HTTP Proxies and Caching
CS 183 – Hypermedia and the Web

Different kinds of proxies:

Caching proxy – maintains a private repository of stored responses to previously made requests. Allows it to maintain a store of static, or relatively infrequently changing content.

Transparent proxy – forwards messages along, largely not changing the message contents (adding one or two headers, not changing the message substantially)

Non-transparent proxy – alters the message going through substantially.

Proxy uses:

- Sharing access to the web – clients share connectivity to the web via the proxy
- Caching responses, increasing performance
- Anonymizing web access – ensures access to a server is not easily traceable. Alters User-Agent header and does not pass through cookies.
- Gateway to non-HTTP systems – HTTP request comes in, non-HTTP request goes out
- Filtering responses – can restrict the sites that people can access (NetNanny, SurfWatch), or filter out downloaded viruses