Network Administration/System Administration (NTU CSIE, Spring 2024) Homework #11 - Nginx

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Web Terminology

1.		Apache	Nginx
	Asynchronous, event-driven	Via event MPM	Native
	Mail proxy support	No	Yes
	License	Apache License 2.0	2-Clause BSD License

References

- Apache HTTP Server Wikipedia
- Nginx Wikipedia
- Boosting NGINX Performance 9x with Thread Pools
- event Apache HTTP Server Version 2.4
- Apache vs Nginx: Practical Considerations | DigitalOcean
- 2. A static web server sends out files hosted on the server as-is.

A dynamic web server constructs the response content during runtime with resources such as HTML templates, databases, or API calls.

A static web server usually handle requests faster than a dynamic web server because no content has to be built by the server.

- What is a web server? Learn web development | MDN
- Dynamic web page Wikipedia

3. Client-side rendering (CSR): The server sends a minimal HTML page to the client, and the client then renders the main content dynamically using JavaScript, which may include additional HTTP fetches and API calls. A benefit of CSR is a smooth and interactive user experience, just like using an app.

Server-side rendering (SSR): When the client requests a page, the server renders the complete page with data from databases or API calls, and then sends the response to the client. A benefit of SSR is better search engine optimization than CSR.

Static-site generation (SSG): The whole website is rendered into static pages during build time. The main benefit of SSG excellent performance and fast loading times.

Incremental static regeneration (ISR): ISR allows static pages to be built on a perpage basis. A page will be generated upon first request, and future requests within a certain amount of time will be served from cache. It offers better performance than SSR because only certain pages rather than the whole website has to be regenerated upon content change.

References

- [教學] SSR 與 CSR 深度解析:從渲染方式到效能優化 Shubo 的程式開發筆記
- Understanding CSR, SSR, SSG, and ISR: A Next.js Perspective | by Aditya Kumar Tiwari | Bootcamp
- SSR vs CSR vs ISR vs SSG
- Data Fetching: Incremental Static Regeneration (ISR) | Next.js
- 4. A **proxy** is an intermediate between the client and server. When the client wants to access a resource, the request goes to the proxy instead of directly to the server. The proxy performs the request to the server, receives the response, and then sends the response back to the client.

Some benefits of a proxy are:

- Security: Mask the IP address of the client.
- Filtering: Filter out unwanted content.
- Caching: Cache frequently accessed resources for performance.

References

- Proxy server Wikipedia
- 5. A **reverse proxy** is a proxy server that acts to clients just like a normal web server, but actually forwards requests to and responses from one or more web servers behind it.

Some benefits of a reverse proxy server are:

- Load balancing: Distribute load among multiple servers.
- **Security**: Only the reverse proxies have to be exposed to the public, while the actual web servers can be hidden behind a firewall.
- Caching: Cache frequently accessed resources for performance.

References

• Reverse proxy - Wikipedia

Web Server Configurations

6. Steps

(1) Run the following commands to prepare the VM.

```
$ cp -r /tmp2/nasa-hw11 /tmp2/b1290110
$ cd /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11
$ qemu-img create -f qcow2 disk0.qcow2 20G
```

(2) Create /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11/run vm.sh as the following.

```
#!/bin/bash
readonly MACHINE_IP="$(ip -4 a s net0.30 | grep -oP '(?<=inet\s)\d+(\.\d+){3}')"
qemu-system-x86_64 \
    -enable-kvm \
    -cpu host \
    -smp 8,sockets=1,cores=4,threads=2 \
    -m 8G \
    -nic user,hostfwd=tcp::11022-:22,hostfwd=tcp::11080-:80,hostfwd=tcp::11043-:443 \
    -monitor stdio \
    -vga virtio \
    -vga virtio \
    -vnc ${MACHINE_IP}:0,to=10000,password=on \
    -drive file=debian.iso,media=cdrom</pre>
```

- (3) Boot up the VM, connect to it via QEMU's VNC, and follow the Debian installation guide. After the installation finished, reboot into the VM.
- (4) Configure sudo as the root user.

```
$ su -
# apt install -y sudo
# usermod -aG sudo b12902110
```

(5) Re-login as user b12902110. Install the necessary package for our web server.

```
$ sudo apt install -y nginx
```

(6) Start the nginx service.

```
$ sudo systemctl start nginx.service
```

Result

```
b12902110@nasa-hw11:~$ systemctl status nginx.service

nginx.service - A high performance web server and a reverse proxy server

Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/nginx.service; enabled; preset: enabled)
Active: active (running) since Sun 2024-05-12 04:30:36 CST; 2min 14s ago
Docs: man:nginx(8)

Process: 962 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/nginx -t -q -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
Process: 963 ExecStart=/usr/sbin/nginx -g daemon on; master_process on; (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
Main PID: 994 (nginx)

Tasks: 9 (limit: 9472)
Memory: 6.8M

CPU: 80ms

CGroup: /system.slice/nginx.service
- 994 "nginx: master process /usr/sbin/nginx -g daemon on; master_process on;"
- 996 "nginx: worker process"
- 997 "nginx: worker process"
- 998 "nginx: worker process"
- 1000 "nginx: worker process"
- 1001 "nginx: worker process"
- 1002 "nginx: worker process"
- 1003 "nginx: worker process"
- 1004 "nginx: worker process"
- 1005 "nginx: worker process"
- 1007 "nginx: worker process"
- 1008 "nginx: worker process"
- 1009 "nginx: worker process"
- 1000 "nginx: worker process"
- 1000 "nginx: worker process"
- 1000 "nginx: worker process"
- 1001 "nginx: worker process"
- 1002 "nginx: worker process"
- 1003 "nginx: worker process"
```

References

• command usermod not found

(1) Install ufw.

```
$ sudo apt install -y ufw
```

(2) Configure firewall rules with the following commands.

```
$ sudo ufw default deny
$ sudo ufw allow 22
$ sudo ufw allow 80
$ sudo ufw allow 443
$ sudo ufw enable
```

Result

This part is done after the last problem, so we have more services than an HTTP and an SSH service.

In the QEMU console, add another port forwarding rule: 11088 on the host to 8888 on the VM.

```
(qemu) hostfwd_add tcp::11088-:8888
```

Therefore, we have 4 port forwarding rules.

Source	Destination
ws2.csie.ntu.edu.tw:11022	nasa-hw11:22
ws2.csie.ntu.edu.tw:11080	nasa-hw11:80
ws2.csie.ntu.edu.tw:11043	nasa-hw11:443
ws2.csie.ntu.edu.tw:11088	nasa-hw11:8888

All of the 4 ports has a service running on it.

```
b12902110@nasa-hw11:/var/www/hostB$ netstat -tl
Active Internet connections (only servers)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address
                                              Foreign Address
                                                                       State
                                              0.0.0.0:*
           0
                   0 0.0.0.0:9999
                                                                       LISTEN
tcp
           0
                  0 0.0.0.0:http
                                              0.0.0.0:*
                                                                       LISTEN
tcp
tcp
           0
                  0 0.0.0.0:ssh
                                              0.0.0.0:*
                                                                       LISTEN
                  0 0.0.0.0:https
                                              0.0.0.0:*
tcp
           0
                                                                       LISTEN
                  0 0.0.0.0:8888
           0
                                              0.0.0.0:*
                                                                       LISTEN
tcp
                  0 [::]:9999
                                              [::]:*
           0
tcp6
                                                                       LISTEN
                  0 [::]:http
tcp6
           0
                                              [::]:*
                                                                       LISTEN
tcp6
           0
                   0 [::]:ssh
                   0 [::]:https
tcp6
           0
                                              [::]:*
                                                                       LISTEN
           0
                   0 [::]:8888
                                                                       LISTEN
tcp6
                                              [::]:*
b12902110@nasa-hw11:/var/www/hostB$
```

However, only ports 22, 80, and 443 are accessible from outside the VM.

```
b12902110@ws2: /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11

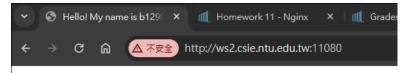
$ ssh -p 11022 b12902110@127.0.0.1

The authenticity of host '[127.0.0.1]:11022 ([127.0.0.1]:11022)' can't be established.
ED25519 key fingerprint is SHA256:EJBy9b0gAc78EF9Fs+NG0vtWEneStJlGuYyFv6KuNog. This key is not known by any other names.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? ^C
b12902110@ws2: /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11 $ curl http://localhost:11080
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
   <head>
     <title>Hello! My name is b12902110!</title>
   <body>
     <h1>Hello! My name is b12902110!</h1>
  </body>
 </html>
   2902110@ws2: /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11
$ curl --insecure https://localhost:11043
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
   <head>
     <title>Hello! My name is b12902110!</title>
     <h1>Hello! My name is b12902110!</h1>
  </body>
</html>
b12902110@ws2: /tmp2/b12902110/nasa-hw11
$ curl http://localhost:11088
curl: (56) Recv failure: Connection reset by peer
```

- How To Open a Port on Linux | DigitalOcean
- How to Set Up a Firewall with UFW on Ubuntu | DigitalOcean

Create /var/www/html/index.html as the following.

Result



Hello! My name is b12902110!

(1) Add the following location block into /etc/nginx/sites-available/default.

```
server {
    ...
    location ~ ^/~(.*?)/(.*) {
        alias /home/$1/htdocs/$2;
    }
    ...
}
```

(2) Run the following commands.

```
$ chmod 755 /home/b12902110
$ mkdir /home/b12902110/htdocs
```

(3) Create /home/b12902110/htdocs/index.html as the following.

(4) Reload the nginx service.

```
$ sudo systemctl reload nginx.service
```

Result



Hello! My name is b12902110!

- nginx user public home without Stack Overflow
- Beginner's Guide
- Module ngx_http_core_module

(1) Add the following location block into /etc/nginx/sites-available/default.

```
server {
    ...
    location = /secret.html {
        allow 192.168.28.0/24;
        deny all;
    }
    ...
}
```

(2) Reload the nginx service.

```
$ sudo systemctl reload nginx.service
```

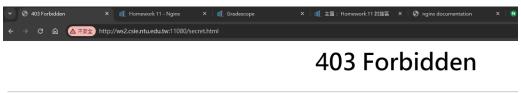
Result

Before restriction:



This page is only accessiable from 192.168.28.0/24.

After restriction:



nginx/1.22.1

References

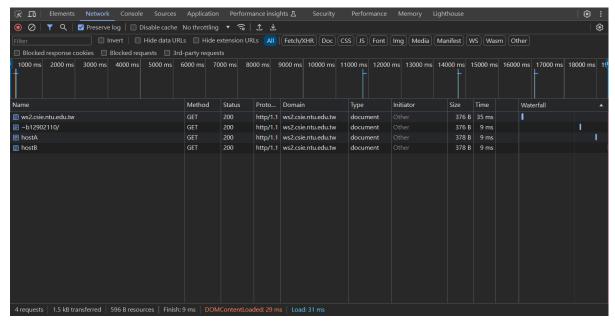
• Module ngx_http_access_module

View the last few lines of /var/log/nginx/access.log/

\$ sudo tail /var/log/nginx/access.log

Result

Chrome DevTools:



/var/log/nginx/access.log:

```
13.092110@nasa-hali:-$ sudo tali -n 7 /var/log/ngin/access.log
108.112.201.16 - [13/may/20241:5:08:08 -08080] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 304 0 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.8.0 Safari/537.36"
108.112.201.126 - [13/may/20241:5:08:08 -08080] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 120 -" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:08:08 -08080] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 120 -" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:09:05:1 +0800] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 130 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:09:05:1 +0800] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 130 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:09:05:4 +0800] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 130 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:09:05:4 +0800] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 130 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0 Safari/537.36"
127.0.0.1 - [13/may/20241:5:09:05:4 +0800] "GET / HTTP/1.2" 200 130 "-" "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; X64) Applewbkit/537.36 (WHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/124.0.0 Safari/537.36"
```

References

• Configuring Logging | NGINX Documentation

- 12. (a) TLS uses PKI in the handshake process to authenticate identities of the communicating hosts.
 - (b) A CA is a trusted third party that issues and signs digital certificates.

References

- Transport Layer Security Wikipedia
- Public key infrastructure Wikipedia
- (c) Steps (Server)
 - (1) Create an CA key and certificate.

```
$ openssl req -new -x509 -noenc -days 365000 -newkey rsa:2048 \
    -keyout ca-key.pem -out ca-cert.pem \
    -subj "/C=TW/O=NTU CSIE/OU=NASA/CN=b12902110 Root CA"
```

(2) Create a server key and certificate request.

```
$ openssl req -new -noenc -newkey rsa:2048 \
   -keyout server-key.pem -out server-req.pem \
   -subj "/C=TW/0=NTU CSIE/OU=NASA/CN=nasa-hw11" \
   -addext "subjectAltName = DNS:*.csie.ntu.edu.tw"
```

(3) Sign the server certificate.

```
$ openssl x509 -req -days 365000 -copy_extensions copyall \
    -in server-req.pem -out server-cert.pem \
    -CA ca-cert.pem -CAkey ca-key.pem
Certificate request self-signature ok
subject=C = TW, O = NTU CSIE, OU = NASA, CN = nasa-hw11
```

(4) Install the certificate and key to /etc/nginx.

```
$ sudo cp server-key.pem server-cert.pem /etc/nginx
$ sudo chown www-data:www-data /etc/nginx/server-key.pem
```

(5) Add the following directives in /etc/nginx/sites-available/default.

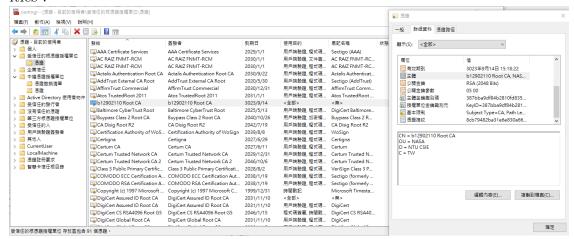
```
server {
    ...
    listen 443 ssl default_server;
    listen [::]:443 ssl default_server;
    ssl_certificate server-cert.pem;
    ssl_certificate_key server-key.pem;
    ...
}
```

(6) Reload the nginx service.

```
$ sudo systemctl reload nginx.service
```

Steps (Windows Client)

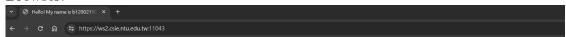
Run certmgr.msc, and install ca-cert.pem to "Trusted Root Certification Authorities".



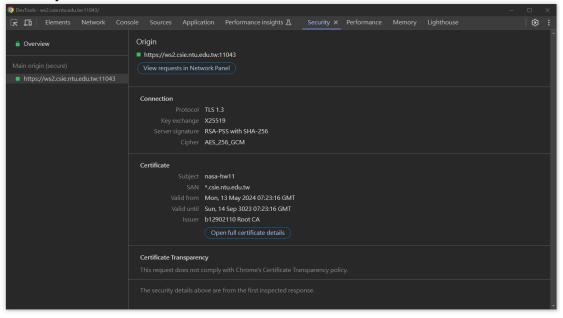
Result

Certificates:

Browser:



Hello! My name is b12902110!



- Create Self-Signed Certificates and Keys with OpenSSL —MariaDB Documentation
- /docs/man3.0/man1/openssl-req.html
- /docs/man3.0/man1/openssl-x509.html
- certificates Provide subjectAltName to openssl directly on the command line Information Security Stack Exchange

Reverse Proxy

13. Steps

(1) Create /etc/nginx/sites-available/hostA as the following.

```
server {
  listen 8888 default_server;
  listen [::]:8888 default_server;

  root /var/www/hostA;
  index index.html;

  server_name hostA;

  location / {
    try_files $uri $uri/ =404;
  }
}
```

(2) Create /etc/nginx/sites-available/hostB as the following.

```
server {
  listen 9999 default_server;
  listen [::]:9999 default_server;

  root /var/www/hostB;
  index index.html;

  server_name hostB;

  location / {
    try_files $uri $uri/ =404;
  }
}
```

(3) Enable both hostA and hostB.

```
$ sudo ln -s /etc/nginx/sites-available/hostA \
    /etc/nginx/sites-enabled/hostA
$ sudo ln -s /etc/nginx/sites-available/hostB \
    /etc/nginx/sites-enabled/hostB
```

(4) Create /var/www/hostA/index.html as the following.

(5) Create /var/www/hostB/index.html as the following.

(6) Add/hostA and/hostB location blocks to /etc/nginx/sites-available/default.

```
server {
    ...
    location /hostA {
       proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:8888/;
    }
    location /hostB {
       proxy_pass http://127.0.0.1:9999/;
    }
    ...
}
```

(7) Reload the nginx service.

```
$ sudo systemctl reload nginx.service
```

Result



Hi! This is host A.

Hi! This is host B.

- Beginner's Guide
- Module ngx_http_proxy_module