

Introduction to the World Wide Web

What is the Web?

- 'Web' of interconnected documents, files, and computers
- Graphical strand of Internet
- Allows text files and multi-media files to be sent over Internet:
 - graphics
 - pictures
 - moving images, video, movies
 - audio

What is the Web?

- Recognizes and leads users to the other Internet strands
(Gopher, FTP, Usenet, and Telnet)
- Makes Internet more seamless and easy to use
- Does not exist at any one place

What is the Web?

- Invented in 1989
- Tim Berners-Lee and colleagues at CERN
- European Particle Physics Laboratory in Switzerland
- Wanted to share hypermedia -- pictures, illustrations, images, etc. -- over the Internet

What is the Web?

- Berners-Lee wrote the first Web client (browser) in 1990
 - called it the *WorldWideWeb*
 - Later changed its name to Nexus to avoid confusion

What is the Web?

- Mosaic was first large-scale Web browser
- Invented in 1993 at National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)
- Allowed for use of mouse
- Allowed for graphics and other media to be used in Web documents

What is the Web?

- ✦ Same inventors then created Netscape browser
 - Netscape on its way out in 2005...Firefox on the way in!
- ✦ Later Microsoft Corp. created Internet Explorer
- ✦ Today, there are dozens of browsers on the market

Basic Web Functions

Basic Web Functions

- Uses client-server technologies
- Web documents and sites usually written in HTML (HyperText Markup Language) or similar Web 'languages'
- Client sends HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) request to server
- Server sends back Web page

Basic Web Functions

Any person with Internet access and a Web browser
can create a Web site

...explains the incredible proliferation of
information

Basic Web Functions

- Any person with Internet access and a Web browser can use that Web site
 - Allows for individuals, universities, corporations, governments – anyone and everyone – to share information on the Web
 - Not everyone can evaluate the credibility of the information
 - Librarians and information managers have been responsible for knowledge management, organizing, and quality-filtering Web resources

Uniform Resource Locator (URL): An Address on the Web

URL Protocols and Formats

http:// hypertext transfer protocol

ftp:// file transfer protocol

gopher:// gopher protocol

protocol://server&domain/directory/file&extension



http://med-libwww.bu.edu/library/home.html

Domain Names

protocol://server&domain/directory/file&extension



http://med-libwww.bu.edu/library/home.html

.org	organizations
.edu	schools/colleges (relax)
.net	networks
.com	companies
.gov	government

**Welcome to the
Web!**