Final Project

Secured WebServer in Java

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**Abstract**

The final project required the following:

* A web server, running on top of SSL (Secured Socket Layer)
* Receive and parse Http request
* Create a response and send the requested file if exists
* Else send Http not found status.
* If the server is unable is open listening port, it will failover to a secondary port.

The project also requires couple of criteria:

* Chained filter streams
* Multithreaded Client/Server
* Avoiding race condition and deadlocks
* Encrypted communication between client and server
* Client authentication for server program
* Cookie support

**Assumptions**

The task requires couple of assumptions regarding the environment the software will be run on:

* Being Java based, the software is generally Operating System agnostic. However, it is found to have worked well under the below Operating environments:
  + MacOS 10.15.6, 32GB memory, 8 core Intel i9. JVM 1.8.206
  + Fedora Linux 32, kernel 5.8.7, 16GB memory, 2 core Intel i5. JVM 1.8.218
  + Windows 10, 8GB memory, 2 core Intel i7. JVM 1.8.190
* Software needs elevated privilege to run on port 80, although such exception is handled from inside the application itself where it falls back to port 8080.
* All parameters required for application functionality is hard coded in an interface called Defs. Application uses no command-line parameters.
* The www and keystore.jks requires to be present in the working directory of the application.

**Known limitations**

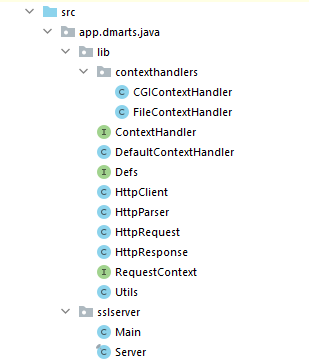
Below are some of the key known limitations of the software:

* Does not handle cookies (deliberately left out).
* Does not handle client authentication (final version may include this functionality).
* Uses self-signed keys (created using java’s built in keytool).
* Chrome browser does not work.
* Application is not profiled for CPU and memory for workloads.
* All configurations are hard-coded and mostly placed in Defs interface as final.
* Does not scale very well with more than 1000 files in www folder.
* Does not handle /favicon.ico request.
* Only support below mime-types:
  + HTML, TXT, CSS, JS, PNG, JPEG
* Does not support connection and additional request headers.
* Does not use NIO2 non-blocking IO channel for server-client communication.
* Does not follow MVC pattern, although minimal structure is kept for future extensions.
* Without the SSL handshake, the application performs well as expected, providing above 90% responses within first 10ms.
* Although capability is kept internally, but currently there’s no way to stop the server apart from killing the JVM.

**Architecture**

The application is divided into three packages in total:

* Main application from app.dmarts.java.sslserver.
* All dependent components are kept in app.dmarts.java.lib
* While all context handlers are kept in app.dmarts.java.lib.contexthandlers.



Below image depicts work-flow of the application:

Server Thread tasks

* List All files in www directory.
* Adds files only to a ConcurrentHashMap with context paths as keys and maps corresponding handlers to the paths as values.
* Creates a pool of client threads with pool size as defined in Defs.HTTP\_CLIENT\_BACKLOG parameter.
* Opens the keystore.jks file and creates a SSLServerSocket and starts listening on port 80 by default. On failure, the exception is handled from Main to start another instance of Server on port 8080.
* Server thread enters infinite loop.
* The server immediately hands over the client socket to HttpClient thread. The socket is returned from ServerSocket’s accept blocking method.
* The task from threadpool is kept for future capability enhancement, but no implementation is done on it as of now.
* The loop continues from the top indefinitely.

Main

Thread

Server

Thread

Figure 1: JVM begins execution here

HttpClient

Thread

HttpParser

Client Socket

Http Request

HttpClient Thread Tasks

* HttpClient is barebones 11 lines of code.
* Immediately begins to parse the request:
* Creates a HttpParser object and passes the client socket
* HttpParser object’s parseHttpRequest method is called to get a HttpRequest object.
* The HttpRequest object is used to identify if ContextHandler has request’s context in its keys.
* If the key is available, ContextHandler’s handle method is called.
* Else DefaultContextHandler is created and it handles the context.
* The HttpClient exits after handle returns.

HttpParser Object Tasks

* The HttpParser reads from the client socket passed in its constructor and parseHttpRequest method is used to construct and return a HttpRequest object.