

Advanced Systems Lab Project

General Information

1 Organization

- Grading criteria for the project milestones
 - You will be graded for each milestone.
 - Each group member should be able to answer questions related to milestones.
 - Each group member has to prove his/her contribution to a milestone.
 - The project counts 40% to the final grade.
 - You will be graded on the quality and functionality of your code.
 - You will be graded on the quality of your reports.
 - You will be graded on the quality of your presentations.
- Office hours
For consultation and questions, you can find the teaching assistants during the following days/hours in their offices:
 - Martin Hentschel (hemartin@inf),
CAB F 58, Wednesdays from 09:00 to 11:00
 - Akhilesh Singhanian (akhi@inf),
IFW B 43 or B 44, Mondays from 10:00 to 12:00
 - Tudor-Ioan Salomie (tsalomie@inf),
IFW B 43 or B 46, Fridays from 15:00 to 17:00
- Submitting milestone deliverables
The deadline for the deliverables is on the Wednesday preceding the due date, at 23:59.
If for example the **Due by date** for a milestone is **Thursday October 8, 2009**, then you will need to submit the milestone at the latest on **Wednesday October 7, 2009 at 23:59**.

All the milestone deliverables will be sent via email to the teaching assistant of the exercise session to which you belong. Only one representative of the group will send out this email. The representative will CC this email to himself and all the other group members. Please use only ETH email accounts. The subject of the email should be: **Advanced Systems Lab Project Submission: Milestone X, Group YYYY**, where X will be the number of the milestone and YYYY is your group number. You will attach to this email a compressed tar file (`.tar.gz`) having the name `groupYYYY_milestoneX.tar.gz`, where X is the milestone number and YYYY is your group number. The compressed tar file will contain the following structure:

- a directory called `code` in which you will place all the code that you need to submit. If you need to submit more applications, please use sub-directories for each application.

- a directory called **reports** in which you will place all the text reports that you submit (PDF format), along with possible graphs (PS format).
- a directory called **presentation** in which you will place all the presentation slides for the milestone (PDF format).
- a directory called **misc** in which you will place any extra deliverables (non-code, non-graphs, non-reports).
- a file called **notes.txt** in which you will place any comments regarding the submission.

Remarks: The group number is of the form YYYY, where the first two digits are the exercise session room number you were assigned as the last two digits are your group number within that exercise session. **Group 2** of exercise session from room **E 38** would have the group number **3802**. **Group 5** of exercise session from room **E 31** would have the group number **3105**.

- Late submissions

For submissions that are up to one week later than the specified deadline, the maximum achievable number of points is 75% of the normal submission maximum. You still need to give a presentation of your work and results if submission was up to one week later than the specified date.

For submissions that are later than one week but not later than two weeks than the specified deadline, the maximum number of points is 50% of the normal submission maximum. You will not be able to give a presentation of your work, but still need to include the presentation PDF in the milestone deliverable.

2 Using the cluster

The guidelines for using the cluster might change for future milestones. Consider these as the rules until we notify you of the new ones!

- Protocol

When using the cluster machines, you need to respect the following protocol:

- You need to reserve cluster machines before using them. We have set-up a time-slicing management system for the cluster machines that you can use:

<http://129.132.130.153/reserv/>

- * You will be supplied with a group account and password for using the reservation system during the first exercise session (September 24th 2009). **Change the password as soon as you get the account!**
- * There are 5 blocks of 3 machines each that can be reserved by any group in any room
- * There are 5 three-hour slots a day starting from 0700 and ending at 2200 giving a total of 25 three-slots every day. Rest of the time, no reservations are required.
- * Each group can reserve one slot in the day and then reserve another slot AFTER the expiry of the first slot. For example, if you have the 1000 - 1300 slot, you may not reserve the 1900-2200 slot until 1300.
- * dryad16 remains as a free for all for all day.
- * In the brief description of the reservation you make please include the group number (4 digits, as defined above).
- * You should only book machines for the current day and for the next day (i.e.: only one day in advance).
- * **You are responsible for the bookings you make.** You should check that the reservations you make are according to the rules described below!
- * If you see inconsistencies in the booking system email the assistants.
- * The assistants will be monitoring the reservation system.

- Do not store results, code or files that are not backed-up on the cluster machines' local hard drives.
- Time Slots
 - **Free for all** slots are time frames when you can use any of the 5 cluster machines allotted to your exercise session. The free for all slots are between 22:00 and 07:00 every day. Use the free for all slots to test out you applications, to build code and to test your code. Do not run actual benchmarks and do not produce deliverable results during those hours. The cluster machine `dryad16.inf.ethz.ch` is always in **Free for all** mode.
 - **Exclusive usage** as described above.
 - You can not reserve more than 2 slots per day and only reserve the second slot after the first slot has expired.
 - Be aware that the cluster machines will automatically reset themselves every 3 hours (after each time slot). This means that even if you booked the same machine for 2 consecutive slots, you will have a down-time in between the slots.
 - Do not leave all your work for the last days before the deadline!
- Etiquette
 - Using the cluster should be done in a fair manner!
 - Respect the other groups and book machines only when you need them!
 - Do not book machines just to have them booked!
 - If you booked a machine and realize that you will not use it, free it in the spreadsheet!
 - Respect the booking protocol and time-slots above!
 - Stop all your processes when you are done using a cluster machine!
 - Do not delete or overwrite someone else's reservations!
- The machines are identical, running Debian 5.0.3, x86_64, featuring:
 - 2 x Quad Code AMD Opteron 2376 2.3GHz Processors
 - 16 GB of DDR2 667MHz RAM
 - 2 x 1TB S-ATAII Disk Drives at 7200rpm
 - 2 x 10/100/1000 Gigabit Ethernet cards