

SOCKET PROGRAMMING

Ming-Hung Chen
2010/03/24

National Taiwan University
CMLAB, since 1991



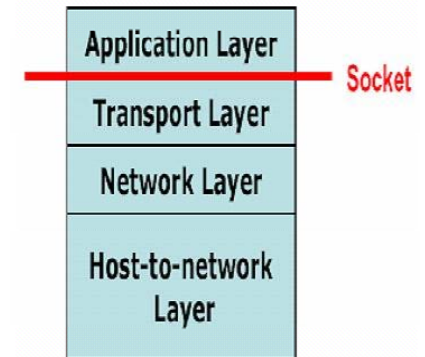
Overview

- Background
 - What is Socket?
 - Socket API (Application Programming Interface)
 - TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)
 - UDP (User Datagram Protocol)
- Socket Programming
 - Network Addressing
 - Byte Ordering
 - TCP Server and Client
 - UDP Server and Client

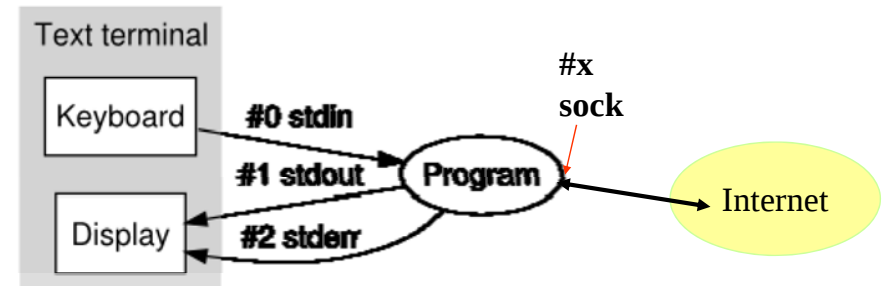
What is Socket?

From the point of view of the networking

- Service access point of TCP/IP protocol stack
 - between Application layer and Transport layer
- A **file descriptor** that lets an application read/write data from/to the network
- Once configured the application can
 - Send data to the socket
 - Receive data from the socket



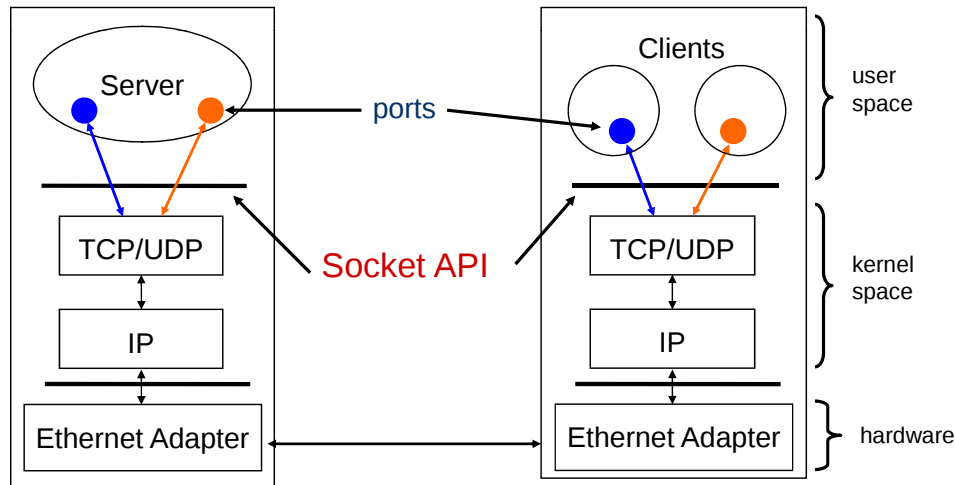
What is File Descriptor?



- E.g. cout writes data to stdout (#1)
cin read data from stdin (#0)

Socket API

Server and Client exchange messages over the network through a common **Socket API**



5

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)

TCP

- Reliable – guarantee delivery
- Byte stream – in-order delivery
- Connection-oriented – single socket per connection
- Setup connection followed by data transfer

Telephone Call

- Guaranteed delivery
- In-order delivery
- Connection-oriented
- Setup connection followed by conversation

Example TCP applications
Web, Email, Telnet

7

User Datagram Protocol (UDP)

UDP

- Single socket to receive messages
- No guarantee of delivery
- Not necessarily in-order delivery
- Datagram – independent packets
- Must address each packet

Postal Mail

- Single mailbox to receive letters
- Unreliable ☺
- Not necessarily in-order delivery
- Letters sent independently
- Must address each reply

Example UDP applications
Multimedia, voice over IP

6

TCP vs. UDP

- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)
 - One-to-one
 - Connection-oriented
 - Reliable
 - In-order delivery
 - Transmission after Connect
- User Datagram Protocol (UDP)
 - One-to-one or one-to many
 - Connectionless
 - Unreliable
 - Unordered delivery
 - Transmission with destination address

8

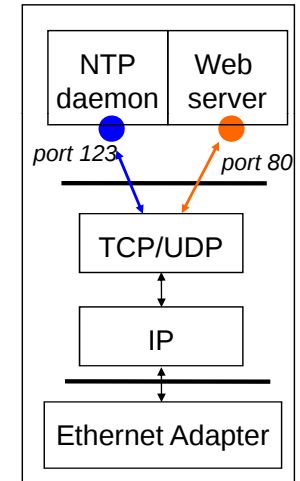
Overview

- Background
 - What is Socket?
 - Socket API (Application Programming Interface)
 - TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)
 - UDP (User Datagram Protocol)
- **Socket Programming**
 - Network Addressing
 - Byte Ordering
 - TCP Server and Client
 - UDP Server and Client

9

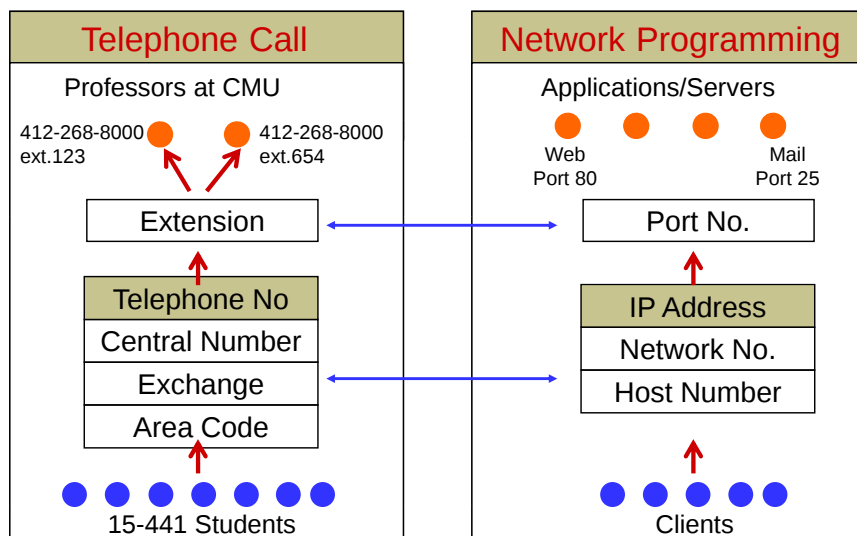
Concept of Port Numbers

- Port numbers are used to identify “entities” on a host
- Port numbers can be
 - Well-known (port 0-1023)
 - Dynamic or private (port 1024-65535)
- Servers/daemons usually use well-known ports
 - Any client can identify the server/service
 - HTTP = 80, FTP = 21, Telnet = 23, ...
 - `/etc/service` defines well-known ports
- Clients usually use dynamic ports
 - Assigned by the kernel at run time



11

Network Addressing Analogy



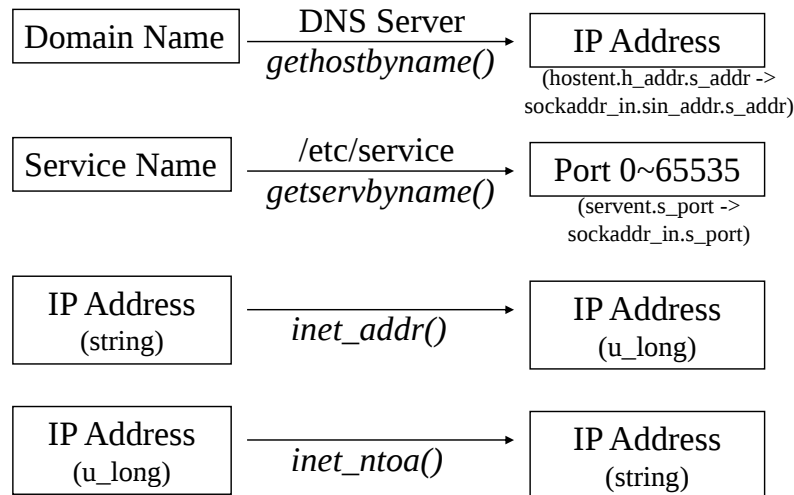
10

Names and Addresses

- Each attachment point on Internet is given unique address
 - Based on location within network – like phone numbers
- Humans prefer to deal with names not addresses
 - DNS provides mapping of name to address
 - Name based on administrative ownership of host

12

Address Translating Functions



13

Translating Names to Addresses

- Gethostbyname provides interface to DNS
- Additional useful calls
 - Gethostbyaddr – returns hostent given sockaddr_in
 - Getservbyname
 - Used to get service description (typically port number)
 - Returns servent based on name

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct hostent *hp; /*ptr to host info for remote*/
struct sockaddr_in peeraddr;
char *name = "www.cs.cmu.edu";

peeraddr.sin_family = AF_INET;
if((hp = gethostbyname(name))!=NULL)
{
    peeraddr.sin_addr.s_addr = ((struct in_addr*)(hp->h_addr))->s_addr;
    printf("Translate %s => %s\n", name, inet_ntoa(peeraddr.sin_addr));
}
```

15

Internet Addressing Data Structure

```
#include <netinet/in.h>

/* Internet address structure */
struct in_addr {
    u_long s_addr; /* 32-bit IPv4 address */
}; /* network byte ordered */

/* Socket address, Internet style. */
struct sockaddr_in {
    u_char sin_family; /* Address Family */
    u_short sin_port; /* UDP or TCP Port# */
    /* network byte ordered */
    struct in_addr sin_addr; /* Internet Address */
    char sin_zero[8]; /* unused */
};
```

- sin_family = AF_INET selects Internet address family

14

Dealing with IP Addresses

- IP Addresses are commonly written as strings ("128.2.35.50"), but programs deal with IP addresses as integers.

Converting strings to numerical address:

```
struct sockaddr_in srv;

srv.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr("128.2.35.50");
if(srv.sin_addr.s_addr == (in_addr_t) -1) {
    fprintf(stderr, "inet_addr failed!\n"); exit(1);
}
```

Converting a numerical address to a string:

```
struct sockaddr_in srv;
char *t = inet_ntoa(srv.sin_addr);
if(t == 0) {
    fprintf(stderr, "inet_ntoa failed!\n"); exit(1);
}
```

16

Byte Ordering

```
union {
    u_int32_t addr; /* 4 bytes address */
    char c[4];
} un;
/* 128.2.194.95 */
un.addr = 0x8002c25f;
/* c[0] = ? */
```

c[0] c[1] c[2] c[3]

- Big Endian →
 - Sun Solaris, PowerPC, ...
- Little Endian →
 - i386, alpha, ...
- Network byte order = Big Endian

128	2	194	95
95	194	2	128

17

Byte Ordering Functions

- Converts between **host byte order** and **network byte order**
 - 'h' = host byte order
 - 'n' = network byte order
 - 'l' = long (4 bytes), converts IP addresses
 - 's' = short (2 bytes), converts port numbers

```
#include <netinet/in.h>
```

```
unsigned long int htonl(unsigned long int hostlong);
unsigned short int htons(unsigned short int hostshort);
unsigned long int ntohl(unsigned long int netlong);
unsigned short int ntohs(unsigned short int netshort);
```

18

Recall: What is a Socket?

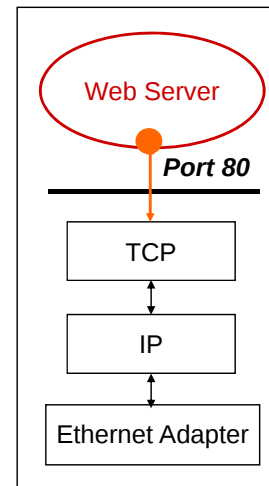
- A socket is a file descriptor that lets an application read/write data from/to the network

```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */
if ((fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0)) < 0) {
    perror("socket");
    exit(1);
}
```

- **socket** returns an integer (socket descriptor)
 - fd < 0 indicates that an error occurred
 - socket descriptors are similar to file descriptors
- AF_INET: associates a socket with the Internet protocol family
- SOCK_STREAM: selects the TCP protocol
- SOCK_DGRAM: selects the UDP protocol

19

TCP Server



- For example:
web server
- **What does a web server need to do so that a web client can connect to it?**

20

Socket I/O: socket()

- Since web traffic uses TCP, the web server must create a socket of type `SOCK_STREAM`

```
int fd;          /* socket descriptor */

if((fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0)) < 0) {
    perror("socket");
    exit(1);
}
```

- **socket** returns an integer (**socket descriptor**)
 - **fd** < 0 indicates that an error occurred
- **AF_INET** associates a socket with the Internet protocol family
- **SOCK_STREAM** selects the TCP protocol

21

Socket I/O: listen()

- **listen** indicates that the server will accept a connection

```
int fd;          /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by bind() */

/* 1) create the socket */
/* 2) bind the socket to a port */

if(listen(fd, 5) < 0) {
    perror("listen");
    exit(1);
}
```

- **Still not quite ready to communicate with a client...**

23

Socket I/O: bind()

- A **socket** can be bound to a **port**

```
int fd;          /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by bind() */

/* create the socket */

srv.sin_family = AF_INET; /* use the Internet addr family */
srv.sin_port = htons(80); /* bind socket 'fd' to port 80*/

/* bind: a client may connect to any of my addresses */
srv.sin_addr.s_addr = htonl(INADDR_ANY);

if(bind(fd, (struct sockaddr*) &srv, sizeof(srv)) < 0) {
    perror("bind"); exit(1);
}
```

- **Still not quite ready to communicate with a client...**

22

Socket I/O: accept()

- **accept** blocks waiting for a connection

```
int fd;          /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by bind() */
struct sockaddr_in cli; /* used by accept() */
int newfd;       /* returned by accept() */
int cli_len = sizeof(cli); /* used by accept() */

/* 1) create the socket */
/* 2) bind the socket to a port */
/* 3) listen on the socket */

newfd = accept(fd, (struct sockaddr*) &cli, &cli_len);
if(newfd < 0) {
    perror("accept"); exit(1);
}
```

- **accept** returns a new socket (**newfd**) with the same properties as the original socket (**fd**)
 - **newfd** < 0 indicates that an error occurred

24

Socket I/O: accept() continued...

```
struct sockaddr_in cli;      /* used by accept() */
int newfd;                  /* returned by accept() */
int cli_len = sizeof(cli);  /* used by accept() */

newfd = accept(fd, (struct sockaddr*) &cli, &cli_len);
if(newfd < 0) {
    perror("accept");
    exit(1);
}
```

- How does the server know which client it is?
 - **cli.sin_addr.s_addr** contains the client's **IP address**
 - **cli.sin_port** contains the client's **port number**
- Now the server can exchange data with the client by using **read** and **write** on the descriptor **newfd**.
- Why does **accept** need to return a new descriptor?

25

Socket I/O: read()

- **read** can be used with a socket
- **read blocks waiting for data from the client but does not guarantee that sizeof(buf) is read**

```
int fd;                      /* socket descriptor */
char buf[512];              /* used by read() */
int nbytes;                 /* used by read() */

/* 1) create the socket */
/* 2) bind the socket to a port */
/* 3) listen on the socket */
/* 4) accept the incoming connection */

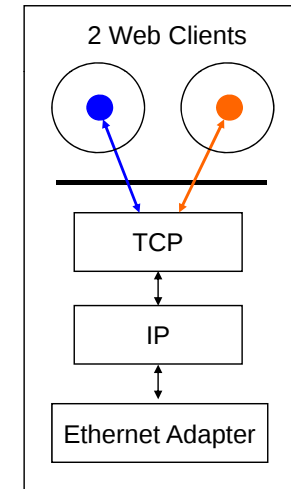
if((nbytes = read(newfd, buf, sizeof(buf))) < 0) {
    perror("read"); exit(1);
}
```

26

TCP Client

- For example:
web client

- **How does a web client connect to a web server?**



27

Socket I/O: connect()

- **connect** allows a client to connect to a server...

```
int fd;                      /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv;      /* used by connect() */

/* create the socket */

/* connect: use the Internet address family */
srv.sin_family = AF_INET;

/* connect: socket 'fd' to port 80 */
srv.sin_port = htons(80);

/* connect: connect to IP Address "128.2.35.50" */
srv.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr("128.2.35.50");

if(connect(fd, (struct sockaddr*) &srv, sizeof(srv)) < 0) {
    perror("connect"); exit(1);
}
```

28

Socket I/O: write()

- **write** can be used with a socket

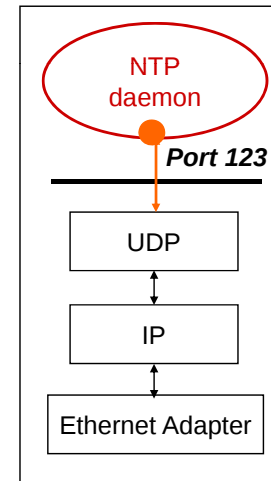
```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by connect() */
char buf[512]; /* used by write() */
int nbytes; /* used by write() */

/* 1) create the socket */
/* 2) connect() to the server */

/* Example: A client could "write" a request to a server */
/* */
if((nbytes = write(fd, buf, sizeof(buf))) < 0) {
    perror("write");
    exit(1);
}
```

29

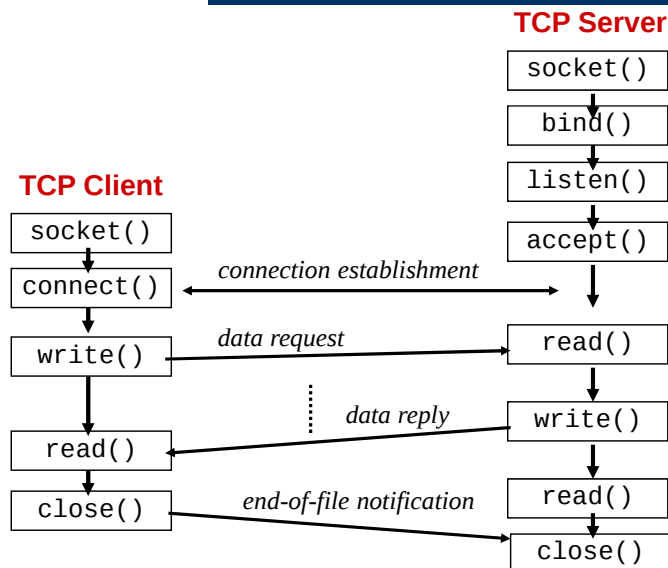
UDP Server Example



- For example:
NTP daemon
- What does a **UDP server** need to do so that a **UDP client** can connect to it?

31

Review: TCP Client-Server Interaction



30

Socket I/O: socket()

- The UDP server must create a **datagram** socket...

```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */

if((fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, 0)) < 0) {
    perror("socket");
    exit(1);
}
```

- **socket** returns an integer (**socket descriptor**)
 - **fd** < 0 indicates that an error occurred
- AF_INET: associates a socket with the Internet protocol family
- **SOCK_DGRAM**: selects the UDP protocol

32

Socket I/O: bind()

- A **socket** can be bound to a **port**

```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by bind() */

/* create the socket */

/* bind: use the Internet address family */
srv.sin_family = AF_INET;

/* bind: socket 'fd' to port 80*/
srv.sin_port = htons(80);

/* bind: a client may connect to any of my addresses */
srv.sin_addr.s_addr = htonl(INADDR_ANY);

if(bind(fd, (struct sockaddr*) &srv, sizeof(srv)) < 0) {
    perror("bind"); exit(1);
}
```

- Now the UDP server is ready to accept packets...

33

Socket I/O: recvfrom() continued...

```
nbytes = recvfrom(fd, buf, sizeof(buf), 0 /* flags */,
                  (struct sockaddr*) cli, &cli_len);
```

- The actions performed by **recvfrom**
 - returns the number of bytes read (**nbytes**)
 - copies **nbytes** of data into **buf**
 - returns the address of the client (**cli**)
 - returns the length of **cli** (**cli_len**)
 - don't worry about flags

35

Socket I/O: recvfrom()

- read** does not provide the client's address to the UDP server

```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by bind() */
struct sockaddr_in cli; /* used by recvfrom() */
char buf[512]; /* used by recvfrom() */
int cli_len = sizeof(cli); /* used by recvfrom() */
int nbytes; /* used by recvfrom() */

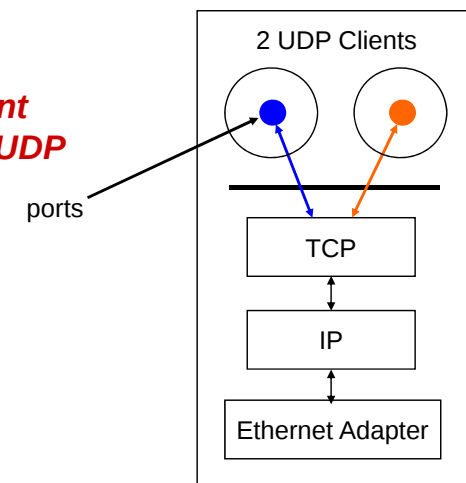
/* 1) create the socket */
/* 2) bind to the socket */

nbytes = recvfrom(fd, buf, sizeof(buf), 0 /* flags */,
                  (struct sockaddr*) &cli, &cli_len);
if(nbytes < 0) {
    perror("recvfrom"); exit(1);
}
```

34

UDP Client Example

- How does a **UDP client** communicate with a **UDP server**?



36

Socket I/O: sendto()

- **write** is not allowed
- Notice that the UDP client does not **bind** a port number
 - a port number is **dynamically assigned** when the first **sendto** is called

```
int fd; /* socket descriptor */
struct sockaddr_in srv; /* used by sendto() */

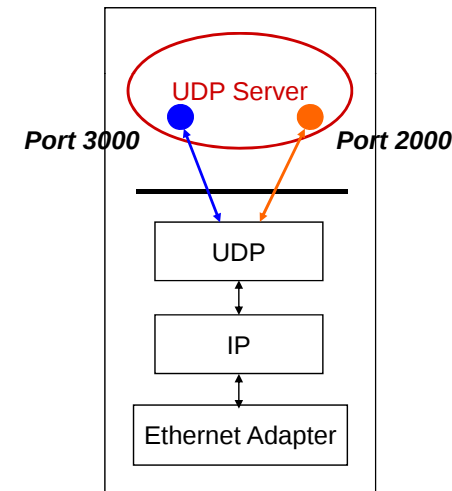
/* 1) create the socket */

/* sendto: send data to IP Address "128.2.35.50" port 80 */
srv.sin_family = AF_INET;
srv.sin_port = htons(80);
srv.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr("128.2.35.50");

nbytes = sendto(fd, buf, sizeof(buf), 0 /* flags */,
               (struct sockaddr*) &srv, sizeof(srv));
if(nbytes < 0) {
    perror("sendto");    exit(1);
}
```

37

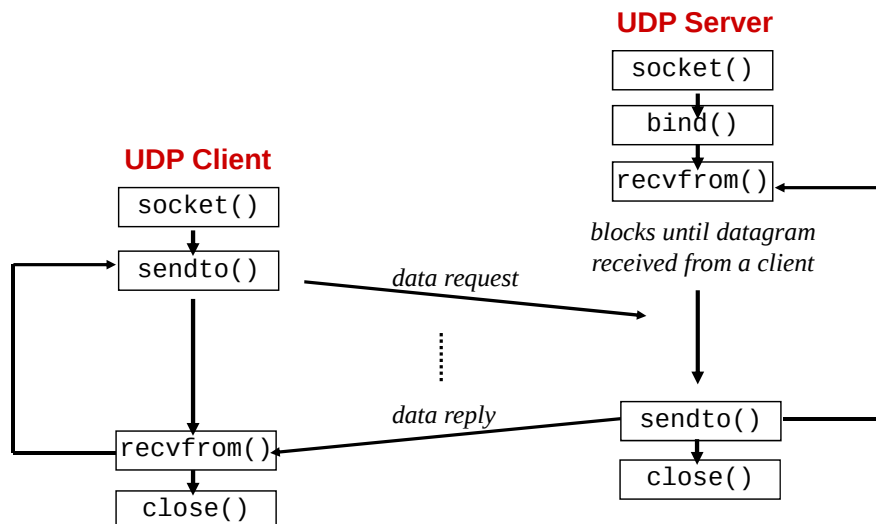
The UDP Server



- How can the **UDP server** service multiple ports simultaneously?

39

Review: UDP Client-Server Interaction



38

UDP Server: Servicing Two Ports

```
int s1; /* socket descriptor 1 */
int s2; /* socket descriptor 2 */

/* 1) create socket s1 */
/* 2) create socket s2 */
/* 3) bind s1 to port 2000 */
/* 4) bind s2 to port 3000 */

while(1) {
    recvfrom(s1, buf, sizeof(buf), ...);
    /* process buf */

    recvfrom(s2, buf, sizeof(buf), ...);
    /* process buf */
}
```

- What problems does this code have?

40

Socket I/O: select()

```
int select(int maxfds, fd_set *readfds, fd_set *writefds,
          fd_set *exceptfds, struct timeval *timeout);

FD_CLR(int fd, fd_set *fds); /* clear the bit for fd in fds */
FD_ISSET(int fd, fd_set *fds); /* is the bit for fd in fds? */
FD_SET(int fd, fd_set *fds); /* turn on the bit for fd in fds */
FD_ZERO(fd_set *fds); /* clear all bits in fds */
```

- **maxfds**: number of descriptors to be tested
 - descriptors (0, 1, ... maxfds-1) will be tested
- **readfds**: a set of *fds* we want to check if data is available
 - returns a set of *fds* ready to read
 - if input argument is *NULL*, not interested in that condition
- **writefds**: returns a set of *fds* ready to write
- **exceptfds**: returns a set of *fds* with exception conditions

41

Socket I/O: select()

- **select** allows synchronous I/O multiplexing

```
int s1, s2; /* socket descriptors */
fd_set readfds; /* used by select() */

/* create and bind s1 and s2 */
while(1) {
    FD_ZERO(&readfds); /* initialize the fd set */

    FD_SET(s1, &readfds); /* add s1 to the fd set */
    FD_SET(s2, &readfds); /* add s2 to the fd set */

    if(select(s2+1, &readfds, 0, 0, 0) < 0) {
        perror("select");
        exit(1);
    }
    if(FD_ISSET(s1, &readfds)) {
        recvfrom(s1, buf, sizeof(buf), ...);
        /* process buf */
    }
    /* do the same for s2 */
}
```

43

Socket I/O: select()

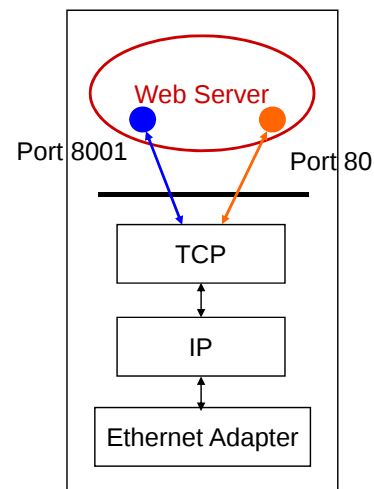
```
int select(int maxfds, fd_set *readfds, fd_set *writefds,
          fd_set *exceptfds, struct timeval *timeout);

struct timeval {
    long tv_sec; /* seconds */
    long tv_usec; /* microseconds */
}
```

- **timeout**
 - if *NULL*, wait forever and return only when one of the descriptors is ready for I/O
 - otherwise, wait up to a fixed amount of time specified by *timeout*
 - if we don't want to wait at all, create a timeout structure with timer value equal to 0
- Refer to the man page for more information

42

More Details About a Web Server



How can a web server manage multiple connections simultaneously?

44

Socket I/O: select()

```
int fd, next=0; /* original socket */
int newfd[10]; /* new socket descriptors */
while(1) {
    fd_set readfds;
    FD_ZERO(&readfds); FD_SET(fd, &readfds);

    /* Now use FD_SET to initialize other newfd's
       that have already been returned by accept() */

    select(maxfd+1, &readfds, 0, 0, 0);
    if(FD_ISSET(fd, &readfds)) {
        newfd[next++] = accept(fd, ...);
    }
    /* do the following for each descriptor newfd[n] */
    if(FD_ISSET(newfd[next], &readfds)) {
        read(newfd[next], buf, sizeof(buf));
        /* process data */
    }
}
```

- Now the web server can support multiple connections...

45

E.g. Concurrent Server using fork()

- fork creates a child process.

```
pid_t pid;
int listenfd, connfd;

listenfd = socket(...);
/* fill in sockaddr_in{} with server's well known port */
bind(listenfd, ...);
listen(listenfd, LISTENQ);

while(1){
    connfd = accept(listenfd, ...); /* probably blocks*/
    if( (pid = fork()) == 0){
        close(listenfd); /* child closes listening socket*/
        doit(connfd); /* process the request */
        close(connfd); /* done with this client */
        exit(0); /* child terminates */
    }
    close(connfd); /* parent closes connected socket */
}
```

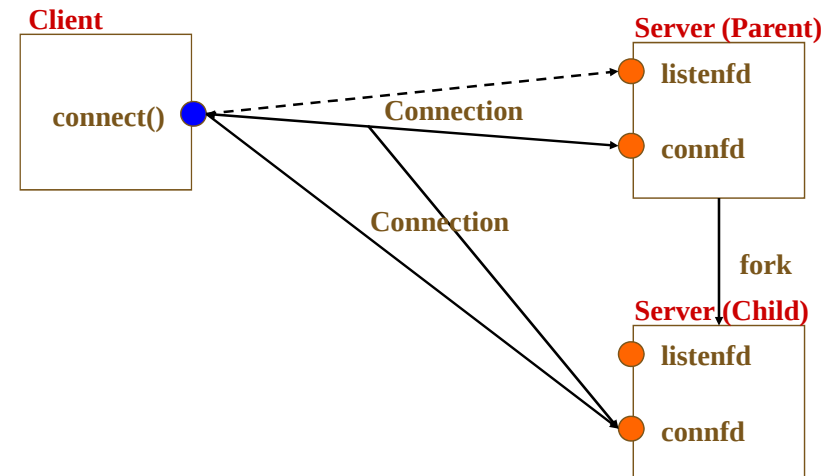
47

Other Solutions for Concurrent Client/Server?

- What we talked above is the single-process concurrent solution, and we still have other choices
- Multi-thread
 - See pthread family manual, e.g. pthread_create()..etc
 - Pthread mutex helps in data synchronizing
 - E.g. pthread_mutex_lock(), pthread_mutex_init()..etc
- Multi-process
 - See fork(), vfork(). If you don't know which one to use, use fork()
 - Share memory for communication between processes
 - E.g. shmget(), shmat(), shmdt()..etc
 - Semaphore to helps in data synchronizing
 - See semaphore in your OS textbook
 - E.g. semget(), semctl(), semop()..etc

46

E.g. Concurrent Server using fork()



48

Reference

- Books
 - Advanced Programming in the UNIX(R) Environment (2nd Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Computing Series) (Hardcover)
 - W. Richard Stevens, Stephen A. Rago
 - UNIX Network Programming, Volume 2: Interprocess Communications (2nd Edition) (Hardcover)
 - W. Richard Stevens
 - Internetworking with TCP/IP, Vol. III: Client-Server Programming and Applications, Linux/Posix Sockets Version
 - Douglas E. Comer, David L. Stevens, and Michael Evangelista
- man
 - man 2 (socket | bind | listen | read | write | connect | ...)
 - man XXXXX
- Google