

CatBot Test Results v1

Test Results

The results of the tests on the pre-Alpha version of the system were generally encouraging. Our test aimed at establishing two-way communication between the client installed and run inside Bristol University's firewall and the CatBot system running in FluffyLogic's offices.

The test to download a torrent file from the swarm worked fine. The CatBot client downloaded a torrent file from LegalTorrents.com without any problems and the file transfer speed was excellent; though it should be noted that not all the connection methods that were used by the system were operating, namely the DHT (Distributed Hash Tables¹) system. This did not stop the system from connecting overall however, (as it uses a number of different concurrent connection methods) but it is something we believe is related to the firewall. We need further testing and discussions with the technical support people at the university in relation to ports.

The publishing test was also successful – to a point. From the university machine, we created two test torrent files using the magnet link and the inbuilt tracker (from the Azureus system that CatBot is based on). However, we were not immediately able to download either of the published files from the offices at FluffyLogic. This is presumably because firewall rules for the CatBot system at the university are not yet in place. It is interesting to note that the next day, we were able to download the torrents, implying that the different concurrent connection methods being used eventually found a way out of the firewall or that the firewall settings were changes in the meantime, this needs further research.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The test broadly worked and confirmed the technological direction being taken. There are still technical questions that we need answers to, and the time taken to get support for the testing is an issue.

In addition the use of the shared desktop machine allocated to us is not ideal. There is an issue with this as a test machine, namely that the CatBot system runs as a logged on user and has different setting for each user, this can cause problems, with different users logging on and off.

A repeat of the test would help clarify the connectivity issues now that the firewall rules are in place. In addition, it would be useful to use some real files from the university archive in order to obtain realistic figures for file sizes and transfer speeds, John Adams from Bristol Uni has recently indicated that they now have some files we can use.

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Distributed_hash_table