

System Programming 2023:

csieBulletinBoard

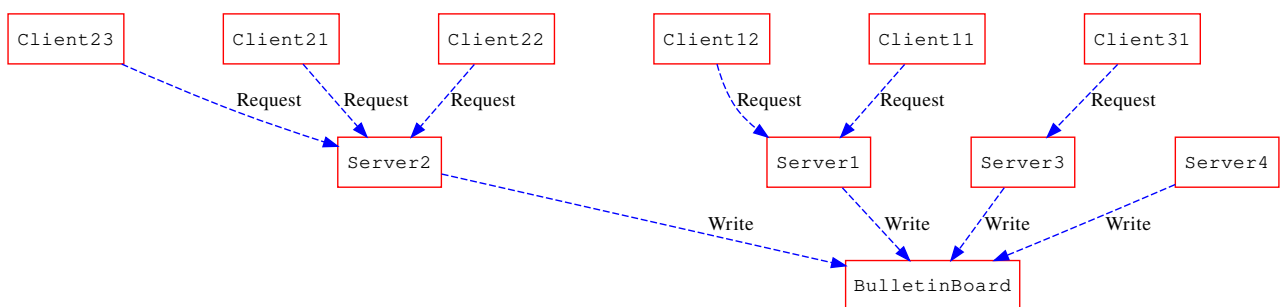
1. Problem Description

In 2050, urban landscapes worldwide have transformed into high-tech smart schools. Every student in this campus has smart devices to interact in real-time with various services and information streams provided by the school.

The school authorities would like to implement a system to facilitate better communication between students. To help the school, you are expected to implement a simplified multi-service bulletin board system: **csieBulletinBoard**.

There are some requests for csieBulletinBoard.

1. After a new client connects, the server **must** send current announcements automatically.
2. The bulletin board can have a maximum of `RECORD_NUM` announcements at a time. When there is only one server and the 11th announcement appears, it should directly overwrite the content of the 1st announcement, and so on.
3. A bulletin board server can support a maximum of `MAX_CLIENTS` clients connected simultaneously.
4. This bulletin board system can support a maximum of 5 servers simultaneously.



You are expected to complete the following tasks:

1. Implement the `server.c / client.c`. You can build them from scratch or from template we provided(but feel free to edit any part of code).
2. Modify the code in order that the server **will not be blocked** by any single request, but can deal with many requests simultaneously.
(Hint: implement multiplexing with `select()` or `poll()` and refrain from **busy waiting**.)
3. Handle every request is correctly.
(Hint: Use lock to avoid simultaneously writing same file.)

2. Compile & Run

The provided sample code can be compiled into sample server.

Feel free to modify any part of the code as you need, or implement your own server from scratch.

Compile

You should write your own `Makefile` to compile your code.

Your `Makefile` may contain commands to generate `server` and `client`.

```
all:
    ## TODO:
    ## compile server.c and client.c to generate "server" and "client"
```

Also, your `Makefile` should be able to perform cleanup after the execution correctly (i.e, delete `server` and `client`).

```
clean:
    ## TODO:
    ## delete server and client
```

Run

After you compile the code, you can connect to a running server and client with following command:

```
$ ./server {port}
```

```
$ ./client {ip} {port}
```

- There are at most `MAX_CLIENTS` clients connecting to server in the same time.

3. About the Record file

The servers will access the file `BulletinBoard`. The file contains up to `RECORD_NUM` records. There is a `BulletinBoard` file in your repository for testing your code. TAs will use file at `RECORD_PATH` while judging your homework, make sure your code does not depend on a fixed `BulletinBoard` file.

Following is the structure of a record defined in `hw1.h`:

```

#define MAX_CLIENTS 20
#define FROM_LEN 5
#define CONTENT_LEN 20
#define RECORD_NUM 10
#define RECORD_PATH "./BulletinBoard"
typedef struct {
    char From[FROM_LEN];
    char Content[CONTENT_LEN];
} record;

```

Note that TA may use **another** header file during the test.

A record is considered empty and not a post if both of its attributes, `From` and `Content`, are empty string `""`.

- All `<user_input>` will contain only `[a-zA-Z0-9_,.]`
- $0 < \text{len}(\textit{From}) < \text{FROM_LEN}$, $0 < \text{len}(\textit{Content}) < \text{CONTENT_LEN}$

4. Sample input and output

- All commands will input via `stdin` and only contents output to `stdout` will be graded.

Server

Post

When client send a post request, server need to find the first unlocked record after `last` record in `BulletinBoard` and locked it immediately.

- `last` means the index of previous locked record on this server.
- `last` should be 0 if there is no previous post on this server.

After finishing the post, server should unlock the record and print following message:

```
[Log] Receive post from <FROM>
```

Pull

Server has to print a warning in following format if there's at least one locked post when server accepts a new connection or get a `pull` request.

```
[Warning] Try to access locked post - <number_of_locked_post>
```

Your server should respond to a `pull` request from client in **0.2s**, or you will fail to pass the testcase.

Client

Support 3 commands, `post`, `pull` and `exit`. All input are case sensitive and should end with `\n` (**LF not CRLF** (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newline>)).

The terminal should show following content once it connect to server.

```
=====
Welcome to CSIE Bulletin board
=====
FROM: TA
CONTENT:
All unlocked posts in BulletinBoard should be shown in this format ^-^
FROM: TA
CONTENT:
If the post is locked, you should skip it.
FROM: TA
CONTENT:
GLHF
=====
```

Client process needs to print following message in a new line and wait for user's input after showing above content and each `post/pull` command.

```
Please enter your command (post/pull/exit): <user_input>
```

Post

Client need to send a post request to check if there is a unlocked post. If all ten posts in `BulletinBoard` are locked, **client** should print following error message and wait for next command. Note that client can only check if there is a unlocked post through server.

```
[Error] Maximum posting limit exceeded
```

If there is an writable post, wait for user's input at each `<user_input>` in following format and then send to server.

```
FROM: <user_input>
CONTENT:
<user_input>
```

Pull

Collect all unlocked posts from server and print in following format. If all `RECORD_NUM` posts are locked, still need to print two separated lines .

```
=====
FROM: TA
CONTENT:
Print all unlocked posts here.
FROM: TA
CONTENT:
There should not be any extra spaces or lines.
=====
```

Exit

End the client process.

5. Report

Questions

1. What is busy waiting? How do you avoid busy waiting in this assignment? Is it possible to have busy waiting even with `select()` / `poll()` ?
2. What is starvation? Is it possible for a request to encounter starvation in this assignment? Please explain.
3. How do you handle a file's consistency when multiple requests within a process access to it simultaneously?
4. How do you handle a file's consistency when different process access to it simultaneously?

6. Grading

1. Handle valid requests on 1 server, while the server will only have 1 connection simultaneously.
 - Only Post command **(0.2 point)**
 - Only Pull command **(0.2 point)**
 - Multiple commands **(0.6 point)**
2. Handle valid requests on 1 server, while there will be multiple connections simultaneously. **(1 point)**
3. Handle valid requests on multiple servers (at most 5 servers), while each server will have only 1 connection simultaneously and different servers may access `BulletinBoard` simultaneously. **(1.5 point)**
4. Handle valid requests on multiple servers (at most 5 servers), while each server will have multiple connections simultaneously and different servers may access `BulletinBoard` simultaneously. **(1.5 point)**
5. Modify `hw1.h` and test with same testcases. The length of input will not exceed this limit. **(2 point)**

```
#define FROM_LEN 500
#define CONTENT_LEN 2000
```

6. Report (1 point)

- Please answer the problems on Homework section of NTU COOL

Final score = max(0, Raw score − punishment)

Warning

- Please **strictly follow the output format** above, or you will lose the point of each task, respectively.
- Make sure your `Makefile` compile files correctly on workstation(ws1-ws5), or your score will be **0**.
- You **should not** use `fork()` or threading in this assignment, or your score will be **0**.
- Make sure your `Makefile` can clean unnecessary files with `make clean`, or you will lose **0.25 point** as a punishment.
- Make sure your server can avoid busy waiting problem, or you will lose **1 point** as a punishment.

Deadline: 10/15 23:59 (This deadline needs to be met for full credit)

Hard Deadline: 10/22 23:59 (This is the last date we would accept your submission for partial credit)

7. Submission

To Github

The folder structure on github classroom should be

```
├- samplejudge.py
├- sampletestcases
├- client.c
├- hw1.h
├- server.c
└- Makefile
```

You can submit other `.c`, `.h` files, as long as they can be compiled to two executable files named `server` and `client` with `Makefile`.

- **Do not** submit files generated by `Makefile`. You should `make clean` before you submit. You will lose **0.25 point** as a punishment if you submit those files.

To NTU COOL

Your **report** should be submitted to NTU COOL before deadline.

8. Reminder

1. Plagiarism is **STRICTLY** prohibited.

- Both copying and being copied result in a score of zero.
- Previous or classmates' work will be considered as plagiarism.
- Discussion is allowed, but **the code should be entirely self-written**.
- Avoid letting others view your code. It's your responsibility to protect your work.
- The method of checking goes beyond comparing source code similarity (e.g., changing `for` to `while` or modifying variable names will also be detected).

2. Late policy (D refers to formal deadline, **10/15 23:59**)

- If you submit your assignment **on D+1 or D+2**, your score will be multiplied by **0.85**.
- If you submit your assignment **between D+3 and D+5**, your score will be multiplied by **0.7**.
- If you submit your assignment **between D+6 and 10/22**, your score will be multiplied by **0.5**.
- Late submission after **10/22 23:59** will not be accepted.

3. If you have any question, feel free to:

- `evolve` issues in `SP2023_HW1_release` (https://github.com/NTU-SP/SP2023_HW1_release)
- discuss on Discord channel
- ask during TA hours.

4. Please start your work as soon as possible, do **NOT** leave it until the last day!

5. It's suggested that you should check return value of system calls like `open`, `select`, etc.

6. Reading manuals of system calls may be tedious, but it's definitely helpful.

9. FAQ

1. `len()` 的長度不包含 `\0`
2. 可以加 `.gitignore`
3. 在測試時保證存在 `./BulletinBoard`
4. 讀 `BulletinBoard` 和 `<user_input>` 可以直接使用 blocking IO
5. `[Log] Receive post from <FROM>`, `[Error] Maximum posting limit exceeded`, `[Warning] Try to access locked post - <number_of_locked_post>` 都是輸出到 `stdout` 而且後面要換行
6. `pull` 印出的順序為 `BulletinBoard` 中的順序
7. `post` 時只需要從 `last+1` 開始檢查到 `last` 一遍判斷是否有 `unlocked post`
8. 在 `pull timeout(0.2秒)`前不會有任何一個 `server` 收到 `post`
9. Report 分數和實作是分開計算，即使實作有錯誤只要敘述正確還是能得到分數
10. `last` 為最後一個 `client post` 的 `write lock`位置