Network monitoring tool: a simple approach to active monitoring in small LAN / Mohd Zul Shaffik Jasmin.
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JUDUL: NETWORK MONITORING TOOLS

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NETWORK MONITORING TOOL:
A SIMPLE APPROACH TO ACTIVE MONITORING IN SMALL LAN

MOHD ZUL SHAFFIK BIN JASMIN

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Bachelor of Information Technology
(Computer Network)

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA
2004
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A SIMPLE APPROACH TO ACTIVE MONITORING IN SMALL LAN

is written by me and is my own effort and that no part has been plagiarized without citations.

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Thank you.
ABSTRACT

Projek Sarjana Muda (PSM) is an opportunities for student to implement all their knowledge by developing they own project related on the majoring course. By developing the project, student can improve their own capability and self confidence. The purpose of this project is to build a simple Network Monitoring Tool focusing on Active Monitoring. Purposely, this application will provide network administrator with one application that can observe and monitoring client activities on entire network. From that network administrator can observed and monitor the entire PC (Personal Computer) that has been access to the network. It will focus on active host monitoring and will be running on LAN environment. This project will be developed by using SDLC methodology with the phase started with Project Planning, Requirement Definition, Design, Development/Implementation, Testing and Installation and Acceptance. Currently network monitoring tool only provide the network traffic but not the host viewer. They only capture the website open by client and not capturing the application running by client. They also did not provide the termination process. So the project provides all the services to simplify the network administrator work. This application is one solution to monitor the client activities on the network and come up with the features that are describe on the next chapter.
ABSTRAK

# TABLE OF CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMISSION</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRAK</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENT</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLE</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURE</td>
<td>xii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYM</td>
<td>xiii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF APPENDIX</td>
<td>xiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Project Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Project Objective</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Project Scope</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Project Priority</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Conclusion</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Introduction</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Case Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Introduction Network Monitoring</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Network Monitoring Topologies</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4 TCP/IP</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5 Automatic Network Monitoring</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.1 Functionality of Automatic Network Monitoring</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.2 Detail Of Method</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6 TCPDUMP and WinPcap (Packet Capturing)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6.1 TCPDUMP</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.6.2 WinPcap</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.7 Host Monitoring Protocol (HMP)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.7.1 Host Monitoring Protocol and Other Protocol</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Conclusion</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROJECT PLANNING AND METHODOLOGY**

3.1 Introduction                                                        | 18   |
3.2 Methodology                                                         | 20   |
3.3 Justification of Methodology Selection                              | 22   |
3.4 System / Hardware Requirements                                      | 23   |
3.5 Project Solving Suggestion                                          | 25   |
3.6 Task Planning                                                       | 26   |
3.7 Conclusion                                                          | 27   |

**ANALYSIS REVIEW**

4.1 Introduction                                                        | 28   |
4.2 Business Review                                                     | 29   |
4.3 Problem Analysis                                                    | 30   |
4.4 Problem Statement                                                   | 31   |
4.5 Requirement Analysis                                                | 33   |
4.5.1 Hardware Requirement                                              | 33   |
4.5.2 Software Requirement                                              | 33   |
4.5.3 Network Requirement                                               | 33   |
4.5.4 Implementation Requirement                                       | 34   |
4.5.5 Functional Requirement                                            | 34   |
DESIGN

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Preliminary High-Level Design
   5.2.1 Raw Data / Pilot Review
   5.2.2 System Architecture
   5.2.3 User Interface Design
      5.2.3.1 Navigation Design
      5.2.3.2 Input Design
      5.2.3.3 Output Design

5.3 Detailed Design
   5.3.1 Software Specification

5.4 Conclusion

IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Software Development Environment Setup

6.3 Software Configuration Management
   6.3.1 Configuration Environment Setup
   6.3.2 Version Control Procedure
   6.3.1 Hardware Setup

6.4 Development Status

6.5 Conclusion

TESTING

7.1 Introduction

7.2 Test Plan
   7.2.1 Test Organization
   7.2.2 Test Environment
   7.2.3 Test Schedule
7.2.3.1 Unit Testing Schedule 67
7.2.3.2 System Testing Schedule 67
7.3 Test Strategies 68
  7.3.1 Classes of Test 69
7.4 Test Design 70
  7.4.1 Test Description 71
  7.4.2 Test Data 79
7.5 Test Case Results 79
  7.5.1 Test summary report 79
  7.5.2 Test Record 81
7.6 Conclusion 83

CONCLUSION 84
8.1 Observation on Weakness and Strength 84
  8.1.1 Weakness 84
  8.1.2 Strength 86
8.2 Proposition and Improvement 87
8.3 Conclusion 89

BIBBLIOGRAPHY 91

APPENDIX A 92

APPENDIX B 99
# LIST OF TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE NO.</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>SNMP operation descriptions</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>System Requirement</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Personal Computer Requirement</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Network Requirement</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Show Host Entire Network</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Show Host Entire Network</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Termination Process</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Input Design of IP Address</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Output Design</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Software Specification</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Server Application Version 1.0</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Client Application Version 1.0</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Client Application Version 2.0</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Implementation Status of Module</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Test Environment</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Test Schedule for Functional Process</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>Unit Testing Schedule</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>System Testing Schedule</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Description for all interface</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Test Description Server Application interface</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>Test Description Client Application interface</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>Test Description of Scan Network Interface</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>Server Application Interface unit testing</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.9 Client Application Interface unit testing 77
7.10 Scan network Interface unit testing 77
7.11 User Input IP Address 78
7.12 User Input IP Address (wrong input data) 78
7.13 User Acceptance Unit Testing 79
7.14 Test Input Data 79
7.15 Test Summary Report for Unit Testing And System Testing 80
7.16 Test record for Unit Testing 81
7.17 Test record for System Testing 82
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIGURE NO.</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Example of Network Monitoring Structure</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Passive Monitoring</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Active Monitoring</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Example Simple Network Management Protocol Structure</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Automated Network Logging</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>Host Monitoring Protocol and Other Protocol</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Level of SDLC</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5.5</td>
<td>User-Diagram of network monitoring</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Network Design Architecture on LAN Environment</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Layer Architecture on LAN Environment</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Show Host Entire Network Sequence Diagram</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Sequence Diagram for Running Application by Host</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Sequence Diagram for Termination Process</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>Server Application interface</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Client Application interface</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>IP Address Input Box Interface</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>Color Mode Interface</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>Scan Network Interface</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.11</td>
<td>Navigation Design</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>IP Address Input Box</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.13</td>
<td>Expected result of output design.</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Show the server desktop image).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Software Development Environment Setup</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Testing Strategies</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACRONYM

KUTKM  Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia
PSM    Projek Sarjana Muda
SNMP   Simple Network Management Protocol
LAN    Local Area Network
NT     New Technology
PC     Personal Computer
ICT    Information Communication Technology
IP     Internet Protocol
TCP    Transmission Communication Protocol
NMS    Network Management System
IT     Information Technology
CRC    Critical Request Check
PPP    Peer to Peer Protocol
ATM    Asynchronous Transfer Mode
WAN    Wide Area Network
MIB    Management Information Base
HTTP   Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
SSH    Secure Shell
HDLC   High-level Data Link Control
UTP    Unshielded Twisted Pair
HMP    Host Monitoring Protocol
ICMP   Internet Control Message Protocol
SDLC   System Development Life Cycle
FTP    File Transfer Protocol
UDP    User Datagram Protocol
NIC    Network Interface Card
MAC    Media Access Control
# LIST OF APPENDIX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>User Manual</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gantt Chart</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

To complete Bachelor Information Technology and Communication at Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia, it is compulsory for students to undergo Projek Sarjana Muda (PSM) with their own project related to their major course.

The Project of the PSM is named Network Monitoring Tools. This tool provides one network monitoring tool which then helps a network administrator to manage and control the network. This tool is based on Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) which provides monitoring facilities to administrator to control network and user's activity.

The purpose of this tool is to help the administrator to manage and monitor its network with the one application which can view the process that clients used currently in the network. Administrator controls certain aspects of machines sitting remotely.

For new era of information technology, many organizations network transmit data to their workgroup. Hence, they must have rules and policies to access the network. The Network administrator should then observe and monitor the users activities to ensure all the rules and policy policies are followed.
The Network Monitoring Tools is an application which helps the network administrator to monitor every user’s activities and managing the network easily. The concept of this tool is remotely control through the network. Network monitoring tools can start remotely on administrator machine. From the machine, administrator can control all clients activity(s) either capture or viewed the current application use by clients, close the program, give a message, shutdown the computer, etc.

Network monitoring is very useful for the administrator to organize their network and less time are required to control all computers in the entire network.

1.2 Project Objective

The network monitoring tools can be used by any organizations which require monitoring and observing the user’s activity with the network access policies given to the organizations.

Listed below are the objectives of the project:

i. To create a network monitoring tools for network administrator to control client activities.

ii. To provide a tool that can manage network remotely.

iii. Tools which can capture all the clients’ activities and the program that users used currently.

iv. Focus on LAN environment which monitor all nodes entire network.

v. Made easier for network administrator to organize the entire network.

vi. Show the client desktop by remotely function.

vii. To provide a simple network monitoring tools which can be used on a workstation.
1.3 Project Scope

This network monitoring tools can be use by network administrator to manage and control the entire network. This tool is only monitoring but not analyzing the network.

This tool observes the clients activities and gave warning/action if network policies are not being followed. It can also determine the PC name, IP address and other information of the nodes in the network. It can capture the client current activities and all the process and application that are running by the clients. Administrator can also view the client desktop remotely.

The user of this project is network administrator, system administrator, network engineer or anyone who is involved in network management. This project also applies to any machine that uses Windows Operating System which is based on NT system.

This project also focused on LAN environment and could be used on KUTKM network environment. For all above facilities, it is very appropriate not only for network administrators but also to the user of entire network.

1.4 Project Priority

This tool provides a network administrator with one application to manage their network. The tools are developed for remotely administrator function that can viewed current application run by the user, close the program remotely, shutdown the computer and it is a ‘real time’ processing.

These tools also provide a list of computer(s) which are logged on in the workgroup or network. This facility provides the network administrator, the user and computer that had been accessed to the network. Therefore the administrator can
determine the user information such as PC name and IP address. It is easy to capture all the user’s activities and control the client computer if any of them are not allowed the network access policies.

Network monitoring tools are very suitable not only for network administrator but also to those who are involved in network management and clients activities.

1.5 Conclusion

PSM project give the student the chance to implement what they have premeditated at KUTKM. Network monitoring tool project is one of the PSM project. It consists of monitoring, control and administrative function for all user activities and network management.

Network monitoring tool also have the additional features to help network administrator especially on user activities. It develops to the LAN environment and perhaps, can also be implemented on KUTKM network environment.

This tools develop in remotely function for easier network management. The network administrator can then observe and monitor the entire PC (Personal Computer) that has been access to the network.

This project also helps anybody who is involved in network monitoring and it is compatible to network environment hopefully.
CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Network monitoring tool are mostly using a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) to exchange between management network and the network device. SNMP enables network administrators to manage network performance, find and solve network problems, and plan for network growth.

It has many part of the network monitoring tool. It consist on network traffic tools, network monitoring tools that can captured the client activities , network monitoring tools included with the network device (router, switch, pc ) , web log analyzer, ping tools, host monitor, traffic and many more.

Many ways to find any information and reference for network monitoring tools either from internet, network management books or the experienced people who involved with network monitoring tools. All the referenced and information were useful to build up the new application of network monitoring tools.

The research is very important to this project, it can help to build the network monitoring tools application. For network monitoring tools SNMP is the most protocol has use to implement the protocol and the coding language to create monitoring tools interfaced and the function of that application. Before build up this application, the research about SNMP must has been done and try to find any example of networking
monitoring tools from internet and try to learn how the function, what methodology is use, language programming and many more.

2.2 Case Study

According to the research, all the network monitoring tools are using SNMP based to exchange the network information between the devices. An SNMP-managed network consists of three key components: managed devices, agents, and network-management systems (NMS).

![Network Monitoring Tools machine](image)

Figure 2.1: Example of Network Monitoring Structure

2.2.1 Introduction Network Monitoring

Network monitoring has been around as long as there have been networks. Most routers, switches, and intelligent hubs collect some level of network traffic statistics. This information is important to network administrators who are responsible for the operation of the network. Without network monitoring systems, it would be difficult to identify and resolve many network problems.
Network monitoring is the ability to collect and analyze network traffic. Most intelligent networking devices offer analysis of layer 1 traffic. At this level, the analysis typically focuses on physical network problems such as link status, CRC errors, bipolar violations, and framing errors.

Network monitoring is concerned with observing and analyzing the status and behavior of the managed objects (end systems, intermediate systems, sub networks)

2.2.2 Network Monitoring Topologies

There are two basic network monitoring topologies: passive or active. Passive monitoring must be used in applications where a monitoring station will be moved to different locations where multiple taps are permanently installed. Active or “intrusive” monitoring uses equipment that divides the circuit into two segments and allows the flow of traffic to be monitored, and actively transmitted from one side of the monitor point to the other. This topology must be used when a monitoring application requires active manipulation of the data stream before the data stream is transmitted across the monitor point.

![Figure 2.2: Passive Monitoring](image-url)
The figure 2.2 is shows an example of passive monitoring. In this design, the tap passes all of the data across the monitor point, and it passes both data streams to the monitoring station. With this kind of passive tap, data will continue to flow across the monitor point even when the monitoring station is not present.

Passive monitoring elements include network taps, network monitoring cards, cables, driver software, and software development kits.

![Full Duplex Traffic](image)

Figure 2.3: Active Monitoring

Active monitoring involves equipment that not only taps the network link, but it must actively transmit the data stream from one side of the monitor point to the other. In this monitoring topology, the data flows through the equipment where it can be analyzed, processed, and modified in real time before flowing out of the device to the end point destination.