

ICSI 416/516 Homework 2 – Applications

20 points

Due date: Monday 2/22 at 11:59PM via Blackboard

1. [4 points] In this problem we will use two practical tools (**whois** database and **nslookup**) to learn some facts about the network of UAlbany.
 - a. What is a **whois** database? Do some reading on the Internet to answer this question.
 - b. Use the **whois** utility installed on **itsunix** to lookup UAlbany's domain **albany.edu**. What is the name of the registrar who manages our domain? How many authoritative DNS servers do we have? List their names. When was our domain registered? When is it going to expire?
Note: you need to run **whois albany.edu** from command line after remote-login to **itsunix**.
 - c. What does the **nslookup** Unix utility do? Do some reading on the Internet to answer this question. Note that there are many **nslookup** utilities (that generally provide the same functionality). Look for the Unix utility.
 - d. Use **nslookup** from **itsunix** to find a web server that has multiple IP addresses. List the name of that server and a few of the addresses it maps to.
Note: You will need to use the full path to the binary to run **nslookup** queries. The full path is **/usr/sbin/nslookup**
 - e. Does the UAlbany web server have multiple IP addresses? What is(are) the IP address(es) of UAlbany's web server(s)?
 - f. What is the IP address of **itsunix**?

2. [4 points] In this problem we are going to use an ordinary Web surfing activity captured by Wireshark to examine the operation of DNS. You will first need to install Wireshark on your computer and familiarize yourselves with it. Use the lecture slides from class and supplement materials from the textbook available here http://www.cs.albany.edu/~mariya/courses/csi416516S16/papers/Wireshark_Intro.pdf.
Now that you are familiar with Wireshark you can use it to examine the operation of DNS. Open Wireshark and load the provided packet capture file dns-wireshark-trace-1 (available on Blackboard and on this URL <http://www.cs.albany.edu/~mariya/courses/csi416516S16/hw/dns-wireshark-trace-1>). Enter "ip.addr==128.238.38.160" into the filter field. This is the IP address on which the trace was captured. This filter will hide all the packets that neither originate nor are destined to the capturing host. The packet capture was generated by opening a web browser and then visiting the webpage <http://www.ietf.org>. Once the page was loaded, the packet capture was stopped.
Answer the following questions.
 - a. Locate the DNS query and the response message. Are they sent over UDP or TCP?
 - b. What is the destination port of the DNS query message? What is the source port of the DNS response message?
 - c. To what IP address is the DNS query message sent? Can you guess what kind of DNS server is this?
 - d. Examine the DNS query message. What Type of DNS query is it?
 - e. Examine the DNS response. How many answers does it contain? What are the

answers Type and address fields?

3. [6 points] Consider a link, over which a sender can transmit at a rate of $R=100\text{bits/s}$ in both directions. Suppose that packets containing data are of size $L_D=100\text{Kbits}$ and packets containing only control (e.g. ACKs, handshake and GET requests) are of size $L_A=200\text{bits}$. Assume that N parallel connections get an equal portion of $1/N$ of the link bandwidth. Now consider the HTTP protocol and consider that following a website visit the client needs to download 10 objects each of size 100Kbits. Calculate the time to download the web page using *parallel sessions and non-persistent HTTP*. Now calculate the time to download the same web page using *persistent HTTP*. Provide a brief discussion of your results.
Note: Assume that the propagation and processing delays are negligible and that the sender and receiver buffers are not overloaded.
4. [6 points] Consider distributing a file of size $F=18\text{Gbits}$ to N clients. The file server has an upload speed of $u_S=60\text{Mbps}$ and each peer has a download speed of $d_i=9\text{Mbps}$ and an upload speed of u . For $N=10, 100$ and $1,000$ and $u=100\text{kbps}, 500\text{kbps}$ and 1Mbps prepare a chart giving the minimum distribution time for each of the combinations of N and u for both client-server and peer-to-peer architecture. Provide a brief discussion of your results.