**PowerGrid documentation**

**An overview of the PowerGrid project, how it works, and what the differences are with other Runescape bot clients.**

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# Chapter 1 – Introduction

Many bot clients already exist for the MMORPG Runescape. Each with their own benefits and downsides. However, almost all bot clients have one thing in common: they offer little to no functionality by themselves, and only provide that which is required to perform basic operations on the bot. A large downside of this is, that this results in bot clients not being able to operate in a dynamic environment, and such clients often also do not provide tools to recognise certain object types, leading to manually checking and comparing id values over and over again.

A solution to the abovementioned problem would be, to provide the missing tools as an extension to an existing bot client, but such an approach also has a price in the form of a very high memory footprint, since much data needs to be cached locally too. This is mainly because almost all clients are closed-source, and getting the necessary data often requires an impractical detour through a variety of method calls.

So the best solution would be to create a bot client from scratch, focussed on solving the above problems and to optimize user experience in this way. However, there is another problem a large number of bot client cope with: It is only possible to play the game in fixed resolutions, because of the way the widget system in these bot clients work. Since most bot clients essentially operate on the same core, these bot clients all deal with the same problems, and as such an entirely new and revolutionary approach must be taken in order to avoid the same problems and issues.

In order to optimize speed and to make it easier to remain undetected as a botting client, it would be a good design choice to implement the project in a programming language other than Java. As such, a programming language was chosen that resembles Java in many ways, but is a lot faster and more dynamic. This chosen programming language was C++.

Putting all the above together, we present you PowerGrid. A revolutionary, open-source bot client that intends to make life easier for everyone by providing functionality that automatically classifies and stores the data from the runescape world in native (C++) objects. Because of this caching behavior, it suddenly becomes possible to plan routes across the entire world, or find the nearest object matching certain criteria even if such an object is far away.

The final goal of PowerGrid is to provide users with a tool that can play Runescape completely by itself, automatically deciding on the tasks to perform based on changes in the environment. PowerGrid will even be able to perform abstract tasks like leveling a certain skill to a certain level, or making a certain amount of money. PowerGrid should then automatically decide on the concrete tasks (what methods of money-making to use, or what method to use to train the requested skill) by effiency.

Please do note, however, that the abovementioned behavior is merely an indication, and exact functionality may change over time.

# Chapter 2 – Overview of PowerGrid

This chapter describes the two main components of PowerGrid and how these contribute to each other to make PowerGrid work the way it does. PowerGrid basically consists of the following main components: the Artficial Intelligence and the communication between the Runescape client and PowerGrid. A description of the Artificial Intelligence module is provided in paragraph 2.1, whereas the communitication with the Runescape client is described in paragraph 2.2.

## 2.1 – Artificial Intelligence as a way of playing Runescape automatically

PowerGrid has a sophisticated Artificial Intelligence (AI) module, which it uses to decide on actions from the Runescape environment. Because PowerGrid uses such an AI module, it is possible for PowerGrid to operate even in unknown environments and behave dynamically based on the state of the environment and the goals set by the user.

The goals the user can provide to the AI are high-level descriptions of tasks, such as to reach a certain location, or to acquire a certain amount of experience for a skill. The AI combines this information with the environment to decide on an action to perform.

For example, reaching a certain location requires the AI to execute a pathfinding algorithm and then follow the path this algorithm produced. As the AI navigates this path, it should still monitor the environment because some things are prone to change. Imagine that the path leads through a door but that door is closed. The AI should then automatically know that the door should be opened before continuing its path.

For gaining experience in various skills the amount of elements to monitor is even bigger, and the approach varies greatly between different skills. Training a skill such as crafting, for example, requires a completely different approach then training a skill such as woodcutting. Therefore an AI is required that can somehow decide on the action based on its goals.

## 2.2 – Communication with the Runescape client

The AI by itself cannot do much good if there is no connection to the Runescape environment itself. As such, a system is needed that ensures a correctly set up connection to the Runescape client. Since Runescape runs on Java, we need to communicate with the Java Virtual Machine (that runs the Runescape client) first. Java provides a system for this called JNI (Java Native Interface). However, the functionality provided by it is not sufficient, and JNI only understands very low-level instructions. As such, Powergrid contains a system that mediates between instructions and information the AI can understand, and the low-level instructions that the JNI can understand. This bridges the gap between C++, the language PowerGrid is written in, and Java, the language of the Runescape client.

# Chapter 3 – Structural overview

In this chapter, an overview is given of the basic structural components of the project and the relations between these components. First, in paragraph 2.1, a diagram is provided that shows the structure of PowerGrid while in action. This is followed by a summary of each module shown in the diagram (paragraph 2.2). Lastly, a description is given about PowerGrid’s execution cycle in paragraph 2.3

## 3.1 – Structural diagram of PowerGrid

The below diagram illustrates the structural diagram of PowerGrid. The diagram shows the different modules in PowerGrid and how these modules interact with each other.

The modules are split up in two groups: The Java Virtual Machine and the PowerGrid client. The Java Virtual Machine contains the running Runescape client as well as access to the JNI functions that PowerGrid uses. PowerGrid itself contains various modules to monitor, process and inject actions and information from and to the Java Virtual Machine.



## 3.2 – Summary of each of the modules in PowerGrid

**JNI module**

The JNI module handles basic interaction with the JVM. Can read from, and data to the running Java Virtual machine through JNI. Unlike JNI by itself, this module performs safety-checks to ensure the data put into the Java Virtual Machine is valid. JNI by itself does not do this, so without using an intermediate module to perform these checks, it becomes possible to send invalid data into the JVM that potentially crashes the entire program.

**Monitor module**

The monitor module handles incoming raw data from the JNI module and parses it as recognisable (native) objects. These objects are then sent to the cache module for quick retrieval. The monitor also provides functionality to the AI module that allows it to read real-time statistics from the Runescape world.

**Caching module**

**The caching module stores and manages the data from the Runescape environment for quick access. This module consists of a variety of caches with different structures for different purposes, and each cache has its own policy of storing and retrieving the data it contains. The caching module also allows storing and loading custom data from other modules. This data is then kept in a separate cache, also for quick lookup.**

**GUI module**

The GUI module handles parsing and configuring the AI module with the information provided by the user. Also, the GUI can check the status of each individual module and report its status to the user. This provides a overview of the state of the entire program.

**AI module**

The AI module decides on an action based on parameters from the GUI module and information from the Monitor module. This is the core of the bot itself that makes the decisions. The AI module may give directives to the Monitor module and the cache module for managing their data. This helps, because the AI module usually knows the semantics of the data it’s working with. By allowing the AI to provide these directives, it becomes possible to use the memory more efficiently.

**Injection module**

The injection module translates an action from the AI into one or more events that can be injected into the JVM. These event objects are then passed on to the JNI module that will put them into the JVM. Basically, the injection module provides more high-level functions to the AI for performing common actions, and the injection module will convert these actions into Java event objects which are then passed into the JVM.

**JNI core**

The JNI core is the core of the Java Virtual Machine’s native API. It manages the basic functions of the running Java Environment. It also provides functions to the JNI module for accessing the running Runescape environment. Since this is a part of the JVM itself, PowerGrid has no control over its behavior.

**RS client**

The running Runescape client. Interaction with this environment can only be done using reflection functionality provided by the JNI core, which in turn can be accessed through the JNI module in PowerGrid. The RS client itself connects to the RS servers, allowing the player to perform actions. These actions are simulated by PowerGrid by injecting appropriate event objects into the RS client by pushing the required data into the JNI core through PowerGrid’s own JNI module.

## 3.3 – The PowerGrid execution cycle

PowerGrid has four modules (JNI, Monitor, AI and Injection modules) that pass information to each other in a cycle. This is the contiuous cycle that PowerGrid runs in. An overview of how this cycle works is given below.

First, information is fetched through JNI. This information is parsed by the monitor (and then stored in the caches). Then, the AI module retrieves this information and uses it to decide on an action. The AI may also offer directives to the monitor on what to monitor, what to remember, and what to delete. This improves the hit ratio of cached data. When the AI decided on an action, it is sent to the injector module, which converts (breaks up) the action into separate JNI calls and sends these commands to the JNI module that will execute them on the Java Virtual Machine.

More technically correct, though, would be to say that the AI module runs in a loop that requests the data it needs from the monitor module which in turn first performs the required JNI calls to fetch the required data (or fetches it from the cache, if this is feasible).

The GUI module provides end users with the possibility to modify how the AI works. When a setting is changed in the GUI, this change is propagated to the AI module, which will change its behavior accordingly.