BRIEFING SESSION ON NSS ICT ELECTIVE – Network

Centre for Information Technology in Education, HKU

An Overview...

- A walk-thru' of the basic structure of the Chapter materials + Resource Packages for the Network Elective;
- Highlights on the possible uses of simulation packages for Experiential Learning (using Learning & Ass. Task #A1);
- Highlights on the possible uses of case studies for the "Application" of knowledge in Experiential Learning (using Learning & Ass. Task #C2);

An Overview...(Cont'd)

- Highlights on the possible uses of live DEMO. (thru' a Unix-like environment installed on notebook PCs) for Unix versus MS-Window permissions for file/folder sharing;
- Highlights on extensive uses of diagrams for basic concepts in networks, e.g. the Key/Lock diagram to explain about Middlewares for Network Applications; or message diagram for IPv4 versus IPv6 interoperability;

Elective Option B: Network

- Topic (a) on "Data Communications and Networking Basics" (38 hours)
- Topic (b) on "Network Design and Implementation" (26 hours)
- Topic (c) on "Network Management and Security" (11 hours)

(a): Data Comm. & Network Basics

A1	Basics of Data Communication and Transmission	12 periods	8 hours
A2	Network Components	4 ¹ / ₂ periods	3 hours
A3	Types of Networks	12 periods	8 hours
A4	TCP/IP Protocol Suite	31 ½ periods	11 hours
A5	Network Applications	12 periods	8 hours
	Suggested Total:	57 periods	38 hours

(b): Network Design and Implementation

B1	Basics of Data Communication and Transmission	12 periods	8 hours
B2	Network Implementation (I)	18 periods	12 hours
B3	Network Implementation (II)	9 periods	6 hours
	Suggested Total:	39 periods	26 hours

(c): Network Management and Security

C1	Network Management	9 periods	6 hours
C2	Network Security	7.5 periods	5 hours
	Suggested Total:	16.5 periods	11 hours

Resource package

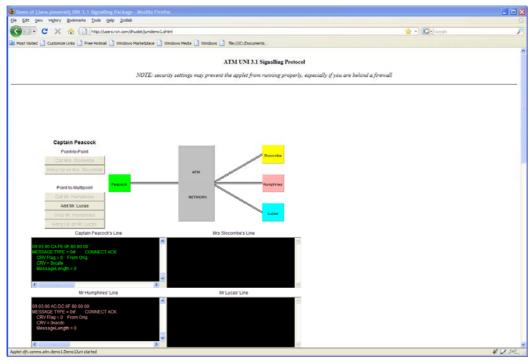
- 10 Chapters (A1 C2)
- 4 Learning tasks
 - □ A1 A3: Learning Task A #1
 - □ A4 A5: Learning Task A #2
 - □ B1 B2: Learning Task B #1
 - B3: Learning Task B #2
 - □C1: Learning Task C #1
 - C2: Learning Task C #2

Resource package

- 4 Assessment tasks
 - A1 A3: Assessment Task A #1
 - □ A4 A5: Assessment Task A #2
 - □ B1 B2: Learning Task B #1
 - B3: Learning Task B #2
 - □C1: Learning Task C #1
 - C2: Learning Task C #2
- Teaching plans for each chapter

Highlight on Using Simulators

- One may use a simulator to understand Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) networks
 - e.g. http://users.rcn.com/dhudek/junidemo1.shtml
- A web based simulator application



Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is the process of making meaning from direct experience.

Aristotle once said, "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them."

[Adopted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Experiential_learning]

Experiential Learning (Cont'd)

"Experiential Learning is an approach to learning in which participants engage in an activity, reflect on the activity critically, and obtain useful insight and learnings.

Learning which is developed experientially is "owned" by the learner and becomes an effective and integral aspect of behavioral change...."

[Adopted from: http://www.universityassociates.com/DELMFull.html]

Experiential Learning (Task 1.1)

- Based on observation on interactive network simulations;
- The simulation settings can be applicable to many real-life applications;
- For instance, select the option "Call Mrs. Slocombe" under "Point-to-Point" to observe the key events occurred.

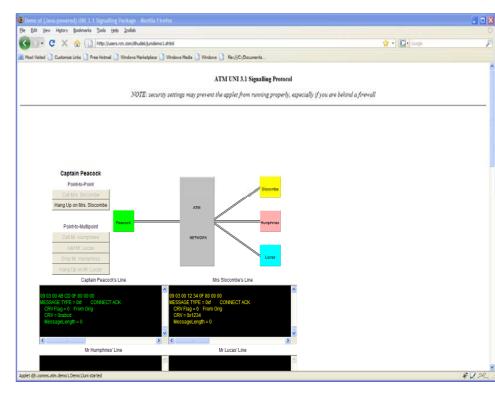
Observations for (Task 1.1)

- Objective: the node "Caption Peacock" initiates the request message (Call) that is sent through the ATM network to try to make a connection to the remote node "Mrs. Slocombe".
 - The process of establishing the connection involves a number of control messages/packets such as
 - 1. "Setup"
 - 2. "CALL Proceeding"
 - 3. "Connect"
 - 4. "Connect ACK".

Simulation Result Obtained for (Task 1.1)

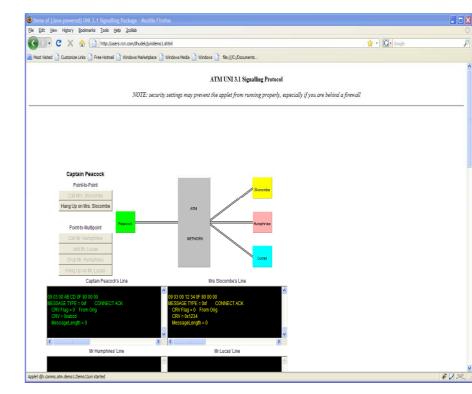
At the end of the simulation, we can see the message type on both windows of "Caption Peacock's Line" and "Mrs Slocombe's Line" are "CONNECT ACK" (0xf)

implying that the connection is established.



Pointers to Relevant Concepts in Chap. A1

- Question: During the establishment of the connection, the control message is traveled at one direction at a time, how do we call this kind of communication modes ?
- Answer: half-duplex
- (refer to Section 1.4 on Basic Communication Modes)



Assessment Task (1.1)

Revise and renew (溫故知新) the concepts grasped in Learning Task (1.1);

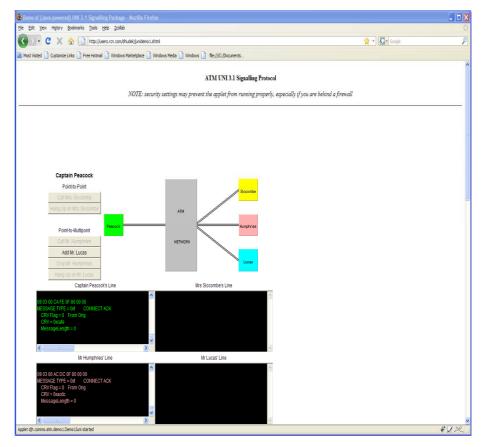
Let the exploration continues; or extending their experience to understand more and study deeper.

Assessment Task (1.1)

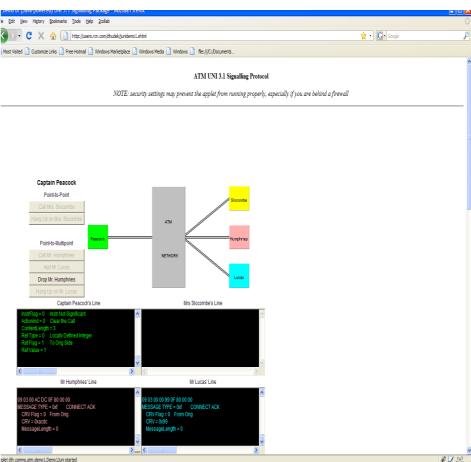
Select each of the four operations available under "Point-to-Multiple" one after another from top to bottom.

Describe in your report, in the form of a MS Word document or PowerPoint file, about the key events generated during the simulation of each operation.

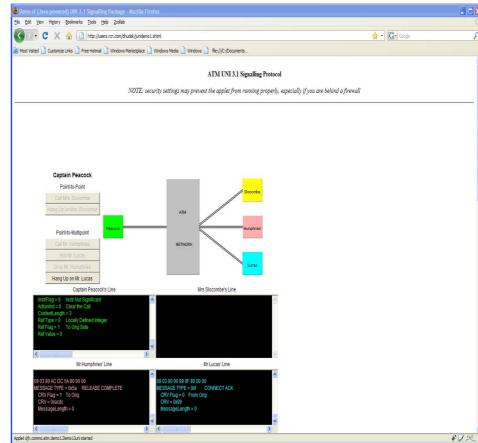
1. Firstly, the node "Caption Peacock" <u>initiates to connect</u> <u>to the node "Mr.</u> <u>Humphries" via the</u> <u>ATM network</u>.



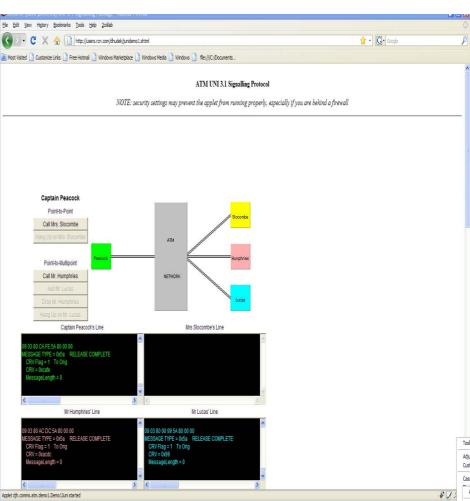
Later, a new connection 2. from "Caption Peacock" to "Mr. Lucas" is added. At this moment, the student can see the message type on both windows of "Mr. Humphries's Line" and "Mr. Lucas's Line" are "CONNECT ACK" (0xf).



Afterward, the 3. connection to "Mr. Humphries" is dropped. Upon successful disconnection, the student can see the message type as "RELEASE COMPLETE" (0x5a) the appeared on window of "Mr. Humphries's Line".



Lastly, the connection to "Mr. 4. Lucas" is dropped. Ultimately, the student can see the whole simulation window exactly as at the beginning except with the message type as "RELEASE COMPLETE" (0x5a) appeared on both windows of "Mr Humphries's Line" and "Mr. Lucas's Line".



Learning Task C#2 for Network Security

Objective of the learning task:

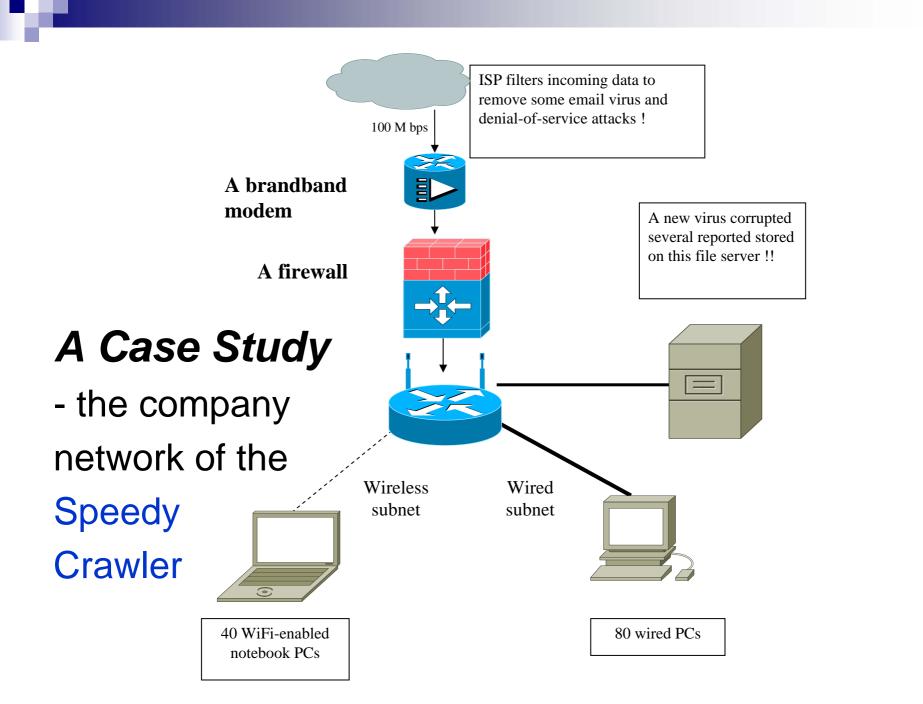
Propose effective measures to improve network security for both wired and wireless networks.

Background:

This learning task is <u>a case study</u> in which you act as an **external network consultant** to investigate on the possible security loophole(s) in a company network consisted of wired and wireless subnets, consider alternative measures to improve network security for both subnets, and lastly recommend required solution(s) to the company with clear explanation(s).

Learning Task C#2 for Network Security (Cont'd)

- As a role-playing game (RPG) for a real-world network consultant or security manager !
- 1. Identifying the Existing Problems;
- 2. Proposing the Alternative Solutions;
- 3. Evaluating each Alternative Solution w.r.t. the existing environment & resources;
- 4. Make Recommendations with clear
 justifications !! → IPER



Problem Identified...

Current Practice/Situation	Implied Security Problems/Hazards
WiFi-enabled notebook PCs can readily connect to the wireless subnet without any password.	Any intruder can easily enter into the company network !
No anti-virus software is installed on all notebook or desktop PCs.	Once a virus enters into the company network through the ISP or any PC connected to its intranet, the virus can be propagated very quickly.

Problem Identified...(Cont'd)

Current Practice/Situation	Implied Security Problems/Hazards
No backup was done for the data/reports stored on the file server.	In case some files/reports are corrupted by a virus or other attack, the relevant data will be lost permanently without any backup.
No encryption was done for the data/reports stored on the file server.	No file server or network is 100% free from malicious attack. In such cases, the original data can be readily exposed to the outside world without any encryption.

Proposed Solutions...

- a) install an anti-virus software with constant updates on all the company PCs;
- b) on top of the commercially available antivirus software, *develop in-house antivirus software with constant modification to be installed on all company PCs* for better protection;
- c) enforce password protection for all logins into the wired or wireless network;

Proposed Solutions...

- encrypt all important files/reports stored on the file server;
- perform regular backups for all important files/reports stored on the file server;
- perform additional backups of all the important files/reports on some public file sharing servers such as the Google Doc. for redundancy.

Alternative	Detailed
- Necessary or Not	Explanation/Evaluation
a) Install an anti-virus software with constant updates on all the company PCs - Necessary ;	Anti-virus software is important for the smooth operations of modern organizations. To cut costs, and in view of the large number of potential users (> 100), the company should consider to purchase a site license rather than licenses for individual users.

Alternative	Detailed
- Necessary or Not	Explanation/Evaluation
b) Develop in-house	Due to the rapid change
anti-virus software to be	(or mutation) of virus
installed on all the	software, <u>in-house</u>
company PCs for better	development of anti-
protection –	virus software is not a
Not Necessary;	feasible solution to
	small-to-medium
	enterprises (SMEs)
	nowadays!

Alternative	Detailed
- Necessary or Not	Explanation/Evaluation
c) Enforce password protection for all logins into the wired or wireless network- Necessary ;	The company cannot afford to expose it wireless network to any intruder without any password protection. The company may consider to use the <u>Wired Equivalent</u> <u>Privacy (WEP) to protect</u> <u>their wireless link</u> with users' encrypted passwords.

Alternative	Detailed
- Necessary or Not	Explanation/Evaluation
d) Encrypt all important	Basically, other than
files/reports stored on	viral or DoS attacks from
the file server -	the network, it is always
Necessary;	essential to have
	sensitive or important
	data encrypted before
	sending over the
	<u>network</u> .

Alternative	Detailed
- Necessary or Not	Explanation/Evaluation
e) Perform regular	Besides malicious
backups for all important	attacks from networks, it
files/reports stored on	is in fact necessary for
the file server	all file servers to have
– Necessary.	their backups done
-	regularly.

Alternative - Necessary or Not	Detailed Explanation/Evaluation
f) Perform additional backups for all important files/reports stored on some public file server for redundancy –	Storing confidential or important files/reports on some public file servers will <u>easily expose the sensitive</u> <u>information/files for possible</u> <u>retrieval</u> by any public
Not Necessary;	users/hackers on the Internet, even after the files are encrypted. Therefore, this alternative should not be adopted.

Recommendations...

Final Recommendation::

In view of the clear explanations/justifications as stated above, <u>the four suggested alternatives</u> <u>including a), c) d) and e) should be implemented</u> as effective measures to enhance the network security for both wired and wireless networks of the concerned company, Speedy Crawler, in Hong Kong.

Possible Extensions of this Case Study....?!

- Numerous possible extensions of this case study to prompt for students' thinking/analysis, e.g.
 - □ What should be the network topology adopted for the wired subnet ? bus, ring, star or (hierarchical) tree structure, and their possible implications to performance and/or security (e.g. a single point of failure for the star network) [ref. to Chapter A3.2.1 ~ 3.2.4];
 - What should be the network structure adopted for the wireless subnet ? – a centralized or decentralized P2P network (e.g. the centralized server node may easily be overloaded !) [ref. to Chapter A3.3.2]

About LIVE Demo. for the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...

- For each class of **UNIX** users, there are **3** specific permissions on the Unix-like file-system to be **set/unset** with their explicit meanings specified as below:
- The read (or simply denoted as [r]) permission: to grant the right to read a file.
- The write (or simply denoted as [w]) permission: to grant the right to modify a file.
- The execute (or simply denoted as [x]) permission: to grant the ability to execute a file.

About LIVE Demo. for the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...[Cont'd]

- base permissions for directories/files are
 [rwxrwxrwx] denoting the read, write and execute permissions are all granted for the corresponding owner, group and others class.
- Each [rwx] permission as a 3-bit pattern with 1 for set and 0 for unset, and therefore may corresponds to a binary pattern like "111" (binary) or "7" (octal).

About A LIVE Demo. for the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...[- about the "chmod" command !]

- The Unix command "chmod" can directly modify the file/folder permissions of a file/folder. A user can specify the targeted file/folder permissions in the 'symbolic mode' like 'u+rw' or directly in 'octal number' like 664 as follows.
- \$ chmod ug+rwo+r file1
 - that grants both "read" and "write" permissions to the "user" and "group" classes while granting only "read" to "others" for the single file named "file1".

About A LIVE Demo. for the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...[- about the "chmod" command !]

It is always easier to visualize the resulting permission Using the following (U, G, O) template for each [r,w,x] Pattern.

	User		(Grou	ט פ	Others			
	r	W	x	r	W	x	r	W	x
file1	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark				

More on the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...

E -							-	×
vtam@eee-cng91705g	in N							
\$ pwd	14							
/cygdrive/c/emacs								
	- 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940 - 1940							
vtam@eee-cng91705g	ld							
\$ ls -al total 21								
drwx+ 5 vta	um None	Ø	Jan	20	18:49	84 <u>4</u>		
drwxrwxr-x+ 21 Adm	inistrators SYSTEM				16:06			
-rw 1 vta	am None					.bash_history		
drwx+ 3 vta						.emacs.d		
-rwx+ 1 vta						.gtk-bookmarks		
-rwx+ 1 vta						_emacs		
drwx+ 8 vta	am None					emacs-21.3		
-rw-rw-r 1 vta					15:48			
drwxr-xr-x+ 2 vta	am None	Ø	Jan	20	18:49	new_dir		

vtam@eee-cng91705gg ^

Ş

More on the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...- Prepare Files

cygdrive/c/emacs							
tam@eee-eng91705gg ~ ls -al otal 21 rwx+ 5 vtam rwxrwxr-x+ 21 Administrators rw 1 vtam rwx+ 3 vtam rwx+ 1 vtam rwx+ 1 vtam rwx+ 8 vtam rw-rw-r 1 vtam	None SYSTEM None None None None None None	0 13805 0 12490 0 4	Feb Feb Jun Nov Jun Jun Sep	18 18 11 20 11 11 24	2009 10:20 2009 2009 15:48	 .bash_history .emacs.d .gtk-bookmarks _emacs emacs-21.3	

More on the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...- Show File Permissions

E -									- 0	×
vtam@eee-cng	91	205gg ~								•
\$ cat - > fi	le	3								
Hello I'm a	MEN	v f 11e #3 !!								
vtam@eee-cng	91	705gq ~								
\$ ls -al total 23										
drwx+			None							
drwxrwxr-x+	21	Administrators					16:06			
	1	vtam	None	13805	Feb	18	15:17	.bash_history		
drwx+	3	vtam	None					.emacs.d		
-rwx+	1	vtam	None	Ø	Nov	20	10:20	.gtk-bookmarks		
-rwx+	1	vtam	None	12490	Jun	11	2009	_emacs		
drwx+	8	vtam	None	Ø	Jun	11	2009	emacs-21.3		
-rw-rw-r	1	vtam	None	4	Sep	24	15:48	file1		
-rw-rr	1	vtam	None				18:02			
-rw-rr	1	vtam	None	27	Feb	18	18:03	file3		
drwxr-xr-x+	_		None	Ø	Jan	20	18:49	new_dir		
vtam@eee-cng	91	205gq °								

vtam@eee-cng91705gq *

More on the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...- Change File Permissions

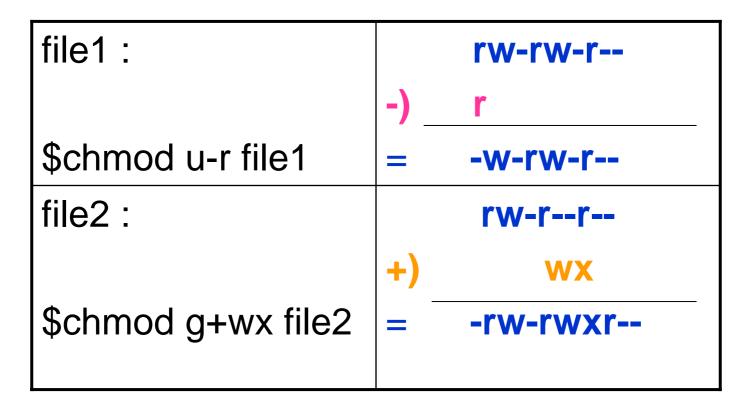
E -									- 🗆 ×
-rw drwx+	131181112	vtam vtam vtam	SYSTEM None None None None None None None None	13805 0 12490 4 27 27 27	Feb Jun Nov Jun Jun Sep Feb Feb	18 11 20 11 11 24 18 18	2009 10:20 2009 2009 15:48 18:02 18:03	.bash_history .emacs.d .gtk-bookmarks _emacs emacs-21.3 file1 file2	
vtam@eee-cng \$ chmod u-r vtam@eee-cng \$ chmod g+w	fi 191	le1 705gq ~							
vtam@eee-cng \$ chmod o-r vtam@eee-cng \$	⁺x :	file3							-

More for the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...- Final Results !!

5 chmod u-r file1							
utam@eee-cng91705gg ~ 5 chmod g+wx file2							
tam@eee=cng91705gg ~ chmod o=r+x file3							
utam@eee-cng91705gq ~ 5 ls -al total 23							
lrwx+ 5 vtam	None	0	Feb	18	18:03	- Rea u	
lrwxrwxr-x+ 21 Administrators		Ø	Feb	18	16:06		
rw 1 utam	None	13805				.bash_history	
rwx+ 3 vtam	None	0	Jun		2009	.emacs.d	
rwx+ 1 vtam	None	0				.gtk-bookmarks	
rwx+ 1 vtam	None	12490	Jun	11		emacs	
<u>rwx+ 8 utam</u>	None	<u> </u>	Jun	11	الكاري المرجلة ويتكرو ويتكرونها	emacs-21.3	
-w-rw-r 1 vtam	None				15:48		
rw-rwxr 1 vtam	None				18:02		
rw-rx 1 vtam	None				18:03		
lrwxr-xr-x+ 2 vtam	None	Ø	Jan	20	18:49	new_dir	

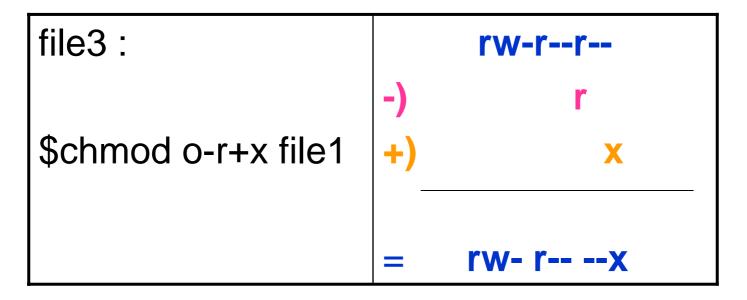
vtam@eee-cng91705gq '

More on the Cygwin for the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...- Reason about Results !!



- : means NOT SET

More for the Unix File/Folder Permissions (ref. Chap. B2)...- Reason about Results !!

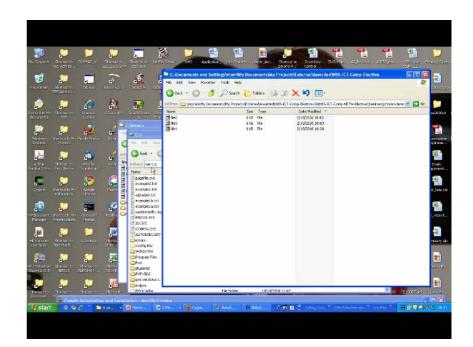




More for the Unix File/Folder Permissions

(ref. Chap. B2)...

- OR simply use some FREE video capture software such as the DEBUT Video Capture Software [URL : http://www.nchsoftware .com/capture/]
- to create a step-by-step DEMO video as THIS →



File Permissions on MS Windows

On MS Windows, one can easily set the Access Control List (ACL) of the concerned file to individual user(s) by clicking on the "Properties" of that file. [ref. Sec. 3.3 of Chp. B2]

roup or user names:		
🥵 Administrators (EEE-CN	G91705GQ \Administrat	ors)
🚯 Everyone		
🕵 SYSTEM		
🙎 vtam (EEE-CNG917050	GQ\vtam)	
	Add	Remove
		Remove
ermissions for Everyone	Allow	Deny
Full Control		
Modify		
Read & Execute		
Read	\checkmark	
Write		~
Special Permissions		
Special Permissions		

Highlights on Uses of Diagrams for ~~Lock/Key Diagram for RCP-based Middlewares

For remote procedure call (RPCs), the close relationship % the main program (server) and the remote procedure (client) as 'lock-and-key' where the main program is similar to a lock (in shape) that has to be released by the remote procedure as a key.

[ref. Chp. A5.2]

Highlights on Uses of Diagrams for ~~Lock/Key Diagram for RCP-based Middlewares

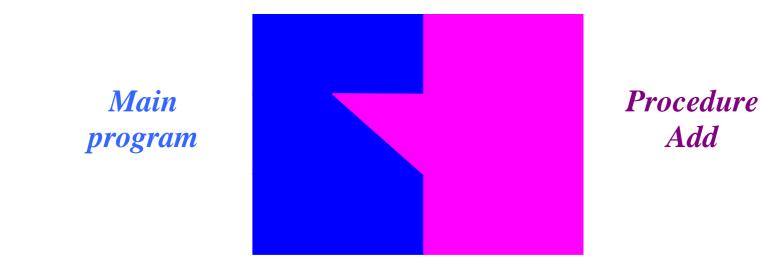


Fig 1. The Close Relationship between the Remote Procedure and Client Program in a RPC system

[ref. Chp. A5.2]

Highlights on Uses of Diagrams for ~~Extending the Concepts for RCPbased Middlewares

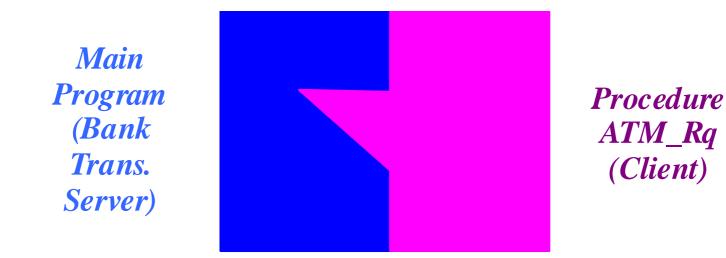


Fig 2. Real-world Application of the RPC-based system for Bank Transaction Server and the ATM (Client) machines

[ref. Chp. A5.2]

Highlights on Uses of Diagrams for ~~ IPv4 versus IPv6 [Interoperability]

- Gradually move to IPv6; but definitely not completely replacing IPv4
- IPv4 and IPv6 coexist
- Four different application scenarios:
 - □ IPv4 server, IPv4 client
 - IPv4 server, IPv6 client
 - □ IPv6 server, IPv4 client
 - □ IPv6 server, IPv6 client
- Hosts (servers and clients) and routers will need to run <u>dual stacks</u>.

Highlights on Uses of Diagrams for

~~ IPv6 server vs. IPv4 client

