

EE122 Routing Simulator Guide (Fall 2012)

1 File Layout

The simulator is organized thusly:

`simulator.py` - Starts up the simulator.

`sim/core.py` - Inner workings of the simulator. Keep out.

`sim/api.py` - Parts of the simulator that you'll need to use (such as the `Entity` class). See `help(api)`.

`sim/basics.py` - Basic simulator pieces built with the API. See `help(basics)`.

`sim/topo.py` - You can use this to create your own topologies/scenarios. See `help(topo)`.

`scenarios/*.py` - Test topologies and scenarios for you to use. See `help(scenarios)`.

2 Running the Simulator

To start the simulator, run `simulator.py` to interact with the simulated network:

```
$ python simulator.py
```

This spouts some informational text, and gives you a Python interpreter in the terminal. From the interpreter in the terminal, you can run arbitrary Python code, can inspect and manipulate the simulation, and can get help on many aspects of the simulator.

As `simulator.py` comes, it simply creates a test scenario (mostly this just means a topology) and starts the simulator. You may wish to modify it to load a different scenario (including a custom one). In particular, you can modify the scenario on `line 22`, and the switches used in the network on `line 15`. By default, the simulator will load a 'linear' scenario (two hosts connected by a single hub) with a Hub switch that just forwards between the two.

To change the scenario and switches imported by the simulator, find the lines that define "switch" and "scenario" and edit them, e.g.,

```
from learning_switch import LearningSwitch as switch
from rip_router import RIPRouter as switch
import scenarios.linear as scenario import scenarios.candy as scenario
```

You can see the source code for the Hub switch in `hub.py`, and the source code for the scenario in the `scenarios/` directory.

The scenarios in the scenario directory each contain a `create()` method. You might want to look at these. They create the topology that goes with the scenario. The included ones can be run with an arbitrary switch class, so you can easily set them up using a hub, a leaning switch, your RIP-like switch, etc.

From the simulator's commandline, you have access to all the `Entities` created in your scenario, and you can interact with these. For example:

```
>>> start() ← make sure you don't forget this.
>>> h1.ping(h2)
```

To get started, we suggest you play around with the default scenario and default switches and make sure you understand how to send pings between hosts, add `DEBUG` messages to the log, and understand the `DEBUG` messages printed by default to the log viewer.

3 The Log Viewer

Log messages are generally sent to the terminal from which the simulator is run. If you are using the interactive interpreter for debugging or experimentation, this can be somewhat irritating. You can disable these by editing `simulator.py` – towards the top, there is a line: `#_DISABLE_CONSOLE_LOG = True`.

If you uncomment this line (by removing the '#'), you will no longer see log messages on the terminal. Of course, those log messages can be really quite helpful, and you might want to see them. To rectify this, there is a standalone log viewer – `logviewer.py`. Run this along with the simulator as:

```
$ python logviewer.py & python simulator.py
```

Executing this program should opens a new window where you'll see `DEBUG` messages output by the hosts and switches in the simulated network.

4 Implementing Entities

Objects that exist in the simulator are subclasses of the `Entity` superclass (in `api.py`). These have a handful of utility functions, as well as some empty functions that are called when various events occur. You probably want to handle at least some of these events! For more help try `help(api.Entity)` within the simulator. You might also want to peek at `hub.py`, which is a simple `Entity` to get you started.

4.1 Sending Packets

Entities can send and receive packets. In the simulator, this means a subclass of `Packet`. See `basics.Ping` for one such example, and see `basics.BasicHost` to see an example of how it is used. In the default simulation (a linear topology with a hub), try `h1.ping(h2)` to start.

5 Building Your Own Scenarios

You may want to test using your own topologies, and you may want to test your own events (such as nodes joining and leaving the network) within those topologies. We refer to the combination of those as a “codescenario”. The simulator should come with some (in the scenarios directory) to get you started, but you may want to build your own. To start:

```
>>> import sim.topo as topo
```

The first step is simply creating some `Entities` so that the simulator can use them. You shouldn't create the nodes yourself, but rather let the `create()` function in `core` do it for you, something along the lines of:

```
>>> MyNodeType.create('myNewNode', MyNodeType, arg1, arg2)
```

That is, you **don't** want to use normal Python object creation like:

```
>>> x = MyNodeType(arg1, arg2) # Don't do this
```

`create()` returns the new entity, and all entities that you create are added to the `sim` package. So you can do:

```
>>> import sim
```

```
>>> x = MyNodeType.create('myNewNode', arg1, arg2)
```

```
>>> print sim.myNewNode, x
```

which will show the new `Entity` twice.

To link this to some other `Entity`:

```
>>> topo.link(sim.myNewNode, sim.someOtherNode)
```

You can also unlink it, or disconnect it from everything:

```
>>> topo.disconnect(sim.myNewNode)
```

To see the connections on a given Entity:

```
>>> topo.show_ports(sim.someNode)
```

this shows how the ports on some node are connected to other nodes and their ports.

6 Your Components

As discussed in the problem statement, you will be responsible for implementing two subclasses of the `Entity` superclass. Some important functions from `Entity` are as follows (feel free to poke around in the source, but knowing these should be sufficient to implement your subclass):

```
class Entity(__builtin__.object)
    handle_rx(self, packet, port)
        Called by the framework when the Entity self receives a packet.
        packet - a Packet (or subclass).
        port - port number it arrived on.
        You definitely want to override this function.

    send(self, packet, port=None, flood=False)
        Sends the packet out of a specific port or ports. If the packet's
        src is None, it will be set automatically to the Entity self.
        packet - a Packet (or subclass).
        port - a numeric port number, or a list of port numbers.
        flood - If True, the meaning of port is reversed - packets will
        be sent from all ports EXCEPT those listed.
        Do not override this function.

    get_port_count(self)
        Returns the number of ports this Entity has.
        Do not override this function.

    set_debug(self, *args)
        Turns all arguments into a debug message for this Entity.
        args - Arguments for the debug message.
        Do not override this function.
```

The Packet class contains four fields and a function that you should know:

```
class Packet(object)
    self.src
        The origin of the packet.

    self.dst
        The destination of the packet.

    self.ttl
        The time to live value of the packet.
        Automatically decremented for each Entity it goes.
```

`self.trace`

A list of every Entity that has handled the packet previously. This is here to help you debug.

7 Visualization

Finally, the simulator includes a graphical user interface. THIS IS MOSTLY UNSUPPORTED. But if you want to play with it, check it out: NetVis is a visualization tool for the network simulator. It is written using Processing, which is basically framework for writing visualization tools in Java (with some nice shortcuts).

You should have received NetVis executables for Linux, Mac OS, and Windows. Provided you have Java installed (which should always be the case on Macs, but not necessarily on the other two), these will hopefully all just run.

If you have trouble running the GUI, the most likely explanation is that you don't have Java installed. You might try installing it. Alternately, you could install Processing (a straightforward download from processing.org) and copy the NetVis workbook folder into your Processing projects folder.

Entities, links, and packets in your simulator should show up automatically in NetVis. Generally these try to position themselves automatically. You can also "pin" them in place, by clicking the attached bubble. You can zoom in and out, as well as altering some of the layout forces using options in the "adjustments" panel (click on it to open it).