COMP2322 Multi-thread Web Server Project

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1. Introduction

This program aims to create a web server that is multi-threaded, meaning handing multiple HTTP requests from clients at the same instance.

The web server also can

- Response to different file types, including images and HTML files.
- Return four types of response statuses, including
 - o 200 OK
 - o 400 Bad Request
 - o 404 File Not Found
 - o 304 Not Modified
- Handle GET, HEAD HTTP commands
- Handle the following header fields.
 - Last-Modified
 - If-Modified-Since
 - o Connection: Keep-Alive

2. Design and Implementation

This program is written in Python, with the use of socket, asyncio, os, datetime, email.utils library.

The program has classes for HTTP status, HTTP response, HTTP request and File Type. OOP is adopted in this program in order to have a better handling on similar type of data.

This program is separated by listening and analysing HTTP request, return HTTP response, and logging HTTP request.

When the function initialize, it will bind to server IP and port and start listening to the port for HTTP requests. The web server runs on localhost (127.0.0.1) with the default port of 2130. The server will also create an event loop using asyncio to run the functions asynchronously. By using asyncio, the server can perform other function while fetching the data.

When the server is initialized, it will also initialize the socket and start accepting connection. The server starts to split the request header and pass such value to class object HTTP status.

The HTTP status class would split the header and perform the necessarily tasks listed in the request header, such as retrieve file, request validation, and handle "Keep-Alive" header if it is included.

Majority header and body of HTTP response is created in CreateResponse(). It is an async function. The HTTP response will be processed (e.g. Check file existence, Check for bad request, Check for file modified time and file type to send) and encoded in the function. The encoded response will be send back to ServerManager(). The connected socket will be closed after all the content of the response is sent.

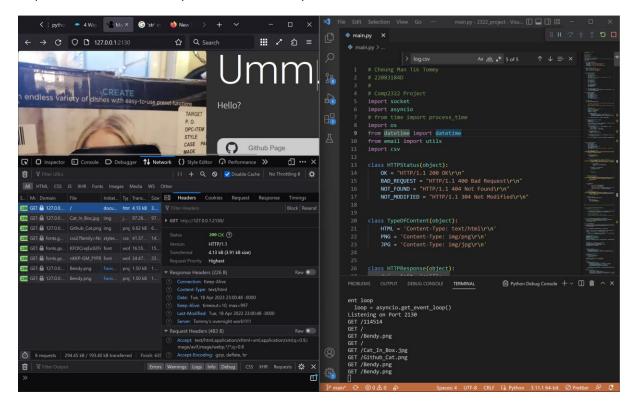
The server also log the user request and the response type. The recorded information include:

- Timestamp of user connected and accessing file in the server
- Client's IP address and port number
- Response status of the HTTP response
- The name of the file user requested

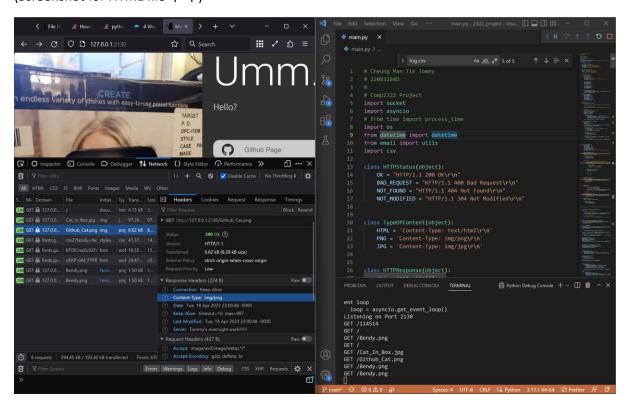
These information will be recorded in "Log.csv". CSV file is chosen as it can be converted into dictionary in Python, making it easier to be manipulated than .txt

Proper request and response message exchanges

When the server starts, it will display which port it is monitoring. It will also show the HTTP request method and file requested if a HTTP request is received.

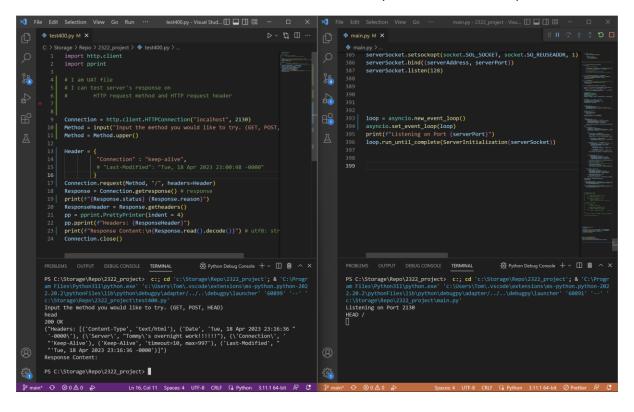


GET command for both text files and image files (Screenshot for HTML file $\uparrow \uparrow$)



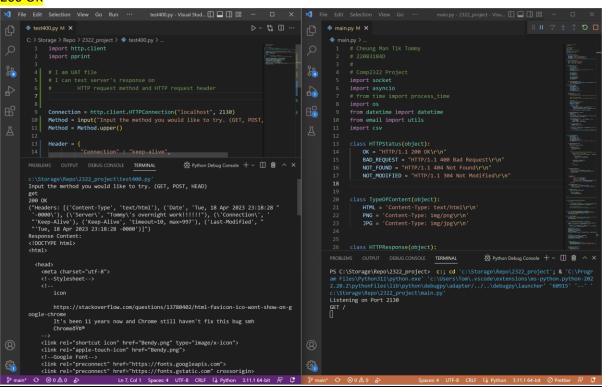
HEAD command

The server can detect HEAD command and return only the header in the response.



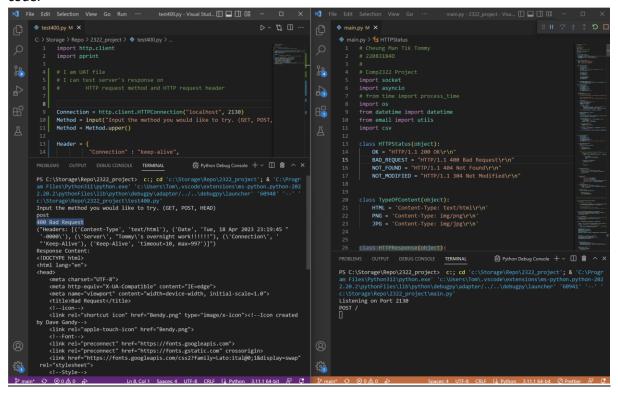
<u>Four types of response statuses ONLY (200 OK, 400 BAD REQUEST, 404 NOT FOUND, 304 Not Modified)</u>

200 OK



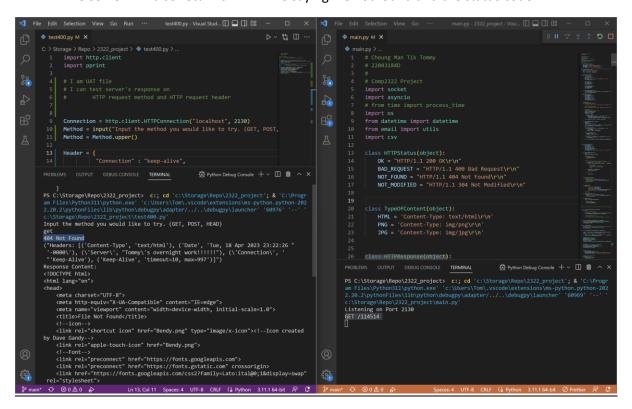
400 Bad Request

The server will return a HTML file that said "Bad Request" to the client, as well as the status code.

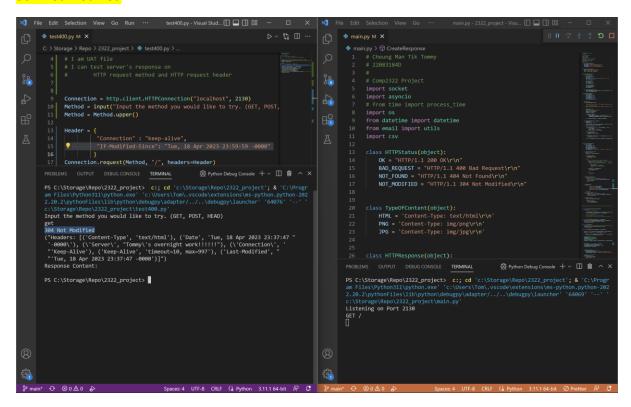


404 Not Found

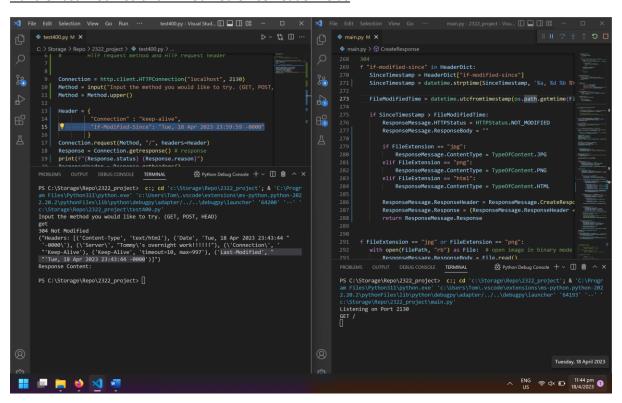
The server will also return a HTML file saying file not found and the status code.



304 Not Modified



Handle Last-Modified and If-Modified-Since header fields



Handle "Connection: Keep-Alive" header field

