

SSN College of Engineering, Kalavakkam  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
V Semester - CSE 'A'  
UCS1511 NETWORK LAB  
EXERCISE-2 : Study of System Calls

**Aim:**

To learn and understand the use of system calls used in computer networks.

1. **Socket()**

**Name of System Call: socket**

i. Description: used to create an endpoint for communication

ii. Header files: sys/socket.h

iii. Syntax: socket(args)

1. Parameters: int domain, int protocol

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Domain: used to specify the communication domain

2. Protocol: this is automatically selected by the domain parameter

v. Return value: returns a descriptor

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **2. Bind()**

### **Name of System Call: Bind**

- i. Description: used to bind a name/address as specified to the socket
- ii. Header files: sys/socket.h
- iii. Syntax: bind(args)
  - 1. Parameters: int sockfd, struct sockaddr \*addr, socklen\_t addrlen
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Sockfd: this is the file descriptor of the socket
  - 2. Addr: this is the address to be binded for the socket
  - 3. Addrlen: the size of the struct addr
- v. Return value: 0 on success, -1 on error.
- vi. Structures used if any: struct sockaddr

## **3. Listen()**

### **Name of System Call: listen**

- i. Description: used to listen for connections on a socket
- ii. Header files: sys/socket.h
- iii. Syntax:
  - 1. Parameters: int sockfd, int backlog
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Sockfd: this is the file descriptor of the socket
  - 2. Backlog: The backlog argument defines the maximum length to which the queue of pending connections for sockfd may grow.

v. Return value: 0 on success, -1 on failure

vi. Structures used if any: None

#### **4. Connect()**

**Name of System Call: connect**

i. Description: used to initiate a connection on a socket referred by the file descriptor of the socket

ii. Header files: sys/socket.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: int sockfd, struct sockaddr \*addr, socklen\_t addrlen

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Sockfd: file descriptor of the socket

2. Addr: this is the address which is binded to the socket

3. Addrlen: the size of the struct addr

v. Return value: 0 if success, -1 if failure

vi. Structures used if any: struct sockaddr

#### **5. Accept()**

**Name of System Call: accept**

i. Description: accepts a connection on a socket, and extracts the first connection request on the queue of pending connections for the listening socket, sockfd, creates a new connected socket, and returns a new file

descriptor referring to that socket.

ii. Header files: `sys/socket.h`

iii. Syntax: `accept(args)`

1. Parameters: `int sockfd, struct sockaddr *restrict addr, socklen_t *restrict addrlen`

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. `Socketfd`: file descriptor of the socket
2. `Addr`: this is the address which is binded to the socket
3. `Addrlen`: the size of the struct `addr`

v. Return value: returns the file descriptor of the accepted socket, -1 on failure.

vi. Structures used if any: `struct sockaddr`

## **6. Close()**

**Name of System Call: close**

i. Description: used to shut down the socket

ii. Header files: `unistd.h`

iii. Syntax: `close(args)`

1. Parameters: `int socket`

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. `Socket`: file descriptor of the sockets

v. Return value: 0 if success, -1 if failure.

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **7. Bzero()**

### **Name of System Call: bzero**

i. Description: The bzero() function erases the data in the n bytes of the memory starting at the location pointed to by s, by writing zeros (bytes containing '\0') to that area.

ii. Header files: strings.h

iii. Syntax: bzero(args)

1. Parameters: void \*s, size\_t n

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. s: location of the string

2. n: size of the string in bytes

v. Return value: void

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **8. htons, htonl, ntohs, ntohl()**

### **Name of System Call: htons, htonl, ntohs, ntohl**

i. Description: These functions shall convert 16-bit and 32-bit quantities between network byte order and host byte order.

ii. Header files: `arpa/inet.h`

iii. Syntax: `uint32_t htonl(uint32_t hostlong); uint16_t htons(uint16_t hostshort); uint32_t ntohl(uint32_t netlong); uint16_t ntohs(uint16_t netshort);`

1. Parameters: `uint32_t`, `uint16_t`

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Any integer that needs to be converted.

v. Return value: the converted integer

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **9. Read()**

**Name of System Call: read**

i. Description: used to read `n` bytes from the socket to the buffer specified.

ii. Header files: `unistd.h`

iii. Syntax: `read(args)`

1. Parameters: `int fd`, `void *buf`, `size_t count`

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. `fd`: file descriptor of the socket

2. `buf`: the buffer into which the read items are to be stored

3. `count`: the size to be read

v. Return value: size read from the socket

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **10. Write()**

### **Name of System Call: write**

- i. Description: used to write n bytes to the socket to the buffer specified.
- ii. Header files:unistd.h
- iii. Syntax: write(args)
  - 1. Parameters: int fd, void \*buf, size\_t count
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. fd: file descriptor of the socket
  - 2. buf: the buffer into which the read items are to be stored
  - 3. count: the size to be read
- v. Return value: size written to the socket
- vi. Structures used if any: None

## **11. Send()**

### **Name of System Call: send**

- i. Description: send
- ii. Header files: sys/socket.h
- iii. Syntax: send(args)
  - 1. Parameters: sockfd, buf, len, flags
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Sockfd: file descriptor of the socket
  - 2. Buf: the message to be sent is stored here

- 3. Len: length of the buffer
  - . Flags: flags to be used
- v. Return value: returns the number of bytes sent, -1 on failure
- vi. Structures used if any: None

## **12. Receive()**

### **Name of System Call: receive**

- i. Description: Used to receive a message from the socket
- ii. Header files: sys/socket.h
- iii. Syntax:
  - 1. Parameters: sockfd, buf, len, flags
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Sockfd: file descriptor of the socket
  - 2. Buf: the message to be sent is stored here
  - 3. Len: length of the buffer
  - 4. Flags: flags to be used
- v. Return value: Returns the number of bytes received, or -1 if an error occurred
- vi. Structures used if any: None

## **13. Sendto()**

### **Name of System Call: Sendto**



i. Description: The send() call is used only when the socket is in connected state.

ii. Header files: sys/socket.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: sockfd, buf, len, flags

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Sockfd: file descriptor of the socket

2. Buf: the message to be sent is stored here

3. Len: length of the buffer

4. Flags: flags to be used

v. Return value: On success returns the number of bytes sent, else will return -1

vi. Structures used if any: None

## **14. Receivefrom()**

**Name of System Call: Recievefrom**

i. Description: used to receive messages from a socket, and may be used to receive data on a socket whether or not it is connection-oriented.

ii. Header files: sys/socket.h and sys/types.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: sockfd, buf, len, flags

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Sockfd: file descriptor of the socket

2. Buf: the message to be sent is stored here
  3. Len: length of the buffer
  4. Flags: flags to be used
- v. Return value: Returns number of bytes received or will simply return -1 if an error occurs
- vi. Structures used if any: None

## **15. Select()**

### **Name of System Call: Select**

- i. Description: Select command allows to monitor multiple file descriptors, waiting until one of the file descriptors become active.
- ii. Header files: sys/select.h
- iii. Syntax:
  1. Parameters: nfds, readfds, writefds, exceptfds
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  1. Nfds: Used to set the highest numbered file descriptor  
In any of the three sets, plus 1
  2. Readfds: Used to check if the ready for reading
  3. Writeds: The file descriptors in this set are watched to see if they are ready for writing
  4. Exceptfds: The file descriptors in this set are watched for

exceptional conditions

- v. Return value: Returns the number of file descriptors contained in the three returned descriptors sets. On error returns -1
- vi. Structures used if any: None

## **16. Setsockopt()**

### **Name of System Call: setsockopt**

- i. Description: This is used to manipulate the options associated with a socket
- ii. Header files: `sys/types.h` and `sys/socket.h`
- iii. Syntax:
  - 1. Parameters: `socket`, `level`, `optname`, `optval`, `optlen`
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Socket: stores the filedescriptor
  - 2. Level: specifies the protocol level at which the option resides
  - 3. Optname: specifies the a single option to set
  - 4. Optval: stores the value argument for the socket
  - 5. Optlen: defines length
- v. Return value: Upon successful completion it will return 0, else -1 will be returned and `errno` set to indicate the error
- vi. Structures used if any: None

### **17. Fcntl()**

#### **Name of System Call: Fcntl**

- i. Description: Used to perform file descriptor manipulations
- ii. Header files: fcntl.h
- iii. Syntax:
  - 1. Parameters: fd, cmd
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Fd: holds the value for file descriptor
  - 2. Cmd: Decides the functionality of the entire function
- v. Return value: Will depend on the cmd passed during the beginning,  
Other wise -1 will be returned in case of any error
- vi. Structures used if any: None

### **18. getpeername()**

#### **Name of System Call: getpeername**

- i. Description: Is used to return the address of the peer connected to the socket sockfd, in the buffer pointed to by addr
- ii. Header files: sys/socket.h
- iii. Syntax:
  - 1. Parameters: sockfd, addr, addrlen
- iv. Explanation of parameters:
  - 1. Sockfd: Holds the socket number who's address is to be returned
  - 2. Addr: refers to the amount of space

3. Addrlen: Initialized to indicate the amount of space pointed to by

addr

v. Return value: On success, zero is returned. On error, -1 is returned and  
errno is set to the indicate the error

vi. Structures used if any: None

### **19. gethostname()**

**Name of System Call: gethostname**

i. Description: These are used to access the system hostname

ii. Header files:unistd.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: name, len

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Name: Used to pass the hostname

2. Len: specifies the length of the byte

v. Return value: On success zero is returned. On error -1 is returned

vi. Structures used if any: None

### **20. gethostbyname()**

**Name of System Call: gethostbyname**

i. Description: It is used to return a structure of type hostent for the given  
host name

ii. Header files: netdb.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: name

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Name: It is used to specify the name of host or IPv4 address

v. Return value: Returns the hostent structure or a null pointer if an error occurs

vi. Structures used if any: hostent

## **21. gethostbyaddr()**

**Name of System Call: gethostbyaddr**

i. Description: Returns a structure of type hostent for the given host address addr of length len and address type type

ii. Header files: netdb.h

iii. Syntax:

1. Parameters: addr, len, type

iv. Explanation of parameters:

1. Addr: specifies the address we are looking for

2. Len: length of the address

3. Type: type of the address

v. Return value: Returns the required structure with the given address, else return NULL if not found

vi. Structures used if any: hostent

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