

EECS 423
Distributed Systems
2004 Fall Semester

Homework 2

Due at the beginning of class, September 23, 2004
No late papers accepted

The objective of this assignment is to design a protocol for sending and receiving e-parcel stubs and approval-denial messages. Refer to the overview document for a high-level description of the e-parcel system.

Submit your protocol as a plain text file both to the instructor and to the TA. You have to develop your own individual protocols. Individual protocols will be merged by the instructor in one proposed standard document that combines the best features of each individual protocol.

Make sure that your proposal is conformant to the RFC standard for proposed draft to the largest possible extent. For example, you *MAY* avoid intellectual property issues but you *MUST* specify whether each TS is required, recommended, elective, and so on. RFC 821 predates RFC 2026: hence, there are many stylistic elements that are missing from RFC 821 but that you need to take into account when you write your protocol.

As a general advice, your protocols should satisfy the objectives stated in Section 1.2 of the book.

Avoid featurism. Make the standard short and to the point. Try to make your standard better, not longer. You should have read RFC 821: that is the result of several people working for years on SMTP. Its length is not a good example of what you should try to accomplish in two weeks. Its precision and cleanliness are.