What is a “Network?”

- Depends on what level you’re at
- One person’s “network” is another person’s “application”
- OSI Seven Layer Model
  - The physical wire itself
  - Ethernet, 802.11b
  - Routing protocols
  - ...

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For Our Purposes: The Internet

- We’re *application programmers*
- In terms of OSI, we’re defining/using our own *application-layer protocol*
- Sits atop TCP/IP, the lingua franca of the Internet
- For almost every networked application you will ever want to build, this will be the lowest layer in the stack you’ll need to care about

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Topology of the Internet

gatech.edu

My Home Network

google.com
Some Terminology: Protocols

- **Protocols**: rules that facilitate information exchange among programs on a network
  - Example from human world: “roger” and “over” for radio geeks
- Similar to how you design the interfaces between objects in your program
  - A callback expects to get a certain set of parameters in a certain order
  - You need to know this in order to use the callback
- Likewise:
  - A networked program expects you to communicate with it in certain ways (using certain messages, in a known format)
  - You need to know this in order to use the program
Some Terminology: Servers

- **Server**: a (generally) long-lived program that sits around waiting for connections to it
  - Examples: web server, mail server, file server, IM server
- “Server” implies that it does something useful (delivers a service)
  - Web server: provides access to HTML documents
  - Mail server: allows retrieval, sending, organization of email messages
  - File server: provides remote access to files and directories
  - IM server: provides info about online users, passes messages between them
Some Terminology: Clients

- **Client**: a program that connects to a server to use whatever service it provides
  - Examples:
    - Web browser connects to web servers to access/view HTML documents
    - Mail client (Outlook, etc.) connects to mail servers for mail storage, transmission
    - IM clients connect to IM servers to access info about who is on, etc.
  - Most servers can be connected to by multiple clients at the same time
Some Terminology: Host

- **Host**: Simply a machine that’s connected to the network
- Generally running clients and/or servers
  - The machine “hosts” a server
The Next Phase of the Project

- We’ll be building the networking part of the IM program
  - Enhancing the GUI code to talk to an either an IM server on the networking
- For the IM assignment:
  - I’ll provide a sample IM server, and documentation on its protocol
- Important concept: understanding a protocol specification
  - Useful for when you want to write a program that talks to an existing server (and thus has its own existing, documented protocol)
  - Side concept: designing your own protocols
    - We’ll talk about this, but won’t do it for the project (unless you want to go nuts and get all fancy...)
- Should give you experience in using basic Internet-style networking, debugging, etc.
What Will You Have to Do?

1. Connect to the other machine(s)
   - Know how to refer to it: which machine do you want to connect to?
   - Know how to perform the connection
   - Know how to deal with errors (server is down, etc.)

2. Send messages to it (e.g., “I’m online now!”)
   - Know how to “marshall” arguments
   - Know how to do the transmission
   - Know how to deal with errors (server crashed while sending, etc.)

3. Receive messages from it (e.g., list of online users)
   - Know how to “unmarshall” arguments
   - Know how to read data
   - Know how to deal with errors (e.g., got unexpected data from server, etc.)

4. Disconnect from it
   - This is the easy part!
Why All the Focus on Errors?

- Networking in inherently error-prone
- Different than single application programming
  - Errors generally result from a bug, and just crash entire program
- Networking: errors may be caused by reasons outside of your control
  - Network is down, server has crashed, server slow to respond, etc.
  - During a chat I could shut my laptop and walk away
  - Someone could trip over the power cord for an access point
  - Networks can’t even guarantee that messages will get from A to B
- Good goal: robustness
  - Your program should survive the crash of another program on the network, receiving malformed data, etc
  - “Defensive programming”
Networking 101
Internet Addressing

- Every machine on the Internet has an address
- Internet addresses are sequences of 4 bytes
  - Usually written in “dotted quad” notation
  - Examples: 192.168.13.40, 13.2.117.14
- Addresses identify a particular machine on the Internet
  - Example: 64.223.161.104 is the machine www.google.com
- One special address
  - 127.0.0.1
  - localhost
  - Refers to the local machine always
Where do IP Addresses Come From?

- You can’t just set your IP address to any random value and have it work
  - The rest of the Internet won’t know how to reach you
  - You have to use values that are compatible with whatever network you’re on
- In most cases a service called **DHCP** will take care of this for you
  - *Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol*
  - Assigns you a valid IP address when you boot your machine, wake your laptop, etc.
  - E.g., LAWN at Georgia Tech
  - IP address may change from time to time: in other words, don’t count on this being your address forever
- If DHCP isn’t available, you may have to set your IP address by hand, but only with a value provided by an administrator
Why Do You Need to Know This?

- First off: **don’t change your IP address for this class!**
  - You can only do harm!
- Second: if you get an address from DHCP (which you probably do), you can’t count on having this address forever
  - So don’t hard-code it into any programs
- Third: if you want to debug clients and servers on the same machine, you can use the localhost address
  - But don’t hardcode this either, since it would keep you from working when client and server are on different machines
Public Versus Private Addressing

- Not all IP addresses may be reachable from any given machine
- Simple case: machines behind a firewall
  - Example: my old machine at PARC was 13.1.0.128, but only reachable from within PARC
- More complex case:
  - Some IP addresses are private (also called non-routable)
  - Three blocks of addresses that cannot be connected to from the larger Internet
    - 10.0.0.0 - 10.255.255.255
    - 172.16.0.0 - 172.31.255.255
    - 192.168.0.1 - 192.168.255.255
Why Private Addresses?

- Two reasons: IP address conservation and security
  - Public addresses uniquely define a given machine
    - There’s a limited number of these, and they’re running out
  - Private addresses can be reused (although not on the same network)
    - Probably hundreds of thousands of machines with 192.168.0.1 on private networks (corporation internal, homes, etc.)
  - Certain network configs let you share a single public IP address across multiple private machines
    - Network Address Translation
    - Built into most home routers
      - E.g., BellSouth gives me the address 68.211.58.142
      - My router gives my home machines 192.168 addresses
      - Connections out are translated so that it looks like they come from 68.211.58.142
      - Internal machines are “invisible” since they have non-routed addresses
Why Do You Need to Know This?

- Servers running on machines with private IP addresses are not reachable from machines not on that network
  - Ok if you’re running your client and service on the same network
  - Ok if you’re running your client and service on the same machine
  - **Not** ok if, e.g., your server is at home and you client is at Georgia Tech
- Aside: this is the reason that many people pay for an extra “static” IP address at home--so that they can run servers that have a fixed IP address that is visible throughout the Internet
Naming

- When you go to a web browser, you don’t type in 64.223.161.104, you type in www.google.com
- The Domain Name Service
  - A big distributed database of all the machines on the Internet
  - Each organization manages its own little portion of it
  - Maps from host names to IP addresses
- Ultimately, the Internet runs on IP addresses. Names are a convenience for humans
  - When you type www.google.com, the browser resolves that name to an IP address by talking to a DNS server
  - If name resolution can’t be done (DNS is down; you’re not connected to the network), then browsing will fail
Naming Configuration

- Much like IP addressing, you may not have much control over the DNS name for your machine
  - In general, you won’t have a name resolvable by DNS, even if your machine has a “local” name
  - In the CoC, CNS sets up DNS names for the machines they administer, mapping them to fixed IP addresses
    - If you were to take these machines to different networks (where they get different IP addresses), those names would no longer work
    - Resolve to the incorrect address
  - Personally owned machines, even if they get an IP address from DHCP, generally get sucky names, if they get a name at all
    - Example: lawn-199-77-214-212 on my laptop
Why Do You Need to Know This?

- General all-around erudition and cocktail party conversation :-)
- Even though we’re used to using names to refer to machines on the Greater Internet, you’ll probably be reduced to using IP addresses for this assignment
- We may be able to run a server on a well-known machine, administered by CNS, in which case you’d be able to specify it by name
Ports

- What if you’ve got multiple servers running on a single host?
  - E.g., a machine might have a web server, mail server, FTP server, ...
- When you tell a client to connect to a given machine, how does it know which server running on that machine to talk to?
- **Ports**: Let you address different servers running on the same machine
  - Think of IP addresses as the street address for an apartment building
  - Ports specify the individual apartments
- Ports are just numbers that range from 0-65,535
More On Ports

- Back to the question: when I type **www.google.com** into my browser...
  - It knows to go to **64.233.161.104**
  - But how does it know which is the port for the google web server?
- **Well-known ports**: certain common Internet services use standard port numbers:
  - Web servers: port **80**
  - FTP servers: port **21**
- Terminology: we say that the FTP server *runs on* port 21, meaning that this is the port at which it is waiting for clients to connect to it
- **Reserved ports**: ports 0-1024 reserved for privileged programs
- Servers specify which port they run on when they start
- Clients specify *both* the IP address of the desired host, and the port number, when they connect to a server
- Clients outgoing connections *also* have a port, but generally you don’t need to know what it is
- Only one client or service can run on a port at any given time
Why Do You Need to Know This?

- If you’re writing a client for an existing service, you’ll have to know what port it is running on in order to connect to it.
- If you write a service, you’ll need to run it on a port that will be known by its clients.
  - Can be a fixed port number that you decide on, and tell your clients.
  - Can let the system assign you a random one, but then you’ll need some way to communicate this to clients.
- You can’t choose ports in the reserved range.
- Good practice is to use relatively high numbers (e.g., 5,000 - 50,000).
Network Programming 101
Basic Network Programming

- One unified concept for dealing with the network at the Internet layer: **sockets**
- Basically similar across all platforms (Java, C, Python, etc.)
- De facto standard (slight differences across platforms, languages)
- So what’s a socket?
  - An endpoint for communication
  - May be connected to another endpoint, in another program on the net
  - Lets you read from it and write to it, much like a file
  - Adds some additional operations specific to networking
Network Programming from the Client’s Perspective

1. *Create* a socket
2. *Bind* it to an address on a client machine
   - Both endpoints of a communication have addresses, including ports
3. *Connect* it to the server, by specifying its address and port
   - This call blocks until the connection is successful, or times out
4. *Read* and *write* to and from the socket, to get and send data
5. *Close* the socket when you’re done with it
Network Programming from the Server’s Perspective

1. Create a socket
2. Bind it to an address on the server machine
   - This sets the port for the socket
3. Listen for incoming connections
4. Accept any connection that comes in.
   - This call blocks until a new connection comes in
   - This produces a **new** socket, paired with the client, and just for communication with that client
   - This socket can be read, written, and closed independently from the socket used for any other client
   - Meanwhile, original listening socket can go back to listening
   - Allows you to have multiple ongoing client connections at one time
5. Close the listening socket when you’re done accepting connections
Example: Basic Socket Programming in Jython

```python
import socket

s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)

s.connect("192.168.2.54", 45235)
s.listen(5)
newSock, clientAddress = s.accept()

s.send("hello world")
reply = sa.recv(1024)

s.close()
```
Writing a Simple Server

(All of this code is on the web site, as net-sampler.py)

import socket
import sys

class SimpleServer:
    def __init__(self, port):
        self.sock = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
        self.sock.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
        self.sock.bind('', port)
        self.sock.listen(5)
        while 1:
            requestSock, peerAddress = self.sock.accept()
            print "Accepted connection from", peerAddress
            while 1:
                input = requestSock.recv(1024)
                if not input:
                    print "Peer closed connection"
                    break
                requestSock.send(input)

            requestSock.close()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    port = 7777
    if len(sys.argv) > 1:
        port = sys.argv[1]
    server=SimpleServer(port)
Writing a Simple Client

```python
class SimpleClient:
    def __init__(self, serverAddr, serverPort):
        self.sock = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
        self.sock.connect(serverAddr, serverPort)

    def sendToServer(self, message):
        self.sock.send(message)
        return self.sock.recv(1024)

    def close(self):
        self.sock.close()

if __name__ == '__main__':
    if len(sys.argv) != 3:
        sys.exit(1)
    else:
        client = SimpleClient(sys.argv[1], int(sys.argv[2]))

        while 1:
            string = sys.stdin.readline()
            if string == 'close
':
                client.close()
                sys.exit(0)
            else:
                response = client.sendToServer(string)
                print 'Server replied ', response, '
```
```
Extra Useful Tricks

- Figuring out what you’re connected to:
  - `s.getpeername()` returns a tuple of (address, port) indicating what you’re connected to (or what has connected to you)

- Figuring out your local address:
  - `s.getsockname()` returns a tuple of (address, port) indicating your local address. Useful when you need to know what port your service is on

- Making life easier:
  - `s.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)`
  - Tells the OS that it’s ok to reuse a port number
  - Example: you find a bug, kill your server, fix it, and restart
  - Without this call, OS may prevent the port from being reused until some timeout expires
Multi-threaded Servers

- Problem with previous simple server:
  - While it’s processing requests from one client, every other client must queue up
  - Only when first client dies does the next one in the queue get handled
- Bad, since most servers should support connections by multiple clients at the same time
- Common approach: multi-threaded servers
  - One thread to hang around waiting for clients to appear
  - One thread to handle each client; terminates when client is done
import socket
import sys
import threading

class MTServer:
    def __init__(self, port):
        self.sock = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
        self.sock.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
        self.sock.bind('', port)
        self.sock.listen(1)
        while 1:
            requestSock, peerAddress = self.sock.accept()
            handler = Handler(requestSock)

class Handler:
    def __init__(self, requestSock):
        self.requestSock = requestSock
        self.thread = threading.Thread(target=self.handle)
        self.thread.start()

    def handle(self):
        while 1:
            input = self.requestSock.recv(1024)
            if not input:
                break
            self.requestSock.send(input)
            self.requestSock.close()

if __name__ == "__main__":
    port = 7777
    if len(sys.argv) > 1:
        port = sys.argv[1]
    server = MTServer(port)
Message Formatting

• Any messages you send to a server must be parseable by it
  • Recipient must be able to decipher what you sent it
  • Must know when it has reached the end of the message

• There are many ways of encoding messages
The Joy of ASCII

- Many protocols use a simple text-based encoding
  - Example: HTTP
    
    GET /index.html HTTP/1.0
  
  - Example: SMTP
    
    HELO rutabaga.cc.gatech.edu
    MAIL From: Keith Edwards <keith@cc>
    DATA
    Hello there!

- Parameters and commands encoded using simple, regular format
- **Marshalling**: the process of gathering parameters and encoding them for transmission
- **Unmarshalling**: the process of unpacking the received data for use by your program
- Goal should be *machine* parseability for ease of implementation; *human* parseability for ease of debugging
More Complex Data

- What about very complex data?
- Example: marshalling an arbitrary Jython dictionary
  - {"name":"keith","location": (2.425, 1.783, 0.892),"info": {"email": "keith@cc","phone": 56783},"buddies": "[ralph","fred","betty"]}
- You *could* create a string representation that is parseable and "rebuildable" on the other end
- Sometimes called *flattening* the dictionary to a string
- Parsing at the recipient can be very difficult
- Need to account for *arbitrary* objects that might be stored in dictionaries (including custom-defined objects)
Is There an Easier Way?

- Most “standard” services just bite the bullet and use ASCII
  - Perhaps with more complex formatting atop it, such as XML
  - ASCII--since it’s universal--lets you program a client in any language that speaks the necessary protocol
- The marshalling/unmarshalling of complicated parameters can be a significant part of the complexity in dealing with a given service
- **But:** If you *know* you’ll only be working with clients in a particular language, you can take some short cuts
Serialization

- **Serialization** is the process of automatically creating a representation of complex data that can be shipped over the wire.
- Generally *built in* to the programming language itself:
  - So: can work with custom-defined data types without special work by the programmer.
  - Present in Java, Python, Jython, ...
- **Opaque**: with most of these systems, you don’t care what the on-the-wire representation is:
  - Generally complex; generally non-ASCII
  - System takes care of the chores of generating it, and parsing it.
- Terminology: a serialization system is one approach to simplifying the marshalling and unmarshalling of arguments.
Serialization in Jython/Python

- Serialization provided by the `pickle` library
  - You “pickle” objects for transmission over the wire
- Works for any Jython data type, including custom-defined objects
  - However: some objects may “depickle” with data intact, but not behave as expected
  - Classic example: swing widgets
Sending Dictionaries Using Pickle

- On the sending side:
  ```python
  import pickle
dict = {'name': 'keith', 'location': (2.425, 1.783, 0.892), 'info': {'email': 'keith@cc', 'phone': 56783}, 'buddies': ['ralph', 'fred', 'betty']}
data = pickle.dumps(dict)
s.send(data)
  ```

- On the receiving side:
  ```python
data = s.recv(1024)
dict = pickle.loads(data)
  ```
Combining Pickling with Other Techniques

- Pickled objects are *opaque*--you can’t easily parse the data yourself
- Can format messages that combine ASCII with pickled objects
  - Have to be careful about leaving the pickled data intact
  - Sender:
    ```python
    s.send("HELLO " + pickle.dumps(dict))
    ```
  - Receiver:
    ```python
    data = s.recv(1024)
    index = data.find(' ')
    command = data[0:index]
    args = data[index+1:]
    ```
- Another approach is to create a data structure that represents the entire message and pickle it
  - Sender:
    ```python
    s.send(pickle.dumps(("Hello", dict)))
    ```
  - Receiver:
    ```python
    pickle.loads(s.recv(1024))
    ```
Instant Messaging Assignment

- Turn the GUI front end into a working network-ified program
- Grab the server off the class web page
- Understand the protocol it speaks
- Integrate it into your client
  - Connect to the server
  - Send messages to it in response to starting up, user events (such as new chats), etc.
  - Be prepared to receive messages from it
    - Asynchronous notifications of online users: *necessitates having a thread to listen for messages!*
    - Responses to client-initiated messages
Getting Started

- Get code off the web site: imserver.zip
  - Contains newserver.py, easynet.py, timer.py
- Running the server
  - jython newserver.py
  - Will run on port 6666
  - Generates a lot of debugging messages (don’t run under JES though)
  - Look at the handle messages in the server if you need to see what it’s doing
- Create a client to connect to this port
  - Start small! Create a new file net.py
  - Generate a message to tell the server that you’re online
  - Next, make the online user list “real”: thread to listen for incoming messages
  - Debug by running multiple instances of the client (as different users)
  - Pay attention to server debugging messages!
  - Iron out the connection, messaging issues then integrate it
The IM Server Protocol

- Uses the “command string plus pickled arguments” approach
  - First space in a message delineates the two
- Clients announce themselves when they first start
- Server periodically sends updated online user status
- Clients request servers create new conversations
  - Tell the server to invite, specifying desired users
  - Server creates a conversation, giving it a unique conversation ID
  - Server issues invitations to all clients, indicating the conversation ID
  - Clients join, providing the specified conversation ID
  - Clients tell server to send message to parties in a conversation, by specifying both the message and the conversation ID
  - Server propagates message to all members of the conversation
  - Clients can leave conversations by specifying their ID
The IM Server Protocol

- **CLIENT**
  - REGISTER [username, status]
  - ONLINE_USERS (username->status)
  - STATUS [status]
  - GOODBYE
  - INVITE [username, username, ...]
  - INVITATION [convID, invitationSource]
  - LIST_CONVERSATIONS
  - CONVERSATIONS {convID, [username, username, ...]}
  - JOIN [convID]
  - SEND_MESSAGE [convID, message]
  - MESSAGE [convID, sender, message]
  - LEAVE [convID]
  - ERROR message

- **SERVER**
  - Authentication, Status, Buddies
  - Chat
  - Problems

- **Diagram**
  - [Diagram of the IM Server Protocol]
# The IM Server Protocol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clients</th>
<th>Server</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **REGISTER** [username, status]  
Sent when client comes online | **ONLINE_USERS** {username -> status}  
Provides clients with the list of online users, and their status |
| **STATUS** [status]  
Change client status | **INVITATION** [convID, invitationSource]  
Sent to all invited users (including the initiating one) after an INVITE messages |
| **GOODBYE**  
Tell the server that a client is disconnecting | **CONVERSATIONS** {convID -> [username, username, ...]}  
Response to LIST_CONVERSATIONS. Includes a dictionary mapping from all conversation IDs to lists of users |
| **INVITE** [username, username, username, ... ]  
Request the server to create a new chat with the indicated users | **MESSAGE** [convID, sender, message]  
Tell the client that a message has been received, indicating the sender and the conversation |
| **LIST_CONVERSATIONS**  
*Request a list of all ongoing conversations* | **ERROR** message  
Tell the client that something has gone wrong |
| **JOIN** [convID]  
Join the specified conversation | |
| **SEND_MESSAGE** [convID, message]  
Send a message to the members of the specified conversation | |
| **LEAVE** [convID]  
Leave the indicated conversation | |
A Few Tips

- Write some utility methods for common operations
  - Example: receiving variable-length replies:
    ```python
def receive(self, sock):
    reply = ""
    while 1:
        dataReceived = sock.recv(1024)
        if not dataReceived:
            break
        reply = reply + dataReceived
    return reply
```
More Tips

- Probably want each connection handled by its own thread
  
  ```python
def runService(self):
    while 1:
      requestSock, peerAddress = self.sock.accept()
      handler = Handler(requestSock)
  ```

- Make a new Handler class that starts a thread that reads from requestSock, figures out the incoming command, and dispatches it
  
  ```python
class Handler:
  def __init__(self, requestSock):
    self.thread = threading.Thread(target=self.handle)
    self.thread.start()
  def handle(self):
    input = self.requestSock.recv(1024)
    if not input:
      self.requestSock.close()
      return
    ....
  ```