

Submitting an Assignment from Your Computer

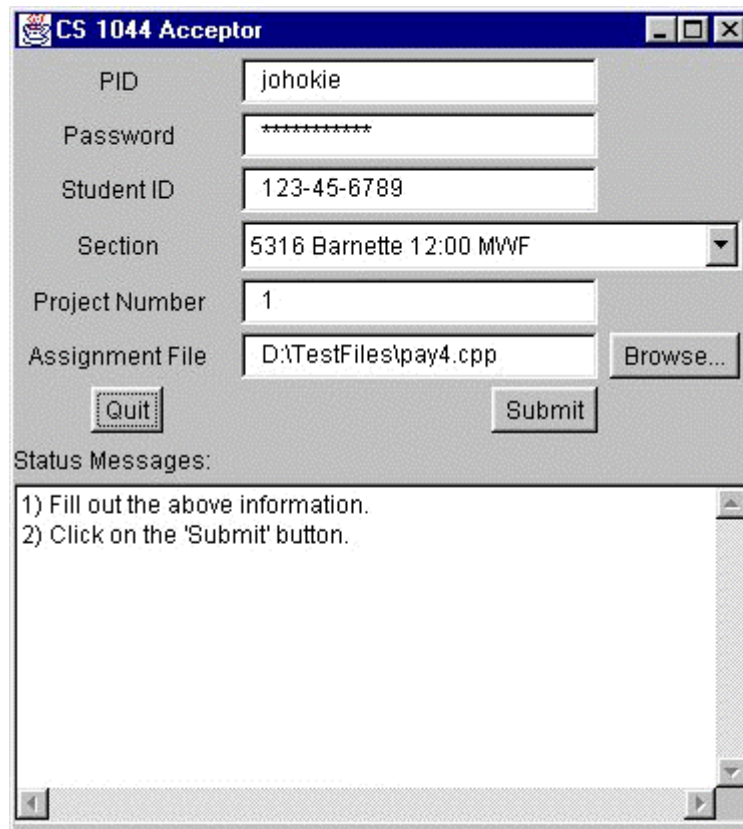
This section describes how to use *Submit* to send in an assignment file for automated archiving. You can follow these steps after *Submit* has been installed onto your computer (see **Installation** above), or from one of the Windows NT computers in the Computer Science Undergraduate Laboratory in McBryde 116-118.

1. **Connect to the Internet:** *Submit* is designed to work over the Internet. Before you can use it, you must first run your communications software, like VTNet98, and connect to the network.
2. **Starting Submit:** To run *Submit* from Windows, go to Windows Explorer and find the folder into which *Submit* has been installed, then double-click on *Submit.bat*. Alternatively, if a desktop icon has been created for *Submit*, just double-click on that. You will be presented with the following window (the name in the title bar at the top, and the list of Course Index choices will vary):

3. **Filling Out the Submission Form:** The window depicts a form that needs to be filled out in order for you to make a submission. You must fill out all of the information (PID, Password, student ID, class index, project number, and assignment file name) or *Submit* will not allow you to send your assignment. Use the arrow keys or the mouse to move between fields — the tab key is not interpreted properly. Each of the fields in the form is discussed in detail below:
 - **PID:** Enter your university PID (this is the same name you use when you connect to the university network or check your e-mail). This must be your original PID, not an e-mail alias. (Note: don't include @vt.edu)
 - **Password:** Type in your PID password (this would be the same password you use to connect to the university network or check your e-mail). As you type, each letter of your password will appear as an asterisk (*). This is done to hide your password from the sight of anyone who might be watching over your shoulder. Be careful that you type it correctly.
 - **Student ID:** Your social security number.

- **Section:** Click your mouse inside this field to get a list of class sections and index numbers. Make sure you select the correct time, instructor, and index number for the class you are enrolled in, or your assignment will be rejected.
- **Project Number:** This specifies which assignment you are submitting. For example, if you are making a submission for the third homework assignment, your instructor may specify you should enter "3" here, or possibly "HW3" or "Homework3". Be sure to follow the instructions you are given for filling in this field. This is *not* the number of submission attempts you have made for this assignment. Entering the wrong thing here may result in the rejection of your submission.
- **Assignment File:** Fill in the name of the file you wish to submit. You can also select the "Browse" button to visually search for the file. Be sure you send the correct file, otherwise confusion may arise.

The resulting window should look something like:



The screenshot shows a Windows-style application window titled "CS 1044 Acceptor". It contains a form with the following fields and controls:

- PID:** Text box containing "johokie".
- Password:** Text box containing "*****".
- Student ID:** Text box containing "123-45-6789".
- Section:** Dropdown menu showing "5316 Barnette 12:00 MWF".
- Project Number:** Text box containing "1".
- Assignment File:** Text box containing "D:\TestFiles\pay4.cpp". To its right is a "Browse..." button.
- At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Quit" and "Submit".

Below the form is a "Status Messages:" section with a text area containing the following instructions:

- 1) Fill out the above information.
- 2) Click on the 'Submit' button.

4. **Submitting:** Once all of the above information has been entered, click on the "Submit" button. This will send in your assignment for automated archiving, provided that all of the information you typed in is correct. Four things will happen when you press the "Submit" button:

- A. Your PID and password are checked for authenticity. If you entered your PID or password incorrectly, you will get a dialog box with an appropriate message and be asked to check the spelling of your PID or re-enter your password. For example:



This check is done using the Virginia Tech campus e-mail server. Occasionally you may get a dialog box indicating that the Authentication Server is unavailable:



If this happens, check your network connection (for example, try viewing the Acceptor web page with your Web browser). If that works, the e-mail server is probably either down or refusing connections because the system load is too high. Wait a few minutes and try again.

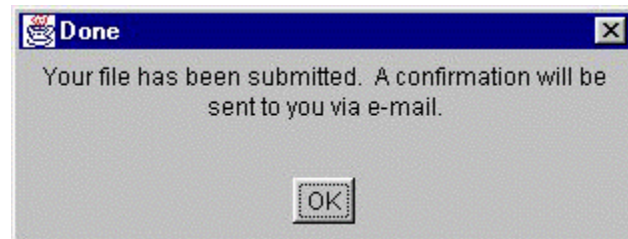
- B. *Submit* connects to the Automated Acceptor server. If you get a message saying a connection can not be made:



check that your communications software is running and is connected to the university network. If your computer is on the network and you still get a connection error, the Acceptor server or some other university network device might be down. Try again later.

There is one other known cause of a connection failure at this point. If you are using a 16-bit network connection, such as the 16-bit Trumpet Winsock provided with the old WNet software, then *Submit* will not operate correctly. In this case you will have to either submit your assignment from the Computer Science Undergraduate Lab or switch to a 32-bit connection; the simplest solution is to obtain and install the current VTNet software package (after all, it's free).

- C. Once a connection has been made, *Submit* will send your ID number, PID, section number and project number to the Acceptor server. The Acceptor will check to see if your ID number and PID match the roll file for the specified section. If they don't, you will receive an e-mail message from the Acceptor indicating the problem and your submission will be rejected. If everything checks out properly, *Submit* will send your file over the network to the Acceptor server where it will be timestamped and archived.
- D. After the Acceptor server has received your file, it will disconnect from *Submit*, which will display the dialog box below:



At this point your submission is complete, and you can quit *Submit* by clicking on the Close "x" button in the upper right-hand corner of the *Submit* window or the "Quit" button.

5. **Getting Results:** The Acceptor server will automatically archive your submission, and then send you an e-mail message as follows:

Your submission has been accepted and archived:

```
File:   johokie.1.1.doc
Length: 515072
Time:   Thu Aug 27 11:44:09 EDT 1998
```

The length shown in the e-mail message is the number of bytes that were transferred from *Submit* to the Acceptor server. You should compare that to the size of your file: right-click on the file name in Windows Explorer and click on Properties in the pop-up menu.

If you make an error in selecting your Section, or entering the Project Number, you will receive a message indicating that; for example:

```
You are not enrolled in the section you specified: 1000
You may have specified the wrong section.
Please submit again with the correct information.
This did not count as a submission.
```

Under normal conditions, the e-mail message should be sent within a few minutes.