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► The HTTP protocol

HTTP means **HyperText Transfer Protocol**. This protocol is basically used on the Internet to send web pages. For instance, Internet Explorer and Netscape use HTTP to get web pages.

This protocol was designed a long time ago (in 1991, at the very beginning of the web) by the father of the web: **Tim Berners-Lee**. It was first designed to distribute web pages on a TCP/IP network, like Internet. The latest version of this protocol is 1.1. It is completely defined in **RFCs**.

It is a layer 5 protocol (on the ISO model), just like FTP or telnet. What is interesting is that this protocol is human readable (it uses human words, like GET or Range).

- **how does HTTP work**
- **HTTP/0.9**
- **HTTP/1.0**
- **HTTP/1.0 status**
- **HTTP/1.1**
- **HTTP/1.1 status**
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References

RFCs:

- **RFC 1123**: Requirements for Internet Hosts -- Application and Support
- **RFC 1945**: HTTP/1.0
- **RFC 2616**: HTTP/1.1
- **RFC 2617**: HTTP Authentication: Basic and Digest Access

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