

- Do file names need to follow those given in the specification?

Yes

- Do file formats need to follow those given in the specification? For example, can I use a different timestamp format, or store log files using JSON or a database?

Yes, you need to follow the file formats we made in the specification, i.e., text

- Should files be stored directly in the working directory of the client/server, or can I use my own sub-directory structure?

You don't have to store the files in the working directory, you can create your own sub-directory, but you need to make sure things are clear and easy to mark your assignment

- If a user is blocked, does that mean the user name is blocked, the client terminal is blocked, or the IP address of the client is blocked?

Username/device name should be blocked

- When the server first starts do we need to create the log files, or will they already exist?

You can safely assume all the log files are already there when you launch your server

- If my server crashes and needs to be restarted, should it read any previous log files or will they be deleted first along with any uploaded data files?

They will be deleted first along with any uploaded data files

- If a user logs out or is blocked, should the client terminate?

Your client program should prompt a proper message (e.g., client logs out or client is blocked for 10 seconds), after that, client should terminate

- Is it ok to only bind to the loopback interface, or will it be tested over a network using multiple hosts?

It is OK to bind to the loopback or localhost, we won't test your assignment over the real network i.e., using public IP or hosts. For simplicity, we only test your assignment on localhost using VLAB

- The sample interactions don't cover all use cases, what messages should be displayed in the server/client terminals?

The sample interactions are created as examples to show you how your client should interact with the server, but you don't have to strictly follow them including the texts, formats, etc. You are encouraged to create your own style of interactions, but you need to make sure they are clear and informative to our tutors and markers.

- If a data file is deleted should it also be removed from the upload log? Similarly, if a previously deleted file is re-uploaded, should it be removed from the deletion log?

*No, log files are used to record the event logs. Re-upload is completely irrelevant to previous deletion.*