Project report: Stage 1 COMP3100 Distributed Systems, S1, 2023

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Github repository link: https://github.com/jbedwany/COMP3100-Assignment

1 Introduction

This project is the creation of a client using the Java programming language for participation in a simulated distributed computing system. The client connects to a provided distributed systems job server, receives information about the available participating servers, then is issued jobs for which it must choose an appropriate server with which the job is then scheduled. The client will utilise the Largest-Round-Robin (LRR) format for scheduling jobs, where the 'largest' (i.e. highest number of cores) type of participant server is identified, then each available server of that type is issued a job in a round-robin fashion.

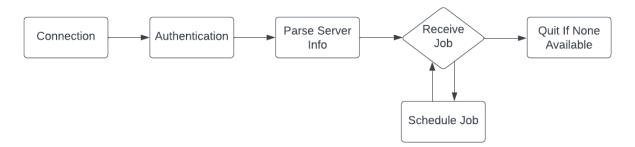
This project forms Stage 1 of a larger project. The overall goal of both stages is to develop a functional client which implements multiple scheduling algorithms, to be compared with a number of baseline algorithms such as First Fit, Best Fit, and Worst Fit. In Stage 1, the primary goal is to develop the baseline client which successfully connects to the ds-sim server provided here [], correctly parses server information, and schedules jobs identically to the reference ds-sim client (when operating in LRR mode).

2 System Overview

The client interacts with the ds-sim server. The interaction can be summarised by 3 stages:

- 1. Connection & Preamble
- 2. Job Generation & Scheduling
- 3. Termination

The below diagram indicates each step of the process. Connection, Authentication, and Parsing Server Info form Stage 1, the loop between Receive Job and Schedule Job form Stage 2, and Quit If None Available forms Stage 3.



The jobs generated and scheduled are entirely independent of each other i.e. no job depends on another job being completed first. The only criteria evaluated

3 Design

3.1 Philosophy

The major aspect of design philosophy is a focus on simplicity for users and in code architecture. Aside from a number of runtime arguments, namely the server host address, the port, and the user to authenticate as, the person running the simulation does not need to interact with the client for it to function. Programmatically, the code developed focuses on compartmentalising and reusing code where appropriate in order to improve comprehension.

3.2 Considerations, Limitations, & Assumptions

Future readability and ease of extension has been the chief consideration in this project, as it forms Stage 1 of a two stage project, and will therefore be built upon in future. Documentation is being created alongside the project in order to facilitate consistency in direction as well as ensure minimal operating details are lost. The project is limited in that it currently only uses the LRR format for scheduling jobs; whenever any other format is required, this implementation of the client will not be suitable. Additionally, jobs are not scheduled in parallel - any given server that may be able to handle multiple jobs simultaneously are only ever given one at a time.

It has been assumed that no jobs generated require more resources than those of the largest server provided. This is a condition on which the ds-sim server operates and therefore will always be true for the purposes of each simulation, but must be considered when drawing real-world conclusions from simulation data.

3.3 Server Simulator

The server simulator functions by reading a configuration file which defines properties of servers and jobs that will be dynamically generated. Once the client connects and completes the preamble, the server will generate a job to be scheduled or information regarding the job queue or server statuses. This will repeat for the duration of the simulation.

3.4 Client Simulator

The client simulator functions by connecting to the server simulator, receiving information about the available servers, then receiving information about the current job to be scheduled. It then makes a scheduling decision based on the available servers and their capacities. Afterwards, it requests a new job to process, and the cycle repeats until the server responds with 'NONE', indicating there are no more jobs to be completed. The simulation then ends.

4 Implementation

References