

CSCI 2275 – Programming and Data Structures  
Instructor: Hoenigman  
Assignment 4  
Due: Wednesday, October 3, before 11am.

### **Communication between towers**

In the Lord of the Rings trilogy, there is a scene where the first beacon is lit in the towers of Minas Tirith. The second beacon then sees the fire, and knows to light its fire to send a signal to the third beacon, and so forth. This was a means of communicating in the days before telegraphs were invented as it was much faster than sending a human rider to deliver a message. Communication towers were equipped with signaling mechanisms, such as mirrors, that could spell out messages using the positions of the mirrors.

Today, there are several examples of communication networks that are conceptually similar, but much more technically advanced, that route messages through multiple hubs between the sender and the receiver. For example, when you type a URL into a web browser, a request is sent through a network of service providers to the destination, and then packets of information are sent back to your machine. If I type [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) from my home in Boulder, my request follows this path:

```
1  192.168.2.1 (192.168.2.1)
2  c-24-9-60-1.hsd1.co.comcast.net (24.9.60.1)
3  te-9-7-ur02.boulder.co.denver.comcast.net
4  xe-13-3-1-0-ar01.aurora.co.denver.comcast.net
5  he-3-10-0-0-cr01.denver.co.ibone.comcast.net
   (68.86.92.25)
te-1-1-0-4-cr01.chicago.il.ibone.comcast.net (68.86.95.205)
6  xe-2-0-0-0-pe01.910fifteenth.co.ibone.comcast.net
   (68.86.82.2)
7  as15169-1-c.910fifteenth.co.ibone.comcast.net
   (23.30.206.106)
8  72.14.234.57 (72.14.234.57)
9  209.85.251.111 (209.85.251.111)
10 den03s06-in-f16.1e100.net (74.125.225.208)
```

Each IP address is a hop in the network for my request, which is received at each service provider and then forwarded to the next service provider in the network, depending on the final destination of the message.

(Note: I got this path by typing `tracert www.google.com` in a terminal window. From campus, you will see a different path.)

### **Build your own communications network**

In this assignment, you're going to simulate a communications network using a linked list. Each node in your linked list will represent a city and you need to be able

to send a message between nodes from one side of the country to the other and back again. Your program also needs to provide the capability to update the network by adding cities, and deleting cities, and still be able to transmit the message.

(Note: I'll refer to the linked list as "the network" throughout this document.)

**Include the following cities in your network:**

Los Angeles  
Phoenix  
Denver  
Dallas  
St. Louis  
Chicago  
Atlanta  
Washington, D.C.  
New York  
Boston

Implement each city as a struct with a name, a pointer connecting it to the next city in the network and the previous city in the network, and a place to store the message being sent. (You can assume the message is a string.) When you initially build your network, the order of the cities should be the same as the order listed above. After the network is built, you will provide the option of adding additional cities.

**First, display a menu**

When your program starts, you should display a menu that presents the user with options for how to run your program. The menu needs to look like the one shown here:

```
=====Main Menu=====
1. Build Network
2. Print Network Path
3. Transmit Message Coast-To-Coast-To-Coast
4. Add City
5. Delete City
6. Clear Network
7. Quit
```

The user will select the number for the menu option and your program should respond accordingly to that number. Your menu options need to have the following functionality.

1. **Build Network:** This option builds the linked list using the cities listed above in the order they are listed. Each city needs to have a name, a pointer to the next city, and a message value, which will initially be an empty string. This option should be selected first to build the network, and can be selected anytime the user wants to rebuild the starting network after adding cities. As

part of the Build Network functionality, you should print the name of each city in the network once the network is built in the following format:

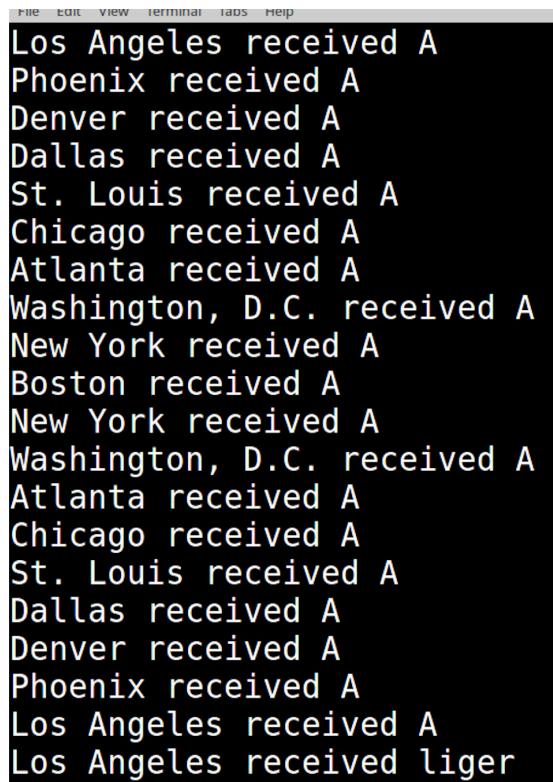
```
NULL <- Los Angeles <-> Phoenix <-> Denver <-> Dallas <-> St. Louis <-> Chicago  
<-> Atlanta <-> Washington, D.C. <-> New York <-> Boston -> NULL
```

```
===CURRENT PATH===  
NULL <- Los Angeles <-> Phoenix <-> Denver <-> Dallas <-> St. Louis <-> Chicago  
<-> Atlanta <-> Washington, D.C. <-> New York <-> Boston -> NULL  
=====
```

2. **Print Network Path:** This option prints out the linked list in order from the head to the tail by following the next pointer for each city. You should print the name of each city. Printing the path could be very useful to you when debugging your code. The format should be the same as the format in Build Network.
3. **Transmit Message Coast-to-Coast-to-Coast:** The message that you need to transmit is in the file *messageToTransmit.txt* on Canvas. Your program needs to handle the filename as a command line argument. Your program needs to open this file and read word by word and transmit the message starting at the beginning of the network and ending at the end of the network, and then sends the message back again to the beginning of the network. Using the cities in this write-up, the message would go from Los Angeles to Boston, passing through each city along the way, and then back to Los Angeles, passing through each city along the way. When a city receives the message, you should print

*<city name> received <word>*

where *<city name>* is the name of the city and *<word>* is the word received. When a city receives a word, the word should be deleted from the sender city, i.e set the message for the sender city to an empty string. Here is a screenshot of the output I get after transmitting the first two words in the file:

A screenshot of a terminal window with a black background and white text. The terminal has a menu bar at the top with the words 'file', 'edit', 'view', 'terminal', 'tabs', and 'help'. Below the menu bar, there is a list of 20 lines of text, each representing a city and its status. The cities are: Los Angeles, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas, St. Louis, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, Denver, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Los Angeles. The first 19 cities are followed by 'received A', and the last one is followed by 'received liger'.

```
file  edit  view  terminal  tabs  help
Los Angeles received A
Phoenix received A
Denver received A
Dallas received A
St. Louis received A
Chicago received A
Atlanta received A
Washington, D.C. received A
New York received A
Boston received A
New York received A
Washington, D.C. received A
Atlanta received A
Chicago received A
St. Louis received A
Dallas received A
Denver received A
Phoenix received A
Los Angeles received A
Los Angeles received liger
```

**Note:** The name of the file that contains the message should be a command line argument to your program.

4. **Add City:** This option allows the user to add a new city to the network. If the user selects this option, then they should be prompted for the name of the city and the city that the new city should follow in the network. For example, if the user wants to add Tucson after Phoenix in the network, then the first four cities in the network would be:

Los Angeles <-> Phoenix <-> Tucson <-> Denver...

You don't need to print anything when you add a new city, just call the Print Network function again from the menu if you want to verify that the city has been added.

If the user wants to add a new city to the head of the network, e.g. replace Los Angeles as the starting city, then they should type "First" when prompted for the previous city and your code should handle this special case.

Here is a screenshot showing the expected output for the add city functionality when the user selects Add City from the menu.

```

Enter a city name:
Tucson
Enter a previous city name:
Phoenix
=====Main Menu=====
1. Build Network
2. Print Network Path
3. Transmit Message Coast-To-Coast-To-Coast
4. Add City
5. Delete City
6. Clear Network
7. Quit

```

5. **Delete City:** This option allows the user to delete a city from the network. When the user selects this option, they should be prompted for the name of the city to delete. Your code should then update the next and previous pointers for the surrounding cities and free the memory for the deleted city.

```

5
Enter a city name:
Phoenix

```

6. **Clear Network:** This option allows the user to delete all cities in the network starting at the head city. After this functionality executes, the head of the list should be NULL and all cities should be deleted from the network. When a city is deleted, print the name of the city just before freeing the memory. Your clear network method should be called in the destructor of CommunicationNetwork, in addition to being a menu option.

```

6
deleting Los Angeles
deleting Phoenix
deleting Denver
deleting Dallas
deleting St. Louis
deleting Chicago
deleting Atlanta
deleting Washington, D.C.
deleting New York
deleting Boston

```

7. **Quit:** This option allows the user to exit the program.

For each of the options presented, after the user makes their choice and your code runs for that option, you should re-display the menu to allow the user to select another option.

### Structuring your program

The specific **cout** statements to produce the expected output are shown in Appendix A.

The functionality for your network will be implemented in a class called `CommunicationNetwork`. A suggested header file called, `CommunicationNetwork.h` is provided for you on Canvas. You are welcome to structure your program differently than the structure provided in `CommunicationNetwork.h`, or write additional helper functions if needed. Your code needs to be readable, efficient, and accomplish the task provided. You will be asked in interview grading to explain the decisions you made.

**Here are the prototypes for the methods included in the `CommunicationNetwork.h` header file.**

```
void CommunicationNetwork::addCity(string previousCity, string newCity)  
/*Insert a new city into the linked list after the previousCity. The name of the new  
city is in the argument newCity.  
*/
```

```
void CommunicationNetwork::transmitMsg(char *filename)  
/*Open the file and transmit the message between all cities in the network word by  
word. A word needs to be received at the end of the network before sending the next  
word. Only one city can hold the message at a time; as soon as it is passed to the next  
city, it needs to be deleted from the sender city. Once the message reaches the end of  
the network, it needs to be transmitted back the other direction to the beginning of  
the network.  
*/
```

```
void CommunicationNetwork::printNetwork()  
/*Start at the head of the linked list and print the name of each city in order to the  
end of the list. */
```

```
void CommunicationNetwork::buildNetwork()  
/*Build the initial network from the cities given in this writeup. The cities can be  
fixed in the function, you do not need to write the function to work with any list of  
cities. */
```

```
void CommunicationNetwork::deleteCity(string cityNameDelete)  
/*Find the city in the network where city name matches cityNameDelete. Change the  
next and previous pointers for the surrounding cities and free the memory.  
*/
```

```
void CommunicationNetwork::clearNetwork()  
/*Delete all cities in the network, starting at the head city.  
*/
```

**Suggestions for completing this assignment**

There are several components to this assignment that can be treated independently. My advice is to tackle these components one by one, starting with printing the menu

and getting user input. Next, build the network and print it. Then, add the functionality to add additional cities.

Once you get one feature completed, test, test, test, to make sure it works before moving on to the next feature.

There are several examples of how to work with linked lists in Chapter 5 in your book, and we will also be covering these concepts in lectures this week.

Your code should be separated into three files - *CommunicationNetwork.h*, *CommunicationNetwork.cpp*, and *Assignment4.cpp*. You need to write both the *CommunicationNetwork.cpp* and the *Assignment4.cpp* files. You can compile your code on the command-line using g++

```
g++ -std=c++11 CommunicationNetwork.cpp Assignment4.cpp -o Assignment4
```

and then run your program on the command-line using

```
./Assignment4 messageToTransmit.txt
```

Also, start early.

### **What to do if you have questions**

There are several ways to get help on assignments in 2275, and depending on your question, some sources are better than others. There is a discussion forum on Piazza that is a good place to post technical questions, such as how to delete a node in a linked list. When you answer other students' questions on the forum, please do not post entire assignment solutions. The CAs are also a good source of technical information, especially questions about C++. If, after reading the assignment write-up, you need clarification on what you're being asked to do in the assignment, the TAs and the Instructor are better sources of information than the discussion forum or the CAs.

## **Appendix A – cout statements**

### **Print path**

```
cout << "===CURRENT PATH===" << endl;  
cout<<"NULL <- ";
```

```
cout << tmp->name << " <-> "; //for all nodes in network
```

```
cout << current->cityName << " -> ";  
cout << "NULL" << endl;
```

```
cout << "======" << endl;
```

### **Transmit Message**

```
cout<<sender->cityName<<" received "<<sender->message<<endl;
```

```
//if network not built yet, head = NULL
```

```
cout << "Empty list" << endl;
```

### **Adding a new city**

```
cout << "Enter a city name: " << endl;
```

```
getline(cin,cityNew);
```

```
cout << "Enter a previous city name: " << endl;
```

```
getline(cin,cityPrevious);
```

### **Delete city**

```
if city name not found
```

```
cout<<cityNameIn<<"not found"<<endl;
```

### **Clear network**

```
cout<<"deleting "<<tmp->cityName<<endl; //for all nodes in network
```

### **Print menu**

```
cout << "====Main Menu====" << endl;
```

```
cout << "1. Build Network" << endl;
```

```
cout << "2. Print Network Path" << endl;
```

```
cout << "3. Transmit Message Coast-To-Coast-To-Coast" << endl;
```

```
cout << "4. Add City" << endl;
```

```
cout << "5. Delete City" << endl;
```

```
cout << "6. Clear Network" << endl;
```

```
cout << "7. Quit" << endl;
```

### **Quit**

```
cout << "Goodbye!" << endl;
```