

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?

Why is RPC interesting?

Remote Procedure Call (RPC) is the most common means for remote communication

It is used both by operating systems and applications

- DCOM, CORBA, Java RMI, etc., are all basically just RPC
 - NFS is implemented as a set of RPCs
- ➔ Someday you will most likely have to write an application that uses some form of RPC for remote communication (or you already have)