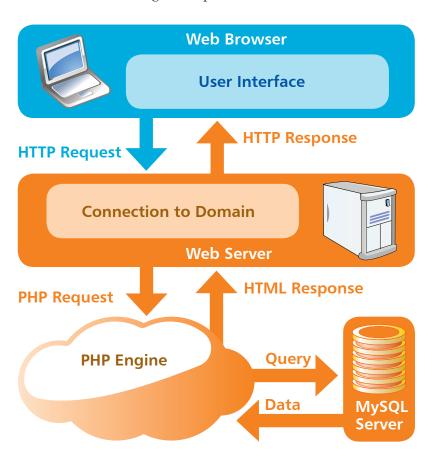
## **Understanding the cloud**

Whenever a user asks to view a web page in their browser it requests the page from the web server, and receives the page in response, via the HTTP protocol. Where a web page contains PHP script the web server may first call upon the PHP engine to process the code and, if required, request data from a MySQL database before sending the response to the browser.



The ensuing pages describe how to create a development environment for data-driven websites by installing the following server-side technologies on your own computer:

- Web Server Abyss Web Server X1 Free Personal Edition
- PHP Engine PHP 5.4.0
- MySQL Server MySQL Community Server 5.5



HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) is the common communication standard that allows any computer connected to any web server to access files across the web.



The examples in this book are created and tested with the listed software versions but may require modification for other versions.