Operating Systems Module: CO-562
Constructor University Date: 2026-11-13
Dr. Jürgen Schönwälder Due: 2026-11-20

Problem Sheet #11

Problem 11.1: *word guessing game (libevent)* (2+2+3+2+1 = 10 points)

The word guessing game invites clients to guess words missing in dynamically created (almost random) phrases. The game is implemented in C as a standalone server. After starting up and binding to a port, optionally specified on the command line, the server accepts incoming connections from clients and it greets them by sending generic greeting messages (prefixed by `M:`). Afterwards, the server creates a word guess challenge and it sends the challenge to the client as a challenge message (prefixed by `C:`). The client then sends a response message (prefixed by `R:` in an attempt to guess the word. If the client guessed the word correctly, the server sends an OK message (prefixed by `O:`). If the guessed word was wrong, the server sends a fail message (prefixed by `F:`). If the client does not comply to the protocol, the server may send generic messages (prefixed by `M:`). The client can at any time send a quit message (prefixed by `Q:`) to end the game.

An example exchange is shown below. The messages send by the client are the messages starting with `R:` and `Q:` , all other messages are generated by the server.

```
$ nc localhost 1234
M: Guess the missing ____!
M: Send your guess in the form 'R: word\r\n'.
C: Is this ______ happening?
R: really
O: Congratulation - challenge passed!
C: You ___ standing on my toes.
R: are
O: Congratulation - challenge passed!
C: Are you _ turtle?
R: a
O: Congratulation - challenge passed!
C: You'll __ sorry...
R: be
O: Congratulation - challenge passed!
C: You are standing on __ toes.
R: my
O: Congratulation - challenge passed!
C: You should go ____.
R: party
F: Wrong guess 'party' - expected 'home'
C: There __ a fly on your nose.
Q:
M: You mastered 5/6 challenges. Good bye!
```

The server obtains the phrases by running `fortune -s` as a child process and reading the output produced by the child process from a pipe. The server than selects a random word, replaces it with underscores, and sends the challenge to the client. The server has to accept the following command line options:

```
gwgd [-p port]
```

The assignment can be broken down into the following steps:

a) Write a main function implementing a main event loop.

b) Write code to create listening sockets (for both IPv4 and IPv6) and to register them in the main event loop.

c) Implement a callback function to handle incoming connection requests and to register accepted connections in the main event loop.

d) Implement the game play in non-blocking mode using additional callback functions.

e) Cleanup your code, make it clear and easy to read.

You are allowed (and even encouraged) to reuse the TCP functions documented in the lecture notes. To implement the event loop, it is suggested to use the `libevent` library. Note that it is not required to write messages to clients in an event-driven way (although for a real server this would be desirable as well.)

To separate the game logic from the server logic, you can implement a player object handling the game play and a challenge object handling the fetching and preparation of game challenges.

```c
/*
 * chlng.h --
 */

#ifndef CHLNG_H
#define CHLNG_H

typedef struct {
    char *text;                 /* text with a missing word */
    char *word;                 /* the missing word */
} chlng_t;

/* Allocate a new challenge. */
extern chlng_t* chlng_new(void);

/* Reset the internal state of the challenge. */
extern void chlng_reset(chlng_t*);

/* Delete a challenge and all its resources. */
extern void chlng_del(chlng_t*);

/* Fetch new text from an invocation of 'fortune'. */
extern int chlng_fetch_text(chlng_t *c);

/* Select and hide a word in the text. */
extern int chlng_hide_word(chlng_t *c);

#endif
```

```c
/*
 * player.h --
 */

#ifndef PLAYER_H
#define PLAYER_H

#include <stdbool.h>

#include "chlng.h"
```

```
typedef struct player {
    int solved;                 /* correctly solved challenges */
    int total;                  /* total number of challenges */
    bool finished;              /* true if we are done */
    chlng_t *chlng;             /* current challenge */
} player_t;

/* Allocate a new player. */
extern player_t* player_new(void);

/* Reset the internal state of the player. */
extern void player_reset(player_t*);

/* Delete a player and all its resources. */
extern void player_del(player_t*);

/* Allocate a new challenge for the player. */
extern int player_fetch_chlng(player_t*);

/* Retrieve a greeting message. */
extern int player_get_greeting(player_t*, char **);

/* Retrieve the challenge message. */
extern int player_get_challenge(player_t*, char **);

/* Post a message to the player and retrieve the response message. */
extern int player_post_challenge(player_t*, char *, char **);

#endif
```

With these interfaces, a simple standalone program to play the game can look like this:

```
/*
 * gwg.c --
 */

#define _POSIX_C_SOURCE 200809L

#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>

#include "player.h"

int main(void)
{
    player_t *p;
    char *msg;
    int rc;

    p = player_new();
    if (! p) {
        return EXIT_FAILURE;
    }

    rc = player_get_greeting(p, &msg);
    if (rc > 0) {
        (void) fputs(msg, stdout);
        (void) free(msg);
    }

    while (! (p->finished)) {
        char *line = NULL;
```

```
        size_t linecap = 0;

        rc = player_get_challenge(p, &msg);
        if (rc > 0) {
            (void) fputs(msg, stdout);
            (void) free(msg);
        }

        if (getline(&line, &linecap, stdin) <= 0) {
            rc = player_post_challenge(p, "Q:", &msg);
            if (rc > 0) {
                (void) fputs(msg, stdout);
                (void) free(msg);
            }
            break;
        }
        rc = player_post_challenge(p, line, &msg);
        if (rc > 0) {
            (void) fputs(msg, stdout);
            (void) free(msg);
        }
        (void) free(line);
    }
    player_del(p);

    return EXIT_SUCCESS;
}
```