

Distributed File System Report

I implemented a distributed file system (**DFS**). The DFS uses a central server to store the files and allows clients to access or edit one file at a time. The DFS uses a one-writer/multiple-readers lock on the clients: for any file, there is at most one writer at any point in time, but there may be an unlimited number of readers.

Again, since this report is long, I made a table of contents to help you read it.

Distributed File System Report

- Implementation

- Discussion

 - Functional Improvements

 - Performance Improvements

- Code

 - FileServer.java

- Output

 - 1-4

 - 3

 - 5a

 - 5b

 - 6

 - 7

 - 8

 - 9 - 10

 - 11 - 12

 - 13

 - 14 -15

 - 16 - 17

 - 18 -21

 - 22

 - 23

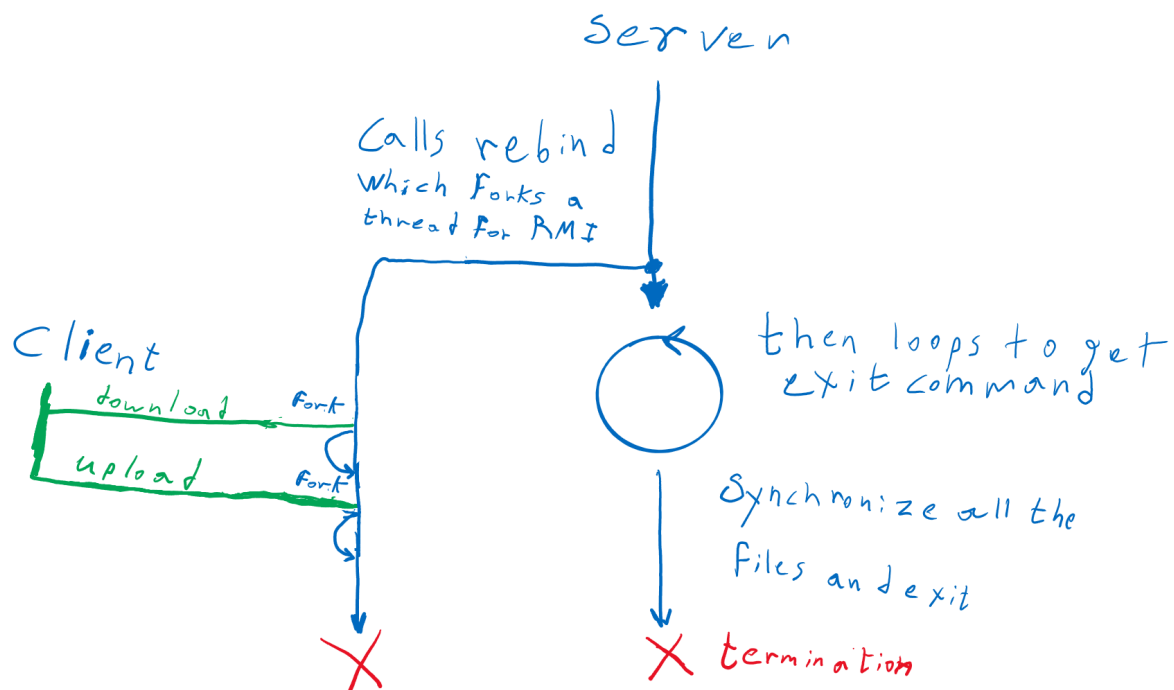
 - 24 - 25

 - 26

Implementation

I followed the assignment as closely as possible and I was trying to provide a behavior similar to what the provided FileClient expects, so I don't have much to share in here. Since this program uses **RMI**, it is inherently multi-threaded. The execution flow of this server is not linear. Please look at the diagram:

Server Execution Flow



The file server contains two data members: a vector of files and a map that maps client names to files. The vector stores all the files. The map offers a way to validate that the client is uploading only to the file that it owns. The map is also used to remove the FileClient Object from the old file when a client is switching its file.

In My implementation, each File has a map that maps its clients' names to their actual remote FileClient object. I think this is the most logical way to store both the client names and references. I thought of not storing remote object references and make new ones every time I use a **RMI**, but I wanted to avoid the overhead of binding for every **RMI**.

Because the server is multi-threaded, I used ConcurrentHashMap for my maps. Every time I modified the vector of files or the map of clients' names to files in the FileServer, I locked the thread on the FileServer. I did the same for the File.

When the server exits, it writes the contents of the files onto the disk but doesn't request the owners of files to writeback. I did that because writeback is blocking. I didn't want the user to wait indefinitely (assuming multiple people are editing)

Discussion

Functional Improvements

I would like to add the ability for a client to cache multiple files and be the owner of multiple files as well. It will be more convenient for a user if they want to view multiple files.

Instead of simply invalidating a reader's copy, I want to automatically download the new version of a modified file and display it.

I want to change the system so the client downloads the file for viewing and editing inside a directory but doesn't force the user to use a specific editor. Instead, I want the client to have a thread wait for any a file to change (I don't know how to do that) and upload it automatically. So any file can be used with any application. For example, a Matlab Script could be opened with Matlab and executed with it instead of simple viewing with Vim.

Lastly, I want the server to allow multiple writers on the condition that only one writer will be active at any point in time. I want to retain the exclusive access, but simply allow automatic transfer of ownership if a client tries to change a file (with an external application like Matlab as explained above). In other words, I want the ownership to be exclusive, but I want to make its logic hidden so all the clients can directly edit as long as they don't edit concurrently.

Performance Improvements

Instead of re-sending all the contents of a file for every small edit, the program would be much more efficient if it is able to send only the differences that a client added. I'm thinking of something like Github's diff files. This will allow the system to remain efficient even as the files become large.

If the clients cache multiple files, the clients will be able to switch between files without redownloading again.

Since for most networks, the uploading bandwidth is much smaller than the downloading bandwidth, allowing peer-to-peer communication will be a good improvement for downloading files. This will require multi-threaded downloads and I have no idea how it would be implemented using **RMI**, but it can increase the download speed of large files.

Code

There is only one file.

FileServer.java

```
// A server for a distributed file system.
// Author: Youssef Beltagy

import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;                // Vector
```

```

import java.util.concurrent.ConcurrentHashMap;
import java.rmi.*;           // Naming
import java.rmi.server.*;    // UnicastRemoteObject
import java.rmi.registry.*;  // rmiregistry

// A remote server that allows RMI of two methods: download and upload.
public class FileServer extends UnicastRemoteObject implements ServerInterface {

    private static final long serialVersionUID = -4726879233302349177L;

    //To keep track of the file the client is accessing
    private static Map<String, File> clientnames2files = null;
    //The File Cache
    private static Vector<File> files = null;
    //The server port. Assume that it is the same port for the clients as well.
    private static int port = -1;

    // Initially, there are no files or clients in the server
    public FileServer() throws RemoteException {

        clientnames2files = new ConcurrentHashMap<String, File>();
        files = new Vector<File>();

    }

    // Start an RMI registry and bind a fileserver object to allow
    // remote invocation of the server's download and upload methods.
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        // validate the number of inputs.
        if(args.length != 1){
            System.out.println("Incorrect usage. Usage: java FileServer <port>");
            System.exit(-1);
        }

        // Initialize a FileServer object and bind it.
        // This implicitly forks threads, so the main thread will
        // wait for the user's exit command.
        try{

            FileServer fileserver = new FileServer();

            // Assume a valid port
            port = Integer.parseInt(args[0]);

            startRegistry(port);

            Naming.rebind( "rmi://localhost:" + args[0] + "/fileserver", fileserver);

        }catch(Exception e){
            e.printStackTrace( );
        }

        // If the user requests exiting the program, write all the files to the disk and
        // terminate.
        try{
            BufferedReader input = new BufferedReader( new InputStreamReader( System.in
            ) );

```

```

        while(true){
            System.out.println("Type \"exit\" or \"quit\" to terminate.");
            String line = input.readLine();

            if(line.equals("exit") || line.equals("quit")){
                // Read user input. If user requests exit. Synchronize all files and
                call system.exit(0);

                Naming.unbind("rmi://localhost:" + args[0] + "/fileserver");

                for(File f : files){

                    f.writeFile();

                }

                System.exit(0);
            }
        }
    } catch (Exception e){

        e.printStackTrace();
        System.exit(-1);

    }

}

// A remotely accessible method. Allows a client to download a file.
// If a file is not in the cache, it reads it from the disk. If the file is not
in the disk
// it is created if mode is "w" or the method returns null if the mode is "r".
// This method adds the client to a vector of readers of the file.
public FileContents download( String clientname,
    String filename, String mode ) throws RemoteException{

    System.out.println("Clientname: " + clientname + " filename: " + filename + "
    Mode: " + mode);

    // Check if the file exists or not.
    // If it doesn't exist and the mode is r return null. No need to bind the client
    File curFile = null;

    synchronized(this){

        for(File f : files){
            if(f.fileName.equals(filename)){
                curFile = f;
                break;
            }
        }
    }

}

```

```

// the file is not in the cache
if(curFile == null){
    curFile = getFile(filename, mode);
    if(curFile == null) return null;
}

// Get the client
ClientInterface client = getClient(clientname, curFile);

// Only one thread can modify a file at any point in time.
curFile.updateState(clientname, mode, client);

return curFile.fileContents;
}

// A remotely accessible method.
// Allows a client to upload her/his modified file back to the server.
// Invalidates all readers, then notifies all threads waiting to write,
// so one of them can take ownership.
public boolean upload( String client,
    String filename, FileContents contents ) throws RemoteException{

    if(client == null) return false;

    File curFile = clientnames2files.get(client);

    if(curFile == null) return false;

    synchronized(this){
        synchronized(curFile){
            if(curFile.writer == null || !client.equals(curFile.writer)) return
false;

            if(curFile.state != File.WRITE_SHARED
                && curFile.state != File.OWNERSHIP_Change) return false;

            curFile.fileContents = contents;

            // Because the content changed, the readers no longer have a valid copy
            curFile.invalidateClients();

            if(curFile.state == File.WRITE_SHARED){
                curFile.state = File.NOT_SHARED;
                curFile.writer = null;
            }
            else if (curFile.state == File.OWNERSHIP_Change){

                curFile.state = File.WRITE_SHARED;
                curFile.writer = null;
            }

            // notify all thread waiting to write so one of them takes ownership
            curFile.notifyAll();
        }
    }

    return true;
}

```

```

}

// Starts an RMI registry in background, which relieves a user from
// manually starting the registry and thus prevents her/him from
// forgetting its termination upon a logout.
private static void startRegistry( int port ) throws RemoteException {
try {
    Registry registry =
        LocateRegistry.getRegistry( port );
    registry.list( );
}
catch ( RemoteException e ) {
    Registry registry =
        LocateRegistry.createRegistry( port );
}
}

// A helper method for download. Handles the logic of finding or
// adding a file.
private File getFile(String filename, String mode){

File curFile = null;
byte[] bytes = null;
try{
    FileInputStream fileInStream = new FileInputStream( filename );
    bytes = new byte[fileInStream.available( )];
    fileInStream.read( bytes );
    fileInStream.close( );
}catch(FileNotFoundException fileException){
    System.err.println("File " + filename + " does not exist");
}catch(IOException ioException){
    System.err.println("IO Exception for file: "
        + filename + " in download method.");
    ioException.printStackTrace();
}catch(SecurityException securityException){
    System.err.println("Security Exception for file: "
        + filename + " in download method.");
    securityException.printStackTrace();
}

// the file is not in the disk and not in the cache
if(bytes == null){
    if(mode.equals("r")) return null;
    else bytes = new byte[0]; // else assume mode is "w"
}

// Make a new file with the new name and contents
FileContents contents = new FileContents(bytes);
curFile = new File(filename, contents);

// Check again that a similar file wasn't added while
// this thread was reading the file.
// This is to ensure there will only be one copy of
// the file in the cache.
synchronized(this){
    File tempFile = null;
    for(File f : files){
        if(f.fileName.equals(filename)){

```

```

        tempFile = f;
        break;
    }
}

if(tempFile == null){
    files.add(curFile);
}else{
    curFile = tempFile;
}
}

return curFile;
}

// A helper method for download.
// makes a new client for a file and removes the client from other files
private synchronized ClientInterface getClient(String clientname, File curFile){

// If the client is already in the cache, update the file it belongs to
File oldFile = clientnames2files.get(clientname);

if(oldFile != null){

    oldFile.removeReader(clientname);

}

ClientInterface client = null;

try {
    client = ( ClientInterface ) Naming.lookup( "rmi://" + clientname +
        ":" + port +
        "/fileclient" );
} catch ( Exception e ) {
    System.err.println("Could not initialize client: " + clientname + " in
download");
    e.printStackTrace( );
}

clientnames2files.put(clientname, curFile);

return client;
}

// A File class contains the contents of a file and stores references to
// the readers and the writer.
private class File{
//Possible File States
public static final int NOT_SHARED = 0;
public static final int READ_SHARED = 1;
public static final int WRITE_SHARED = 2;
public static final int OWNERSHIP_Change = 3;

//File information

```



```

    }
    catch(Exception e){
        System.err.println("Exception in File.callInvalidate");
        e.printStackTrace();
    }
    readername2client.remove(clientname);
    FileServer.clientnames2files.remove(clientname);
} // else then it is in ownership_change, so leave it as a writer.

}
}
}

// writes the file to the disk.
public synchronized void writeFile(){
    try{
        FileOutputStream outFile = new FileOutputStream(fileName);
        outFile.write(fileContents.get());
        outFile.close();
    } catch(Exception e){
        System.err.println("Error in writefile for: " + fileName);
        e.printStackTrace();
    }
}

// returns a reference to a client given its name.
public ClientInterface getClient(String name){
    return readername2client.get(name);
}

// updates the state of thie file and handles the logic for multiple writers
public synchronized void updateState(String clientname,
    String mode, ClientInterface client) throws RemoteException{

    if(mode.equals("w")){

        // If the file is currently in use, request release.
        if(this.state == File.WRITE_SHARED){

            this.getClient(this.writer).writeback();

            this.state = File.OWNERSHIP_Change;

        }

        if (this.state == File.OWNERSHIP_Change){

            try{
                while(this.state == File.OWNERSHIP_Change){
                    this.wait();

                    // If you were notified but the file currently has a writer,
                    // request the writer to release the file and wait again.

                    if(this.state == File.WRITE_SHARED && this.writer != null){
                        this.getClient(this.writer).writeback();
                        this.state = File.OWNERSHIP_Change;
                    }
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }

    }catch(Exception e){
        System.err.println("Error related to wait() in
File.UpdateState");
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

}

this.state = File.WRITE_SHARED;
this.writer = clientname;

}else{// mode is "r"

    if(this.state == File.NOT_SHARED) this.state = File.READ_SHARED;

}

this.addReader(clientname, client);
} // end of add state

} // end of File class

} // end of FileServer class

```

Output

I grouped some of the output together when I thought it would make the report more readable. I had the server print the download requests it receives. I highlighted some useful output from the server.

1-4

The screenshot shows an IDE with four terminal windows. The first window shows the output of running a script: 'client compilation done', 'server compilation done', and a prompt to type 'exit' or 'quit'. The other three windows show the output of running 'java FileClient cs smp1ih.uwb.edu 28540', all displaying 'rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked' and 'FileClient: Next file to open: File name: '.

```

[ylbeltagy@cssmp1ih Program4]$ ./run.sh
client compilation
done
server compilation
done
Type "exit" or "quit" to terminate.

[ylbeltagy@cssmp1ih Program4]$ java FileClient cs
smp1ih.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

[ylbeltagy@cssmp1ih Program4]$ java FileClient cs
smp1ih.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

[ylbeltagy@cssmp1ih Program4]$ java FileClient c
ssmp1ih.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

```

3

```
DEBUG CONSOLE  PROBLEMS (18)  OUTPUT  TERMINAL
[ylbeltagy@cssmp11h Program4]$ touch demoA.txt
[ylbeltagy@cssmp11h Program4]$
```

5a

```
DEBUG CONSOLE  PROBLEMS (18)  OUTPUT  TERMINAL
[ylbeltagy@cssmp11h Program4]$ ./run.sh
client compilation
done
server compilation
done
Type "exit" or "quit" to terminate.
Clientname: cssmp12h.uwb.edu filename: democ.tx
t Mode: r
File democ.txt does not exist
[]

[ylbeltagy@cssmp13h Program4]$ java FileClient cs
smp11h.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name: democ.txt
How(r/w): r
file: democ.txt does not exist.
name = state = 0 ownership = false
downloading: democ.txt with r mode
File downloaded failed
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

[ylbeltagy@cssmp13h Program4]$ java FileClient cs
smp11h.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

[ylbeltagy@cssmp14h Program4]$ java FileClient c
ssmp11h.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:
```

5b

```
DEBUG CONSOLE  PROBLEMS (18)  OUTPUT  TERMINAL
[ylbeltagy@cssmp11h Program4]$ ./run.sh
client compilation
done
server compilation
done
Type "exit" or "quit" to terminate.
Clientname: cssmp12h.uwb.edu filename: democ.tx
t Mode: r
File democ.txt does not exist
Clientname: cssmp12h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.tx
t Mode: r
[]

[ylbeltagy@cssmp13h Program4]$ java FileClient cs
smp11h.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:

[ylbeltagy@cssmp14h Program4]$ java FileClient c
ssmp11h.uwb.edu 28540
rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked
FileClient: Next file to open:
File name:
```

6

The image shows three terminal windows in an IDE. The left window shows a shell script being executed, which prints "Hello World." and "I'm writing into demoA.txt". The middle window shows a Java FileClient being invoked, which prints "FileClient: Next file to open: File name:". The right window shows the same Java FileClient being invoked, which prints "FileClient: Next file to open: File name:". The IDE interface includes a top bar with tabs for "DEBUG CONSOLE", "PROBLEMS", "OUTPUT", and "TERMINAL". The "TERMINAL" tab is active, and the three terminal windows are visible below it.

7

The image displays three terminal windows side-by-side, illustrating the FileClient application's operation. Each window has a title bar with 'DEBUG CONSOLE', 'PROBLEMS', 'OUTPUT', and 'TERMINAL' tabs. The first terminal window shows the client writing 'I'm writing into demoA.txt' to a file named 'demoA.txt' on the host 'cssmp12h.uwb.edu'. The second terminal window shows the client opening the file 'demoA.txt' on the host 'cssmp12h.uwb.edu'. The third terminal window shows the client opening the file 'demoA.txt' on the host 'cssmp12h.uwb.edu'.

8

[illegible]

[illegible]

<pre>[ybeltagy@cssapi1h Program4]\$./run.sh client compilation done server compilation done Type "exit" or "quit" to terminate. Clientname: cssapi12h.uwb.edu filename: demoC.txt t Mode: r File demoC.txt does not exist Clientname: cssapi12h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.txt t Mode: r Clientname: cssapi12h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.txt t Mode: w Clientname: cssapi12h.uwb.edu filename: demoB.txt t Mode: w File demoB.txt does not exist Clientname: cssapi13h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.txt t Mode: r Clientname: cssapi14h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.txt t Mode: r Clientname: cssapi12h.uwb.edu filename: demoA.txt t Mode: w []</pre>	<pre>Hello World. I'm writing into demoA.txt Hello, I'm writing again for step 11.]</pre>	<pre>[ybeltagy@cssapi1h Program4]\$ java FileClient cs sspi1h.uwb.edu 28540 rmi://localhost: 28540/fileclient invoked FileClient: Next file to open: File name: demoA.txt How(r/w): r file: demoA.txt does not exist. name = state = 0 ownership = false downloading: demoA.txt with r mode FileClient: Next file to open: File name: demoA.txt[]</pre>
---	---	---

The image displays three terminal windows side-by-side, illustrating the FileClient application's operation.

- Left Terminal (Client):** Shows the execution of the FileClient program on a local machine. It attempts to connect to a server at 28540. The output shows the client's state (state = 0, ownership = false) and the file 'demoA.txt' being accessed with 'r' mode. The client then attempts to download the file, but the download fails because the file is not found on the server.
- Middle Terminal (Server):** Shows the server running on a local machine. It receives a connection from the client. The server logs show the file 'demoA.txt' being accessed with 'r' mode. The server then attempts to download the file, but the download fails because the file is not found on the server.
- Right Terminal (Server):** Shows the server running on a remote machine (ssh). It receives a connection from the client. The server logs show the file 'demoA.txt' being accessed with 'r' mode. The server then attempts to download the file, but the download fails because the file is not found on the server.

Handwritten red text 'suspended' with an arrow points to the 'FileClient: Next file to open:' line in the middle terminal, indicating the server is waiting for a new file to be opened.

[illegible][illegible]


```
[ybeltagy@cssmpi1h Program4]$ cat demoA.txt  
Hello, I'm writing into demoA.txt.
```

Before step 18: I got an error and fixed it. So I'm going to restart testing from step 18.

I had a minor issue where demoA.txt wasn't saved, so I'm editing it again before demoB.txt to test whether it saves now or not.

```
[ybeltagy@cssmpi1h Program4]$ cat demoB.txt  
Hello World!
```

I'm writing into demoB.txt for step 8.

I'm in demoB.txt Again. I'm writing in CSSmpi2h for step 18. As you can see, CSSmpi3h and CSSmpi4h are both suspended. I'm repeating this test.

Step 22: Yay, I jumped to CSSmpi3h!

step 23: Yay, I jumped to CSSmpi4h!

```
[ybeltagy@cssmpi1h Program4]$ █
```