The Assignment:

The HTTP protocol has recently altered from version 1.0 to 1.1. Version 1.0 was never fully adopted as a protocol (but a document describing it exists as RFC 1945); Version 1.1 can be found at RFC 2616.

You are asked to write a report detailing the particular shortcomings in 1.0 that 1.1 is intended to overcome. You should concentrate on the important differences. The report should be not more than four pages long, and should be written in a style suitable for a popular computing magazine - that is, the intended readership should be the well educated computer user, rather than the professional.

Useful references:

Books:
Stallings section 19.4 describes HTTP 1.1 based on an earlier RFC. It doesn't talk about 1.0.
Tanenbaum (page 689-691) describes HTTP 1.0 briefly.

On the Web:
http://www.jmarshall.com/easy/http/ describes both HTTP1.0 and HTTP 1.1, as well as providing pointers to other useful URLs.

There is a copy of a talk given by Jim Gettys of Digital and World Wide Web Consortium to be found at http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~lss/31W6/tut2001/http_1_1.PDF

http://www.rad.com/networks/1999/http/httpdemo.htm describes the operation of HTTP 1.1

For details, RFC 2616 can be found at http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc2616/rfc2616.txt, and RFC 1945 at http://www.w3.org/Protocols/rfc1945/rfc1945.txt.

There are undoubtedly other useful references, and I hope to provide some further pointers on the 31W6 web page.

The assignment is due on 11 May 2001, at 5pm.