

Assignment Title: Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Application

Objective:

To create a simple peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing application using socket programming. This project will enhance understanding of networking concepts, socket communication, and multi-threading.

Overview:

Students will build a basic application that allows two users to connect over a network and share files directly. Each participant will take on a specific role (Client or Server) and will implement the necessary functionalities for file transfer.

Roles:

1. **Client:** Responsible for sending files to the server and requesting files.
2. **Server:** Responsible for receiving files from the client and serving files upon request.

Requirements:

1. **Socket Setup:**
 - Use TCP sockets for reliable communication.
 - Implement error handling for connection issues.
2. **File Transfer Protocol:**
 - The client should be able to:
 - Send a file to the server.
 - Request a file from the server.
 - The server should be able to:
 - Receive files from the client and save them locally.
 - Send requested files back to the client.
3. **User Interface:**
 - Create a simple command-line interface for both the client and server.
 - Provide options for:
 - Sending a file
 - Receiving a file
 - Viewing available files (server-side)
4. **Multi-threading (Server Side):**
 - Implement multi-threading on the server to handle multiple clients (even though this assignment is primarily for two participants).
5. **File Integrity:**
 - Implement basic checks (e.g., file size comparison) to ensure the file has been transferred correctly.

Deliverables:

1. Source code for both the client and server.
2. A brief report (2-3 pages) detailing:
 - The design and architecture of the application.
 - Challenges faced and how they were resolved.
 - Instructions on how to run the application.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. **Functionality** (40%): Does the application meet all specified requirements?
2. **Code Quality** (30%): Is the code well-structured, documented, and easy to read?
3. **User Interface** (20%): Is the command-line interface user-friendly?
4. **Report** (10%): Clarity and completeness of the report.

Suggested Technologies:

- Python (using the `socket` and `threading` libraries)
- Java (using `java.net` and `java.io` packages)
- C# (using `System.Net.Sockets`)