

Multithreaded News Client/Server Information System

Project Description

The Multithreaded News Client/Server is a simple Information System that aims to enable a secure exchange of information about recent news between clients and the server. The server retrieves the news from <https://newsapi.org/> depending on the client's request, where it can manage the connection with multiple clients in the same time. However, the system provides the user with a menu so it can choose between headlines and sources easily and provide a detailed response if required.

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Group

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Section: 02

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Requirements

Follow these steps to set up the project locally:

Any disruption in the internet connection will prevent the system from functioning properly
Ensure you are connected to the internet so API can work successfully

1. Clone the repository:

```
git clone https://github.com/Zainab-Alobed/ITNE352-Project-Group-B4
```

2. Install required libraries:

```
pip install -r required.txt
```

3. Run the server.py

```
python server.py
```

4. Run the client.py

```
python client.py
```

How to run the system:

Run the server:

1. Navigate to the server directory:

```
cd server
```

2. Start the server:

```
python server.py
```

Run the client:

1. Navigate to the client directory:

```
cd client
```

2. Start the client:

```
python client.py
```

Interacting with the server:

1. The user will be asked about his name, and send it to the server
2. The main menu will be displayed in client side that contains three options (the user must input a valid number 1-3):

1. Headlines
 2. Sources
 3. Quit
3. A submenu of either headlines or sources will be displayed depending on the user choice
4. Later on, a maximum of 15 article will be displayed to provide the user the ability to request detailed information or go back to the main menu (Each request will be directly send to the server and print the response back in the client side)
5. The user can select (3) Quit to terminate the program

The scripts

Client script

- Purpose:
interaction with server (Sends the user requests to the server and displays response)
- Functions:
 1. Create a TCP socket using IPv4 to connect to the server

```
# Create a TCP socket using IPv4
with socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM) as client_s:
    global cs
    with context.wrap_socket(client_s, server_hostname="myserver") as cs:
        try:
            cs.connect((get_local_ip(), 5353))

            if isinstance(cs, socket.socket):
                connection(cs)
```

2. Ask user about his name and send it to the server

```
def connection(cs):
    print("Hi!")
    # Ask the user to enter its name, and send it to the server
    while True:
        user_name = input("\nEnter your name (Only letters are allowed): ").strip()
        # Check if the name matches the regex (at least one letter)
        if re.match('^[a-zA-Z]+(?:[a-zA-Z]+)*$', user_name):
            break
        else:
            print("Invalid name. Only letters are allowed. Please try again.")

    cs.sendall(user_name.encode('utf-8'))

    print(f"Welcome {user_name}!\n")
```

3. Display the main menu

```
def connection(cs):
    # Define the main menu as a dictionary
    main_menu = {
        '1': 'headlines',
        '2': 'sources',
        '3': 'Quit'
    }

    # Define the headlines sub menu as a dictionary
    Headlines = {
        '1': 'keywords',
        '2': 'category',
        '3': 'country',
        '4': 'all',
        '5': 'main'
    }

    # Define the sources sub menu as a dictionary
    sources = {
        '1': 'category',
        '2': 'country',
        '3': 'language',
        '4': 'all',
        '5': 'main'
    }

    main_selection = '1'
    try:
        while main_selection != '3': # Loop until the user chooses to quit
            print("\nMain menu:")
            for key, value in main_menu.items():
                print(f"{key}. {value}")

            # Get user selection from main menu
            main_selection = input("Select an option: ").strip()
```

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4. Display either (1) Headlines menu or (2) Sources menu depending on the user choice. Then, Send the request and receive/display the response from the server (allow the request of detailed response)

```

39 def connection(cs):
40     if main_selection == '3':
41         cs.sendall(main_desc.encode('utf-8'))
42         print("Exiting... Goodbye")
43         exit()
44
45     # headlines submenu if user selects option 1
46     if main_selection == '1':
47         print("\n--- Headlines menu ---")
48         for id, option in Headlines.items():
49             print(f"{id} - {option}")
50
51     # Get selection for headlines submenu
52     Headlines_selection = input("\nSelect your option: ").strip()
53
54     if Headlines_selection in Headlines:
55         Headlines_desc = Headlines[Headlines_selection]
56     else:
57         print("Invalid selected number! Try again please.")
58         continue
59
60     # If user selects 5 'main', back to main menu
61     if Headlines_selection == '5':
62         continue
63
64     # Construct request based on selected option
65     elif Headlines_selection == '4':
66         request = f"{main_desc},{Headlines_desc}"
67     else:
68         if Headlines_selection == '2':
69             print(f"\nHere is suggestions that might help you with the valid {Headlines_desc}: \nbusiness, general, health, science, sports, technology")
70         elif Headlines_selection == '3':
71             print(f"\nHere is suggestions that might help you with the valid {Headlines_desc}: \nau, ca, jp, ae, sa, kr, us, ma")
72
73         value = input(f"\nEnter the {Headlines_desc} to search for: ").strip()
74         request = f"{main_desc},{Headlines_desc},{value}"
75
76     # Send the request to the server
77     cs.sendall(request.encode('utf-8'))

```

```

t> ITNE352-Project-Group-B4 > client > client.py > connection
def connection(cs):
    # sources submenu if user selects option 2
    elif main_selection == '2':
        print("\n--- Sources menu ---")
        for id, option in sources.items():
            print(f"{id} - {option}")
        # Get selection for sources submenu
        sources_selection = input("Select your option: ").strip()
        if sources_selection in sources:
            source_desc = sources[sources_selection]
        else:
            print("Invalid selected number! Try again please.")
            continue
        # If user selects 5 'main', back to main menu
        if sources_selection == '5':
            continue
        # Construct request based on selected option
        elif sources_selection == '4':
            request = f"{main_desc},{source_desc}"
        else:
            if sources_selection == '1':
                print(f"\nHere is suggestions that might help you with the valid {source_desc}: \nbusiness, general, health, science, sports, technology")
            elif sources_selection == '2':
                print(f"\nHere is suggestions that might help you with the valid {source_desc}: \nau, ca, jp, ae, sa, kr, us, ma")
            elif sources_selection == '3':
                print(f"\nHere is suggestions that might help you with the valid {source_desc}: \nar, en")
            value = input(f"\nEnter the {source_desc} to search for: ").strip()
            request = f"{main_desc},{source_desc},{value}"
        # Send the request to the server
        cs.sendall(request.encode('utf-8'))

```

Server script

- Purpose:

The server receives requests from the client for headlines/sources from newsapi.

The server then will retrieve the requested data from an appropriate API endpoint. After getting the response, the server will save the response into a file named client name and the requested option then prepare a list containing brief information about a maximum of 15 headlines/sources and send it to the client.

The client can choose a specific headline/source from the list to get more information about it, which will also prepared by the server. The server will keep getting requests from a maximum of 3 clients.
- packages: re, socket, json, threading, requests, ssl, os

- Functions:

1. `get_headlines` + `get_all_headlines`

Those two functions are responsible for retrieving headlines from API endpoints `/everything` and `/top-headlines`

```
# headline search function with filltering
def get_headlines(option, value):
    # pass api key
    params = {"apiKey": API_KEY, "pageSize": 15}

    # check choosen option
    if option == "keywords":
        params["q"] = value
    elif option == "category":
        params["category"] = value
    elif option == "country":
        params["country"] = value

    # get response from endpoint and return it
    try:
        response = requests.get(f"{BASE_URL}/top-headlines", params=params)
        if response.status_code != 200:
            print(f"Error with API: {response.status_code}, {response.text}")
            return {"error": "API error"}
        return response.json()
    except Exception:
        return {"API_error": "API error, check the connection"}

# all headlines search function
def get_all_headlines():
    params = {"apiKey": API_KEY, "pageSize": 15, "language": "en", "q": "news"}
    try:
        response = requests.get(f"{BASE_URL}/everything", params=params)
        if response.status_code != 200:
            print(f"Error with API: {response.status_code}, {response.text}")
            return {"error": "API error"}
        return response.json()
    except Exception:
        return {"API_error": "API error, check the connection"}
```

2. `get_sources`

To retrieve sources from the API endpoint `/sources`

```

# resource search function
def get_sources(option, value):
    # pass api key
    params = {"apiKey": API_KEY, "pageSize": 15}

    # check chosen option
    if option == "category":
        params["category"] = value
    elif option == "country":
        params["country"] = value
    elif option == "language":
        params["language"] = value

    # get response from endpoint and return it
    try:
        response = requests.get(f"{BASE_URL}/sources", params=params)
        if response.status_code != 200:
            print(f"Error with API: {response.status_code}, {response.text}")
            return {"error": "API error"}
        return response.json()
    except Exception:
        return {"API_error": "API error, check the connection"}

def create_file(client_name, response, list, option):
    # ensure there is no space or special character in client name and file name
    safe_client_name = re.sub(r"^[^\w]", "_", client_name)
    file_name = (
        f"{safe_client_name}_{list.replace(' ', '_')}-{option.replace(' ', '_')}_B4.json"
    )
    with open(file_name, "w", encoding="utf-8") as file:
        json.dump(response, file, ensure_ascii=False, indent=4)

```

3. create_file

This function will save the API responses into a file named with "<client_name>

<group_ID>.json"

```

def create_file(client_name, response, list, option):
    # ensure there is no space or special character in client name and file name
    safe_client_name = re.sub(r"^[^\w]", "_", client_name)
    file_name = f"{safe_client_name}_{list.replace(' ', '_')}-{option.replace(' ', '_')}_B4.json"
    with open(file_name, 'w', encoding='utf-8') as file:
        json.dump(response, file, ensure_ascii=False, indent=4)

```

4. prepare_list

It will create a list containing only the information that the client will display to the user from the API response.


```
#prepare the list of headlines/sources
def prepare_list(res,list):
    res = res[:15] #only 15 results

    prepared_list = []

    for x in res:
        if list == 'headlines':
            prepared_list.append({
                "name":x['source'].get('name','unknown'),
                "author":x.get('author','unknown'),
                "title":x.get('title','unkown')
            })

        else: #sources
            prepared_list.append({
                "name":x.get('name','unknown')
            })

    return prepared_list
```

5. search This function is responsible for receiving clients' requests and responding to them.

Additional functions that used in both client and server side

- get_local_ip():

A function for retrieving the local IP of the device.

The IP address retrieved by this function is assigned for internal use(not public). It works by contacting 8.8.8.8 which is Google's public DNS server with a UDP socket where there is no need for sending data, this step is just to determine which network interface is being used.

After creating the socket it connects it to the DNS server. We can get the IP address using s.getsockname() which returns a tuple of the IP address and port number. s.getsockname()[0] will be the local IP address we need.

Finally, the method returns the IP address.

Additional Concepts

TLS\SSL (security) TLS/SSL is a transport security protocol that provides a secure way for communication by providing some services. One of those services is confidentiality which depends on the encryption. On the screenshots below you can notice the data before applying TLS/SSL and after.

- Before TLS/SSL:

(1.)

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of traffic on the loopback interface. The packet list shows several TCP segments. The selected packet (No. 78) is a TCP segment from 192.168.0.121 to 192.168.0.121, port 5353 to 41060, sequence 1, acknowledgment 19, length 1731. The packet details pane shows the Transmission Control Protocol section, indicating the source port is 5353 and the destination port is 41060. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data, which is a JSON object containing information about a news article. A red box highlights the JSON data, and a red text overlay states "Data before TLS/SSL is not encrypted".

3. Quit
Select an option: 1

---- Headlines menu ----
1 - keywords
2 - category
3 - country
4 - all
5 - main

Select your option: 4

Headlines:
No. (1)
Source name: Wired
author: Makena Kelly
title: News Influencers Have Eclipsed Traditional Media

No. (2)
Source name: [Removed]
author: None
title: [Removed]

No. (3)
Source name: [Removed]
author: None
title: [Removed]

No. (4)
Source name: Gizmodo.com
author: Matthew Gault
title: Matt Gaetz Hates Big Tech (That's the Good News)

No. (5)
Source name: Gizmodo.com
author: Matt Novak
title: Popular Tech News Site The Verge Goes Behind a Paywall

Wireshark - Packet 78 - Adapter for loopback traffic capture

Frame 78: 1775 bytes on wire (14200 bits), 1775 bytes captured (14200 bits) on interface \Device\NPF_{...}, interface index 1

Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.121, Dst: 192.168.0.121

Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 5353, Dst Port: 41060, Seq: 1, Ack: 19, Len: 1731

Source Port: 5353
Destination Port: 41060
[Stream index: 3]

Conversation completeness: Incomplete, DATA (15)

... P ... [{"name": "Wired", "author": "Makena Kelly", "title": "News Influencers Have Eclipsed Traditional Media"}]

No. 78 - Time: 32.374575 - Source: 192.168.0.121 - Destination: 192.168.0.121 - Protocol: TCP - Seq: 1 - Ack: 19 - Len: 1731 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]

Show packet bytes

(2.)

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of traffic on the loopback interface. The packet list shows several TCP segments. The selected packet (No. 18) is a TCP segment from 192.168.0.144 to 192.168.0.144, port 5353 to 41060, sequence 18, acknowledgment 381, length 380. The packet details pane shows the Transmission Control Protocol section, indicating the source port is 5353 and the destination port is 41060. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data, which is a JSON object containing information about a news article. A red box highlights the JSON data, and a red text overlay states "Data before TLS/SSL is not encrypted".

---- Sources menu ----
1 - category
2 - country
3 - language
4 - all
5 - main

Select your option: 4

Sources:
No. (1)
Source name: ABC News

No. (2)
Source name: ABC News (AU)

No. (3)
Source name: Aftenposten

No. (4)
Source name: Al Jazeera English

No. (5)
Source name: ANSA.it

No. (6)
Source name: Angam

No. (7)
Source name: Ars Technica

No. (8)
Source name: Ary News

No. (9)

Wireshark - Packet 18 - Adapter for loopback traffic capture

Frame 18: 14,241,843 bytes on wire (113,934,744 bits), 14,241,843 bytes captured (113,934,744 bits) on interface \Device\NPF_{...}, interface index 1

Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.144, Dst: 192.168.0.144

Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 5353, Dst Port: 41060, Seq: 18, Ack: 381, Len: 380

Source Port: 5353
Destination Port: 41060
[Stream index: 3]

Conversation completeness: Incomplete, DATA (15)

... P ... [{"name": "ABC News (AU)", "author": "Aftenposten", "title": "Al Jazeera English"}]

No. 18 - Time: 14.241843 - Source: 192.168.0.144 - Destination: 192.168.0.144 - Protocol: TCP - Seq: 18 - Ack: 381 - Len: 380 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]

Show packet bytes

- After TLS/SSL:

(1.)

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of traffic on interface \Device\NPF_{...}_loopback, id 0. The filter is 'tcp.port == 5353'. The packet list shows a series of TCP segments. Packet 10 is selected, showing details for Internet Protocol Version 4, Transmission Control Protocol, and Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The Hypertext Transfer Protocol section is expanded, showing the response status '200 OK' and the content type 'text/html'. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data, with a red box highlighting the encrypted data (application/javascript).

Data after TLS/SSL is encrypted

(2.)

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of traffic on interface \Device\NPF_{...}_loopback, id 0. The filter is 'tcp.port == 5353'. The packet list shows a series of TCP segments. Packet 18 is selected, showing details for Internet Protocol Version 4, Transmission Control Protocol, and Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The Hypertext Transfer Protocol section is expanded, showing the response status '200 OK' and the content type 'text/html'. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data, with a red box highlighting the encrypted data (application/javascript).

Data after TLS/SSL is encrypted

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank our instructor for providing this project so we can learn how to implement a python network system. Moreover, a big thanks to NewsAPI for providing the news.

Conclusion

This project demonstrates how secure connections, API integration, Sockets, and client-server communication can be practically implemented using a Python network application.

The development of the Multithreaded News Client/Server Information System helped us learn concepts of:

- Network programming (Python)
- API integration
- Multi-threaded
- client\server framework

Resources

- API: <https://newsapi.org/>
- TLS/SSL: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/ssl.html>