

ASSIGNMENT 1

DEVELOP A NETWORK APPLICATION

COURSE: COMPUTER NETWORKS, SEMESTER 1, 2023-2024

OBJECTIVES

Build a simple file-sharing application with application protocols defined by each group, using the TCP/IP protocol stack.

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

- A centralized server keeps track of which clients are connected and storing what files.
- A client informs the server as to what files are contained in its local repository but does not actually transmit file data to the server.
- When a client requires a file that does not belong to its repository, a request is sent to the server. The server identifies some other clients who store the requested file and sends their identities to the requesting client. The client will select an appropriate source node and the file is then directly fetched by the requesting client from the node that has a copy of the file without requiring any server intervention.
- Multiple clients could be downloading different files from a target client at a given point in time. This requires the client code to be multithreaded.
- The client has a simple command-shell interpreter that is used to accept two kinds of commands.
 - **publish *lname fname***: a local file (which is stored in the client's file system at *lname*) is added to the client's repository as a file named *fname* and this information is conveyed to the server.
 - **fetch *fname***: fetch some copy of the target file and add it to the local repository.
- The server has a simple command-shell interpreter
 - **discover *hostname***: discover the list of local files of the host named hostname
 - **ping *hostname***: live check the host named hostname

The supported commands are illustrated in Figure 1.

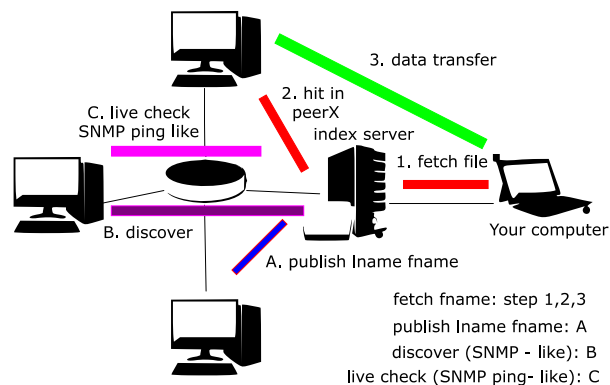


Figure 1. Illustration of file-sharing system activities.

- It's important to note that the connecting infrastructure is not implied by the representation in Figure 1. All devices are interconnected through the Internet. Separating them is the logical point of view regarding the protocol's activities.

WORKING PLAN

- Work in a team.
- Each group has up to 4 members.

Phase 1 (First 2 weeks):

- Define specific functions of the file-sharing application
- Define the communication protocols used for each function

Phase 2 (Next 2 weeks)

- Implement and refine the application according to the functions and protocols defined in Phase 1

RESULTS

Phase 1 (softcopy):

- Submit the report file of the first phase to BKeL in the predefined section as announced on BKeL.
- File format (pdf): **ASS1_P1_<<Group_Name>>.pdf**

This report includes:

- Define and describe the functions of the application
- Define the protocols used for each function

Phase 2 (hard and softcopy):

- Submit the report file of the assignment to BKeL
- File format (.rar): **ASS1_<<Group_name>>.rar**

This report includes:

- Phase 1 content
- Describe each specific function of the application
- Detailed application design (architecture, class diagrams, main classes ...)
- Validation (sanity test) and evaluation of actual result (performance)
- Extension functions of the system in addition to the requirements specified in section 2
- Participants' roles and responsibilities
- Manual document
- Source code (softcopy)
- Application file (softcopy) compiled from source code

EVALUATION

Assignment 1 is worth 15% of the course grade.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

4 weeks from the assignment announcement.