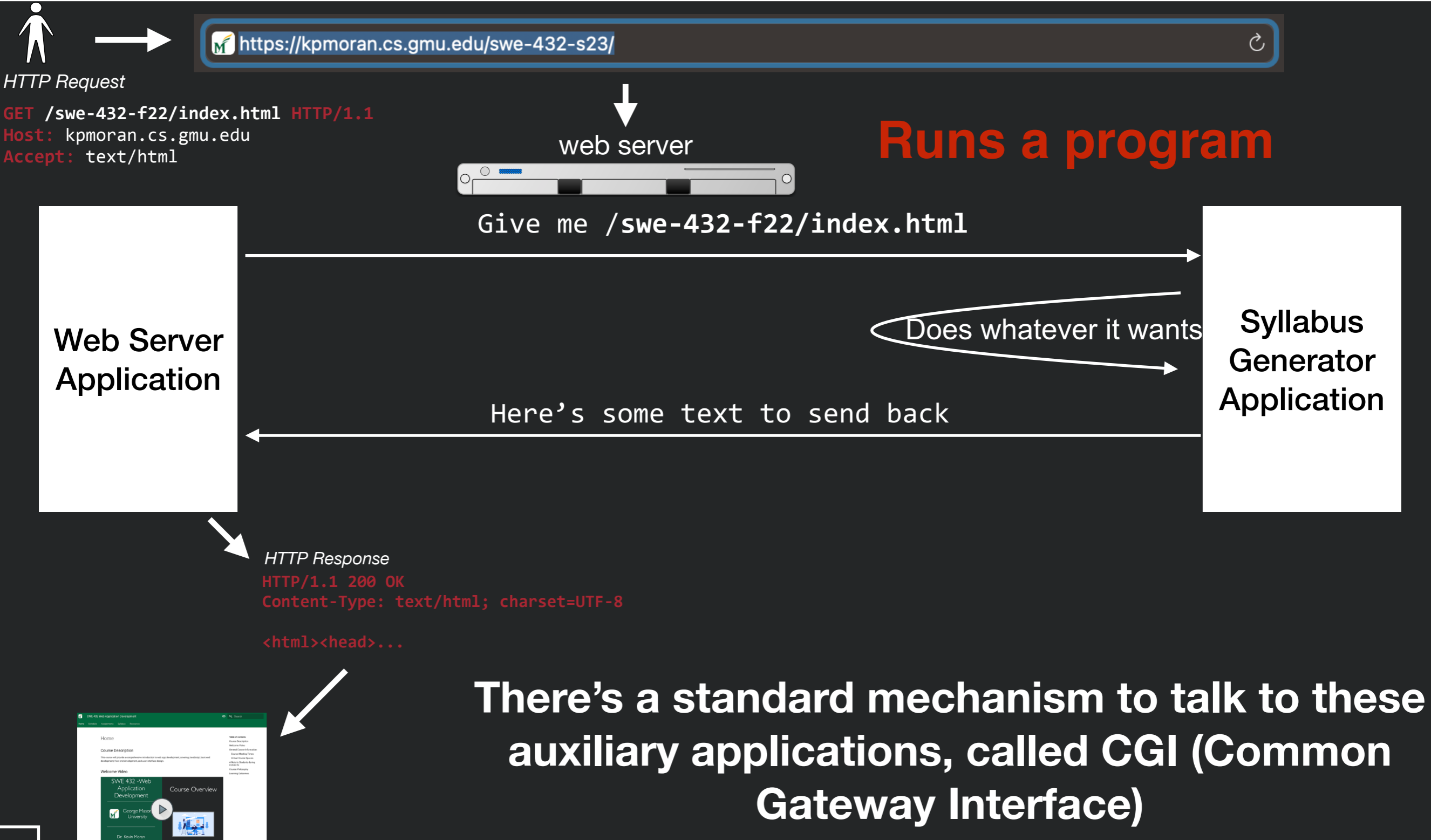
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html><head>...





Dynamic Web Pages



Runs a program

Give me /swe-432-f22/index.html

Does whatever it wants

Here's some text to send back

HTTP Response
 HTTP/1.1 200 OK
 Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
 <html><head>...

There's a standard mechanism to talk to these auxiliary applications, called CGI (Common Gateway Interface)

Server Side Scripting

- Generate HTML on the server through scripts

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <title>PHP Test</title>
  </head>
  <body>
    <?php echo '<p>Hello World</p>'; ?>
  </body>
</html>
```

```
<html>
<head><title>First JSP</title></head>
<body>
  <%
    double num = Math.random();
    if (num > 0.95) {
  %>
    <h2>You'll have a luck day!</h2><p>(<%= num %>)</p>
  <%
    } else {
  %>
    <h2>Well, life goes on ... </h2><p>(<%= num %>)</p>
  <%
    }
  %>
```

- Early approaches emphasized embedding server code *inside* html pages
- Examples: CGI



Server Side Scripting Site

Browser

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>This is a title</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>Hello world!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

HTML

HTTP
Request

HTTP
Response
(HTML)

Web Server

HTML templates, server logic, load / store state to database

Database





Limitations

- Poor **modularity**
 - Code representing logic, database interactions, generating HTML presentation all tangled
 - Example of a Big Ball of Mud [1]
 - Hard to understand, difficult to maintain
- Still a step up over static pages!

[1] <http://www.laputan.org/mud/>



Server Side Frameworks

- Framework that structures server into tiers, organizes logic into classes
- Create separate tiers for presentation, logic, persistence layer
- Can understand and reason about domain logic without looking at presentation (and vice versa)
- Examples: ASP.NET, JSP



Server Side Framework Site

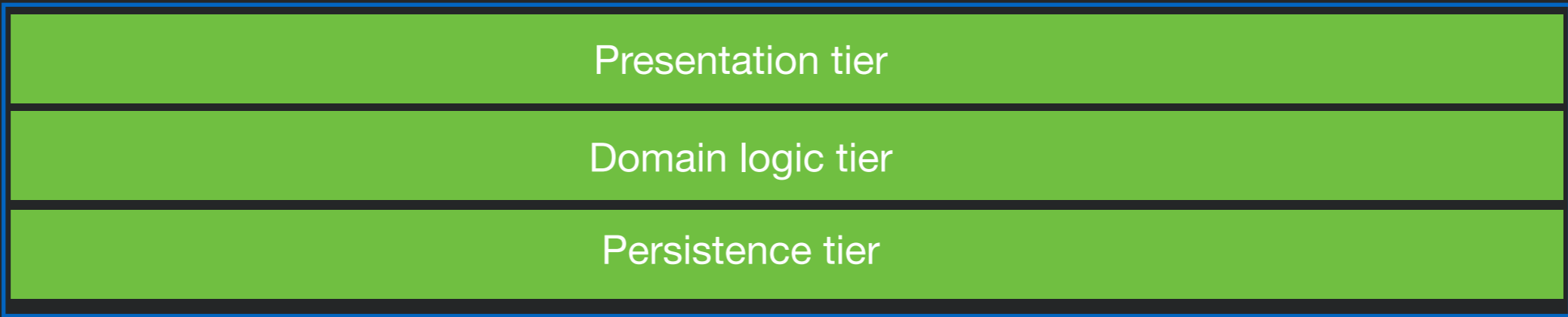
Browser

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>This is a title</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>Hello world!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

HTML



Web Server



Database





Limitations

- Need to load a whole new web page to get new data
 - Users must *wait* while new web page loads, decreasing responsiveness & interactivity
 - If server is slow or temporarily non-responsive, ***whole user interface hangs!***
 - Page has a discernible *refresh*, where old content is replaced and new content appears rather than seamless transition



Single Page Application (SPA)

- Client-side logic sends messages to server, receives response
- Logic is associated with a single HTML pages, written in Javascript
- HTML elements dynamically added and removed through DOM manipulation

```
<b>Projects:</b>
<ol id="new-projects"></ol>

<script>
$( "#new-projects" ).load( "/resources/load.html #projects li" );
</script>

</body>
</html>
```

- Processing that does not require server may occur entirely client side, dramatically increasing responsiveness & reducing needed server resources
- Classic example: Gmail



Single Page App Example

23.92.18.210

FUSION - Bug report
(Android App Bug Report)

Steps history (Summary)

Report details for mileage.apk version 3.0.8
Issue id: 1426787798618

1 Reported by: 2 Device: 3 Orientation:

4 Title for the bug report:

5 Brief description of the bug you encountered:
- What should happen: --
- What happens instead: --

Details for step 1

Starting form the initial application screen, the first step to reproduce the bug is:

6 | ⓘ

7 Additional information:

More steps?

SPA Enabling Technologies

- AJAX: Asynchronous Javascript and XML
 - Set of technologies for sending asynchronous request from web page to server, receiving response
- DOM Manipulation
 - Methods for updating the HTML elements in a page *after* the page may already have loaded
- JSON: JavaScript Object Notation
 - Standard syntax for describing and transmitting Javascript data objects
- JQuery
 - Wrapper library built on HTML standards designed for AJAX and DOM manipulation

JSON

```
{
  "firstName": "John",
  "lastName": "Smith",
  "isAlive": true,
  "age": 25,
  "address": {
    "streetAddress": "21 2nd Street",
    "city": "New York",
    "state": "NY",
    "postalCode": "10021-3100"
  },
  "phoneNumbers": [
    {
      "type": "home",
      "number": "212 555-1234"
    },
    {
      "type": "office",
      "number": "646 555-4567"
    },
    {
      "type": "mobile",
      "number": "123 456-7890"
    }
  ],
  "children": [],
  "spouse": null
}
```



Single Page Application Site

Browser

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>This is a title</title>
</head>
<body>
<p>Hello world!</p>
</body>
</html>
```

HTML



HTML elements

```
helloWorld();

function helloWorld() {
  var message = "<h1>Hello, world!</h1>";
  $("body").html();
}
```

Javascript

HTTP
Request

HTTP
Response
(JSON)

Web Server

Presentation tier

Domain logic tier

Persistence tier

Database





Limitations

- Poor modularity *client-side*
 - As logic in client grows increasingly large and complex, becomes Big Ball of Mud
 - Hard to understand & maintain
 - DOM manipulation is *brittle & tightly coupled*, where small changes in HTML may cause unintended changes (e.g., two HTML elements with the same id)
 - Poor reuse: logic tightly coupled to individual HTML elements, leading to code duplication of similar functionality in many places



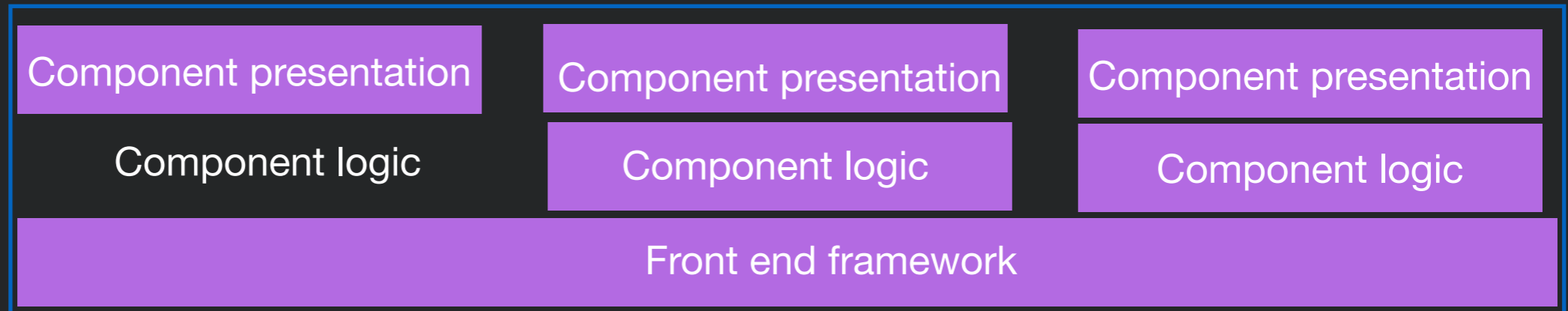
Front End Frameworks

- Client is organized into separate *components*, capturing model of web application data
- Components are reusable, have encapsulation boundary (e.g., class)
- Components separate *logic* from *presentation*
- Components dynamically generate corresponding code based on component state
 - In contrast to HTML element manipulation, *framework* generates HTML, not user code, decreasing coupling
- Examples: Meteor, Ember, Angular, Aurelia, React

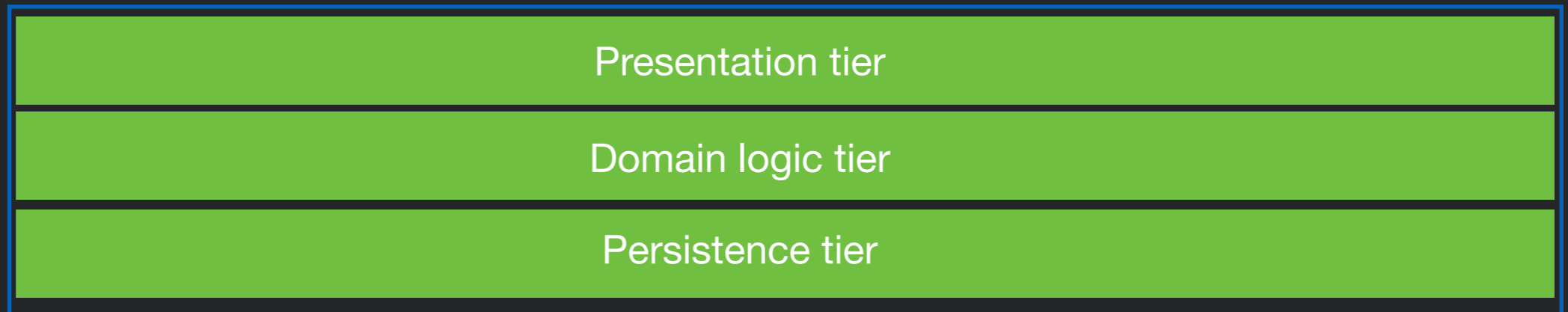


Front End Framework Site

Browser



Web Server



Database





Limitations

- Duplication of logic in client & server
 - As clients grow increasingly complex, must have logic in both client & server
 - May even need to be written twice in different *languages!* (e.g., Javascript, Java)
 - Server logic closely coupled to corresponding client logic. Changes to server logic require corresponding client logic change.
 - Difficult to reuse server logic

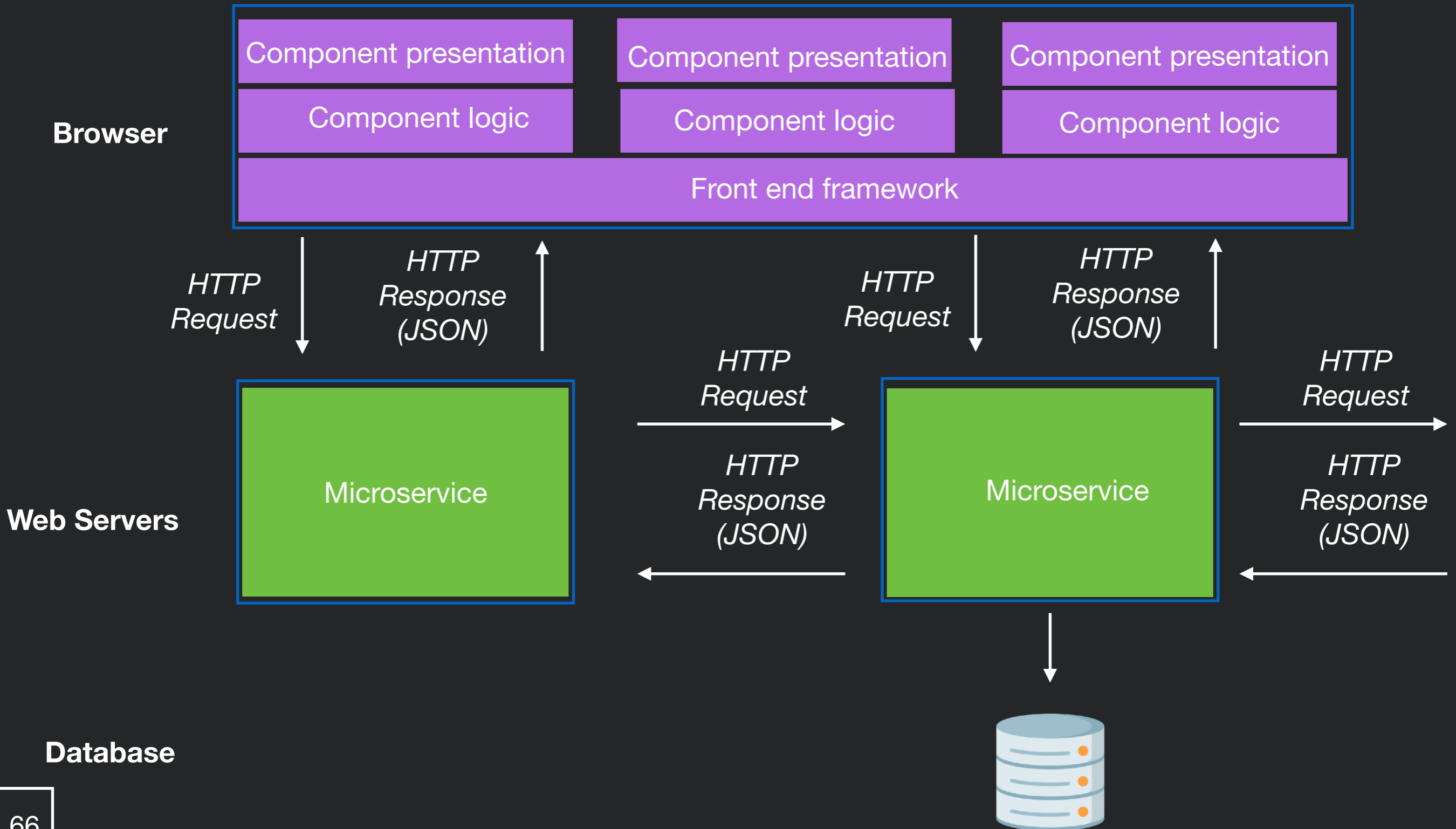


Microservices

- Small, focused web server that communicates through *data* requests & responses
 - Focused *only* on logic, not presentation
- Organized around capabilities that can be reused in multiple context across multiple applications
- Rather than horizontally scale identical web servers, vertically scale server infrastructure into many, small focused servers



Microservice Site





Architectural Styles

- Architectural style specifies
 - how to partition a system
 - how components identify and communicate with each other
 - how information is communicated
 - how elements of a system can evolve independently



Constant change in web architectural styles

- Key drivers
 - Maintainability (new ways to achieve better modularity)
 - Reuse (organizing code into modules)
 - Scalability (partitioning monolithic servers into services)
 - Responsiveness (movement of logic to client)
 - Versioning (support continuous roll-out of new features)
- Web standards have enabled *many* possible solutions
- Explored through **many, many** frameworks, libraries, and programming languages

The web today

- Many technologies for each architectural style
 - Most support more than one
- Applications often evolve from one architectural style to another
 - Leads to applications combining *multiple* architectural styles
 - E.g., Single page app that uses server side scripting for a separate set of pages
- Newer architectural styles not always better
 - More complex, may be overkill for simple sites

Philosophy of the Internet

- **Decentralisation:** No permission is needed from a central authority to post anything on the Web, there is no central controlling node, and so no single point of failure ... and no “kill switch”! This also implies freedom from indiscriminate censorship and surveillance.
- **Non-discrimination:** If I pay to connect to the internet with a certain quality of service, and you pay to connect with that or a greater quality of service, then we can both communicate at the same level. This principle of equity is also known as Net Neutrality.
- **Bottom-up design:** Instead of code being written and controlled by a small group of experts, it was developed in full view of everyone, encouraging maximum participation and experimentation.
- **Universality:** For anyone to be able to publish anything on the Web, all the computers involved have to speak the same languages to each other, no matter what different hardware people are using; where they live; or what cultural and political beliefs they have. In this way, the Web breaks down silos while still allowing diversity to flourish.
- **Consensus:** For universal standards to work, everyone had to agree to use them. Tim and others achieved this consensus by giving everyone a say in creating the standards, through a transparent, participatory process at W3C.

From <http://webfoundation.org/about/vision/history-of-the-web/>



Internet Governance

- IETF = Internet Engineering Task Force
- Open, all-volunteer organization
- Organized into working groups on specific topics
- Request for Comments
 - One of a series, begun in 1969, of numbered informational documents and standards followed by commercial software and freeware in the Internet and Unix communities
 - All Internet standards are recorded in RFCs



What is this Course?

- What is this course?
 - Three main parts:
 - Learn Foundational web development knowledge
 - Experience popular web programming Frameworks/Tools
 - Explore fundamentals of good Web App Design

10 Minute Break



SWE 432 - Web Application Development



George Mason
University

Instructor:
Dr. Kevin Moran

Teaching Assistant:
Oyindamola Oluyemo

Class will start in:

10:01

Introduction to Javascript



Course Timeline

You are here.



- JavaScript and Backend development (first half of semester)
- JavaScript, back-end development, programming models, testing, performance, privacy, security, scalability, deployment, etc.
- Frontend development and user experience design (second half of semester)
- Templates and data binding, React, user-centered design, user studies, information visualization, visual design, etc.



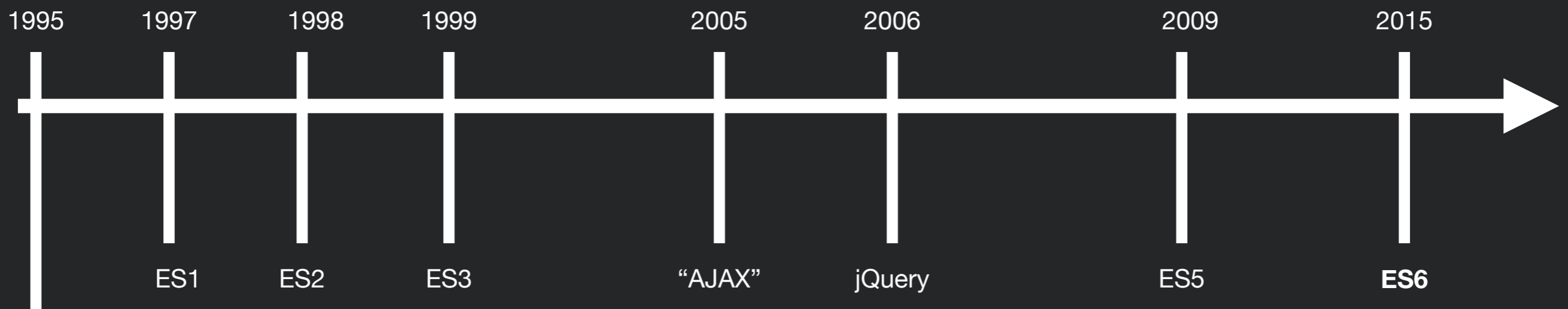
This Lecture

- Brief history of JavaScript/ECMAScript
- Overview of core syntax and language semantics
- Overview of key libraries
- In class activity working with JavaScript
- Next:
 - Testing and tooling



JavaScript: Some History

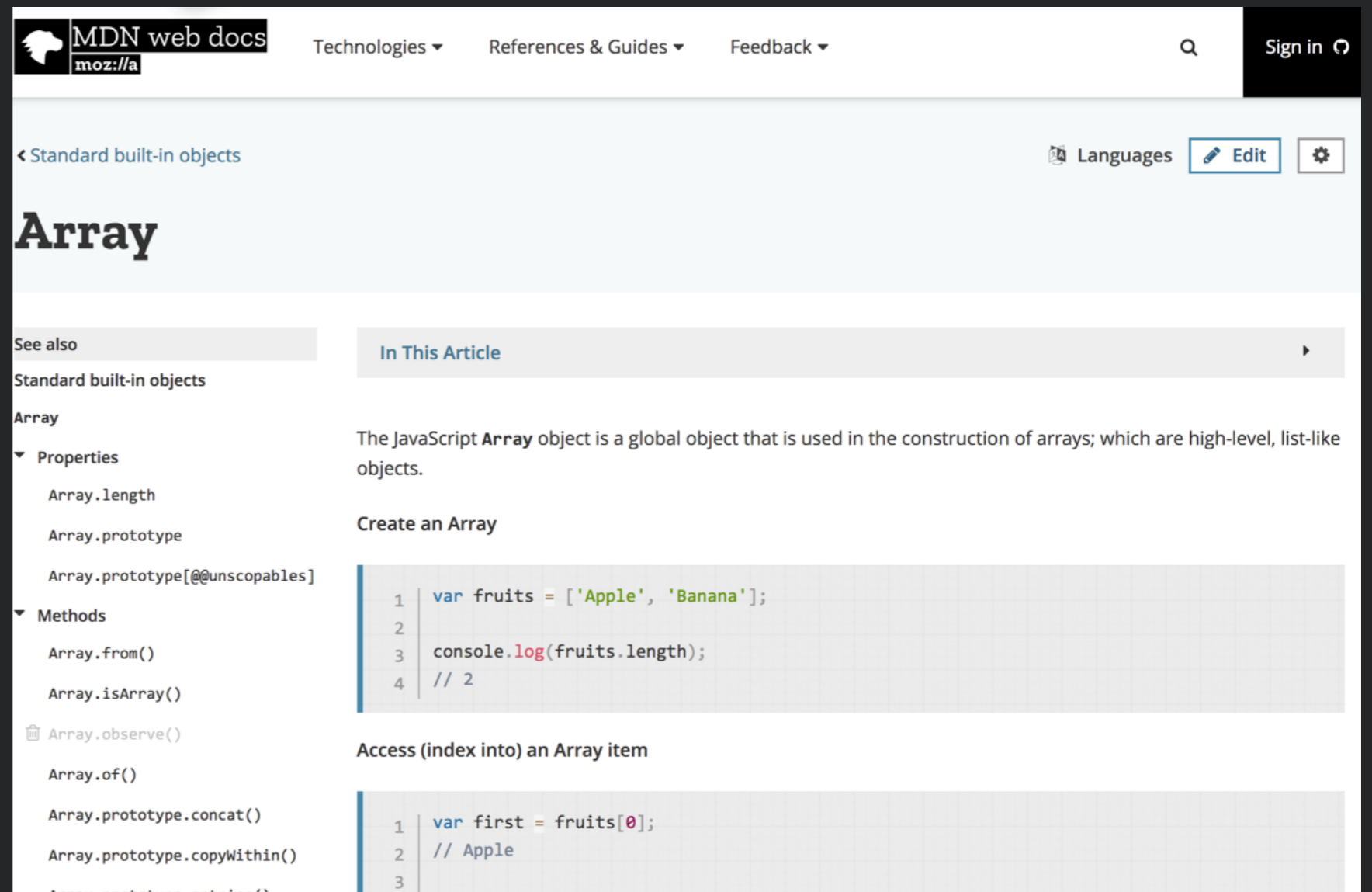
- JavaScript: 1995 at Netscape (supposedly in only 10 days)
 - No relation to Java (maybe a little syntax, that's all)
 - Naming was marketing ploy
- ECMAScript -> International standard for the language



Mocha/LiveScript/JavaScript 1.0

Reference materials

- Not any “official” documentation
- Most definitive source for JavaScript, DOM, HTML, CSS: Mozilla Development Network (MDN)
- StackOverflow posts, blogs often have good examples



The screenshot shows the MDN web docs page for the `Array` object. The page title is "Array" and it is part of the "Standard built-in objects" section. The left sidebar contains a "See also" section with "Standard built-in objects" and "Array", and a "Methods" section listing `Array.from()`, `Array.isArray()`, `Array.observe()`, `Array.of()`, `Array.prototype.concat()`, `Array.prototype.copyWithin()`, and `Array.prototype.entries()`. The main content area has an "In This Article" section with a description: "The JavaScript `Array` object is a global object that is used in the construction of arrays; which are high-level, list-like objects." Below this is a "Create an Array" section with a code block:

```
1 | var fruits = ['Apple', 'Banana'];
2 |
3 | console.log(fruits.length);
4 | // 2
```

Below the code block is an "Access (index into) an Array item" section with a code block:

```
1 | var first = fruits[0];
2 | // Apple
3 |
```

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/Array

Pastebins



The screenshot shows a web-based code editor interface. At the top, there are navigation links: History, Share, Users, Chat, Help, Contact Us, and About. Below the navigation, there are tabs for JS, HTML, and CSS. The JS tab is active, showing the following code:

```
1 var a = 5;
2 var b = 10;
3 console.log(`Fifteen is ${a + b} and
4 not ${2 * a + b}.`);
5 // "Fifteen is 15 and not 20."
6 |
7
```

To the right of the code editor, there is a console output area showing the following output:

```
[ 5]
[ 10]
["Fifteen is 15 and not
[ 10][ 10][ 5]
```

Below the console output, there is a terminal output area showing the following output:

```
Output Debug
Hello,
"Fifteen is 15 and not 20."
```

- Code snippet hosted on the web with an in-browser editor
- Used to share code and experiment with small code snippets
- Examples: [JSFiddle](#), [JSBin](#), [Replit](#), [Codesandbox](#)



Variables

- Variables are *loosely* typed
 - String:

```
var strVar = 'Hello';
```
 - Number:

```
var num = 10;
```
 - Boolean:

```
var bool = true;
```
 - Undefined:

```
var undefined;
```
 - Null:

```
var nulled = null;
```
 - Objects (includes arrays):

```
var intArray = [1,2,3];
```
 - Symbols (named magic strings):

```
var sym = Symbol('Description of the symbol');
```
 - Functions (We'll get back to this)
- Names start with letters, \$ or _
- Case sensitive



Const

- Can define a variable that cannot be assigned again using const

```
const numConst = 10; //numConst can't be changed
```

- For objects, properties may change, but object identity may not.



More Variables

- Loose typing means that JS figures out the type based on the value

```
let x; //Type: Undefined  
x = 2; //Type: Number  
x = 'Hi'; //Type: String
```

- Variables defined with let (but not var) have block scope
 - If defined in a function, can only be seen in that function
 - If defined outside of a function, then global. Can also make arbitrary blocks:

```
{  
    let a = 3;  
}  
//a is undefined
```



Loops and Control Structures

- `if` - pretty standard

```
if (myVar >= 35) {  
    //...  
} else if(myVar >= 25){  
    //...  
} else {  
    //...  
}
```

- Also get `while`, `for`, and `break` as you might expect

```
while(myVar > 30){  
    //...  
}  
  
for(var i = 0; i < myVar; i++){  
    //...  
    if(someOtherVar == 0)  
        break;  
}
```

Operators



```
var age = 20;
```

Operator	Meaning	Examples
<code>==</code>	Equality	<code>age == 20</code> <code>age == '20'</code>
<code>!=</code>	Inequality	<code>age != 21</code>
<code>></code>	Greater than	<code>age > 19</code>
<code>>=</code>	Greater or Equal	<code>age >= 20</code>
<code><</code>	Less than	<code>age < 21</code>
<code><=</code>	Less or equal	<code>age <= 20</code>
<code>===</code>	Strict equal	<code>age === 20</code>
<code>!==</code>	Strict Inequality	<code>age !== '20'</code>

Annoying

Functions

- At a high level, syntax should be familiar:

```
function add(num1, num2) {  
    return num1 + num2;  
}
```

- Calling syntax should be familiar too:

```
var num = add(4,6);
```

- Can also assign functions to variables!

```
var magic = function(num1, num2){  
    return num1+num2;  
}  
var myNum = magic(4,6);
```

- Why might you want to do this?



Default Values

```
function add(num1=10, num2=45) {  
    return num1 + num2;  
}
```

```
var r = add(); // 55
```

```
var r = add(40); //85
```

```
var r = add(2,4); //6
```



Rest Parameters

```
function add(num1, ... morenums) {  
    var ret = num1;  
    for(var i = 0; i < morenums.length; i++)  
        ret += morenums[i];  
    return ret;  
}
```

```
add(40, 10, 20); //70
```

=> Arrow Functions

- Simple syntax to define short functions *inline*
- Several ways to use

Parameters

```
var add = (a,b) => {  
    return a+b;  
}
```

```
var add = (a,b) => a+b;
```

If your arrow function only has one expression, JavaScript will automatically add the word “return”



Objects

- What are objects like in other languages? How are they written and organized?
- Traditionally in JS, no *classes*
- Remember - JS is not really typed... if it doesn't care between a number and a string, why care between two kinds of objects?

```
var profHacker = {
  firstName: "Alyssa",
  lastName: "P Hacker",
  teaches: "SWE 432",
  office: "ENGR 6409",
  fullName: function(){
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
};
```




Working with Objects

```
var profMoran = {  
  firstName: "Alyssa",  
  lastName: "P Hacker",  
  teaches: "SWE 432",  
  office: "ENGR 4448",  
  fullName: function(){  
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;  
  }  
};
```

Our Object

```
console.log(profHacker.firstName); //Alyssa  
console.log(profHacker["firstName"]); //Alyssa
```

Accessing Fields

```
console.log(profHacker.fullName()); //Alyssa P Hacker
```

Calling Methods

```
console.log(profHacker.fullName()); //function...
```



JSON: JavaScript Object Notation

Open standard format for transmitting *data* objects.

No functions, only key / value pairs

Values may be other objects or arrays

```
var profHacker = {
  firstName: "Alyssa",
  lastName: "P Hacker",
  teaches: "SWE 432",
  office: "ENGR 6409",
  fullName: function(){
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
};
```

Our Object

```
var profHacker = {
  firstName: "Alyssa",
  lastName: "P Hacker",
  teaches: "SWE 432",
  office: "ENGR 6409",
  fullName: {
    firstName: "Alyssa",
    lastName: "P Hacker"}
};
```

JSON Object



Interacting w/ JSON

- Important functions
- `JSON.parse(jsonString)`
 - Takes a *String* in JSON format, creates an *Object*
- `JSON.stringify(obj)`
 - Takes a Javascript *object*, creates a *JSON String*
- Useful for persistence, interacting with files, debugging, etc.
 - e.g., `console.log(JSON.stringify(obj));`



Arrays

- Syntax similar to C/Java/Ruby/Python etc.
- Because JS is loosely typed, can mix types of elements in an array
- Arrays automatically grow/shrink in size to fit the contents

```
var students = ["Alice", "Bob", "Carol"];  
var faculty = [profHacker];  
var classMembers = students.concat(faculty);
```

Arrays are actually objects... and come with a bunch of “free” functions

Some Array Functions

- Length

```
var numberOfStudents = students.length;
```

- Join

```
var classMembers = students.concat(faculty);
```

- Sort

```
var sortedStudents = students.sort();
```

- Reverse

```
var backwardsStudents = sortedStudents.reverse();
```

- Map

```
var capitalizedStudents = students.map(x =>
                                         x.toUpperCase());
// ["ALICE", "BOB", "CAROL"]
```



For Each

- JavaScript offers two constructs for looping over arrays and objects
- For **of** (iterates over values):

```
for(var student of students)
{
    console.log(student);
} //Prints out all student names
```

- For **in** (iterates over keys):

```
for(var prop in profHacker){
    console.log(prop + ": " + profHacker[prop]);
}
```

Output:

```
firstName: Alyssa
lastName: P Hacker
teaches: SWE 432
office: ENGR 6409
```



Arrays vs Objects

- Arrays are Objects
- Can access elements of both using syntax

```
var val = array[idx];
```

- Indexes of arrays must be integers
- Don't find out what happens when you make an array and add an element with a non-integer key :)



String Functions

- Includes many of the same String processing functions as Java
- Some examples
 - `var stringVal = 'George Mason University';`
 - `stringVal.endsWith('University')` // returns true
 - `stringVal.match(...)` // matches a regular expression
 - `stringVal.split(' ')` // returns three separate words
- https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Global_Objects/String

Template Literals

- Enable embedding expressions **inside** strings

```
var a = 5;  
var b = 10;  
console.log(`Fifteen is ${a + b} and  
not ${2 * a + b}.`);  
// "Fifteen is 15 and not 20."
```

- Denoted by a back tick grave accent ` , **not** a single quote



Set Collection



```
var mySet = new Set();

mySet.add(1); // Set { 1 }
mySet.add(5); // Set { 1, 5 }
mySet.add(5); // Set { 1, 5 }
mySet.add('some text'); // Set { 1, 5, 'some text' }
var o = {a: 1, b: 2};
mySet.add(o);

mySet.add({a: 1, b: 2}); // o is referencing a different object so this is okay

mySet.has(1); // true
mySet.has(3); // false, 3 has not been added to the set
mySet.has(5); // true
mySet.has(Math.sqrt(25)); // true
mySet.has('Some Text'.toLowerCase()); // true
mySet.has(o); // true

mySet.size; // 5

mySet.delete(5); // removes 5 from the set
mySet.has(5); // false, 5 has been removed

mySet.size; // 4, we just removed one value
console.log(mySet); // Set {1, "some text", Object {a: 1, b: 2}, Object {a: 1, b: 2}}
```

Map Collection



```
var myMap = new Map();

var keyString = 'a string',
    keyObj = {},
    keyFunc = function() {};

// setting the values
myMap.set(keyString, "value associated with 'a string'");
myMap.set(keyObj, 'value associated with keyObj');
myMap.set(keyFunc, 'value associated with keyFunc');

myMap.size; // 3

// getting the values
myMap.get(keyString); // "value associated with 'a string'"
myMap.get(keyObj); // "value associated with keyObj"
myMap.get(keyFunc); // "value associated with keyFunc"

myMap.get('a string'); // "value associated with 'a string'"
// because keyString === 'a string'
myMap.get({}); // undefined, because keyObj !== {}
myMap.get(function() {}) // undefined, because keyFunc !== function () {}
```



In Class Exercise

<https://replit.com/@kmoran/In-Class-Excercise-Javascript?v=1>



Acknowledgements

Slides adapted from Dr. Thomas LaToza's
SWE 432 course