



Java Network Programming





Java Network Programming

- Networking basics
- The InetAddress class
- URIs
- TCP sockets
- UDP datagrams





Networking basics

- A network is a collection of computers and other devices that can send data to and receive data from each other, more or less in real time
- A node is any machine on a network
 - A node that is a fully functional computer is often called a host
- All modern networks are packet-switched: data traveling on the network is broken into chunks called packets and each packet is handled separately
- Each node in a network is assigned an address and uses ports to exchange data with other nodes





Internet addresses

- Each device connected to a network (including the Internet) can be uniquely identified using a network address (also known as an Internet address, or an IP address)
- Currently, there are two IP standards: they differ in the number of bytes used to represent an address:
 - IPv4 uses 4 bytes. Example: 192.168.0.1
 - IPv6 uses 16 bytes. Example: F8DC:BA98:7654:3210:11AC:BA98:7654:3210
- JDK provides a transparent support for both standards (the support for IPv6 was added in JDK 1.4)





Internet addresses (cont')

- In order to make the network addresses more human-readable, they are often associated with so-called host names
 - Examples include *dmi.rs* and *rc301.zjb.pmf.lan*
- Domain Name System (DNS) is a software system used to translate host names into numeric IP addresses
- Every computer connected to the Internet has access to a domain name server running a DNS software
 - When a connection is required, e.g. to dmi.rs, the computer will first contact the DNS server
 - The server will look up this name in its database and return the associated numeric IP address
 - This procedure is known as name resolution





Ports

- A port is a virtual data connection used by programs to exchange data directly, instead of going through a file or other temporary storage location
- They enable hosts to perform many different things at once: download web pages, send e-mails, or upload files to a FTP server
- Each computer within a network has thousands of logical ports, each of which can be allocated for a special kind of network communication





Ports (cont')

- Ports are purely abstractions in the computer's memory and do not represent anything physical
- A port is represented by a 16-bit numeric value
- Numbers 1 to 1023 are reserved for well-known services, such as HTTP (80), FTP (21), SMTP (25), IMAP (143), Telnet (23), etc.
- Port numbers 1024 to 65535 can be freely used by user applications



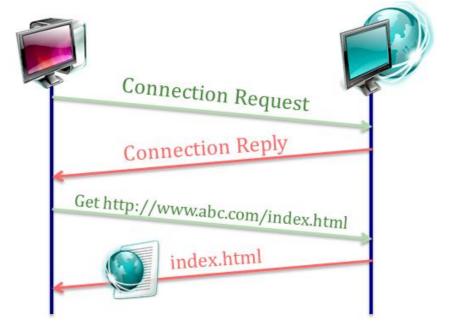


Protocols

 A protocol is a precise set of rules defining how computers communicate

 It defines the format and the order of messages exchanged between two or more communicating entities, as well as the actions taken on the transmission and/or receipt of a

message







Protocol layers

- To reduce design complexity, network designers organize protocols into *layers*
 - Each layer includes a number of logically-grouped protocols
- Internet Protocol Suite has 5 layers: Application, Transport,
 Network, Link, and Physical
 - Sorted from the highest to the lowest, according to the level of abstraction





Application and transport layers

- The application layer is responsible for supporting network applications
 - It includes many protocols such as HTTP to support the web, SMTP to support electronic mail, and FTP to support file transfer
- The transport layer is responsible for transporting messages from the application layer to the target network node
 - The two main Internet transfer protocols are TCP and UDP





The network layer

- The network layer is responsible for routing packets of information from the starting to the target node, and possibly across a number of intermediary nodes
- For example, a request for a web page from www.dmi.uns.ac.rs needs to go through a series of intermediary nodes:

```
C:\>tracert www.dmi.uns.ac.rs
Tracing route to www.dmi.pmf.uns.ac.rs [147.91.177.8]
over a maximum of 30 hops:
                                     192.168.42.129
                                      Request timed out.
                              7 ms ns-pa-m-1-pc3.sbb.rs [89.216.6.89]
9 ms ns-he-m-1-pc5.sbb.rs [89.216.6.201]
9 ms bg-yb-m-1-pc10.sbb.rs [89.216.6.245]
                      ms
                  12 ms
                      ms
                      ms
                             10 ms
                                    bg-yb-r-1-te0-2-0-0.sbb.rs [89.216.5.67]
                             34 ms
10 ms
                                     bg-du-r-1-te0-0-0-1.sbb.rs [89.216.5.33]
                                     peer-AS13092.sbb.rs [82.117.193.110]
                      ms
                                     amres-L-J.rcub.bg.ac.rs [147.91.6.89]
                   12
                                     nsad-rcub-gbic.rcub.bg.ac.rs [147.91.5.158]
                                      Request timed out.
                             17 ms
                                     www.dmi.pmf.uns.ac.rs [147.91.177.8]
Trace complete.
```

- The main Internet network protocol is IP
- The TCP/IP combination of transport and network layer protocols is the foundation of the Internet





Link and physical layers

- The network layer depends on the link layer to transfer packets of information between two neighboring (e.g. directly connected) nodes
 - In local area networks, *Ethernet* is the most widely-used protocol of the link layer
- While the job of the link layer is to move entire packets, the job of the *physical* layer is to move the individual bits within the packet from one node to the next





TCP

- The Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) is focused on establishing a reliable network connection
- It keeps track of every dispatched packet: if the packet becomes lost, TCP will re-send it
- Additionally, this protocol assures the packets are received in the same order they were dispatched
- TCP handles all implementation issues regarding the resending and reordering of packets, and alerts the programmer only in serious cases – e.g. if a connection is lost
- However, TCP is generally slower and more resource consuming than UDP
 - It is used by applications that require reliable data transmission



NO PLANTENS STUDIO RUM.

UDP

- The User Datagram Protocol (UDP) is a connectionless data transport protocol
- Bytes of data are grouped together in discrete packets, which are then sent over the network independently of each other
- UDP doesn't guarantee either packet delivery or that packets arrive in any particular order!
 - The source node cannot determine whether a dispatched packet was received by the target node
- However, since there isn't a need for establishing and maintaining a connection, and there is no error checking and recovery, UDP is usually fast
 - UDP is often used by real-time applications that demand upto-the-second delivery, such as video/audio streaming





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The InetAddress class

- The InetAddress class is used for high-level representation of an IP address or a host name
- As of Java 1.4 it works with both IPv4 and IPv6
 - There are two sub-classes of *InetAddress Inet4Address* and *Inet6Address* that work with a specific version only
- There are no public constructors of the InetAddress class: objects are created by invoking an appropriate static method
- Like all networking classes, InetAddress is located under the java.net package





Creating an *InetAddress* instance

- Methods that receive a host name or a textual representation of an IP address:
 - InetAddress getByName(String host)
 - InetAddress[] getAllByName(String host)
- Method that receives a raw IP address 4 bytes long in case of IPv4, 16 bytes long in case of IPv6:
 - InetAddress getByAddress(byte[] address)
- Method that receives both host name and an IP address:
 - InetAddress getByAddress(String host, byte[] address)





Creating an InetAddress (cont')

- If a host name is passed to getByName() or getAllByName(), the IP address will be determined by contacting a DNS server
- The consequence of this approach is that it might take a while before the object is created
 - Although Java will perform name caching
- If the DNS server cannot be reached (e.g. no connection available, no sufficient security rights, etc.) an exception will be thrown
- If a textual IP address is supplied to one of these methods, only the validity of the address format is checked





InetAddress example

```
public class Host2IP {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    if (args.length != 1) {
      out.println("Usage: Host2IP host name");
      return;
    long start = System.currentTimeMillis();
    try {
      out.println("Your IP address is: " +
        InetAddress.getLocalHost().getHostAddress());
      out.println("Addresses of the host (host name / IP address):");
      InetAddress[] addr = InetAddress.getAllByName(args[0]);
      for (InetAddress a : addr)
        out.println("" + a);
    } catch (UnknownHostException e) {
      out.println("The host name cannot be resolved");
    } finally {
      out.println("Total time: " +
        (System.currentTimeMillis() - start) + "ms");
```





InetAddress example (cont')

java Host2IP google.com:

```
Your IP address is: 192.168.47.1
Addresses of the host (host name / IP address):
google.com/209.85.149.105
google.com/209.85.149.106
google.com/209.85.149.147
google.com/209.85.149.99
google.com/209.85.149.103
google.com/209.85.149.104
Total time: 50ms
```

java Host2IP asdfx1.com:

```
Your IP address is: 192.168.47.1
Addresses of the host (host name / IP address):
The host name cannot be resolved
Total time: 2520ms
```





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URIs

- A Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) is a string of characters that identifies a resource, such as a file on a server, an email address, a news message, a book, a person's name, etc.
- Its syntax is in form of scheme:scheme_specific_part, where examples of the scheme include http, file, mailto, etc.
- There are two categories of URIs:
 - Universal Resource Names (URN)
 - Universal Resource Locators (URL)
- In Java, a URI is represented by the java.net.URI class





URNs

- URN is a name for a particular resource: it provides no reference to a particular location or a method for acquiring the resource
- The goal of URNs is to handle resources that are mirrored in many different locations or that have moved from one site to another
- It has the general form of urn:namespace:resouce_name
- An example of a URN identifying a book:
 - urn:ISBN:1565924851
- In Java, there is no specialized class for representing URNs





URLs

- URL is a mechanism for specifying where an identified resource is available and the mechanism for retrieving it
- The URL syntax is: scheme://user:pass@domain:port/path?params#fragment
- Examples of URLs include:
 - svn://perun.pmf.uns.ac.rs:3690/trunk
 - mailto:bob@example.com
 - http://www.example.com/db/users/register.php?name= foo&pass=bar
 - https://www.example.com/test.html#section1





The URL class

- Java uses the java.net.URL class for representing URLs
- It offers 6 constructors, differing in information they require; examples include:
 - URL(String specification)
 - URL(String protocol, String host, int port, String file)
 - URL(URL base, String path): builds an absolute URL from a base URL and a relative path
- All constructors throw an exception if a valid URL cannot be built (e.g. missing or unsupported protocol specification)
- The class is immutable: once created, its properties can only be queried





URL example

 The following example is used to test which protocols are supported by the JVM

```
public class ProtocolTest {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    final String host = "www.example.com";
    final String file = "index.html";
    final String[] protocol = {
      "http", "https", "ftp", "mailto",
      "telnet", "file", "doc", "finger", "svn"
    };
    for (String p : protocol)
      try {
        new URL(p, host, file);
        System.out.printf("%-6s is supported\n", p);
      } catch (MalformedURLException e) {
        System.out.printf("%-6s is not supported\n", p);
```





URL example (cont')

Output (depends on the JVM implementation):

```
http is supported
https is supported
ftp is supported
mailto is supported
telnet is not supported
file is supported
doc is not supported
finger is not supported
svn is not supported
```

- Note that the example produces seriously malformed URLs, such as mailto://www.example.com/index.html
- This means that all Java checks for at object construction is whether it recognizes the scheme, not whether the URL is appropriate





URL connections

- URLConnection is an abstract class that represents an active connection to a resource specified by a URL
- It provides detailed control over the interaction with a server (especially an HTTP server)
 - For example, it can inspect the header sent by the server and respond accordingly, download binary files, and send data back to a web server with POST or PUT and use other HTTP request methods
- Subclasses of URLConnection are used to implement a specific protocol handling (e.g. ftp)





Opening URL connections

- An instance of a URLConnection object can be obtained by invoking the openConnection() method of an existing URL instance
- Once opened, the URLConnection object is unconnected the application can request a connection, by invoking the object's connect() method
 - If a method that requires an active connection is invoked, connect() will be called automatically
- Optionally, an application can:
 - Configure the connection
 - Read header fields
 - Obtain input stream and read data
 - Obtain output stream and write data





Reading and writing data

- The URLConnection class exposes the following methods for acquiring the connection's input and output streams:
 - public InputStream getInputStream()
 - public OutputStream getOutputStream()
- The data is read from and written to the server using the usual stream API
- Since HTTP servers often provide a substantial amount of information in the header that precedes each response, the URLConnection class includes get methods for reading common header fields
 - Examples include content-type, content-length, date, last-modified, etc.





Example - downloading a file

```
public class HTTPDownload {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    if (args.length != 2) {
      System.out.println("Usage: HTTPDownload url filename");
      return;
    OutputStream file = null;
    InputStream input = null;
    try {
      URL url = new URL(args[0]); // trows an exception if bad URL
      if (!url.getProtocol().equals("http")) {
        System.out.println("Invalid protocol (http required)");
        return;
      URLConnection conn = url.openConnection();
      final float TOTAL = conn.getContentLength();
      input = conn.getInputStream();
      file = new FileOutputStream(args[1]);
```





Example - downloading a file (cont')

```
// read this many bytes at a time
 final int SIZE = 1024;
 byte[] data = new byte[SIZE];
 int n, read = 0;
 // loop until the end of stream's reached
 while ((n = input.read(data)) != -1) {
   file.write(data, 0, n);
   // update progress
   read += n;
    System.out.printf("%d%% complete\n", (int)((read / TOTAL) * 100.0f));
} catch (Exception e) {
 e.printStackTrace();
} finally {
 if (file != null)
   try {
     file.close();
    } catch (IOException e) { }
 if (input != null)
    try {
      input.close();
    } catch (IOException e) { }
```





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TCP sockets

- A socket is a connection between two hosts; it is a communication channel that enables data transfer through a particular port
- Sockets form the basis for most Java network programming
 - Java performs all of its low-level network communication through sockets
- Basic operations performed by sockets include:
 - Connecting to a remote machine
 - Sending and receiving data
 - Closing a connection
 - Binding to a port and accepting incoming connections
 - Listening for incoming data





The Socket class

- The Socket class is Java's fundamental class for client-side
 TCP network programming
- The class itself uses native code to communicate with the local TCP stack of the host operating system
- Other classes that make network connections, such as URLConnection, all ultimately end up invoking the methods of this class
- After establishing a connection through a Socket instance, the actual reading and writing of data over the socket is accomplished via stream classes





Constructing a socket

- Socket's constructors let the application specify the host and the port it wants to connect to
- Hosts may be specified as an *InetAddress* or a string, while ports are always specified as integer values from 0 to 65,535
- Some constructors also specify the local address and local port from which data will be sent
 - This option is used when you want to select one particular network interface from which to send data
- There exists a single constructor without parameters which creates an unconnected socket
 - It's useful when the application needs to setup socket options before making the first connection





Example – a port scanner

The next example scans for open ports on a specified host

```
public class PortScanner {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    String host = args.length == 1 ? args[0] : "localhost";
    for (int i = 1; i < 1024; i++) {
      try {
        Socket s = new Socket(host, i); // try to connect...
        System.out.printf("The port %d of %s is open\n", i, host);
        s.close(); // close the connection
      } catch (UnknownHostException e) {
        e.printStackTrace();
        return;
      } catch (IOException e) {
        // no server on port i
```





Example - Echo client

- TCP port 7 is usually reserved for an *Echo* server a server that simply returns any data it receives
- The following example demonstrates how data can be read from and written to a socket, through its getInputStream() and getOutputStream() methods, respectively

```
public class EchoClient {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    String host = args.length != 1 ? "localhost" : args[0];

    Scanner user = new Scanner(System.in);
    Socket s = null;
    Scanner scanner = null;
    PrintWriter writer = null;
    try {
        // connect to the Echo server
        s = new Socket(host, 7);
        // get input and output streams
        scanner = new Scanner(s.getInputStream());
        writer = new PrintWriter(s.getOutputStream(), true);
```





Example - Echo client (cont')

```
// read lines until .
 String line;
 while (!(line = user.nextLine()).equals(".")) {
   // send the line to the server and get the response
   writer.println(line);
   System.out.println("Server response: " + scanner.nextLine());
} catch (Exception e) {
 e.printStackTrace();
} finally {
 // cleanup
 if (writer != null)
   writer.close();
 if (scanner != null)
   scanner.close();
 if (s != null)
   try {
     s.close();
    } catch (Exception e) { }
```





The SocketAddress class

- The primary purpose of the SocketAddress class is to provide a convenient store for socket connection information (e.g. the IP address and port) that can be reused to create new sockets
- It is an empty abstract class with no methods aside from a default constructor
 - In theory, it is meant to be subclassed with a specific, protocol dependent, implementation
 - In practice, only TCP/IP is currently supported, through the InetSocketAddress class
- The Socket class offers two methods that return SocketAddress objects: getRemoteSocketAddress() and getLocalSocketAddress()





The ServerSocket class

- The ServerSocket class extends the Socket class with the functionality required to write server applications
- In general, the basic life cycle of a server application is:
 - 1. A new ServerSocket is created on a particular port
 - 2. The server listens for incoming connection attempts on that port, by using the *ServerSocket*'s *accept()* method
 - Depending on the type of server, input and/or output streams are acquired
 - 4. The server and the client interact
 - 5. The server, the client, or both close the connection
 - 6. The server returns to step 2 and waits for the next conenction





Creating a server socket

- There are 4 constructors for creating a server socket:
 - ServerSocket(int port): creates a server socket bound to the specified local port
 - ServerSocket(int port, int queue): creates a server socket and binds it to the specified local port number, with the specified queue length
 - ServerSocket(int port, int queue, InetAddress addr): create a server with the specified port, queue length, and local IP address to bind to
 - ServerSocket(): creates an unbound server socket; the socket's bind() method must be called before accepting connections
- Note that the queue length cannot be greater than the maximum number supported by the underlying operating system





Processing multiple connections

- By default, a server can process only a single request at a time: if another client tries to connect while the server is busy, it will be put in a waiting queue
- The default length of the queue varies from operating system to operating system
- After the queue fills to capacity with unprocessed connections, the host refuses additional connections on that port until slots in the queue open up
- This is why clients can try to make a connection multiple times if their initial attempt is refused





Accepting connections

- A server usually operates in a loop that repeatedly accepts connections
- Each pass through the loop invokes the accept() method, which returns a Socket object representing the connection between the remote client and the local server
 - Interaction with the client takes place through this Socket object
- When the transaction is finished, the server should invoke the Socket object's close() method
- If the client closes the connection while the server is still operating, the input and/or output streams that connect the server to the client throw an exception on the next read or write
- Invoking the accept() method blocks the caller until a client connects
 - This is why servers usually run on separate threads





Example - Echo server

```
public class EchoServer {
 public static void main(String[] args) {
    ServerSocket s = null;
    try {
      // listen on the port 6060
      s = new ServerSocket(6060);
      // terminate after serving 10 clients
      for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
        // wait for a connection
        Socket client = s.accept();
        // handle this client on a separate thread
        // (i.e. accept a new connection as soon as possible)
        new EchoThread(client).start();
    } catch (IOException e) {
      e.printStackTrace();
    } finally {
      if (s != null)
        try {
          s.close();
        } catch (IOException e) { }
```





Example - Echo server (cont')

```
// interacts with a single client
public class EchoThread extends Thread {
 private Socket client;
  public EchoThread(Socket client) { this.client = client; }
  @Override public void run() {
    Scanner scanner = null;
    PrintWriter writer = null;
    try {
      // obtain input and output streams
      scanner = new Scanner(client.getInputStream());
      writer = new PrintWriter(client.getOutputStream(), true);
      // we will never terminate the connection
      while (client.isConnected())
        try {
          writer.println(scanner.nextLine());
        } catch (Exception e) {
          break; // connection closed by the client
    } catch (IOException e) {
      e.printStackTrace();
    } finally {
      // close streams
      if (scanner != null)
        scanner.close();
      if (writer != null)
        writer.close();
```





A note on multiplexing

- The approach of spawning a separate thread for each new connection works well for fairly simple servers and clients without extreme performance needs
- However, the overhead of having a separate thread per connection becomes nontrivial on a large server that may be processing thousands of requests a second
- A much faster approach is to use a single thread that manages multiple connections: picks the one that's ready, handles it as quickly as possible, and then moves on to the next ready connection
- This feature is known as multiplexing, and it is supported by the majority of modern operating systems
- Multiplexing relies on NIO concepts, such as channels and buffers





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UDP datagrams

- A UDP datagram is an independent, self-contained message (packet) sent over the network whose arrival, arrival time, and content are not guaranteed
- Java offers 3 classes for writing programs that use datagrams to send and receive packets over the network:
 - DatagramPacket
 - DatagramSocket
 - MulticastSocket





The DatagramPacket class

- In Java, a UDP datagram is represented by an instance of the DatagramPacket class
- The class offers the functionality for packing raw bytes of data into outgoing UDP datagrams, as well as extracting the data from received datagrams
- Additionally, for outgoing datagrams, the address to which it is directed is included in the packet itself





Creating a datagram

- A datagram can be created either for receiving or sending
 - The outgoing datagram is distinguished by including the target address and port
- In both cases, instances of the DatagramPacket class represent wrappers around byte arrays that hold the actual data
- DatagramPacket's constructors for creating incoming datagrams are:
 - **DatagramPacket(byte[] buf, int length)**: constructs a datagram for receiving packets of length *length*, starting at *buf[0]*
 - DatagramPacket(byte[] buf, int offset, int length): constructs a datagram for receiving packets of length length, starting at buf[offset]
- DatagramPacket's constructors for creating outgoing datagrams are similar, with additional parameters specifying the target address and port





Datagram size

- If a received datagram is too big to fit into the designated object, the network truncates or drops it
 - The Java program is not notified of the problem
- Although the theoretical maximum amount of data in a UDP datagram is 65,507 bytes, in practice there is almost always much less
- On many platforms, the actual limit is more likely to be 8KB, but implementations are not required to accept datagrams with more than 512 data bytes
- So for maximum safety, the data portion of a UDP packet should be kept to 512 bytes or less
 - Although this limit can negatively affect performance compared to larger packet sizes





The DatagramSocket class

- In order to actually send or receive a datagram, the application must open a datagram socket
- In Java, a datagram socket is created and accessed through the DatagramSocket class
- The class offers several constructors for binding the datagram socket to a local port and/or address
 - Once again, the target address and port is contained in the datagram itself





Sending and receiving datagrams

- Once a DatagramPacket and a DatagramSocket is constructed, an application can send the packet by passing it to the socket's send() method
- Similarly, this socket's receive() method receives a single UDP datagram from the network and stores it in the preexisting DatagramPacket object
 - Like the accept() method in the ServerSocket class, this method blocks the calling thread until a datagram arrives
- If there's a problem in receiving or sending the data, an IOException may be thrown
 - In practice, this is rare, since UDP is unreliable by nature





UDP datagrams – example

```
public class UDPServer extends Thread {
  @Override public void run() {
    DatagramSocket s = null;
    try {
      s = new DatagramSocket(6060); // bind to port 6060
      // construct the receiving packet
      final int SIZE = 6;
      byte[] data = new byte[SIZE];
      DatagramPacket packet = new DatagramPacket(data, SIZE);
      try {
        s.receive(packet);
        System.out.printf("Received %d bytes of data: ",
          packet.getLength());
        for (byte b : packet.getData()) // or for (byte b : data)
          System.out.print(b + " ");
      } catch (IOException e) { }
    } catch (SocketException e) {
    } finally {
      if (s != null)
        s.close();
```





UDP datagrams - example (cont')

```
public class UDPClient {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    new UDPServer().start();
    DatagramSocket s = null;
    try {
      s = new DatagramSocket(); // no need to specify port
      // construct the outgoing packet
      byte[] data = { 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 };
      InetSocketAddress target = new InetSocketAddress("localhost", 6060);
      DatagramPacket packet = new DatagramPacket(data, data.length, target);
      try {
        s.send(packet);
      } catch (IOException e) { }
    } catch (SocketException e) {
    }finally {
      if (s != null)
        s.close();
```

Output: Received 6 bytes of data: 1 2 3 4 5 6