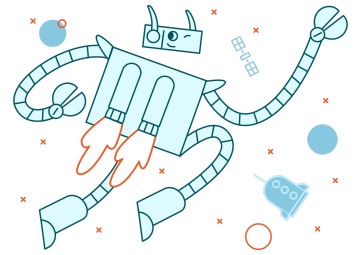


# Back to the Future



## Goal

In this exercise, we'll wield the power of Netcat to go back in time and interact with the world's first website, without a web browser - let's party like it's 1991!

## Background

**Netcat** is a versatile command-line tool for network interactions. It supports a wide range of operations, but today we'll focus on its ability to establish connections to HTTP servers. Since HTTP is a textual protocol, it allows us to "converse" with servers directly.

Example usage: `nc -v site.com 80` (This command opens a connection to site.com on destination port 80)

## Tasks

1. Open your command prompt and type `nc` to ensure Netcat is installed.
2. Time to power up our time machine! Create a connection to the historic site: `info.cern.ch`.
3. Upon successful connection, you might see something like: `Connection to info.cern.ch port 80 [tcp/http] succeeded!` This indicates that our link is established, and we're ready to explore the digital past.
4. Now, let's converse in HTTP. Request the world's oldest web page (`/hypertext/WWW/TheProject.html`) from `info.cern.ch`. Remember to press Enter twice after your request.
5. If you received a response, congratulations! You've just communicated with a piece of history.

6. HTML is the backbone of web content. Try copying the only HTML content (without the headers) into Notepad (or any other text editor) and save it as **cern.html**.
7. Open your newly created HTML file in a web browser. Can you see the homepage of WWW project?
8. Next, let's seek out a page that didn't exist back then. Try to access **<https://info.cern.ch/notexisting>** using Netcat.
9. What was the response this time? Explain why you received this particular feedback (status code and content).
10. There you have it! We've not only visited the first website ever created, but also experienced how early internet explorers might have felt navigating the newly-created web.

## To submit

- A text file containing the command lines you used, the requests you sent, and answers to the question about the second response.

