# CS 401 Group Project

Design Requirements Specification  
for the Distributed File System (DFS)

Revision History

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# Introduction

This document outlines the design requirements for the Distributed File System (DFS)

## Goals and Objectives

This document describes important aspects of the implementation of the Server, Client, User, Node, File, Hidden and Unhidden storage modules.

## Scope

This document emphasizes the “*how”* of the distributed file system and the interaction between the various classes. It will not go into detail on the code implementation of the system. Priorities include the usability and simplicity of the distributed file system.

## Software Context

Users will log in to the system to utilize the DFS. After a user has logged in, they can then submit files to the DFS, or request a copy of the file by name. The client module contains the methods for LogIn() and LogOut(), which will manage the log in process. There will be two storage modules, a hidden storage and an unhidden storage. The hidden storage module will contain files that are only available to a supervisor (with a valid supervisor ID), and the unhidden storage module will contain files that are available to all users, supervisor or not. In addition to the creation of new user accounts, the supervisors will hold privileges to delete files from the entire system, remove users, and view an event history log.

## Major Constraints

1. Issue: How should files be stored in regards to there being hidden and unhidden files
   1. Each file has a flag signifying whether it’s hidden or not
   2. Have 2 different storages, 1 for hidden & 1 for unhidden
2. Decision: In order to avoid the issue of a user changing the flag on a file, which would mess with the file’s access level, we will use choose option “b”
3. Issue: We will not be storing passwords and usernames in the system for the sake of simplicity. We assume that if a user is using the system, that they have the right to use it. The management of security and passwords will be taken care of by the company. Any user can create a new account (with a password and ID).
4. Issue: How will we handle version control?
   1. If user retrieves file A from system and proceeds to edit it, and upload a new version, then a new file B is uploaded.
   2. If a user retrieves file A from system and proceeds to edit and upload, then file A is overwritten
5. Decision: For simplicity’s sake, the system will create a new file when an old version has been edited and reuploaded.

## References

# Designs

## Data Design

The DFS will manage files of any type. It will not manipulate the content of the files, but rather serve as an organizational system for all of the company’s files. We will use a simple list to keep track of all files in both the hidden and unhidden file systems, organized by chronological order .

## Client Side

Client has various methods for writing to, reading from, adding a new file, copying a file. The client will either request these files from the server (to edit, receive a copy of, or view), or will send the file to the server to be managed accordingly.

## Server Side

The server has methods for getting a file, adding a file to the list of files in the correct storage module, deleting files from the list, adding to the event history, or deleting a client from the list. Thus, the server will manage the event history of the system, as well as provide options for the management of clients and the file system as a whole.

## Architectural and Component-Level Design

See class diagrams for a better understanding and visualization of the system architecture.

## Program Structure

The DFS runs as a client server application, where the user will log in to the client (the instance of the software on the computer), which will then communicate with the server when files are uploaded or retrieved. There will be multiple instances of a client, but only one instance of the server.

# Classes

## Client

## 2.1.1 Description

* The client class will be responsible for acting as the mediator between the user and the server
* Will contain all the methods to communicate with the server

## 2.1.2 Processing Narrative

* Handles user logging in and out
* Handles closing the server
* Handles requesting file operations from the server

## 2.1.3 Interface Description

* Keyboard and mouse

## 2.1.4 Processing Details

* As soon as the client is opened, a log in prompt is displayed
  + The user can’t proceed further with client operations until they log in
* The client displays a GUI for the user to interact with
  + Contains buttons for the different methods contained in the client class

## Server

## 2.2.1 Description

* The server class will be responsible for keeping track of where each of the files in its system located as well as keeping an event history for the system
* Will contain all the methods for interactive with the files in the system
* Will contain all the methods for modifying the event history

## 2.2.2 Processing Narrative

* Handles management of the clients connected to the server
* Handles Keeping a list of files in the system
* Handles carrying out file requests from the client

## 2.2.3 Interface Description

* Keyboard and mouse

## 2.2.4 Processing Details

* Server listens to connections from incoming clients
* As soon as it makes a connection it creates a new thread so the server can handle multiple clients
  + Adds connected clients to list of clients currently using the server
* Performs or denies client requests
  + Actions performed are added to the event history

## User

## 2.3.1 Description

* The user class will be responsible for starting the client software and representing whether the user is a supervisor or not
* Will contain methods for opening and closing the client

## 2.3.2 Processing Narrative

* Handles opening and closing the client
* Handles retrieving information about whether the user is a supervisor or not

## 2.3.3 Interface Description

* Keyboard and mouse

## 2.3.4 Processing Details

* The user displays an interactable GUI
  + Contains buttons for the opening and closing of the client

## File

## 2.4.1 Description

* The file class will be responsible for acting as a container for any information employees which to store for the company
* Will contain methods for changing important info about said file

## 2.4.2 Processing Narrative

* Handles naming of the file
* Handles containing the information of where the file is to be stored physically
* Handles containing the size information of the file
* Handles containing the type of file that it is

## 2.4.3 Interface Description

* Keyboard and mouse

## 2.4.4 Processing Details

* Each method provides a GUI for entering the information related to the file

## Node

## 2.5.1 Description

* The node class will be responsible for acting as the physical container for the everything
* Storage is divided into 2 different types, each represented by a different class
  + Hidden
  + Unhidden
* Will contain a method for choosing a user to continue as

## 2.5.2 Processing Narrative

* Handles setting up basic info about the computer
  + Name, storage size, current user

## 2.5.3 Interface Description

* Keyboard and mouse

## 2.5.4 Processing Details

* As soon as the node (computer) is turned on, an interactable GUI will be displayed for setting the name and storage size of the computer
* Once the “SetUser()” method is called, an interactable GUI is displayed to pick a user to proceed as

# Interfaces

## 3.1 Software Interface Description

- The company computers will have Windows OS as well as the client software

preinstalled.

## 3.2 External Interfaces

- The hard drives stored inside the nodes will hold files

## 3.3 Internal Interfaces

- The client software will provide the user with a series of text boxes and buttons to allow the user to enter information. For example, when logging in, the GUI will prompt the user to sign up with an id and password or login. Then there will be a menu will provide regular users with three buttons. One to download files, another to upload files, lastly, a logout button. Both the download button will display a list of viewable files to the user based on the user’s credentials along with a text box the user can use in order to enter the file they want to download. The upload button will allow the user to select a file to upload from their desktop. Supervisor’s will have an additional delete file button. This

button displays a list of available files to the user and a textbox that allows the user to enter the name of the file that they want to delete.

## 3.4 Human Interfaces

- The user will interact with the system using company computers that have the client software preinstalled on them.

## 3.5 User Interface Design

- The client software will provide the user with a GUI that provides the user with a series of buttons and text boxes that take user input.

**Architecture Diagram(s)**

