Mandatory Assignment 1 - Chat system

## (SWC3)

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# Dat17C hand in date:

This is one of the compulsory assignments you need to hand in, and pass, to qualify for 3rd semester exam.

**Hand in date: 10 October 2018, latest at 14:00, on Fronter.**

**Hand in info: You must submit a link to your git repo.**

# Overview:

You should code a Chat system, with a chat client that can connect to a chat server.

You may need to use threads in client and/or in server. The client should at the start ask the user his/her chat-name(username) and then send a join message to the server.

The server should accept clients to join the chat system, using a protocol specified below. When a client joins, the server should maintain and update a list of all active clients. The server will need to save for each client the user name, IP address and Port number.

If a new user tries to join with the same name as an already active user, then an error message should be sent back to client. Client can try again with a new name.

An active client can send user text message to the server that will just send a copy to all active clients in the client list.

The Client must send a “heartbeat alive” message once every minute to the Server. The server should (maybe with a specialized thread) check the active list, and delete clients that stop sending heartbeat messages. Maybe the active list should include last heartbeat time.

The Client must send a Quit message when it is closing.

**The solution will use TCP to communicate.**

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# Protocol between Chat server and client:

List of allowed messages (and their meaning):

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| --- |
| **JOIN <<user\_name>>, <<server\_ip>>:<<server\_port>>**  From client to server.  The user name is given by the user. Username is max 12 chars long, only letters, digits, ‘-‘ and ‘\_’ allowed. |
| **J\_OK**  From server to client.  Client is accepted. |
| **J\_ER <<err\_code>>: <<err\_msg>>**  From server to client.  Client not accepted. Duplicate username, unknown command, bad command or any other errors. |
| **DATA <<user\_name>>: <<free text…>>**  From client to server.  From server to all clients.  First part of message indicates from which user it is, the colon(:) indicates where the user message begins. Max 250 user characters. |
| **IMAV**  From client to server.  Client sends this heartbeat alive every 1 minute. |
| **QUIT**  From client to server.  Client is closing down and leaving the group. |
| **LIST <<name1 name2 name3 …>>**  From server to client.  A list of all active user names is sent to all clients, each time the list at the server changes. |

**Note**:

This notation <<info>> indicates a placeholder, and they need to be replaced with appropriate content.

E.g.:

**JOIN <<user\_name>>, <<server\_ip>>:<<server\_port>>**

Might look like this:

**JOIN alice\_92, 172.168.168.12:4578**