



ITEC801

Distributed Systems

S2 Evening 2015

Dept of Computing

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Ian Joyner ian.joyner@mq.edu.au
Credit points 4
Prerequisites COMP347
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit covers both fundamental issues and recent trends in distributed computing. We examine the complexities of distributed communications systems such as partial failures, shared memory, scheduling problems and multiple clocks. Networking protocols and other industry standards are discussed. Lectures will mostly be expository and conceptual and aim to provide a solid understanding of distributed systems and related enduring issues.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities

Distinguish the goals and architectures of distributed systems

Explain important issues in distributed systems, including time, inter-process communication, state management, distributed computing paradigms, data fragmentation and replication, middleware, and naming

Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.

Analyze and design distributed systems

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Weekly problems	10%	Weekly
Assignment 1	20%	Week 7
Assignment 2	20%	Week 12
Examination	50%	After final lecture

Weekly problems

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **10%**

After each lecture a set of tutorial questions will be posted on iLearn. Students need to research and answer these questions which will be marked on a weekly basis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Distinguish the goals and architectures of distributed systems
- Explain important issues in distributed systems, including time, inter-process communication, state management, distributed computing paradigms, data fragmentation and replication, middleware, and naming

Assignment 1

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

Assignment 1 assesses progress and understanding of lecture material. It will set a moderate design task to be completed.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.
- Analyze and design distributed systems

Assignment 2

Due: **Week 12**

Weighting: **20%**

Assignment 2 will be researching a couple of topics we have covered and writing a report on those topics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.
- Analyze and design distributed systems

Examination

Due: **After final lecture**

Weighting: **50%**

The final examination will consist of questions based on the lecture material, tutorial problems and assignments. The examination will be closed book, three hours long and held in the end of session examination period.

All learning outcomes will be assessed in the final examination, which will cover the entirety of the lecture material.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Distinguish the goals and architectures of distributed systems
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.
- Analyze and design distributed systems

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Each week you should attend the class which is three to four hours. For details of days, times and rooms consult the [timetables webpage](#).

This course has no extra classes for tutorials or practicals.

Please note it is to your benefit to attend most of the classes, prepared to participate in discussions, ask and answer questions, and provide perspectives from your own background and workplaces.

Resources to assist your learning

[Digital recordings](#) of lectures are available as Echo360 through iLearn login. These are provided for review material and in case of missing lectures.

iLearn is used for out-of-class communication as well as forums where active discussion of issues is encouraged. iLearn can be found at <http://learn.mq.edu.au>. You are encouraged to review iLearn weekly and to do background reading before each class.

Textbook

The textbook for ITEC801 is:

Coulouris, Dollimore, Kindberg, and Blair - Distributed Systems: Concepts and Design 5th Edition, 2012

References

Tannenbaum, A. S., Distributed Systems: Principles and Paradigms, Prentice-Hall, 2nd Edition 2006

Ince, D., Developing Distributed and E-commerce Applications, Second Edition, Addison Wesley, 2003.

Liu, M.L., Distributed Computing, Principles and Applications, Pearson/Addison Wesley, 2004.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction, Challenges, and Goals (Coulouris Chapter 1)
Week 2	Distributed Systems Architectures, Paradigms, and Patterns, Networks (Coulouris Chapter 2 and 3)
Week 3 Client-Server, Peer-to-peer, Communication in Distributed Systems (Coulouris Chapter 4, 5, 6)	
Week 4	Naming - location transparency (Coulouris Chapter 13)
Week 5	Open Distributed Processing (Online reading)
Week 6	Synchronization (Coulouris Chapter 14 and 15)
Week 7	RPC, RMI, message passing and failure in distributed systems communication (Coulouris Chapter 4, 5, 5)
Week 8	REST - Concepts (Fielding's Thesis) and Application (Coulouris Chapter 9, Online reading)
Week 9	Middleware and Distributed Data - Fragmentation and Replication (Coulouris Chapter 8)

Week	Topic
Week 10	Consistency, transactions and replication (Coulouris Chapter 18)
Week 11	Cloud Computing (Coulouris Chapter 8)
Week 12	Mobile and ubiquitous computing (Coulouris Chapter 19)

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities
- Distinguish the goals and architectures of distributed systems
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.

Assessment tasks

- Weekly problems
- Examination

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Distinguish the goals and architectures of distributed systems
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.
- Analyze and design distributed systems

Assessment tasks

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Examination

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities
- Explain important issues in distributed systems, including time, inter-process communication, state management, distributed computing paradigms, data fragmentation and replication, middleware, and naming
- Identify applicability of technologies that support distributed applications such as RPC, RMI and object-based technology, message passing, and REST.
- Analyze and design distributed systems

Assessment tasks

- Weekly problems

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Examination

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Describe the complexities of distributed system development and approaches to solve those complexities
- Explain important issues in distributed systems, including time, inter-process communication, state management, distributed computing paradigms, data fragmentation and replication, middleware, and naming
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Assessment tasks

- Weekly problems
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