Distributed Systems
Report 2: Routy

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1 Introduction

This seminar is intended to explain the process of creating routing network using Erlang and describe the functionality of it. The key technical aspects implemented in the routing network are: A map, Dijkstra algorithm, Interfaces, History and the Router.

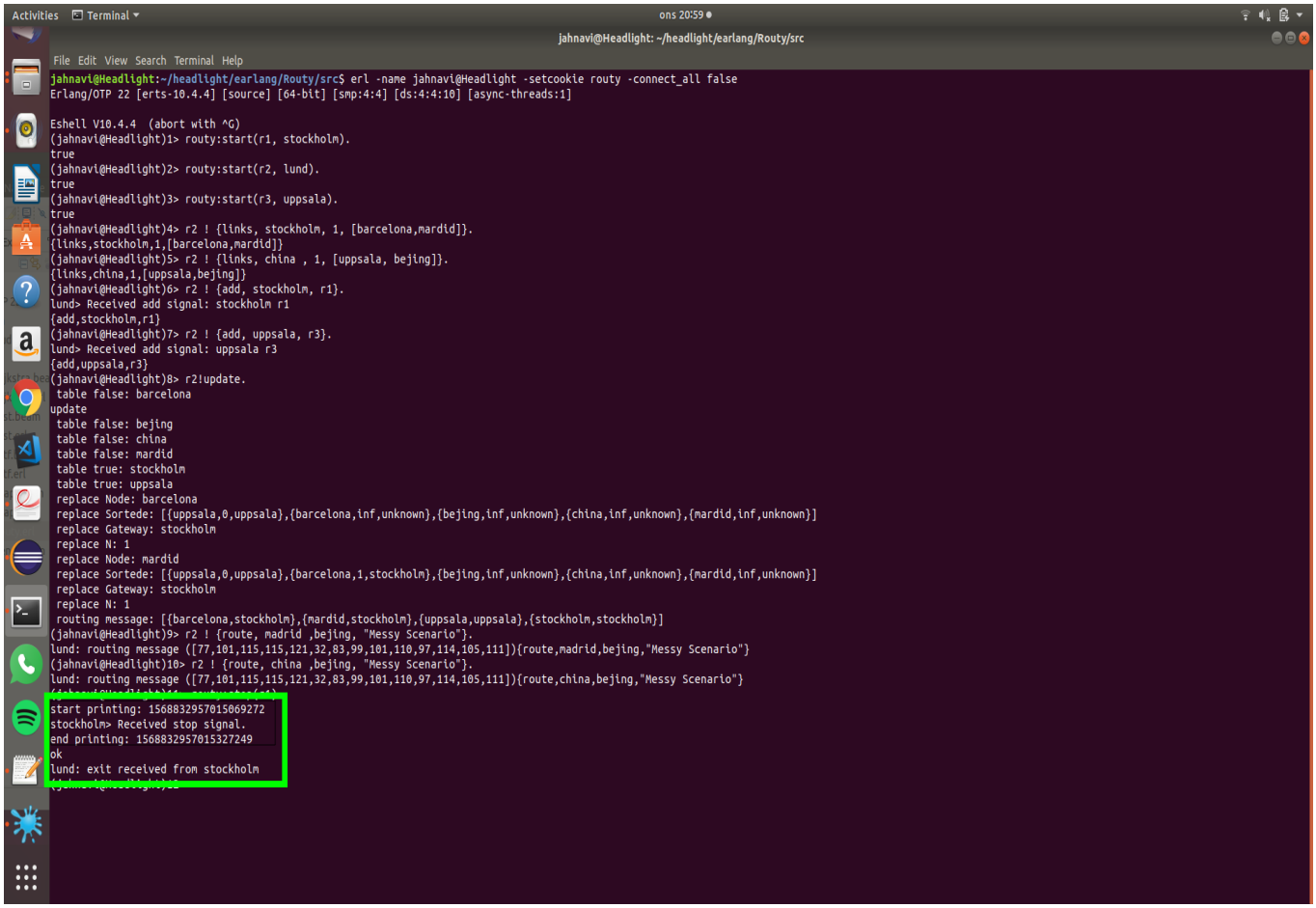
Routers communicate with each other, distributing information that enables them to select routes between different nodes on a network. A routing protocol specifies how the routers function and uses Dijkstra algorithm to perform the routing. In order to represent the connection between the nodes we use a Map and to route message to a node, the router uses a routing protocol to find the gateway and then sends the message. We also have Interfaces which are used to broadcast the messages to interface processes. Old messages are replaced with latest details using History Table.

2 Main problems and solutions

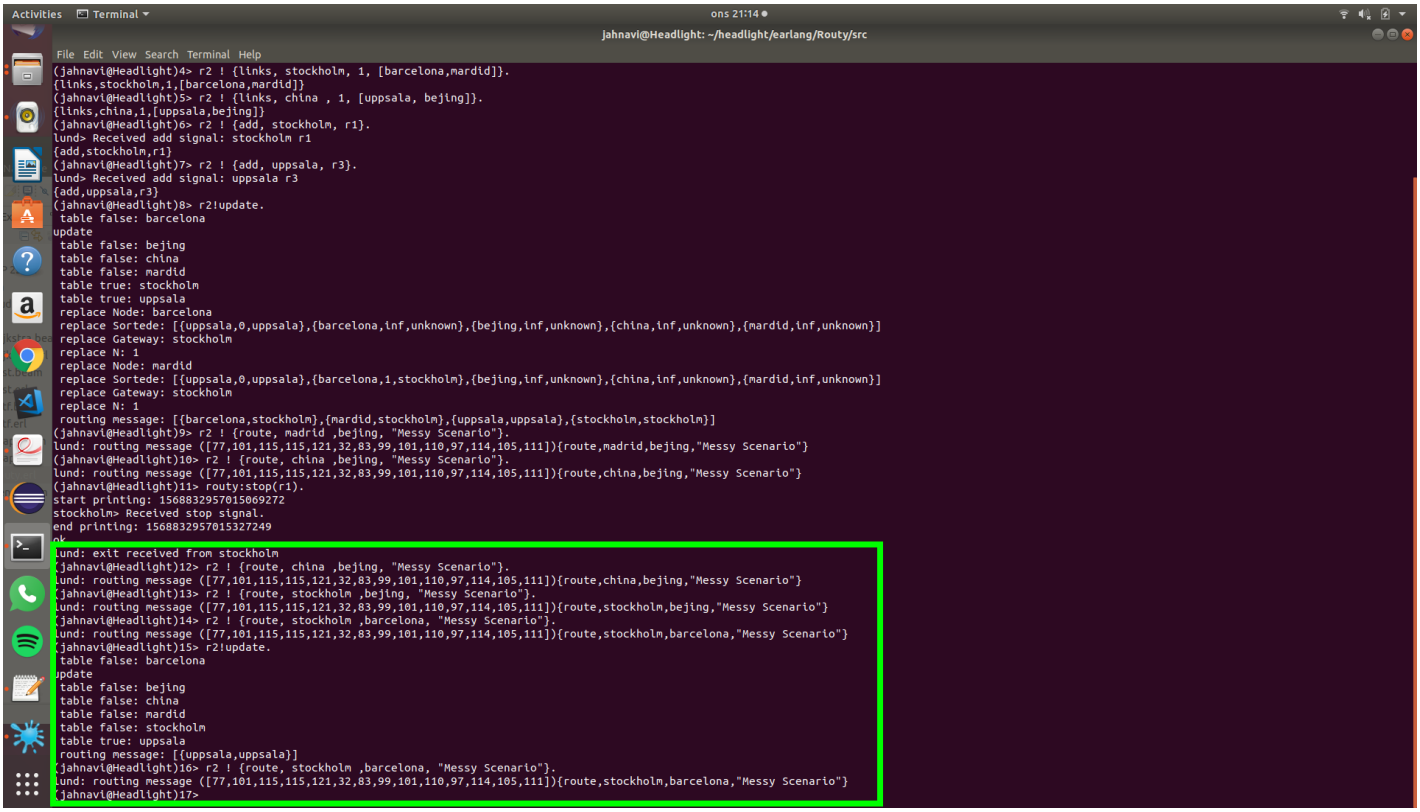
Framing the flow between multiple modules and description to code conversion made it more time consuming. Deriving routing table from assumed map made it difficult in picturizing a routing table. Understanding the gateway mechanism, especially, with unspecified paths took more toil. Identifying list and dict methods such as fold, members, etc. which were used in the code were implemented after a lot of research on list modules using erlang. Redirecting, handling node unavailability scenario, connectivity between components added complexity to the functionality. Overall, there was a lot of research involved in completion of this assignment.

3 Evaluation

1) The below screenshot depicts the time between disabling a network and delivery of 'DOWN' message to other nodes. The "Start Printing" displays the time when the node was shut and "End Printing" displays the time when the exit message was displayed. The time difference explains the time taken to receive the exit message.



2) The below screenshot portrays the scenario when one of the nodes in the network is made unavailable.



Conclusion

Overall, there has been a significant learning in understanding the routing mechanism. Especially creating a network, establishing connectivity between the network components and understanding node failure scenario. Dijkstra algorithm provided a detailed understanding on routing functionality.