ECE 435 – Network Engineering Lecture 2

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Announcements

- Homework 1 will be posted.
  Will be on website, will announce via mainestreet e-mail
  Due next Friday (via e-mail)

- Possibly helpful reference for socket programming:
  `https://beej.us/guide/bgnet/`

Client and Server

- Client: makes requests

- Server: listens for requests, and responds

- Can you be both?

Homework #1

- Write a client and a server
- **Server**: waits for incoming network connection. When one comes in it is opened and it listens for data. As data arrives, interprets it, sends a response.
- **Client**: opens a connection to server. Takes input from the keyboard and sends it to server, waits for response, and prints response.
- How would you code this?

Homework #1 – Code Notes

- I provide a lot of the code for you as writing socket code completely from scratch is a huge pain
- If you took ECE471 this might seem straightforward
- I might not be able to cover all this before the assignment is assigned. We should be able to cover it all by Monday
- Sorry this involves throwing a lot of C at you right at the start of the semester
- Do take it seriously, we will revisit the code throughout the semester and it can be a good base for final project.

Homework #1 – AI Notes

- It says this in the syllabus but maybe I didn't stress it enough
- I'd prefer if you didn't use AI
- I know it's unenforceable

Homework #1 – Hardware Notes

- Assume you have a Linux machine
- Can also do this on OSX if you have compiler/etc installed
- Also in windows, maybe if you install the new Linux subsystem for it? Or run Linux in a VM?
- If you can't do any of those things, I can provide an account you can ssh into to do the homework.

Homework #1 – Something Cool

- Last point is for something cool
- As described, do this in a separate copy of the code to make grading easier

Socket Programming

- BSD sockets – Berkeley UNIX, 1983
  Why the standard? Right place at right time, also "free" and open-source

- Sort of at the transport layer, we are skipping ahead here

- Will reuse the code throughout the semester

- Can use for things other than TCP/IP (AF_UNIX, netlink, bluetooth, IPX, appletalk, etc)

Low level C programming

- Why C code?
  - Close to hardware.
  - Always know what's going on.
  - Performance.
  - I like it.
- Why not C-code?
  - Hard to code
  - **Security**

Other Languages

- Python
  - ◦ Low-level interface a lot like C one
  - ◦ Higher level sockserver interface
- Java
  - ◦ More abstraction
  - ◦ java.net, socket=newsocket(addr,port);
- Rust
  - ◦ std::net
- Note Websockets are something different

Small C Program

What do all the parts do?

argc/argv handle command line arguments.

what are syscalls?

How does printf work?

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char **argv) {
    printf("Hello world\n");
    return 0;
}
```

File descriptors and system calls

- At the lowest level, everything on UNIX/Linux is a "file" (or is supposed to be)
- Files are tracked per-process, with an integer value *file descriptor* acting as a sort of reference.
- Your process starts out with three open files, STDIN (0), STDOUT (1), STDERR (2)
- You can create more file descriptors with various system calls. `open()` is a common one. Returns -1 on error.

More File descriptors and system calls

- Once you have a file descriptor, use syscalls such as `read()`, `write()`, `ioctl()` to do I/O
- You can `close()` when you are done
- Magic of Linux/UNIX is not just disk files, but all devices act as files and same syscalls work on them.

Sockets don't fit the Abstraction Well

- Just to be difficult though the socket interface does things slightly differently (you don't use `open()` on `/dev/network` or `ioctl()` to set address)
- Some people are still angry about this
- Note until Linux 4.3 on older Linux platforms (x86-32) there was only a single socket syscall with a de-multiplexer

Socket Syscalls

remember: use `man` for documents, e.g. `man socket`

- SOCKET – create a new endpoint
- BIND – associate an address with a socket
- LISTEN – announce willing to accept connections
- ACCEPT – passively establish incoming connection
- CONNECT – actively attempt to establish connection
- SEND – send data
- RECEIVE – receive data
- CLOSE – close connection

Writing a Simple Server

Opening a socket for listening

```c
/* Open a socket to listen on */
/* AF_INET means an IPv4 connection (others are possible) */
/* SOCK_STREAM means reliable two-way connection (TCP) */
/* last argument is protocol subset.  We leave at zero */

int socket_fd = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0);

if (socket_fd<0) {
    fprintf(stderr,"Error opening socket! %s\n",
        strerror(errno));
}
```
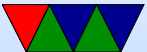
Setting an Address

- More layer violations
- While in theory generic, we are coding to TCP/IP here
- Address is a 32-bit number that uniquely identifies system
  IP Address, often written 127.0.0.1 but it's actually just a 32-bit integer

Setting the Port

- Port is how you handle multiple applications on same machine, based on the "port" it can map back to which application (the OS has a table)
- On TCP/IP limited to a 16-bit port number (65536)

Network Byte Order

- The address and port are in network byte order, which is big-endian (stored biggest byte first)
- Most modern machines are little-endian (stored smallest byte first)
- You will need to convert the address and port to the proper endianess
- Aside/example on endianess

Network Byte Order Conversion

- `htonl()` will convert a long (32-bit) **h**ost **to n**etwork order **l**ong
- `htons()` will convert a short (16-bit) **h**ost **to n**etwork order **s**hort
- Can you convert the other way? Yes, there's also `ntohl()` and `ntohs()`

Setting up Address

- `memset()` to clear memory to zero, be sure to get order of arguments right!
- C structures and how they work
- Casting, lets us fake pointer type for all types of connections and cast to right one.
- We're a server and listening for any address
- We use 0.0.0.0 which means to listen on all networks
- No need to explicitly set 0.0.0.0, the zeroing by `memset` does it for us

```c
/* for reference, these live in header file */
/* /usr/include/x86_64-linux-gnu/sys/socket.h etc */
struct in_addr { uint32_t s_addr; };
struct sockaddr_in {
    sa_family_t    sin_family;
    in_port_t   sin_port;
    struct in_addr sin_addr;
};
/* Set up the server address to listen on */
struct sockaddr_in server_addr;
/* Clear struct, also sets the address to 0.0.0.0 */
memset(&server_addr,0,sizeof(struct sockaddr_in));
server_addr.sin_family=AF_INET;
/* Convert the port we want to network byte order (short) */
server_addr.sin_port=htons(port);
```

bind() **system call**

- bind() gives the socket an address, in this case 0.0.0.0 from above

```
/* Bind to the port */

if (bind(socket_fd, (struct sockaddr *) &server_addr,
    sizeof(server_addr)) <0) {
    fprintf(stderr,"Error binding! %s\n", strerror(errno));
}
```

listen() system call

Sets up a data structure to hold pending incoming connections in case more than one come in at once.

```
/* Tell the server we want to listen on the port */
/* Second argument is backlog, how many pending connections can */
/* build up */

listen(socket_fd,5);
```

accept() system call

- Blocks waiting for incoming connection
- When comes in, gets *new* file descriptor (careful)
- You can take this and fork a new thread to handle it (why would you do that?)

```
/* Call accept to create a new file descriptor for an incoming */
/* connection.  It takes the oldest one off the queue */
/* We're blocking so it waits here until a connection happens */
client_len=sizeof(client_addr);
new_socket_fd = accept(socket_fd,
    (struct sockaddr *)&client_addr,&client_len);
if (new_socket_fd<0) {
    fprintf(stderr,"Error accepting! %s\n",strerror(errno));
}
```

read() system call

Can also use `recv()` if need extra options.

```c
#define BUFFER_SIZE 1024
char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];

/* Someone connected!  Let's try to read BUFFER_SIZE-1 bytes */
memset(buffer,0,BUFFER_SIZE);
n = read(new_socket_fd,buffer,(BUFFER_SIZE-1));
if (n==0) fprintf(stderr,"Connection to client lost\n\n");
else if (n<0) {
    fprintf(stderr,"Error reading from socket %s\n",
        strerror(errno));
}

/* Print the message we received */
printf("Message from client: %s\n",buffer);
```

write() system call

Can also use `send()` if need extra options.

```c
/* Send a response */
n = write(new_socket_fd,"Got your message, thanks!",25);
if (n<0) {
            fprintf(stderr,"Error writing. %s\n",
                    strerror(errno));
}
```

close() system call

```
printf("Exiting server\n\n");

/* Close the sockets */
close(new_socket_fd);
close(socket_fd);
```

Server Summary

- `socket()` – tell kernel to create socket
- set up address/port
- `bind()` – assign address to socket
- `listen()` – start listening on socket
- `accept()` – wait for incoming connection, assign file descriptor
- `recv()`/`read()` – get data
- `send()`/`write()` – send response
- `close()` – close connection, `close()` – close socket

HW#1 – Keeping Server Open

- I provide code that does a simple, once-through server transaction
- What if you want to keep the server open and listening for multiple transactions of same connection?
- You will need to loop. Where should we loop to?
- After write, loop back to just before the read. Don't loop to before the accept or else you'll just continually start new connections, not re-use the current

Server Handling Multiple Connections

- High-end servers (like webservers) can handle multiple active connections at once.

- You can use accept to get file descriptors for multiple connections

- How can you handle this? Rapidly query each fd over and over to see if any data has come in? Inefficient.

More Optimized Multiple Connections

- poll()/select() let you set up an array of fds and get notified if any see activity
- alternately, fork() or spawn a thread for each fd and handle separately

TIME_WAIT

- If you quit and immediately try to restart server might get error saying socket busy.
- Spec says you should wait a minute for all packets to clear out. You can wait, or can force with

```
int on=1;    /* we want to turn the feature on */
setsockopt(s,SOL_SOCKET,SO_REUSEADDR,
   (char *)&on,sizeof(on));
```

Client Code

- Ran out of time, see Monday's lecture notes