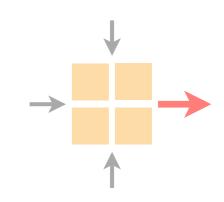
Communication Networks

Spring 2018





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Materials inspired from Scott Shenker & Jennifer Rexford

Unterrichtsbeurteilung

aka course evaluation

Please fill in the survey!

You should have received the link by email

Two weeks ago on Communication Networks

TCP Congestion Control



Congestion control aims at solving three problems

#1	bandwidth estimation	How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to the bottleneck bandwidth?	
		could be 1 Mbps or 1 Gbps	
#2	bandwidth adaptation	How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to variation of the bottleneck bandwidth?	
#3	fairness	How to share bandwidth "fairly" among flows, without overloading the network	

Congestion control differs from flow control both are provided by TCP though

Flow control

prevents one fast sender from overloading a slow receiver

Congestion control

prevents a set of senders from overloading the network

The sender adapts its sending rate based on these two windows

Receiving Window

RWND

How many bytes can be sent

without overflowing the receiver buffer?

based on the receiver input

Congestion Window

CWND

How many bytes can be sent

without overflowing the routers?

based on network conditions

Sender Window

minimum(CWND, RWND)

The 2 key mechanisms of Congestion Control

detecting congestion

reacting to congestion

The 2 key mechanisms of Congestion Control

detecting congestion

reacting to congestion

Detecting losses can be done using ACKs or timeouts, the two signal differ in their degree of severity

duplicated ACKs

mild congestion signal

packets are still making it

timeout

severe congestion signal

multiple consequent losses

The 2 key mechanisms of Congestion Control

detecting congestion

reacting to congestion

TCP approach is to gently increase when not congested and to rapidly decrease when congested

question

What increase/decrease function should we use?

it depends on the problem we are solving...

Congestion control aims at solving three problems

#1	bandwidth estimation	How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to the bottleneck bandwidth?	
		could be 1 Mbps or 1 Gbps	
#2	bandwidth adaptation	How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to variation of the bottleneck bandwidth?	
#3	fairness	How to share bandwidth "fairly" among flows, without overloading the network	

#1 bandwidth estimation

How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to the bottleneck bandwidth?

could be 1 Mbps or 1 Gbps...

Initially, you want to quickly get a first-order estimate of the available bandwidth

Intuition

Start slow but rapidly increase

until a packet drop occurs

Increase policy

cwnd = 1 initially

cwnd += 1 upon receipt of an ACK

#2 bandwidth adaptation

How to adjust the bandwidth of a single flow to variation of the bottleneck bandwidth?

increase

behavior

decrease

behavior

gentle

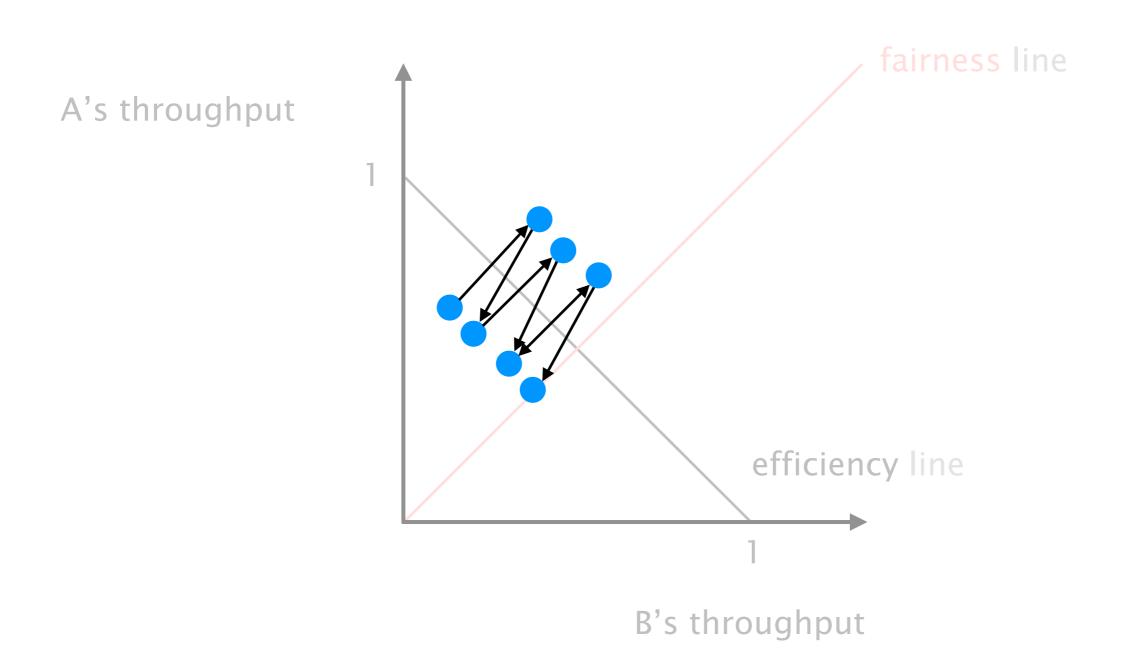
AIAD gentle

AIMD gentle aggressive

MIAD aggressive gentle

MIMD aggressive aggressive

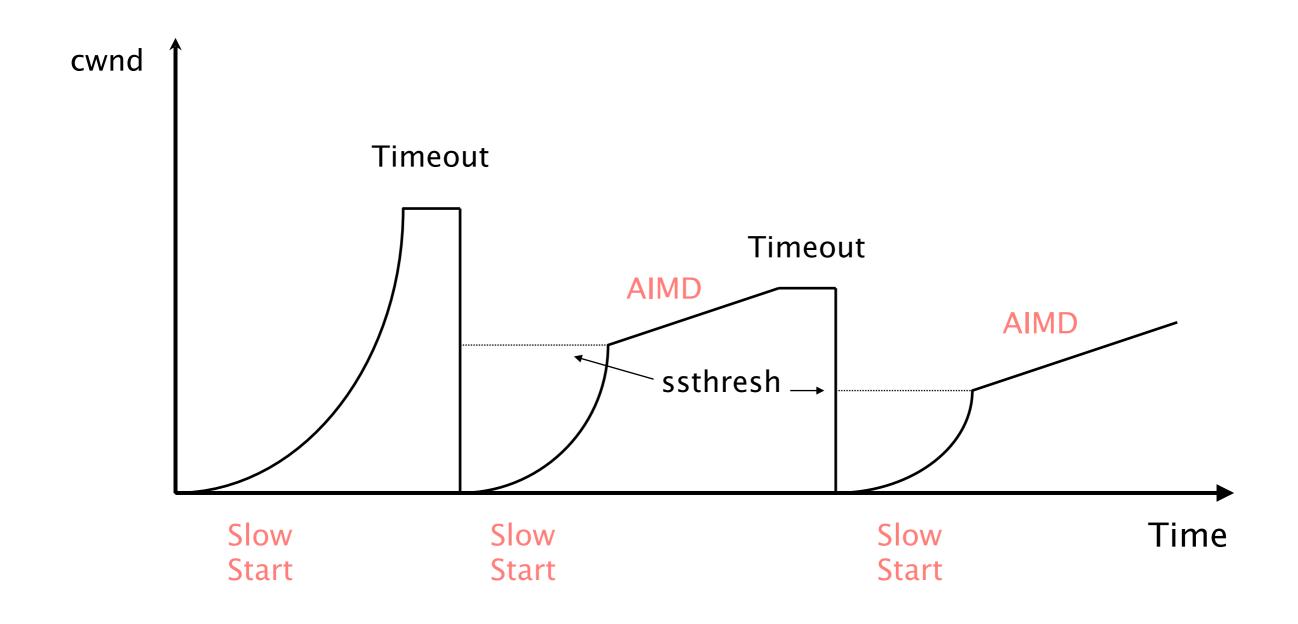
AIMD converge to fairness and efficiency, it then fluctuates around the optimum (in a stable way)



TCP congestion control in less than 10 lines of code

```
Initially:
   cwnd = 1
   ssthresh = infinite
New ACK received:
   if (cwnd < ssthresh):</pre>
      /* Slow Start*/
       cwnd = cwnd + 1
   else:
      /* Congestion Avoidance */
       cwnd = cwnd + 1/cwnd
Timeout:
  /* Multiplicative decrease */
   ssthresh = cwnd/2
   cwnd = 1
```

The congestion window of a TCP session typically undergoes multiple cycles of slow-start/AIMD



Going back all the way back to 0 upon timeout completely destroys throughput

solution

Avoid timeout expiration...

which are usually >500ms

Detecting losses can be done using ACKs or timeouts, the two signal differ in their degree of severity

duplicated ACKs

mild congestion signal

packets are still making it

timeout

severe congestion signal

multiple consequent losses

TCP automatically resends a segment after receiving 3 duplicates ACKs for it

this is known as a "fast retransmit"

After a fast retransmit, TCP switches back to AIMD, without going all way the back to 0

this is known as "fast recovery"

TCP congestion control (almost complete)

```
Initially:
  cwnd = 1
   ssthresh = infinite
New ACK received:
   if (cwnd < ssthresh):</pre>
      /* Slow Start*/
      cwnd = cwnd + 1
  else:
      /* Congestion Avoidance */
      cwnd = cwnd + 1/cwnd
   dup_ack = 0
Timeout:
  /* Multiplicative decrease */
   ssthresh = cwnd/2
   cwnd = 1
```

Duplicate ACKs received:

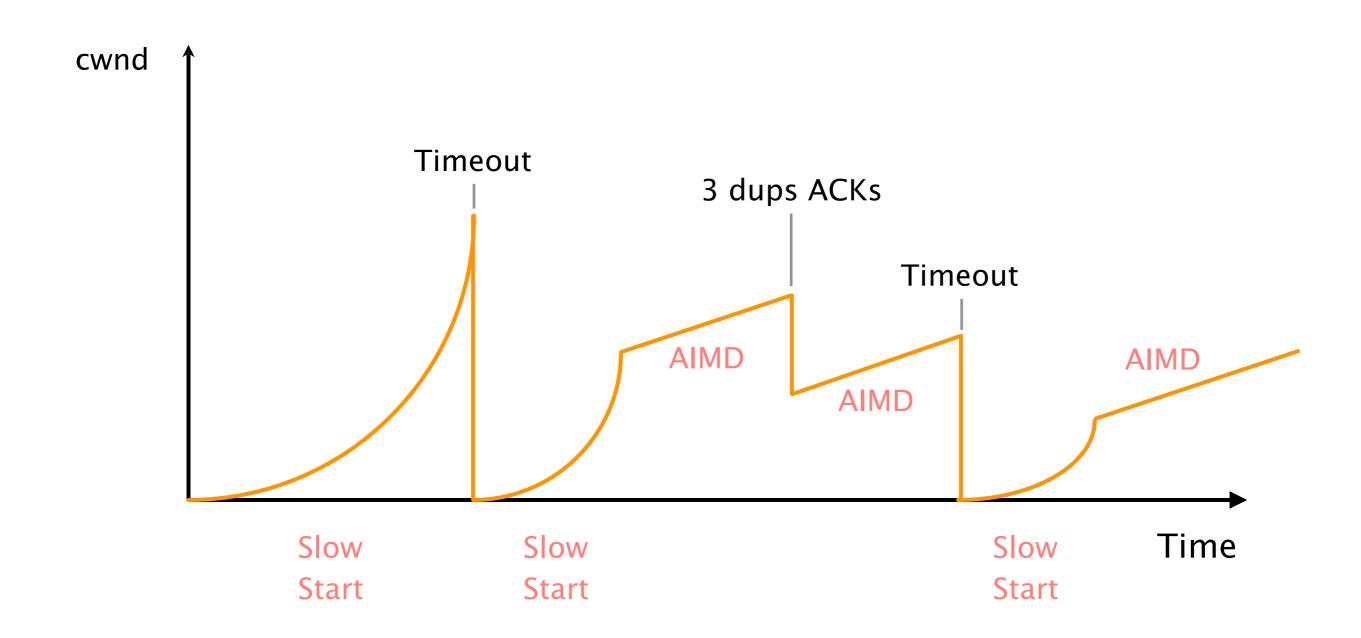
```
dup_ack ++;
if (dup_ack >= 3):
    /* Fast Recovery */
    ssthresh = cwnd/2
    cwnd = ssthresh
```

```
Initially:
   cwnd = 1
   ssthresh = infinite
New ACK received:
   if (cwnd < ssthresh):</pre>
      /* Slow Start*/
       cwnd = cwnd + 1
   else:
      /* Congestion Avoidance */
       cwnd = cwnd + 1/cwnd
   dup_ack = 0
Timeout:
  /* Multiplicative decrease */
   ssthresh = cwnd/2
   cwnd = 1
```

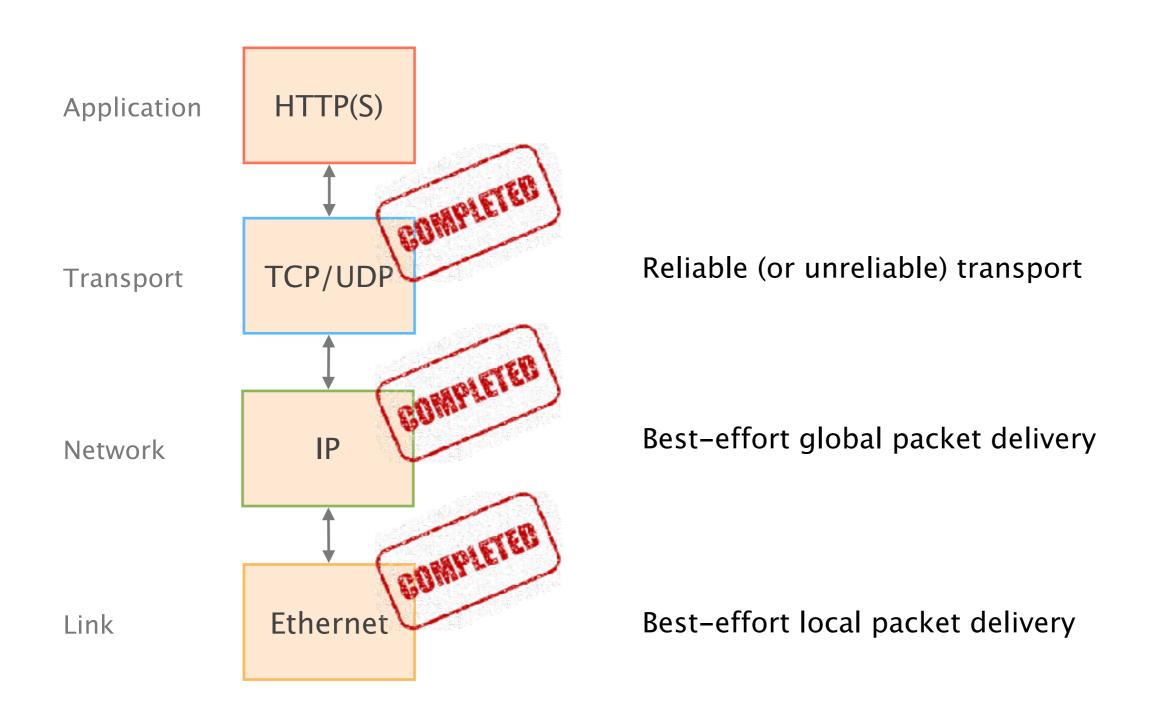
Duplicate ACKs received:

```
dup_ack ++;
if (dup_ack >= 3):
    /* Fast Recovery */
    ssthresh = cwnd/2
    cwnd = ssthresh
```

Congestion control makes TCP throughput look like a "sawtooth"



We now have completed the transport layer (!)



This week on Communication Networks

DNS

Web

google.ch ←→ 172.217.16.131

http://www.google.ch

DNS

Web

google.ch ←→ 172.217.16.131

Internet has one global system for

addressing hostsby design

naming hostsby "accident", an afterthought

Internet has one global system for

naming hosts

DNS

by "accident", an afterthought

Using Internet services can be divided into four logical steps

step 1	A person has name of entity she wants to access	www.ethz.ch
step 2	She invokes an application to perform the task	Chrome
step 3	The application invokes DNS to resolve the name into an IP address	129.132.19.216
step 4	The application invokes transport protocol to establish an app-to-app connection	

The DNS system is a distributed database which enables to resolve a name into an IP address



In practice, names can be mapped to more than one IP



In practice, IPs can be mapped by more than one name

	L	ONS			
name	•		→	ΙP	address

www.ethz.ch 129.132.19.216

www.vanbever.eu 188.165.240.60

www.routeur.be 188.165.240.60

How does one resolve a name into an IP?

initially

all host to address mappings were in a file called hosts.txt

in /etc/hosts

problem

scalability in terms of query load & speed management

consistency availability

When you need... more flexibility, you add... a layer of indirection

When you need... more scalability, you add... a hierarchical structure

To scale, DNS adopt three intertwined hierarchies

naming structure hierarchy of addresses

https://www.ee.ethz.ch/de/departement/

management hierarchy of authority

over names

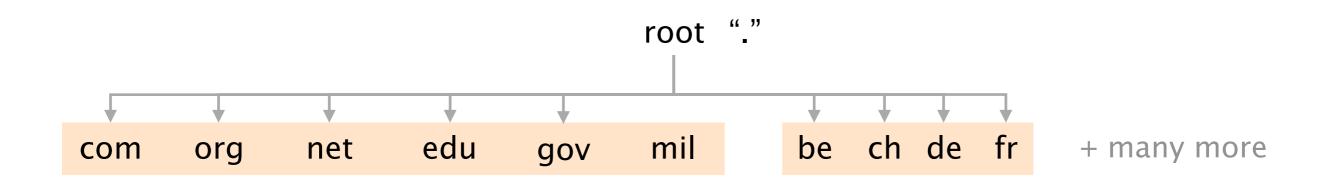
infrastructure hierarchy of DNS servers

naming structure

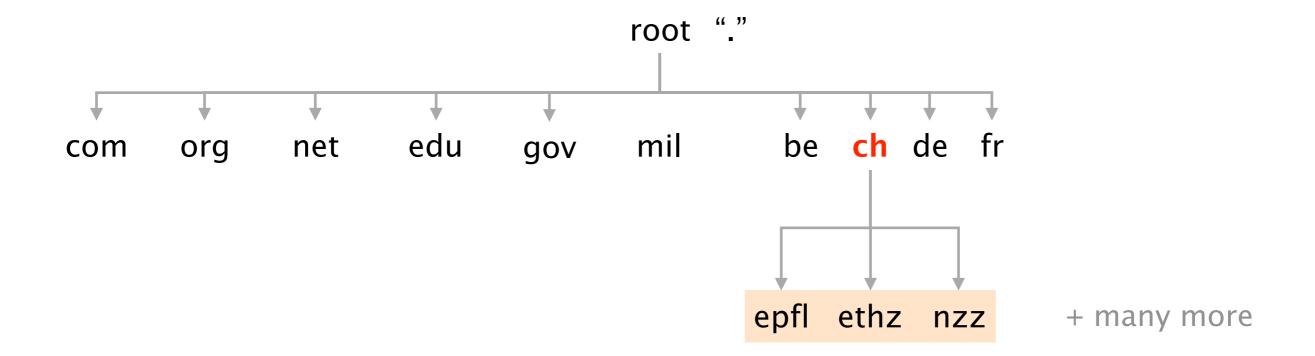
addresses are hierarchical

https://www.ee.ethz.ch/de/departement/

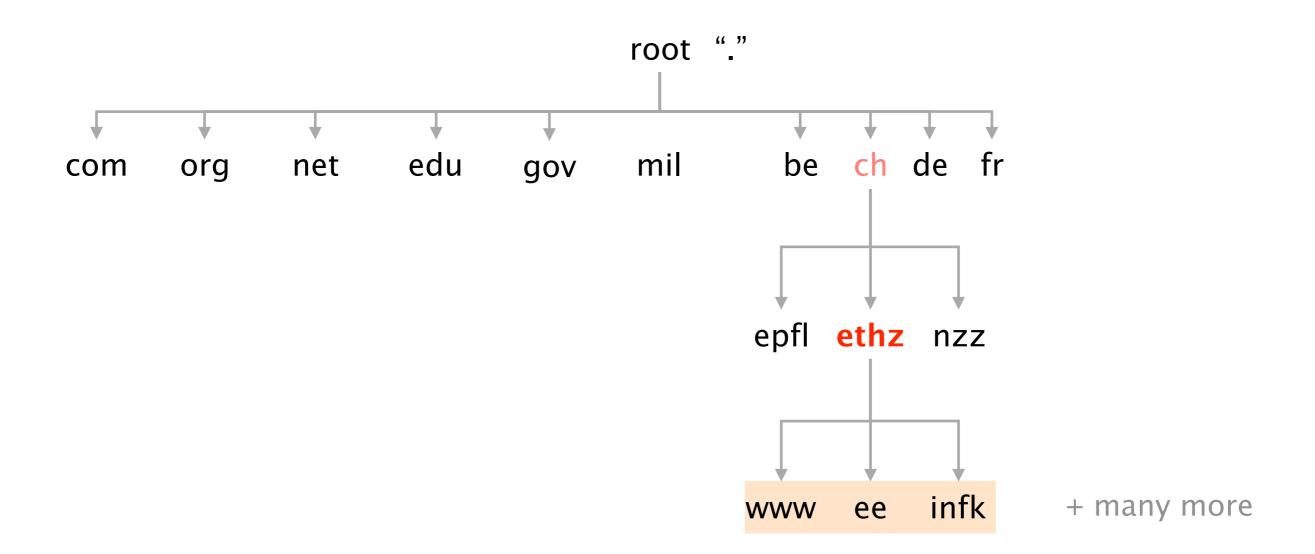
Top Level Domain (TLDs) sit at the top



Domains are subtrees



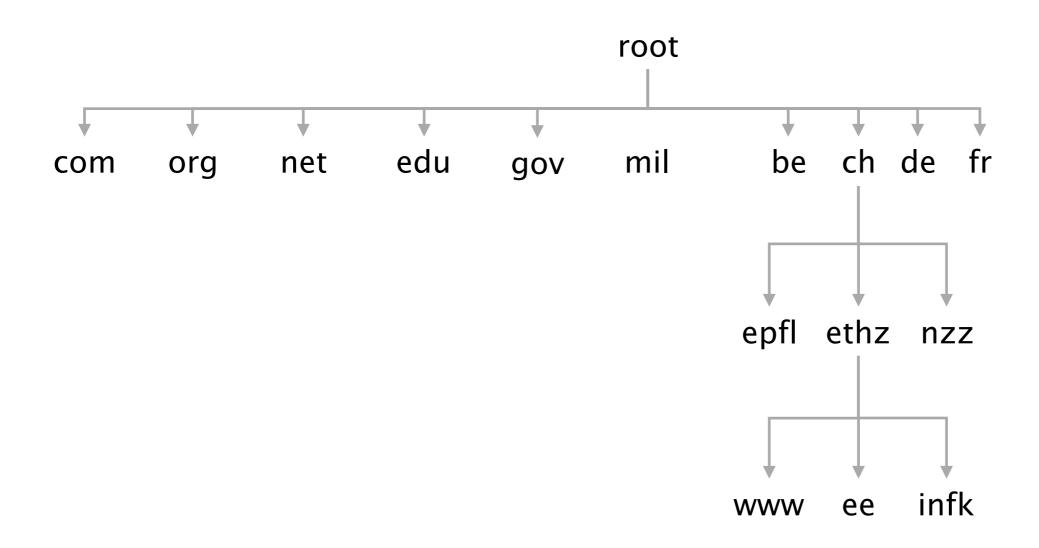
A name, *e.g.* ee.ethz.ch, represents a leaf-to-root path in the hierarchy

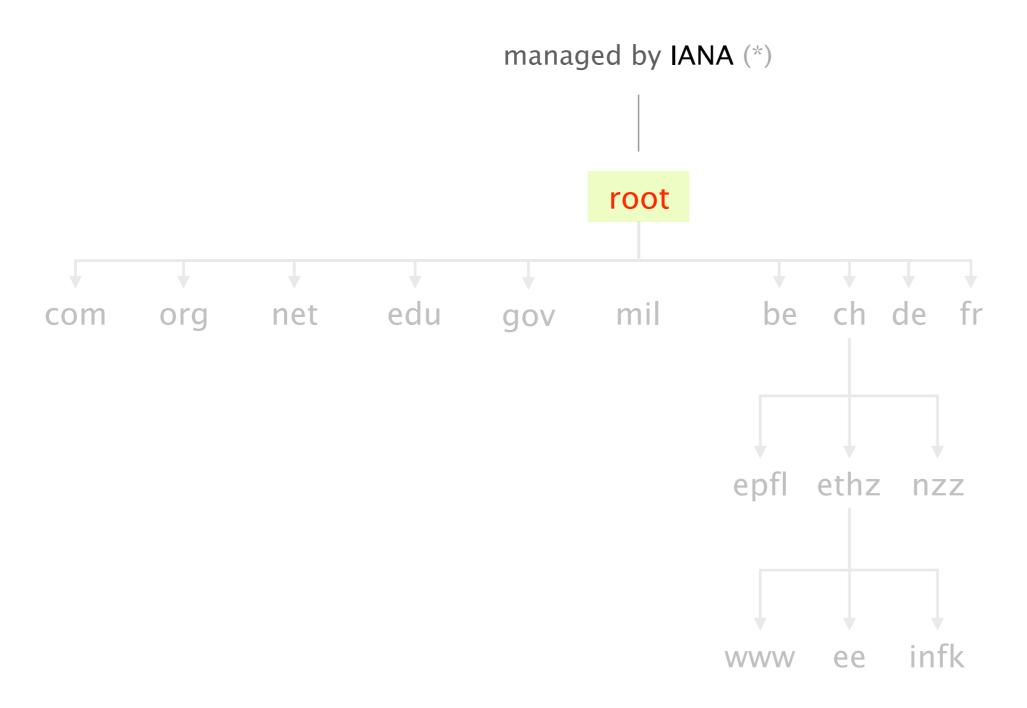


management

hierarchy of authority over names

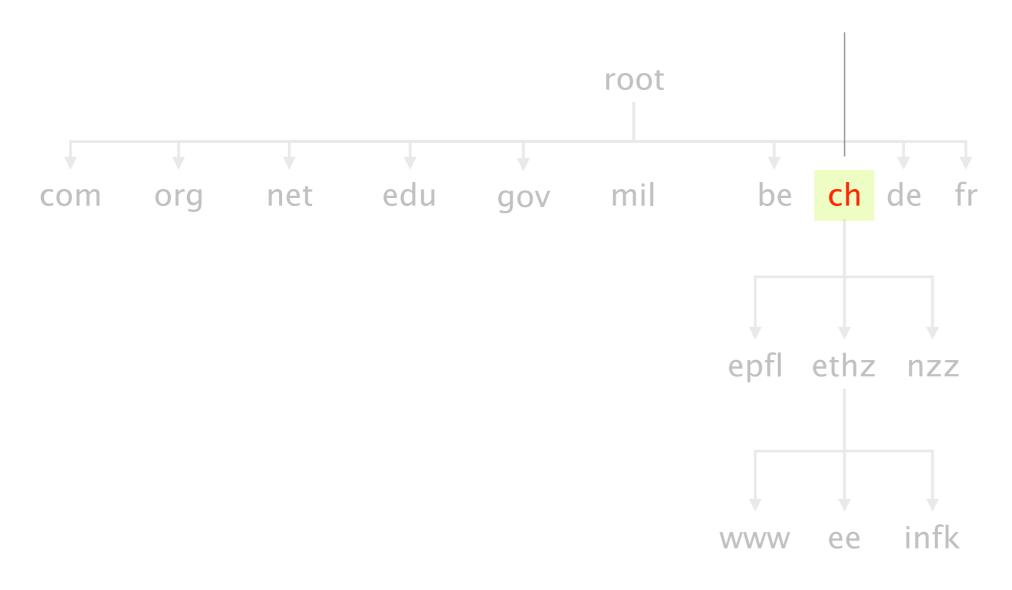
The DNS system is hierarchically administered



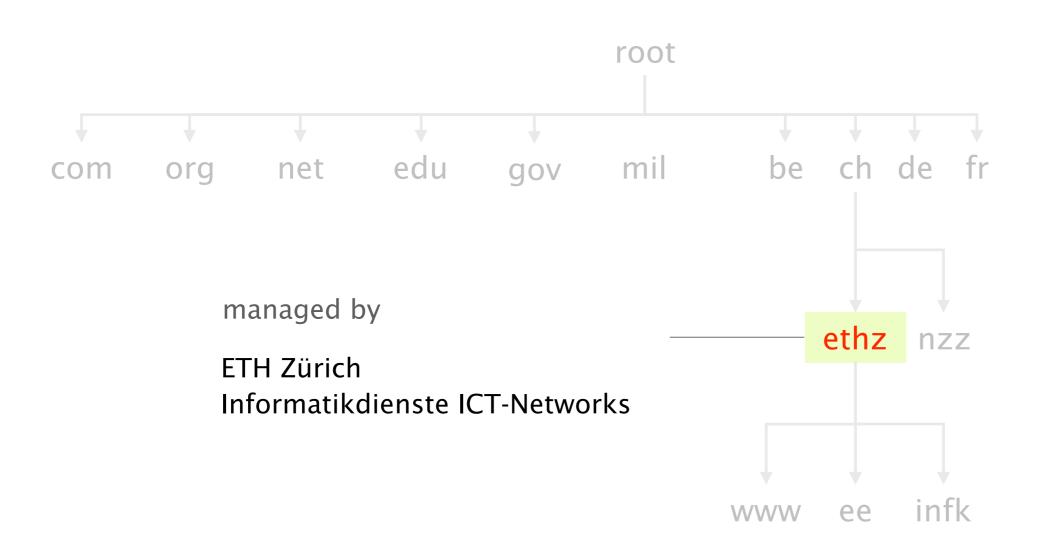


(*) see http://www.iana.org/domains/root/db

managed by The Swiss Education & Research Network (*)



(*) see https://www.switch.ch/about/id/

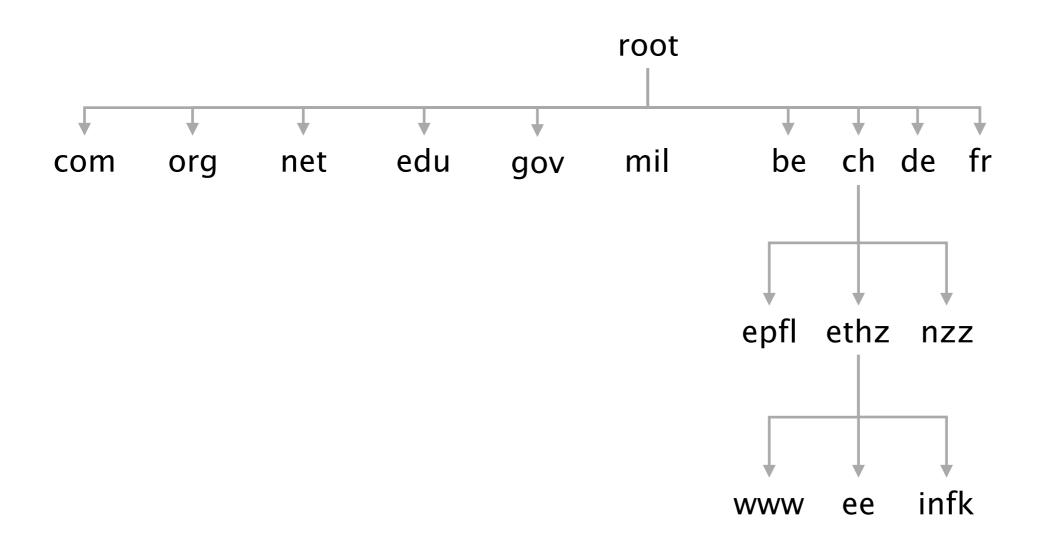


Hierarchical administration means that name collision is trivially avoided

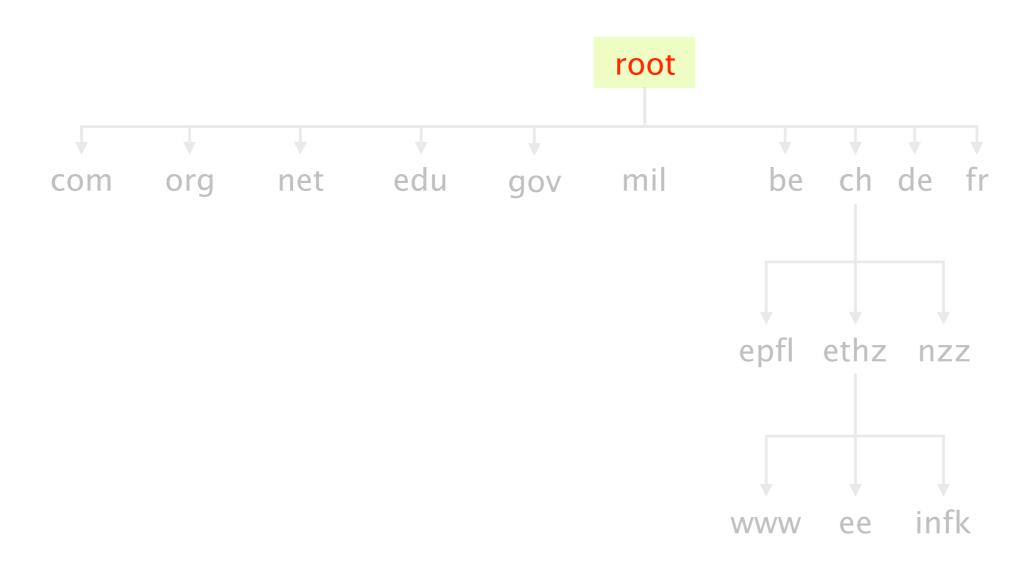
infrastructure

hierarchy of DNS servers

The DNS infrastructure is hierarchically organized



13 root servers (managed professionally) serve as root (*)



(*) see http://www.root-servers.org/

a. root-servers.net VeriSign, Inc.

b. root-servers.net University of Southern California

c. root-servers.net Cogent Communications

d. root-servers.net University of Maryland

e. root-servers.net NASA

f. root-servers.net Internet Systems Consortium

g. root-servers.net US Department of Defense

h. root-servers.net US Army

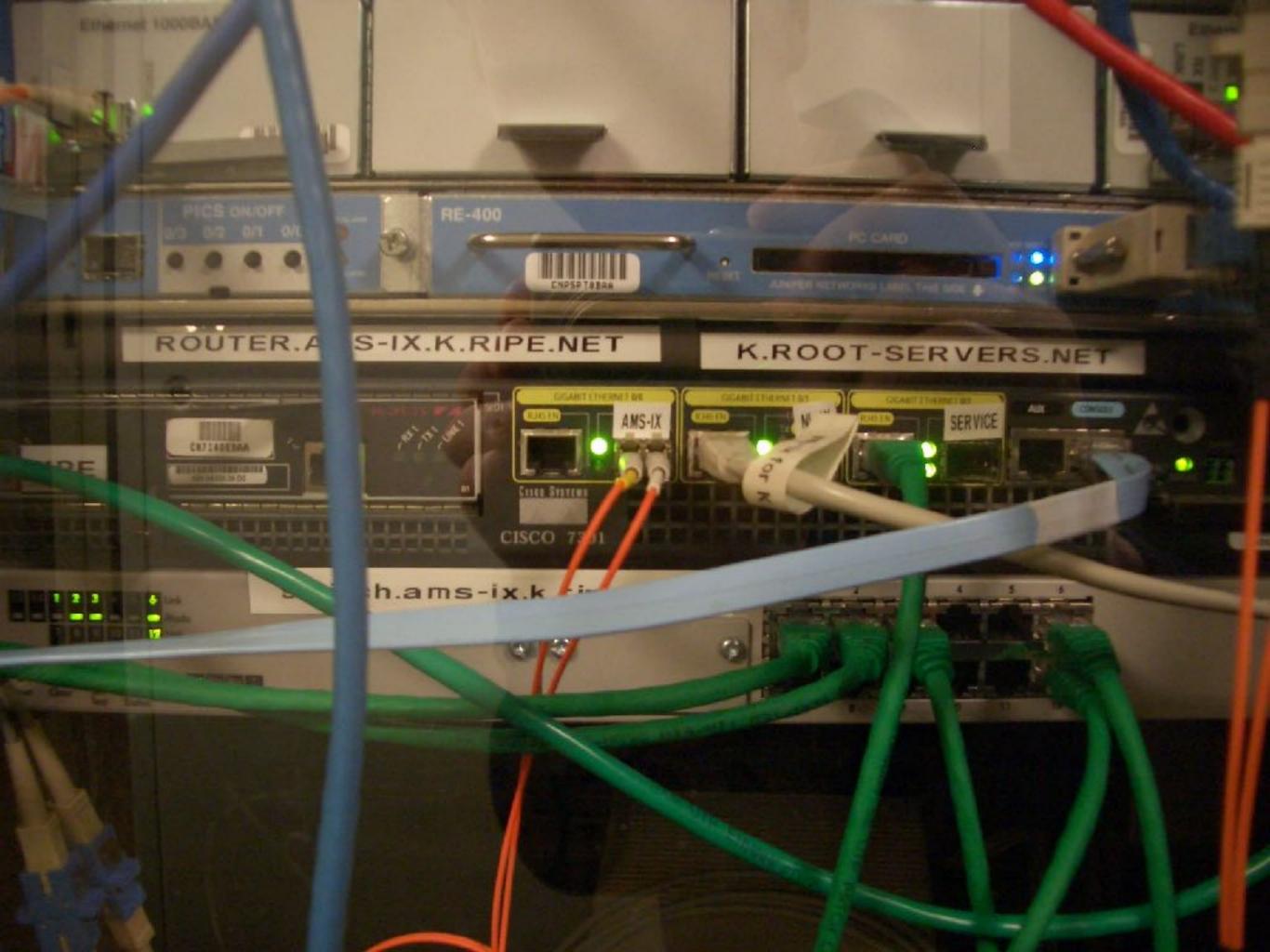
i. root-servers.net Netnod

. root-servers.net VeriSign, Inc.

k. root-servers.net RIPE NCC

I. root-servers.net ICANN

m. root-servers.net WIDE Project



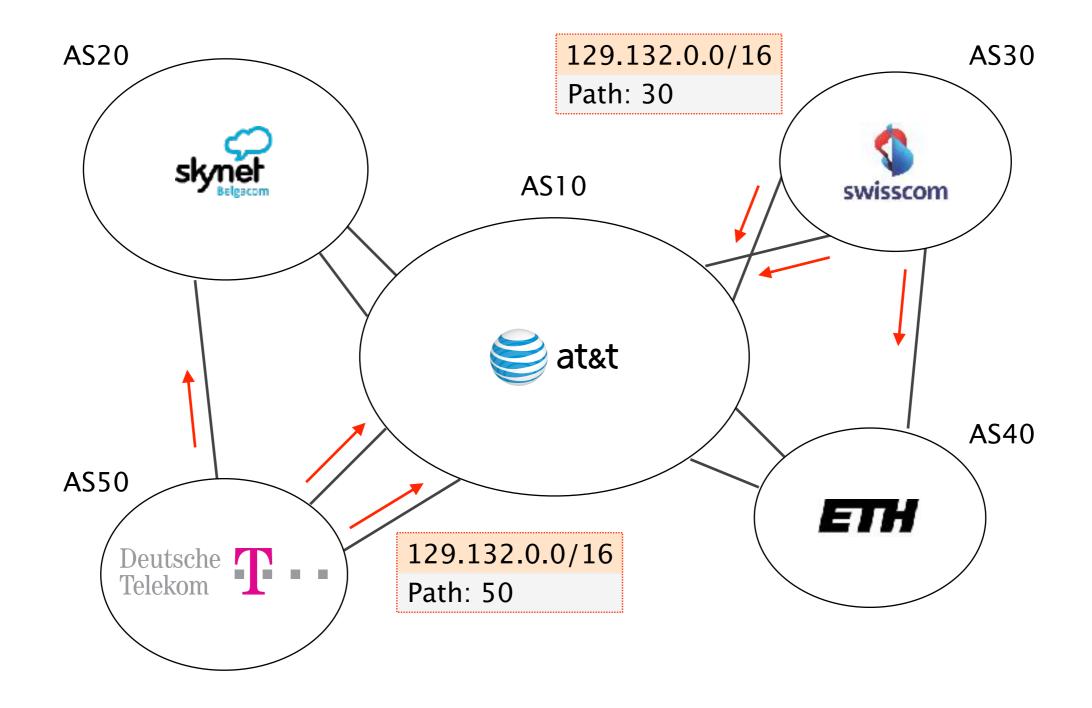
To scale root servers, operators rely on BGP anycast

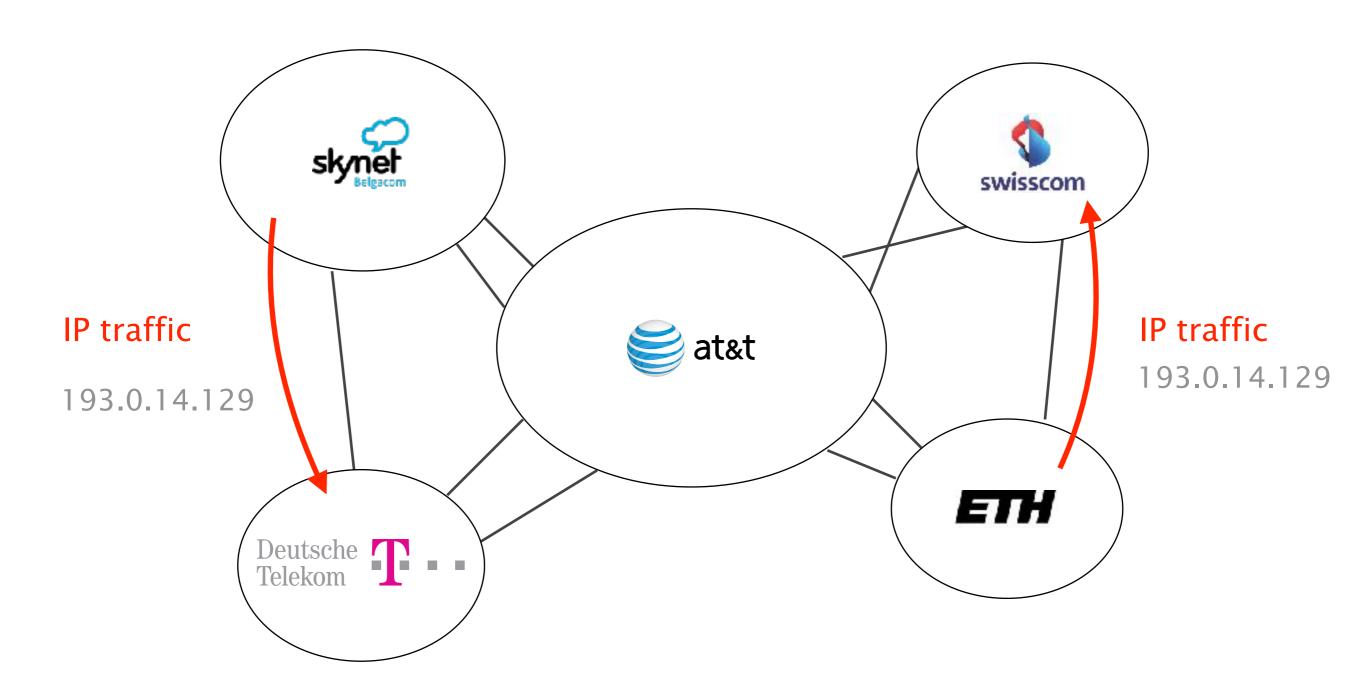
Intuition

Routing finds shortest-paths

If several locations announce the same prefix, then routing will deliver the packets to the "closest" location

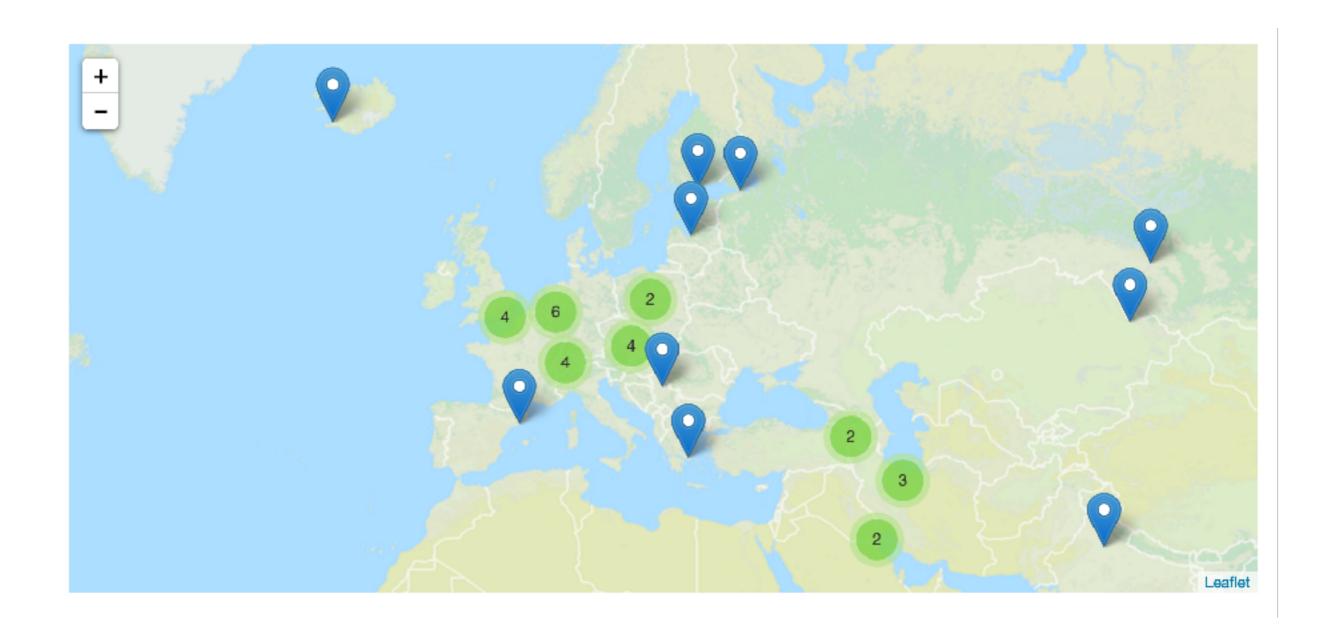
This enables seamless replications of resources





Do you see any problems in performing load-balancing this way?

Instances of the k-root server (*) are hosted in more than 40 locations worldwide



Two of these locations are in Switzerland: in Zürich and in Geneva

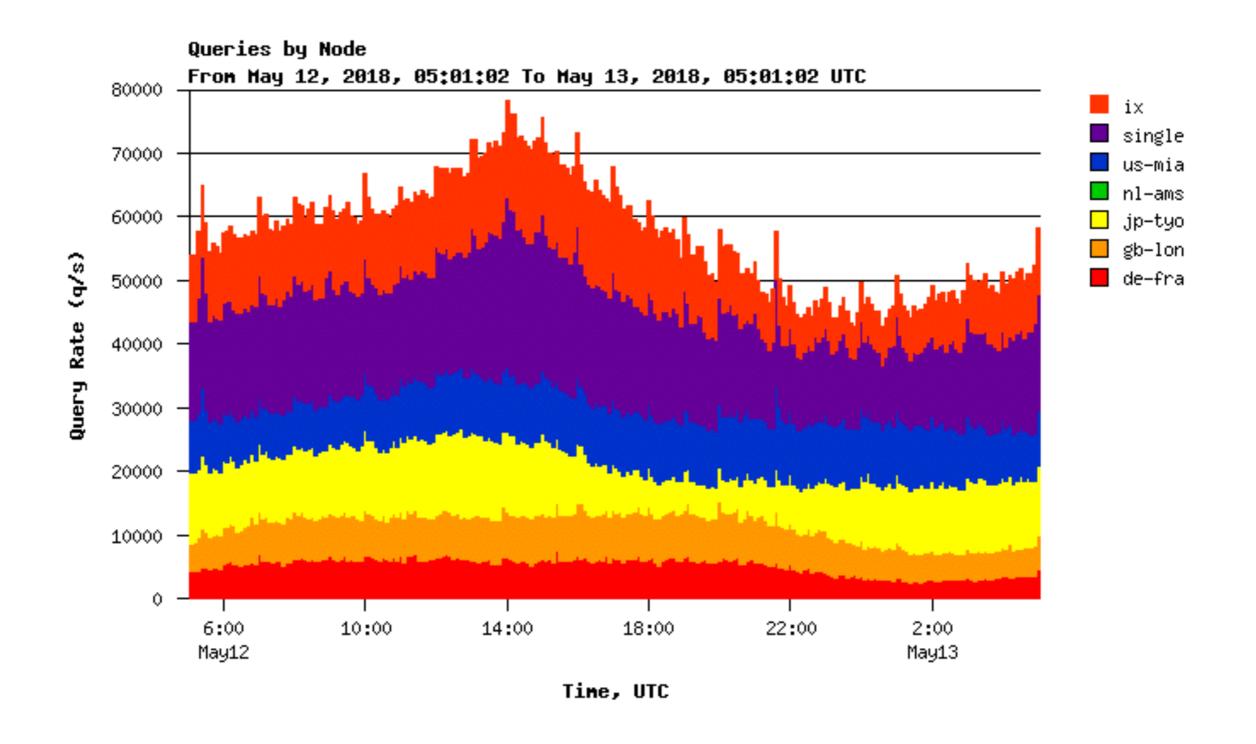


All locations announce 193.0.14.0/23 in BGP, with 193.0.14.129 being the IP of the server

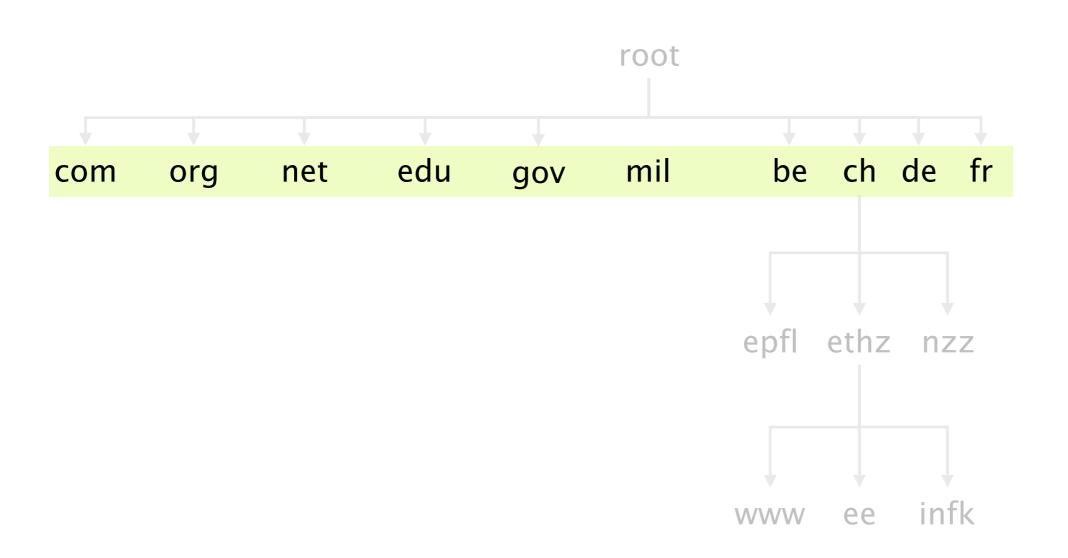
Two of these locations are in Switzerland: in Zürich and in Geneva

Do you mind guessing which one we use, here... in Zürich?

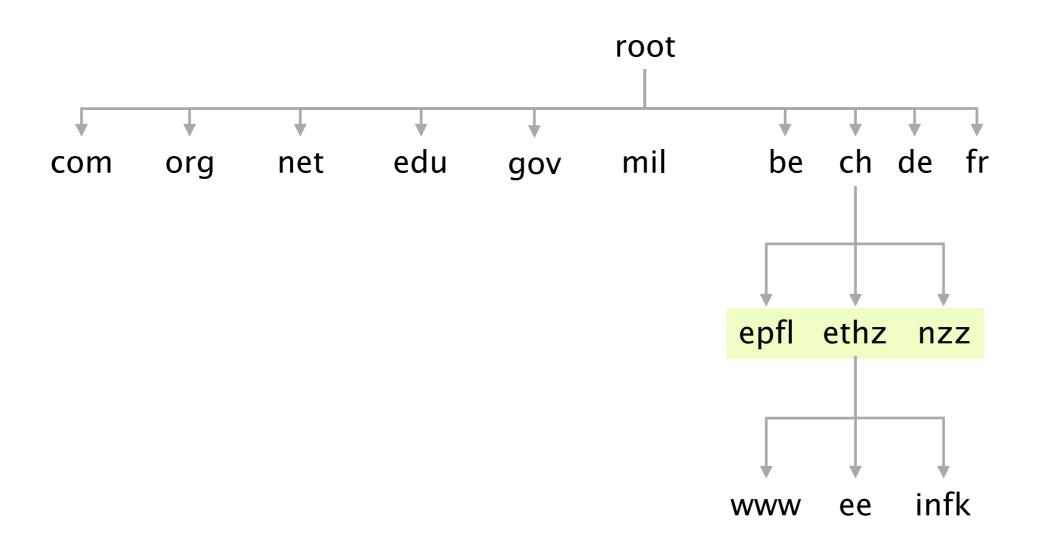
Each instance receives up to 70k queries per second summing up to more than 4 billions queries per day



TLDs server are also managed professionally by private or non-profit organization



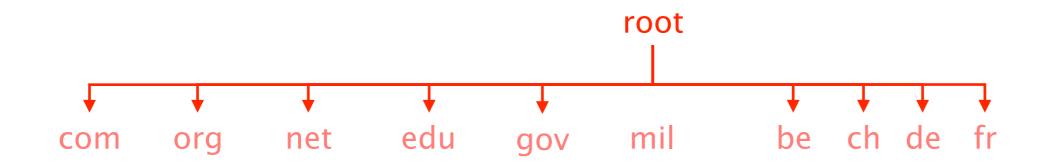
The bottom (and bulk) of the hierarchy is managed by Internet Service Provider or locally



Every server knows the address of the root servers (*) required for bootstrapping the systems

(*) see https://www.internic.net/domain/named.root

Each root server knows the address of all TLD servers

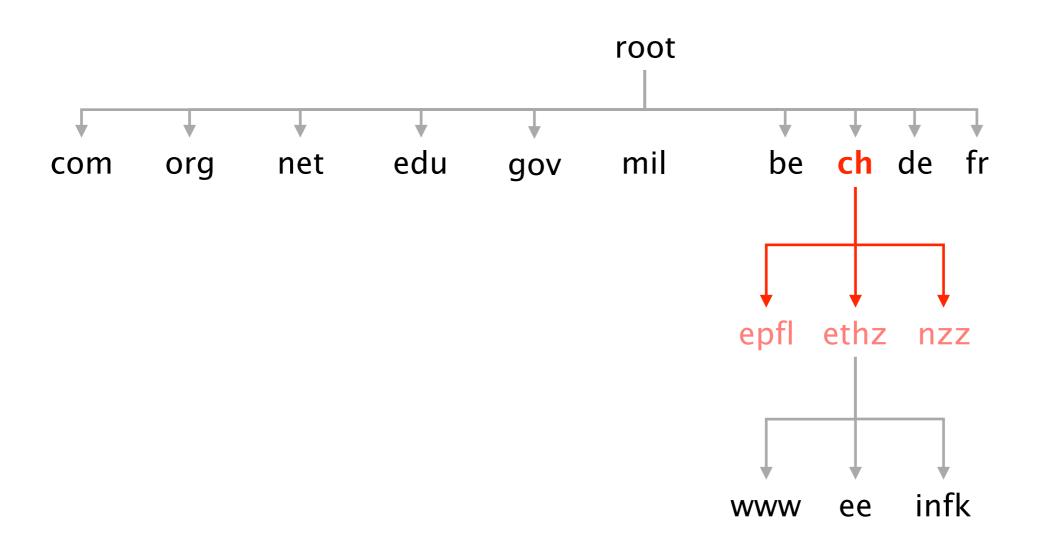


lvanbever:~\$ dig @a.root-servers.net ch.

ch.	172800	IN	NS	a.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	b.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	c.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	d.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	e.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	f.nic.ch.
ch.	172800	IN	NS	h.nic.ch.

From there on, each server knows the address of all children

Any .ch DNS server knowns the addresses of all sub-domains



To scale, DNS adopt three intertwined hierarchies

naming structure addresses are hierarchical

https://www.ee.ethz.ch/de/departement/

management hierarchy of authority

over names

infrastructure hierarchy of DNS servers

To ensure availability, each domain must have at least a primary and secondary DNS server

Ensure name service availability as long as one of the servers is up

DNS queries can be load-balanced across the replicas

On timeout, client use alternate servers exponential backoff when trying the same server

Overall, the DNS system is highly scalable, available, and extensible

scalable #names, #updates, #lookups, #users,

but also in terms of administration

available domains replicate independently

of each other

extensible any level (including the TLDs)

can be modified independently

You've founded next-startup.ch and want to host it yourself, how do you insert it into the DNS?

You register next-startup.ch at a registrar *X* e.g. Swisscom or GoDaddy

Provide *X* with the name and IP of your DNS servers *e.g.*, [ns1.next-startup.ch,129.132.19.253]

You set-up a DNS server @129.132.19.253 define A records for www, MX records for next-startup.ch...

Using DNS relies on two components



trigger resolution process send request to local DNS server usually, near the endhosts

configured statically (resolv.conf)

or dynamically (DHCP)

DNS query and reply uses UDP (port 53), reliability is implemented by repeating requests (*)

^(*) see Book (Section 5)

A DNS server stores Resource Records composed of a (name, value, type, TTL)

Records Name Value

A hostname IP address

NS domain DNS server name

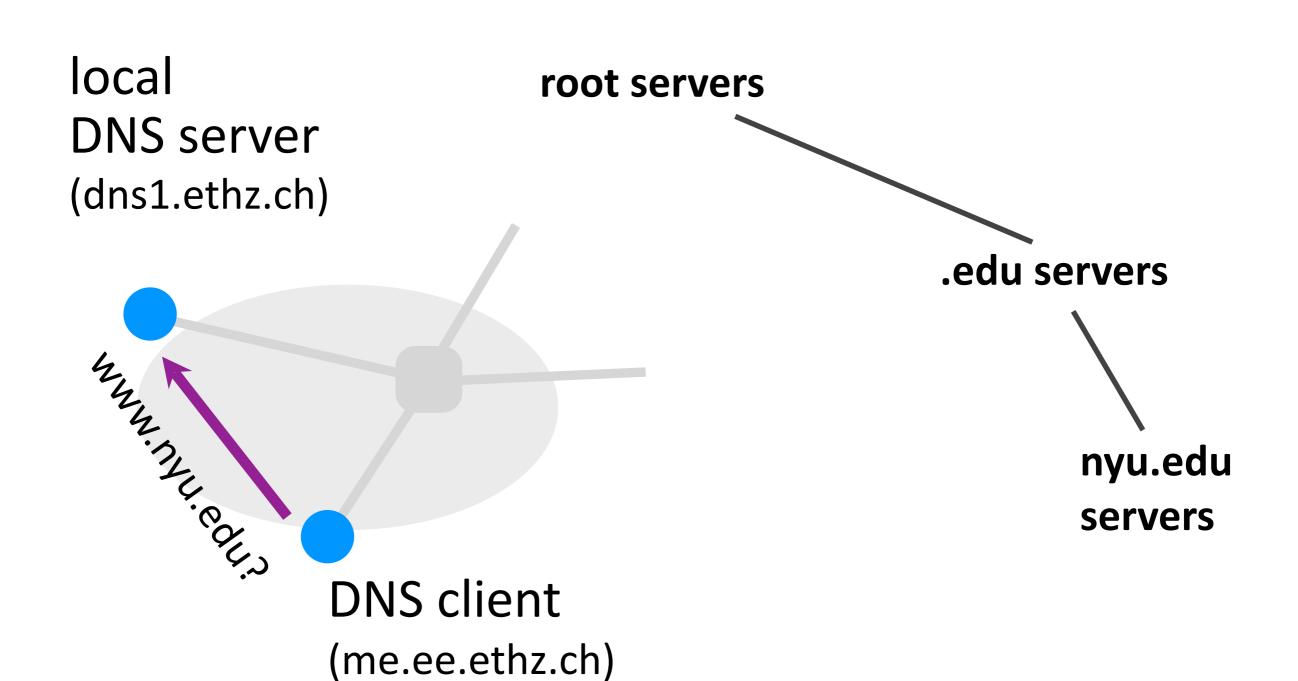
MX domain Mail server name

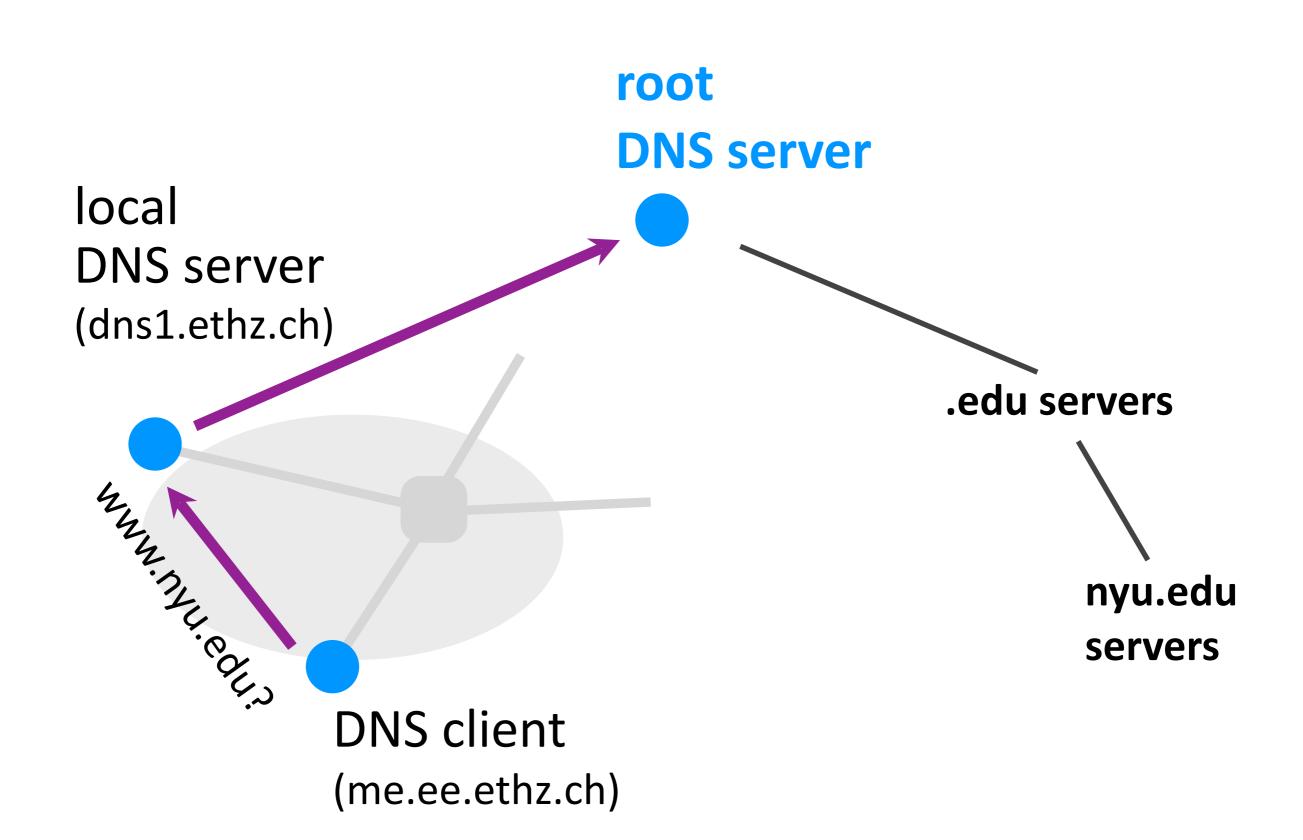
CNAME alias canonical name

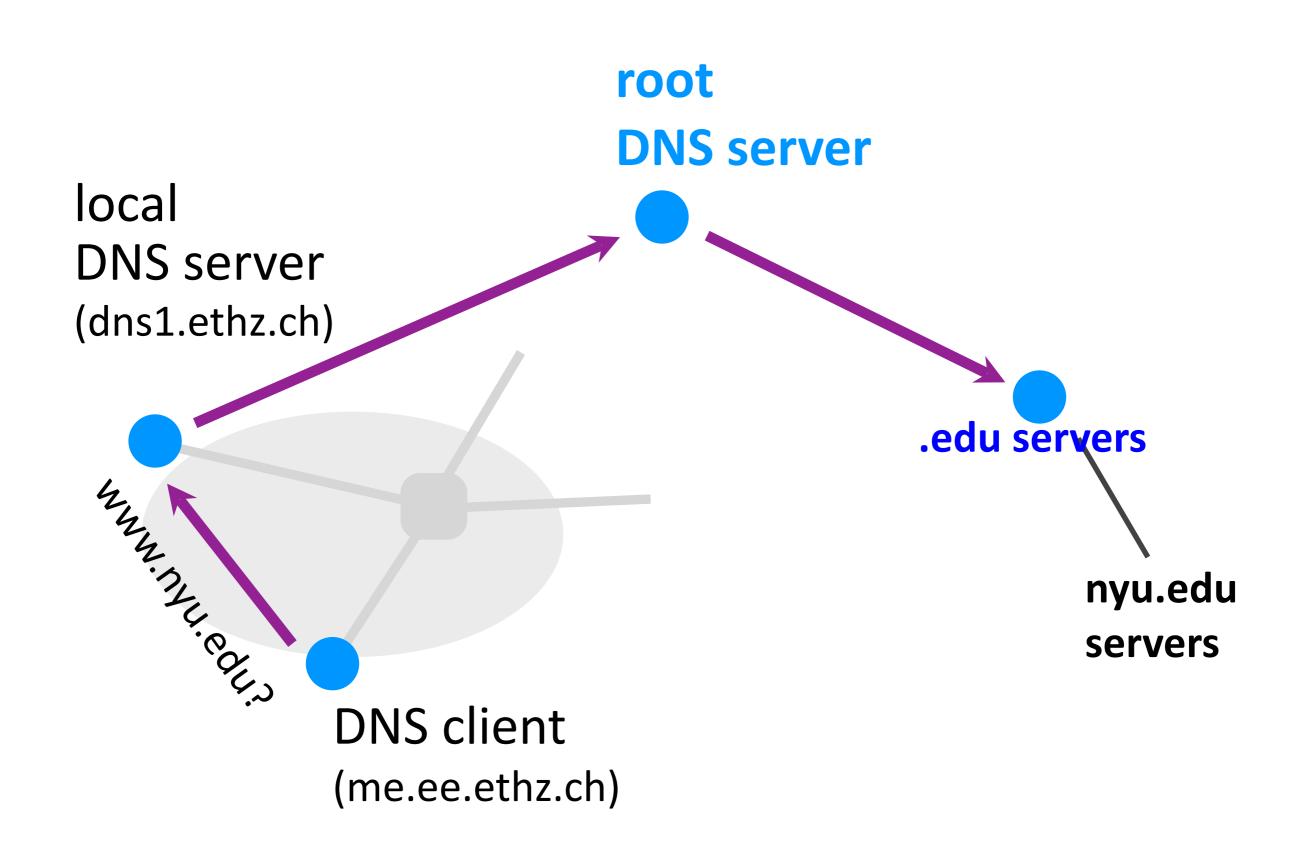
PTR IP address corresponding hostname

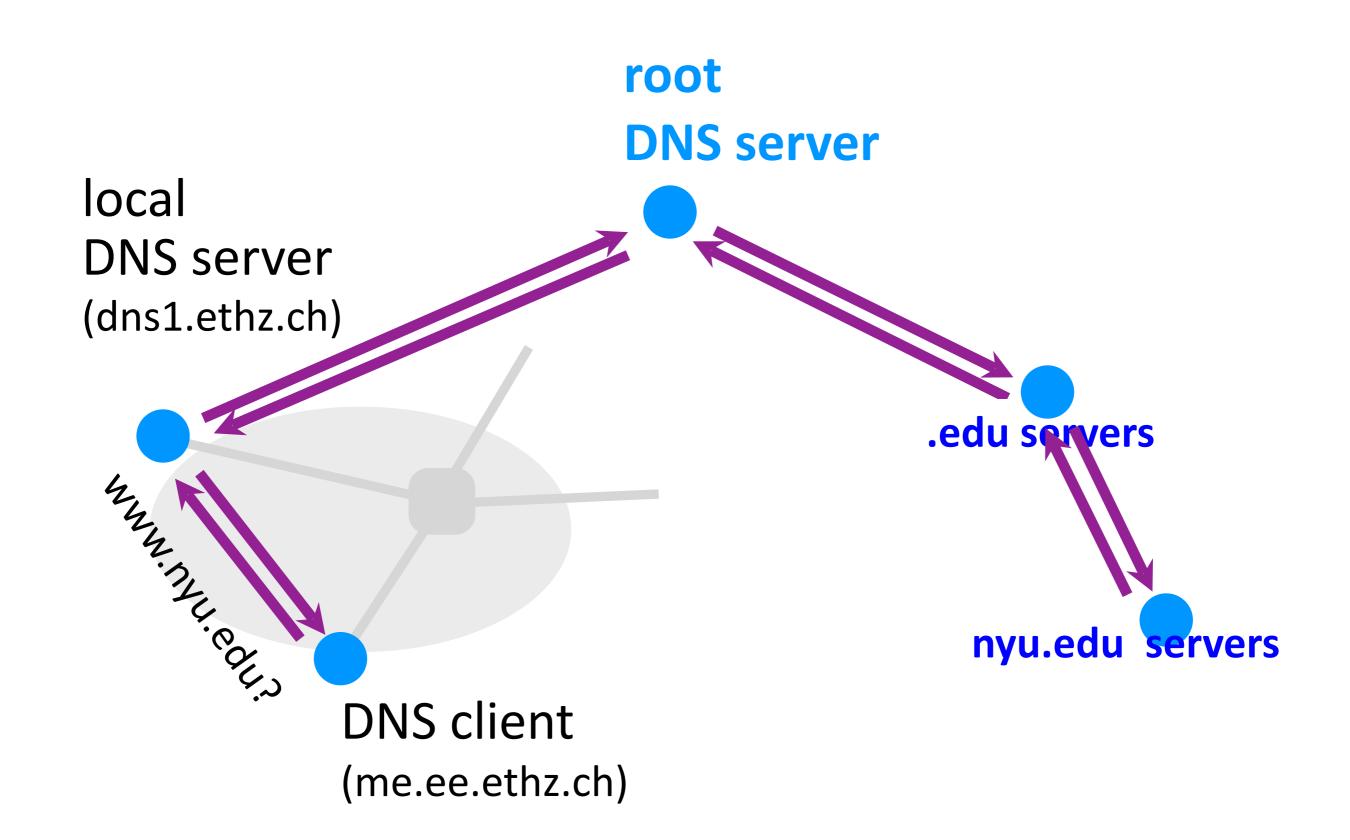
DNS resolution can either be recursive or iterative

When performing a recursive query, the client offload the task of resolving to the server







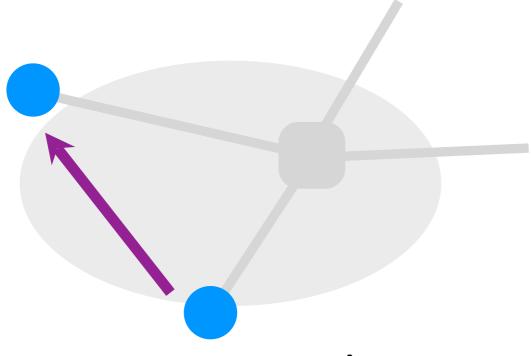


When performing a iterative query, the server only returns the address of the next server to query

root **DNS** server



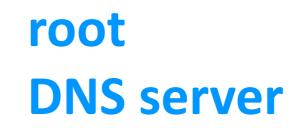
local DNS server



DNS client (me.ee.ethz.ch)





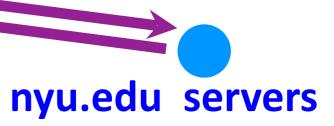


local Where is .edu? DNS server

Where is nyu.edu?



Where is www.nyu.edu?



DNS client (me.ee.ethz.ch)

To reduce resolution times, DNS relies on caching

DNS servers cache responses to former queries and your client and the applications (!)

Authoritative servers associate a lifetime to each record Time-To-Live (TTL)

DNS records can only be cached for TTL seconds after which they must be cleared

As top-level servers rarely change & popular website visited often, caching is very effective (*)

Top 10% of names account for 70% of lookups

9% of lookups are unique

Limit cache hit rate to 91%

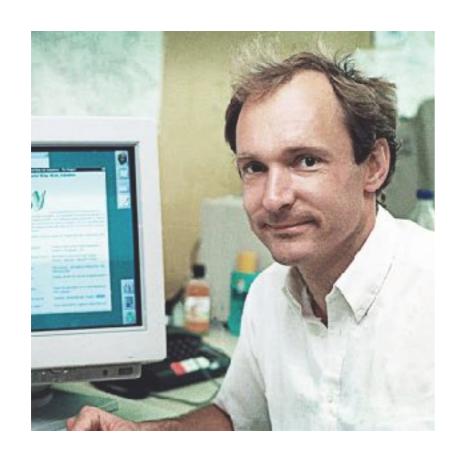
Practical cache hit rates ~75%

DNS

Web

http://www.google.ch

The Web as we know it was founded in ~1990, by Tim Berners-Lee, physicist at CERN



Tim Berners-Lee

Photo: CERN

His goal:

provide distributed access to data

The World Wide Web (WWW):

a distributed database of "pages" linked together via the Hypertext Transport Protocol (HTTP)

The Web was and still is so successful as it enables everyone to self-publish content

Self-publishing on the Web is easy, independent & free and accessible, to everyone

People weren't looking for technical perfection little interest in collaborative or idealistic endeavor

People essentially want to make their mark and find something neat...

The WWW is made of three key components

Infrastructure

Content

Implementation

Clients/Browser

Servers

Proxies

Objects

files, pictures, videos, ...

organized in

Web sites

a collection of objects

URL: name content

We'll focus on its implementation

Infrastructure

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URL: name content

A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) refers to an Internet ressource

protocol://hostname[:port]/directory_path/resource

protocol://hostname[:port]/directory_path/resource

HTTP(S)

FTP

SMTP...

protocol://<mark>hostname</mark>[:port]/directory_path/resource

DNS Name

IP address

default to protocol's standard HTTP:80, HTTPs:443

protocol://hostname[:port]/directory_path/resource

protocol://hostname[:port]/directory_path/resource

identify the resource on the destination

Infrastructure

Content

Implementation

Clients/Browser

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Proxies

Objects

files, pictures, videos, ...

organized in

Web sites

a collection of objects

URL: name content

HTTP is a rather simple synchronous request/reply protocol

HTTP is layered over a bidirectional byte stream almost always TCP

HTTP is text-based (ASCII)

human readable, easy to reason about

HTTP is stateless

it maintains no info about past client requests

http://

Protocol



Performance

http://

Protocol



Performance

HTTP clients make request to the server

HTTP request

method <sp> URL <sp> version</sp></sp>	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
<cr><lf></lf></cr>	
body	

method <sp> URL <sp> version <cr><lf>header field name: value <cr><lf>...header field name: value <cr><lf><cr><lf><cr><lf>body

method GET return resource

HEAD return headers only

POST send data to server (forms)

URL relative to server (e.g., /index.html)

version 1.0, 1.1, 2.0

HTTP clients make request to the server

HTTP request

method <sp> URL <sp> version</sp></sp>	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>
<cr><lf></lf></cr>	
body	

Request headers are of variable lengths, but still, human readable

Uses Authorization info

Acceptable document types/encoding

From (user email)

If-Modified-Since

Referrer (cause of the request)

User Agent (client software)

HTTP servers answers to clients' requests

HTTP response

version <sp> status <sp> phrase</sp></sp>	<cr><lf></lf></cr>				
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>				
header field name: value	<cr><lf></lf></cr>				
<cr><lf></lf></cr>					
body					

version <sp> status <sp> phrase <cr><lf> header field name: value <cr><lf> ...
 header field name: value <cr><lf> <cr><lf> <cr><lf> <cr><lf> </ri></ri></ri>

body

	3 digit response code			reason phrase
Status	1XX	informational		
	2XX	success	200	OK
	3XX	redirection	301	Moved Permanently
			303	Moved Temporarily
			304	Not Modified
	4XX	client error	404	Not Found
	5XX	server error	505	Not Supported

version <sp> status <sp> phrase <cr><lf>

header field name: value <cr><lf>

. . .

header field name: value <cr><lf>

<cr><|f>

body

Like request headers, response headers are of variable lengths and human-readable

Uses Location (for redirection)

Allow (list of methods supported)

Content encoding (e.g., gzip)

Content-Length

Content-Type

Expires (caching)

Last-Modified (caching)

HTTP is a stateless protocol, meaning each request is treated independently

advantages

disadvantages

server-side scalability

some applications need state!

(shopping cart, user profiles, tracking)

failure handling is trivial

How can you maintain state in a stateless protocol?

HTTP makes the client maintain the state. This is what the so-called cookies are for!



client stores small state on behalf of the server *X*

client sends state
in all future requests to *X*

can provide authentication

telnet google.ch 80

request GET / HTTP/1.1

Host: www.google.ch

answer HTTP/1.1 200 OK

Date: Sun, 01 May 2016 14:10:30 GMT

Cache-Control: private, max-age=0

Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1

Server: gws

browser Set-Cookie:

in following

will relay NID=79=g6lgURTq_BG4hSTFhEy1gTVFmSncQVsy

this value — TJI260B3xyiXqy2wxD2YeHq1bBlwFyLoJhSc7jmcA

6TIFIBY7-

requests dW5lhjiRiQmY1JxT8hGCOtnLjfCL0mYcBBkpk8X4

NwAO28; expires=Mon, 31-Oct-2016 14:10:30

GMT; path=/; domain=.google.ch; HttpOnly

http://

Protocol



Performance

Performance goals vary depending on who you ask

User Network Content provider operators NETFLIX fast downloads wish no overload happy users high availability cost-effective infrastructure solution Improve HTTP to Caching and Replication compensate for TCP weakspots

User



wish fast downloads

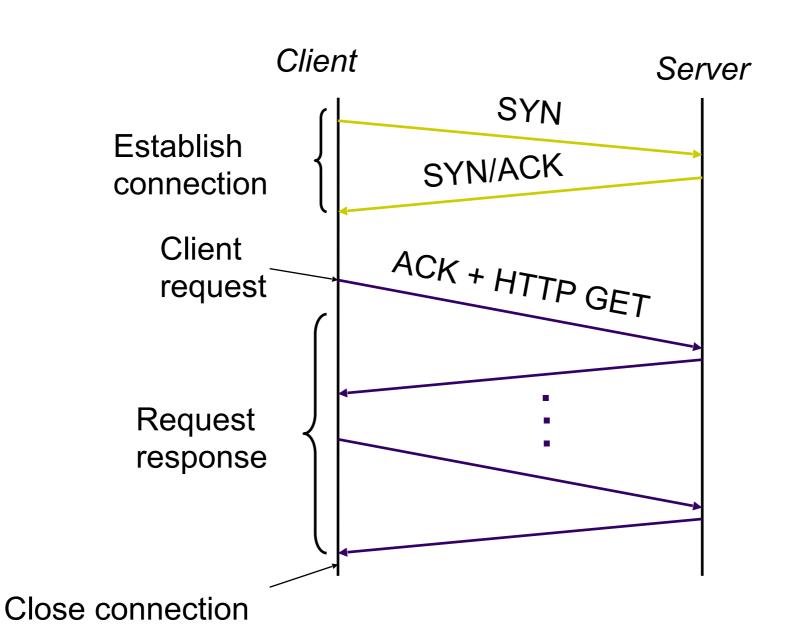
high availability

solution Improve HTTP to

compensate for

TCP weakspots

Relying on TCP forces a HTTP client to open a connection before exchanging anything



Most Web pages have multiple objects, naive HTTP opens one TCP connection for each...

Fetching *n* objects requires ~2*n* RTTs

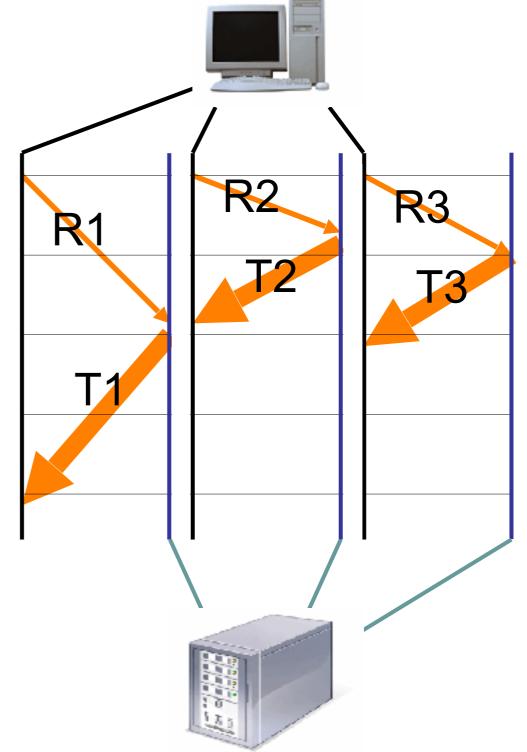
TCP establishment
HTTP request/response

One solution to that problem is to use multiple TCP connections in parallel

User Happy!

Content provider Happy!

Network operator Not Happy! Why?



Another solution is to use persistent connections across multiple requests, default in HTTP/1.1

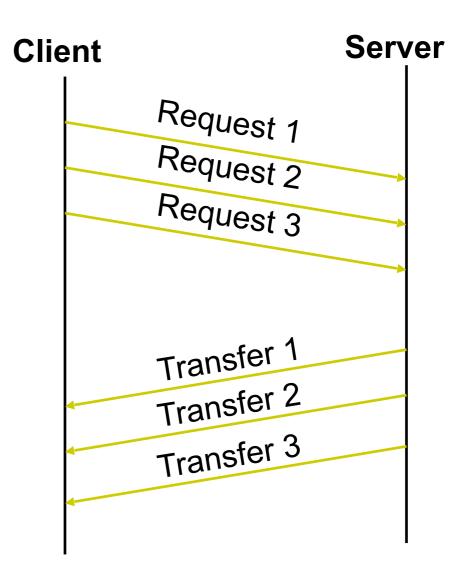
Avoid overhead of connection set-up and teardown clients or servers can tear down the connection

Allow TCP to learn more accurate RTT estimate and with it, more precise timeout value

Allow TCP congestion window to increase and therefore to leverage higher bandwidth

Yet another solution is to pipeline requests & replies asynchronously, on one connection

- batch requests and responses to reduce the number of packets
- multiple requests can be packed into one TCP segment



Considering the time to retrieve *n* small objects, pipelining wins

RTTS

one-at-a-time ~2*n*

M concurrent $\sim 2n/M$

persistent ~n+1

pipelined 2

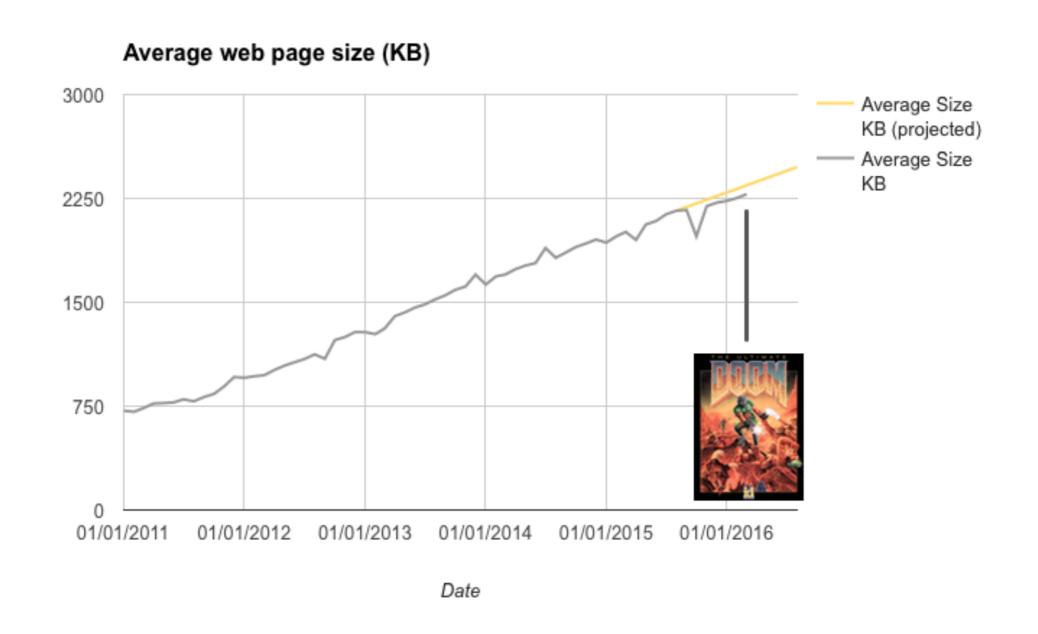
Considering the time to retrieve *n* big objects, there is no clear winners as bandwidth matters more

RTTS

~n * avg. file size

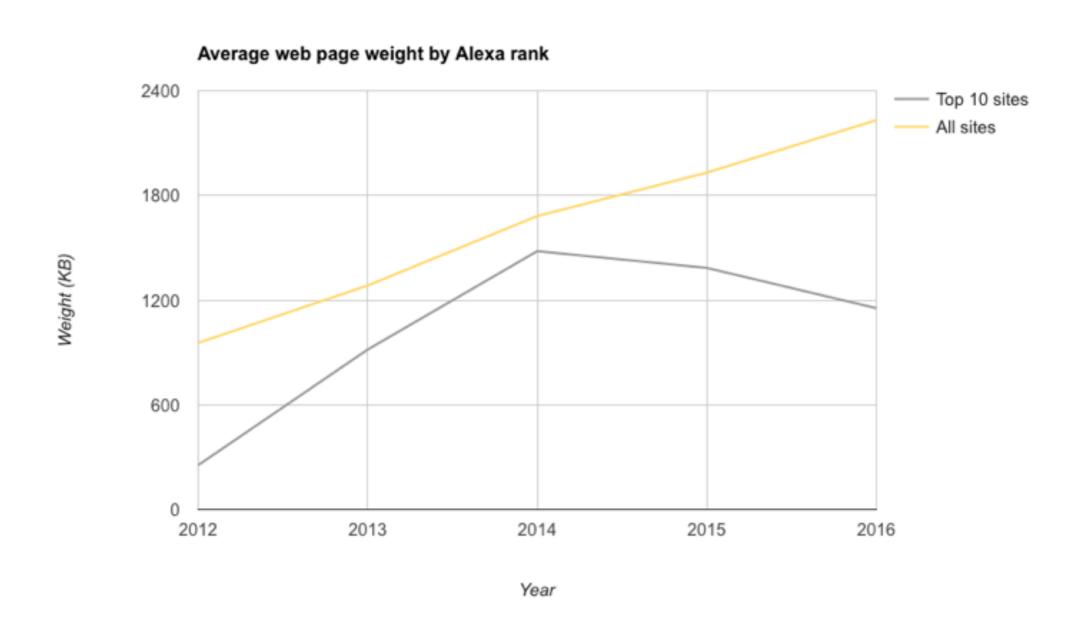
bandwidth

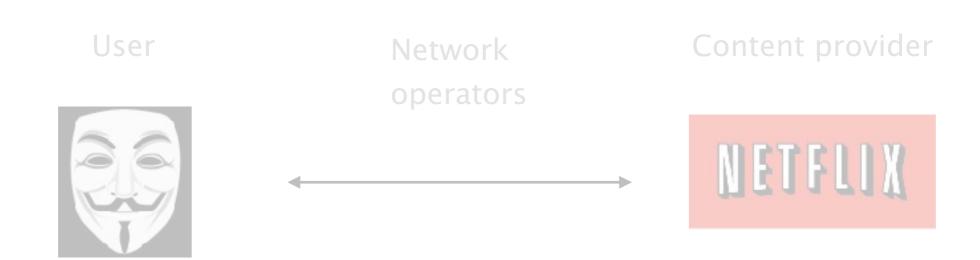
Today, the average webpage size is 2.3 MB as much as the original DOOM game...



(*) see https://mobiforge.com/research-analysis/the-web-is-doom

Top web sites have decreased in size though because they care about TCP performance





wish no overload

happy users
cost-effective
infrastructure

solution

Caching and Replication

Caching leverages the fact that highly popular content largely overlaps

Just think of how many times
you request the facebook logo
per day

VS

how often it *actually* changes

Caching it save time for your browser and decrease network and server load

Yet, a significant portion of the HTTP objects are "uncachable"

Examples dynamic data stock prices, scores, ...

scripts results based on parameters

cookies results may be based on passed data

SSL cannot cache encrypted data

advertising wants to measure # of hits (\$\$\$)

To limit staleness of cached objects, HTTP enables a client to validate cached objects

Server hints when an object expires (kind of TTL) as well as the last modified date of an object

Client conditionally requests a ressources using the "if-modified-since" header in the HTTP request

Server compares this against "last modified" time of the resource and returns:

- Not Modified if the resource has not changed
- OK with the latest version

Caching can and is performed at different locations

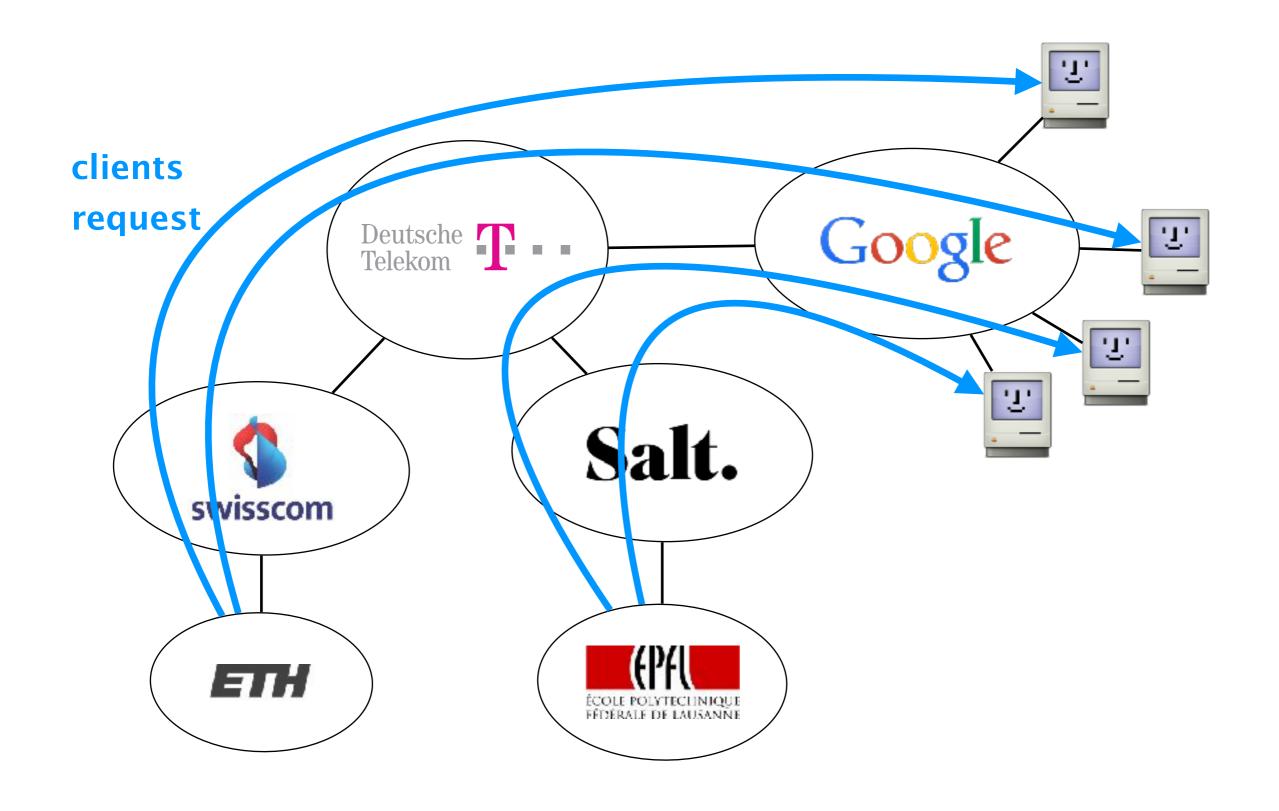
client browser cache

close to the client forward proxy

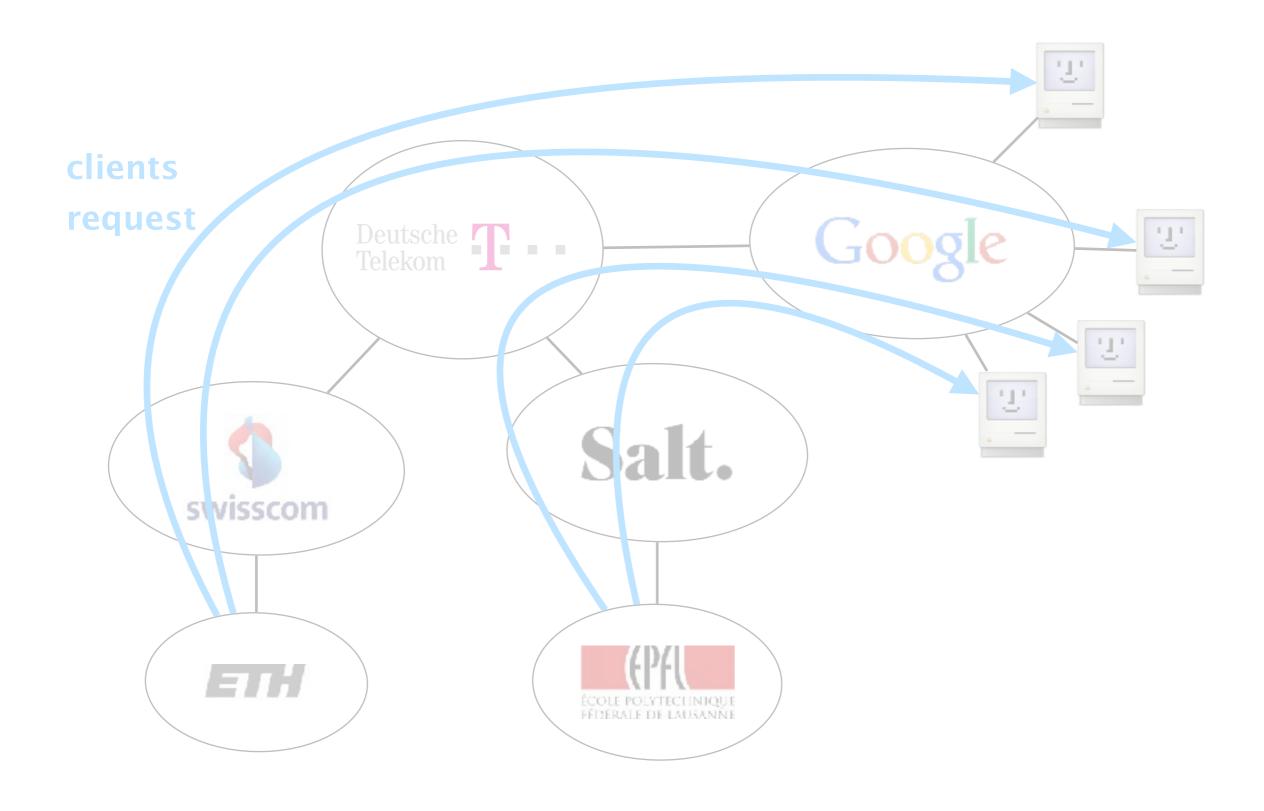
Content Distribution Network (CDN)

close to the destination reverse proxy

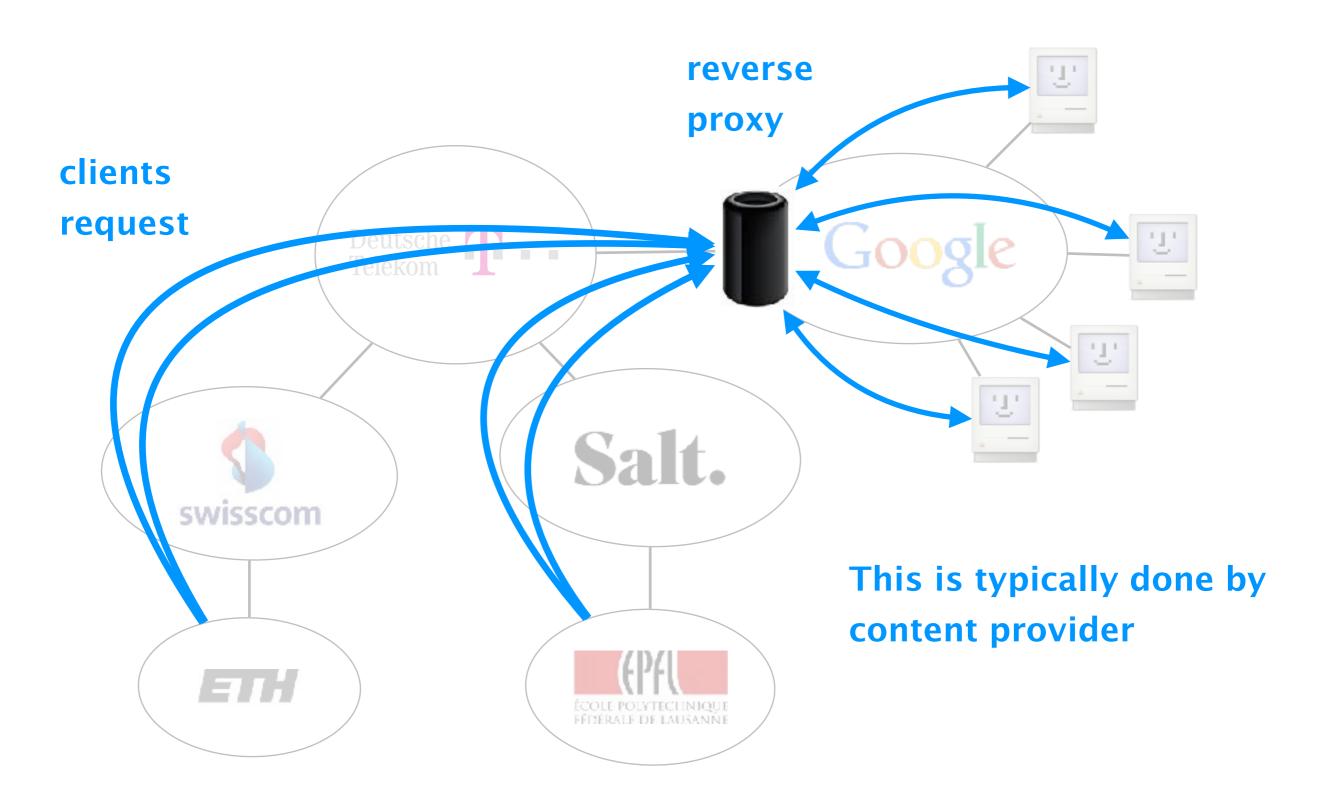
Many clients request the same information



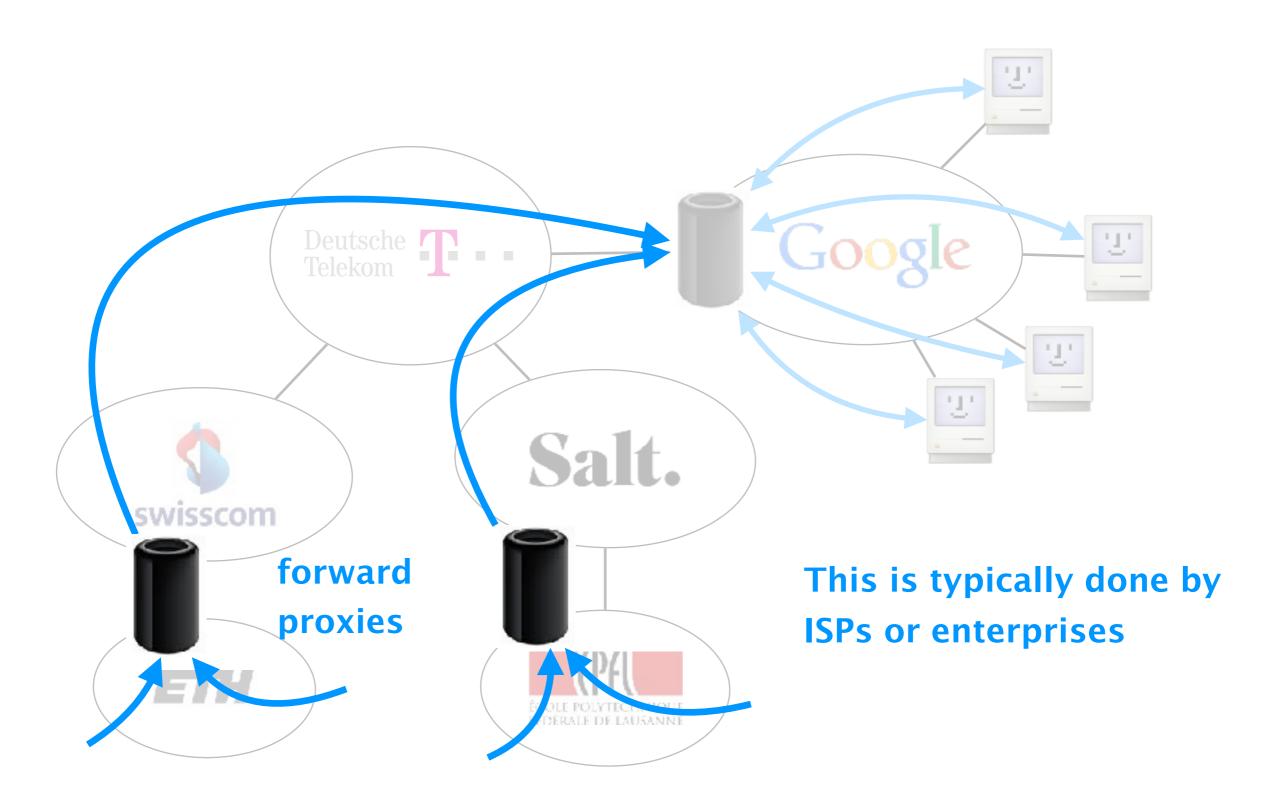
This increases servers and network's load, while clients experience unnecessary delays

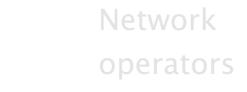


Reverse proxies cache documents close to servers, decreasing their load



Forward proxies cache documents close to clients, decreasing network traffic, server load and latencies





Content provider



←

wish

no overload

happy users cost-effective infrastructure

solution

Caching and Replication

The idea behind replication is to duplicate popular content all around the globe

Spreads load on server

e.g., across multiple data-centers

Places content closer to clients

only way to beat the "speed-of-light"

Helps speeding up uncachable content

still have to pull it, but from closer

The problem of CDNs is to direct and serve your requests from a close, non-overloaded replica

DNS-based

BGP Anycast

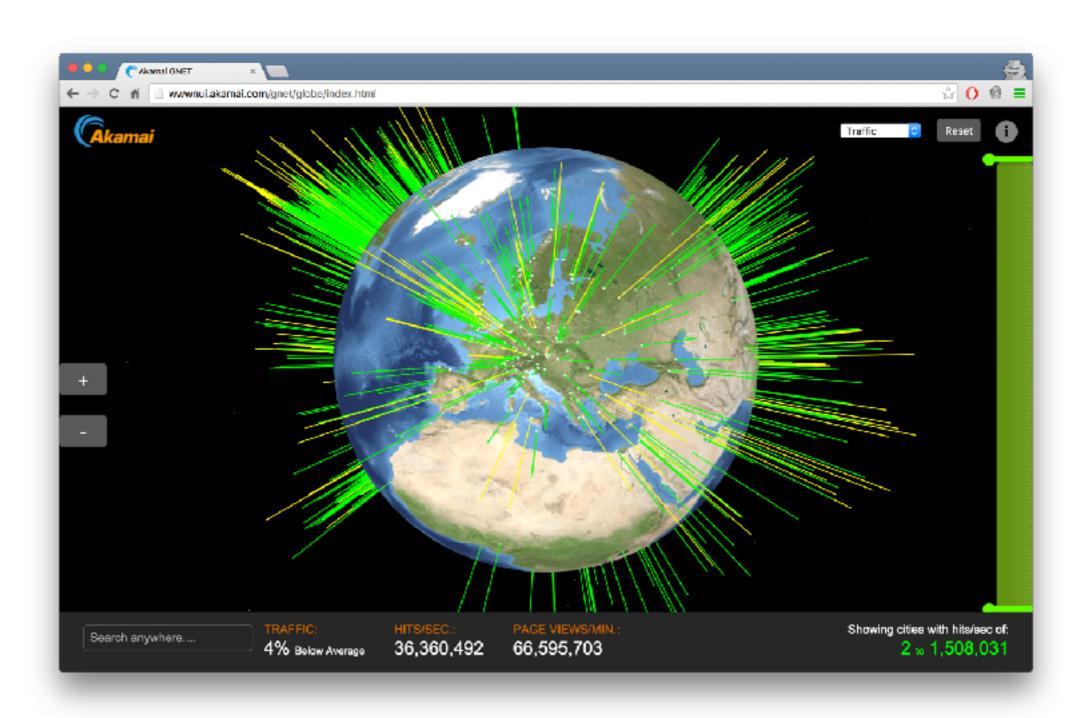
returns ≠ IP addresses based on

- client geo-localization
- server load

advertise the same IP prefix from different locations

avoided in practice, any idea why?

Akamai is one of the largest CDNs in the world, boasting servers in more than 20,000 locations



Akamai uses a combination of

- pull cachingdirect result of clients requests
- push replicationwhen expecting high access rate

together with some dynamic processing dynamic Web pages, transcoding,...

"Akamaizing" content is easily done by modifying content to reference the Akamai's domains

Akamai creates domain names for each client

a128.g.akamai.net for cnn.com

Client modifies its URL to refer to Akamai's domain

http://www.cnn.com/image-of-the-day.gif

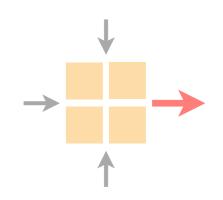
becomes

http://a128.g.akamai.net/image-of-the-day.gif

Requests are now sent to the CDN infrastructure

Communication Networks

Spring 2018





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