Project2: Proxy Server and Network Address Translation (NAT)

M2608.001200 Introduction to Data Communication Networks (2021 Fall)

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Due date: Dec. 04, 2021, 11:59 pm.

Notes:

- Be aware of plagiarism. You are allowed to use the eTL for QnAs, but do **NOT** discuss with your classmates **directly**.
- **Grading**: 100 pts
- In case you find out bugs, typos or issues in the given code, please report to the TAs by posting on the eTL. We will look into them and fix as soon as possible. Once fixed, we will upload the new version on the eTL by naming proper version number for the code and make an announcement on the eTL. Please pay attention to it and make sure you are using the latest version before submission.
- If you do not want other students to see your questions, you can always make them private.

Objective

A proxy server is a server that clients use to access other computers. A client who requests some services connects to the proxy server. Then, the proxy server forwards the request to the different server that has available the requested service. There are many benefits of using a proxy server. The main advantage of proxy is anonymizing. The client can exchange data with the remote server without a direct connection. Therefore, it can hide the client's IP address from the remote server.

Network Address Translation (NAT) also can make the client anonymous. NAT is a method of mapping an IP address into another by modifying network address information in the IP header of packets while they are in transit across a traffic routing device. It is usually used to translate private IP to public IP to protect the private network.

The goal of this project is to implement a simple HTTP proxy server and create NAT rules. With this project, you can understand how proxy and NAT work and the difference between proxy and NAT.

1. Implementation of a Simple HTTP Proxy Server

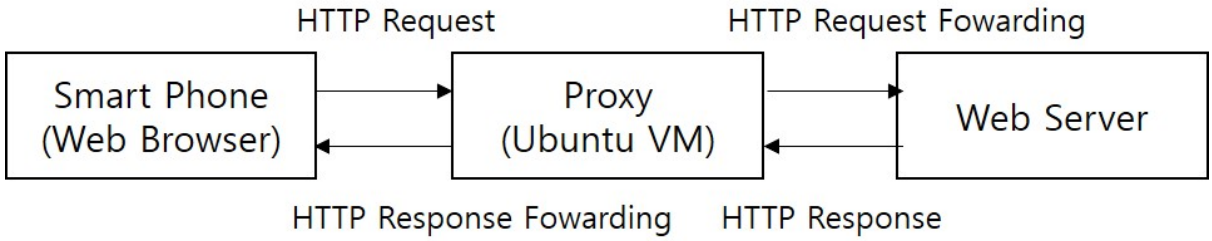


Figure 1: Overview of HTTP proxy server

1) Preparation

a) Connect VM and smartphone to the same AP (e.g., kt_SNU)

b) When you connect the smartphone to the AP, activate the advanced proxy option in WiFi menu.

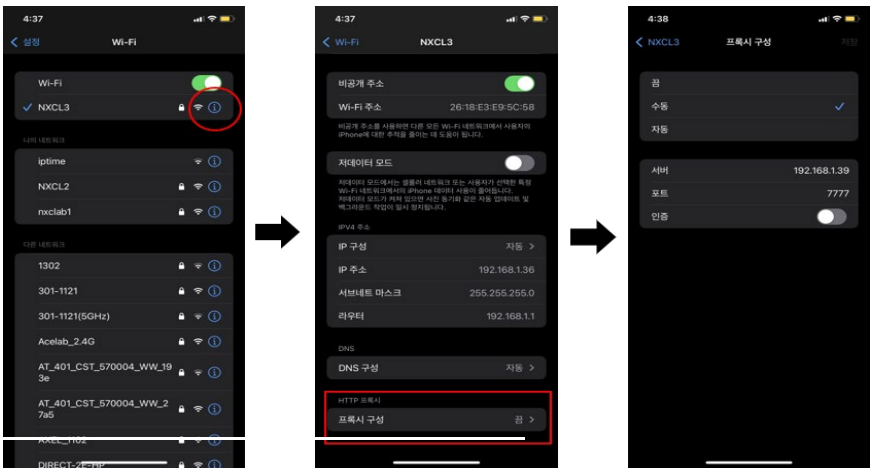


Figure 2: WiFi proxy setting in ios

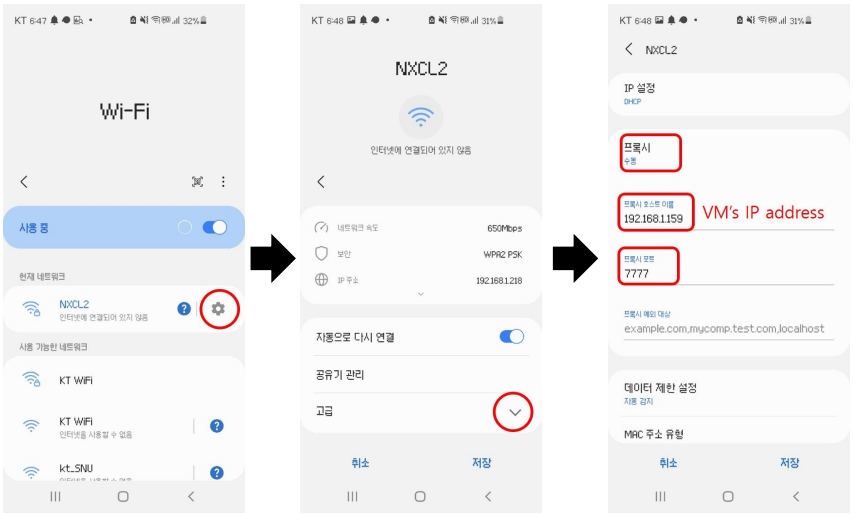


Figure 3: WiFi proxy setting in Andorid

c) Run skeleton code

i) Compile skeleton code (server.c) and run the proxy server.

(1) Type *make* in terminal

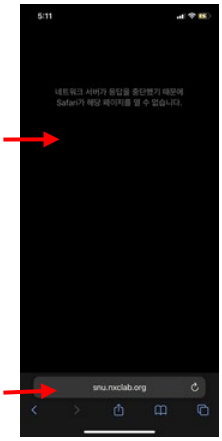
(2) Type *./server* to run server.

ii) Type in server address ("http://snu.nxclab.org:9000") in the web browser and check that the HTTP proxy server receives request successfully from the browser. (**※ test with "http://" request not "https://" because you need to implement complicated functionality for https requests**)

iii) You can check that the proxy server shows requests from the browser.

Browser cannot show the page yet because forwarding is not implemented in the skeleton code.

Send request to http://snu.nxclab.org:9000



Result shows http request from the browser

```
----------------------------------------
GET http://snu.nxclab.org:9000/ HTTP/1.1
Host: snu.nxclab.org:9000
Proxy-Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,ap
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhon
Accept-Language: ko-KR,ko;q=0.9
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
```

Figure 4: Example of sending a request to the web server via skeleton proxy server.

2) Implementation of request and response forwarding

a) Forward received HTTP reques to the web server (test with http://snu.nxclab.org:9000)

i) HInt1: The HTTP request has a hostname in the path. Take the IP address with the hostname and open a socket with the address. (use gethostbyname() function)

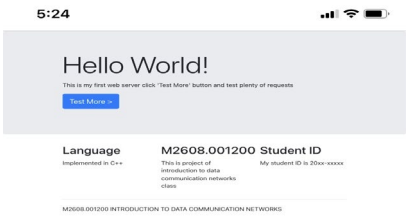
ii) Hint 2: You should modify the path of the request header before forwarding it to a web server.

ex) "GET http://snu.nxclab.org:9000/ HTTP 1.1"

-> "GET / HTTP/1.1"

b) Receive responses from the web server and forward them to the browser.

c) If you implement all of these functionalities well, the smartphone browser will show the web page. (Please check if the browser receives images and JS/CSS files correctly. It is essential for your grade)



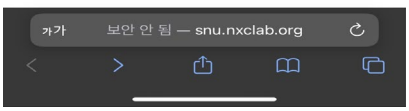


Figure 5: Successfully rendered page in web browser.

3) Implementation of content modification in the proxy server

a) Modify HTML file before request forwarding. Then, the web browser in your smartphone shows the modified content. Replace the student id 20xx-xxxxx to your student id.

Figure 6: Example of content modification in proxy server.

2. Network Address Translation (NAT)

The concept of widely known NAT in a router, which we learned in the class, assigns a random port to a public address to manage private IP. But NAT in this project changes network address to the other literally. It just modifies the destination, the source address, or the port number of the packets from the client and delivers them to the server. By Figure 1, you can understand the mechanism of this simple proxy more easily. You will set up your own Ubuntu as an NAT proxy and send a request through your proxy for receiving web page by your smartphone. You will capture the packets in your proxy and report how this proxy modifies the packets and discuss the impact of this proxy.

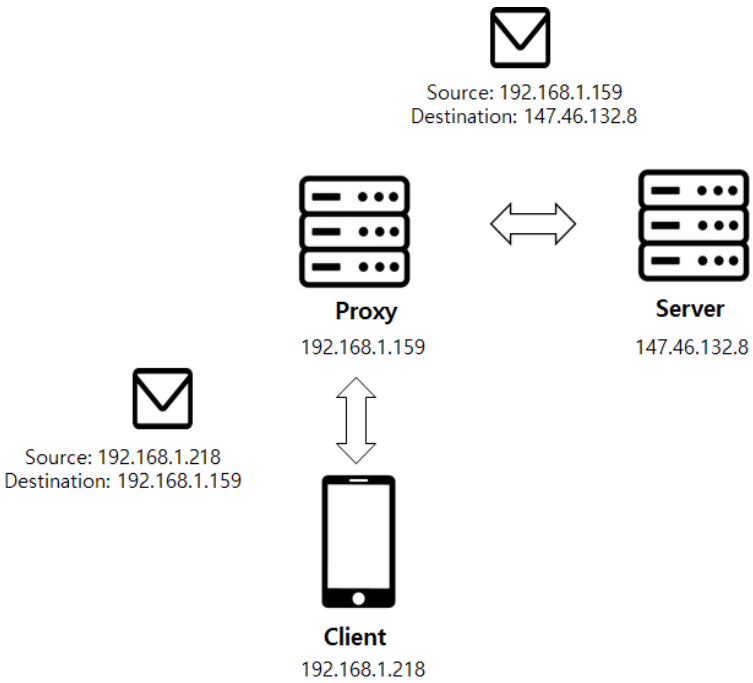


Figure 7: Client sends a packet to a proxy and the proxy modifies source and destination of packets. Then deliver the packet to server. Then, with this proxy server, the client and the server do not need to know their IP address each other. Therefore, this proxy hides the server from the client.

Background Knowledge : iptables

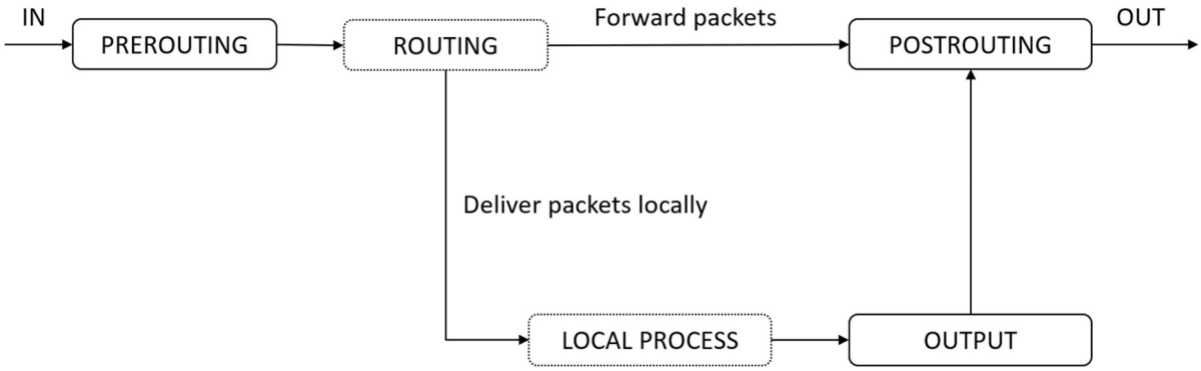


Figure 8: Overview of iptables. PREROUTING chain is responsible for packets that just arrived at the network interface. If you append a rule at PREROUTING, the rule applies to packets before being routed. After the packets are routed, they pass the POSTROUTING chain and then leaves through the network interface. Therefore, if you append a rule at POSTROUTING, the rule applied to packets after being routed.

You will use command utility 'iptables' to create NAT rules in the 'nat' table. This table has three predefined chains: PREROUTING, OUTPUT, and POSTROUTING, as in Figure 2. In this project, you will use PREROUTING and POSTROUTING chains.

- How to set rules

***-t nat* - select table 'nat' for configuration NAT rules.**
***-A [chain]* - append a rule to the corresponding chain.**
***-i [network interface]* - select network interface for input packets.**
***-o [network interface]* - select network interface for output packets.**
***-j [action]* - set action for packets.**
***--to-destination [IP address]* - set destination IP address.**
***--to-source [IP address]* - set source IP address.**

Ex) Modify destination of packets to 1.2.3.4

```
Iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -j DNAT –to-destination 1.2.3.4 Ex)
```

Ex) Modify the source of packets to 1.2.3.4

```
Iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -o wlp3s0 -j SNAT –to-source 1.2.3.4
```

*** DNAT (Destination Network Address Translation): Modify destination of the packets.**
*** SNAT (Source Network Address Translation): Modify the source of the packets.**

1) Enabling IP Forwarding on Ubuntu

To set up your Ubuntu as an NAT proxy, you should enable IP forwarding.

One line command

```
sudo sysctl -w net.ipv4.ip_forward=1
```

or

```
sudo echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward
```

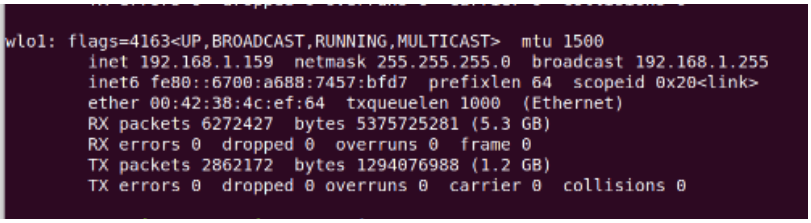
- **Reset your iptables**

```
sudo iptables -F
sudo iptables -X
sudo iptables -t nat -F
sudo iptables -t nat -X
sudo iptables -t mangle -F
sudo iptables -t mangle -X
sudo iptables -P INPUT ACCEPT
sudo iptables -P FORWARD ACCEPT
sudo iptables -P OUTPUT ACCEPT
```

2) Set Forwarding Rules on your Proxy

- Connect your proxy (Ubuntu VM) and smartphone to same WIFI network.

    - Take the IP address and network interface name (e.g. wlo1 or wlp3s0) of your proxy with “ifconfig” command line.



- **(Rule1) Append DNAT rule to the PREROUTING Table**

```
sudo iptables -t nat -A PREROUTING -j DNAT -p tcp --to-destination 147.46.132.8:9000
```

*** 147.46.132.8 : web page address (use this for testing)**

- **(Rule2) Append SNAT rule to the POSTROUTING Table**

```
sudo iptables -t nat -A POSTROUTING -j SNAT -o eth0 --to-source 192.168.1.159
```

*** 192.168.1.159 : change this IP to your VM's IP.**

- **Check that you appended two rules correctly**

```
sudo iptables -t nat --list
```

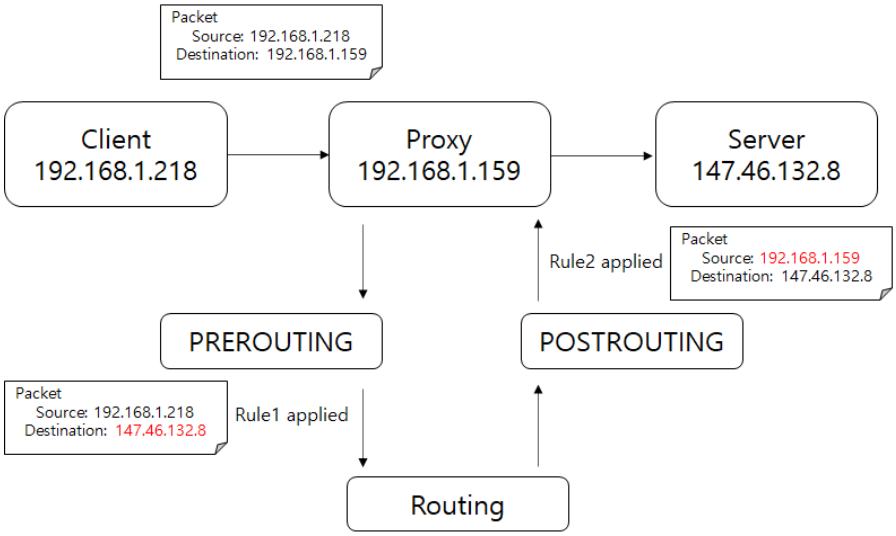


Figure 9: Overview of iptables operation.

3) Packet capture with tcpdump & wireshark

In this project, you should report how this proxy server works with capturing packets on the proxy. You can capture packets which pass through network interface with 'tcpdump' and show the results with 'wireshark.'

After setting up the rules, execute 'tcpdump' with following command line and request to proxy by your smartphone browser.

```
sudo tcpdump -i eth0 tcp port 9000 -w results_1.pcap
```

```
sudo tcpdump -i eth1 tcp port 9000 -w results_2.pcap
```

If your browser show web page successfully, stop ‘tcpdump’(press Ctrl+C).
Drag results.pcap to Wireshark in Windows/MAC

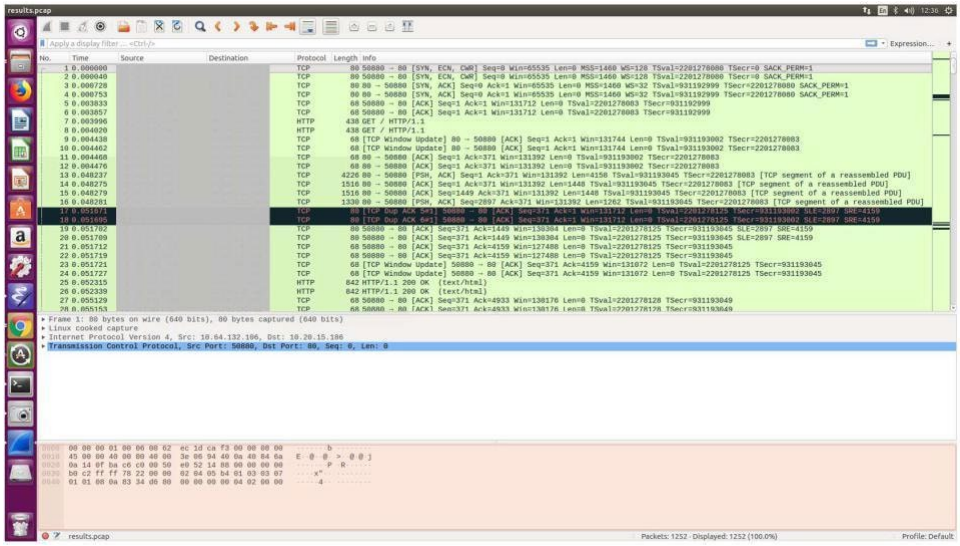


Figure 10: Example of Wireshark

4) Report

So far, you have implemented a simple HTTP proxy server and NAT rules. In the report, you should explain how you implemented them in details. Note that you must include ‘wireshark’ screenshot in your report. Then, you should list the pros and cons of proxy and NAT and compare them. Finally, you need to suggest a simple web page caching HTTP proxy with a pseudocode. If you have implemented HTTP proxy and NAT, you can understand them enough to write your report.

4. Grading Policy

- **[HTTP Proxy Server] Forwarding: 30%**
- **[HTTP Proxy Server] Content Modification: 30%**
- **[NAT] Report: 40%**

5. Submission

- Make a directory “**proxyserver_<student_id>**” and compress to a zip file.
- A zip file should contain the report and your codes.
- Submit the zip file to eTL.