

527 — Computer Networks and Distributed Systems —

Assessed Coursework: RMI and UDP

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The purpose of the exercise is to gain experience of coding RMI and UDP as well as to compare them for relative reliability and ease of use.

For each case you will have to write a simple client that passes a specified number of messages to a server. Each message should contain a message sequence number and the total number of messages to be sent. The server keeps track of the messages received and, when there are no more messages, outputs a summary of the number of messages received and also which ones were lost.

When the clients and servers for each communication mechanism are working, run some experiments on 2 computers *in different parts of the lab (i.e., not physically near each other)*, sending increasing numbers of messages (e.g., from 20-100 with increments of 20, then, 200, 300 and 400) and identify the situations in which messages are lost.

Do not send more than about 2000 messages as otherwise you will overload the lab network.

You should hand in the following as hardcopy:

1. A short summary (no more than 1 page) describing your findings from running the programs. You should address the following points:
 - (a) For each mechanism, what are possible causes, if any, of messages being lost?
 - (b) Are there any patterns in the way messages are lost?
 - (c) What is the relative reliability of the different communication mechanisms?
 - (d) Which was easier to program and why?
2. Proof that the both RMI and UDP programs actually ran, e.g. console logs or screen dump plus an indication of which message numbers, if any, were lost.
3. A well formatted listing of the completed code for the 4 classes (2 client server pairs) which is easy to read. Start each of the 4 classes on a new page and avoid very long lines (i.e. <70 characters). Your solutions should deal with exceptions appropriately.

Please provide program listings in the following order:

1. RMI Client
2. RMI Server
3. UDP Client
4. UDP Server

Notes:

Download outline source code and scripts from CATE. You are not obliged to use these; however, they should simplify the process of achieving working solutions. A few notes on the layout and support files follow:

After extracting the files from the archive provided, you should run *install.sh* (or *install.bat* on Windows) to obtain the appropriate build and execution scripts which are described below.

The class *MessageInfo* (in the *common* folder) provides a container for the data to be sent and also has a constructor that extracts the data from a string representation. Outline code for each of the client/server pairs can be found in the *rmi* and *udp* folders.

The file *policy* is a simple configuration file required for the RMI code. More constrained policies are possible, but this should provide the lowest barrier to testing.

The *Makefile* allows Linux users to use make to compile the various parts of the exercise. It can also be used to help configure your preferred development environment with the correct commands, flags and parameters. Windows users can use the *build.bat* script to compile the exercise in the same way. The other shell scripts (*rmiclient* (.bat or .sh) etc.) allow users to execute the various parts of the exercise.

Tutorials

Sockets: <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/networking/sockets/>

Datagrams: <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/networking/datagrams/>

RMI: <http://docs.oracle.com/javase/tutorial/rmi/>