

Per-Peer Message Capture

Purpose

This feature allows for message capture on a per-peer basis. It answers the simple question: “Can I see what messages my node is sending and receiving?”

Usage and Functionality

- Run `bitcoind` with the `-capturemessages` option.
- Look in the `message_capture` folder in your datadir.
 - Typically this will be `~/.bitcoin/message_capture`.
 - See that there are many folders inside, one for each peer names with its IP address and port.
 - Inside each peer’s folder there are two `.dat` files: one is for received messages (`msgsv_recv.dat`) and the other is for sent messages (`msgsv_sent.dat`).
- Run `contrib/message-capture/message-capture-parser.py` with the proper arguments.
 - See the `-h` option for help.
 - To see all messages, both sent and received, for all peers use:

```
./contrib/message-capture/message-capture-parser.py -o out.json \  
~/.bitcoin/message_capture/**/*.*.dat
```
 - Note: The messages in the given `.dat` files will be interleaved in chronological order. So, giving both received and sent `.dat` files (as above with `*.*.dat`) will result in all messages being interleaved in chronological order.
 - If an output file is not provided (i.e. the `-o` option is not used), then the output prints to `stdout`.
- View the resulting output.
 - The output file is JSON formatted.
 - Suggestion: use `jq` to view the output, with `jq . out.json`