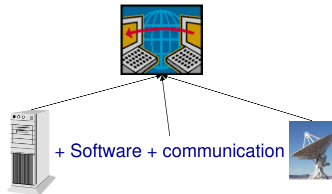
ΗΥ 351: Ανάλυση και Σχεδίαση Πληροφοριακών Συστημάτων
CS 351: Information Systems Analysis and Design

Physical Architecture Design



Yannis Tzitzikas
University of Crete, Fall 2005

Lecture : 18
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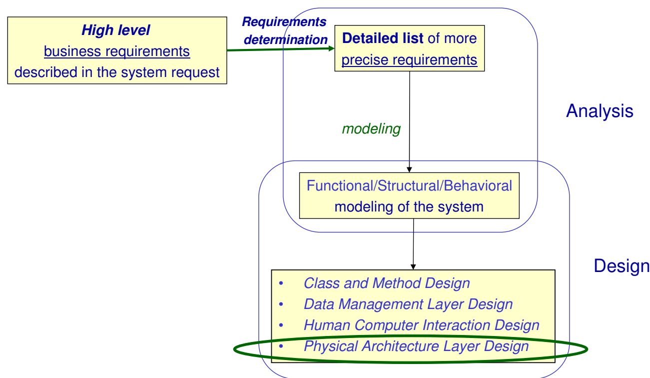
Outline

- What is Physical (or System) Architecture Design ?
- The 4 basic functions of an IS
- Layered Software Architectures
- Software Architectures
  - Client-server, N-tier architectures, Virtual machine
  - Service-oriented computing, P2P
- Communication Protocols
- UI Pattern: MVC

Next:
- UML Component and Deployment Diagrams

From Analysis Models to Design Models
Physical Architecture Layer Design



What is System (or Physical) Architecture Design ?

System Architecture Design comprises plans for
(a) the **hardware**,
(b) the **software**,
(c) the **communications**
for the new application.

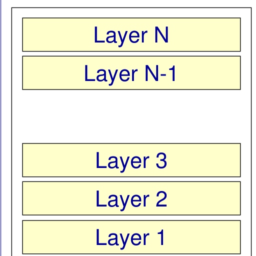
The 4 primary software components of a system

All software systems could be divided into 4 basic functions
- *Data storage*
- *Data access logic*
- *Application logic*
- *Presentation logic*

Layered Systems

- The functionality of the application is partitioned to a set of layers
- Each layer uses the services of the lower layers and offers services to the upper layers

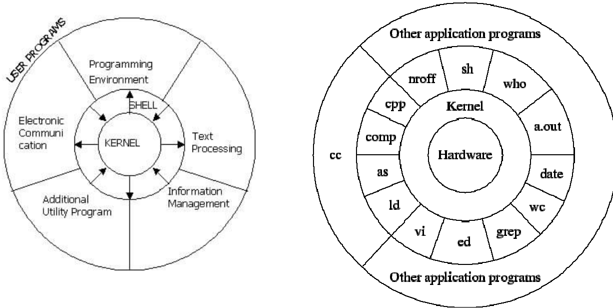
- Advantages
  - Abstraction during design
  - Allow reuse
  - Can define standard layer interfaces
- Disadvantages
  - Sometimes it is difficult to identify with clarity the layers.
  - Sometimes this architecture is not very efficient (redundant)



Layering: Διαστρωμάτωση

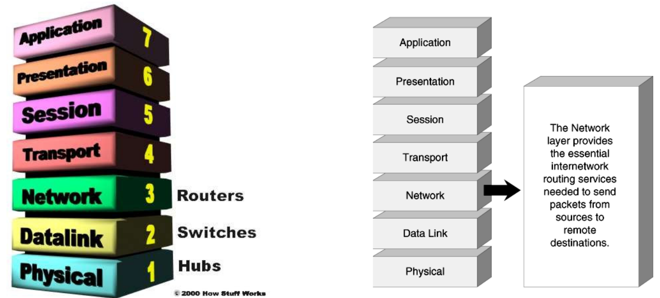
Examples of Layered Systems

The Unix Operating System

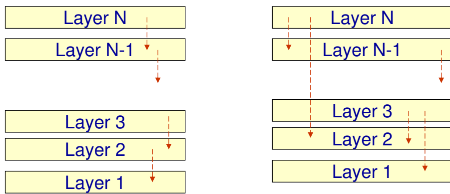


Examples of Layered Systems

OSI Network Protocol



Layered Architectures: Closed vs Open



Closed

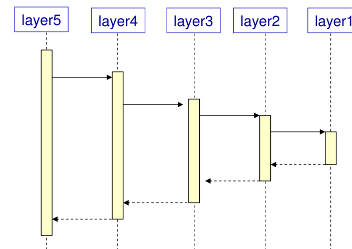
- each layer can use services of the immediately lower layer
- minimizes dependencies

Open

- each layer can use services of any lower layer
- increased dependencies however the code can be more compact

Recall the trade-off between understandability and efficiency: increasing the understandability of a design usually results in inefficiencies, while focusing only on efficiency usually results in design that is difficult to understand by someone else

The form of sequence diagrams in a closed layered architecture



Example of implementing a Closed Layered Architecture

```
public abstract class L1Provider {
    public abstract void L1Service();
}

public abstract class L2Provider {
    protected L1Provider level1;

    public abstract void L2Service();
    public void setLowerLayer(L1Provider l1)
        {
        level1 = l1;
    }
}

public abstract class L3Provider {
    protected L2Provider level2;

    public abstract void L3Service();
    public void setLowerLayer(L2Provider l2)
        {
        level2 = l2;
    }
}
```

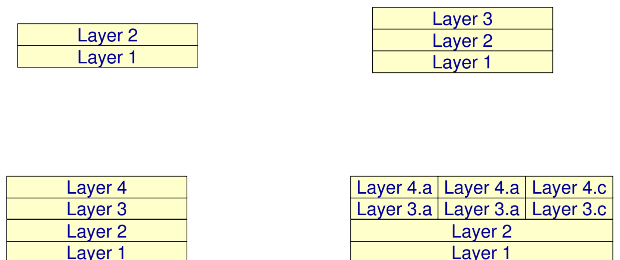
```
public class DataLink extends L1Provider {
    public void L1Service() {
        println("L1Service doing its job");
    }
}
public class Transport extends L2Provider
    {
    public void L2Service() {
        println("L2Service starting its job");
        level1.L1Service();
        println("L2Service finishing its job");
    }
}
public class Session extends L3Provider{
    public void L3Service() {
        println("L3Service starting its job");
        level2.L2Service();
        println("L3Service finishing its job");

    }
}
```

```
public class Network {
    public static void main(String args[]) {
        DataLink dataLink = new DataLink();
        Transport transport = new
        Transport();
        Session session = new Session();

        transport.setLowerLayer(dataLink);
        session.setLowerLayer(transport);

        session.L3Service();
    }
}
```

EXECUTION RESULT:

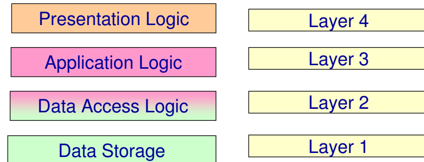
```
L3Service starting its job
L2Service starting its job
L1Service doing its job
L2Service finishing its job
L3Service finishing its job
```

Number of Layers

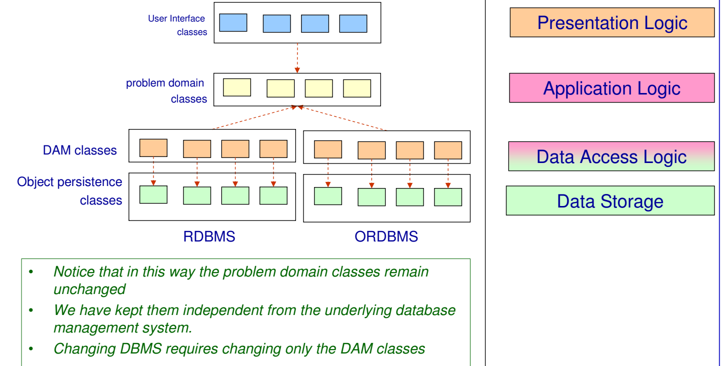


Considering the 4 primary software components of an IS as Layers

- Presentation logic
- Application logic
- Data access logic
- Data storage



Refresher: Data Mgmt Layer Design



- *Notice that in this way the problem domain classes remain unchanged*
- *We have kept them independent from the underlying database management system.*
- *Changing DBMS requires changing only the DAM classes*

The 3 primary hardware components of a system

- Client computers
- Servers
- Network

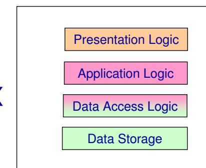
Kinds of Architectures

Primary Hardware components

- Client computers
- Servers
- Network

X

Primary Software components

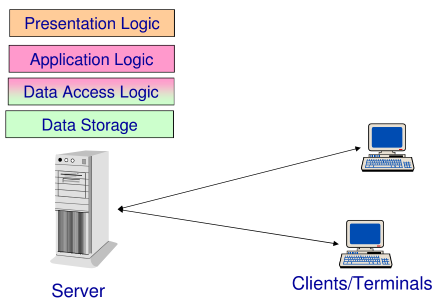


= *architectures*

According to the distribution of the 4 basic layers to hardware nodes we can distinguish the following architectures:

(a) **Server-based** computing
(b) **Client-based** computing
(c) **Client-server**-based computing
(d) **3/4/N tiers** computing

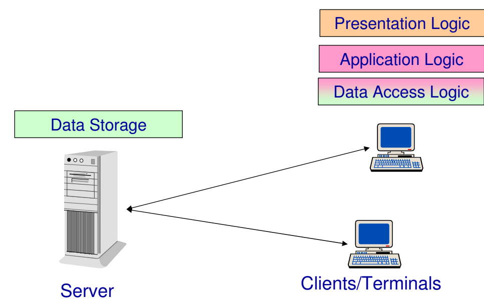
(a) Server-based Computing



Server

Clients/Terminals

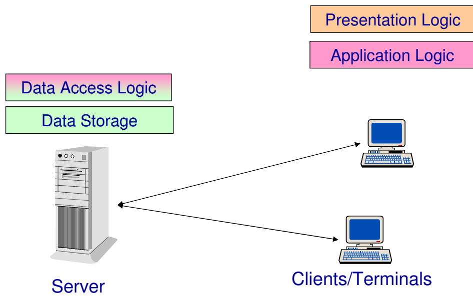
(b) Client-based Computing



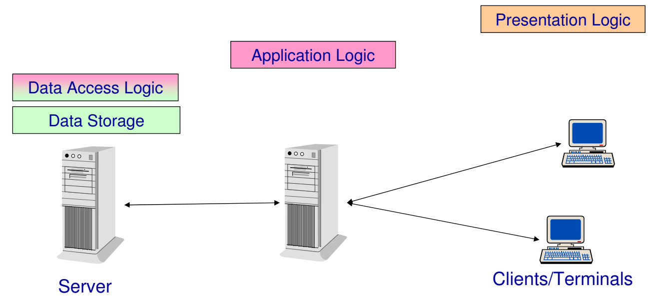
Server

Clients/Terminals

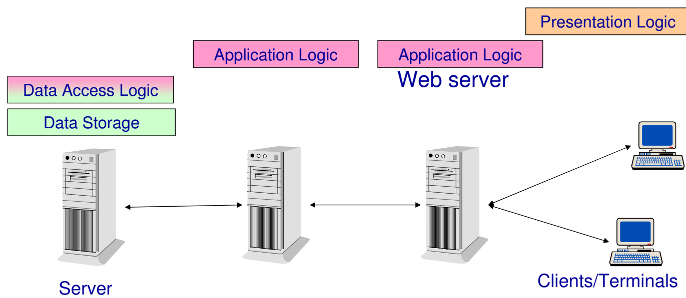
(c) Client-Server-based Computing (2 Tiers)



(d) 3 tiers based computing

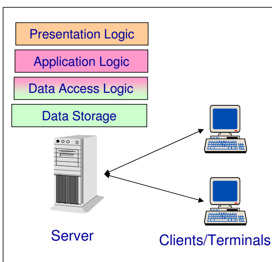


(d') 4 tiers based computing



Some more details about the previous architectures

(a) Server-based Computing



Characteristics

- The server does almost everything. The client is actually a very thin client

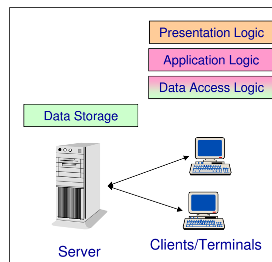
[-]: The Server has very high load

- the clients do not contribute to the computation

[+]: Not so difficult to implement

[+] If platform changes (e.g. OS) we have to rewrite only the thin client

(b) Client-based Computing



Characteristics

[+] The server has less load

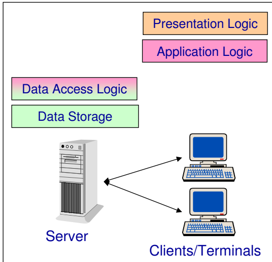
[-] The clients are very heavy (they should be computationally powerful machines)

[-] sometimes a lot of data have to be communicated through the network

[-] If we the OS changes then we have to rewrite the 3 layers of the client

- (in server-based computing we could keep the server running in the old OS) and we would need to change only the thin client so that to run in the new OS

(c) Client-Server-based Computing (2 Tiers)

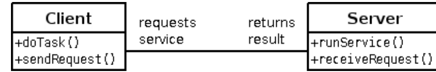


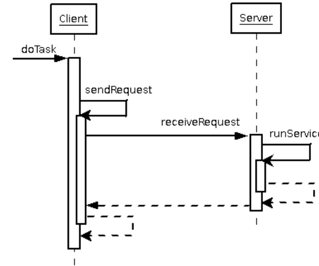
Characteristics

This is like having a **thick client** (thin client: if responsible only for the UI)

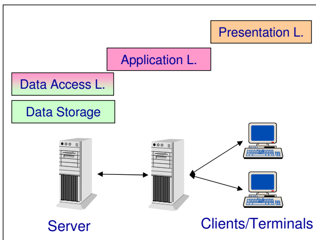
- [+] The client has less load (comparing to client-based computing)
- [+] The server has less load comparing to server-based computing
- [-] We have to rewrite the application logic if platform changes
- [-] Sometimes a lot of data have to be communicated through the network
- [+] Good overall performance

Client Server: Class and Interaction Diagrams





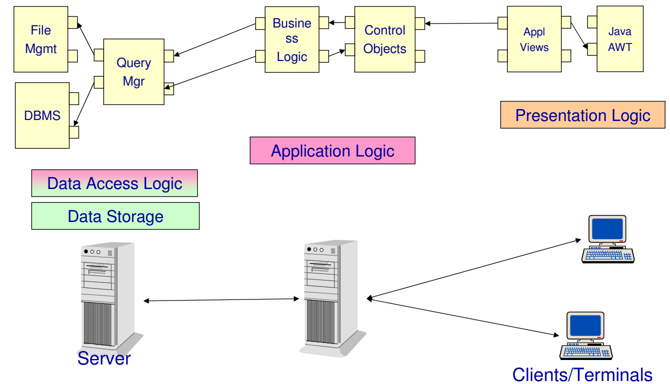
(d) 3 tiers based computing



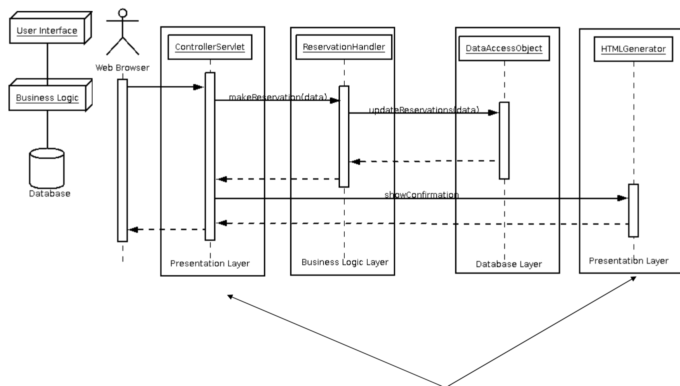
Characteristics

- [+] Good load balancing
  - the server and the client have less load
- [+] the UI component is independent of the rest system
  - •server-based computing has also this property but in that case the server has excessive load
  - • This architecture is suited for heterogeneous environments
- [-] more complex implementation - more data are transferred through the network

(d) 3 tiers: Example



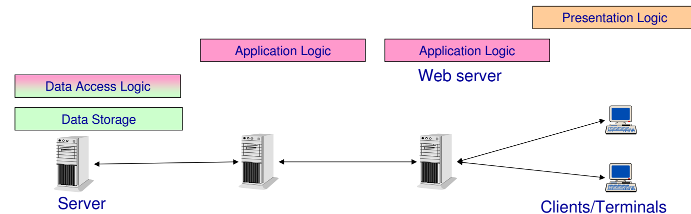
3-tier



(d) N-Tiered Client-Server architectures

General Remarks

- Advantages
  - Separates processing to better balance load
  - The system is more scalable
- Disadvantages
  - Higher load on the network
  - More difficult to implement and test



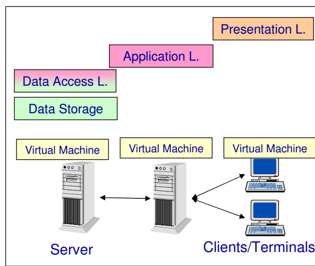
Selecting a Computing Architecture

	Server-Based	Client-based	Client-server
Cost of infrastructure	Very high	Medium	Low
Cost of development	Medium	Low	High
Ease of development	Low	High	Low-medium
Interface capabilities	Low	High	High
Control and security	High	Low	Medium
Scalability	Low	Medium	High

Virtual Machine

Virtual Machine

- It is a form of layered architecture
- It allows using the same API independently of the underlying OS/hardware
- The compiler produces intermediate code (bytecodes in Java) which can be handled by the virtual machine



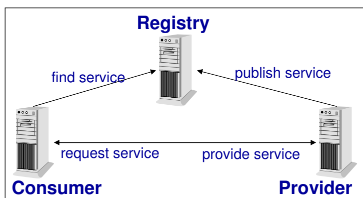
Service-Oriented Computing

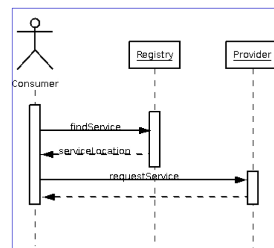
Service-oriented Computing

SOA: Service Oriented Architecture

Software is considered as a set of services

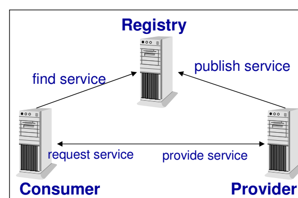
We can have
- **service providers**
- **consumers**
- **registries** (catalogs of available services)





Service-oriented Computing (2)

- Based on open standards (SOAP, REST, WSDL, UDDI)
- Data is exchanged using XML



Characteristics

[+] complete separation between providers & consumers

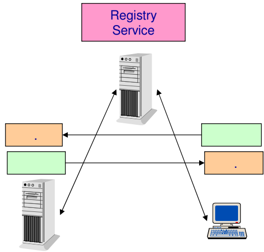
[+] the same service can be provided with different characteristics (quality, price, speed, etc) from different providers => competitiveness

[+] open standards

[-] not mature technology, no registries for business services

- Web Services
  - Data are exchanged in XML (SOAP, REST)
  - Data are transferred using HTTP
  - The "interface" provider-consumer is described in XML (WSDL)

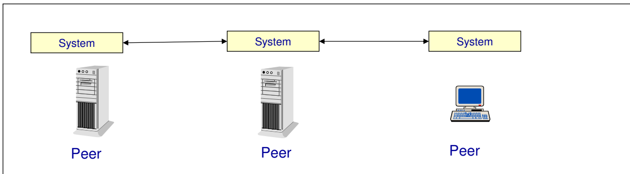
Service-oriented computing (3)



Peer-to-Peer (P2P) architectures

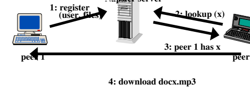
Peer to Peer

- Pure
  - all are equal. No layering. Each peer depends on the others

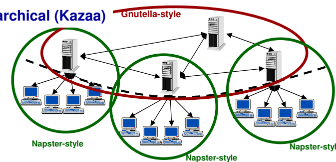


Peer-to-Peer Architectures

Hybrid (Napster)

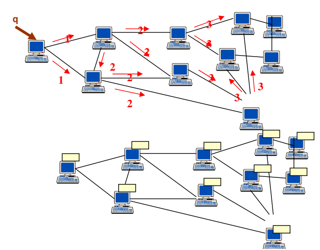


Hierarchical (Kazaa)

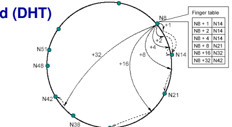


CAN (Content Addressable Network)

Decentralized (Gnutella)



Chord (DHT)



Communication Protocols

Communication Protocols

How objects of different layers at different machines can communicate ?

- RPC (Remote Procedure Call):
  - can invoke a remote procedure, send results, (RPC is widely supported in languages such as C, C++)
- RMI (Remote Method Invocation)
  - in java (recall *www.csd.uoc.gr/~hy252*)
- DCOM
  - Microsoft’s Distributed Component Object Model
- CORBA (Common Object Request Broker Architecture)
  - The object-oriented industry standard by OMG (1995)
- SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)
  - uses XML to encapsulate messages and data that can be sent from one process to another

Communication Protocols
Platform dependent vs Open Standards

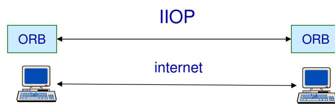
- RMI or DCOM are language/operating system specific protocols
  - they restrict the design to implementation on certain platforms
- CORBA or SOAP are open standards
  - they allow building component-based systems that are not tied to particular platforms

Case: CORBA

- CORBA separates the interface of a class (the operations it can carry out) from the implementation of that class.
- The interface can be compiled into a program running on one computer.
- An object instance can be created or accessed by name.
- To the client program it appears to be in memory on the same machine, however, it may actually be running on another computer.
- When the client program sends it a message to invoke one of its operations, the message and its parameters are converted into a format that can be sent over the network (known as *marshalling*). At the other end the server unmarshals the data back into a message and parameters and passes it to the implementation of the target object.
- This object then carries out the operation and, if it returns a value, that value is marshalled on the server, unmarshalled on the client and finally provided as a return value to the client program

CORBA (2)

- CORBA achieves this by means of programs known as ORBs (Object Request Brokers) that run on each machine.
- The ORBs communicate with each other by means of an Inter-ORB Protocol (IOP).
- Over the Internet, the protocol used is IIOP (Internet IOP).



CORBA (3)

- To use this facility, the developer must specify the interface (public attributes and operations) of each class in an **Interface Definition Language (IDL).**
- The IDL file is then processed by a program that converts the interface to a series of files in the target language or languages.

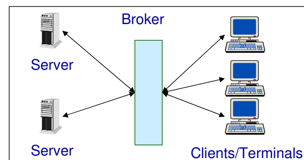
- In Java, this program is called IDL2JAVA and produces
  - a file that defines the interface in Java,
  - a stub file that provides the link between the client program and the ORB,
    - it implements the interface on the client and is compiled into the client program
  - a file that provides a skeleton for the implementation of the server
    - it implements the interface on the server; the developer updates this file (provides the implementation) and it is compiled on the host

The IDL file for a class Location

```
Module CretanTourismApplication
{ interface Location
  {attribute string locationCode;
   attribute string locationName;
   void addHotel(in Hotel hotel);
   void removeHotel(in string hotelCode);
   int numberOfHotels(); };
};
```

CORBA (4)
Supporting different PLs, Wrapping legacy systems

- CORBA is known as **middleware**, as it acts as an intermediary between clients and servers.As such it enables the implementation of a 3 or 4 tier architecture that isolates the UI and client programs from the implementation of classes on one or more servers.



- CORBA also provides **interoperability between different languages**: a Java client program can invoke operations on a C++ object that exist on a separate machine.
- CORBA also makes it possible to encapsulate pre-existing programs (legacy systems) written in non-object oriented languages by **wrapping them in an interface**. To the client it looks like an object, but internally it may be implemented in a language like COBOL.

CORBA (5)
More advanced features

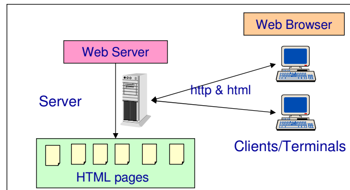
Systems developed using CORBA can be set up so that the remote objects are located on a named machine and accessed by name. This is what we need in the majority of applications.

CORBA also provides a number of more advanced services:

- Services for locating objects by name when it is not known where they are running.
- Services for locating objects that implement a certain interface and for interrogating an object to determine its interface (operations, parameter types and return types) in order to dynamically invoke its operations.

Web-based applications

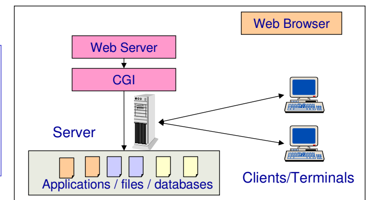
HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol): transfers hypertext documents over the internet
- HTML (HyperText Markup Language): defines hypertext documents

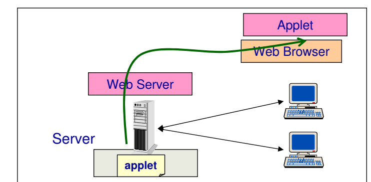


Very static architecture

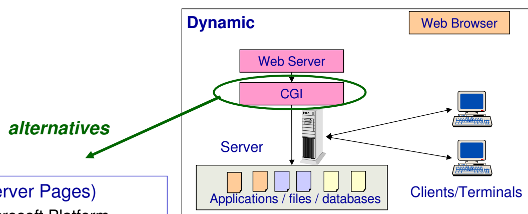
Web-based applications: Adding .. "dynamism"

CGI (Common Gateway Interface):
CGI scripts are programs (e.g. a unix shell script or a perl script) that reside on the web server and can be invoked by elements of the web pages





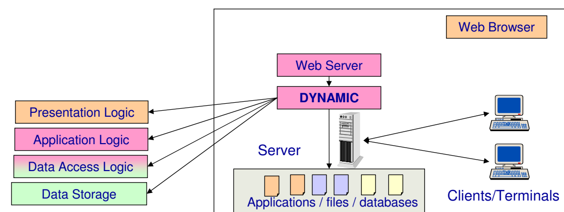
Web-based applications



- ASP (Active Server Pages)
  - limited to Microsoft Platform
- JSP (Java Server Pages)
  - JSP is designed to be platform and server independent, created from a broader community of tool, server, and database vendors

Web-based applications

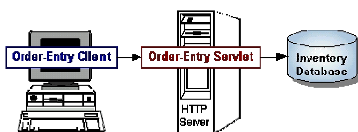
- Here we have to design our layers assuming the Web platform



- So Web Servers and the Web Browsers become parts of our information system.

Servlets

- **Servlets are to servers what applets are to browsers**.
- Servlets are modules that extend request/response-oriented servers, such as Java-enabled web servers.
  - A servlet might be responsible for taking data in an HTML order-entry form and applying the business logic used to update a company's order database.
- Servlets can be embedded in many different servers because the servlet API, which you use to write servlets, assumes nothing about the server's environment or protocol. Servlets have become most widely used within HTTP servers; many web servers support Java Servlet technology.



Servlets (II)

Servlets are an effective replacement for CGI scripts.
- They are easier to write and run faster

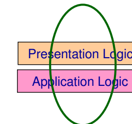
So we can use servlets to handle HTTP client requests.
- We can have servlets to process data POSTed over HTTPS using an HTML form, including purchase order or credit card data. A servlet like this could be part of an order-entry and processing system, working with product and inventory databases, and perhaps an on-line payment system.

Other Uses for Servlets
- A servlet can handle multiple requests concurrently, and can synchronize requests. This allows servlets to support systems such as on-line conferencing.
- Servlets can forward requests to other servers and servlets. Thus servlets can be used to balance load among several servers that mirror the same content, and to partition a single logical service over several servers, according to task type or organizational boundaries.

A Simple Servlet (Hello World)

```
import java.io.*;
import javax.servlet.*;
import javax.servlet.http.*;

public class HelloWorld extends HttpServlet {

  public void doGet(HttpServletRequest request, HttpServletResponse
     response)
  throws IOException, ServletException
  {
        response.setContentType("text/html");
        PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();
        out.println("<html>");
        out.println("<body>");
        out.println("<head>");
        out.println("<title>Hello World!</title>");
        out.println("</head>");
        out.println("<body>");
        out.println("<h1>Hello World!</h1>");
        out.println("</body>");
        out.println("</html>");
  }
}
```

Pattern
Model-View-Controller (MVC)

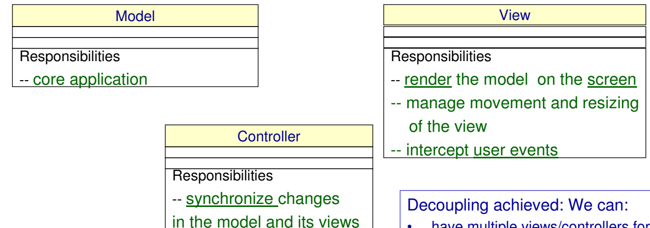


Model-View-Controller (MVC)

- This pattern is used in applications where the UI is very important
- Motivation
  - same data may be displayed differently
  - display and application must reflect data changes immediately
  - UI changes should be easy and even possible at runtime
  - Porting the UI to another platform should not affect core application code
- Solution
  - Divide application into 3 parts
    - Model
    - View
    - Controller

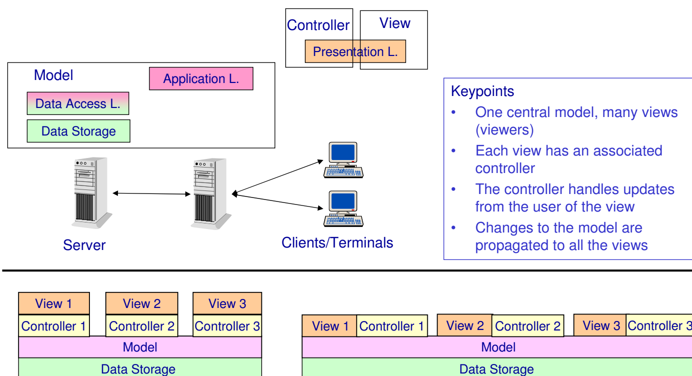
Model-View-Controller

Model: provides the essential functionality of the application (application logic)
View: supports a particular style of interaction with the user (display output)
Controller: accepts user input in the form of events and synchronizes changes between the model and its views (user input)

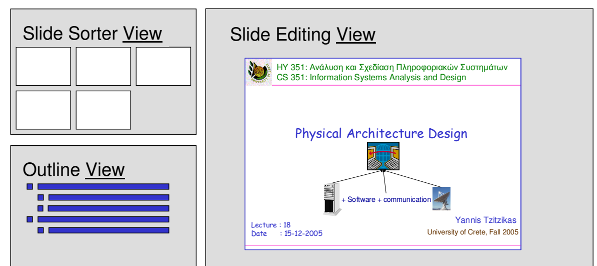


Decoupling achieved: We can:
- have multiple views/controllers for the same model
- reuse views/controllers for other models

MVC: connection with the previous discussion



Example: The Views of Powerpoint

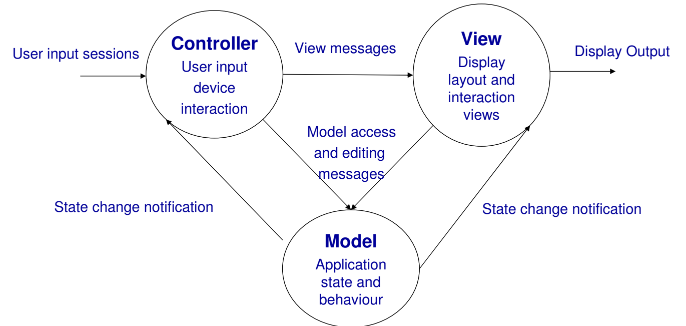


The structure of the model of Powerpoint

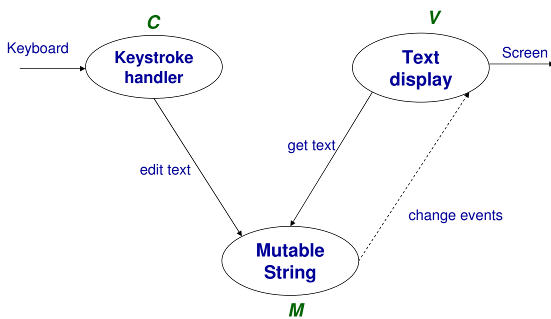
MVC

- Model
  - Core application code
    - maintains application state
  - Contains a list of observers (view or controller)
  - Has a broadcast mechanism to inform views of a change
- View
  - displays information to user
  - obtains data from model
  - each view has a controller
- Controller
  - handles input from user as events (keystrokes, mouse clicks and movements)
  - maps each event to proper action on model and/or view

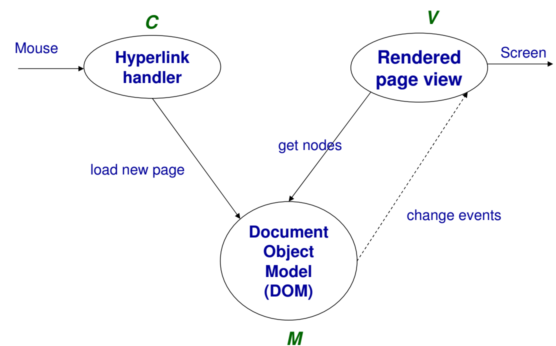
MVC



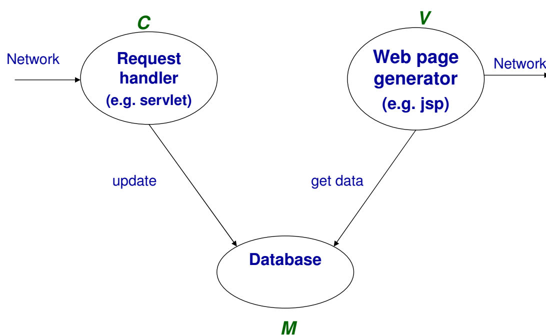
MVC Example: *Text Field*



MVC Example: *Web Browser*



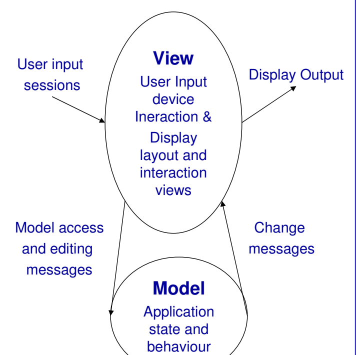
MVC Example: *Database-backed web server*



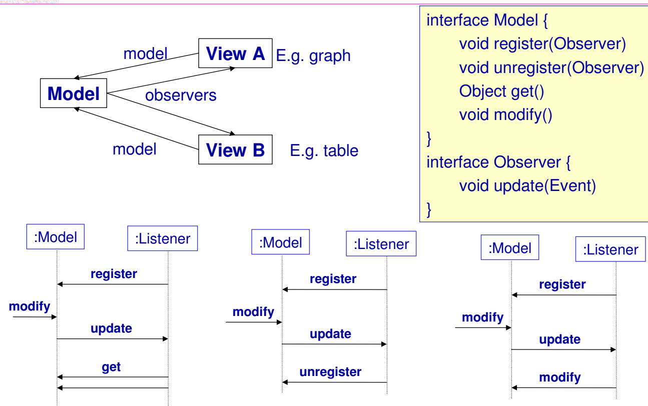
MVC and MV

In many cases, view and controller are very tightly coupled.

- so instead of MVC we have MV (Model-View)
- a reusable view manages both output and input
  - also called widgets, components, …
    - e.g. scrollbars, buttons, ...



Observer pattern is used to decouple model from views



- *How we can depict the Physical Architecture of a System?*
- *Is there any standard diagrammatic notation?*

=> UML Components and Deployment diagrams

– (next lecture)

Reading and References

- **Systems Analysis and Design with UML Version 2.0** (2nd edition) by A. Dennis, B. Haley Wixom, D. Tegarden, Wiley, 2005. Chapter 13
- **Object-Oriented Systems Analysis and Design Using UML** (2nd edition) by S. Bennett, S. McRobb, R. Farmer, McGraw Hil, 2002, Chapter 18
- **The Unified Modeling Language User Guide** (2nd edition) by G. Booch, J. Rumbaugh, I. Jacobson, Addison Wesley, 2004
- Slides of " UI Software Architecture, 6.831" (UI Design and Implementation)