

Some Important Points about the first lecture

What is Internet computing?

Obviously, Internet computing is about “computing” on “internet”.

What is the definition of internet is?

Internet is defined formally as “a network of network”. It means that there are many small networks and internet connects these networks together to form a large network (“inter”)

What is the difficulty of connecting two networks together? Does it just take one additional wire to connect them?

Back in the 70's, different vendors use proprietary protocols and network architectures (e.g., IBM's SNA, Digital Equipment's DECNET), and they cannot talk to each other. Internet Protocol (IP) is supposed to be the bridge, converting proprietary protocol of one network to IP and IP to the proprietary protocol of another network.

Is this way of connecting proprietary networks still true today?

No. Proprietary protocols fade out. IP is used to connect two computers within the same network. The entire internet is run on IP now. (IPv4, IPv6). The bridging function of IP has diminished.

What is computing in Internet Computing then?

Computing is a general term; it does not just refer to calculation. Indeed a major function of internet is about data communication, not about computing. Therefore, internet computing refers to applications built on Internet (specifically Web protocols and standards) that are primarily data applications (at least as far as this course is concerned).

What is web?

Web is a software infrastructure built on Internet. Specially, Web is built on HTML for data creation and HTTP for communication. Relevant technologies include DOM, JavaScript, CSS, XML, etc.

How do I know if I should take the course or not?

The course does assume some knowledge in HTML and review some basic tags in the lectures, so you can take the course if HTML and perhaps a bit of CSS for formatting is all you know.

If you already know how to use plain JavaScript to access a node in DOM and change some of its properties, you probably should not take the course because you know half of the course.

The course will NOT cover *node.js*, *Ruby/Rails*, *Flash*, canvas, websocket, web security, etc. In short, it is an introductory course on JavaScript/DOM programming, plus server side programming. If you already know jQuery, this course is like assembly language programming for you.