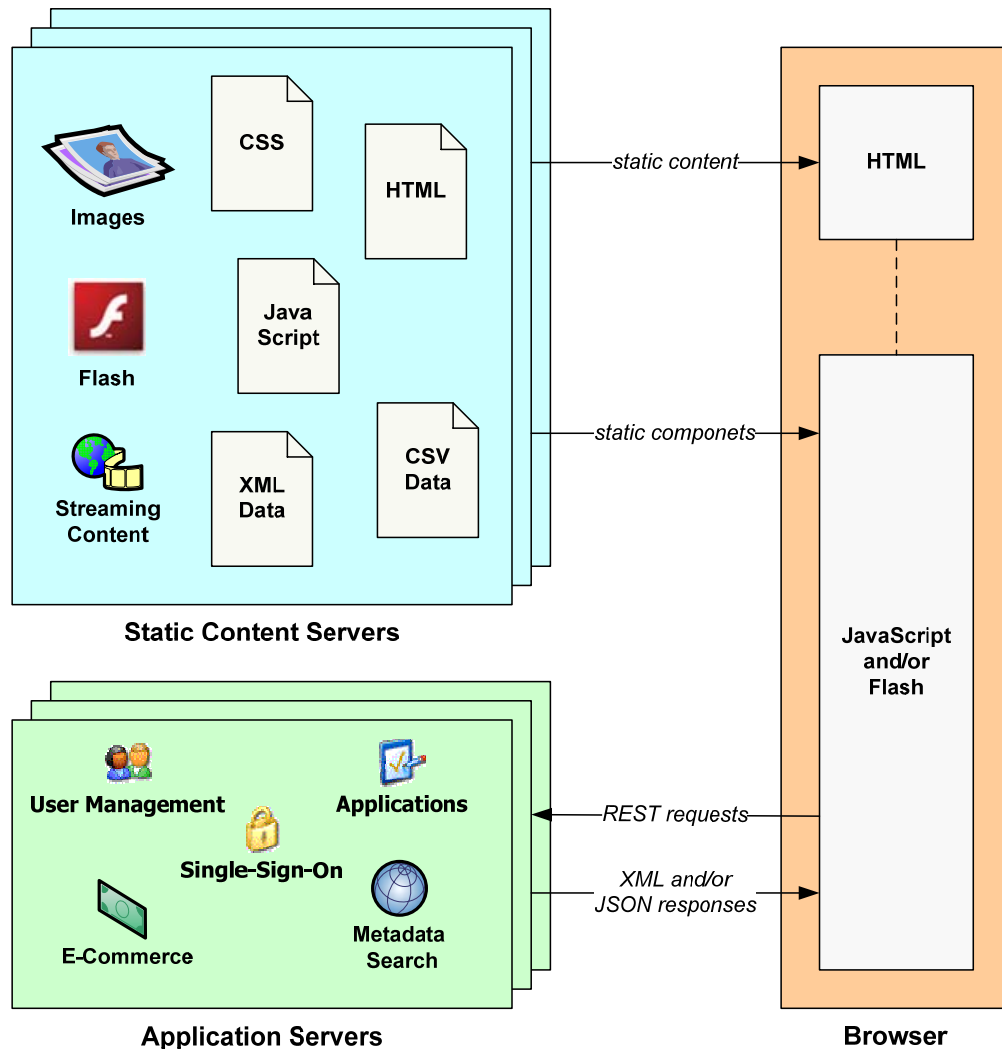


The cross-domain AJAX/Flash architecture model provides superior performance, scalability, flexibility, and the foundation for a *state-of-the-art* user experience. The browser first loads an HTML page, which then loads one or more JavaScript and/or Flash components. The JavaScript and/or Flash components are then used to build the dynamic portions of the user interface and change application state at the server through representational state transfer (REST) based web service calls. True cross-domain AJAX is enabled by the use of a small Flash stub automatically embedded into the page by JavaScript. A single-sign-on (SSO) engine provides user identity and session security across all servers as required.



Each component may therefore be scaled independently. Content that does not change (static content) is served to the browser from one or more static content servers. Static content serving may be scaled both vertically (increasing machine capabilities) and horizontally (adding more machines). Horizontal scaling may be handled through URL partitioning and/or load balancing. Content that does change (dynamic content) is served to the browser from one or more application servers. Dynamic content serving may be scaled both vertically and horizontally. Horizontal scaling may be handled through service partitioning and through a combination of load balanced application servers and vertically scaled back-end database engines.