

# Lab 11

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**Due** Mar 29 by 6:30pm      **Points** 1

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## Lab 11: Select

**Due:** Friday 29 March before 6:30pm

### Introduction

The purpose of this lab is to practice using `select` to read from multiple inputs. This system call is used in assignment 4. Like last week, you are welcome to reuse code from this lab in the assignment if it would be useful.

### Setup

Find the starter code in the `Lab11` folder in your repository.

Like last week, you should change the port in the `Makefile` before doing anything else. Take the last four digits of your student number, and add a 5 in front. For example, if your student number is 998123456, your port would be 53456. Using this base port, you may add 1 to it as necessary in order to use new ports (for example, the fictitious student here could also use 53457, 53458, 53459, 53460). Sometimes, when you shutdown your server (e.g., to compile and run it again), the OS will not release the old port immediately, so you may have to cycle through ports a bit.

### An Echo System

Start by carefully reading through the starter code carefully making sure you understand what it already does.

Start with the `chat_client.c` code. This program creates a connection to a server. Then, it reads input from the user, sends it to the server, and waits for a response which it displays back to the user on standard out. It strictly alternates these reads (from the keyboard and from the server).

What happens in `chat_server.c`? It accepts a connection from a client. Then, it waits for input from the user and then echos it (it sends what is received right back). It keeps information about multiple clients in an array and does this echoing operation independently with each of them. In other words, input from one particular client is echoed *only* to that same client - not to all of the others. The server uses `select` in a loop to

process input from whichever client is talking without waiting for others.

The goal of the lab is to create a functioning chat system where the messages sent by one client are delivered to all the other clients and participants are not required to talk in some pre-defined artificial turns. To accomplish this, you will need to change both the client and the server.

## 1. Identify Yourself

Once we start broadcasting messages from the server, it will get confusing if we can't identify who the message comes from. Your first task is to modify the client so that the first thing it does is to ask the user for a username, to read the username from `stdin`, and to write that username to the socket. The server should be modified so that it reads the username immediately after accepting the connection. The username should be added to the table of `struct sockname`s it is managing. Then, whenever the server echoes a message, it should prefix the message with `Username:`, where "Username" is that connection's name.

## 2. Start Echoing

This is a quick task. Change the `read_from` function so that it broadcasts any message received to all connected clients. Then, test by connecting more than one client to the server and making sure that every client receives any message that the other clients send. It'll be a bit awkward since our clients are reading from `stdin` before reading from the socket. You'll have to hit `Enter` on the client that didn't send the message to see what the other client has sent, and that will lead to the other clients receiving "empty" messages.

## Task 3: Monitor `stdin` and the Socket in the Client

Take a look at how the server uses `select`. In particular, look at the `fd_set` variables it is managing and how it checks which file descriptor is ready for reading using `FD_ISSET`. Pay special attention to how the `fdset` used in the `select` call is reset for each new call. Make sure you understand how the `chat_server.c` starter code works *before* you try to use `select` in the client.

Your task is to update the client so it monitors just two file descriptors: the socket with the server and `stdin`. Whenever a message is received on either, your program should read it and pass it to the correct output stream.

## Submission

Submit your final `chat_client.c` and `chat_server.c` files to MarkUs under the `Lab11` folder in your repository.

Congratulations! You've finished the last lab of the course. Good luck with the last assignment!