

## GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

### Twitter's James Harlow on the client and server

My name's James Harlow, I'm a back-end software engineer on Tweetdeck at Twitter.

The difference between the back-end and the front-end is that the front-end is the user interface that a user interacts with – so a list of tweets, buttons that they can use to favourite or reply or retweet particular tweets – and then the back-end is the invisible portion of code that stores data, relays data onto other services, reprocesses data or sends it back for future use.

With the client-server model, the Tweetdeck client is the web app that people are using. That communicates with the Tweetdeck back-end. The Tweetdeck back-end then communicates as a client with the Twitter API, and the Twitter API acts as a server. So a user will make a request to the Tweetdeck API, like 'show me a list of tweets'. That will be sent to the Tweetdeck back-end, and the Tweetdeck back-end will then ask Twitter for a list of tweets via its API.

The Twitter back-end will then respond to the Tweetdeck back-end, which will then process the response to the user.