CS454 Assignment 3 Manual

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Data Marshalling/Unmarshalling

We use a character buffer as our data buffer for transmitting information through send and receive calls, so all data are converted to a character array using memcpy() prior to send or receive. The message starts of with a 4-byte integer indicating the length of the whole request, then another 4-byte integer representing the message type (e.g., LOC_REQUEST), following with the actual message content. The message content format varies with the type of the message.

Binder Implementation

We use a map as the database for storing each server's registered functions. The map key is a FuncSignature object that stores the function name and an array of argument types. The value is a vector of ServerLoc objects containing the server identifier, port as well as the socket file descriptor.

This database design allows us to easily detect function overloading because overloaded function will result in a different FuncSignature object thus producing different map keys. Also with this design, array arguments of different lengths will produce the same FuncSignature object thus occupying the same key in the database map. We have also implemented the comparator methods to both FuncSignature and ServerLoc classes to facilitate searching functions and servers inside the database.

We use a vector of ServerLoc to store the registered servers as our round robin queue.

Upon receiving a register request from the servers, the server information is added to the database and the round robin queue if it is not yet on queue.

Upon receiving a location request from the client, the binder retrieves the list of available servers supporting the specified function by doing a map key lookup. Then it iterates through the list and the round robin queue to search for the next available server.

The binder first checks the server at the front of the queue to see if it supports the specified function; if so, the server information (id and port) is sent to the client and the server is pushed to the back of the queue using a rotate function. However, if the first server does not support the specified function, it is pushed to the back of the queue and move on to the next server. If there is no matching server, then the binder will send a location request failure message back to the client.

If the binder detects a disconnecting server, the binder will remove the server from the queue and the database map.

Upon receiving a terminate request, the binder sends terminate request to all registered servers and then checks the connection with all servers. Once verified that all servers are disconnected, it will then terminate itself.

Error Codes

```
INIT_BINDER_ADDRESS_NOT_FOUND = -1,
       - binder address is not set in environment variables
INIT_BINDER_PORT_NOT_FOUND = 2,
       - binder port is not set in environment variables
INIT_BINDER_SOCKET_OPEN_FAILURE = -3,
       - cannot open a socket connection to binder
INIT_BINDER_SOCKET_BIND_FAILURE = -4,
       - cannot bind the socket connection to binder
INIT LOCAL SOCKET OPEN FAILURE = -5,
       - cannot open local socket connection
INIT LOCAL SOCKET BIND FAILURE = -6,
       - cannot bind local socket connection
REGISTER BINDER DID NOT INITIATE = -7,
       - binder is not yet initiated when attempting to register
REGISTER BINDER RET UNRECON TYPE = -8,
       - cannot recognize the returned message from binder when registering
EXECUTE_ADDRINFO_ERROR = -9,
       - address information is invalid when attempting to execute
EXECUTE_SOCKET_OPEN_FAILURE = -10,
       - cannot open a socket connection when attempting to execute
EXECUTE SOCKET BIND FAILURE = -11,
       - cannot bind a socket connection when attempting to execute
EXECUTE_SELECTION_FAILURE = -12,
       - cannot select a socket when attempting to execute
CALL_BINDER_ADDRESS_NOT_FOUND = -31,
       - binder address is not set in environment variables
CALL_BINDER_PORT_NOT_FOUND = -32,
       - binder port is not set in environment variables
CALL BINDER FUNCTION NOT FOUND = -33,
       - the specified function is not found when performing a lookup
RECEIVE ERROR = -404
       - when select() fails
SOCKET OPEN FAILURE = -17,
       - cannot open a socket connection
SOCKET_BIND_FAILURE = -18,
       - cannot bind a socket connection
UNKNOW MSG TYPE RESPONSE = -19
       - received message with invalid message type
TERMINATE_BINDER_DID_NOT_INITIATE = 1,
       - binder is not initiated when attempting to terminate
REGISTER_BIDNER_FUNCTION_OVERRIDEN = 2,
       - registered function is overridden
```

Unimplemented Features

All features for the assignment were implemented, except for the bonus functionalities.