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Chat Application Using Nachos Networking Module

1. Objectives:

- Learn to work with Nachos networking for communication among processes.
- Define and implement a “chat” protocol for interaction between a chat server and a chat client.

2. Problem Statement:

Chat rooms have become a popular way to support a forum for n-way conversation or discussion among a set of people with interest in a common topic. Chat applications range from simple, text-based ones to entire virtual worlds with exotic graphics. In this project you are required to implement a simple text-based chat client/server application.

3. Problem Description:

Email, newsgroup and messaging applications provide means for communication among people but these are one-way mechanisms and they do not provide a easy way to carry on a real-time conversation or discussion with people involved. Chat room extends the one-way messaging concept to accommodate multi-way communication among a set of people.

4. Nachos networking infrastructure

Nachos networking packages implements a very simple Unix domain (not internet domain), datagram socket. The files of importance to this project and their purpose are described below.

threads directory:

lockcond.h, lockcond.cc: for defining and implementing lock and condition synchronization primitives; needed for network applications to work.

machine directory:

network.h, network.cc: Data structures to emulate a physical network connection. The network provides the abstraction of ordered, unreliable, fixed-size packet delivery to other machines on the network. You may note that the interface to the network is similar to the console device -- both are full duplex channels.

sysdep.h, sysdep.cc : Interprocess communication operations, for simulating the network; Unix sockets creation, binding, closing etc. are called here to provide nachos socket functionality.

network directory:

post.h, post.cc: postoffice and mailbox, mail message definition and implementation.

nettest.cc: application to test communication between host id 0 and host id 1 (these are hardcoded!)

5. Chat Architecture:

A chat application consists of a Chat Client (CC) one per person, a Chat Server (CS) and a two-way communication pipeline between the client and the server to send and receive conversational, control and status messages.

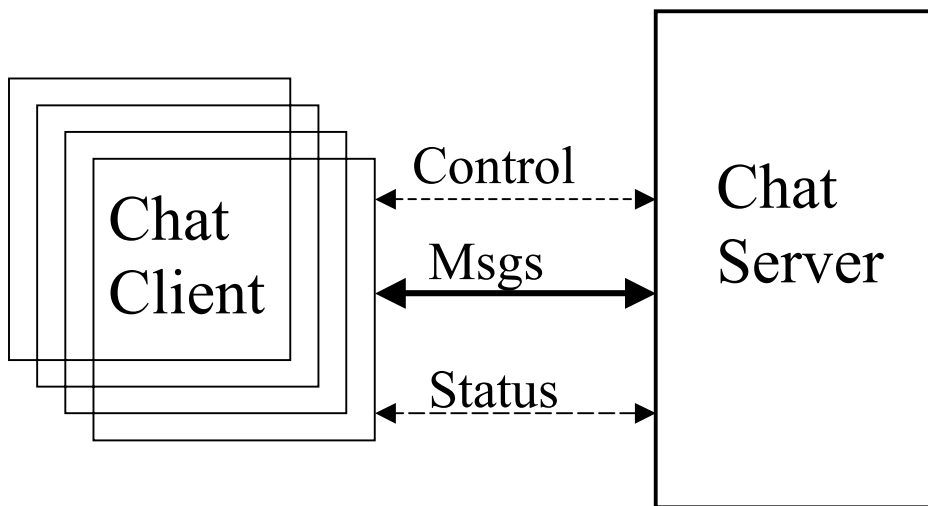


Figure 1: Chat Application Overview

5.1 Chat Client:

Typical features of a CC include: (i) select chat server (server id), (ii) select a nickname for interaction and (iii) ability to set and change user preferences such as number of messages displayed, change nickname, etc. You may design your own chat user interface.

Implementation notes:

- (i) The server id is specified at command line (`nachos -rs 1234 -m selfid -o serverid`) while executing the nachos process representing the client.
- (ii) Once the client process is running it could interactively ask the user for the nickname of the chat user and update this information locally and if needed by your design on the server.
- (iii)(Bonus : 5 points) A representative set of preferences: nickname change and number of messages buffered can be made available.

5.2 Chat Server:

A chat server supports the set of clients for a room, by maintaining client handle (clientid in nachos -rs -m clientId -o serverid), and client name. Server also has a message interpreter that parses the message received from a client and delegates the command to the appropriate module. Sample architecture for the chat application is shown in Figure2. You may change the architecture to suit your design.

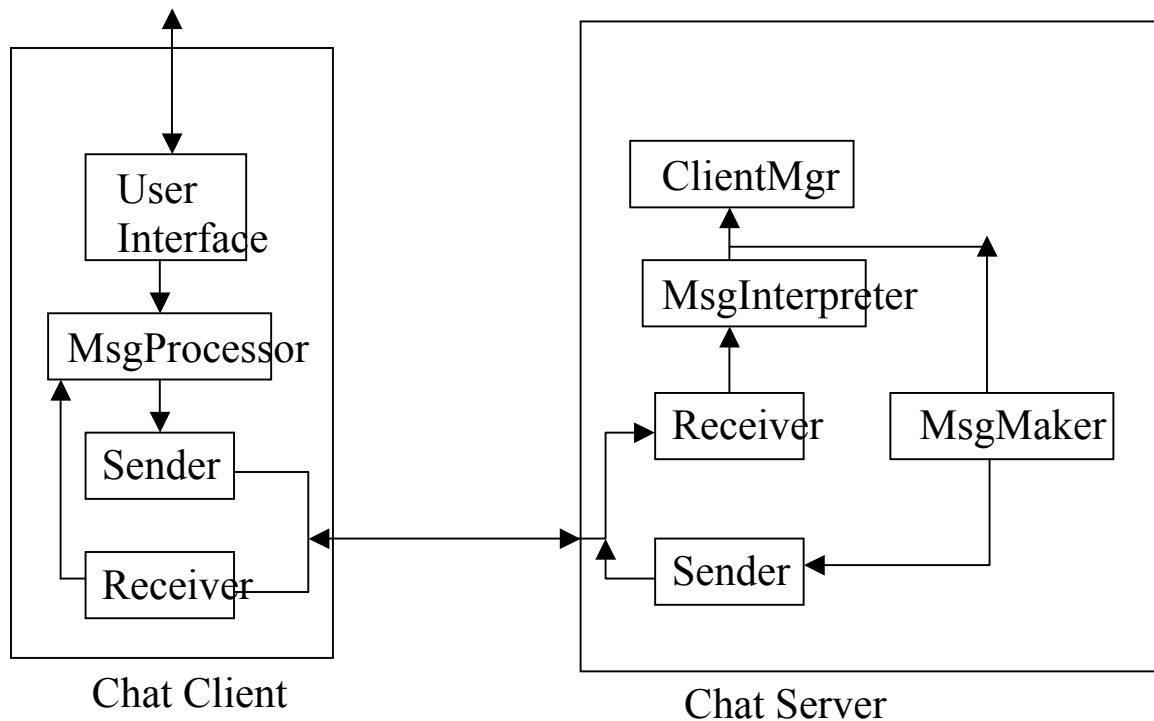


Figure 2: Chat Application Architecture

The Chat client receives the user messages and user configuration set up commands and passes them to the server. Sometimes it is also possible to process some of the commands (Ex: Number of messages displayed) locally. **MsgProcessor** in Figure 3 Chat Client is responsible for interpreting messages from the user. **Sender** and **receiver** are for communicating with the server. Messages are constructed as described in the protocol below.

A chat server receives the commands and messages from the chat clients and processes them. **MsgInterpreter** is for unpacking, parsing and delegating the commands to the appropriate units on the server side. **MsgMaker** constructs the messages to be sent back according to the protocol described below.

We will use nachos sockets for communication between the server and the client.

Chat Protocol:

Protocols such as TCP and HTTP provide rules for communication. They specify details of message formats; describe how an application responds when a message arrives, and how to handle abnormal and error conditions. We describe the chat service through a protocol in Section 8.

6. Implementation Details

Phase 1: Study all the code associated with the nachos networking.

Phase 2: Prerequisites: Lock and Condition: (15%) Implement the lock and condition the skeleton for which are in threads directory. Test it. Run the nettest application in network directory by opening up two xterms/terminals and running two nachos processes (network id 0, 1) communicating with each other.

1. Implement lock and condition.
2. Go into network directory, gmake
3. Run nachos on two xterm/terminals using these commands:
nachos -rs 1234 -m 0 -o 1
nachos -rs 1234 -m 1 -o 0
4. You will observe the two processes sending messages and acknowledging.

Phase 3: Ring Network: (15%) Update the nettest.cc so that a set of nachos process with network ids (0, 1,2,3..) can communicate. To test this form a ring of at least three nachos processes representing three network nodes, node 0 sends message to node 1, node 1 receives and transmits the same message to node 2 and node 2 receives and transmits the message back to node 0 thus successfully completing a trip around the ring.

Phase 4: (40%) Chat Server: Implement the chat server that behaves according to the protocol described in Section 8. Test it with dummy data/hard coded data.

Phase 5: (20%) Chat Client and Integration with Server: Implement the chat client and a simple text interface and integrate it with the server.

Phase 6: (10%) Documentation:

This includes internal documentation (comments) and a **BRIEF, BUT COMPLETE** external document (read as: paper) describing what you did to the code and why you made your choices. **DO NOT PARAPHRASE THIS LAB DESCRIPTION AND DO NOT TURN IN A PRINTOUT OF YOUR CODE AS THE EXTERNAL DOCUMENTATION.**

7. Deliverables and grading

When you complete your project, remove all executables and object files. If you want me to read a message with your code, create a README.NOW file and place it in the nachos *code* directory. Tar and compress the code, and submit the file using the online submission system. It is important that you follow the design guidelines presented for the system calls. I will be running my own shells and test

iprograms against your code to determine how accurately you designed your lab, and how robust your answers are. Grading for the implementation portion will depend on how robust and how accurate your solution is. Remember, the user should not be able to do anything to corrupt the system, and system calls should trap as many error conditions as possible.

8. A Simple Chat Protocol

SERVERINFO

```
struct cmd_serverinfo {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 1;
};

struct status_serverinfo {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 1;
    byte  status = N; // 0 = OK, 1 = FAIL
    byte  length = M; // Size of message
    byte[] message;
};
```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – Copyright 2001 Your Name Here.

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : SERVERINFO Command Failed

LOGIN <nickname>

```
struct cmd_login {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 2;
    byte  length = N;
    byte[] nickname;
};

struct status_login {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 2;
    byte  status = N; // 0 = OK, 1 = FAIL
                                     // 2 = Nickname in use
                                     // 3 = Already logged in
};
```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – User <nickname> logged in.

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : LOGIN error.

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : LOGIN nickname <nickname> in use.

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : LOGIN user already logged in.

LOGOUT

```
struct cmd_logout {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 3;
};

struct status_logout {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 3;
    byte  status = N;    // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
                          // 2 = Not logged in
};
```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – User <nickname> logged out.
OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : LOGOUT error.
OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : User not logged in.

WHOSINROOM

```
struct cmd_whoroom {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 4;
};

struct status_whoroom {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 4;
    byte  status = N;    // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
};

struct data_whoroom {
    byte  type  = 2;
    byte  cmd   = 4;
    byte  entry = count;
    byte  pos   = X;    // 0 = Middle, 1 = First, 2 = Last
    byte  length = N;
    byte[] msg;        // Single message Entry
};
```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : WHOSINROOM error.
OUTPUT: [SERVER] – User : <X> NickName: <nickname>

{{OWNER}}

SEND <message>

```
struct cmd_send {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 7;
    byte  length = N;
    byte[] message;
};

struct status_send {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 7;
    byte  status = N;    // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
                        // 2 = Not in room
};

struct bcast_send {
    byte  type  = 3;
    byte  cmd   = 7;
    byte  length = N;
    byte[] msg;        // Single message Entry
};
```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : SEND error.

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : SEND not in room.

OUTPUT: [<nickname>] – <msg>

WHISPER <nickname> <message>

```
struct cmd_whisper {
    byte  type  = 0;
    byte  cmd   = 8;
    byte  nlength= M;
    byte[] nickname;
    byte  length = N;
    byte[] message;
};

struct status_whisper {
    byte  type  = 1;
    byte  cmd   = 8;
    byte  status = N;    // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
                        // 2 = Not in room
                        // 3 = nickname not found
};
```

```

struct beast_whisper {
    byte  type  =    3;
    byte  cmd   =    8;
    byte  length =    N;
    byte[] msg;      // Single message Entry

```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : WHISPER error.
 OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : WHISPER not in room.
 OUTPUT: [*<nickname>*] – <msg>

KICK <nickname>

```

struct cmd_kick {
    byte  type  =    0;
    byte  cmd   =    9;
    byte  nlength=    M;
    byte[] nickname;
};

struct status_kick {
    byte  type  =    1;
    byte  cmd   =    9;
    byte  status =    N;      // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
                                // 2 = Not in room
};

struct beast_kick {
    byte  type  =    3;
    byte  cmd   =    9;
    byte  length =    N;
    byte[] msg;      // Single message Entry

```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : KICK error.
 OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : KICK not in room.
 OUTPUT: [SERVER] – User <nickname> booted from room

SHUTDOWN

```

struct cmd_shutdown {
    byte  type  =    0;
    byte  cmd   =    10;

```

```

};

struct status_kick {
    byte  type  =    1;
    byte  cmd   =   10;
    byte  status =    N;    // 0 = OK, 1 FAIL
};

struct bcast_kick {
    byte  type  =    3;
    byte  cmd   =   10;
    byte  length =    N;
    byte[] msg;    // Single message Entry
};

```

OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : SHUTDOWN error.
 OUTPUT: [SERVER] – ERROR : SHUTDOWN password incorrect.
 OUTPUT: [SERVER] – Server requested to shutdown.

QUIT