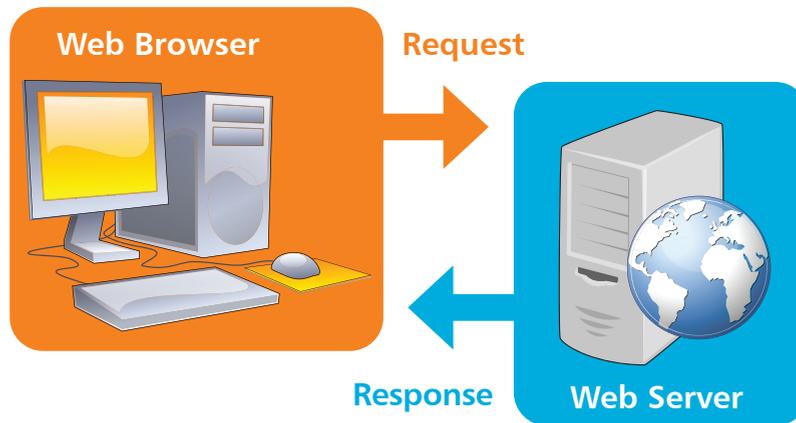


# How do web browsers work?

Each web page is actually an HTML file. These are just plain text files that have been saved with an **.html** (or **.htm**) file extension – instead of a typical **.txt** file extension; for example, **mypage.html**.

When you open an HTML file in a web browser, such as Google Chrome, the browser reads the file from top to bottom. It understands the HTML tags and uses them to display the content in the correct structure. Where the HTML file refers to other files, such as image files, the browser grabs those too and builds them into the entire web page.

When you type a web address into your browser it sends a request via your internet connection to a web server. If the web page is successfully found, the web server responds by copying that page's files back to the web browser, otherwise the web server sends an error code, such as "404 – Page Not Found".



The request and response are sent using "HTTP". This stands for **HyperText Transfer Protocol** – the system that is used to transmit content over the internet.

