Digital Communication in the Modern World

Application Layer cont.
DNS

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Some of the slides have been borrowed from:
Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach Featuring the Internet,
2nd edition.
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Addison-Wesley, July 2002.

DNS: Domain Name System

People: many identifiers:

- SSN, name, passport #

Internet hosts, routers:

- IP address (32 bit) - used for addressing datagrams
- "name", e.g., gaia.cs.umass.edu - used by humans

Q: map between IP addresses and name ?

Domain Name System:

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

DNS name servers

Why not centralize DNS?

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

doesn't *scale!*

- no server has all name-to-IP address mappings

local name servers:

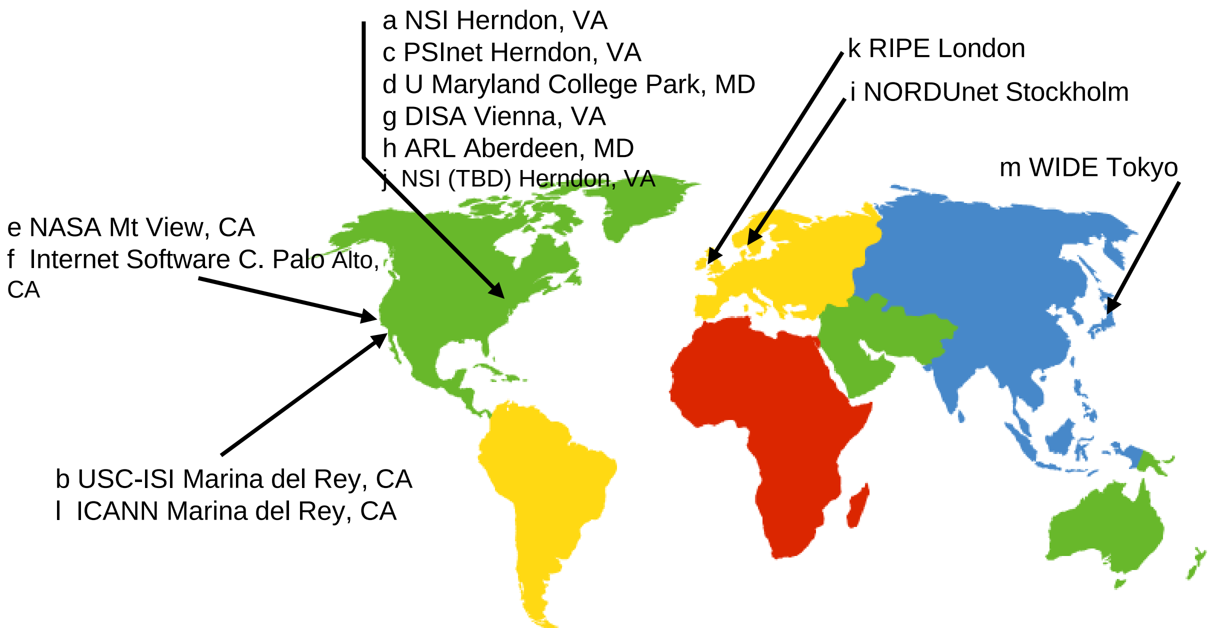
- each ISP, company has *local (default) name server*
- host DNS query first goes to local name server

authoritative name server:

- for a host: stores that host's IP address, name
- can perform name/address translation for that host's name

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

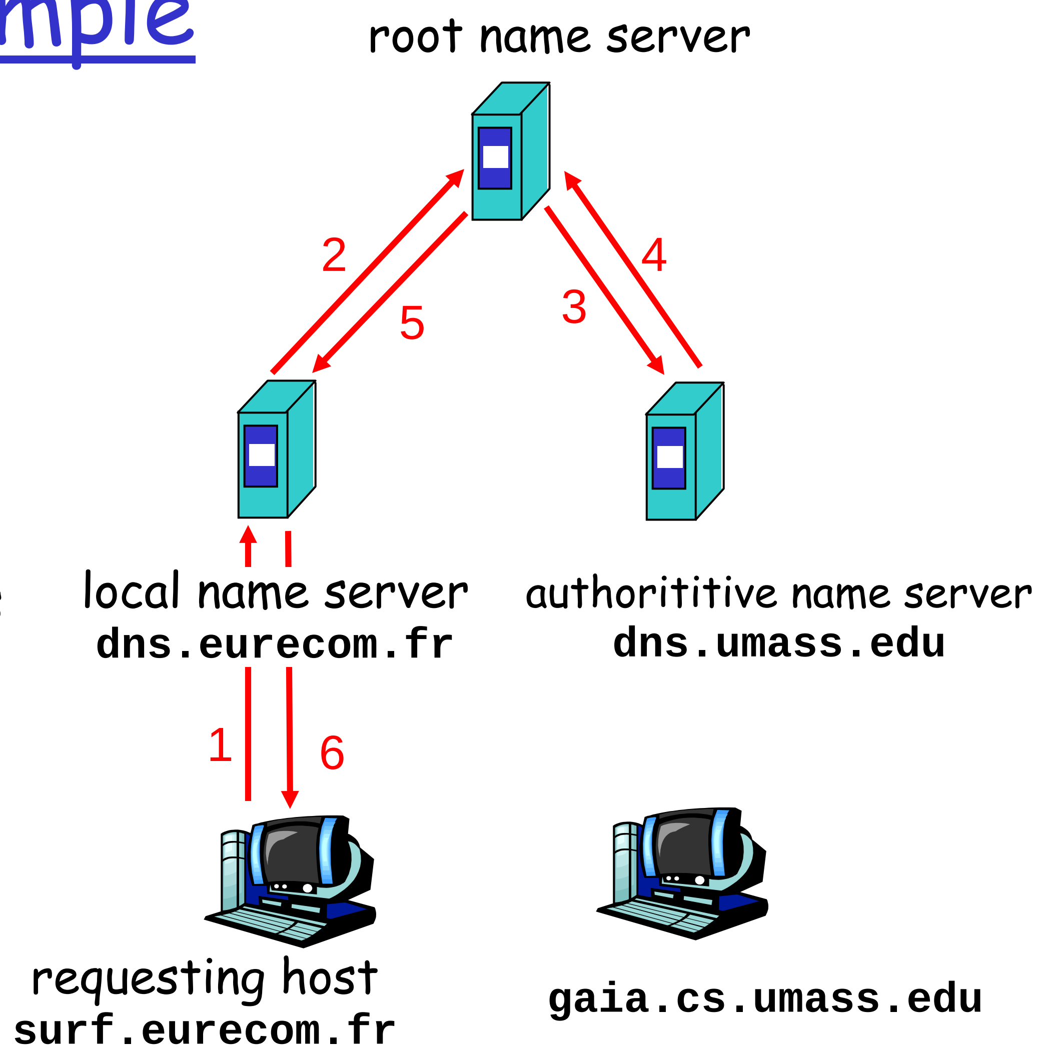


13 root name servers worldwide

Simple DNS example

host **surf.eurecom.fr** wants IP address of **gaia.cs.umass.edu**

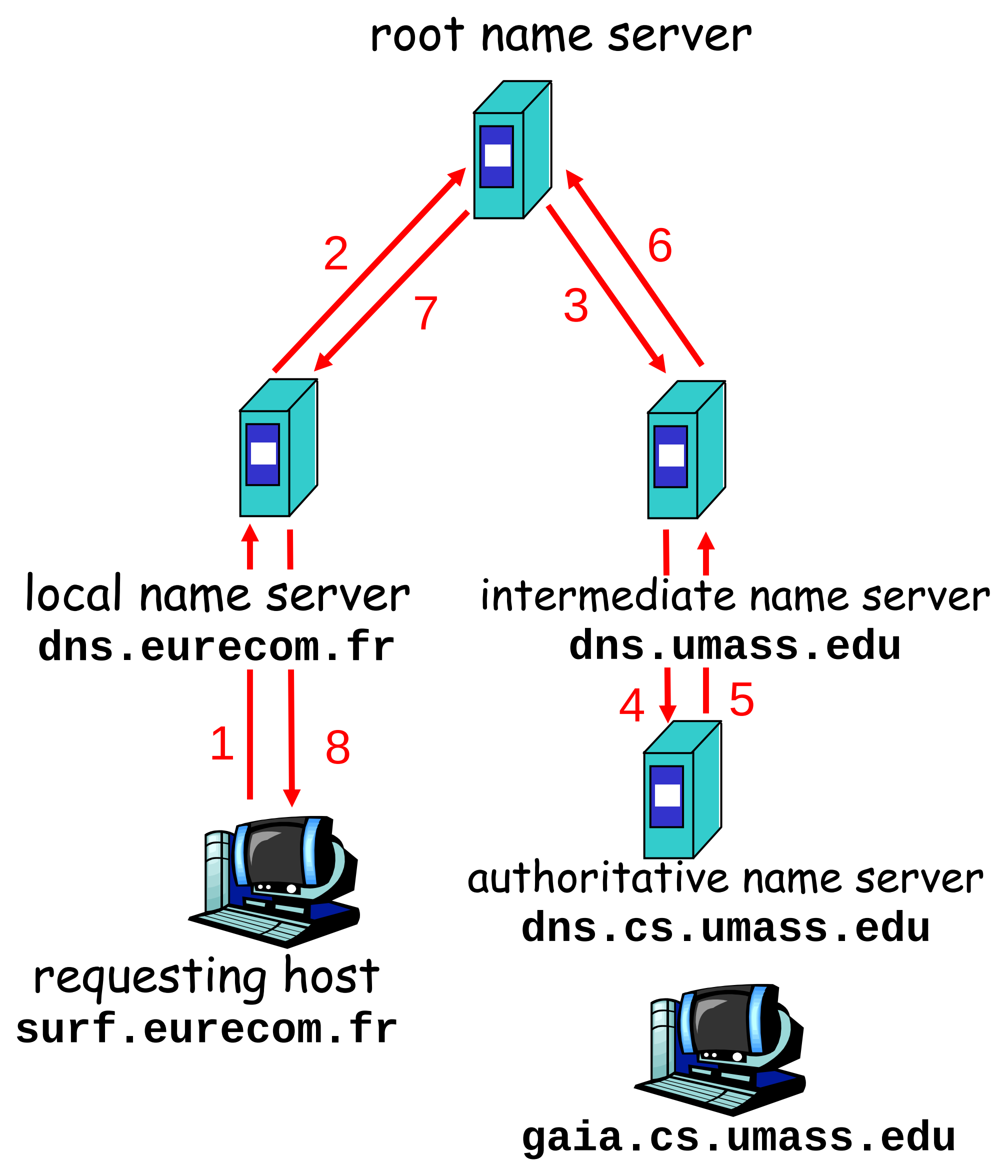
1. contacts its local DNS server, **dns.eurecom.fr**
2. **dns.eurecom.fr** contacts root name server, if necessary
3. root name server contacts authoritative name server, **dns.umass.edu**, if necessary



DNS example

Root name server:

- may not know authoritative name server
- may know *intermediate name server:* who to contact to find authoritative name server



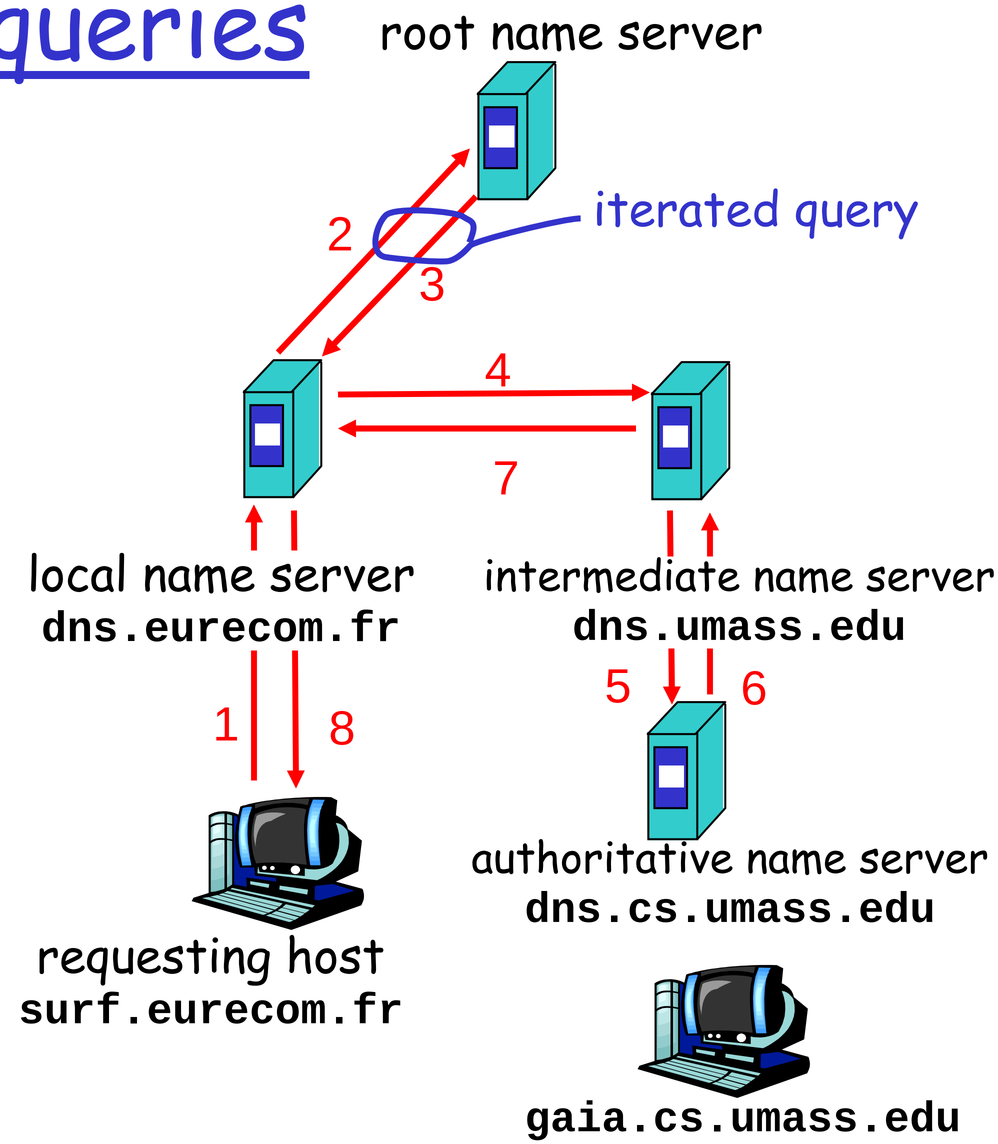
DNS: iterated queries

recursive query:

- puts burden of name resolution on contacted name server
- heavy load?

iterated query:

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



DNS: caching and updating records

- once (any) name server learns mapping, it *caches* mapping
  - cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time
- update/notify mechanisms under design by IETF
  - RFC 2136
  - http://www.ietf.org/html.charters/dnsind-charter.html

DNS records

DNS: distributed db storing resource records (RR)

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

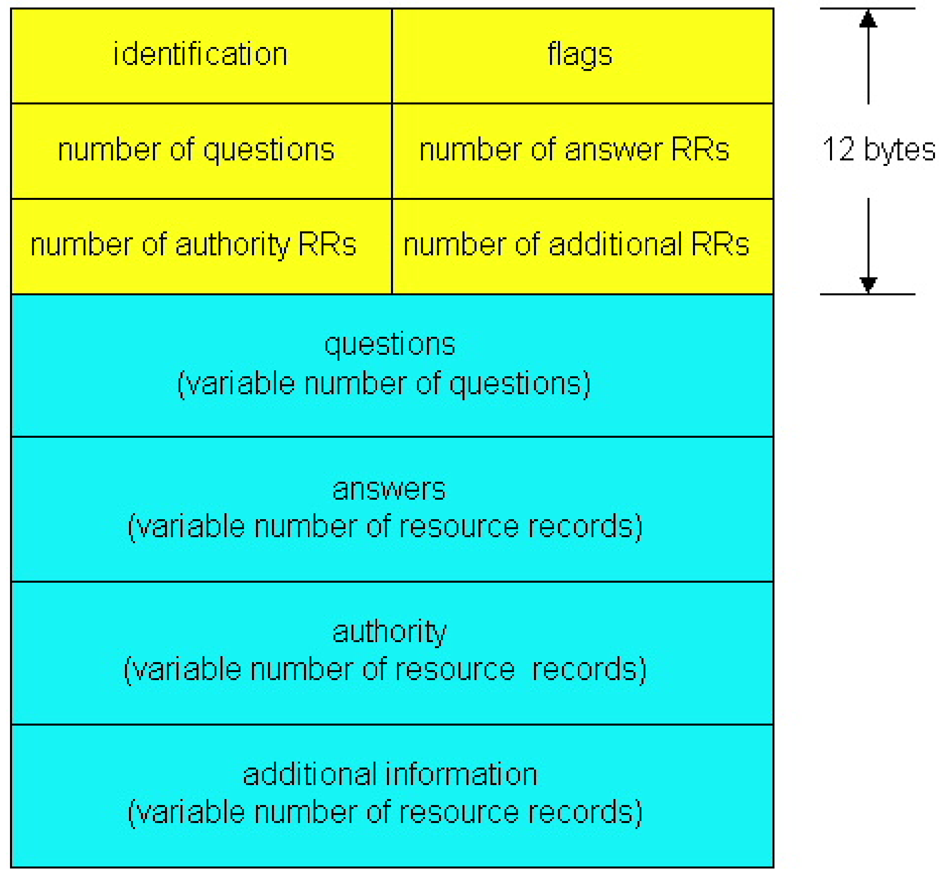
- Type=A
  - **`name`** is hostname
  - **`value`** is IP address
- Type=NS
  - **`name`** is domain (e.g. foo.com)
  - **`value`** is IP address of authoritative name server for this domain
- Type=CNAME
  - **`name`** is alias name for some "cannonical" (the real) name
    `www.ibm.com` is really `servereast.backup2.ibm.com`
  - **`value`** is cannonical name
- Type=MX
  - **`value`** is name of mailserver associated with **`name`**

DNS protocol, messages

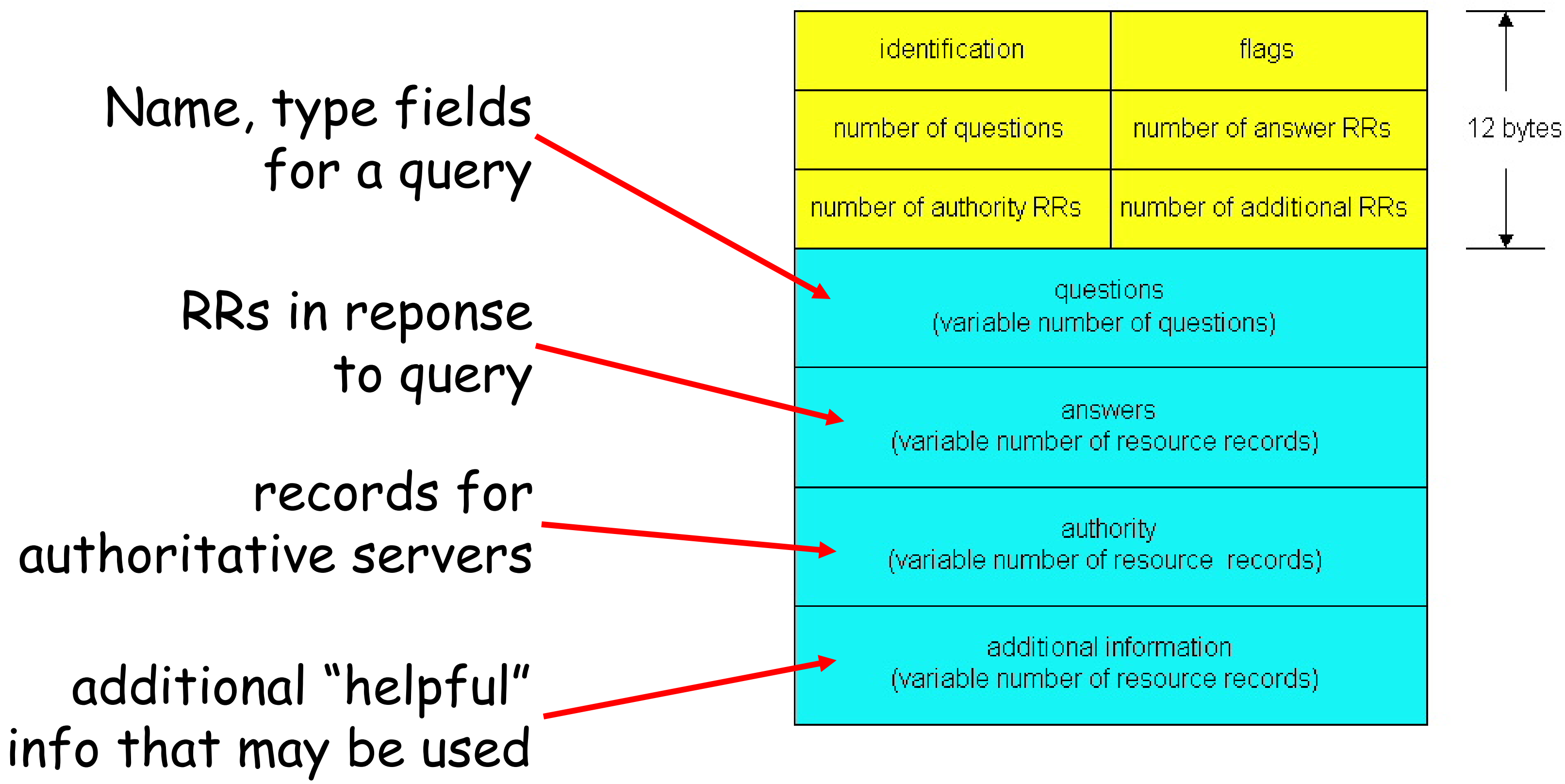
DNS protocol : *query* and *reply* messages, both with same *message format*

msg header

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



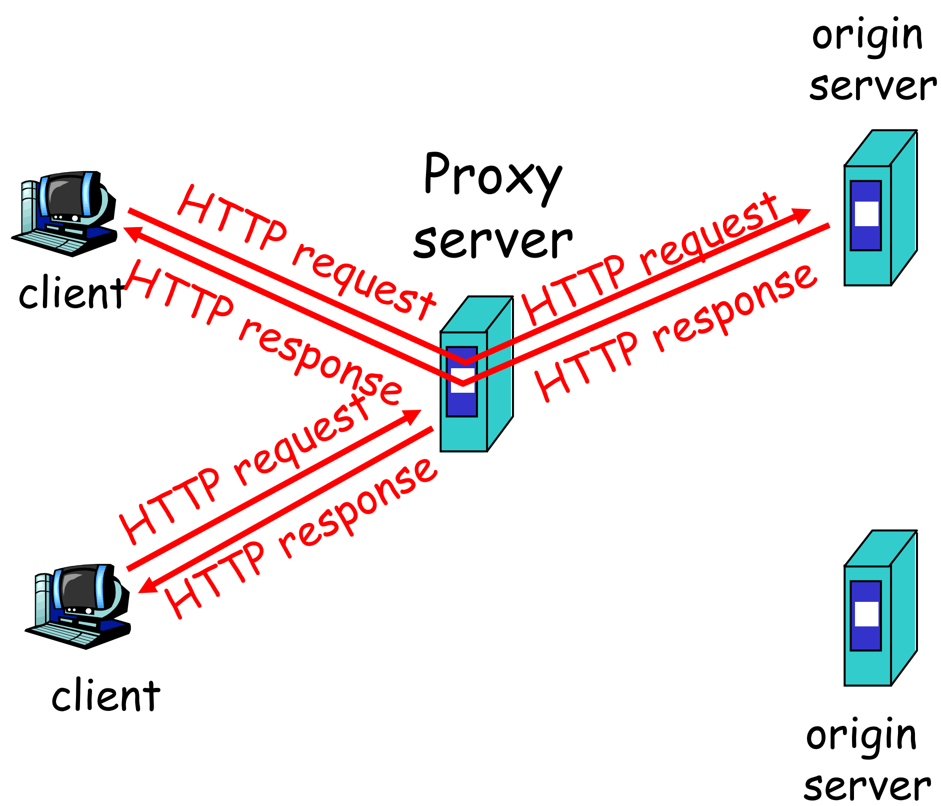
DNS protocol, messages



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
- Cache can do up-to-date check using `If-modified-since` HTTP header
  - Issue: should cache take risk and deliver cached object without checking?
  - Heuristics are used.
- 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

Caching example (1)

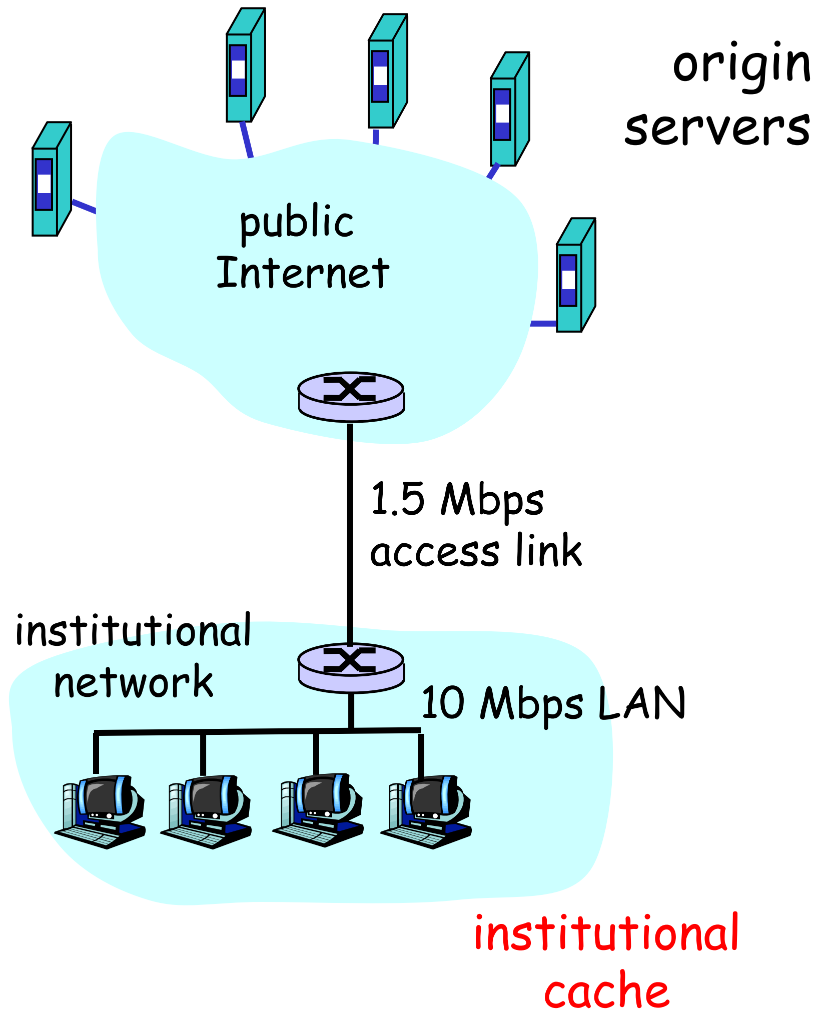
Assumptions

- average object size = 100,000 bits
- avg. request rate from institution's browser to origin serves = 15/sec
- delay from institutional router to any origin server and back to router = 2 sec

Consequences

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 100%
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

= 2 sec + minutes + milliseconds



Caching example (2)

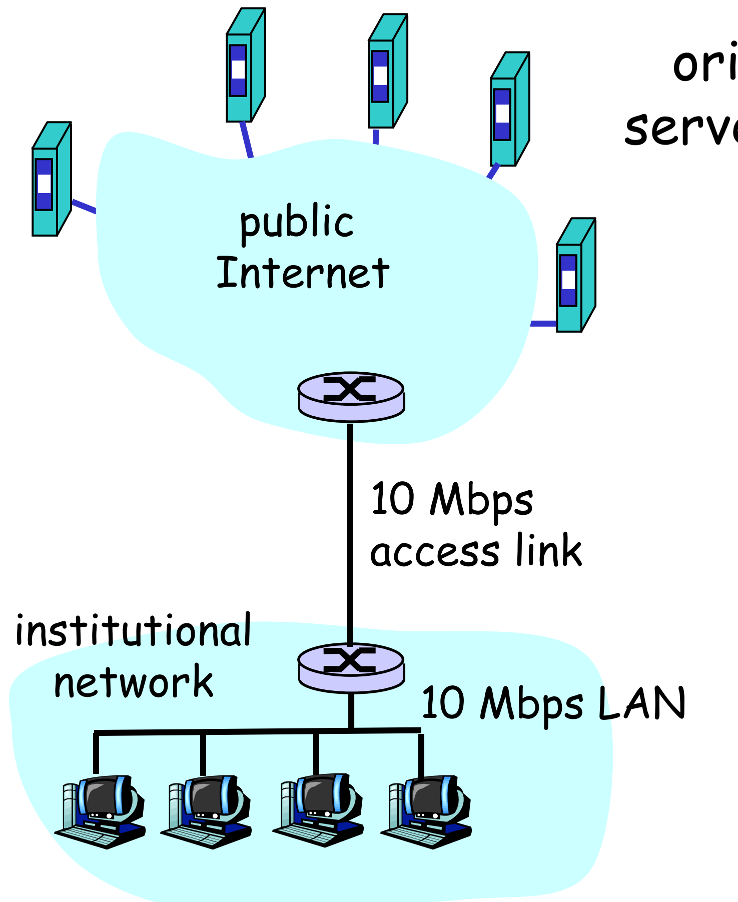
Possible solution

- increase bandwidth of access link to, say, 10 Mbps

Consequences

- utilization on LAN = 15%
- utilization on access link = 15%
- Total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

  = 2 sec + msecs + msecs
- often a costly upgrade



Caching example (3)

Install cache

- suppose hit rate is .4

Consequence

- 40% requests will be satisfied almost immediately
- 60% requests satisfied by origin server
- utilization of access link reduced to 60%, resulting in negligible delays (say 10 msec)
- total delay = Internet delay + access delay + LAN delay

= .6*2 sec + .6*.01 secs + milliseconds < 1.3 secs