

The Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

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The Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

- ▶ Initially standardized in RFC 2616
- ▶ HTTP/0.9 (1990), HTTP/1.0 (1996), HTTP/1.1 (1999),
HTTP/2 (2016)
- ▶ Runs over TCP (port 80) or as HTTPS over TLS (port 443)

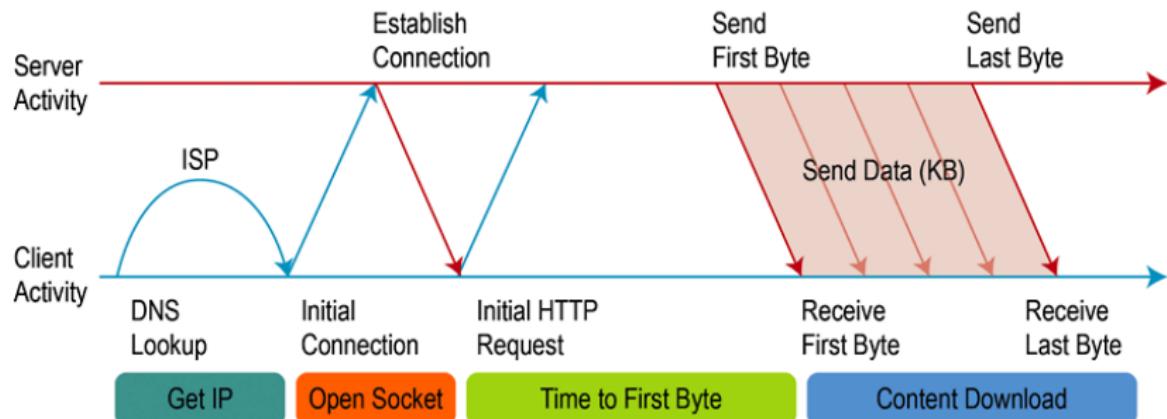
Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)

`http://www.example.com:80/path?key=value#anchor`

PROTOCOL://HOST:PORT/PATH?QUERY#FRAGMENT

Anatomy of an HTTP request

The HTTP Request



HTTP 1.x Request Format

GET / HTTP/1.0

Key1: value1

Key2: value2

Key3: value3

value3 may be continued here

Key4: value4

- ▶ Each line SHOULD be terminated by CRLF, but MAY be terminated only by CR or LF.
- ▶ The header ends with an empty line by itself.
- ▶ HTTP does not specify a maximum header length

Exercise 1: HTTP/1.0, GET

```
$ telnet grothoff.org 80
GET / HTTP/1.0
```

HTTP Methods (or verbs)

GET is just one HTTP method. Other common HTTP/1.0 methods include:

- ▶ HEAD
- ▶ PUT
- ▶ POST
- ▶ OPTIONS
- ▶ PUT
- ▶ DELETE
- ▶ TRACE
- ▶ CONNECT

HTTP Methods: Safety and Idempotence

Method	Description	Idempotent	Safe
GET	Fetch resource	✓	✓
HEAD	Fetch header only	✓	✓
PUT	Store entity	✓	✗
POST	Accept entity as subordinate	✗	✗
OPTIONS	Return supported HTTP methods	✓	✓
DELETE	Delete resource	✓	✗
PATCH	Change resource	✗	✗
TRACE	Echo request back to client	✓	✓
CONNECT	Convert connection to tunnel		

Exercise 2: HTTP/1.0 HEAD

```
$ telnet grothoff.org 80
HEAD / HTTP/1.0
```

- ▶ What happens if you use “HTTP/1.1” instead of “HTTP/1.0”?

HTTP Responses

A HTTP response generally consists of three parts:

1. HTTP Status code line (version, numeric status code, human readable status code)
2. HTTP (response) headers, followed by empty line
3. HTTP response body

HTTP Status Codes

The numeric range of the HTTP status code is already meaningful:

1. Informational 1xx: Indicate a provisional response
2. Successful 2xx: Indicate that the client request was successful
3. Redirection 3xx: Indicates that further action is needed
4. Client Error 4xx: Indicates when the client seems to have erred
5. Internal Server Error 5xx: Indicates cases in which the server is aware that it has erred

Common HTTP Status Codes

100 Continue

200 Ok

301 Moved Permanently

304 Not Modified

400 Bad Request

401 Authentication Required

402 Payment Required

403 Forbidden

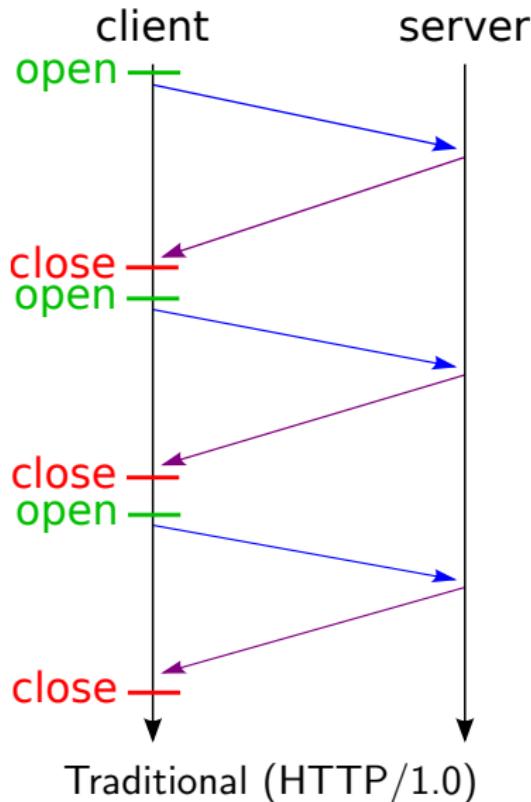
404 Not Found

500 Internal Server Error

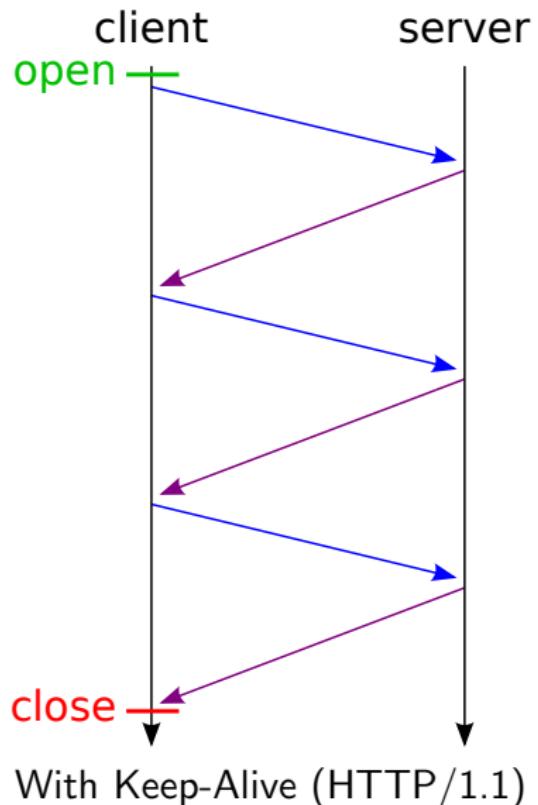
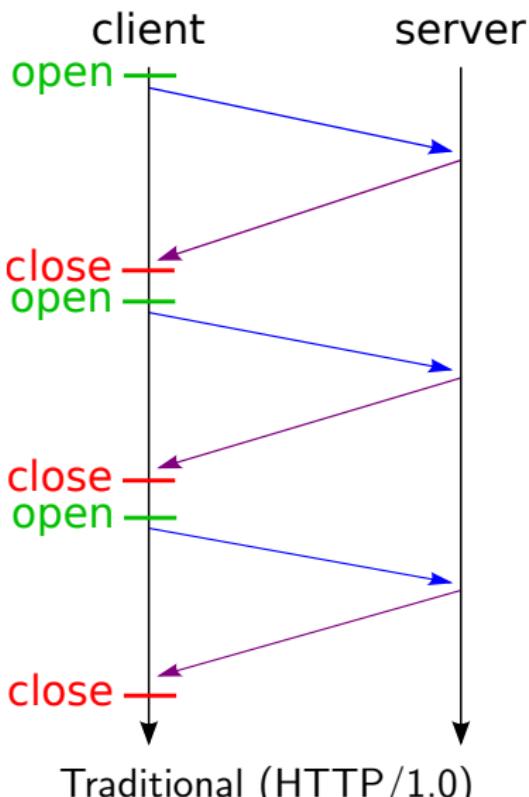
Exercise 3: HTTP/1.1

```
$ telnet grothoff.org 80
GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: grothoff.org
```

Multiple HTTP requests



Multiple HTTP requests



Exercise 4: HTTP/1.1, Connection: close

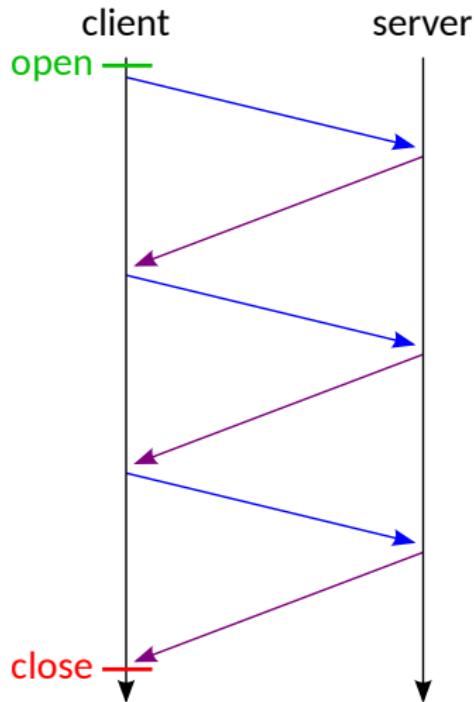
```
GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: grothoff.org
Connection: close
```

Exercise 5: HTTP/1.0, Connection: Keap-alive

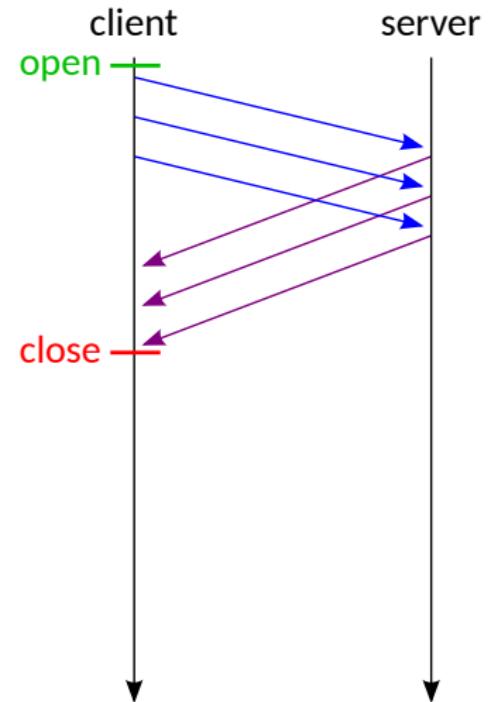
```
GET / HTTP/1.0
Connection: Keep-alive
```

HTTP/1.1 pipelining

no pipelining



pipelining



HTTP Headers

HTTP headers are used in many ways:

- ▶ control the connection (Keep-alive)
- ▶ control caching
- ▶ provide meta data (content-length, content-type, content-encoding)
- ▶ request and provide authentication

HTTP knows four types of headers:

- ▶ General header: can be used in both request and response
- ▶ Request header: only applicable to request messages
- ▶ Response header: only applicable to response messages
- ▶ Entity header: define meta-information about the body

HTTP 1.x Response Format

HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Server: some advertisement

Date: Sun, 31 Aug 1999 24:00:00 GMT

Content-Type: text/html

Content-Length: 11

Connection: close

Hello World

All of the above headers are technically optional.

HTTP and Mobile Systems?

- ▶ HTTP(S) is the new IP — tunnel traffic over HTTP
- ▶ HTTP + HTML are a fast and portable way to create a GUI
- ▶ Full-blown HTTP Servers (Apache, etc.) are often overkill
- ▶ Extending Apache only natural with P-languages

Need a lightweight way to create HTTP servers!

GNU libmicrohttpd

- ▶ Free software (GNU LGPL or GPL + eCoS)
- ▶ Fully HTTP/1.0 and HTTP/1.1 compliant
- ▶ Supports all common HTTP features
- ▶ Just HTTP(S) server, small footprint
- ▶ Makes limited assumptions about event handling:
 - ▶ External select/poll loop
 - ▶ Internal select/poll loop
 - ▶ One thread per connection
 - ▶ Thread pool

MHD: Security

- ▶ Optional support for HTTPS, full X.509 support
- ▶ HTTP basic and digest authentication
- ▶ Access to client certificates
- ▶ Ability to selectively bind sockets
- ▶ Limiting # connections (overall, per IP), custom timeouts
- ▶ Limit memory consumption per connection
- ▶ Did very well in three independent external security audits

MHD: Performance

- ▶ No busy waiting, ever
- ▶ Zero copy, wherever possible
- ▶ Stream processing (GET, POST, PUT)
- ▶ Minimize `malloc`, handle **all** errors
- ▶ No re-inventing `strchr`, `strcmp`, etc.
- ▶ Clean C code, no code duplication

MHD: Scales up and down!

- ▶ Library binary can be as small as 32k
- ▶ We reportedly have users on systems with 50 Mhz processors with HTTPS
- ▶ We have users working with MHD on systems with 64 kb RAM

“I also ran oprofile on the system while streaming about 7gbps to (simulated) ipads and while ramping up 1000s of streams (which causes high rate of HTTP requests to read the Apple HLS playlists). libmicrohttpd barely registers as cpu usage.” – MHD user

Applications using MHD

- ▶ GNUnet, P4P Portal
- ▶ Gnome Music Player Client, Kiwix, XMBC, OpenVAS
- ▶ Psensor, Disk Nukem, Flat8, Fawkes, Conky, CallHome
- ▶ OpenDIAS, Techne, Cables communication project
- ▶ Open Lightning Architecture, OpenZWave, libhttpserver
- ▶ Plus many non-free applications (such as TVs, surveillance cameras, network appliances, etc.)

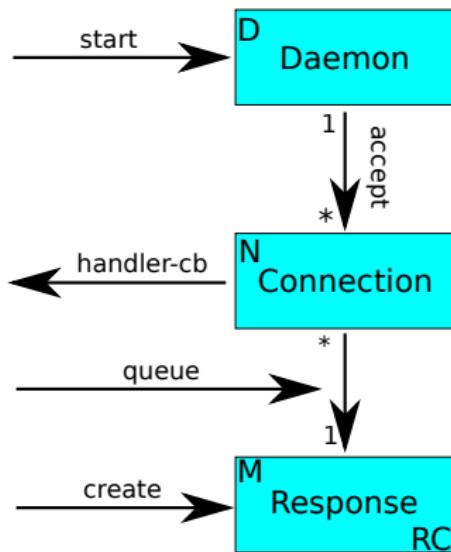
Exercise 6: Install MHD

```
$ wget https://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/libmicrohttpd/\\
  libmicrohttpd-0.9.55.tar.gz
$ tar xvf libmicrohttpd-0.9.55.tar.gz
$ cd libmicrohttpd-0.9.55
$ ./configure --prefix=$HOME
$ make install
```

Exercise 7: Start MHD HTTPD

```
$ cd doc/examples/
$ gcc -I$HOME/include -L$HOME/lib \
      hellobrowser.c -lmicrohttpd -o hellobrowser
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=$HOME/lib
$ ./hellobrowser # in another shell
$ wget -q -O - http://localhost:8888/
```

The MHD API



Launching MHD: The code

```
#include <microhttpd.h>

int main ()
{
    struct MHD_Daemon *daemon =
        = MHD_start_daemon (MHD_USE_AUTO | \
                            MHD_USE_INTERNAL_POLLING_THREAD,
                            8888,
                            NULL, NULL,
                            &answer_to_connection, NULL,
                            MHD_OPTION_END);

    if (NULL == daemon)
        return 1;
    (void) getchar ();
    MHD_stop_daemon (daemon);
    return 0;
}
```

Responding to requests: The code

```
static int
answer_to_connection (void *cls ,
    struct MHD_Connection *connection ,
    const char *url , const char *method ,
    const char *version ,
    const char *upload_data , size_t *upload_data_size ,
    void **con_cls)
{
    const char *page
    = "<html><body>Hello, - browser!</body></html>";
    int ret;
    struct MHD_Response *response
    = MHD_create_response_from_buffer (strlen (page),
        (void *) page, MHD_RESPMEM_PERSISTENT);
    ret = MHD_queue_response (connection, MHD_HTTP_OK,
        response);
    MHD_destroy_response (response);
    return ret;
}
```

Exercise 8: Setting Response Headers

```
response = MHD_create_response ( ... );
MHD_add_response_header ( response ,
                           MHD_HTTP_HEADER_CONTENT_TYPE,
                           " text/html" );
ret = MHD_queue_response ( connection ,
                           MHD_HTTP_OK,
                           response );
MHD_destroy_response ( response );
```

Test it with telnet! Which headers does the response include?

MHD Response Generation

- ▶ Static buffer in memory
- ▶ Data stream (known or unknown size)
- ▶ Data stream with long polling
- ▶ From file at offset
- ▶ From file with `sendfile()`
- ▶ With custom HTTP headers — and trailers

Exercise 9: sendfile()

```
int fd;
struct stat sbuf;

if (0 != strcmp (method, "GET")) return MHD_NO;
if ( (-1 == (fd = open ("picture.png", O_RDONLY))) ||
      (0 != fstat (fd, &sbuf)) ) {
    if (fd != -1) close (fd);
    return report_error (connection);
}
struct MHD_Response *response =
    MHD_create_response_from_fd_at_offset (sbuf.st_size,
                                           fd, 0);
MHD_add_response_header (response,
                        "Content-Type", "image/png");
ret = MHD_queue_response (connection, MHD_HTTP_OK,
                          response);
```

Interlude: Benchmarking

Web performance is complex:

- ▶ number of requests required per Web page in total
- ▶ parallel TCP connections used by browser
- ▶ static content vs. dynamic content generation
- ▶ impact of caching, proxies, network speed
- ▶ HTTP vs. HTTPS
- ▶ Use of “Connection: Keep-alive”
- ▶ Browser HTML parsing and rendering

We will focus on a few simple tools for the server.

Excercise 10: siege

```
apt-get install siege  
$ siege -t5S http://grothoff.org/
```

```
Transactions:      876 hits  
Availability:    100.00 %  
Elapsed time:    4.64 secs  
Data transferred: 0.17 MB  
Response time:   0.01 secs  
Transaction rate: 188.79 trans/sec  
Throughput:      0.04 MB/sec  
Concurrency:     2.22  
Successful transactions: 878  
Failed transactions: 0  
Longest transaction: 0.05  
Shortest transaction: 0.00
```

Excercise 11: Apache Benchmark (ab)

```
apt-get install apache2-utils
$ ab -c 25 -t5 http://grothoff.org/
```

Excercise 11: Apache Benchmark (ab)

```
apt-get install apache2-utils
$ ab -c 25 -t5 http://grothoff.org/
```

```
Time taken for tests: 5.000 seconds
Complete requests: 14096
Failed requests: 0
Non-2xx responses: 14096
Total transferred: 5300096 bytes
HTML transferred: 2607760 bytes
Requests per second: 2819.09 [#/sec] (mean)
Time per request: 8.868 [ms] (mean)
Time per request: 0.355 [ms] (mean, across all concurrent requests)
Transfer rate: 1035.14 [Kbytes/sec] received
```

Benchmarking

Lesson learned:

- ▶ HTTP servers are very fast
- ▶ You may be benchmarking the client
- ▶ You may be benchmarking the bandwidth
- ▶ You may be benchmarking the network latency

Exercise 12: Benchmark your server

- ▶ `top`
- ▶ `time BINARY`
- ▶ `strace -c BINARY`
- ▶ `iotop` (requires root)

MHD performance tuning

- ▶ MHD's fastest mode is a thread pool with epoll()
- ▶ You can re-use struct MHD_Response objects
- ▶ You can disable the "Date:" header (MHD_USE_SUPPRESS_DATE_NO_CLOCK)
- ▶ You could run HTTP over a UNIX domain socket
- ▶ You can enable TCP FASTOPEN (MHD_USE_TCP_FASTOPEN)
- ▶ You can enable crazy mode (MHD_USE_TURBO)
- ▶ You can disable logging (--disable-messages)

... but, in 99.99% of all cases, your bottleneck will be elsewhere without these!

HTTP/1.1 Responses

- ▶ Content-Length header defines body length
- ▶ Content-encoding: chunked provides alternative if length not known
- ▶ Otherwise, no keep-alive possible (Connection: close header implied)

Content-encoding: chunked

RFC 2616, section 3.6.1 defines chunked encoding:

```
Chunked-Body    = *chunk
                  last-chunk
                  trailer
                  CRLF
chunk          = chunk-size [ chunk-extension ] CRLF
                  chunk-data CRLF
chunk-size     = 1*HEX
last-chunk     = 1*("0") [ chunk-extension ] CRLF
chunk-extension= *( ";" chunk-ext-name [ "=" chunk-ext-val ] )
chunk-ext-name = token
chunk-ext-val  = token | quoted-string
chunk-data     = chunk-size(OCTET)
trailer        = *(entity-header CRLF)
```

Incremental replies with MHD

```
#include <stdlib.h>
static ssize_t crc (void *cls, uint64_t pos,
    char *buf, size_t size_max) {
    if (0 == size_max) return 0;
    if (0 == rand() % 1024 * 1024)
        return MHD_CONTENT_READER_END_OF_STREAM;
    *buf = 'b';
    return 1;
}

struct MHD_Response *response
= MHD_create_response_from_callback
(MHD_SIZE_UNKNOWN,
 1024,
 &crc, NULL, NULL);
```

Exercise 13: Generating incremental replies

Using `telnet`:

- ▶ What happens if you use the code above with a HTTP/1.0-style request?
- ▶ What happens if you use the code above with a HTTP/1.1-style request?

Using `wget`:

- ▶ What is the output if you use the code above?
- ▶ What happens on the wire? Use `wireshark`!

Long polling

HTTP may generate a response incrementally:

- ▶ With or without chunked encoding
- ▶ `MHD_OPTION_CONNECTION_TIMEOUT` and
`MHD_set_connection_option (connection,`
`MHD_CONNECTION_OPTION_TIMEOUT)` can control timeout.
- ▶ `MHD_ContentReaderCallback` can return 0 to indicate “more available later”
- ▶ `MHD_suspend_connection()` can suspend handling of network data for a connection.

Request → Response ⇒ Request → Response, [wait, Response]*, fin.

HTTP Caching

HTTP response headers control how long a resource is valid:

- ▶ Cache-control: max-age=3600
- ▶ Expires: Mon, 31 Aug 2020 00:00:00 GMT
- ▶ ETag: "727285929572e8a" — assign unique ID to resource

HTTP request headers can be used to inquire if a resource changed:

- ▶ If-Modified-Since: Mon, 31 Aug 2000 00:00:00 GMT
- ▶ If-None-Match: "727285929572e8a"

HTTP Methods & Caching

Method	Description	Cacheable
GET	Fetch resource	✓
HEAD	Fetch header only	✓
PUT	Store entity	✗
POST	Accept entity as subordinate	✓(*)
DELETE	Delete resource	✗
PATCH	Change resource	✗
TRACE	Echo request back to client	✗
CONNECT	Convert connection to tunnel	✗

(*) Only if HTTP response includes explicit freshness information.

Cookies

HTTP is a “stateless” protocol. Cookies are a mechanism to add state.

```
const char *value
= MHD_lookup_connection_value (connection,
                               MHD_COOKIE_KIND,
                               "key");
response = ...;
MHD_add_response_header (response,
                         MHD_HTTP_HEADER_SET_COOKIE,
                         "key=value;OPTIONS");
```

Modify your code to set cookies and print values of received cookies.

Cookie options

- ▶ `Expires=DATE` — if not set, cookies expire at the end of the session
- ▶ `Domain=DOMAIN` — for which (sub)domain does the cookie apply
- ▶ `Path=PATH` — for which URL paths should the cookie be sent
- ▶ `Secure` — only send cookie over HTTPS
- ▶ `HttpOnly` — only send cookie over HTTP
- ▶ `SameSite=Strict` — do not send along cross-site requests

Range queries

HTTP supports incremental downloads:

GET / HTTP/1.1

Host: grothoff.org

Content-range: 40-42/bytes

206 Partial Content

Content-length: 3

Accept-ranges: bytes

Content-range: 40-42/64

Range queries with MHD

MHD does not (yet) have build-in support, so you need to process range queries manually:

```
const char *range
= MHD_lookup_connection_value (connection,
                               MHD_HEADER_KIND,
                               MHD_HTTP_HEADER_CONTENT_RANGE);

response = ...;
MHD_add_response_header (response,
                         MHD_HTTP_HEADER_ACCEPT_RANGES,
                         " bytes");
```

HTTP/1.x supports body compression

GET / HTTP/1.0

Accept-encoding: gzip,deflate

200 OK

Content-encoding: gzip

Content-length: 42

The content length is that of the compressed body.

Compression in C

```
#include <zlib.h>
/**
 * Try to compress a response body.  Updates @a buf and @a buf_size.
 *
 * @param[in,out] buf pointer to body to compress
 * @param[in,out] buf_size pointer to initial size of @a buf
 * @return true if buf was compressed
 */
int body_compress (void **buf, size_t *buf_size) {
    uLongf cbuf_size = compressBound (*buf_size);
    Bytef *cbuf = malloc (cbuf_size);
    int ret = compress (cbuf, &cbuf_size,
                        (const Bytef *) *buf, *buf_size);
    if ((Z_OK != ret) || (cbuf_size >= *buf_size)) {
        free (cbuf); return false;    }
    free (*buf);
    *buf = (void *) cbuf;
    *buf_size = (size_t) cbuf_size;
    return true;
}
```

Exercise 14: Add compression support

- ▶ Add support for compression to your MHD server.
- ▶ Make sure to check the client supports compression.
- ▶ You need to link against libz

HTTP Requests: Methods with Bodies in Request

Method	Description	Body
GET	Fetch resource	✗
HEAD	Fetch header only	✗
PUT	Store entity	✓
POST	Accept entity as subordinate	✓
DELETE	Delete resource	✗
PATCH	Change resource	✓
TRACE	Echo request back to client	✗
CONNECT	Convert connection to tunnel	✓

100 Continue

Uploading a body may be expensive! HTTP can check if the HTTP server is willing to handle it first!

POST / HTTP/1.1

Host: grothoff.org

Content-length: 1000

Expect: 100-continue

100 Continue

UPLOAD-BODY

200 Ok

RESPONSE-BODY

100 Continue

Uploading a body may be expensive! HTTP can check if the HTTP server is willing to handle it first!

POST / HTTP/1.1

Host: grothoff.org

Content-length: 1000

Expect: 100-continue

POST / HTTP/1.1

Host: grothoff.org

Content-length: 1000

Expect: 100-continue

100 Continue

417 Expectation Failed

UPLOAD-BODY

ERROR-BODY

200 Ok

RESPONSE-BODY

MHD and uploads

```
int
answer_to_connection (void *cls ,
    struct MHD_Connection *connection ,
    const char *url ,
    const char *method ,
    const char *version ,
    const char *upload_data ,
    size_t *upload_data_size ,
    void **con_cls)
{
}
```

answer_to_connection will be called repeatedly!

Exercise 15: Handle uploads

- ▶ Write an HTTP server with an upload function
- ▶ Reject uploads larger than 8 MB

Why do many HTTP servers include such a limitation?

HTTP Basic authentication

HTTP Digest authentication (Part I)

```
#define MY_OPAQUE_STR "11733b200778ce33060f"

char *username
= MHD_digest_auth_get_username(connection);
if (NULL == username) {
    response
    = MHD_create_response_from_buffer (strlen (DENIED),
        DENIED, MHD_RESPMEM_PERSISTENT);
    return MHD_queue_auth_fail_response (connection,
        "my-realm",
        MY_OPAQUE_STR,
        response,
        MHD_NO);
}
```

HTTP Digest authentication (Part II)

```
int ret = MHD_digest_auth_check (connection , "my-realm" ,
                                 username ,
                                 password ,
                                 300);
if ( (ret == MHD_INVALID_NONCE) ||
     (ret == MHD_NO) )
{
    response
        = MHD_create_response_from_buffer (strlen (DENIED) ,
                                           DENIED, MHD_RESPMEM_PERSISTENT);
    return MHD_queue_auth_fail_response (connection ,
                                         "my-realm" , MY_OPAQUE_STR, response ,
                                         (ret == MHD_INVALID_NONCE) ? MHD_YES : MHD_NO);
}
```

Exercise 16: Digest Authentication

- ▶ Add support for digest authentication to your MHD server
- ▶ Observe the traffic with `wireshark`
- ▶ Attempt a replay attack using `telnet` or `nc` or `netcat`

HTTP Upgrade

- ▶ HTTP includes a mechanism to “upgrade” or switch to another protocol
- ▶ The client requests the upgrade using the `Connection` header
- ▶ The client offers one or more protocols to upgrade to
- ▶ The server replies with which protocol it wants to use
- ▶ Afterwards, the underlying TCP stream is used bi-directionally for the new protocol

HTTP Upgrade: Web Sockets

```
GET / HTTP/1.0
Host: example.com
Connection: Upgrade
Upgrade: WebSocket
Sec-WebSocket-Key: HEXCODE==
Sec-WebSocket-Protocol: chat, superchat
Sec-WebSocket-Version: 13
```

```
HTTP/1.1 101 Switching Protocols
Upgrade: websocket
Connection: Upgrade
Sec-WebSocket-Accept: HEXCODE=
Sec-WebSocket-Protocol: chat
```

WEBSOCKET V13.

HTTP Upgrade: HTTP/2

```
GET / HTTP/1.0
Connection: Upgrade
Upgrade: h2c
```

```
HTTP/1.1 101 Switching Protocols
Upgrade: h2c
```

HTTP2 IN CLEARTEXT.

Virtual hosting

- ▶ There are only \approx 4 billion IPv4 addresses
- ▶ We may not have one for every Web server
- ▶ We also may not have a physical machine for every domain

⇒ Goal: allow one IP to host many HTTP domains

Problem: HTTP server needs to know which domain is requested!

Virtual hosting

- ▶ There are only \approx 4 billion IPv4 addresses
- ▶ We may not have one for every Web server
- ▶ We also may not have a physical machine for every domain

⇒ Goal: allow one IP to host many HTTP domains

Problem: HTTP server needs to know which domain is requested!

Solution: HTTP/1.1 mandates Host: header to indicate domain.

Sample Apache configuration (sites-enabled/)

```
<VirtualHost my-domain.com:80>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@my-comain.com
    ServerName "my-comain.com"
    DocumentRoot /var/www/my-domain/
    <Directory />
        Options FollowSymLinks
        AllowOverride None
    </Directory>
    <Directory "/var/www/my-domain">
        AllowOverride None
        Order allow,deny
        Allow from all
    </Directory>
</VirtualHost>
```

HTTP servers can act as proxies

This is called a reverse proxy:

```
<VirtualHost my-domain.com:80>
    ProxyPass /foo/ http://localhost:58080/
    ProxyPass /bar/ https://localhost:58081/
    ProxyPass /bfh/ https://bfh.ch/
    ProxyPass /ws/ ws://localhost:4242/
</VirtualHost>
```

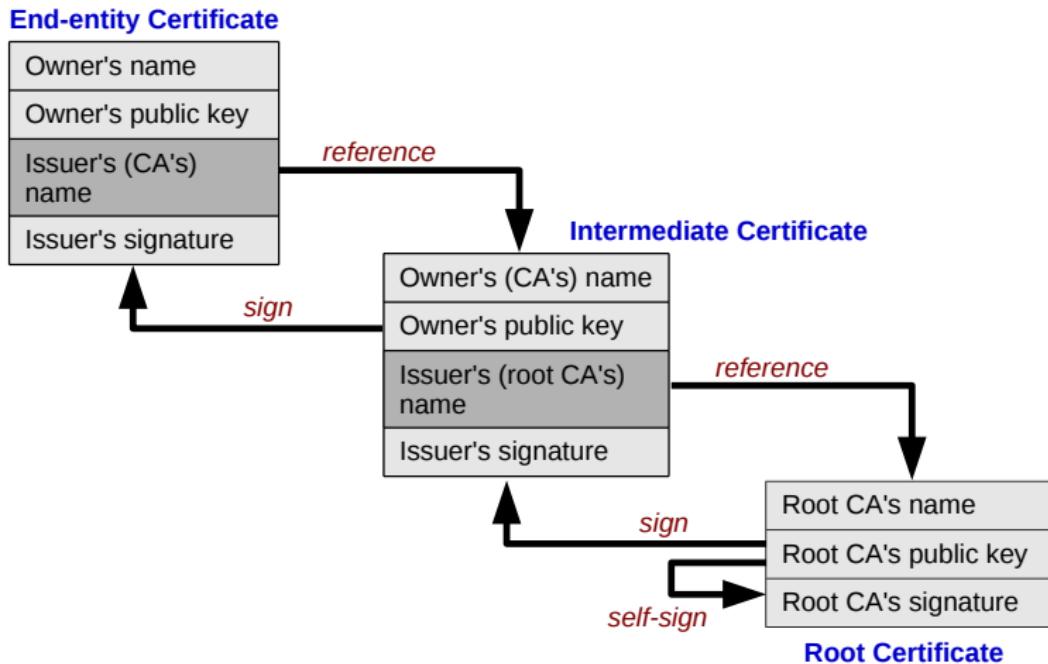
This is in contrast to an HTTP client using a proxy (such as Squid, Tor or WWWOFFLE).

Exercise 17: Reverse proxy to MHD

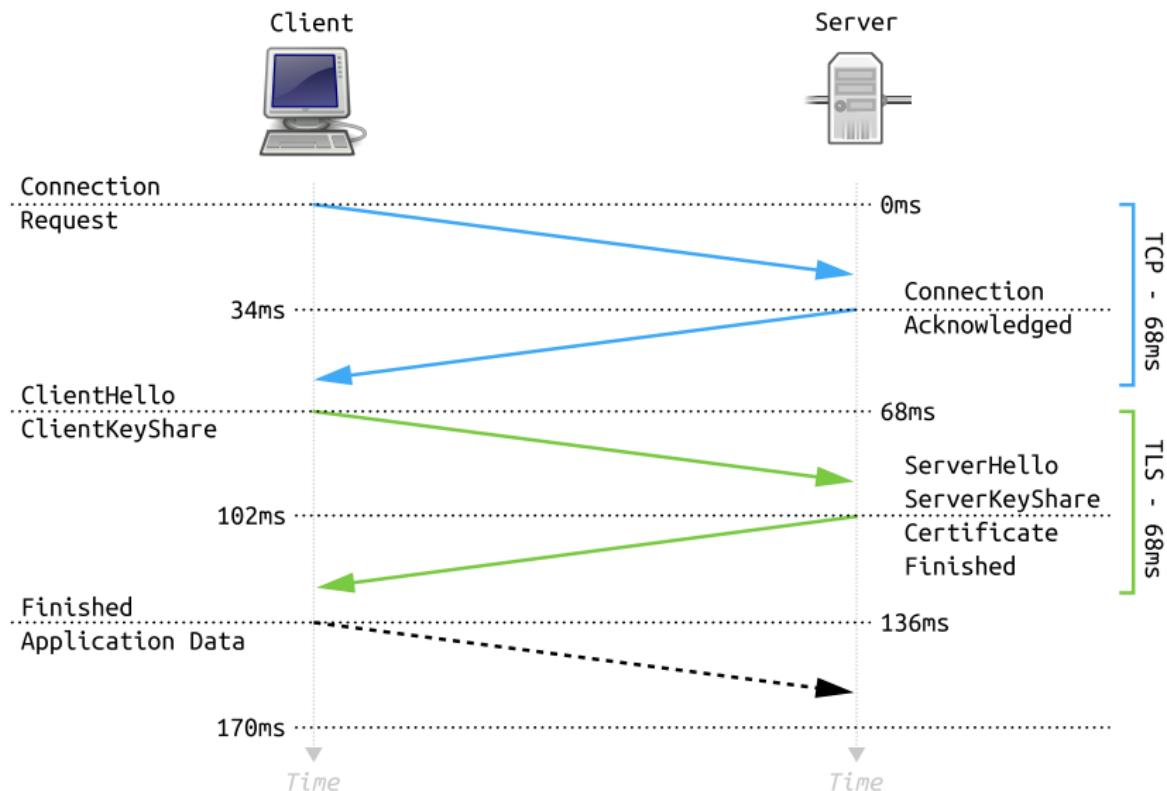
- ▶ Configure an Apache server for your site
- ▶ Redirect a particular path to your MHD instance
- ▶ Redirect another (virtual) domain to your MHD instance

Hint: use `/etc/hosts` to map the IP address(es) if you do not have sufficient control over DNS!

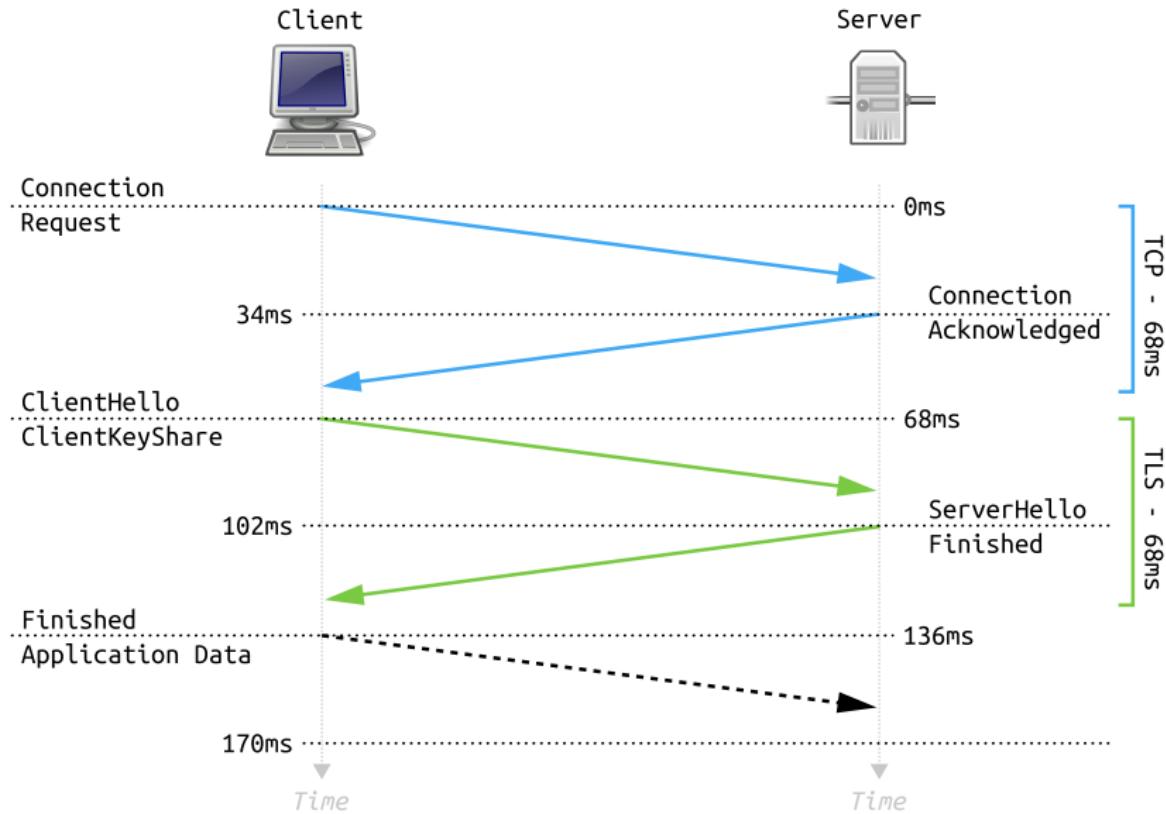
X.509 Trust Chains



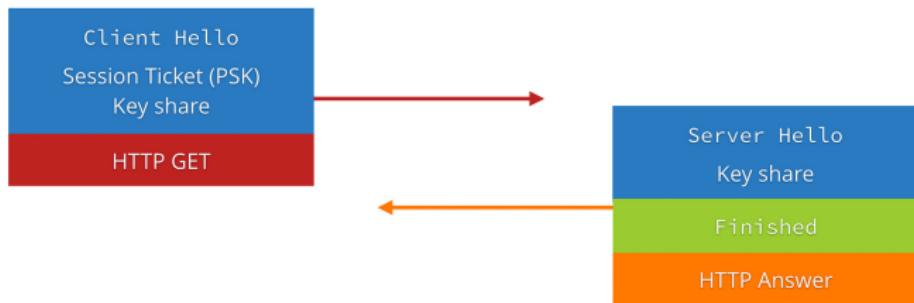
TLS 1.3: Full Handshake



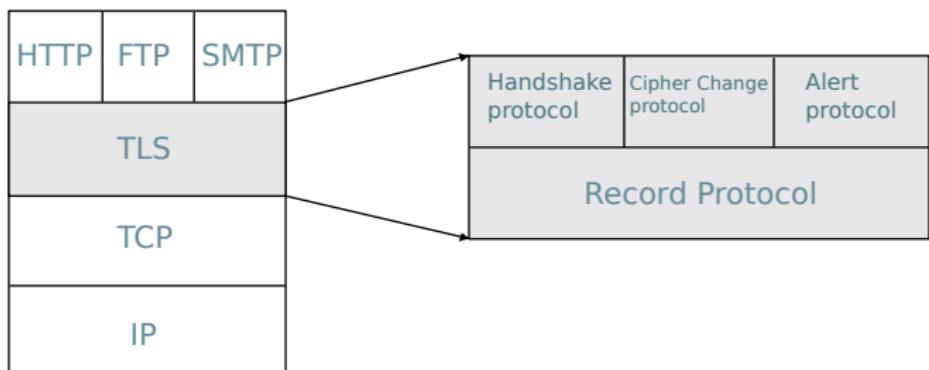
TLS 1.3: Abbreviated Handshake



TLS 1.3: 0.5 RTT Handshake



TLS Protocol Stack



Exercise 18: Enable TLS

- ▶ Obtain a TLS certificate via the “Let’s encrypt” CA (you need a global DNS name!):

```
# letsencrypt -D DOMAIN.TLD --standalone certonly # or  
# letsencrypt -D DOMAIN.TLD --standalone run # may work
```

- ▶ Configure your Apache server to use it:

```
SSLEngine on  
SSLProtocol -ALL +TLSv1.2 +TLSv1.1 +TLSv1  
SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/letsencrypt/live/example.com/privkey.pem  
SSLCertificateChainFile /etc/letsencrypt/live/example.com/fullchain.pem  
SSLCertificateFile /etc/letsencrypt/live/example.com/cert.pem
```

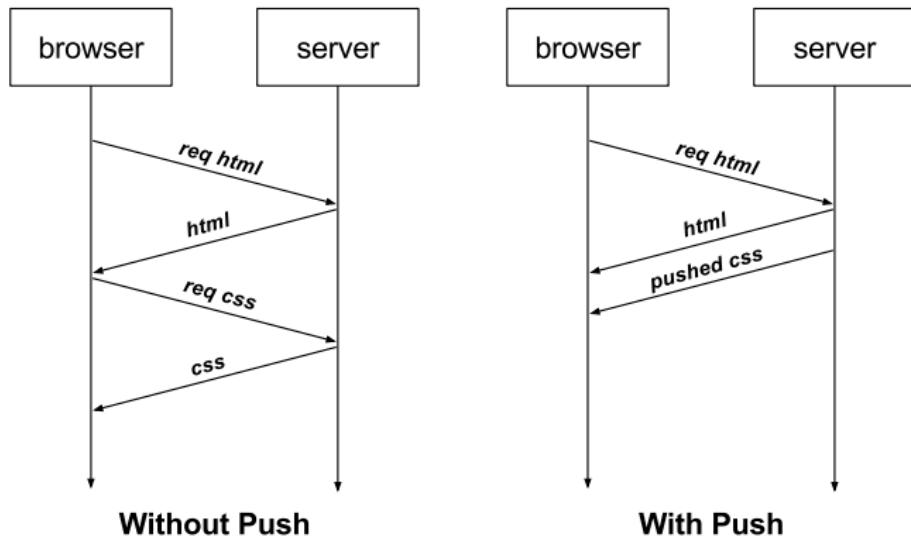
- ▶ Verify your configuration using
<https://www.ssllabs.com/ssltest/> and
<https://observatory.mozilla.org/>

HTTP/2

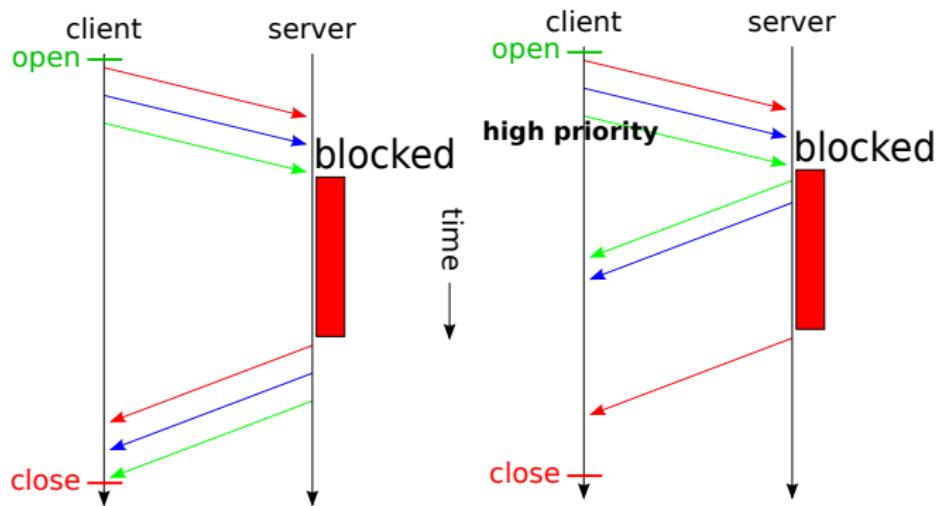
Key changes:

- ▶ HTTP/1 is stateless. HTTP/2 is stateful.
- ▶ HTTP/1 is human readable. HTTP/2 is binary.
- ▶ HTTP/1 is in cleartext. HTTP/2 browsers today require TLS.
- ▶ HTTP/1 is reactive. HTTP/2 servers can be proactive.
- ▶ HTTP/1 handled requests in order. HTTP/2 allows out of order.
- ▶ HTTP/1 is mature. HTTP/2 was rushed to avoid fragmentation.

HTTP/2 Push



HOL blocking and prioritization



Exercise 19: Enable HTTP/2 for Apache

First, enable the HTTP/2 module:

```
# a2enmod http2
```

Then, enable HTTP/2 for your site:

```
<VirtualHost *:443>
    Protocols h2 http/1.1
    ServerAdmin admin@example.com
    ServerName example.com
    ...
</VirtualHost>
```

Exercise 20: Putting it all together

- ▶ Configure your site for HTTPS
- ▶ Enable HTTP/2
- ▶ Reverse proxy to your MHD HTTP instance
- ▶ Add Link: headers to add PUSH support:
`Link: </assets/styles.css>;rel=preload`

Exercise 21: Homework

- ▶ Use TLS with MHD directly
- ▶ Try different event loop models for MHD, in particular external select
- ▶ Cross compile MHD for ARM CPUs
- ▶ Implement a RESTful IoT sensor using MHD
- ▶ Minimize the MHD binary size by setting `configure` and `gcc` options to minimize code size and omit features you do not require

Future Work (aka Bachelor's thesis topics!)

- ▶ Improve usability of MHD API
- ▶ Improve code coverage of tests via better test harness

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