Programming Assignment 1 - Proxy Downloader

## 3 HTTP website results using Netcat:

```
[Berks-MacBook-Pro-3:~ berkturkcapar$ nc -1 12345
GET http://meb.gov.tr/ HTTP/1.1
Host: meb.gov.tr
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/111.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Berks-MacBook-Pro-3:~ berkturkcapar$ nc -l 12345
GET http://yemeksepeti.com/ HTTP/1.1
Host: yemeksepeti.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/111.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Berks-MacBook-Pro-3:~ berkturkcapar$ nc -l 12345
GET http://boun.edu.tr/ HTTP/1.1
Host: boun.edu.tr
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10.15; rv:109.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/111.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US, en; q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
```

## **Code Explanation:**

I have decided to code in Python and I have used the <code>socket</code> module for listening to the port and sending GET requests and used <code>sys</code> module to read command line arguments (<port>). I also used the <code>datetime</code> module to compare the Last-Modified information of responses. My code consists of two functions: the <code>main</code> function and <code>download\_file</code> function. For an additional feature, I have implemented a cache structure which checks if a file has already been downloaded. If it is in the cache it checks the Last-Modified information and downloads the file if the cached version is old.

## **Main Function:**

```
if __name__ == "__main__":
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print("Usage: python ProxyDownloader.py <port>")
            sys.exit(1)
    proxy_port = sys.argv[1]
    # Initialize the cache as empty dictionary
    cache = {}
    # Create a socket and listen on the designated port
    s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
    s.bind(("", int(proxy_port)))
    s.listen()
    print(f"Listening on port {proxy_port}...")
```

In the beginning of the main function, the length of the command line arguments is checked to make sure the program is run with a proper command. If the length is not 2 then an error message is printed and the program is closed. If there is no error the port number is obtained from the command line by using sys.argv[1]. Next, a socket called s is created to listen to the designated port and a message is printed notifying the user the program is listening to the port for incoming messages. s is bound to the specified port number by using bind() method. I did not specify any IP address as the first argument of the bind() method.

```
while True:
    print("Waiting for a connection...")
    conn, addr = s.accept()
# Read the HTTP request
    request = b""
    while True:
        data = conn.recv(1024)
        request += data
        if b"\r\n\r\n" in request:
            break
# Parse the URL from the HTTP request
    url = request.split(b"\r\n")[0].split(b" ")[1].decode()
    host_name = url.split("/")[2]
    print(f"Retrieved request from Firefox:")
    if host_name != 'www.cs.bilkent.edu.tr':
        print('WARNING: Host name is not www.cs.bilkent.edu.tr, moving on...\n')
        continue
    print(request.decode())
# Download the file
download_file(url, cache)
```

In this infinite loop, the program waits for incoming connections to the designated port. <code>accept()</code> method blocks and waits for any incoming connections to the socket. When a connection is received, it returns an object with two properties: <code>conn</code> which is used to communicate with the client and <code>addr</code> which returns the IP address and the port of the client. Next I created a byte string called <code>request</code> in order to read the incoming connection request. Inside a while loop, I obtained the data from the socket in chunks of 1024 bytes by using the <code>recv()</code> method. I checked if the end of request was reached and called <code>break</code> to end the loop. Next from <code>request I</code> parsed the <code>url</code> and <code>host\_name</code>. For filtering any unnecessary request I checked if the <code>host\_name</code> is <code>www.cs.bilkent.edu.tr</code>. If the request is from a different host this request is not processed and the user is notified about this. In order to send the HTTP GET request, download and save the file I created another function called download\_file.

## download file Function:

```
def download_file(url, cache):
  host name = url.split("/")[2]
      print(f"Already downloaded '{file name}' before...")
           head_request = b"HEAD " + url.encode() + b" HTTP/1.1\r\nHost: " +
host name.encode() + b"\r\nConnection: close\r\n\r\n"
       s.sendall(head_request)
      response = b""
       response lines = response.decode().split("\r\n")
       status line = response lines[0]
       print(f"Retrieved: {status code} {status message}")
          last_modified = response_lines[3].split(": ")[1].strip()
            last modified = datetime.strptime(last modified, "%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S
           if last modified <= cache last modified:</pre>
              s.close()
                   print("The file is not up-to-date in the cache, sending a new
request...")
          print("ERROR: Couldn't check the server for Last-Modified\n")
          s.close()
```

The <code>download\_file()</code> function accepts one input which is the byte string called <code>url.FirstIparsed</code> the <code>file\_name</code> and the <code>host\_name</code> from the <code>url.Next,I</code> created a socket object and connected it to port 80 which is the default port for HTTP requests. First, I checked if the file already exists in the dictionary. If it did I sent a HTTP HEAD request in order to obtain the Last-Modified information of the file. I used a HEAD request since it is faster than a GET request and I did not want to send an unnecessary GET request which may lower performance. I checked if the response was OK and if it was I parsed the Last-Modified information. I checked if the <code>last\_modified</code> date from the HEAD request is newer than the <code>cache\_last\_modified</code>. If it is not newer I printed a message stating the file in the cache is up to date. If it is newer it goes on to send the GET request. Before all return statements I closed the socket binded to port 80.

```
request body = b"GET " + url.encode()
                                               + b" HTTP/1.1\r\nHost:
   data = s.recv(1024)
response lines = response.decode().split("\r\n")
status line = response lines[0]
                       status_message = int(status_line.split()[1]),
print(f"Retrieved: {status_code} {status_message}")
    print("ERROR: File not found, moving on...\n")
last modified = response lines[3].split(": ")[1].strip()
cache[file_name] = datetime.strptime(last modified, "%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S %Z")
f = open(file name, "wb")
f.write(response.split(b"\r\n\r\n")[1])
s.close()
```

Next I created the request\_body as a byte string and used sendall() method to send the HTTP GET request. Next I created a byte string called response in order

to read the response of the request I have sent. Inside a while loop, I obtained the data from the socket in chunks of 1024 bytes by using the recv() method. I checked if the end of response was reached and called break to end the loop. After that, after sending the request and obtaining the response I parsed the response to check the status\_code and status\_message. Next, I checked if the status\_code was 200 and if it was not 200 I printed an error message. If it was 200, I opened a file with the name file\_name and wrote the body of the response to it. Finally, I printed a message indicating that the file has been downloaded and saved. Also, at the end, I closed the socket I binded to port 80.