



## **Lab Manual 6** ***(Operating Systems)***

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# Name Pipes

1. It is an extension to the traditional pipe concept on Unix. A traditional pipe is “un-named” and lasts only as long as the process.
  2. A named pipe, however, can last as long as the system is up, beyond the life of the process. It can be deleted if no longer used.
  3. Usually a named pipe appears as a file, and generally processes attach to it for inter-process communication. A FIFO file is a special kind of file on the local storage which allows two or more processes to communicate with each other by reading/writing to/from this file.
  4. A FIFO special file is entered into the file system by calling `mkfifo()` in C. Once we have created a FIFO special file in this way, any process can open it for reading or writing, in the same way as an ordinary file. However, it has to be open at both ends simultaneously before you can proceed to do any input or output operations on it.
  5. Reading from or writing to a named pipe occurs just like traditional file reading and writing; except that the data for named pipe is never written to or read from a file in hard disk but memory.
- The standard programming model is that after the pipe has been set up, two (or more) processes can send data using `read()` and `write()`.
  - Pipes opened with `open()` should be closed with `close(fd)`.

## Opening and Creating Named Pipe files

Open system call is used for opening a file.

```
int open(const char *pathname, int flags, mode_t mode);
```

1. `pathname` is a file name
2. The argument `flags` must include one of the following *access modes* **O\_RDONLY**, **O\_WRONLY**, or **O\_RDWR**. These request opening the file in read-only, write-only, or read/write modes, respectively. Apart from above, flags can also have any of the following:
  - (A) **O\_APPEND** (file is opened in append mode)
  - (B) **O\_CREAT** (If `pathname` does not exist, create it as a regular file.)
  - (C) **O\_EXCL** Ensure that this call creates the file: if this flag is specified in conjunction with **O\_CREAT**, and `pathname` already exists, then `open()` fails.

**Note:** to use two flags at once use bitwise OR operator, i.e., **O\_WRONLY | O\_CREAT**

### 3. Mode is only required when a new file is created and is used to set permissions on the new file

`S_IRWXU` 00700 user (file owner) has read, write, and execute permission

`S_IRUSR` 00400 user has read permission

`S_IWUSR` 00200 user has write permission

`S_IXUSR` 00100 user has execute permission

`S_IRWXG` 00070 group has read, write, and execute permission

`S_IRGRP` 00040 group has read permission

`S_IWGRP` 00020 group has write permission

`S_IXGRP` 00010 group has execute permission

`S_IRWXO` 00007 others have read, write, and execute permission

`S_IROTH` 00004 others have read permission

`S_IWOTH` 00002 others have write permission

`S_IXOTH` 00001 others have execute permission

### Example Program:

#### Creating a named pipe:

`mkfifo(pipe_name, permissions)`

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <sys/wait.h>

#define PIPE_PERM (S_IRUSR | S_IWUSR)

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    char *pipe_name = argv[1];
    int status = mkfifo(pipe_name, PIPE_PERM);
    printf("%d\n", status);
    return 0;
}
```

## Sending and Receiving Data:

open(fd, mode)

close(fd)

read(fd, where\_to\_read, size)

write(fd, stuff\_to\_write, size)

```
C p1.c
home > irtiza > Desktop > C p1.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <unistd.h>
4  #include <sys/types.h>
5  #include <sys/stat.h>
6  #include <fcntl.h>
7  #include <sys/wait.h>
8  #include <string.h>
9
10 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
11 {
12     char *pipe_name = argv[1];
13     int fd = open(pipe_name, O_RDWR);
14
15     pid_t myid = getpid();
16     printf("This is PARENT [ID = %d]\n", myid);
17
18     pid_t Cmsg;
19     read(fd, &Cmsg, sizeof(int));
20     printf("Child Sent: %d\n", Cmsg);
21
22     write(fd, &myid, sizeof(int));
23
24     close(fd);
25     return 0;
26 }
27

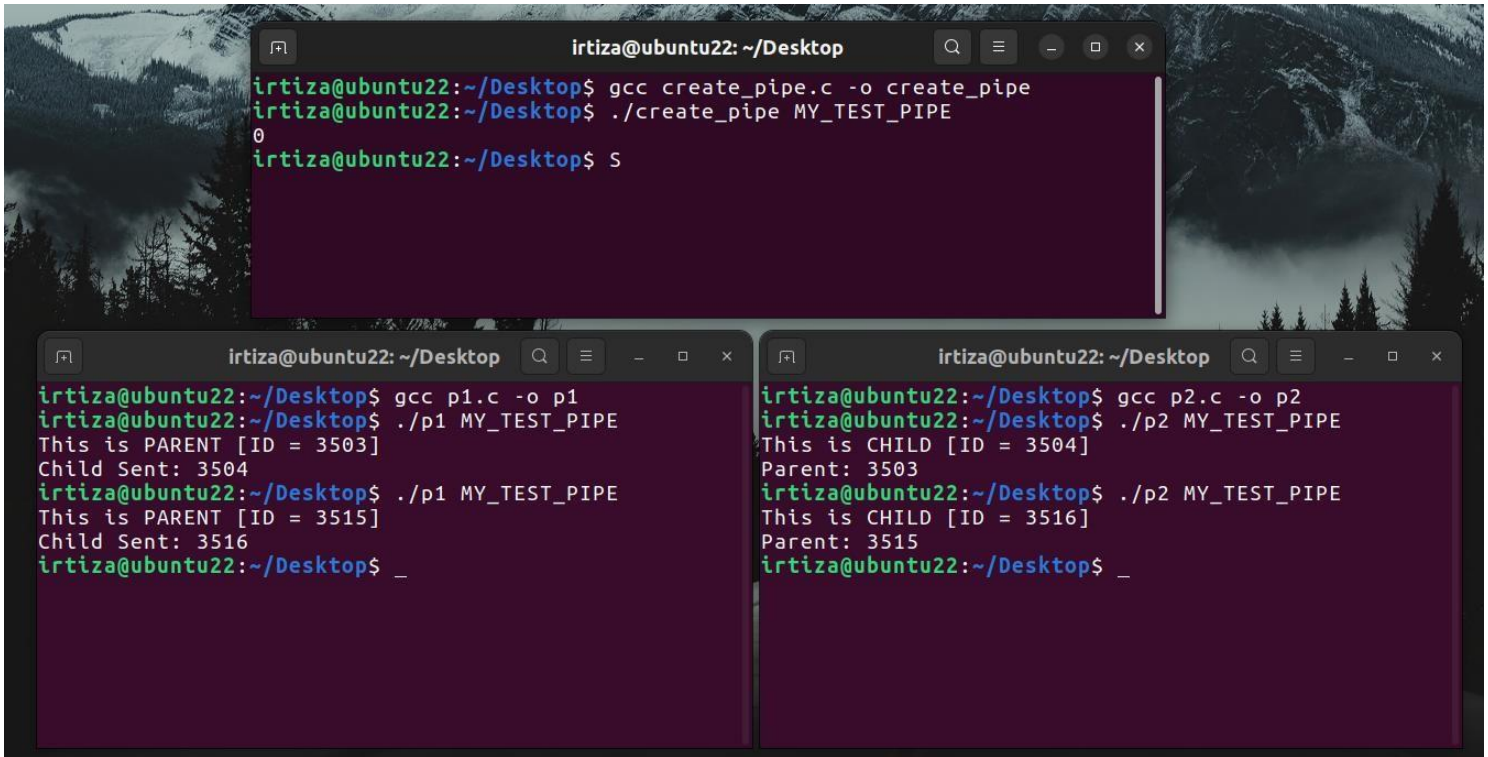
C p2.c
home > irtiza > Desktop > C p2.c
1  #include <stdio.h>
2  #include <stdlib.h>
3  #include <unistd.h>
4  #include <sys/types.h>
5  #include <sys/stat.h>
6  #include <sys/wait.h>
7  #include <fcntl.h>
8  #include <string.h>
9
10 int main(int argc, char *argv[])
11 {
12     char *pipe_name = argv[1];
13     int fd = open(pipe_name, O_RDWR);
14
15     pid_t myid = getpid();
16     printf("This is CHILD [ID = %d]\n", myid);
17
18     write(fd, &myid, sizeof(int));
19     sleep(3);
20
21     pid_t Pmsg;
22     read(fd, &Pmsg, sizeof(int));
23     printf("Parent: %d\n", Pmsg);
24
25     close(fd);
26     return 0;
27 }
```

- There are 2 processes p1 and p2.
- p2 prints its ID on screen and then sends it to the p1 and p1 prints it on the screen. Then p1 prints its ID on the screen and then sends it to p2, which prints it on the screen.
- I also created a 3<sup>rd</sup> program to create a named pipe.

Note that, p1 was run before p2 because “read” is a blocking system call and write is not. This means until there is something to read in the pipe, p1 is blocked and it keeps waiting for any data. Therefore, once the p2 writes data to the pipe, p1 consumes it and write some more data to the pipe. “Sleep” is used so p2 does not consume its own data from the pipe and wait for p1 to actually write its data.

You will also have to keep this in mind otherwise, you will get junk values or unwanted results.

## Output:



```
irtiza@ubuntu22: ~/Desktop
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ gcc create_pipe.c -o create_pipe
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ ./create_pipe MY_TEST_PIPE
0
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ s

irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ gcc p1.c -o p1
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ ./p1 MY_TEST_PIPE
This is PARENT [ID = 3503]
Child Sent: 3504
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ ./p1 MY_TEST_PIPE
This is PARENT [ID = 3515]
Child Sent: 3516
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ _

irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ gcc p2.c -o p2
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ ./p2 MY_TEST_PIPE
This is CHILD [ID = 3504]
Parent: 3503
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ ./p2 MY_TEST_PIPE
This is CHILD [ID = 3516]
Parent: 3515
irtiza@ubuntu22:~/Desktop$ _
```

## Task 1

(5 marks)

- Implement a simple client-server system using named pipes in C programming language. The server should continuously listen for incoming messages on a named pipe, while the client sends messages to the server via another named pipe.
- The server should display received messages along with the client's process ID, and the client should send a predefined message (e.g., "Hello, server!") every few seconds.
- Ensure proper error handling and synchronization mechanisms to handle multiple clients and prevent data corruption.
- Test the implementation by running multiple client instances concurrently and observe the server's behavior.

## Task 2

(5 marks)

Write a C or C++ program that demonstrates bidirectional communication using named pipes. The program should create two named pipes, one for each direction of communication. One process should write a message to the first pipe, and the other process should read the message from the first pipe, perform some processing, and then write a response to the second pipe. The first process should read the response from the second pipe and print it to the console.

### Syntax:

```
write(fd, send_array, size);
read(fd, recv_array, size);
```

