

Procedure calls

Procedure calls are a more natural way to communicate

- Every language supports them
- Semantics are well-defined and understood
- Natural for programmers to use

➔ Idea - let servers export procedures that can be called by client programs

- Similar to module interfaces, class definitions, etc.
- Clients just do a procedure call as if they were directly linked with the server
- Under the covers, the procedure call is converted into a message exchange with the server

Remote Procedure Calls (RPC)

So, we would like to use procedure call as a model for distributed (remote) communication

Lots of issues

- How do we make this invisible to the programmer?
- What are the semantics of parameter passing?
- How do we bind (locate, connect to) servers?
- How do we support heterogeneity (OS, arch, language)?
- How do we make it perform well?