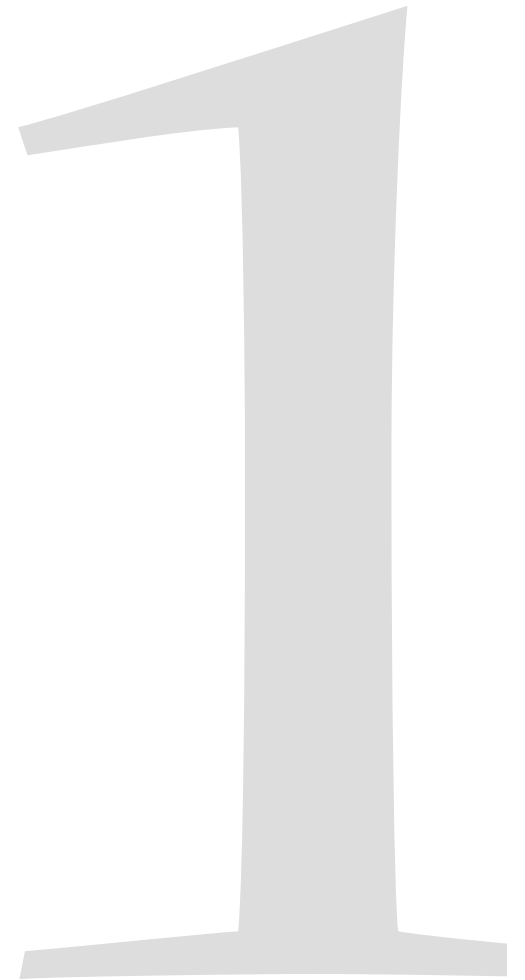


FTP

December 22nd, 2008



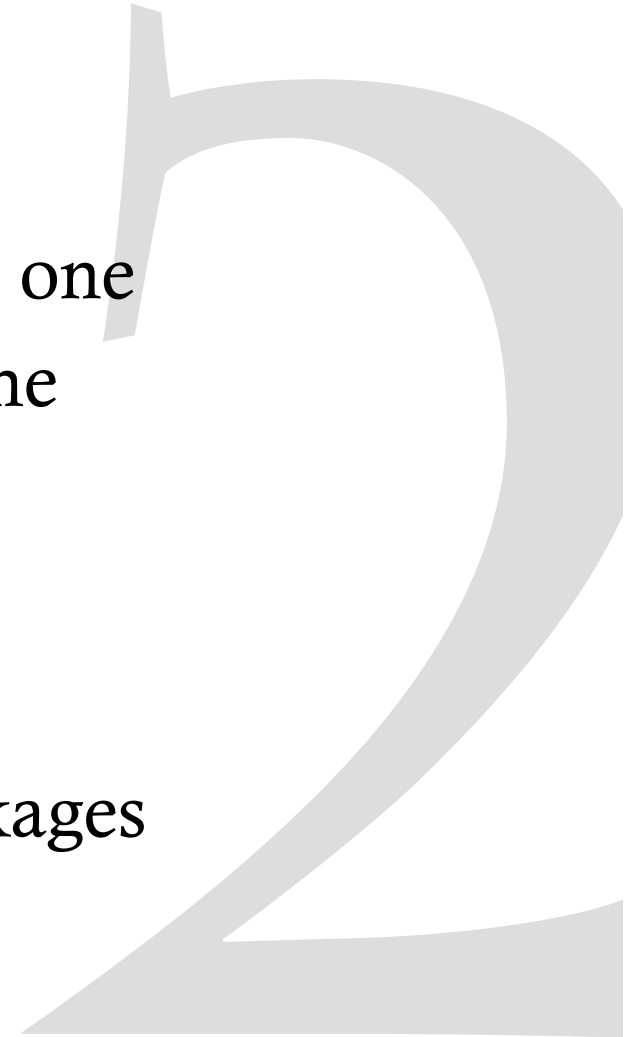
What is FTP?

FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol

Is a method for transferring files from one computer to another computer over the internet in a very specific format

Think of it as the US Mail

– standardized way of delivering packages



Before moving on

Domains, clients, servers, and DNS

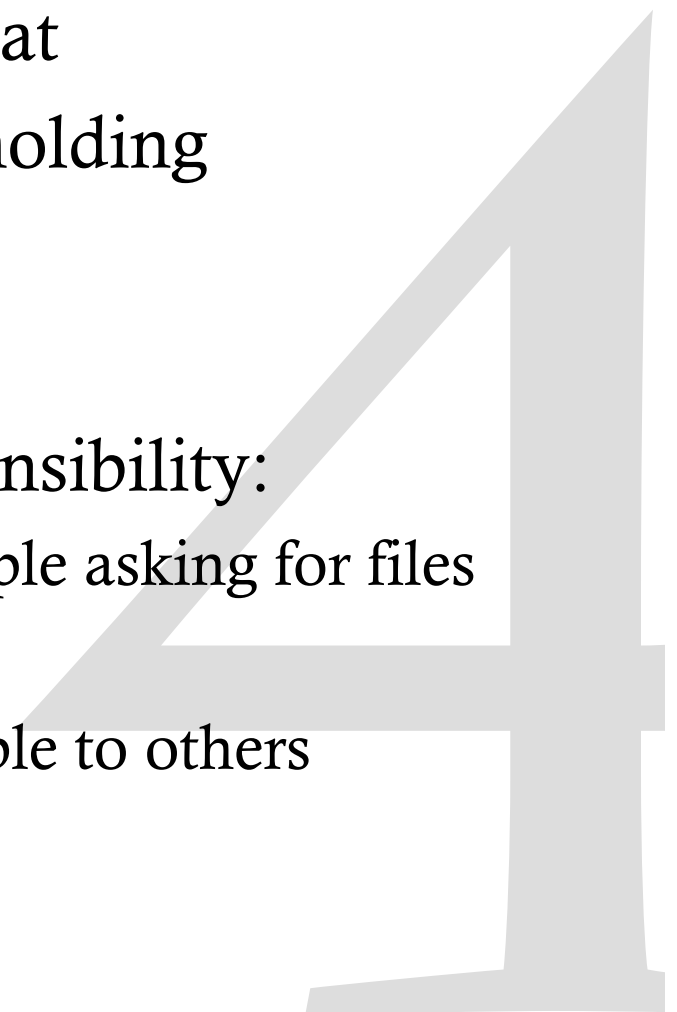


Servers

Servers are computers on steroids that were built with the sole purpose of holding files that people can access.

With great power comes great responsibility:

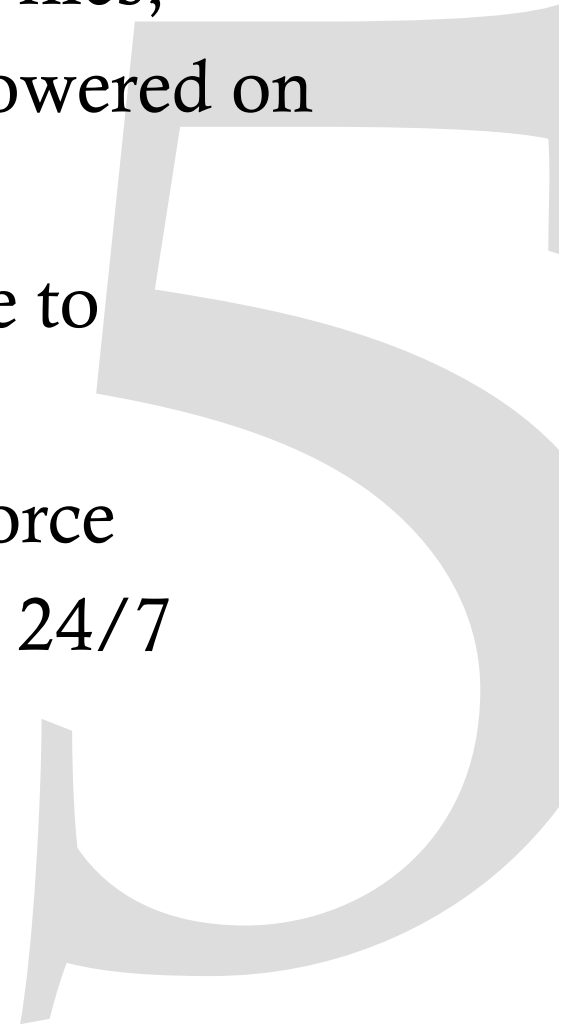
- Must handle the stress of lots of people asking for files
- Hot-swappable parts
- Always powered on, always accessible to others



Why do we need Servers?

To view a website, which are really just files, they need to be on a computer that is powered on

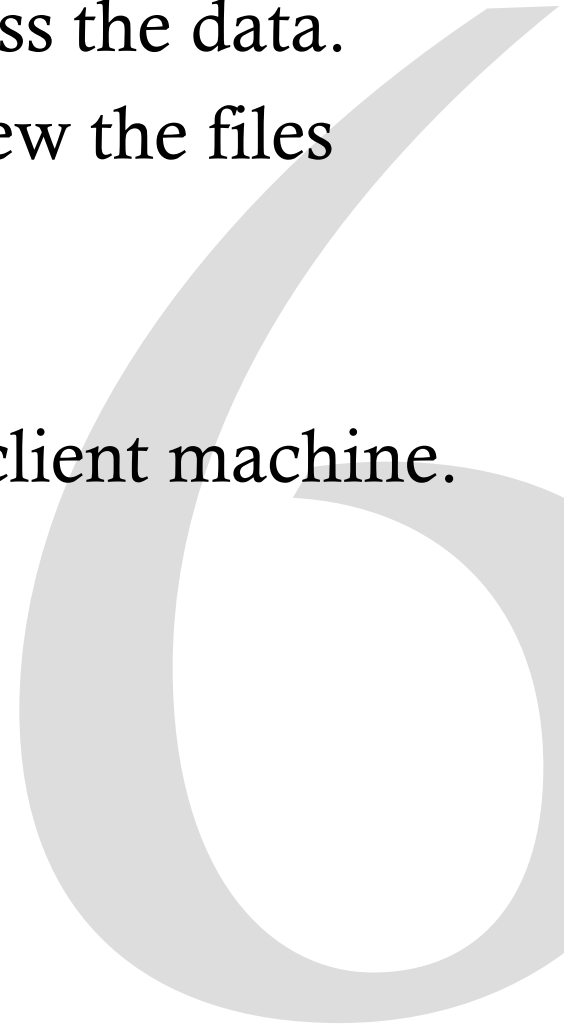
It's unrealistic to use your own machine to host your website because it's stressful, could create security risks, and would force you to keep your computer powered on 24/7



Clients

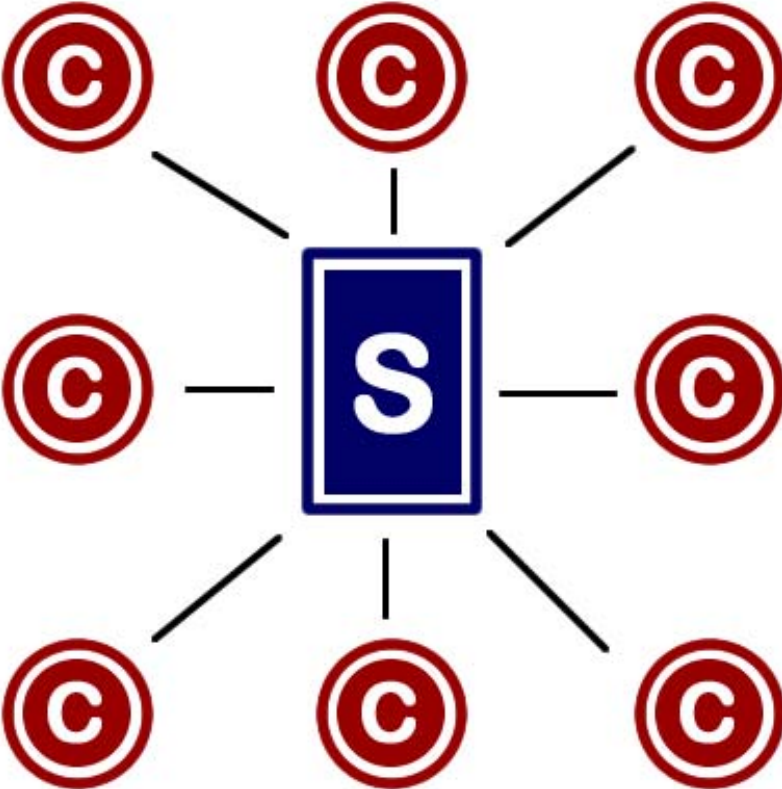
Clients are computers that need to access the data. They make a request to the server to view the files it holds.

Chances are you are viewing this on a client machine.



Clients and Servers

The classic star network

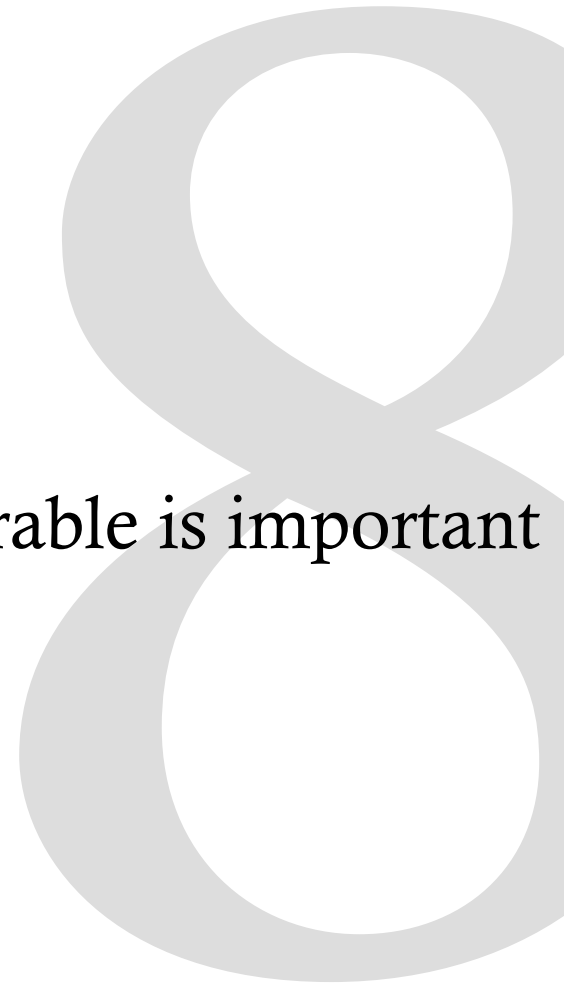


Domains

`http://www.thisisadomain.com`

A human readable name that is usually short and memorable.

We'll get back to why short and memorable is important



Domain Name System (DNS)

Every computer has its own unique address, called an IP address; this applies to both client and server machines.

DNS is the method of mapping domain names to IP addresses.

123.123.123.123 <http://www.google.com>

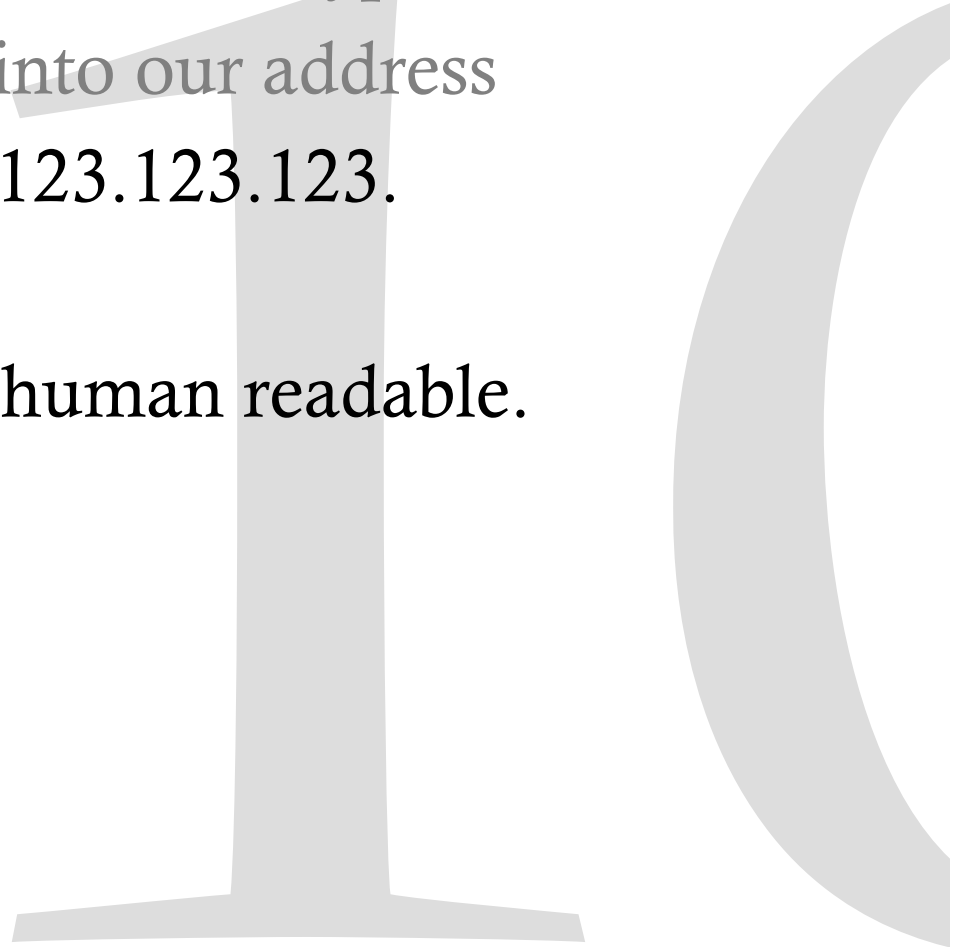
123.123.123.124 <http://www.microsoft.com>

123.123.123.125 <http://www.teachmetheweb.org>

DNS contd

This is so important because we can type 'http://www.google.com' into our address bar rather than http://123.123.123.123.

It makes internet locations human readable.



So you type in the address

<http://www.teachmetheweb.org>

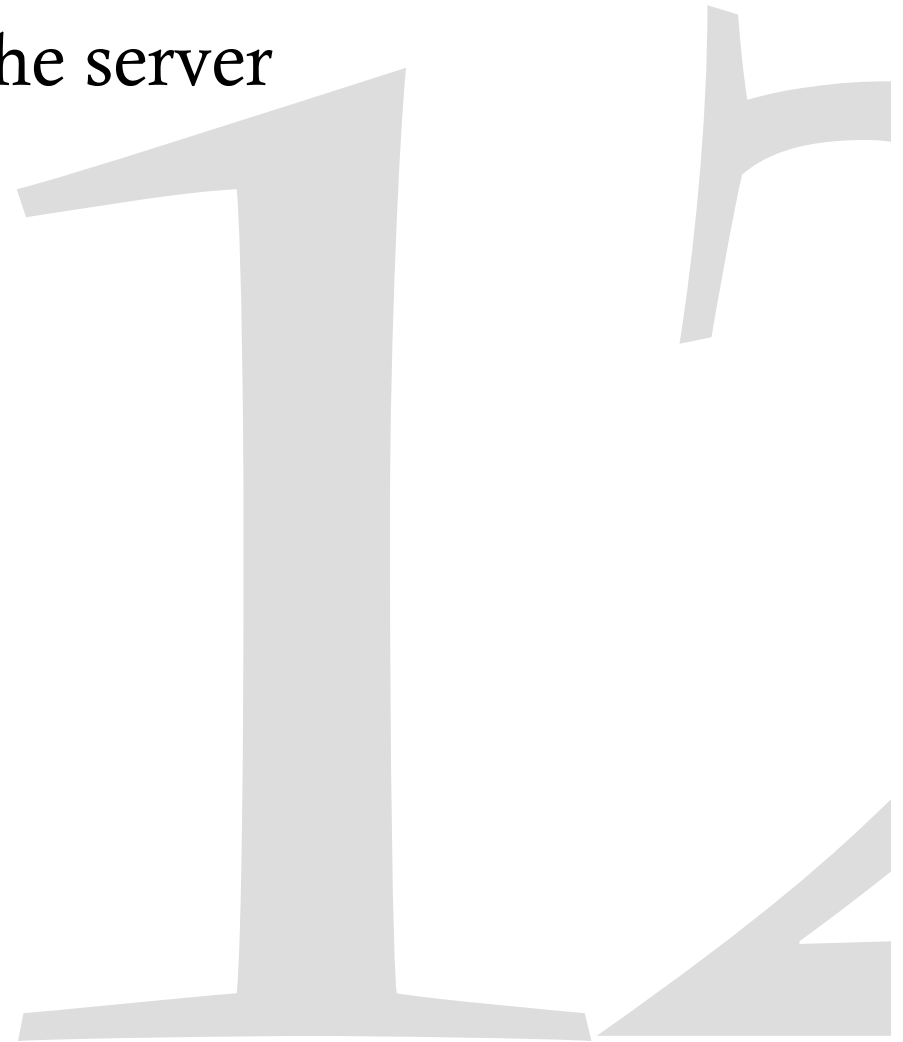
1. Somewhere a DNS table is indexed for teachmetheweb.org and the IP address for that domain is returned.
2. Then your browser makes a request to that address
3. The server responds by returning the file or a message
4. Repeat

FTP

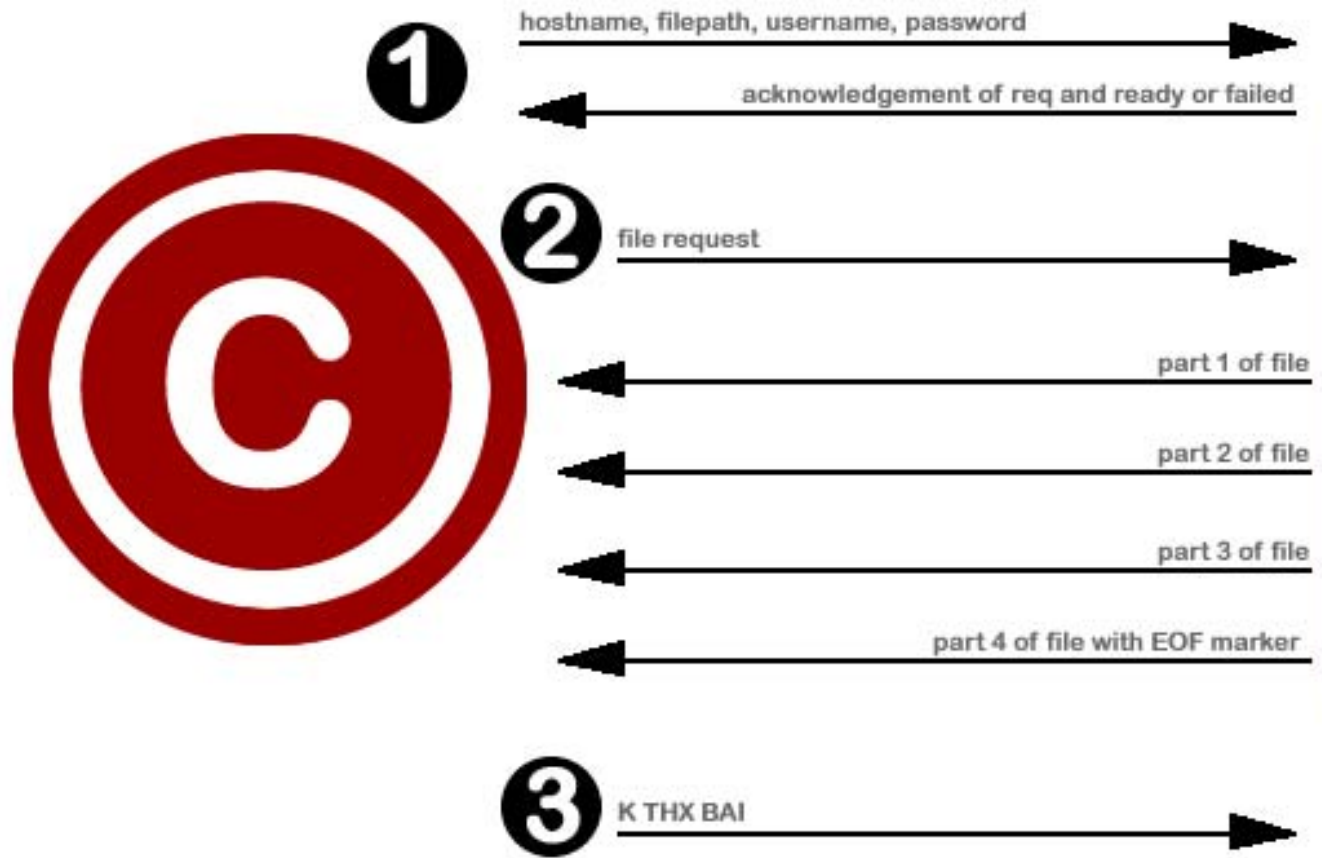
Is the act of placing files on the server

To do so you must have:

- The host name
- The path
- Username
- Password



FTP



Uploading

Is the act of pushing files from the client machine to the server



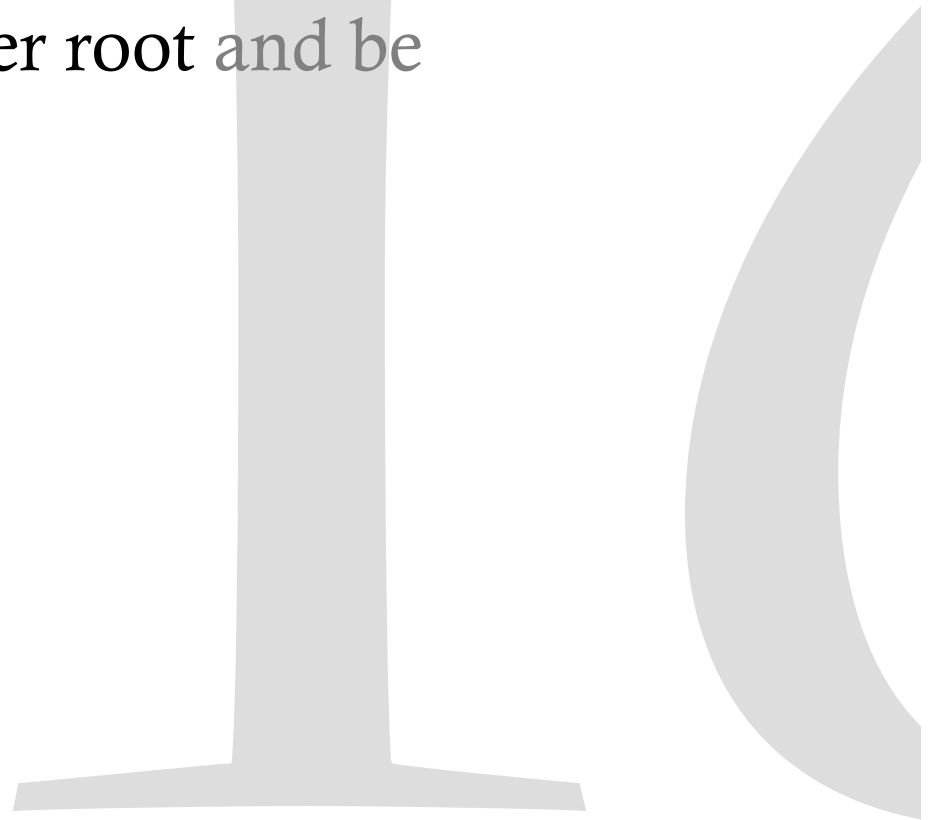
Downloading

Is the act of pulling files from the server to the client machine



The homepage

The page you want to be your homepage (the page that first comes up when visiting the URL) should be placed in the folder root and be named `index.html`



File Paths

When you visit a website it will load the index file by default

Try it

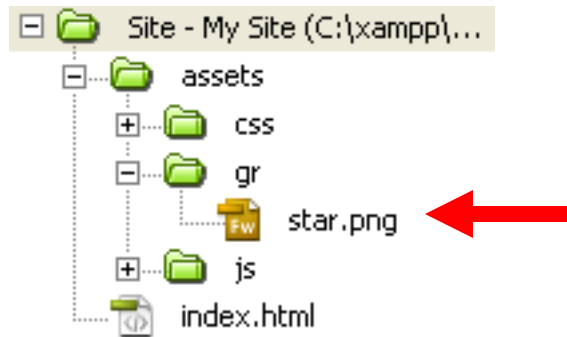
- Type <http://www.google.com/index.html>
- <http://teachmetheweb.org/index.php>

By not typing the index.html part you allow the server to locate the index file, why is this good?

File Paths

Accessing files

If I want to access the star.png file in this location



And the domain is <http://www.mysite.com> the URL would be

<http://www.mysite.com/assets/gr/star.png>

Questions?

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