

PHISH Documentation

<http://www.sandia.gov/~sjplimp/phish.html>

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PHISH Documentation

Version info:

The PHISH "version" is the date when it was released, such as 1 Sept 2012. PHISH is updated continuously. Whenever we fix a bug or add a feature, we release it immediately, and post a notice on [this page of the WWW site](#). Each dated copy of PHISH contains all the features and bug-fixes up to and including that version date. The version date is printed to the screen every time you run the bait.py tool on a PHISH input script. It is also in the PHISH directory name created when you unpack a tarball.

- If you browse the HTML or PDF doc pages on the PHISH WWW site, they always describe the most current version of PHISH.
- If you browse the HTML or PDF doc pages included in your tarball, they describe the version you have.

PHISH stands for Parallel Harness for Informatic Stream Hashing.

The PHISH package has two parts. The first is a simple, portable library that user-written programs can call to send and receive datums to and from other programs, running on the same or different machines. The second is a setup tool that allows specification of a data-driven algorithm as a collection of independent processes with communication patterns between them. Input data to the algorithm can arrive continuously in a streaming fashion or be read from files.

PHISH was developed at Sandia National Laboratories, a US Department of Energy facility, with funding from the DOE. It is an open-source code, distributed freely under the terms of the [Berkeley Software Distribution \(BSD\) License](#).

The authors of PHISH are Steve Plimpton and Tim Shead who can be contacted at sjplimp, tshead at sandia.gov. The [PHISH WWW Site](#) at <http://phish.sandia.gov> has more information about the code and its uses.

The PHISH documentation is organized into the following sections. If you find errors or omissions in this manual or have suggestions for useful information to add, please send an email to the developers so we can improve the PHISH documentation.

[PDF file](#) of the entire manual, generated by [htmldoc](#)

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1. Introduction

This section explains what the PHISH software package is and why we created it. It outlines the steps to creating your own PHISH program, and gives a simple of using PHISH to perform a parallel calculation. These are the topics discussed:

- [1.1 Motivation](#)
 - [1.2 PHISH Pheatures](#)
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 - [1.4 Steps to creating and running a PHISH program](#)
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1.1 Motivation

informatics, data-driven computing becoming more prevalent, even on large-scale parallel machines

what is streaming data continuous high bandwidth cannot afford to see it more than once

goals: informatics data in broadest sense, stats, data mininng, anomaly detection

powerful paradigm: stateful independent processes, that are small programs that do one things, run a large collection of these that communicate in a designed fashion, to acheive parallelism, running that ship datums (chunk of bytes) to each other in continuous fashion. Can be infinite stream or processing of large archive of data

what kind of algorithms can be expressed in this mode? various stream models of computation: e.g. W-stream, X-stream our own interest is graph algorithms and data mining on hi-volume streams of data, but many other data processing tasks can be formulated in this fashion

other products: DataMiner from IBM (see Karl list)

dropping data versus perfect answer (pipeline throttles itself)

why we wrote PHISH different than typicaly MPI where all procs run one program wanted to go beyond MPI to sockets, heterogenous machines add/delete minnows dynamically wanted to automate some of the parallelism inherent in processing big data, a la MapReduce (this is the hashing idea) make it as simple as possible to process data in parallel

all of these goals reflected in name PHISH

1.2 PHISH Pheatures:link(intro_2),h4

lib = simple (1000 lines), C-interface, portable (list langauges), Python (phish) wrapper provided

The individual programs can be written in any language (e.g. C, C++, Fortran, Python) and link to the PHISH library so that they can receive incoming data from upstream sources, bundle their data, and send it downstream.

parallel data processing via parallel launch or hashing

lib on top of MPI or sockets - latter via ZMQ lib (geographically diverse machines)

mechanism to hook multiple PHISH schools together via sockets means can add/delete processes

examples for streaming MR, CC finding in parallel, MR-like jobs

benchmarks for running on MPI or sockets

minnows that let you wrap existing stand-alone programs that read from stdin and write to stdout

Can wrap existing apps in PHISH (fish-wrapper). Minnows are provided

portable open-source lib, lightweight, easy to call from any language, including Python

easy path to distributed memory parallel for processing streaming data

shutdown via done messages

The PHISH package is open-source software that implements the [MapReduce operation](#) popularized by Google on top of standard MPI message passing.

1.3 PHISH lingo:link(intro_3),h4

phish wrapper

Minnows read (swim in) stream, process datums, can store state, consume or write (altered) datums.

minnow = stand-alone program (app) that (typically) does one task, designed to work in tandem with other minnows, either copies of itself, or totally different

School of minnows and their connectivity specified in simple input script, processed with bait.py to turn into launchable parallel job, either via MPI and mpirun, or via sockets and a shell script.

each stand-alone minnow calls library

ultimate motive, phish swim in a stream, minnows are small, but work in coordinated fashion to some goal (evade predator, find food)

brings us to PHISH lingo

minnow: read and compute on and write (altered) datums school: collection of minnows bait the hook via bait.py
phish wrapper = Python

explain acronym what each word means

minnow school input script bait.py

school of minnows swim in a stream, doing something coordinated.

A PHISH input script allows specification of the set of programs to launch as independent processes, how many copies of each are invoked, and the topology of how they connect to each other as they send and receive data. Thus the input script encodes an algorithm for processing continuous data from a stream source or archived data from files. The supported communication topologies include a "hashed" mode of messaging where a "key" is hashed to determine what process to send data to, which is a means of exploiting parallelism in a streaming context, akin to a MapReduce operation.

The sending and receiving of datums between processes is handled within the PHISH library either by calls to the message-passing interface (MPI) library, or by sockets via the ZMQ library. A PHISH tool converts the input script into a configuration file that can be launched by either MPI or a shell script. In the former case, a PHISH program can run on any platform that supports MPI. In the latter case, a PHISH program can run on a single desktop machine or across any network of (geographically distributed) machines that support socket connections.

1.4 Steps to creating and running a PHISH program

a) write one or more minnows that call the PHISH library b) write a script listing the minnows and the communication patterns between them c) use the Bait.py tool to process the input script c) run the file (via MPI or a shell script) produced by Bait.py

PHISH has 2 parts: Python script (bait.py) and library (libphish.a)

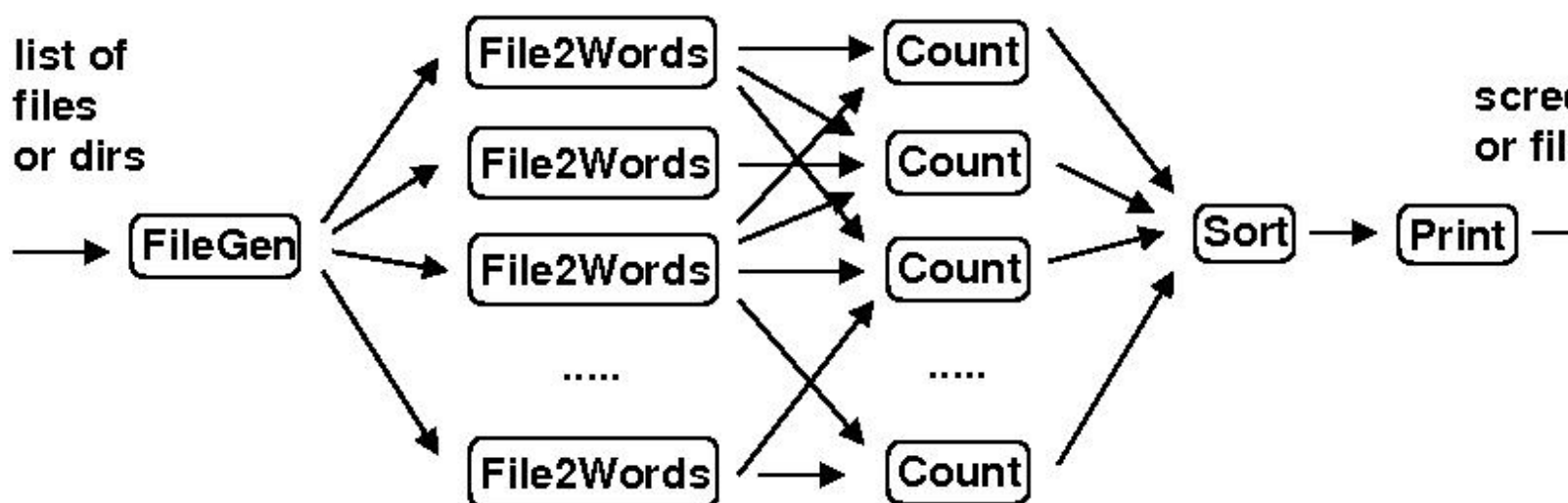
But can also process corpus of files.

Break stream up into datums = chunk of bytes.

show commands to run the launch script

1.5 Simple example

Here is an example of using a PHISH program to count the number of times different words appear in a corpus of text files. This is effectively a MapReduce operation, where individual minnow processes perform the map() and reduce() functions. This is a diagram of how 5 different kinds of minnows can be connected together to perform the computation:



Code for all 5 of these minnows is in the example directory of the PHISH distribution, both in C++ and Python. The *FileGen* minnow takes a list of files and/or directories as user input, searches them recursively, and generates a series of filenames. The filenames are sent one-at-a-time to one of several *File2Words* minnows. Each receives a filename as input, opens and reads the content, and parses it into words. Each word is hashed and sent to a specific *Count* minnow. The key point is that each *Count* minnow will receive all occurrences of a subset of possible words. It stores an internal hash table and counts the occurrences of each word it receives.

When the *FileGen* minnow sends the last filename it finds, it sends a "done" message to each of the *File2Words* minnows. When they receive a "done" message, they send a "done" message to each *Count* minnow. When a *Count* minnow receives a "done" message from all the *File2Words* minnows, it sends its entire list of unique words and associated counts to the *Sort* minnow, followed by a "done" message. When the *Sort* minnow has received "done" message from all the upstream *Count* minnows, it knows it has received a list of all the unique words in the corpus of documents, and the count for each one. It sorts the list by count and sends the top N to the *Print* minnow, one by one, followed by a "done" message. N is a user-defined parameter. The *Print* minnow echoes each datum it receives to the screen or a file, until it receives a "done" message. At this point all minnows in the school have been shut down.

More details about this example are discussed in subsequent sections of the manual.

In [this section](#) of the [Bait.py Tool](#) doc page, the PHISH input script that encodes the minnows and communication connections of the above diagram is discussed, and its processing by the [bait.py](#) tool.

In [this section](#) of the [PHISH Minnows](#) doc page, the code for the *Count* minnow is discussed in detail, to illustrate what calls it makes to the [PHISH library](#) to send and receive datums.

In [this section](#) of the [PHISH Library](#) doc page, the format of datums exchanged between minnows is discussed.

Note that like a MapReduce, the PHISH program runs in parallel, since there can be N *File2Words* minnows and M *Count* minnows where $N \geq 1$, $M \geq 1$, and $N = M$ is not required. This is similar to the option in [Hadoop](#) to vary the numbers of mappers and reducers.

However, there are also some differences between how this PHISH program works as compared to a traditional MapReduce, e.g. as typically performed via [Hadoop](#) or the [MapReduce-MPI library](#).

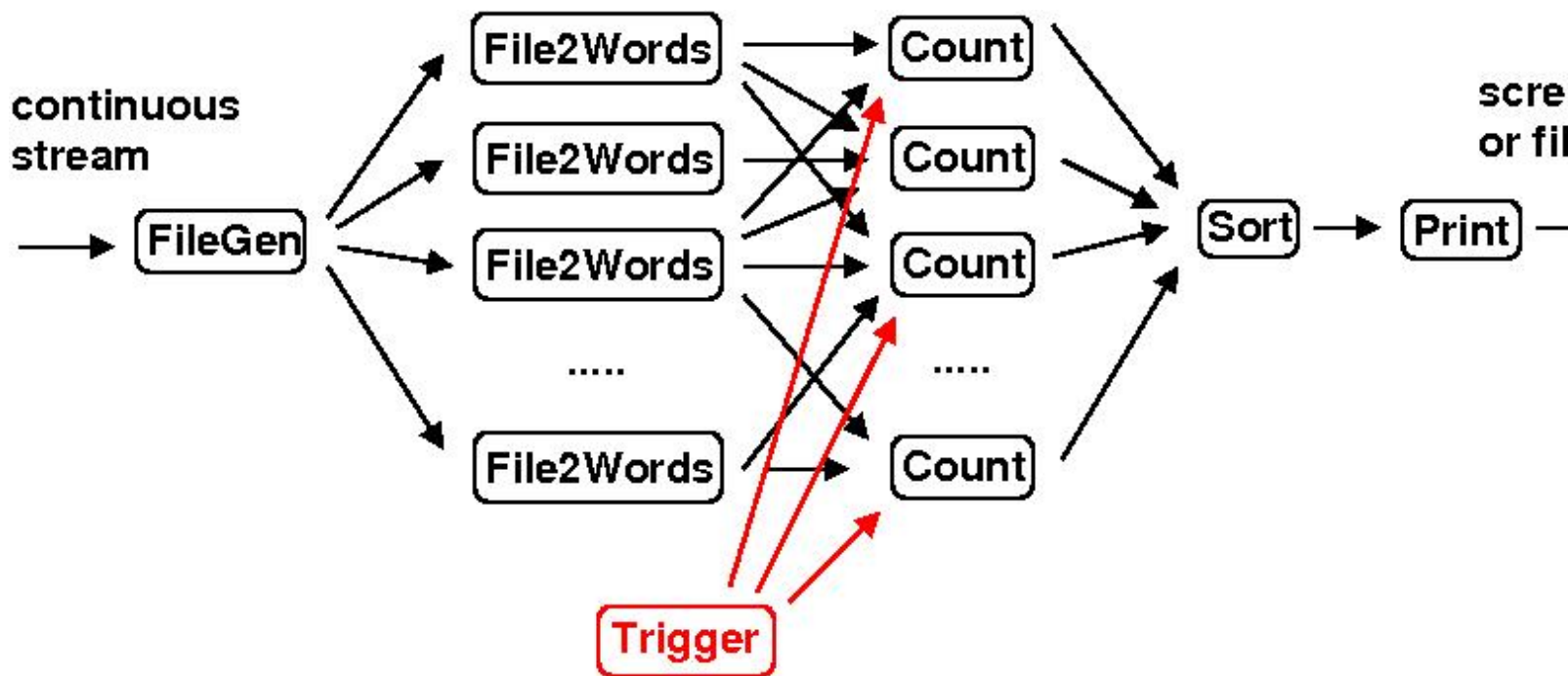
In a traditional MapReduce, the "map" stage (performed by the *File2Words* minnows) creates a huge list of all the words, including duplicates, found in the corpus of documents, which is stored internally (in memory or on disk) until the "mapper" process is finished with all the files it processes. Each mapper then sends chunks of the list to each "reduce" process (performed by the *Count* minnows). This is the "shuffle" phase of a Hadoop MapReduce. The reducer performs a merge sort of all the words in the chunks it receives (one from each mapper). It can then calculate the count for each unique word.

In contrast, the PHISH program operates in a more continuous fashion, streaming the data (words in this case) through the minnows, without ever storing the full data set. Only a small list of unique words is stored (by the *Count* minnows), each with a running counter. In this example, PHISH exchanges data between minnows via many tiny messages (one word per message), whereas a traditional MapReduce would aggregate the data into a few large messages.

This is a simplistic explanation; a fuller description is more complex. [Hadoop](#), for example, can operate in streaming mode for some forms of MapReduce operations, which include this wordcount example. (MapReduce operations where the "reducer" needs all data associated with a key at one time, are not typically amenable to a streaming mode of operation.) The PHISH minnows used in this school could be modified so as to aggregate data into larger and fewer messages.

However the fundamental attributes of the PHISH program are important to understand. Data moves continuously, in small chunks, through a school of minnows. Each minnow may store "state" information about the data it has previously seen, but typically not all the data itself. "State" is typically limited to information that can be stored in-memory, not on disk. This is because for streaming data, too much data arrives too quickly, for a minnow to perform much computation before discarding it or sending it on to another minnow.

Here is a diagram of a variant of the wordcount operation that illustrates how PHISH can be used to process continuous, streaming data. The PHISH program in this case might run for days or weeks, without using the "done" messages described above.



In this case the *FileGen* minnow is continuously seeing new files appear in directories it monitors. The words in those files are processed as they appear. A *Trigger* minnow has been added which accepts user queries, e.g. via a keyboard or a socket connection. When the user makes a request (hits a key), a message is sent to each of the *Count* minnows on a different input port than it receives words from the *File2Words* minnows; see [this section](#) of the [PHISH Minnows](#) doc page for a discussion of ports. The message triggers the *Count* minnows to send their current unique word/count list to the *Sort* minnow which is sorted and printed via the *Print* minnow.

The PHISH job now runs continuously and a user can query the current top N words as often as desired. The *FileGen*, *Count*, and *Sort* minnows would have to be modified, but only in small ways, to work in this mode. Additional logic could be added (e.g. another user request) to re-initialize counts or accumulate counts in a time-windowed fashion.

1.6 Acknowledgments and citations

PHISH development has been funded by the US Department of Energy (DOE), through its LDRD program at Sandia National Laboratories.

The following paper describe the basic ideas in PHISH. If you use PHISH in your published work, please cite this paper and include a pointer to the PHISH WWW Site (<http://phish.sandia.gov>):

S. J. Plimpton and T. Shead, PHISH in action, J Parallel and Distributed Computing, submitted (2012).

PHISH was developed by the following folks at Sandia National Labs:

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PHISH comes with no warranty of any kind. As each source file states in its header, it is a copyrighted code that is distributed free-of- charge, under the terms of the Berkeley Software Distribution (BSD) License.

Source code for PHISH is freely available for download from the [PHISH web site](#) and is licensed under the modified [Berkeley Software Distribution \(BSD\) License](#). This basically means they can be used by anyone for any purpose. See the LICENSE file provided with the distribution for more details.

2. Bait.py Tool

Bait.py is a Python program which converts a PHISH input script into a configuration file that can be launched via MPI or a shell script, so as to run a school of minnows in parallel on many processors, i.e. to run as a PHISH program and perform a calculation. A minnow is simply PHISH-speak for an independent process, created by running one instance of a stand-alone program.

You can edit the input script or pass it different parameters via command-line arguments to bait.py to change the calculation. Rerunning bait.py will create a new launch script.

The remainder of this page discusses how bait.py is used and how a PHISH input script is formatted. The PHISH input script commands recognized by bait.py have their own doc pages.

- [2.1 Input script commands](#)
 - [2.2 Running bait.py](#)
 - [2.3 Command-line arguments](#)
 - [2.4 Input script syntax and parsing](#)
 - [2.5 Simple example](#)
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2.1 Input script commands

- [variable](#)
 - [set](#)
 - [minnow](#)
 - [connect](#)
 - [layout](#)
-

2.2 Running bait.py

The bait.py Python script is in the bait directory of the PHISH distribution.

Like any Python script you can run it in one of two ways:

```
bait.py -switch value(s) ... <in.script
python bait.py -switch values ... <in.script
```

For the first case, you need to insure that the first line of bait.py gives the correct path to the Python installed on your machine, e.g.

```
#!/usr/local/bin/python
```

and that the bait.py file is executable, e.g.

```
chmod +x bait.py
```

Normally you will want to invoke bait.py from the directory where your PHISH input script is, so you may need to prepend bait.py with a path or make an alias for running it.

The switch/value command-line arguments recognized by bait.py are discussed in the next section.

2.3 Command-line arguments

These are the command-line arguments recognized by bait.py. Each is specified as "-switch value(s)". Each switch has an abbreviated form; several of them have default settings.

-var or -v	-var name str1 str2 ...
-out or -o	-out filename
-path or -p	-path dir1:dir2:dir3:...
-mode or -m	-mode outstyle

The *-var* switch defines a variable that can be used within the script. It can be used multiple times to define different variables. A [variable](#) command can also be used in the input script itself. The variable name is any alphanumeric string. A list of strings is assigned to it, e.g. a series of filenames. For example,

```
bait.py -v files *.cpp <in.phish
```

creates the variable named "files" containing a list of all CPP files in the current directory.

The *-out* switch specifies a filename that bait.py will create when it writes out the MPI or socket script that can be used to launch the PHISH program. The default value is "outfile".

The *-path* switch specifies a colon-separated list of directories, which are added to an internal list stored by bait.py. Initially the list contains only the current working directory. When bait.py processes each minnow, as specified by the [minnow](#) command, it looks for the minnow's executable file in the list of directories, so that it can write it to the launch script with a full, correct path name. This switch can be used multiple times, adding more directories each time.

The *-mode* switch specifies the format of the launch file that bait.py writes out. The valid *outstyle* values are *mpich* or *openmpi* or *socket*. *Mpich* is the default.

2.4 Input script syntax and parsing

A PHISH input script is a text file that contains commands, typically one per line.

Blank lines are ignored. Any text following a "#" character is treated as a comment and removed, including the "#" character. If the last printable character in the line is "&", then it is treated as a continuation character, the next line is appended, and the same procedure for stripping a "#" comment and checking for a trailing "&" is repeated.

The resulting command line is then searched for variable references. A variable with a single-character name, such as "n", can be referenced as \$n. A variable with a multi-character name (or single-character name), such as "foo", is referenced as \${foo}. Each variable found in the command line is replaced with the variable's contents, which is a list of strings, separated by whitespace. Thus a variable "files" defined either by a bait.py command-line argument or the [variable](#) command as

```
-v files f1.txt f2.txt f3.txt  
variable files f1.txt f2.txt f3.txt
```

would be substituted for in this command:

```
minnow 1 filegen ${files}
```

so that the command becomes:

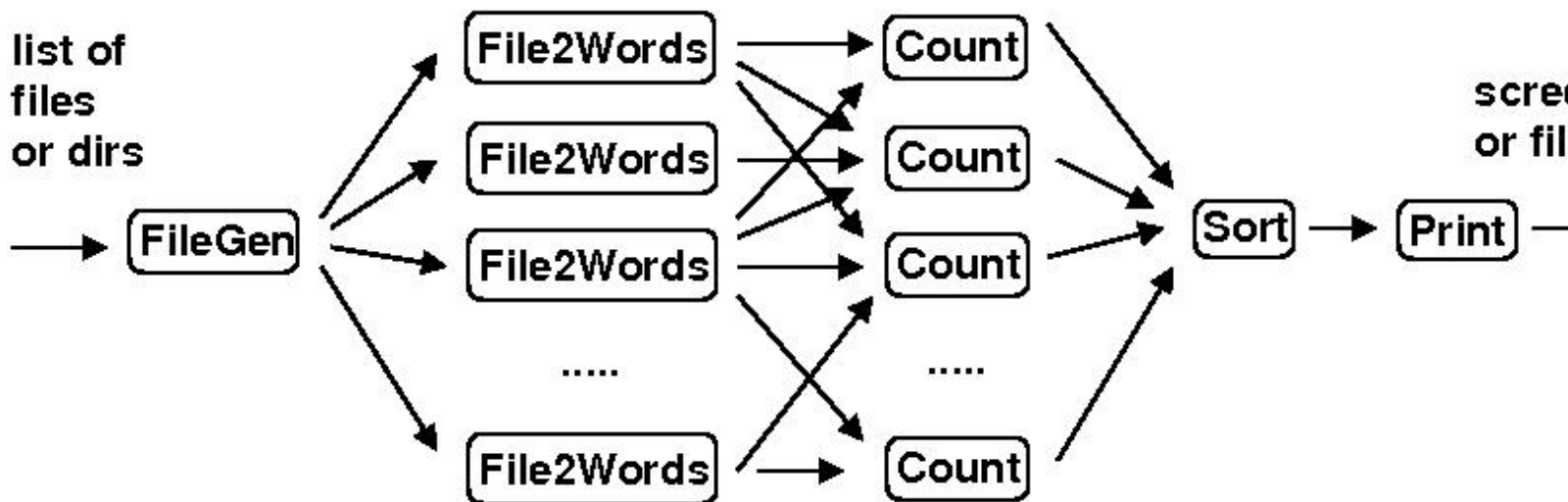
```
minnow 1 filegen f1.txt f2.txt f3.txt
```

After variable substitution, a single command is a series of "words" separated by whitespace. The first word is the command name; the remaining words are arguments. The command names recognized by bait.py are [listed above](#). Each command has its own syntax; see its doc page for details.

With one exception, commands in a PHISH input script can be listed in any order. The script is converted by bait.py into a launch script for running a PHISH program, after the entire script is read. The exception is that a variable cannot be substituted for before it is defined.

2.5 Simple example

[This section](#) of the [Introduction](#) doc page, discussed this diagram of a PHISH calculation for counting the number of times words appear in a corpus of files, performed as a streaming MapReduce operation.



This is the PHISH input script example/in.wc that represents the diagram:

```
# word count from files
# provide list of files or dirs as -v files command-line arg

minnow 1 filegen $files
minnow 2 file2words
minnow 3 count
minnow 4 sort 10
minnow 5 print

connect 1 roundrobin 2
connect 2 hashed 3
connect 3 single 4
connect 4 single 5

layout 1 1
layout 2 5
layout 3 3
layout 4 1
```

The [minnow](#) commands list the 5 different minnows used. Note the use of the `${files}` variable to pass a list of filenames or directories to the *FileGen* minnow.

The [connect](#) commands specify the communication pattern used between different sets of minnows. The key pattern for this example is the *hashed* style, which allows the *File2Words* minnow to pass a "key" (a word) to the PHISH library. The library hashes the word to determine which *Count* minnow to send the datum to.

The [layout](#) commands specify how many instances of each minnow to launch. Any number of *File2Words* and *Count* minnows could be specified.

When this script is run thru `bait.py` in the example directory, as

```
../bait/bait.py -v files in.* -p ../minnow <in.wc
```

then `bait.py` produces the following lines in outfile

```
-n 1 ../minnow/filegen -minnow filegen 1 1 0 -out 1 0 0 roundrobin 5 1 0 -args in.bottle in.cc in.cc.jon in.filelist
in.pp in.rmat in.slow in.wc in.wrapsink in.wrapsource in.wrapsourcefile in.wrapss -n 5 ../minnow/file2words
-minnow file2words 2 5 1 -in 1 0 0 roundrobin 5 1 0 -out 5 1 0 hashed 3 6 0 -n 3 ../minnow/count -minnow count
3 3 6 -in 5 1 0 hashed 3 6 0 -out 3 6 0 single 1 9 0 -n 1 ../minnow/sort -minnow sort 4 1 9 -in 3 6 0 single 1 9 0
-out 1 9 0 single 1 10 0 -args 10
```

```
-n 1 ../minnow/print -minnow print 5 1 10 -in 1 9 0 single 1 10 0
```

which is the format of a "configfile" for the MPICH flavor of MPI. There is one line per minnow, as defined by the input script. The "-n N" specifies how many copies of the minnow will be invoked. The next argument is the name of the minnow executable. Several switches like "-minnow", "-in", "-out" follow which are created by `bait.py` to encode the communication patterns between the minnows as represented by the diagram above and the [connect](#) commands of the input script. The final "-args" switch is followed by minnow-specific arguments that appeared in the input script.

As discussed in [this section](#) of the [Introduction](#) doc page, this outfile can be launched via the MPICH `mpiexec` command as:

```
mpiexec -configfile outfile
```

This will launch 11 independent processes as an MPI job. Each process will call the PHISH library to exchange datums with other processes in the pattern indicated in the diagram. The datum exchanges will be performed via `MPI_Send()` and `MPI_Recv()` calls since the MPI version of the PHISH library is being invoked.

3. PHISH Minnows

In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#). Typically they are small programs which perform a single task, e.g. they parse a string into keywords and store statistics on those keywords.

Hooked together by connections to other sets of minnows, in various communication patterns

Often come in sets as specified by input script. Parallel if working in tandem with other duplicate minnows, each processing a subset of datums.

minnow vs shark vs whale

This doc page covers these topics:

- [3.1 List of minnows](#)
 - [3.2 Code structure of a minnow](#)
 - [3.3 Communication via ports](#)
 - [3.4 Shutting down a minnow](#)
 - [3.5 Building a minnow](#)
-
-

3.1 List of minnows

This is a list of minnows in the minnow directory of the PHISH distribution. Each has its own doc page. Some are written in C++, some in Python, some in both:

- [count](#)
- [file2fields](#)
- [file2words](#)
- [filegen](#)
- [ping](#)
- [pong](#)
- [print](#)
- [readgraph](#)
- [rmat](#)
- [slowdown](#)
- [sort](#)

These are special minnows which can wrap stand-alone non-PHISH programs which read from stdin and write to stdout, so that they can be used in as minnows in a PHISH program:

- [wrapsink](#)
- [wrapsource](#)
- [wrapss](#)

These are simple stand-alone programs that are examples of code that can be wrapped by the "wrap" minnows:

- [echo](#)

3.2 Code structure of a minnow

Use count.py, is same in C

Best way to make sense of what a minnow does is examine a few simple ones from the minnow dir.

command line args setup calls to lib setting callbacks

when to make various kinds of lib calls

Deinfe ports as in connect command

loop vs probe vs recv

receiving and unpacking a datum

packing and sending a datum

```
1  #!/usr/local/bin/python
2
3  import sys,os,glob,copy
4  import phish
5
6  def count(nvalues):
7      if nvalues != 1: phish.error("Count processes one-value datums")
8      type,str,tmp = phish.unpack()
9      if type != phish.STRING:
10         phish.error("File2words processes string values")
11         if hash.has_key(str): hashstr = hashstr + 1
12         else: hashstr = 1
13
14  def sort():
15      pairs = hash.items()
16      for key,value in pairs:
17         phish.pack_int(value)
18         phish.pack_string(key)
19         phish.send(0)
20
21  args = phish.init(sys.argv)
22  phish.input(0,count,sort,1)
23  phish.output(0)
24  phish.check()
25
26  if len(args) != 0: phish.error("Count syntax: count")
27
28  hash =
29
30  phish.loop()
31  phish.exit()
```

3.3 Communication via ports

rules about ports

3.4 Shutting down a minnow

regular datum vs done message

For a PHISH program whose minnows operate in a pipelined one-directional fashion (e.g. one or more minnows read input, send datums to a 2nd set of minnows, on to a 3rd set, etc), it is typically sufficient to trigger an orderly shutdown of the entire program

one-way schools, triggered by head done messages, per port level close ports explicitly or implicitly calls to exit, close, etc special care for ring or chain connections or when school has loops Ctrl-C option output at end

shutdown in ZMQ is buggy

3.5 Building a minnow

makefile

debug a school in stages, since no connection to an output ports is required, or could just hook output to a print minnow

use of slowdown minnow to throttle

4. PHISH Library

This is the API to the PHISH library that minnows (stand-alone applications) call. It is a C-style API, so it is easy to write minnows in any language, e.g. C, C++, Fortran, Python. The doc pages below for individual library functions also document the [Python interface](#) to the library.

MPI and socket API are identical.

PHISH minnows communicate with other minnows by sending and receiving datums. A general discussion of how minnows call these functions is given in the [Minnows](#) section of the manual.

Before looking at individual library calls, it may be helpful to understand how the data in a datum is structured by the PHISH library. This topic is discussed below, in the section entitled [Format of a datum](#).

- [4.1 List of library functions](#)
 - [4.2 Format of a datum](#)
-
-

4.1 List of library functions

The PHISH library is not large; there are only a handful of calls. They can be grouped into the following 5 categories. Follow the links to see a doc page for each library call.

1. Library calls for initialization
 - [phish_init\(\)](#)
 - [phish_input\(\)](#)
 - [phish_output\(\)](#)
 - [phish_done\(\)](#)
 - [phish_check\(\)](#)
2. Library calls for shutdown
 - [phish_exit\(\)](#)
 - [phish_close\(\)](#)
3. Library calls for receiving datums
 - [phish_loop\(\)](#)
 - [phish_probe\(\)](#)
 - [phish_recv\(\)](#)
 - [phish_unpack\(\)](#)
 - [phish_datum\(\)](#)
4. Library calls for sending datums
 - [phish_send\(\)](#)
 - [phish_send_key\(\)](#)
 - [phish_send_direct\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_datum\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_raw\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_byte\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_int\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_uint64\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_double\(\)](#)
 - [phish_pack_string\(\)](#)

```
phish_pack_int_array()
phish_pack_uint64_array()
phish_pack_double_array()
5. Miscellaneous library calls
phish_school()
phish_reset_receiver()
phish_error()
phish_warn()
phish_timer()
```

4.2 Format of a datum

A datum is a chunk of bytes sent from one PHISH minnow to another. This section describes the format of the chunk, which is the same whether the datum is sent via MPI or via sockets.

- # of fields in datum (int)
- type of 1st field (int)
- size of 1st field (optional int)
- data for 1st field (bytes)
- type of 2nd field (int)
- size of 2nd field (optional int)
- data for 2nd field (bytes)
- ...
- type of Nth field (int)
- size of Nth field (optional int)
- data for Nth field (bytes)

The "type" values are one of these settings, as defined in src/phish.h:

- PHISH_RAW = 0
- PHISH_BYTE = 1
- PHISH_INT = 2
- PHISH_UINT64 = 3
- PHISH_DOUBLE = 4
- PHISH_STRING = 5
- PHISH_INT_ARRAY = 6
- PHISH_UINT64_ARRAY = 7
- PHISH_DOUBLE_ARRAY = 8

PHISH_RAW is a string of raw bytes, which can be of any length, and which the minnow can format in any manner. PHISH_BYTE, PHISH_INT, PHISH_UINT64, and PHISH_DOUBLE are a single byte, int, uint64, and double value. PHISH_INT is a signed int, typically 32-bits in length. PHISH_UINT64 is an unsigned 64-bit int. PHISH_STRING is a standard C-style NULL-terminated C-string. The NULL is included in the field. The ARRAYS are contiguous sequences of int, uint64 or double values.

The "size" values are only included for PHISH_RAW (# of bytes), PHISH_STRING (# of bytes including NULL), and the ARRAY types (# of values).

The field data is packed into the datum in a contiguous manner. This means that no attention is paid to alignment of integer or floating point values.

The maximum allowed size of an entire datum (in bytes) is set by MAXBUF in src/phish.cpp, which defaults to 1 Mbyte.

NOTE: should this be a user-settable parameter

When a datum is sent via the MPI version of the PHISH library, MPI flags the message with an MPI "tag". This tag encodes the receiving minnow's input port and also a "done" flag. Specifically, if the datum is not a done message, the tag is the receiver's input port (0 to Nport-1). For a done message a value of MAXPORT (defined at the top of src/phish.cpp) is added to the tag.

See the [phish_input](#) doc page for a discussion of ports. See the [shutdown section](#) of the [Minnows](#) doc page for a discussion of "done" messages.

NOTE: How is this encoding of port and done implemented for sockets?

5. Examples

This is the list of PHISH input scripts provided in the examples directory of the distribution.

**** in.pp** = ping-pong test between 2 processes

2 procs, each connect to each other via one2one send message of M bytes back-and-forth N times

**** in.test** = test bait.py syntax processing

arbitrary commands to test that bait.py can process it correctly

**** in.wc** = word count from files

open files from list convert to words count word occurrence sort to keep top N print the results

can use many procs for file reading and accumulating counts like MapReduce

**** in.wrapsink** = reverse each filename in a list of filenames

uses wrapssink pass filenames to simple standalone reverse program can launch multiple instances of reverse

**** in.wrapss** = reverse each filename in a list of filenames

uses wrapss wrap simple standalone reverse program can launch multiple instances of reverse

6. Python Interface to PHISH

How to wrap the PHISH lib with Python.

This allows minnows to be written in Python and make calls to the PHISH library.

Include setup of Python info from MR-MPI.

7. Errors

special error cases:

overflow of stacked-up messages ZMQ shutdown

how to debug a PHISH school via an input script, stage by stage

This is the list of error messages bait.py and the PHISH library can generate.

layout command

Syntax:

connect sendID:outport style recvID:inport

- sendID = ID of minnows which will send datums
- outport = output port datums are written to by sending minnows (default = 0)
- style = kind of connection between sending minnows and receiving
- minnows = *single* or *paired* or *hashed* or *roundrobin* or *direct* or *bcast* or *chain* or *ring* or *publish* or *subscribe*
- recvID = ID of minnows which will receive datums
- inport = input port datums are read from by receiving minnows (default = 0)

Examples:

```
connect ...
```

Description:

Connect is a command that can be used in a PHISH input script which is recognized by the [bait.py](#) setup program. It determines how the output from one minnow is routed to the input of another minnow when the PHISH program is run. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#) to exchange data with other PHISH minnows.

The topology of connections defined by a series of connect commands defines how a school of minnows is harnessed together to perform a desired computational task. It also defines how parallelism is exploited by the collection of minnows.

A connection is made between two sets of minnows, one set sends datums, the other set receives them. Each set may contain one or more processes, where a process is a single minnow. The [layout](#) command specifies how many minnows run within each set. Since a datum is typically sent from a single minnow to a single receiving minnow, the style of the connection determines which minnow in the sending set communicates with which minnow in the receiving set.

Each minnow can send datums through specific output ports. If a minnow defines N output ports, then they are numbered 0 to N-1. Likewise a minnow can receive data through specific input ports. If a minnow defines M input ports, then they are numbered 0 to M-1. Ports enable a minnow to have multiple input and output connections, and for a PHISH input script to connect a single set of minnows to multiple other sets of minnows with different communication patterns. For example, a stream of data might be processed by a minnow, reading from its input port 0, and writing to its output port 0. But the minnow might also look for incoming datums on its input port 1, that signify some kind of external message from a "control" minnow triggered by the user, e.g. asking the minnow to print out its current statistics. See the [Minnows](#) doc page for more information about how minnows can define and use ports.

The specified *sendID* and *outport* are the minnows which will send datums through their output port *outport*. If *outport* is not specified with a colon following the *sendID*, then a default output port of 0 is assumed.

The specified *recvID* and *inport* are the minnows which will receive the sent datums through their input port *inport*. If *inport* is not specified with a colon following the *recvID*, then a default input port of 0 is assumed.

Both *sendID* and *recvID* must be the IDs of minnows previously defined by a [minnow](#) command.

Note that there can be multiple connect commands which connect the same *sendID* and same (or different) *outport* to different *recvID:inport* minnows. Likewise, there can be multiple connect commands which connect the same *recvID* and same (or different) *inport* to different *sendID:outport* minnows. There can even be multiple connect commands which connect the same *sendID* and same (or different) *outport* to the same *recvID:inport* minnows.

Also note that for all of the styles (except as noted below), the *sendID* and *recvID* can be the same, meaning a set of minnows will send datums to themselves.

These are the different connection styles supported by the connect command.

The *single* style connects N sending minnows to one receiving minnow. $N = 1$ is allowed. All the sending minnows send their datums to a single receiving minnow.

The *paired* style connects N sending minnows to N receiving minnows. $N = 1$ is allowed. Each of the N sending minnows sends its datums to a specific partner receiving minnow.

The *hashed* style connects N sending minnows to M receiving minnows. N does not have to equal M , and either or both of $N, M = 1$ is allowed. When any of the N minnows sends a datum, it must also define a value for the PHISH library to hash on, which will determine which of the M receiving minnows it is sent to. See the doc page for the [phish_send_hashed\(\)](#) library function for more explanation of how this is done.

The *roundrobin* style connects N sending minnows to M receiving minnows. N does not have to equal M , and either or both of $N, M = 1$ is allowed. Each of the N senders cycles through the list of M receivers each time it sends a datum, in a roundrobin fashion. If the receivers are numbered 0 to $M-1$, a sender will send its first datum to 0, its 2nd to 1, its M th to $M-1$, its $M+1$ datum to 0, etc.

The *direct* style connects N sending minnows to M receiving minnows. N does not have to equal M , and either or both of $N, M = 1$ is allowed. When any of the N minnows sends a datum, it must also choose a specific one of the M receiving minnows to send to. See the doc page for the [phish_send_direct\(\)](#) library function for more explanation of how this is done.

The *bcast* style connects N sending minnows to M receiving minnows. N does not have to equal M , and either or both of $N, M = 1$ is allowed. When any of the N minnows sends a datum, it sends a copy of it once to each of the M receiving minnows.

The *chain* style configures N minnows as a 1-dimensional chain so that each minnow sends datums to the next minnow in the chain, and likewise each minnow receives datums from the previous minnow in the chain. The first minnow in the chain cannot receive, and the last minnow in the chain cannot send. $N > 1$ is required. The *sendID* must also be the same as the *recvID*, since the same set of minnows is sending and receiving.

The *ring* style is the same as the *chain* style, except that the N minnows are configured as a 1-dimensional loop. Each minnow sends datums to the next minnow in the loop, and likewise each minnow receives datums from the previous minnow in the loop. This includes the first and last minnows. $N > 1$ is required. The *sendID* must also be the same as the *recvID*, since the same set of minnows is sending and receiving.

The *publish* and *subscribe* styles are different in that they do not connect two sets of minnows to each other. Instead they connect one set of minnows to an external socket, either for writing or reading datums. The external socket will typically be driven by some external program which is either reading from the socket or writing to it, but the running PHISH program requires no knowledge of that program. It could be another PHISH program or some completely different program.

The *publish* style connects N sending minnows to a socket. $N = 1$ is allowed. The *recvID:inport* argument is replaced with a TCP port #, which is an integer, e.g. 25. When each minnow sends a datum it will "publish" the bytes of the datum to that TCP port, on the machine the minnow is running on. In socket lingo, "publishing" means that the sender has no communication with any processes which may be reading from the socket. The sender simply writes the bytes and continues without blocking. If no process is reading from the socket, the datum is lost.

The *subscribe* style connects M receiving minnows to a socket. $M = 1$ is allowed. The *sendID:outport* argument is replaced with a hostname and TCP port #, separated by a colon, e.g. www.foo.com:25. Each minnow receives datums by "subscribing" to the TCP port on the specified host. In socket lingo, "subscribing" means that the receiver has no communication with any process which is writing to the socket. The receiver simply checks if a datum is available and reads it. If a new datum arrives before the receiver is ready to read it, the datum is lost.

Note that multiple processes can publish to the same physical socket, and likewise multiple processes can subscribe to the same physical socket. In the latter case, each receiving process reads the same published datum.

NOTE: how does the PHISH library check the socket and return if there is no datum?

NOTE: how does the read from the socket delimit the PHISH datum, so the minnow knows how much to read?

Restrictions:

The *publish* and *subscribe* styles are only supported by the socket version of the PHISH library, not the MPI version.

Related commands:

[minnow](#), [layout](#)

Default: none

layout command

Syntax:

```
layout minnow-ID Np keyword value ...
```

- minnow-ID = ID of minnow
- Np = # of duplicate processes to launch for this minnow
- zero or more keyword/value pairs can be appended

```
possible keywords = host or invoke
host value = machine
                 machine = name of host to run the minnow on
                           what if want some minnows on one host, some on another?
invoke value = launcher
                 launcher = run minnow via this program
```

Examples:

```
layout 3 10
layout countapp 1
layout countapp 1 host foo.locallan.gov
layout myApp 5 invoke python
```

Description:

Layout is a command that can be used in a PHISH input script which is recognized by the [bait.py](#) setup program. It determines how a minnow application will be launched when the PHISH program is run. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#) to exchange data with other PHISH minnows.

The *minnow-ID* is the ID of the minnow, as previously defined by a [minnow](#) command.

Np is the number of instances of this minnow that will be launched when the PHISH program is run.

The *host* keyword sets a value used by the socket version of the PHISH library, and thus can only be used when the *-mode socket* command-line argument is used with [bait.py](#). The *machine* value is the name of the machine (e.g. foo.locallan.gov) to launch all the minnow processes on.

The *invoke* keyword can be used if the minnow application should be run by another program. For example if the minnow is a Python script, the *launcher* could be set to "python" or to "/usr/local/bin/python2.4". In this case, if the minnow *exefile* was specified as foo.py, then the launch script output by [bait.py](#) would include a line such as

```
python foo.py ...
```

instead of simply

```
foo.py ...
```

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

minnow

Default:

If a layout command is not specified, then N_p is assumed to be 1, so that one process is launched when the PHISH program is run.

minnow command

Syntax:

```
minnow ID exefile arg1 arg2 ...
```

- ID = ID of minnow
- exefile = executable file name
- arg1,arg2 ... = arguments to pass to executable

Examples:

```
minnow 1 count
minnow 5 filegen ${files}
minnow myapp app 3 f1.txt 4.0
```

Description:

Minnow is a command that can be used in a PHISH input script which is recognized by the [bait.py](#) setup program. It defines a minnow application and assigns it an ID which can be used elsewhere in the input script. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#) to exchange data with other PHISH minnows.

The *ID* of the minnow can only contain alphanumeric characters and underscores.

The *exefile* is the name of the executable which will be launched when the PHISH program is run. It should reside in one of the directories specified by the *-path* command-line argument for [bait.py](#).

The *arg1*, *arg2*, etc keywords are arguments that will be passed to the *exefile* program when it is launched.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

[layout](#)

set command

Syntax:

set keyword value ...

- one or more keyword/value pairs can be appended

possible keywords = none are yet defined

Examples:

No set keywords are yet defined.

Description:

Set is a command that can be used in a PHISH input script which is recognized by the [bait.py](#) setup program. It (re)sets values that are used by the bait.py program as it reads and processes commands from the PHISH input script.

No keywords are defined yet.

could allow max buf size for a datum to be set then append it as arg to all launched minnows

could duplicate command-line switches to allow them to be set in input script

could also allow verbosity or makefile

verbosity = 0 or 1 (default = 0) = currently not used

makefile = filename (default = Makefile) = currently not used could be used to auto-build EXE files

could have setting for warn vs error when a minnow EXE does not yet exist

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

See the discussion of command-line arguments for [bait.py](#).

Default: none

variable command

Syntax:

```
variable ID str1 str2 ...
```

Examples:

```
variable files f1.txt f2.txt f3.txt  
variable N 100
```

Description:

Variable is a command that can be used in a PHISH input script which is recognized by the [bait.py](#) setup program. It creates a variable with name *ID* which contains a list of one or more strings. The variable can be used elsewhere in the input script. The substitution rules for variables is described by the [bait.py](#) doc page.

The *ID* of the variable can only contain alphanumeric characters and underscores. The strings can contain any printable character.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

See the *-var* command-line argument for [bait.py](#).

Default: none

count instances of keyed datums

syntax: no args

creates an internal hash, so it can count instances of keys hash key = string, hash value = count keeps track of largest key it receives

for each datum: treat buf of nbytes as a string and hash it increment hash value for that string

when done: iterate over hash table send all hash entries downstream as count/string

echo lines from stdin to stdout

file2fields minnow

read file and emit words

syntax: no args

for each datum: treat message as filename open it, parse into words separated by whitespace send each word downstream, using word as key

emit filenames

syntax: `filengen file1 file2 ...`

filenames can also be directories directories are opened recursively and their files added to list send each file name one by one downsteram

phish_check() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_check()
```

C examples:

```
phish_check();
```

Python syntax:

```
def check()
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.check()
```

Description:

This is a PHISH library function which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

This function is typically the final function called by a minnow during its setup phase, after the minnow has defined its input and output ports via the [phish_input](#) and [phish_output](#) functions. It must be called before any datums are received or sent to other minnows.

The function checks that the input and output ports defined by the minnow are consistent with their usage in the PHISH input script, as processed by the [bait.py](#) tool.

Specifically, it does the following:

- checks that required input ports are used by the script
- checks that no ports used by the script are undefined by the minnow
- opens all ports used by the script so that data exchanges can begin

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

[phish_input](#), [phish_output](#)

phish_error() function

phish_warn() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_error(char *str)
```

```
void phish_warn(char *str)
```

C examples:

```
phish_error("Bad datum received"); phish_warn("May overflow internal buffer");
```

Python syntax:

```
def error(str)
```

```
def warn(str)
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.error("Bad datum received")
phish.warn("May overflow internal buffer")
```

Description:

There are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

The `phish_error()` function prints the specified character string (`str`) to the screen, and forces the running minnow to exit. None of the minnows ports are closed, which would trigger messages to other minnows, so no other minnows are explicitly told about the failed minnow.

For the MPI version of the library, `phish_error()` makes a final call to `MPI_Abort()`, which should force all minnows to exit, as well as the calling "mpirun" command.

NOTE: how does this work for socket version?

The error message is printed in this format:

```
ERROR: Minnow exename ID idminnow # idglobal: message
```

where `exename` is the name of executable minnow file (not the full path, just the filename), `idminnow` is the ID of the minnow as specified in the PHISH input script, `idglobal` is the global-ID of the minnow, and `message` is the error message. Each minnow has a global ID from 0 to `Nglobal-1`, where `Nglobal` is the total number of minnows in the school of minnows specified by the PHISH input script. This supplementary information is helpful in debugging which minnow generated the error message.

The `phish_warning()` function prints the specified character string (`str`) to the screen, with the same supplementary information as `phish_error()`. Control is returned to the calling minnow which can continue on.

Restrictions: none

Related commands: none

phish_init() function

phish_school() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_init(int *narg, char ***args)
```

```
void phish_school(int *idlocal, int *nlocal, int *idglobal, int *nglobal)
```

C examples:

```
phish_init(&argc,&argv);
int idlocal,nlocal,idglobal,nglobal;
MPI_Comm comm = phish_school(&idlocal,&nlocal,&idglobal,&nglobal);
printf("Local minnow info: %d %d\n",idlocal,nlocal);
printf("Global minnow info: %d %d\n",idglobal,nglobal);
```

Python syntax:

```
def init(args)
```

```
def school()
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
args = phish.init(sys.argv)
first_minnow_arg = args[0]
idlocal,nlocal,idglobal,nglobal = phish.school()
```

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

A PHISH program typically includes one or more sets of minnows, as specified in a PHISH input script. Each minnow in each set is an individual process. In a local sense, each minnow has a local-ID from 0 to *Nlocal*-1 within its set, where *Nlocal* is the number of minnows in the set. Globally, each minnow has a global-ID from 0 to *Nglobal*-1, where *Nglobal* is the total number of minnows. The global-IDs are ordered by set, so that minnows within each set have consecutive IDs. These IDs enable the PHISH library to orchestrate communication of datums between minnows in different sets. E.g. when running the MPI version of the PHISH library, the global-ID corresponds to the rank ID of an MPI process, used in `MPI_Send()` and `MPI_Recv()` function calls.

The `phish_init()` function must be the first call to the PHISH library made by a minnow. Since it alters the command-line arguments passed to the minnow, it is typically the first executable line of a minnow program.

Its purpose is to initialize the library using special command-line arguments passed to the minnow when it was launched, typically by the MPI or socket launch script that the [bait.py](#) tool creates from a PHISH input script.

The two arguments to `phish_init()` are pointers to the number of command-line arguments, and a pointer to the arguments themselves as an array of strings. These are passed as pointers, because the PHISH library reads and

removes the PHISH-specific arguments. It then returns the remaining minnow-specific arguments, which the minnow can read and process.

Note that in the Python version of `phish.init()`, the full argument list is passed as an argument, and the truncated argument list is returned.

There are the switches and arguments the PHISH library looks for and processes:

- `-minnow` `exefile` `ID` `Nlocal` `Nprev`
- `-in` `sprocs` `sfirst` `sport` `style` `rprocs` `rfirst` `rport`
- `-out` `sprocs` `sfirst` `sport` `style` `rprocs` `rfirst` `rport`
- `-args` `arg1` `arg2` ... = args for the minnow itself

The `-minnow` switch appears once, as the first argument. *Exefile* is the name of executable file for this minnow, e.g. `count` or `count.py`. The *ID* is the minnow ID in the PHISH input script. The *Nlocal* argument was explained above. *Nprev* is the total number of minnows in sets of minnows previous to this one. It is used to infer the *local-ID* value discussed above.

The `-in` switch appears once for every connection the minnow has with other minnows, where it is a receiver of datums. See the [connect](#) command in PHISH input scripts processed by the [bait.py](#) tool, for more information.

Sprocs, *sfirst*, and *sport* refer to the set of minnows sending to this minnow. They are respectively, the number of minnows in the set, the global ID of the first minnow in the set, and the output port used by those minnows. *Rprocs*, *rfirst*, and *rport* refer to the set of minnows receiving the datums, i.e. the set of minnows this minnow belongs to. They are respectively, the number of minnows in the set, the global ID of the first minnow in the set, and the input port used by those minnows. *Style* is the connection style, as specified by the [connect](#) command in the PHISH input script processed by the [bait.py](#) tool. E.g. *style* is a word like "single" or "hashed". If it is "subscribe", then extra info about the external host and its TCP port is appended to the *style*, e.g. "subscribe/www.foo.com:25".

The `-out` switch appears once for every connection the minnow has with other minnows, where it is a sender of datums. See the [connect](#) command in PHISH input scripts processed by the [bait.py](#) tool, for more information.

Sprocs, *sfirst*, and *sport* refer to the set of minnows sending datums, i.e. the set of minnows this minnow belongs to. They are respectively, the number of minnows in the set, the global ID of the first minnow in the set, and the output port used by those minnows. *Rprocs*, *rfirst*, and *rport* refer to the set of minnows receiving the datums. They are respectively, the number of minnows in the set, the global ID of the first minnow in the set, and the input port used by those minnows. *Style* is the connection style, as specified by the [connect](#) command in the PHISH input script processed by the [bait.py](#) tool. E.g. *style* is a word like "single" or "hashed". If it is "publish", then extra info about the TCP port is appended to the *style*, e.g. "publish/25".

The `-args` switch appears last and lists all the remaining minnow-specific arguments. The PHISH library ignores these, but strips of all command-line arguments up to and including the `-args` switch before returning the args to the minnow caller.

The `phish_init()` function also flags each specified input port and output port with a CLOSED status, instead of UNUSED. See the [connect](#) command for the [bait.py](#) tool for more info about communication ports. See the [phish_input](#) and [phish_output](#) functions for more info about port status.

The `phish_school()` function can be used to query the local and global information about the minnow, both within its local set of duplicate minnows, and within the global school of minnows.

The meaning of the 4 returned values *idlocal*, *nlocal*, *idglobal*, and *nglobal* are as described above for the *-minnow* command-line switch.

NOTE: also need `phish_school` or a variatnt to tell something about other sets connected to? for `phish_send_direct()` function

Restrictions: none

Related commands: none

phish_reset_receiver() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_reset_receiver(int iport, int receiver)
```

C examples:

```
phish_reset_receiver(0,3);
```

Python syntax:

```
def reset_receiver(iport, receiver)
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.reset_receiver(0,3)
```

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These are miscellaneous functions, which are not used by typical minnows, but serve special purposes.

change the process I send messages to on output port iport can be used to effectively permute the ordering of processes in a ring receiver = 0 to M-1, where M = # of receivers in the connection only supported by "ring" connection

Restrictions: none

Related commands: none

phish_pack_datum

phish_pack_raw

phish_pack_byte

phish_pack_int

phish_pack_uint64

phish_pack_double

phish_pack_string

phish_pack_int_array

phish_pack_uint64_array

phish_pack_double_array

C syntax:

```
void phish_pack_datum(char *buf, int n) void phish_pack_raw(char *buf, int n) void phish_pack_byte(char
cvalue) void phish_pack_int(int ivalue) void phish_pack_uint64(uint64_t uvalue) void phish_pack_double(double
dvalue) void phish_pack_string(char *str) void phish_pack_int_array(int *ivec, int n) void
phish_pack_uint64_array(uint64_t *uvec, int n) void phish_pack_double_array(int *dvec, int n)
```

C examples:

Python syntax:

```
def pack_datum(buf,n) def pack_raw(buf,n) def pack_byte(cvalue) def pack_int(ivalue) def pack_uint64(uvalue)
def pack_double(dvalue) def pack_string(str) def pack_int_array(ivec,n) def pack_uint64_array(uvec,n) def
pack_double_array(dvec,n)
```

Python examples:

NOTE: need to provide examples NOTE: need to doc how Python is different below

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These functions are used to pack data into a datum before sending it to another minnow.

As discussed in [this section](#) of the [PHISH Library](#) doc page, datums sent and recived by the PHISH library

contain one or more fields. A field is a fundamental data type, such as an "int" or vector of "doubles" or a NULL-terminated character string. These pack functions (except for `pack_datum()`) add a single field to a datum by packing data into a contiguous byte string, using integer flags to indicate what type and length of data comes next. [Unpack](#) functions allow the minnow to extract data from the datum, one field at a time.

Once data has been packed, the minnow may re-use the memory that stores the data; the pack functions copy the data into a send buffer.

The `pack_datum()` function

A minnow can build the structure of a datum itself, using the information [this section](#) of the [PHISH Library](#) doc page. But the more common usage is to use this function to pack a datum just received and unpacked via the [phish_datum](#) function, so that it can be sent as-is to another minnow.

The remaining pack functions correspond one-to-one with the kinds of fundamental data that can be packed into a PHISH datum:

- `phish_pack_raw()` = pack a string of raw bytes of length *n*
- `phish_pack_byte()` = pack a single character
- `phish_pack_int()` = pack a single int
- `phish_pack_uint64()` = pack a single unsigned 64-bit int
- `phish_pack_double()` = pack a single double
- `phish_pack_string()` = pack a C-style NULL-terminated string of bytes
- `phish_pack_int_array()` = pack *n* int values from *ivec*
- `phish_pack_uint64_array()` = pack *n* uint64 values from *uvec*
- `phish_pack_double_array()` = pack *n* double values from *dvec*

`Phish_pack_raw()` can be used with whatever string of raw bytes the minnow puts into the *buf* argument, e.g. a C data structure containing a collection of various C primitive data types. The "int" data type refers to a signed int, typically 32-bits in length. The "uint64" data type refers to an unsigned 64-bit int. `Phish_pack_string()` will pack a standard C-style NULL-terminated string of bytes. The array pack functions expect the *ivec* or *uvec* or *dvec* pointer to point to a contiguous vector of "int" or "uint64" or "double" values.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

[phish_send](#), [phish_unpack](#)

phish_input() function

phish_output() function

phish_done() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_input(int iport, void (*datumfunc)(int), void (*donefunc)(), reqflag)
```

```
void phish_output(int iport)
```

```
void phish_done(void (*alldonefunc)())
```

C examples:

```
phish_input(0, count, NULL, 1);
phish_input(1, count, mydone, 0);
phish_output(0);
phish_done(quit);
```

Python syntax:

```
def input(iport, datumfunc, donefunc, reqflag)
```

```
def output(iport)
```

```
def done(alldonefunc)
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.input(0, count, None, 1)
phish.input(1, count, mydone, 0)
phish.output(0)
phish.done(quit)
```

Description:

There are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

The `phish_input()` and `phish_output()` functions define input and output ports for the minnow. An input port is where datums are sent by other minnows, so they can be read by this minnow. An output port is where the minnow sends datums to route them to the input ports of other minnows. These inter-minnow connections are setup by the `connect` command in a PHISH input script, as discussed on the [bait.py](#) tool doc page.

A minnow can define and use multiple input and output ports, to send and receive datums of different kinds to different sets of minnows. Both input and output ports are numbered from 0 to `Pmax-1`, where `Pmax` = the maximum allowed ports, which is a hard-coded value in `src/phish.cpp`. It is currently set to 16; most minnows use 1 or 2. Note that a single port can be used to send or receive datums to many other minnows (processors), depending on the connection style. See the `connect` command for details.

The minnow should make one call to `phish_input()` for each input port it uses, whether or not a particular PHISH input script actually connects to the port. Specify *reqflag* = 1 if a PHISH input script must specify a connection to the input port; specify *reqflag* = 0 if it is optional. The [phish_check](#) function will check for compatibility between the PHISH input script and the minnow ports.

Two callback function pointers are passed as arguments to `phish_input()`. Either or both can be specified as *NULL*, or *None* in the Python version, if the minnow does not require a callback. Note that multiple input ports can use the same callback functions.

The first callback is *datumfunc*, and is called by the PHISH library each time a datum is received on that input port.

The *datumfunc* function should have the following form:

```
void datumfunc(int nfields) {  
}
```

or

```
def datumfunc(nfields)
```

in Python,

where "datumfunc" is replaced by a function name of your choice. The function is passed "nfields" = the # of fields in the received datum. See the [phish_unpack](#) and [phish_datum](#) doc pages for info on how the received datum can be further processed.

The second callback is *donefunc*, and is called by the PHISH library when the input port is closed.

The *donefunc* function should have the following form:

```
void donefunc() {  
}
```

or

```
def donefunc()
```

in Python,

where "donefunc" is replaced by a function name of your choice. A minnow might use the function to print out some statistics about data received thru that input port, or its closure might trigger further data to be sent downstream to other minnows. See the [phish_close](#) function and [shutdown section](#) of the [Minnows](#) doc page, for more discussion of how a school of minnows closes ports and shuts down.

The minnow should make one call to `phish_output()` for each output port it uses, whether or not a particular PHISH input script actually connects to the port. Usage of an output port by an input script is always optional, which makes it easy to develop and debug a sequence of pipelined operations, one minnow at a time.

The `phish_done()` function can be used if desired to specify a callback function that will be invoked by the PHISH library when all the minnow's input ports have been closed. The callback function should have the following form:


```
void alldonefunc() {  
}
```

or

```
def alldonefunc()
```

in Python,

where "alldonefunc" is replaced by a function name of your choice. A minnow might use the function to print out some final statistics before the PHISH library exits. See the [phish_close](#) function and [shutdown section](#) of the [Minnows](#) doc page, for more discussion of how a school of minnows closes ports and shuts down.

Restrictions:

These functions cannot be called after [phish_check](#) has been called.

Related commands:

[phish_check](#), [phish_close](#)

phish_loop() function

phish_probe() function

phish_recv() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_loop()

void phish_probe(void (*probefunc)())

int phish_recv()
```

C examples:

```
phish_loop();
phish_probe(count);
n = phish_recv();
```

Python syntax:

```
def loop()

def probe(probefunc)

def recv()
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.loop();
phish.probe(count);
n = phish.recv();
```

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These functions are used to receive datums sent by other minnows.

All received datums arrive on input ports the minnow defines and which the PHISH input script uses to route datums from one set of minnows to another set.

The functions documented on this page receive the next datum, whichever input port it arrives on. It is up to the minnow to take the appropriate port-specific action if necessary. This can be done by defining a port-specific callback function via the [phish_input](#) function. Or by querying what port the datum was received on via the [phish_datum](#) function.

The `phish_loop()` function turns control over to the PHISH library. It will wait for the next datum to arrive on any input port. When it does one of three things happen:

- (1) For a regular datum, `phish_loop()` will make a callback to the minnow, to the *datum* callback function assigned to the input port the datum was received on. See the [phish_input](#) function for how this callback function is assigned. When the callback function returns, control is returned to `phish_loop()`.
- (2) For a datum that signals the closure of an input port, `phish_loop()` will make a callback to the minnow, to the *done* callback function assigned to the input port the datum was received on. See the [phish_input](#) function for how this callback function is assigned. When the callback function returns, control is returned to `phish_loop()`.
- (3) For a datum that closes the last open input port, step (2) is performed, and then an additional callback to the minnow is made, to the *alldone* callback function (optionally) assigned by the [phish_done](#) function. When the callback function returns, control is returned to `phish_loop()`.

After option (3) has occurred, `phish_loop()` returns, giving control back to the minnow. Typically, the minnow will then clean up and call [phish_exit](#), since all its input ports are closed and no more datums can be received.

The `phish_probe()` function is identical to `phish_loop()`, except that instead of waiting for the next datum to arrive, `phish_probe()` checks if a datum has arrived. If not, then it immediately calls the specified *probefunc* callback function. This allows the minnow to do useful work while waiting for the next datum to arrive.

The *probefunc* function should have the following form:

```
void probefunc() {  
}
```

or

```
def provefunc()
```

in Python,

where "datumfunc" is replaced by a function name of your choice. When the *probefunc* callback function returns, control is returned to `phish_probe()`.

Note that just like `phish_loop()`, `phish_probe()` will not return control to the minnow, until option (3) above has occurred, i.e. all input ports have been closed.

The `phish_recv()` function allows the minnow to request datums explicitly, rather than be handing control to `phish_loop()` or `phish_probe()` and being called back to by those functions.

The `phish_recv()` function checks if a datum has arrived and returns regardless. It returns a value of 0 if no datum is available. It returns a value $N > 0$ if a datum has arrived, with N = the number of fields in the datum. See the [phish_unpack](#) and [phish_datum](#) doc pages for info on how the received datum can be further processed.

If a datum is received that signals the closure of an input port, then `phish_recv()` will perform the same options (2) and (3) listed above, making callbacks to the *done* callback function and *alldone* callback function as appropriate, and then return with a value of -1.

Restrictions:

These functions can only be called after [phish_check](#) has been called.

Related commands:

phish_input, phish_done

phish_send() function

phish_send_key() function

phish_send_direct() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_send(int  iport)

void phish_send_key(int  iport, char *key, int  nbytes)

void phish_send_direct(int  iport, int  receiver)
```

C examples:

```
phish_send(0);
phish_send_key(1,id,strlen(id));
phish_send_direct(0,3);
```

Python syntax:

```
def send(iport)

def send_key(iport,key)

def send_direct(iport,receiver)
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
phish.send(0)
phish.send_key(1,id)
phish.send_direct(0,3)
```

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These functions are used to send datums to other minnows. Before a datum can be sent, it must be packed into a buffer. See the doc page for the [phish_pack](#) functions to see how this is done.

All datums are sent via output ports the minnow defines and which the PHISH input script uses to route datums from one set of minnows to another set. Thus these send functions all take an *iport* argument to specify which output port to send thru.

The specific minnow(s) that the datum will be sent to is determined by the connection style(s) defined for the output port. See the PHISH input script [connect](#) command, as discussed on the [bait.py](#) tool doc page, for details. Some connection styles require additional information from the minnow to route the datum to the desired minnow. This is the reason for the `phish_send_key()` and `phish_send_direct()` variants of `phish_send()`.

The `phish_send()` function sends a datum to the specified *iport* output port.

This generic form of a send can be used for all connection styles except the HASHED and DIRECT styles. See the PHISH input script [connect](#) command for details. Note that multiple sets of receiving minnows, each with their own connection style, can be connected to the same output port.

If `phish_send()` is used with a HASHED or DIRECT connection style, an error will result.

The `phish_send_key()` function sends a datum to the specified *iport* output port and allows specification of a byte string or *key* of length *nbytes*, which will be hashed by the PHISH library and converted into an index for choosing a specific receiving processor to send the datum to.

This form of sending must be used for a HASHED connection style. See the PHISH input script [connect](#) command for details. If one or more of the connection styles connected to the output port is not a HASHED style, then the *key* and *nbytes* arguments are ignored, and the generic `phish_send()` form is used to send the datum.

NOTE: does Python syntax not include len?

The `phish_direct()` function sends a datum to the specified *iport* output port and allows a specific receiving minnow to be selected via the *receiver* argument. The *receiver* is an integer offset into the set of receiving minnows connected to this output port. If there are *M* minnows in the receiving set, then $0 \leq receiver < M$ is required. The [phish_school](#) function can be used to query information about the receiving set of minnows.

This form of sending must be used for a DIRECT connection style. See the PHISH input script [connect](#) command for details. If one or more of the connection styles connected to the output port is not a DIRECT style, then the *receiver* argument is ignored, and the generic `phish_send()` form is used to send the datum.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

[phish_pack](#)

phish_exit() function

phish_close() function

C syntax:

```
void phish_exit()  
  
void phish_close(int iport)
```

C examples:

```
phish_exit();  
phish_close(0);
```

Python syntax:

```
def exit()  
  
def close(iport)
```

Python examples:

```
import phish  
phish.exit();  
phish.close(0);
```

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These functions serve to shutdown a running minnow, either entirely or a portion of its output capabilities. They trigger the closing of a minnow's output port(s) which notifies downstream minnows, so they also can clean-up and exit.

See [this section](#) of the [Minnows](#) doc page for a discussion of shutdown options for PHISH programs.

The `phish_exit()` function is the most commonly used mechanism for performing an orderly shutdown of a PHISH program. Once called, no further calls to the PHISH library can be made by a minnow, so it is often the final line of a minnow program.

When `phish_exit()` is called it performs the following operations:

- print stats about the # of datums received and sent by the minnow
- warn if any input port is not closed
- close all output ports
- free internal memory allocated by the PHISH library
- shutdown communication protocols to other minnows

The stats message is printed with the same supplementary information as the [phish_error](#) function, to identify the minnow that printed it.

Closing a minnow's output port involves sending a "done" message to each minnow (in each set of minnows) connected as a receiver to that port, so that they know to expect no more datums from this minnow.

When all the minnows in a set have invoked `phish_exit()` to close an output port, each downstream minnow that receives output from this port will have received a series of "done" messages on its corresponding input port. Each minnow keeps a count of the total # of minnows that send to that port, so it will know when the requisite number of done messages have been received to close the input port.

In the MPI version of the library, the final step is performed by invoking `MPI_Finalize()`, which means no further MPI calls can be made.

NOTE: how is this done for the sockets version?

Note that this function is often called directly by the most upstream minnow(s) in a PHISH school, when they are done with their task (e.g. reading data from a file).

Other downstream minnows often call `phish_exit()` after the [phish_loop](#) or [phish_probe](#) function returns control to the minnow, since that only occurs when all the minnow's input ports have been closed. In this manner, the shutdown procedure cascades from minnow to minnow.

The `phish_close()` function is less often used than the `phish_exit()` function. It can be useful when some minnow in the middle of a data processing pipeline needs to trigger an orderly shutdown of the PHISH program.

`Phish_close()` closes the specified *iport* output port of a minnow. This procedure involves sending a "done" message to each minnow (in each set of minnows) connected as a receiver to that port, so that they know to expect no more datums from this minnow.

When all the minnows in a set have invoked `phish_close()` on an output port, each downstream minnow that receives output from this port will have received a series of "done" messages on its corresponding input port. Each minnow keeps a count of the total # of minnows that send to that port, so it will know when the requisite number of done messages have been received to close the input port. As input ports are closed, this typically triggers the minnow to invoke `phish_exit()` or `phish_close()`. In this manner, the shutdown procedure cascades from minnow to minnow.

This function does nothing if the specified output port is already closed.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

[phish_loop](#), [phish_probe](#)

phish_timer() function

C syntax:

```
double phish_timer()
```

C examples:

```
double t1 = phish_timer();
...
double t2 = phish_timer();
printf("Elapsed time = %g\n",t2-t1);
```

Python syntax:

```
def timer()
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
t1 = phish.timer();
...
t2 = phish.timer();
print "Elapsed time =",t2-t1
```

Description:

This is a PHISH library function which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

This function provides a portable means to time operations within a minnow. For the MPI version of the PHISH library, the function is a wrapper on MPI_Wtime().

NOTE: how does this work for socket version?

The function returns the current time in CPU seconds. To calculate an elapsed time, you need to bracket a section of code with 2 calls to phish_timer() and calculate the difference between the 2 returned times, as in the example above.

Restrictions: none

Related commands: none

phish_unpack() function

phish_datum() function

C syntax:

```
int phish_unpack(char **buf, int *len)
```

```
int phish_datum(char **buf, int *len)
```

C examples:

```
char *buf;
int len;
int type = phish_unpack(&buf, &len);
int iport = phish_datum(&buf, &len);
```

Python syntax:

```
def unpack()
```

```
def datum()
```

Python examples:

```
import phish
type, value, len = phish.unpack()
iport, buf, len = phish.datum()
```

NOTE: need to doc how Python is different below

Description:

These are PHISH library functions which can be called from a minnow application. In PHISH lingo, a "minnow" is a stand-alone application which makes calls to the [PHISH library](#).

These functions are used to unpack a datum after it has been received from another minnow.

As discussed in [this section](#) of the [PHISH Library](#) doc page, datums sent and received by the PHISH library contain one or more fields. A field is a fundamental data type, such as an "int" or vector of "doubles" or a NULL-terminated character string. These fields are [packed](#) into a contiguous byte string when they are sent, using integer flags to indicate what type and length of data comes next. These unpack functions allow the minnow to extract data from the datum, one field at a time.

Note that these functions return pointers to the internal buffer holding the datum within the PHISH library. The buffer will be overwritten when the minnow returns control to the PHISH library and the next datum is received. Typically this occurs when a callback function in the minnow returns. This means that if you want the data to persist within the minnow, you must make a copy. It is OK to unpack several fields from the same datum before making copies of the fields. It is also OK to pack one or more fields for sending and wait to send it until after another datum is received. This is because calls to "phish_pack" functions copy data into a send buffer.

The `phish_unpack()` function returns the next field in the latest received datum. The function itself returns an integer flag set to one of these values (defined in `src/phish.h`):

- `PHISH_RAW` = 0
- `PHISH_BYTE` = 1
- `PHISH_INT` = 2
- `PHISH_UINT64` = 3
- `PHISH_DOUBLE` = 4
- `PHISH_STRING` = 5
- `PHISH_INT_ARRAY` = 6
- `PHISH_UINT64_ARRAY` = 7
- `PHISH_DOUBLE_ARRAY` = 8

`PHISH_RAW` is a string of raw bytes which can store whatever the sending minnow put into its send buffer, e.g. a C data structure containing a collection of various C primitive data types. `PHISH_INT` is a signed int, typically 32-bits in length. `PHISH_UINT64` is an unsigned 64-bit int. `PHISH_STRING` is a standard C-style NULL-terminated string. The `ARRAY` types mean the field is a sequence of "int" or "uint64" or "double" values, packed one after the other.

The function also returns *buf* and *len*. *Buf* is a char pointer to where the field starts. You will need to cast this to the appropriate data type if necessary to access the data. *Len* is the length of the field, with the following meanings:

- `PHISH_RAW`: *len* = # of bytes
- `PHISH_BYTE`: *len* = 1
- `PHISH_INT`: *len* = 1
- `PHISH_UINT64`: *len* = 1
- `PHISH_DOUBLE`: *len* = 1
- `PHISH_STRING`: *len* = # of bytes, including the trailing NULL
- `PHISH_INT_ARRAY`: *len* = # of int values
- `PHISH_UINT64_ARRAY`: *len* = # of uint64 values
- `PHISH_DOUBLE_ARRAY`: *len* = # of double values

The `phish_datum()` function returns information about the entire datum. The function itself returns the input port it was received on. See the [phish_port](#) functions for a discussion of ports.

The function also returns *buf* and *len*. In this case, unlike the `phish_unpack()` function, *buf* is a char pointer to where the entire datum starts, which includes other info besides the data itself, e.g. the number of fields and the data type flags. Likewise, *len* is the length in bytes of the entire datum, including its data and flags.

A minnow can parse the entire datum following this function call, to extract whatever info it needs; see [this section](#) of the [PHISH Library](#) doc page for a description of the structure of a datum. But the more common usage is to follow a `phish_datum()` call with a call to the [phish_pack_datum](#) function to pack the entire datum as-is for sending to another minnow.

The `phish_datum()` function does not conflict with the `phish_unpack()` function. `Phish_datum()` can be called before or after or inbetween a series of `phish_unpack()` calls.

Restrictions: none

Related commands:

phish_recv, phish_pack

reflect messages to a receiver

syntax: ping N M N = # of times to ping/pong with partner proc M = # of bytes in a message

fill M-byte buffer with NULLs send it and go into loop

for each datum: when recv from partner increment count and send back to partner when count hits M, send done message

reflect messages to a sender

syntax: no args

datum method: when recv from partner, send message back to partner

print datums to screen or file

syntax: `print -f filename` -f is optional, if not specified, prints to stdout

for each datum: `print string`

when done: `close file`

readgraph minnow

reverse characters in lines from stdin and write to stdout

rmat gen minnow

read datum and emit it with slowdown delay

syntax: slowdown delta delta = time to delay (in seconds)

read each datum and insure delay seconds have passed before writing it downstream

for each datum: query time since last datum was processed and invoke `usleep()` if needed send entire datum downstream

sort datums, emit highest count ones

syntax: sort N N = keep top N of sorted list

for each datum: assume message is int/string store in/string as STL pair in a vector list

when done: sort the list based on integer count send the top N list items downstream as count/string

wrap a child process which consumes datums by reading from stdin

syntax: `wrapsink "program"` "program" can be any string with flags, redirection, etc enclose in quotes to prevent shell from processing it

write datums to child, one by one, as lines of input write done via `popen` pipe

for each datum: write datum to pipe with appended newline

when done: close the pipe

wrap a child process which creates datums by writing to stdout

syntax: `wrapsource -f "program"` -f is optional

if -f is specified, receive filenames in stream and invoke child process on each filename generate "program" via `sprintf()` using filename as arg so "program" presumably has %s in it if -f is not specified, invoke child process just once using "program"

"program" can be any string with flags, redirection, etc enclose in quotes to prevent shell from processing it

read lines of output from child one by one as datums via a pipe send them downstream

for each datum: launch the child process on the filename read all its output until child exits send each line of output downstream via `phish_send` w/out newline

wrap a child process which both consumes and creates datums via stdin/stdout so child is a sink and a source

syntax: wrapss "program" "program" can be any string with flags, redirection, etc enclose in quotes to prevent shell from processing it

open 2 pipes to child via pipe() fork() into parent and child processes parent calls phish_probe() to query incoming messages and child output child hooks its stdin/stdout to 2 pipes via dup2() child invokes the "program" via execv()

datum method: write datum to pipe with appended newline

probe method: poll pipe for output from child if output is there, read it and break into lines phish_send() each line downstream as string w/out newline

close method: close write pipe to child so it will know parent is done wait for all output from child read pipe send DONE message to notify receivers