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Week #3

Understanding Persistent and Non-persistent HTTP Connections

To understand persistent and non-persistent HTTP connections and corresponding performance impact.

Create a web page with N (e.g. 10) embedded images. Each image should be of minimum 2 MB size. Configure your browser (Firefox) with following settings (each setting requires repeat of experiment)

- Non persistent connection
- 2 persistent connections
- 4 persistent connections
- 6 persistent connections
- 10 persistent connections.

Observation: Note down the time taken to display the entire page in each of the settings. Ensure that (cache is cleared before starting the web request). Explain the response time differences. What is the optimal number of persistent connections for best performance? Explain your answer.

Introduction

The Apache HTTP server is the most widely-used web server in the world. It provides many powerful features including dynamically loadable modules, robust media support, and extensive integration with other popular software.

Objective: Understand persistent and non-persistent HTTP connections and corresponding performance impact.

Experiment: Create a web page with N (e.g. 10) embedded images. Each image should be of minimum 2 MB size. Configure your browser (Firefox) with following settings (each setting requires repeat of experiment)

- a) Non-persistent connection
- b) 2 persistent connections
- c) 4 persistent connections
- d) 6 persistent connections
- e) 10 persistent connections

Note down the time taken to display the entire page in each of the settings. Ensure that cache is cleared before starting the web request. Explain the response time differences. What is the optimal number of persistent connections for best performance? Explain your answer.

Note: To install Apache server, use the following command,

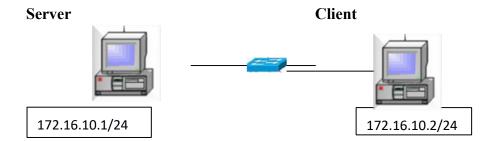
sudo apt-get install apache2

If there is any error during installation, update the package manager by issuing the command,

sudo apt-get update

EXECUTION STEPS

Step 1: Connect 2 desktops using switch and cables as shown below. (Use 2 VMs on Virtualbox or VMware instead of physical connections.)



Server: OSBOXES.ORG VM Client: SEED UBUNTU VM

Server Side:

Step 2: Check your Web Server

At the end of the installation process, Ubuntu 16.04 starts Apache. The web server should already be up and running. We can check with the <code>systemctl</code> command to make sure the service is running by typing:

sudo systemctl status apache2

or

sudo service apache2 status

```
osboxes@osboxes:~$ sudo systemctl status apache2
 apache2.service - The Apache HTTP Server
     Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/apache2.service; enabled; preset: enab>
     Active: active (running) since Thu 2024-02-15 10:43:31 EST; 22s ago
       Docs: https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/
   Main PID: 3189 (apache2)
      Tasks: 55 (limit: 4613)
     Memory: 5.3M
        CPU: 114ms
     CGroup: /system.slice/apache2.service
               -3189 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
              -3190 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
              -3191 /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
Feb 15 10:43:30 osboxes systemd[1]: Starting apache2.service - The Apache HTTP
Feb 15 10:43:31 osboxes apachectl[3188]: AHOO558: apache2: Could not reliably d
Feb 15 10:43:31 osboxes systemd[1]: Started apache2.service - The Apache HTTP S
```

As you can see above, the service appears to have started successfully. However, the best way to test this is to actually request a page from Apache. You can access the default Apache

landing page to confirm that the software is running properly. You can access this through your server's domain name or IP address.

Step 3: Server IP address can be set by the following command \$sudo ip addr add 172.16.10.1/24 dev enps0 \$sudo ip addr

Note: If IP address fluctuates, kindly setup the IP address manually using 'Edit connections'.

```
osboxes@osboxes:-$ sudo ip addr add 172.16.10.1/24 dev enp0s3
osboxes@osboxes:-$ sudo ip addr
1: lo: <LOOPBACK,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 65536 qdisc noqueue state UNKNOWN group default qlen 1000
    link/loopback 00:00:00:00:00:00 brd 00:00:00:00:00
    inet 127.0.0.1/8 scope host lo
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 ::1/128 scope host
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
2: enp0s3: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UP group default qlen
    link/ether 08:00:27:ab:de:e1 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:
    inet 10.0.2.15/24 brd 10.0.2.255 scope global dynamic noprefixroute enp0s3
        valid_lft 86071sec preferred_lft 86071sec
    inet 172.16.10.1/24 scope global enp0s3
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 fe80::a00:27ff:feab:dee1/64 scope link
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

Step 4: The apache2.conf file present in the etc/apache2 directory is modified as:

- a) The **keep-alive** option was set (i.e. value was made **ON**)
- b) The MaximumKeepAliveRequests were set to 2

```
## Timeout: The number of seconds before receives and sends time out.
## Timeout 300

## KeepAlive: Whether or not to allow persistent connections (more than # one request per connection). Set to "Off" to deactivate.

# KeepAlive On

# # MaxKeepAliveRequests: The maximum number of requests to allow # during a persistent connection. Set to 0 to allow an unlimited amount.

# We recommend you leave this number high, for maximum performance.

# MaxKeepAliveRequests 2

# KeepAliveTimeout: Number of seconds to wait for the next request from the # same client on the same connection.

# KeepAliveTimeout 5

# These need to be set in /etc/apache2/envvars
User ${APACHE_RUN_USER}
Group ${APACHE_RUN_GROUP}
```

Step 5: Store images in the server path. A html page consisting of 10 images having size > 2MB were placed and accessed by the client. This html page is stored in the location - /var/www/html/file_name.html.

Note: Use the images provided by faculty incharges.



Step 6: Prepare a web page as shown below. The html file needs to add 10 images. (Kindly skip the style attribute in the below image)

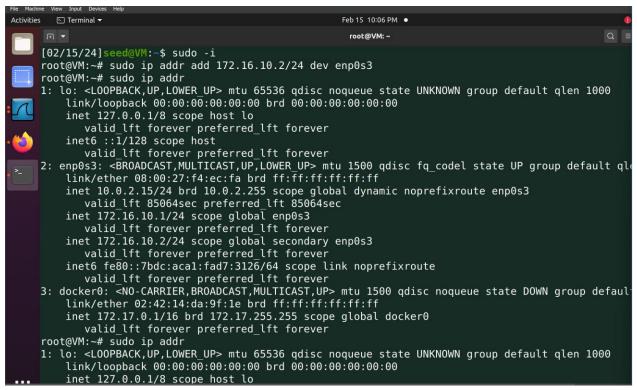
```
a.html
Open ∨
                                                             /var/www/html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <body style=background-color:#E1F6FF>
    <h2>random images</h2>
    <img src="1.jpg">
    <img src="2.jpg">
    <img src="3.jpg">
    <img src="pesu.jpeg">
    <img src="plane2.jpeg">
    <img src="plane3.jpeg">
    <img src="super1.jpeg">
    <img src="super2.jpeg">
    <img src="super3.jpeg">
    <img src="super4.jpeg">
  </body>
</html>
```

Client side:

Client IP address can be set by the following command.

\$sudo ip addr add 172.16.10.2/24 dev enps0 \$sudo ip addr

Note: If IP address fluctuates, kindly setup the IP address manually using 'Edit connections'.



There are broadly two parts of execution:

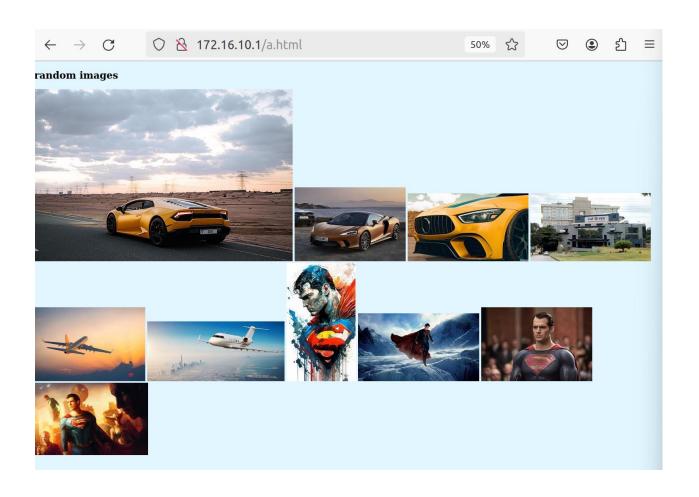
- 1. Dealing with non-persistent connections
- 2. Dealing with persistent connections

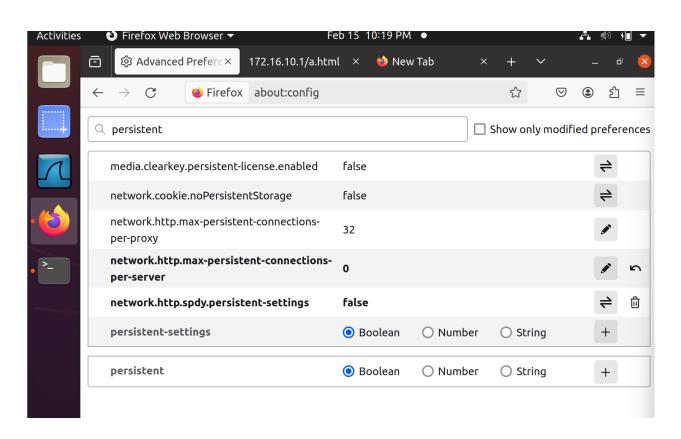
Open Firefox browser to configure for persistent option. Go to browser and type **about:config** and search for the term 'persistent'

- While using non-persistent connection experiment, the max-persistentconnectionsper-server has the value set to 0 and persistent-settings value set to false.
- While using persistent connection experiment, the max-persistent-connectionsperserver should have value greater than 0 (depending on the number of persistent connections needed) and persistent-settings value set to true.

PART 1: NON-PERSISTENT CONNECTION

Step 1: This is done by setting the value of max-persistent-connection-per-server to 0 in the client computer.





Step 2: Access web page on client-side browser (Firefox)

The client could access the file as:

172.16.10.1/file name.html where--> **172.16.10.1** is Server's IP

Here the file name is **a.html** present in server. So, by tying **172.16.10.1/a.html** in client browser, we will be able to open the requested web page.

Note 1: The wireshark should capture the packets between the client and the server while the file is accessed.

Note 2: The images in the HTML page should have all the permissions specified through the server for the proper access.

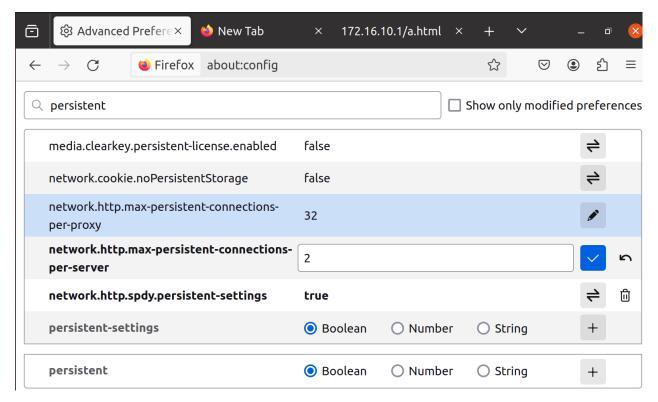
Step 3: Use wireshark. Open wireshark in the server computer while client is trying to access the server's local host webpage. Apply 'http' filter and note the time to capture all the 10 images.

<mark>│</mark> http						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info	
	21 4.991972098	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	506 GET /a.html HTTP/1.1	
-	23 4.993977366	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	575 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)	
	25 5.113207393	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	451 GET /pesu.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	26 5.114356477	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	28 5.117372222	172.16.10.2	172,16,10,1	HTTP	453 GET /plane2.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	29 5.126128003	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	31 5.127553341	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane3.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	32 5.128466348	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	34 5.129947908	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super1.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	35 5.130624948	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	36 5.132134647	172.16.10.2	172,16,10,1	HTTP	453 GET /super2.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	37 5.132548131	172,16,10,1	172,16,10,2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	38 5.134278477	172.16.10.2	172,16,10,1	HTTP	453 GET /super3.ipeg HTTP/1.1	
	39 5.135075219	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	40 5.136962718	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super4.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	41 5.137988229	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	1043 131.009345886	192.168.1.25	91.189.91.98	HTTP	153 GET / HTTP/1.1	
	1048 132.102093500	91.189.91.98	192.168.1.25	HTTP	251 HTTP/1.1 284 No Content	
	1173 149.395571078	192.168.1.23	23.35.7.133	HTTP	281 GET / HTTP/1.1	
	1175 149,401281227	23.35.7.133	192,168,1,23	HTTP	317 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	
	1184 149.508984728	192.168.1.23	192.229.232.240	HTTP	340 GET /msdownload/update/v3/static/trustedr/en/disallowedcertstl.cab?6d04da	
	1188 149.520300451	192.229.232.240	192.168.1.23	HTTP	343 HTTP/1.1 384 Not Modified	

Here it is 149..50089 - 4.9939 = 144.50699

PART 2: PERSISTENT CONNECTIONS

Step 1: For 2 persistent connections, set the value of max-persistent-connection-per-server to 2 in the client computer.

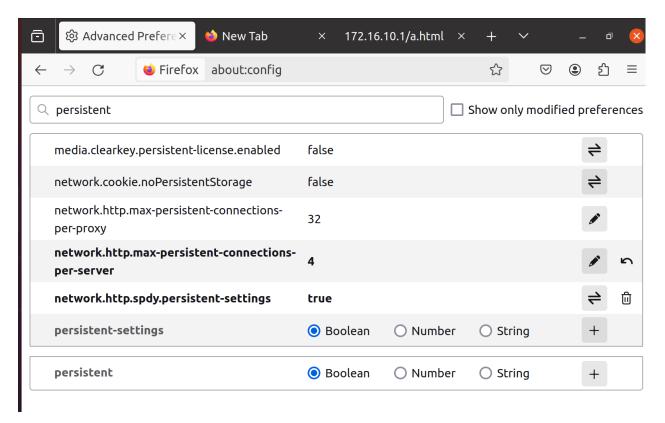


Step 2: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.

The second of th						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info	
	49 5.457158564	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	506 GET /a.html HTTP/1.1	
	51 5.459911460	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	575 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)	
	53 5.535229969	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	447 GET /3.jpg HTTP/1.1	
	54 5.536178805	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	нттр	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	56 5.548722767	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	451 GET /pesu.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	57 5.549489872	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	62 5.550898089	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane2.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	63 5.550898170	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane3.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	65 5.552182113	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	66 5.552366246	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	69 5.553842606	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super1.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	70 5.554226560	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super2.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	71 5.555748083	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	73 5.557572985	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	74 5.559834339	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super3.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	76 5.560458895	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super4.jpeg HTTP/1.1	
	77 5.560635745	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	79 5.562677854	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified	
	1006 157.285159562	192.168.1.23	199.232.210.33	HTTP	409 GET /Builds/UnrealEngineLauncher/CloudDir/C_c8jGiuL1H5QjkQUU	
	1017 157.346712672	199.232.210.33	192.168.1.23	HTTP	21226 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/plain)	
	1055 160.670896187	192.168.1.23	199.232.210.33	HTTP	377 GET /Builds/UnrealEngineLauncher/CloudDir/ChunksV4/97/63CC31	
	1056 160.671249853	192.168.1.23	199.232.210.33	HTTP	377 GET /Builds/UnrealEngineLauncher/CloudDir/ChunksV4/68/8EFE3E	
	1873 160.974884201	199.232.210.33	192.168.1.23	HTTP	318 HTTP/1.1 200 OK	
	1876 160.975528931	199.232.210.33	192.168.1.23	HTTP	22144 HTTP/1.1 200 OK	
	1943 167.971643932	192.168.1.25	185.125.190.18	HTTP	153 GET / HTTP/1.1	
	1974 171,728701567	185.125.190.18	192,168,1,25	HTTP	255 HTTP/1.1 204 No Content	

Here it is 167.97164 - 5.459911 = 162.511729

Step 3: For 4 persistent connections, Set the value of **max-persistent-connection-per-server to 4** in the client computer.

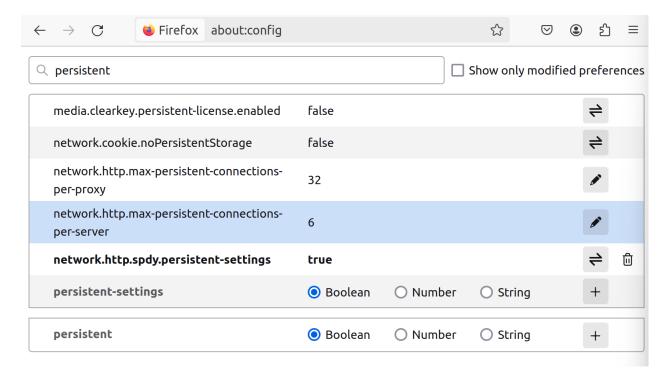


Step 4: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.

10.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
	38 11.681237779	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	506 GET /a.html HTTP/1.1
	40 11.683348544	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	575 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
	42 11.800170388	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	448 GET /1.jpg HTTP/1.1
	43 11.800913403	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	48 11.804226772	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	447 GET /2.jpg HTTP/1.1
	49 11.805568640	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	50 11.806008791	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	451 GET /pesu.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	57 11.806929967	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	61 11.808660506	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane2.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	62 11.809274344	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	63 11.809549926	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane3.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	64 11.809550229	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super1.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	66 11.811328422	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	67 11.811420945	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	71 11.814786711	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super2.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	73 11.817144468	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	75 11.818851940	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super3.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	76 11.818852159	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super4.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	77 11.819795706	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	78 11.820059118	172,16,10,1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	961 191,134677631	192.168.1.25	185.125.190.48	HTTP	153 GET / HTTP/1.1
	981 195.520768636	185.125.190.48	192.168.1.25	HTTP	255 HTTP/1.1 204 No Content

Here it is 195.520768–11.681237 = 183.839531

Step 5: For 6 persistent connections, set the value of **max-persistent-connection-per-server to 6** in the server computer.

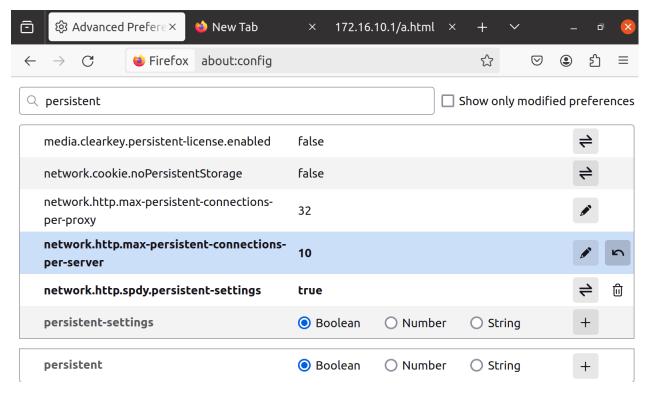


Step 6: Repeat the steps 1-3 in the previous section.

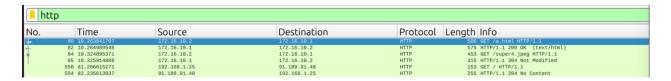
0.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info
	44 14.147764416	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	НТТР	506 GET /a.html HTTP/1.1
	46 14.149032248	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	575 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
	48 14.216632651	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	447 GET /3.jpg HTTP/1.1
	49 14.217443732	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	51 14.230119377	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	451 GET /pesu.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	54 14.231896855	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	57 14.233208938	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane2.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	59 14.233803965	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /plane3.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	63 14.235081544	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super1.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	71 14.237703842	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	72 14.238022756	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	316 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	73 14.238898479	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	77 14.240451039	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super2.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	78 14.240786179	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super3.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	79 14.241255606	172.16.10.2	172.16.10.1	HTTP	453 GET /super4.jpeg HTTP/1.1
	82 14.245925052	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	84 14.247126469	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	86 14.248355280	172.16.10.1	172.16.10.2	HTTP	315 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
	764 85.947124994	192.168.1.23	152.195.38.76	HTTP	306 GET /sha2-ha-server-g6.crl HTTP/1.1
	766 85.958046104	152.195.38.76	192.168.1.23	HTTP	339 HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified

Here it is 85.958046 - 14.149032 = 71.899014

Step 7: For 10 persistent connections, set the value of max-persistent-connection-perserver to 10 in the client computer.



Step 8: Repeat the **steps 1-3** in the previous section.



Here it is 81.23561 - 10.263841 = 70.971769

OBSERVATIONS REQUIRED ON EDMODO:

Find out the time taken to load images for 2 4 6 persistent connections is lesser or greater than 10 persistent compared to non-persistent. Why? Find out the optimal persistent connections.

SCREENSHOTS REQUIRED FOR EDMODO:

```
$ sudo wireshark
[sudo] password for osboxes:
** (wireshark:13564) 11:42:20.062147
                                                 [GUI WARNING] -- QStandardPaths: XDG_RUNTIME_DIR not set, defaulting to
** (wireshark:13564) 11:42:23.915502
** (wireshark:13564) 11:42:24.109341
                                                   Capture MESSAGE]
                                                                              Capture Start ...
                                                                             Capture started
File: "/tmp/wireshark_enp0s31JM7I2.pcapng"
Capture Stop ...
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
** (wireshark:13564) 11:42:24.109454

** (wireshark:13564) 11:52:22.019406
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
    (wireshark:13564) 11:52:22.119121
(wireshark:13564) 11:52:22.119153
                                                                             Capture stopped.
                                                   [Capture MESSAGE]
                                                   Capture WARNING
                                                                          ./ui/capture.c:722 -- capture_input_closed():
    (wireshark:13564) 11:52:25.948544
                                                  Capture MESSAGE
                                                                             Capture Start ..
   (wireshark:13564) 11:52:26.321436
(wireshark:13564) 11:52:26.321519
                                                                             Capture started
File: "/tmp/wireshark_enp0s3HNG8I2.pcapng"
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
    (wireshark:13564) 11:54:15.179221
(wireshark:13564) 11:54:15.267479
                                                                              Capture Stop ..
                                                   Capture MESSAGE]
                                                                              Capture stopped.
                           11:54:15.267479
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
    (wireshark:13564) 11:54:15.267590
                                                  [Capture WARNING]
                                                                         ./ui/capture.c:722 -- capture_input_closed():
    (wireshark:13564) 11:54:21.215790
(wireshark:13564) 11:54:21.560658
                                                                             Capture Start ...
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                                             Capture started
File: "/tmp/wireshark_enp0s30M41I2.pcapng"
Capture Stop ...
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
    (wireshark:13564) 11:54:21.560727
(wireshark:13564) 11:57:24.410112
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE
   (wireshark:13564) 11:57:24.479136
(wireshark:13564) 11:57:24.479340
(wireshark:13564) 11:57:28.263997
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
                                                                              Capture stopped.
                                                                          ./ui/capture.c:722 -- capture_input_closed():
                                                  [Capture
                                                  Capture MESSAGE
                                                                              Capture Start ..
    (wireshark:13564) 11:57:28.544281
(wireshark:13564) 11:57:28.544315
                                                                             Capture started
File: "/tmp/wireshark_enp0s34Y01I2.pcapng"
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
    (wireshark:13564) 11:58:30.386241
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
                                                                              Capture Stop ..
    (wireshark:13564)
                           11:58:30.461408
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                                              Capture stopped.
    (wireshark:13564) 11:58:30.461495
                                                                          ./ui/capture.c:722 -- capture_input_closed():
                                                   Capture WARNING
    (wireshark:13564) 11:58:33.664059
(wireshark:13564) 11:58:33.938908
                                                                             Capture Start ...
Capture started
                                                   Capture MESSAGE
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
                                                                             File: "/tmp/wireshark_enp0s306KUI2.pcapng"
Capture Stop ...
Capture stopped.
    (wireshark:13564) 11:58:33.940052
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE]
    (wireshark:13564)
                           11:59:11.675160
                                                  [Capture MESSAGE
    (wireshark:13564) 11:59:11.708067 [Capture MESSAGE]
```

- 1) Non-persistent connection wireshark capture (should include all 10 images)
- 2) Persistent connections wireshark capture 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 respectively (should include all 10 images).