Chapter 7: Application Layer

7.1 Web and HTTP

7.2 electronic mail

- SMTP, POP3, IMAP

7.3 DNS

Web and HTTP

First, a review…

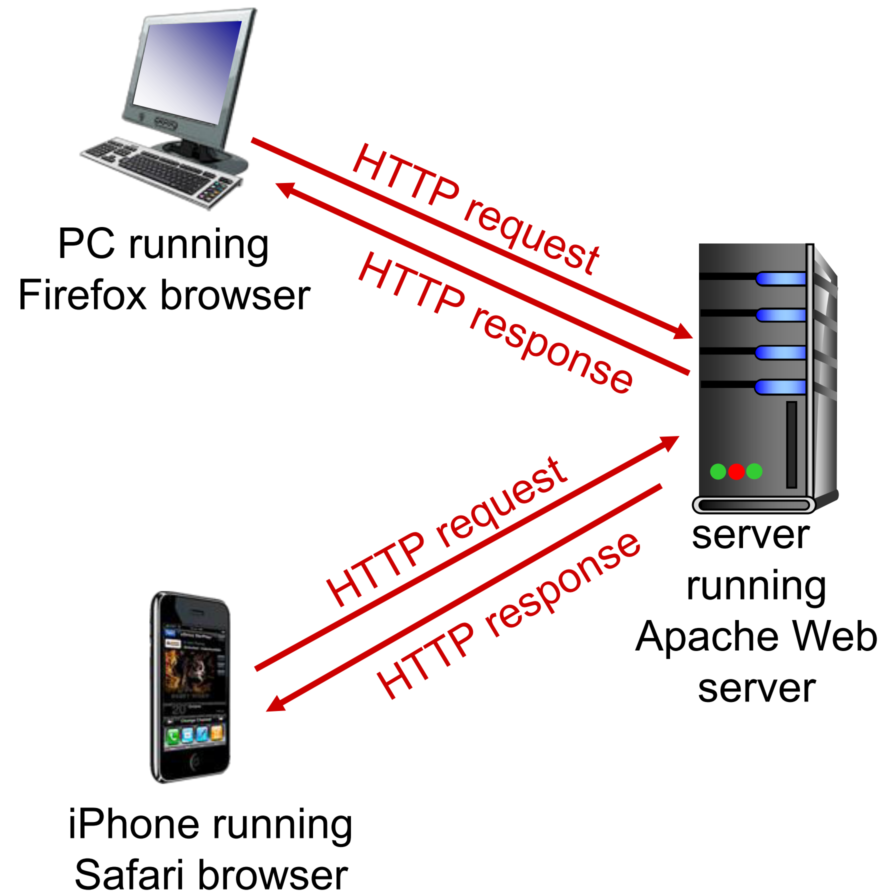
- *web page* consists of *objects*
- object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,…
- web page consists of *base HTML-file* which includes *several referenced objects*
- each object is addressable by a *URL,* e.g.,

$$\underbrace{\texttt{www.someschool.edu}}_{\text{host name}}\texttt{/}\underbrace{\texttt{someDept/pic.gif}}_{\text{path name}}$$

HTTP overview

HTTP: hypertext transfer protocol

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



HTTP overview (continued)

uses TCP:

- client initiates TCP connection (creates socket) to server, port 80
- server accepts TCP connection from client
- HTTP messages (application-layer protocol messages) exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- TCP connection closed

HTTP is "stateless"

- server maintains no information about past client requests

aside

protocols that maintain "state" are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained
- if server/client crashes, their views of "state" may be inconsistent, must be reconciled

HTTP connections

non-persistent HTTP

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

persistent HTTP

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

Non-persistent HTTP

suppose user enters URL:
`www.someSchool.edu/someDepartment/home.index`

(contains text, references to 10 jpeg images)

1a. HTTP client initiates TCP connection to HTTP server (process) at www.someSchool.edu on port 80

1b. HTTP server at host www.someSchool.edu waiting for TCP connection at port 80. "accepts" connection, notifying client

2. HTTP client sends HTTP *request message* (containing URL) into TCP connection socket. Message indicates that client wants object someDepartment/home.index

3. HTTP server receives request message, forms *response message* containing requested object, and sends message into its socket

time

Non-persistent HTTP (cont.)

4. HTTP server closes TCP connection.

5. HTTP client receives response message containing html file, displays html. Parsing html file, finds 10 referenced jpeg objects

time

6. Steps 1-5 repeated for each of 10 jpeg objects

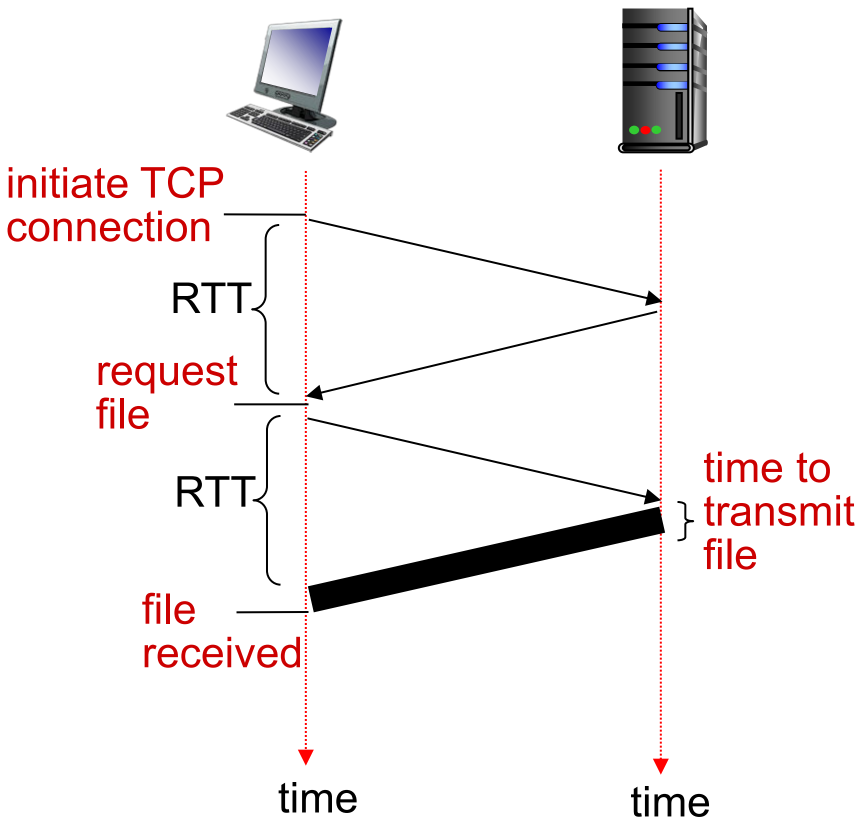
Non-persistent HTTP: response time

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

HTTP response time:

- one RTT to initiate TCP connection
- one RTT for HTTP request and first few bytes of HTTP response to return
- file transmission time
- non-persistent HTTP response time =

  2RTT+ file transmission time



Persistent HTTP

non-persistent HTTP issues:

- requires 2 RTTs per object
- OS overhead for *each* TCP connection
- browsers often open parallel TCP connections to fetch referenced objects

persistent HTTP:

- server leaves connection open after sending response
- subsequent HTTP messages between same client/server sent over open connection
- client sends requests as soon as it encounters a referenced object
- as little as one RTT for all the referenced objects

HTTP request message

- two types of HTTP messages: *request, response*
- HTTP request message:
  - ASCII (human-readable format)

carriage return character

line-feed character

request line
(GET, POST,
HEAD commands)

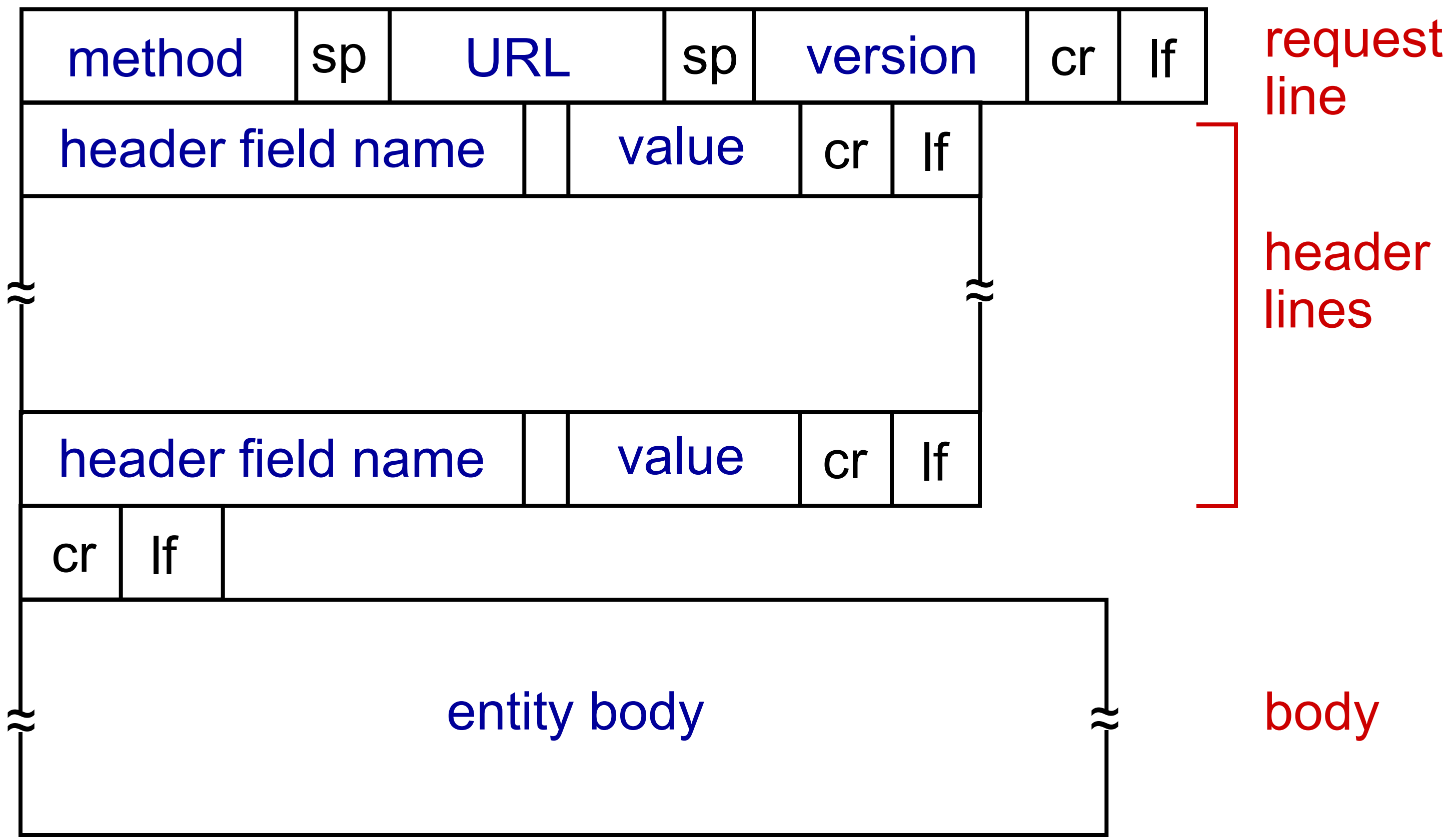
```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: www-net.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Firefox/3.6.10\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml\r\n
Accept-Language: en-us,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip,deflate\r\n
Accept-Charset: ISO-8859-1,utf-8;q=0.7\r\n
Keep-Alive: 115\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
\r\n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

header
lines

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

* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/

HTTP request message: general format



Uploading form input

POST method:

- web page often includes form input
- input is uploaded to server in entity body

URL method:

- uses GET method
- input is uploaded in URL field of request line:

```
www.somesite.com/animalsearch?monkeys&banana
```

Method types

HTTP/1.0:

- GET
- POST
- HEAD
  - asks server to leave requested object out of response

HTTP/1.1:

- GET, POST, HEAD
- PUT
  - uploads file in entity body to path specified in URL field
- DELETE
  - deletes file specified in the URL field

HTTP response message

status line
(protocol
status code
status phrase)

header
lines

data, e.g.,
requested
HTML file

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
Date: Sun, 26 Sep 2010 20:09:20 GMT\r\n
Server: Apache/2.0.52 (CentOS)\r\n
Last-Modified: Tue, 30 Oct 2007 17:00:02
   GMT\r\n
ETag: "17dc6-a5c-bf716880"\r\n
Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n
Content-Length: 2652\r\n
Keep-Alive: timeout=10, max=100\r\n
Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-
   1\r\n
\r\n
data data data data data ...
```

* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/interactive/

HTTP response status codes

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

  `200 OK`
  - request succeeded, requested object later in this msg

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

  `400 Bad Request`
  - request msg not understood by server

  `404 Not Found`
  - requested document not found on this server

  `505 HTTP Version Not Supported`

Trying out HTTP (client side) for yourself

1. Telnet to your favorite Web server:

```
telnet gaia.cs.umass.edu 80
```

opens TCP connection to port 80 (default HTTP server port) at gaia.cs.umass. edu.
anything typed in will be sent to port 80 at gaia.cs.umass.edu

2. type in a GET HTTP request:

```
GET /kurose_ross/interactive/index.php HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
```

by typing this in (hit carriage return twice), you send this minimal (but complete) GET request to HTTP server

3. look at response message sent by HTTP server!
(or use Wireshark to look at captured HTTP request/response)

User-server state: cookies

many Web sites use cookies

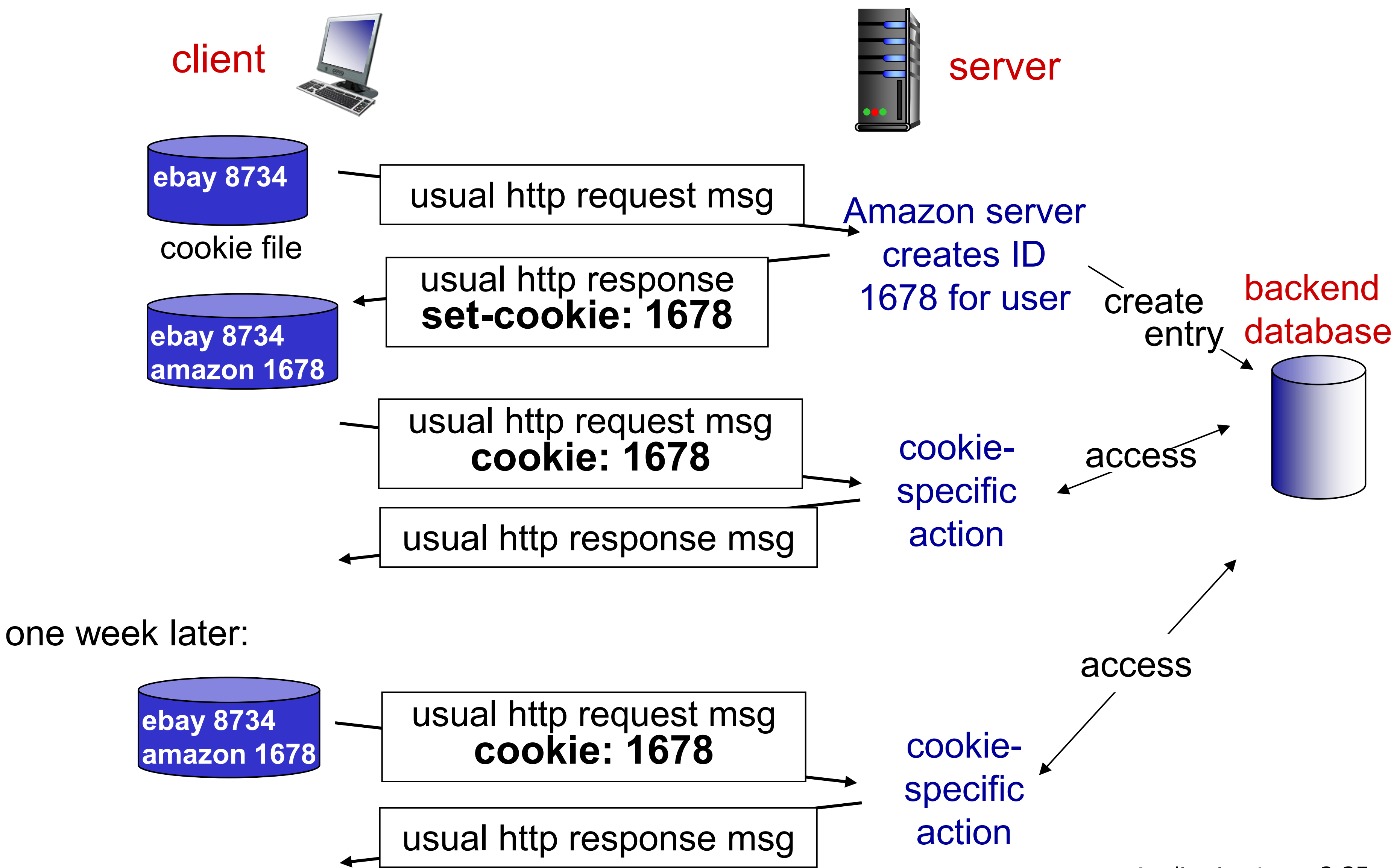
four components:

1) cookie header line of HTTP *response* message
2) cookie header line in next HTTP *request* message
3) cookie file kept on user's host, managed by user's browser
4) back-end database at Web site

example:

- Susan always access Internet from PC
- visits specific e-commerce site for first time
- when initial HTTP requests arrives at site, site creates:
  - unique ID
  - entry in backend database for ID

Cookies: keeping "state" (cont.)



Cookies (continued)

what cookies can be used for:

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

aside

cookies and privacy:

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

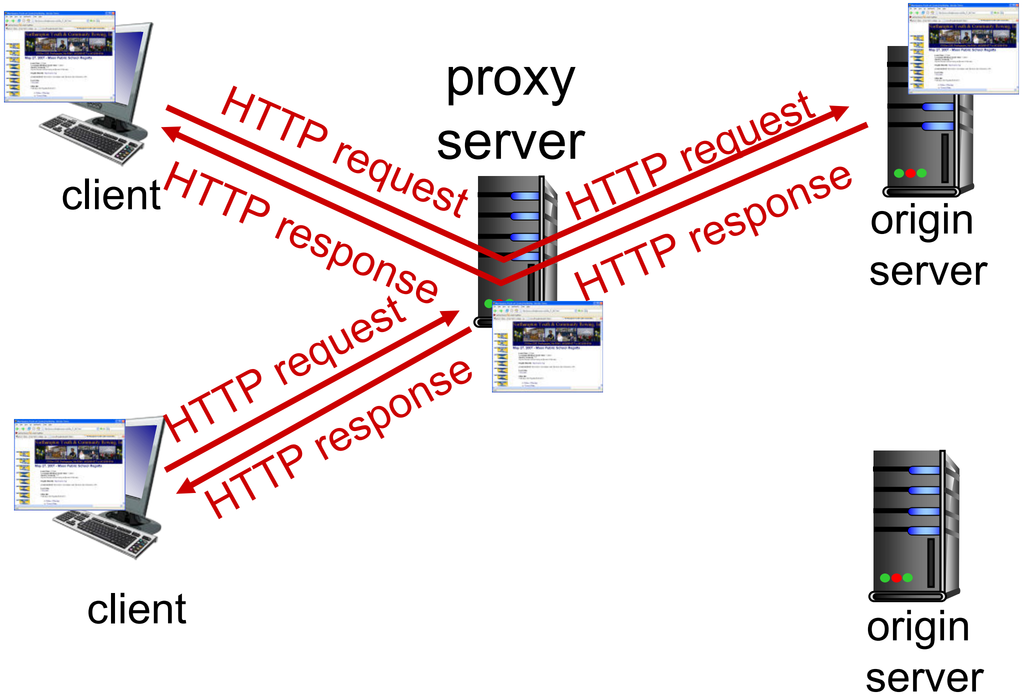
how to keep "state":

- protocol endpoints: maintain state at sender/receiver over multiple transactions
- cookies: http messages carry state

Web caches (proxy server)

goal: satisfy client request without involving origin server

- user sets browser: Web accesses via cache
- browser sends all HTTP requests to cache
  - object in cache: cache returns object
  - else cache requests object from origin server, then returns object to client



More about Web caching

- cache acts as both client and server
  - server for original requesting client
  - client to origin server
- typically cache is installed by ISP (university, company, residential ISP)

why Web caching?

- reduce response time for client request
- reduce traffic on an institution's access link
- Internet dense with caches: enables "poor" content providers to effectively deliver content (so too does P2P file sharing)

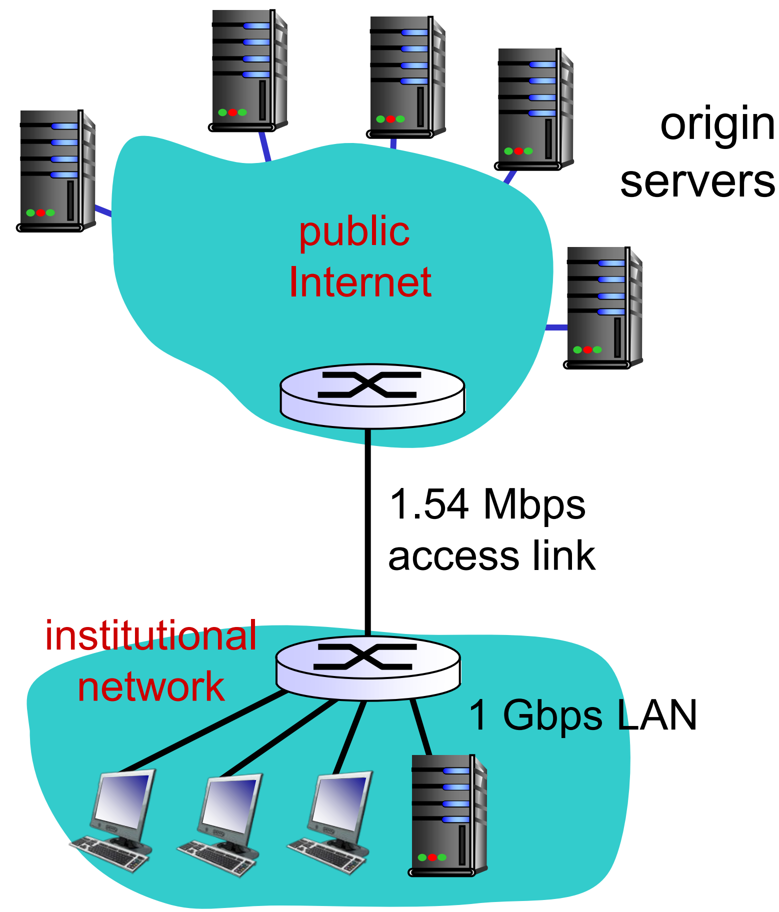
Caching example:

assumptions:

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

consequences:

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



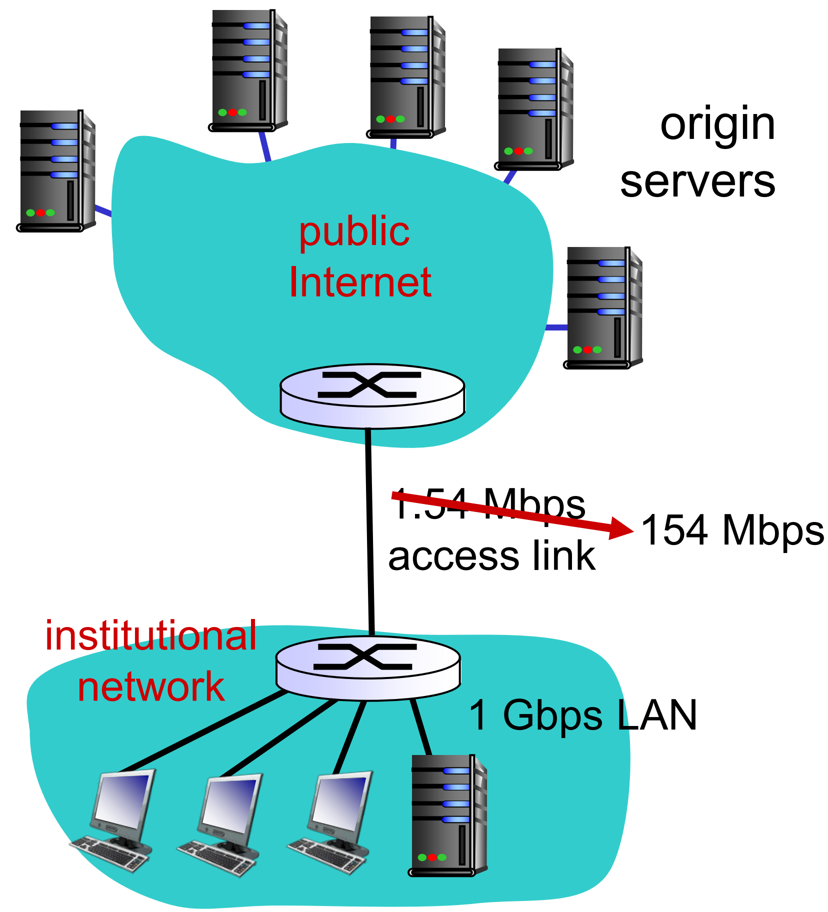
Caching example: fatter access link

assumptions:

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

consequences:

- LAN utilization: 15%
- access link utilization = ~~99%~~ 9.9%
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay
  = 2 sec + ~~minutes~~ msecs + usecs



Cost: increased access link speed (not cheap!)

Caching example: install local cache

assumptions:

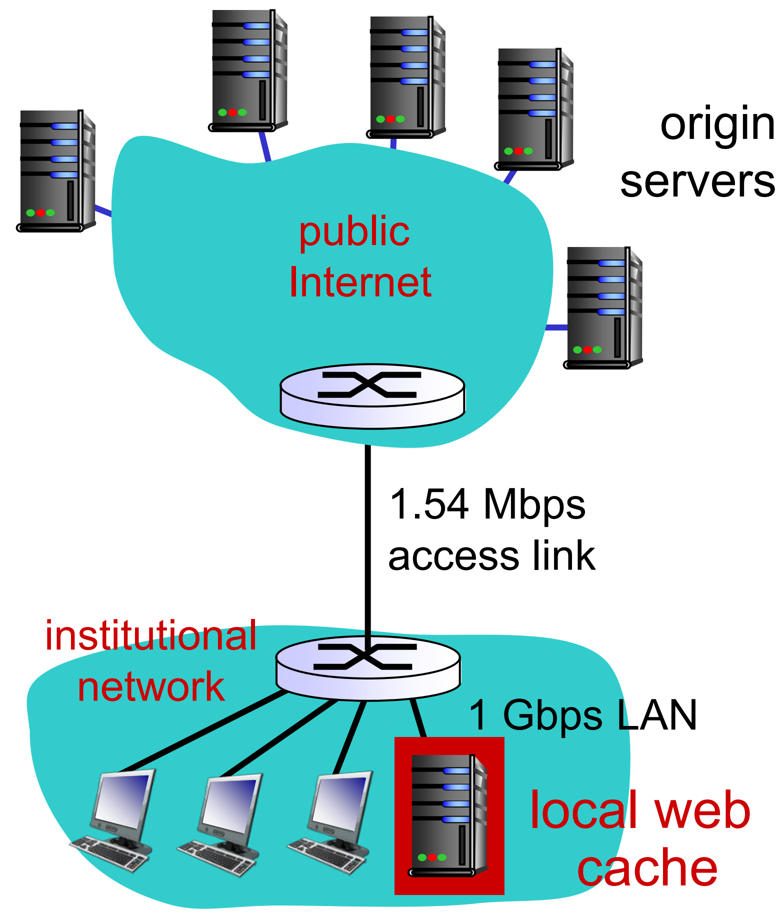
- avg object size: 100K bits
- avg request rate from browsers to origin servers:15/sec
- avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps
- RTT from institutional router to any origin server: 2 sec
- access link rate: 1.54 Mbps

consequences:

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

How to compute link utilization, delay?

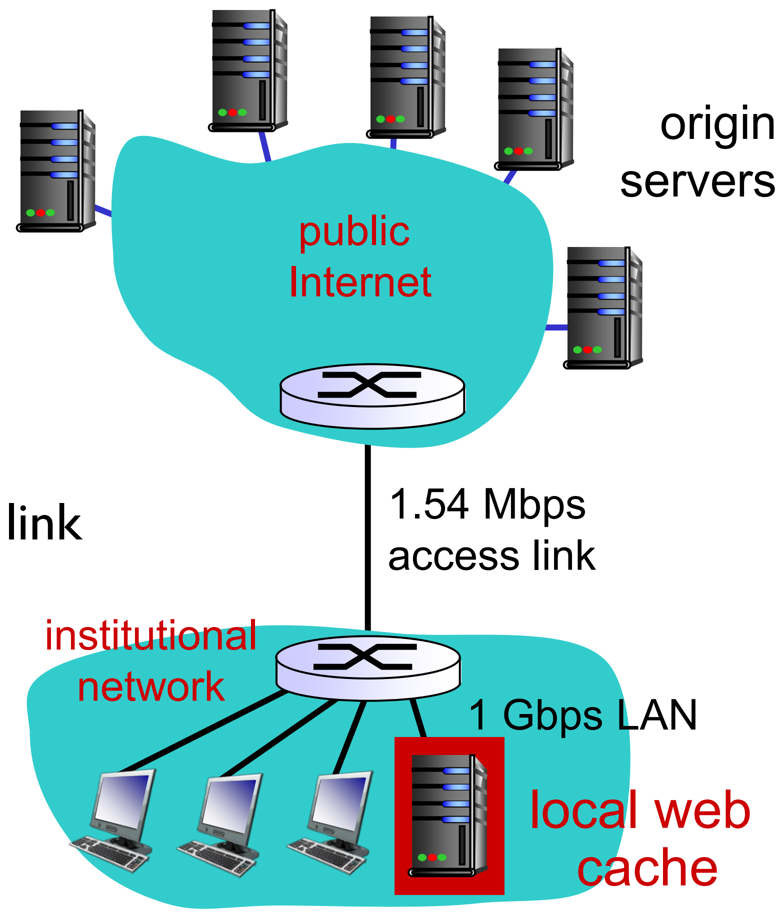
Cost: web cache (cheap!)



Caching example: install local cache

Calculating access link utilization, delay with cache:

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

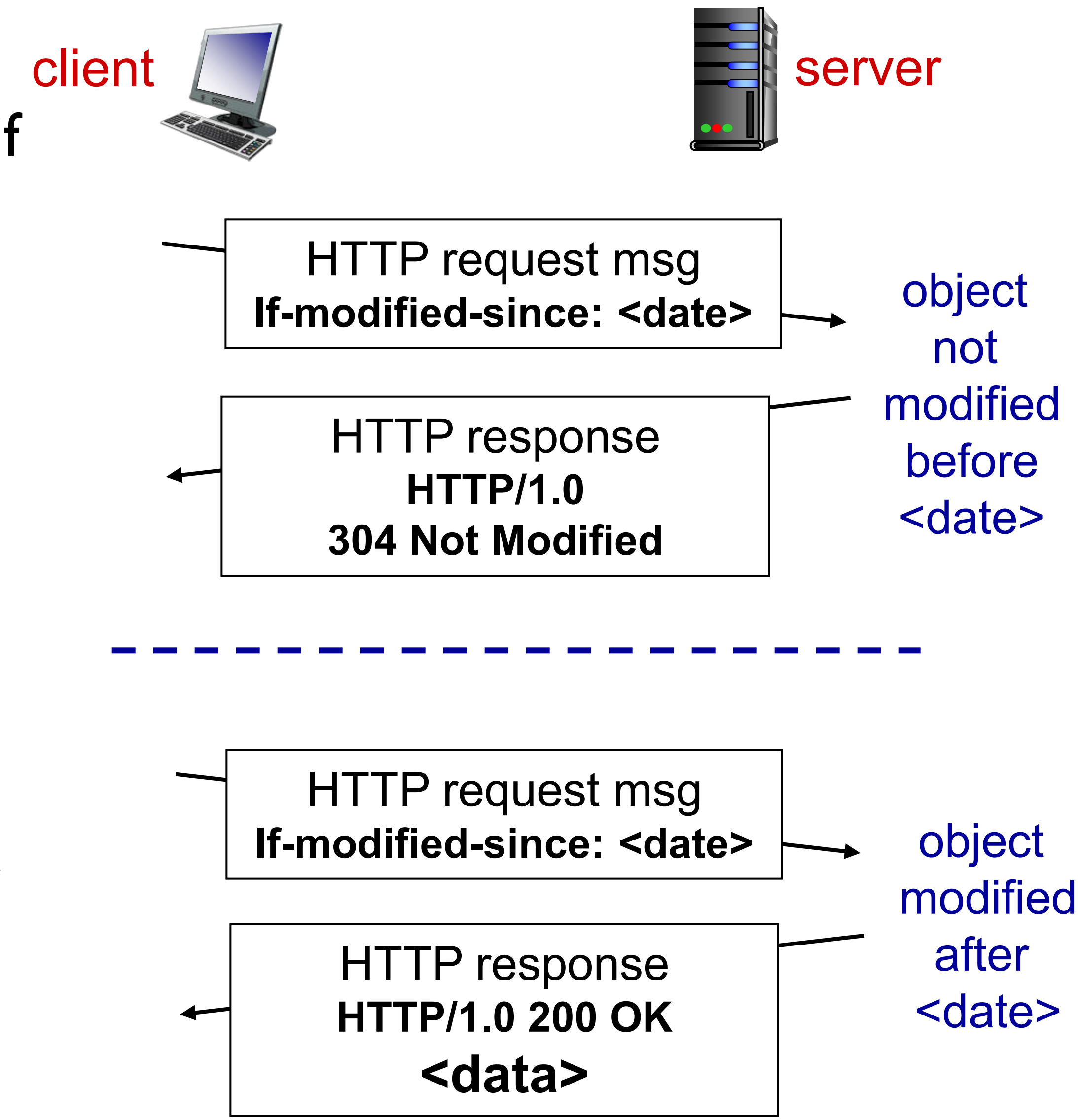


Conditional GET

- *Goal:* don't send object if cache has up-to-date cached version
  - no object transmission delay
  - lower link utilization
- *cache:* specify date of cached copy in HTTP request

  `If-modified-since: <date>`
- *server:* response contains no object if cached copy is up-to-date:

  `HTTP/1.0 304 Not Modified`



Chapter 7: outline

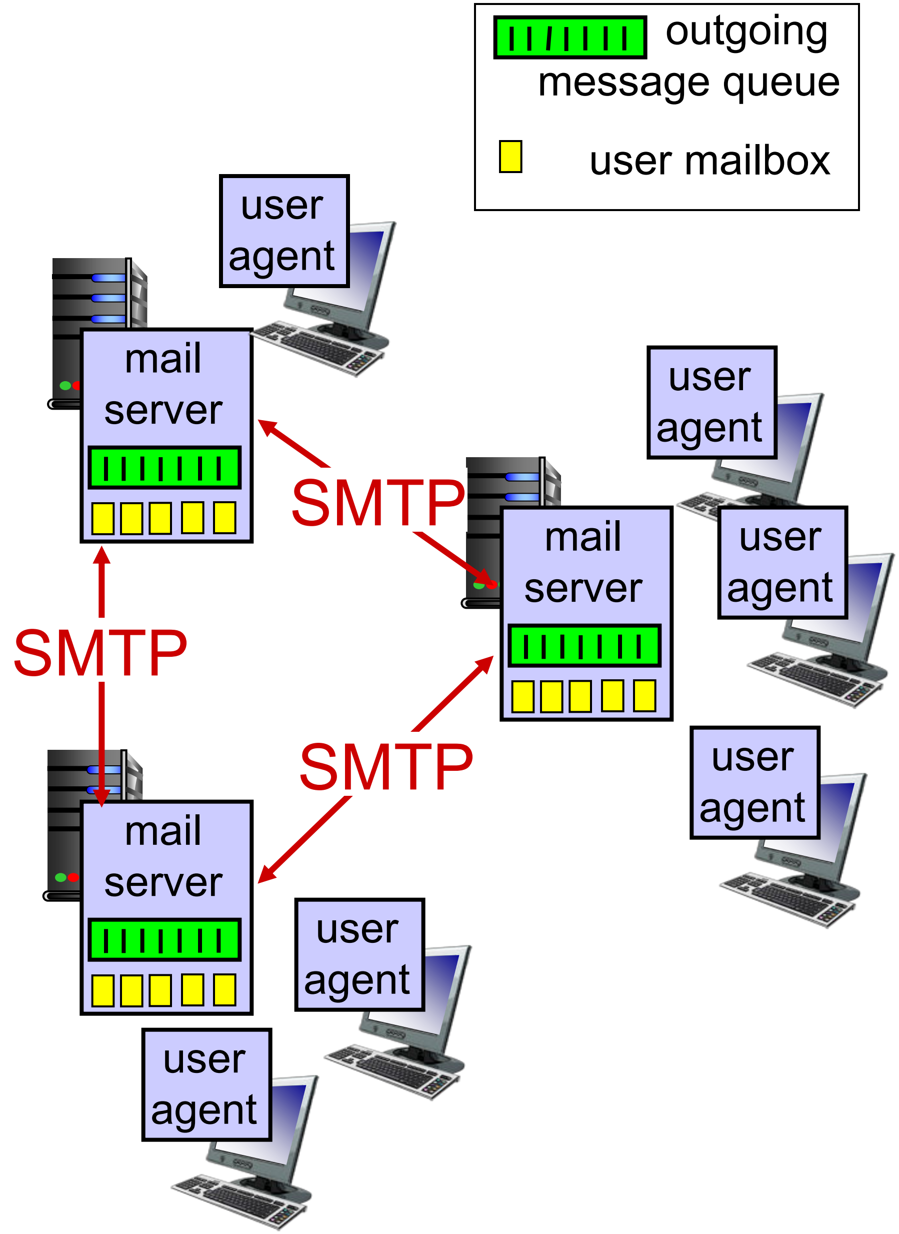
Electronic mail

Three major components:

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

User Agent

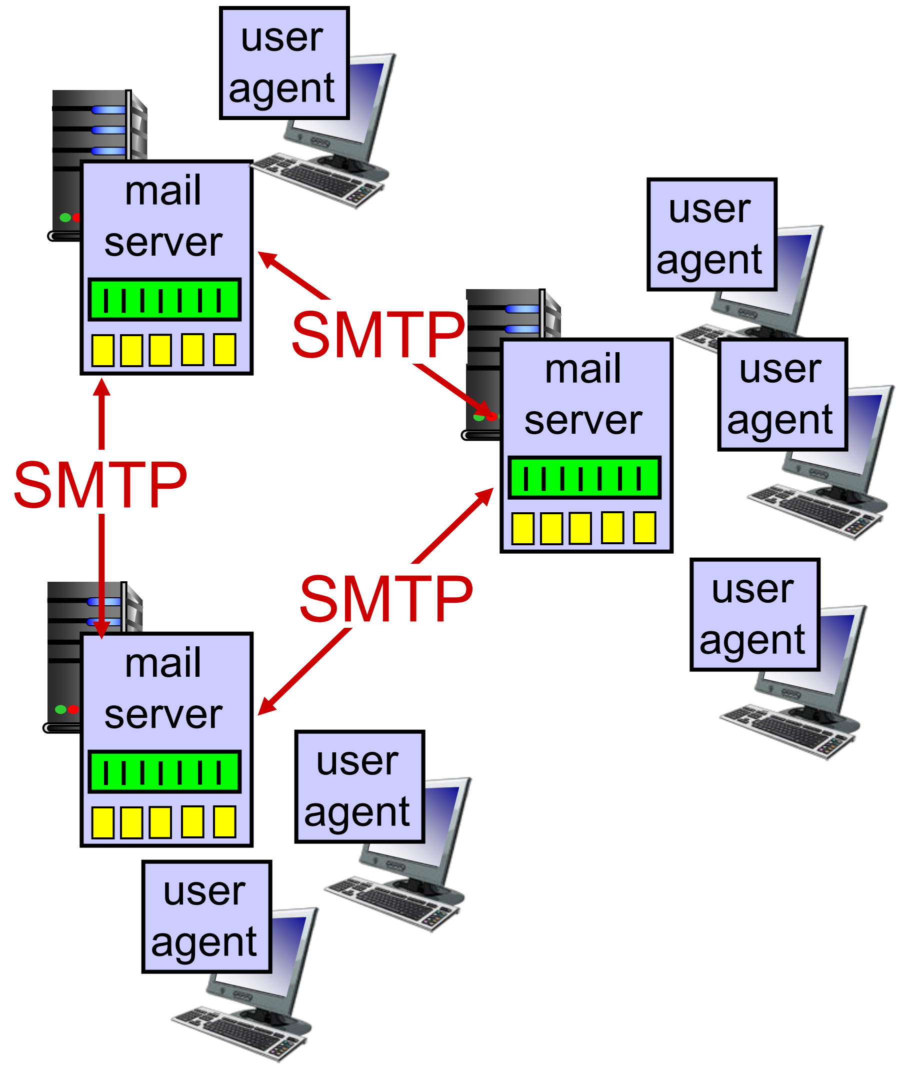
- a.k.a. "mail reader"
- composing, editing, reading mail messages
- e.g., Outlook, Thunderbird, iPhone mail client
- outgoing, incoming messages stored on server



Electronic mail: mail servers

mail servers:

- *mailbox* contains incoming messages for user
- *message queue* of outgoing (to be sent) mail messages
- *SMTP protocol* between mail servers to send email messages
  - client: sending mail server
  - "server": receiving mail server

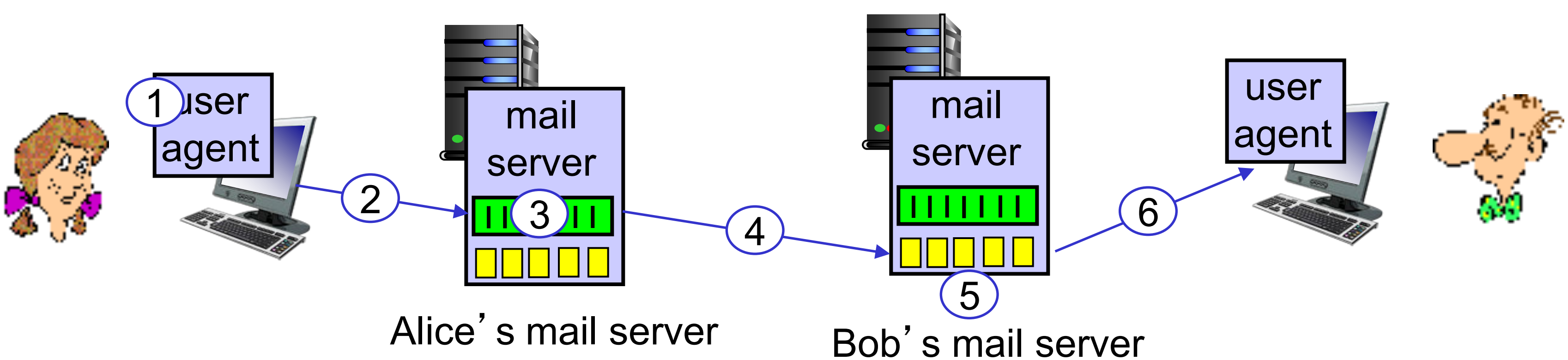


Electronic Mail: SMTP [RFC 2821]

- uses TCP to reliably transfer email message from client to server, port 25
- direct transfer: sending server to receiving server
- three phases of transfer
  - handshaking (greeting)
  - transfer of messages
  - closure
- command/response interaction (like HTTP)
  - commands: ASCII text
  - response: status code and phrase
- messages must be in 7-bit ASCI

Scenario: Alice sends message to Bob

1) Alice uses UA to compose message "to" `bob@someschool.edu`
2) Alice's UA sends message to her mail server; message placed in message queue
3) client side of SMTP opens TCP connection with Bob's mail server
4) SMTP client sends Alice's message over the TCP connection
5) Bob's mail server places the message in Bob's mailbox
6) Bob invokes his user agent to read message



Sample SMTP interaction

```
S: 220 hamburger.edu
C: HELO crepes.fr
S: 250  Hello crepes.fr, pleased to meet you
C: MAIL FROM: <alice@crepes.fr>
S: 250 alice@crepes.fr... Sender ok
C: RCPT TO: <bob@hamburger.edu>
S: 250 bob@hamburger.edu ... Recipient ok
C: DATA
S: 354 Enter mail, end with "." on a line by itself
C: Do you like ketchup?
C: How about pickles?
C: .
S: 250 Message accepted for delivery
C: QUIT
S: 221 hamburger.edu closing connection
```

Try SMTP interaction for yourself:

- **`telnet servername 25`**
- see 220 reply from server
- enter HELO, MAIL FROM, RCPT TO, DATA, QUIT commands

above lets you send email without using email client (reader)

SMTP: final words

- SMTP uses persistent connections
- SMTP requires message (header & body) to be in 7-bit ASCII
- SMTP server uses `CRLF.CRLF` to determine end of message

comparison with HTTP:

- HTTP: pull
- SMTP: push
- both have ASCII command/response interaction, status codes
- HTTP: each object encapsulated in its own response message
- SMTP: multiple objects sent in multipart message

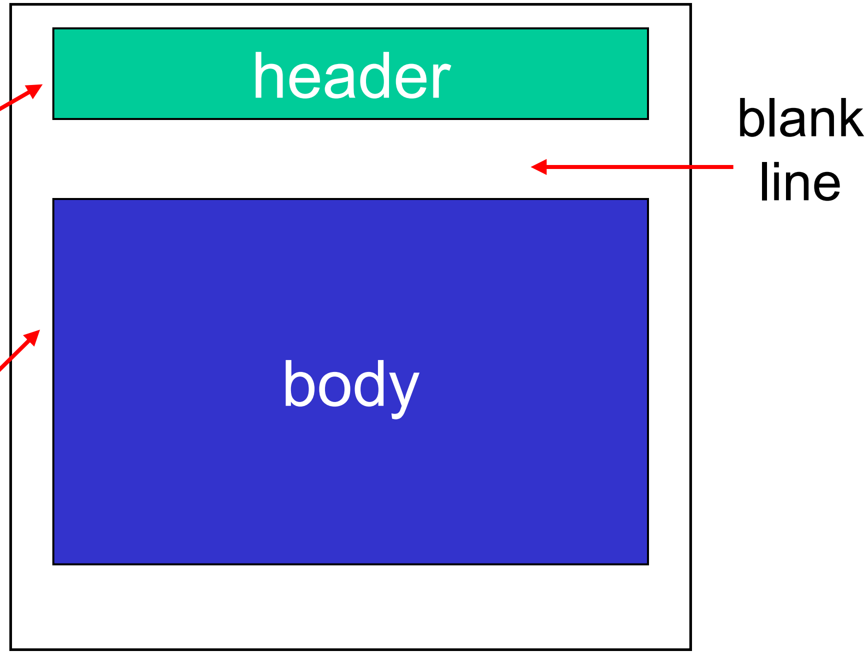
Mail message format

SMTP: protocol for exchanging email messages

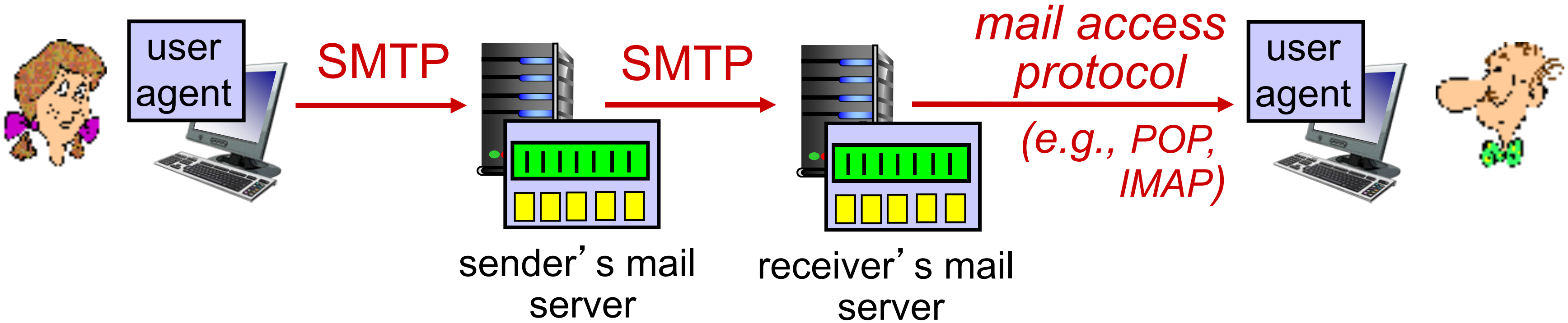
RFC 822: standard for text message format:

- header lines, e.g.,
  - To:
  - From:
  - Subject:

  different from SMTP MAIL FROM, RCPT TO: commands!
- Body: the "message"
  - ASCII characters only



Mail access protocols



- SMTP: delivery/storage to receiver's server
- mail access protocol: retrieval from server
  - POP: Post Office Protocol [RFC 1939]: authorization, download
  - IMAP: Internet Mail Access Protocol [RFC 1730]: more features, including manipulation of stored messages on server
  - HTTP: gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo! Mail, etc.

POP3 protocol

authorization phase

- client commands:
  - **`user`:** declare username
  - **`pass`:** password
- server responses
  - **`+OK`**
  - **`-ERR`**

transaction phase, client:

- **`list`:** list message numbers
- **`retr`:** retrieve message by number
- **`dele`:** delete
- **`quit`**

```
S: +OK POP3 server ready
C: user bob
S: +OK
C: pass hungry
S: +OK user successfully logged on
```

```
C: list
S: 1 498
S: 2 912
S: .
C: retr 1
S: <message 1 contents>
S: .
C: dele 1
C: retr 2
S: <message 1 contents>
S: .
C: dele 2
C: quit
S: +OK POP3 server signing off
```

Chapter 7: outline

7.1 Web and HTTP

7.2 electronic mail

- SMTP, POP3, IMAP

7.3 DNS

DNS: domain name system

people: many identifiers:
- SSN, name, passport #

Internet hosts, routers:
- IP address (32 bit) - used for addressing datagrams
- "name", e.g., www.yahoo.com - used by humans

Q: how to map between IP address and name, and vice versa ?

Domain Name System:
- *distributed database* implemented in hierarchy of many *name servers*
- *application-layer protocol:* hosts, name servers communicate to *resolve* names (address/name translation)
  - note: core Internet function, implemented as application-layer protocol
  - complexity at network's "edge"

DNS: services, structure

DNS services

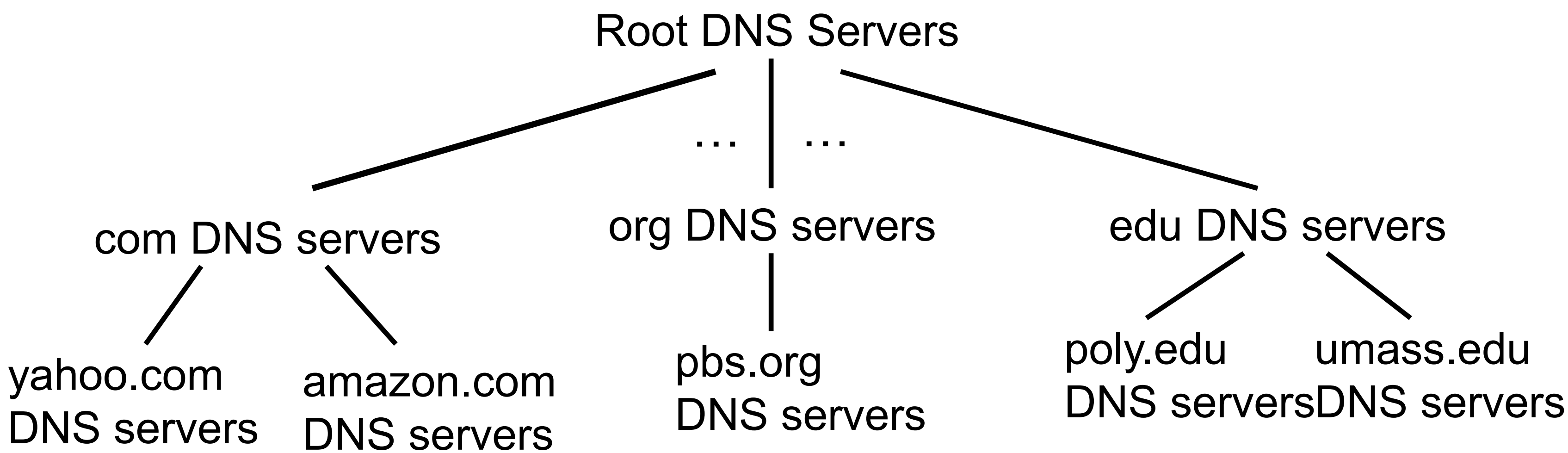
- hostname to IP address translation
- host aliasing
  - canonical, alias names
- mail server aliasing
- load distribution
  - replicated Web servers: many IP addresses correspond to one name

why not centralize DNS?

- single point of failure
- traffic volume
- distant centralized database
- maintenance

A: doesn't scale!

DNS: a distributed, hierarchical database

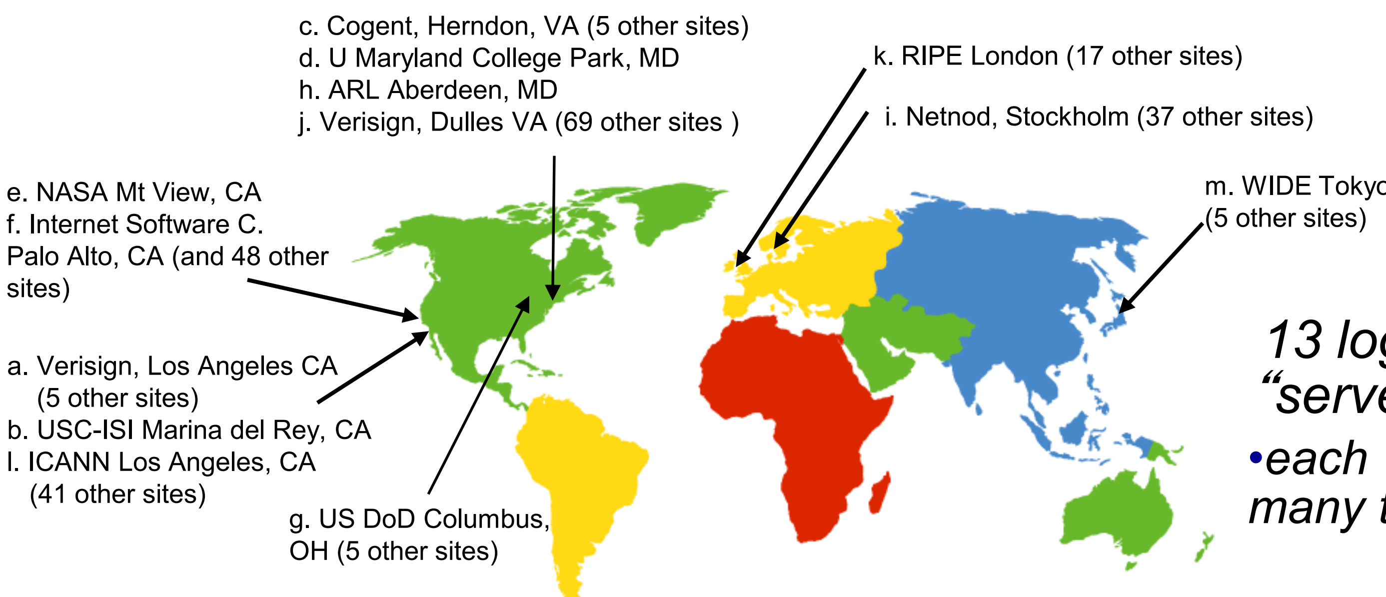


client wants IP for www.amazon.com; 1st approximation:

- client queries root server to find com DNS server
- client queries .com DNS server to get amazon.com DNS server
- client queries amazon.com DNS server to get IP address for www.amazon.com

DNS: root name servers

- contacted by local name server that can not resolve name
- root name server:
  - contacts authoritative name server if name mapping not known
  - gets mapping
  - returns mapping to local name server



13 logical root name "servers" worldwide

- *each "server" replicated many times*

TLD, authoritative servers

top-level domain (TLD) servers:

- responsible for com, org, net, edu, aero, jobs, museums, and all top-level country domains, e.g.: uk, fr, ca, jp
- Network Solutions maintains servers for .com TLD
- Educause for .edu TLD

authoritative DNS servers:

- organization's own DNS server(s), providing authoritative hostname to IP mappings for organization's named hosts
- can be maintained by organization or service provider

Local DNS name server

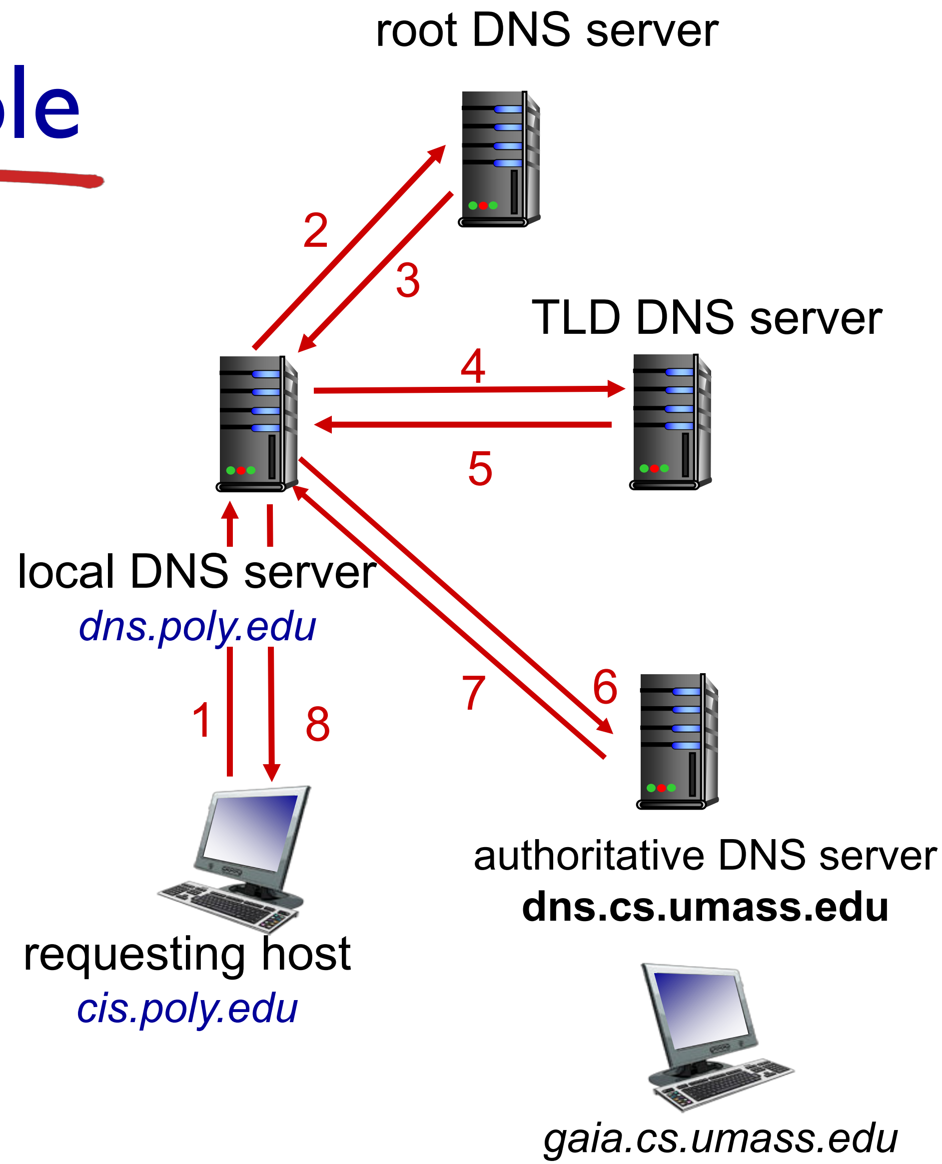
- does not strictly belong to hierarchy
- each ISP (residential ISP, company, university) has one
  - also called "default name server"
- when host makes DNS query, query is sent to its local DNS server
  - has local cache of recent name-to-address translation pairs (but may be out of date!)
  - acts as proxy, forwards query into hierarchy

DNS name resolution example

- host at cis.poly.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu

iterated query:

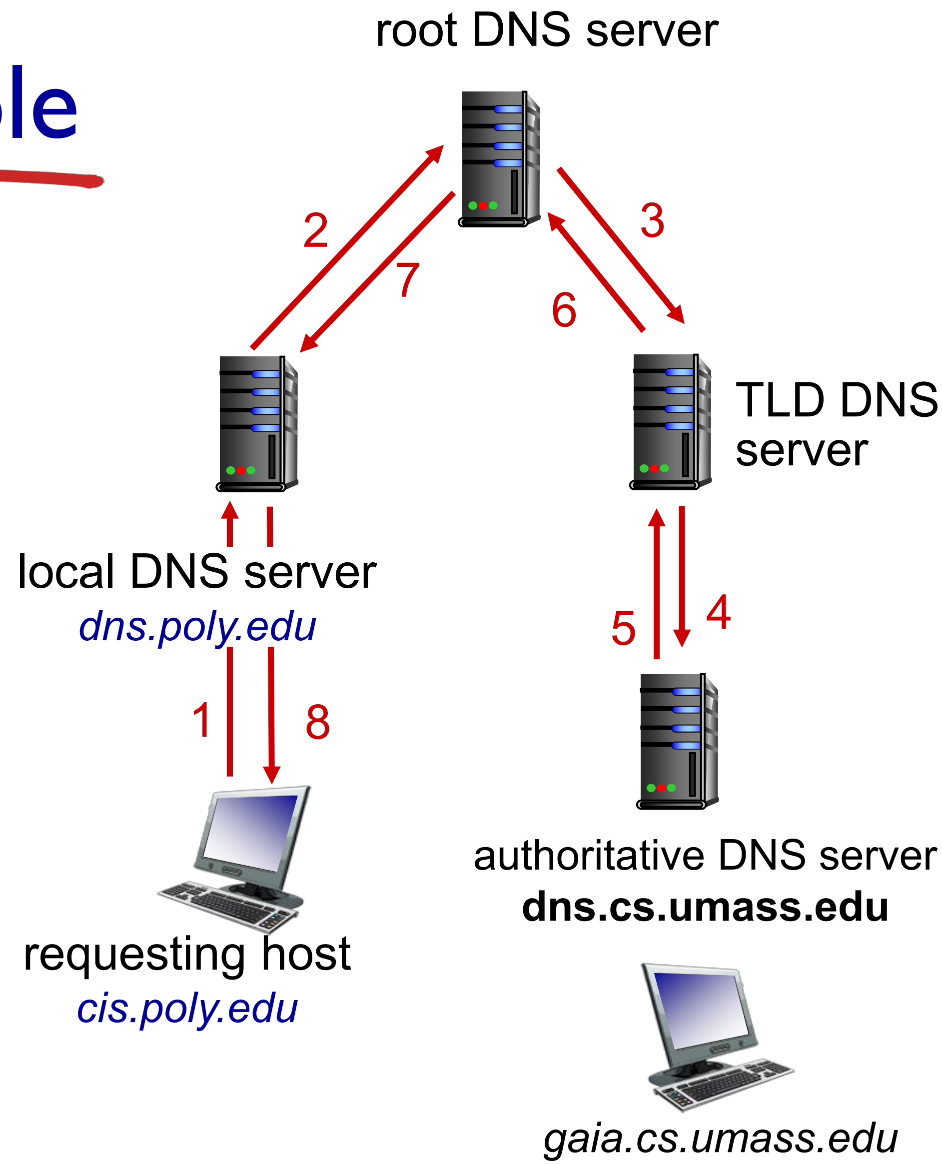
- contacted server replies with name of server to contact
- "I don't know this name, but ask this server"



DNS name resolution example

recursive query:

- puts burden of name resolution on contacted name server
- heavy load at upper levels of hierarchy?



DNS: caching, updating records

- once (any) name server learns mapping, it *caches* mapping
  - cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time (TTL)
  - TLD servers typically cached in local name servers
    - thus root name servers not often visited
- cached entries may be *out-of-date* (best effort name-to-address translation!)
  - if name host changes IP address, may not be known Internet-wide until all TTLs expire
- update/notify mechanisms proposed IETF standard
  - RFC 2136

DNS records

DNS: distributed database storing resource records (RR)

RR format: `(name, value, type, ttl)`

type=A

- **`name`** is hostname
- **`value`** is IP address

type=NS

- **`name`** is domain (e.g., foo.com)
- **`value`** is hostname of authoritative name server for this domain

type=CNAME

- **`name`** is alias name for some "canonical" (the real) name
- **`www.ibm.com`** is really **`servereast.backup2.ibm.com`**
- **`value`** is canonical name

type=MX

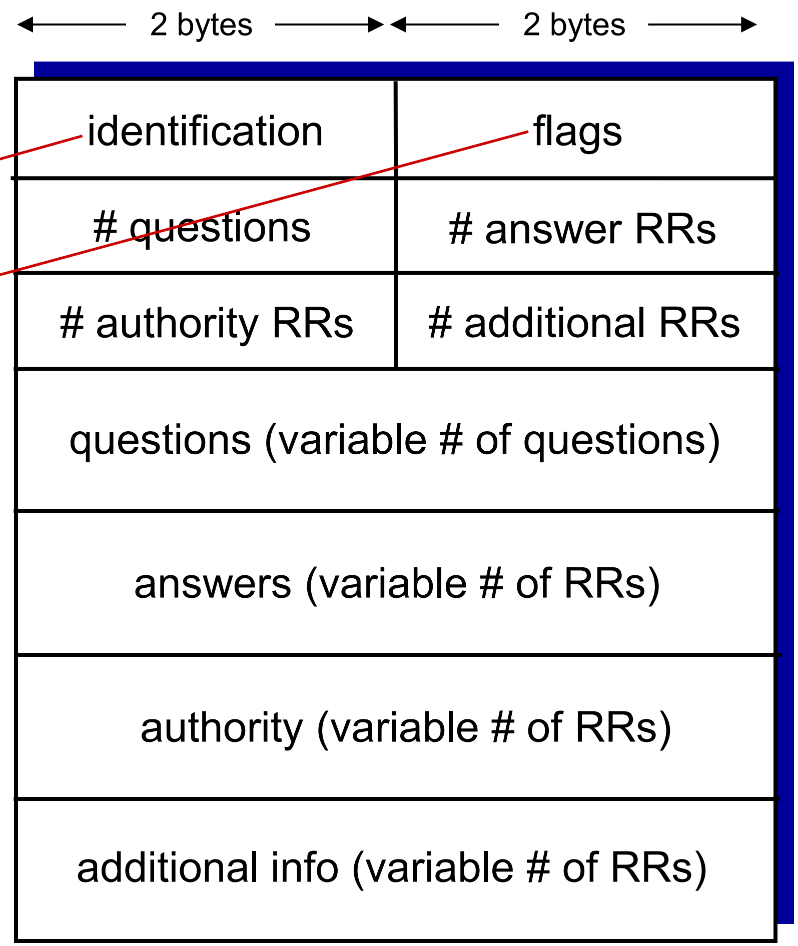
- **`value`** is name of mailserver associated with **`name`**

DNS protocol, messages

- *query* and *reply* messages, both with same *message format*

message header

- identification: 16 bit # for query, reply to query uses same #
- flags:
  - query or reply
  - recursion desired
  - recursion available
  - reply is authoritative



DNS protocol, messages

	2 bytes	2 bytes
	identification	flags
	# questions	# answer RRs
	# authority RRs	# additional RRs
name, type fields for a query	questions (variable # of questions)	
RRs in response to query	answers (variable # of RRs)	
records for authoritative servers	authority (variable # of RRs)	
additional "helpful" info that may be used	additional info (variable # of RRs)	

Inserting records into DNS

- example: new startup "Network Utopia"
- register name networkuptopia.com at *DNS registrar* (e.g., Network Solutions)
  - provide names, IP addresses of authoritative name server (primary and secondary)
  - registrar inserts two RRs into .com TLD server:
    `(networkutopia.com, dns1.networkutopia.com, NS)`
    `(dns1.networkutopia.com, 212.212.212.1, A)`
- create authoritative server type A record for www.networkuptopia.com; type MX record for networkutopia.com