Java Networking

Java socket programming provides facility to share data between different computing devices.

Advantage of Java Networking

1. sharing resources
2. centralize software management

Java Networking Terminology

The widely used java networking terminologies are given below:

1. IP Address
2. Protocol
3. Port Number
4. MAC Address
5. Connection-oriented and connection-less protocol
6. Socket

1) IP Address

IP address is a unique number assigned to a node of a network e.g. 192.168.0.1 . It is composed of octets that range from 0 to 255.

It is a logical address that can be changed.

2) Protocol

A protocol is a set of rules basically that is followed for communication. For example:

- TCP
- FTP
- Telnet
- SMTP
- POP etc.

3) Port Number

The port number is used to uniquely identify different applications. It acts as a communication endpoint between applications.

The port number is associated with the IP address for communication between two applications.

4) MAC Address

MAC (Media Access Control) Address is a unique identifier of NIC (Network Interface Controller). A network node can have multiple NIC but each with unique MAC.

5) Connection-oriented and connection-less protocol

In connection-oriented protocol, acknowledgement is sent by the receiver. So it is reliable but slow. The example of connection-oriented protocol is TCP.

But, in connection-less protocol, acknowledgement is not sent by the receiver. So it is not reliable but fast. The example of connection-less protocol is UDP.

6) Socket

A socket is an endpoint between two way communication.

Visit next page for java socket programming.

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java.net package

The java.net package provides many classes to deal with networking applications in Java. A list of these classes is given below:

- Authenticator
- CacheRequest
- CacheResponse
- ContentHandler
- CookieHandler
- CookieManager
- DatagramPacket
- DatagramSocket
- DatagramSocketImpl
- InterfaceAddress
- JarURLConnection
- MulticastSocket
- InetSocketAddress
- InetAddress
- Inet4Address
- Inet6Address
- IDN
- HttpURLConnection

- HttpCookie
- NetPermission
- NetworkInterface
- PasswordAuthentication
- Proxy
- ProxySelector
- ResponseCache
- SecureCacheResponse
- ServerSocket
- Socket
- SocketAddress
- SocketImpl
- SocketPermission
- StandardSocketOptions
- URI
- URL
- URLClassLoader
- URLConnection
- URLDecoder
- URLEncoder
- URLStreamHandler

Java Socket Programming

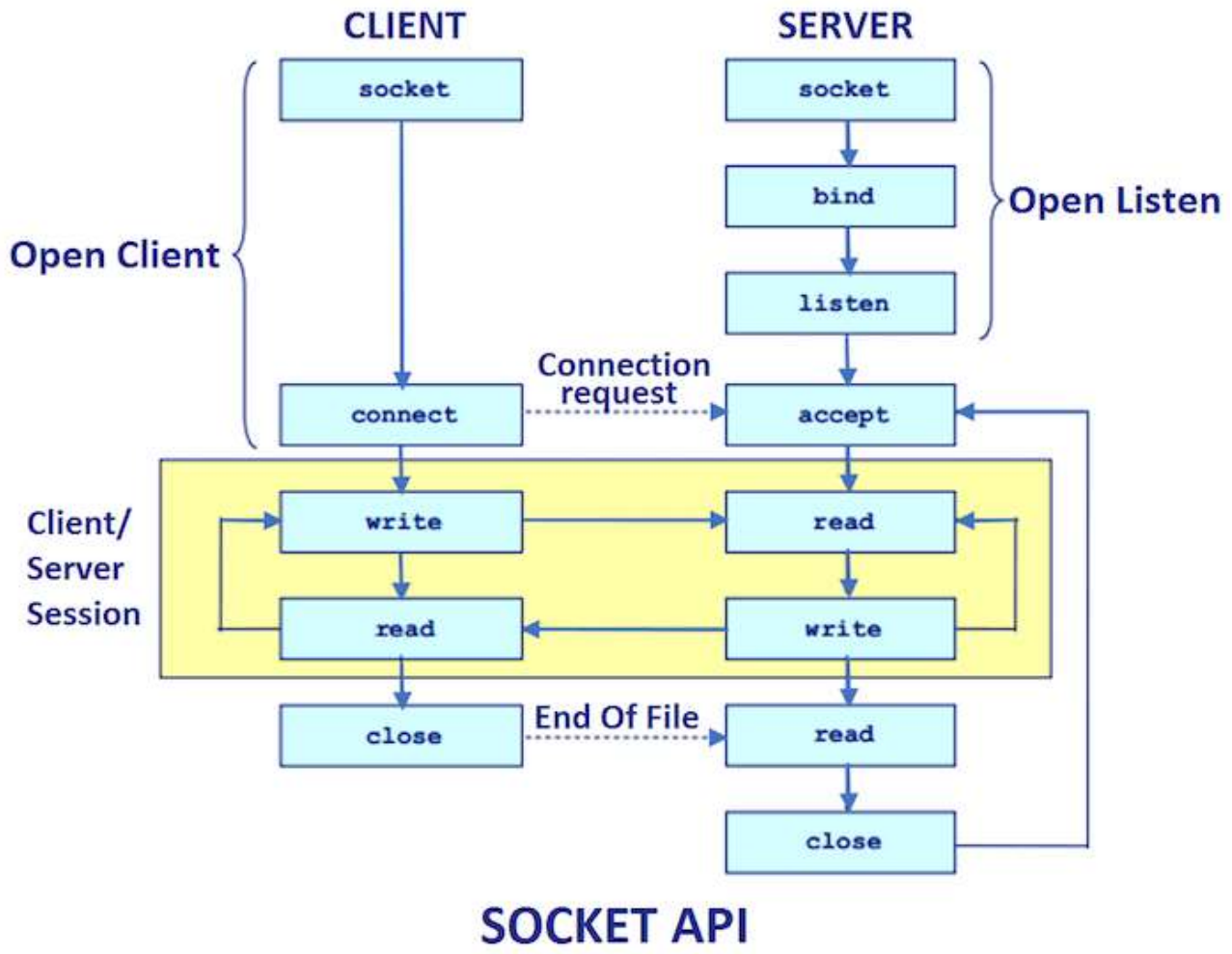
Java Socket programming can be connection-oriented or connection-less.

Socket and ServerSocket classes are used for connection-oriented socket programming and DatagramSocket and DatagramPacket classes are used for connection-less socket programming.

The client in socket programming must know two information:

1. IP Address of Server, and
2. Port number.

Here, we are going to make one-way client and server communication. In this application, client sends a message to the server, server reads the message and prints it. Here, two classes are being used: Socket and ServerSocket. The Socket class is used to communicate client and server. Through this class, we can read and write message. The ServerSocket class is used at server-side. The accept() method of ServerSocket class blocks the console until the client is connected. After the successful connection of client, it returns the instance of Socket at server-side.



Socket class

A socket is simply an endpoint for communications between the machines. The Socket class can be used to create a socket.

Important methods

Method	Description
1) public InputStream getInputStream()	returns the InputStream attached with this socket.
2) public OutputStream getOutputStream()	returns the OutputStream attached with this socket.
3) public synchronized void close()	closes this socket

ServerSocket class

The ServerSocket class can be used to create a server socket. This object is used to establish communication with the clients.

Important methods

Method	Description
1) public Socket accept()	returns the socket and establish a connection between server and client.
2) public synchronized void close()	closes the server socket.