

The HTTP Protocol: More

http: TCP transport service:

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

http is “stateless”

- server maintains no information about past client requests

Why? Protocols that maintain session “state” are complex!

- past history (state) must be maintained and updated.
- if server/client crashes, their views of “state” may be inconsistent, and hence must be reconciled.
- RESTful protocols are stateless.