

**Aim**

To develop a chat application between a client and a server using UDP in the C language and then update the program to support multiple clients using `fd_set()` and `select()` functions.

**Question**

Develop a C program to implement a UDP driven multi-client chat server. A client must be able to connect to a specific server, supplying the address of the server. The client should be able to send a text message to the server. The server should be able to detect the arrival of a message, identify the client address and send a reply to the same client.

**Algorithms****(a) Server-side**

- Step 1:** Create a network socket with parameters suitable for an end-point of UDP based communication
- Step 2:** Bind the socket to `INADDR_ANY` which is defined as a *zero* address, allowing the socket to be reachable by all active interfaces on the device. Set the port to a preset value, known to the targeted clients as well
- Step 3:** Maintain a list of all sockets of the server called *server\_sockets* ( In this implementation, there is only one socket for the server)
- Step 4:** Maintain a predefined length of list to store known client addresses called *known\_clients*. This list should be empty initially
- Step 5:** Prepare a memory buffer to read and store messages from the connection.
- Step 6:** Start an infinite loop to perform the following operations,
  - i: Populate an *fd\_set* instance with all the server sockets in *server\_sockets*.
  - ii: Use the *select()* function to await a message by checking for the readability of the sockets in the set defined in the previous step. Attach a predefined timeout to this wait. If the timeout expires before a message arrives, exit the loop.

- iii: When a message arrives before the timeout expires, read the server socket to obtain the message. Use the *recvfrom()* system call to obtain the client address as well.
- iv: Check if the client exists in the *known\_clients* list. If so, display the client ID along with the message received. If not, add the new client to the list, display the client ID and the message received. Continue from step-(vii)
- v: If the list is already full, send back a reply indicating that the server has reached its client limit and continue from step-(i)
- vi: If the client is known and the message sent by the client indicates that the client is exiting, remove this client from the *known\_clients* list and acknowledge the same to the client. Continue from step-(i)
- vii: Accept a reply from the user. Send this message to the client using the *sendto()* system call, specifying the client address

( Repeat till server times out while waiting for a message )

**Step 7:** Close the created socket using the *close()* system call and terminate the process

#### (b) Client-side

**Step 1:** Create a network socket with parameters suitable for an end-point of UDP based communication

**Step 2:** Accept the target server address as input from the user

**Step 3:** Using the accepted address and a preset port number agreed upon between the server and client

**Step 4:** Prepare a memory buffer to read and store messages from the connection.

**Step 5:** Start an infinite loop to perform the following operations,

- i: Accept a multiline string message from the user.
- ii: Use the *sendto()* system call to send this message through the client's socket to the intended server, specifying the server address
- iii: Wait for the server to send a reply using the *recvfrom()* system call
- iv: When a message arrives, check if it was sent from the intended server.

- v: If the message indicates that the server has reached its client limit, display a suitable message to the user and exit the loop
  - vi: If the message is an acknowledgement from the server to indicate that it has accepted the client's request to terminate itself then, exit the loop.
  - vii: Otherwise, display this message to the user and continue from step-(i)
- ( Repeat till server is busy or acknowledges connection termination )

**Step 6:** Close the created socket using the *close()* system call and terminate the process

## **C Program Code**

### 1. udp\_socket.h - UDP connection helper functions

```
#ifndef udp_socket
#define udp_socket

#include<sys/socket.h>
#include<arpa/inet.h>
#include<unistd.h>
#include<string.h>
#include<errno.h>

#define SERVER_PORT 8088
#define LOCALHOST_IP "127.0.0.1"
#define ADDRESS_FAMILY AF_INET
#define ADDRESS_BUFFER_SIZE 30
#define MSG_BUFFER_SIZE 100
#define IP_STRING_LEN 24
#define TERMINATION_INIT_STRING "FORGETCLIENT"
#define TERMINATION_ACK_STRING "FORGETCLIENT_ACK"
#define SERVER_REJECT_STRING "SERVER_IS_BUSY"
#define MSG_DELIMITER ';'
#define MSG_WAIT_TIMEOUT 20

/*
Use BLOCKING sockets (default configuration)
Alternating send-receive only
*/
```

```

No need to initiate messages on the server!
(i.e) Synchronous send/receive
*/

int make_socket(){
    // AF_INET specifies IPv4
    // SOCK_STREAM specifies two-way byte-stream
    // 0 selects default protocol
    int sock_fd = socket(ADDRESS_FAMILY, SOCK_DGRAM, IPPROTO_UDP);
    if (sock_fd == -1){
        return -2;    // Could not create socket
    }
    return sock_fd;
}

short bind_server_socket(int sock_fd){
    struct sockaddr_in bind_address;
    // Set family to IPv4
    bind_address.sin_family = ADDRESS_FAMILY;
    // Set port in network byte-order to a non-privileged port (>1023)
    bind_address.sin_port = htons(SERVER_PORT);
    // Set address to 0.0.0.0 to connect to bind to all local interfaces
    bind_address.sin_addr.s_addr = htonl(INADDR_ANY);
    // Convert to generic socket address format and bind
    if (!bind(sock_fd, (struct sockaddr *)&bind_address,
sizeof(bind_address))){
        return 0;    // Success
    }
    else{
        printf("%d", errno);
        return -3;    // Could not bind server-socket
    }
}

struct sockaddr_in wrap_address(char *ip_address, int port){
    struct sockaddr_in address;
    bzero((char*)&address, sizeof(address));
    // Set family to IPv4
    address.sin_family = ADDRESS_FAMILY;
    // Set port in network byte-order to a non-privileged port (>1023)

```

```

    address.sin_port = htons(port);
    // Set the ip address in byte format
    address.sin_addr.s_addr = inet_addr(ip_address);
    return address;
}

void destroy_socket(int sock_fd){
    close(sock_fd);
}

#endif

```

## 2. msg\_io.h - Message transfer helper functions

```

#ifndef msg_io
#define msg_io

#include<sys/types.h>

#include "udp_socket.h"

struct timeval prepare_time_structure(int duration_sec, int
duration_usec){
    struct timeval time;
    time.tv_sec = duration_sec;
    time.tv_usec = duration_usec;
    return time;
}

int wait_for_message(int *server_fds, int num_fds, fd_set *avl_fds){
    fd_set read_fds;
    FD_ZERO(&read_fds);
    int max_fd = -1;
    for(int i=0;i<num_fds;i++){
        FD_SET(*(server_fds+i), &read_fds);
        if (*(server_fds+i) > max_fd){
            max_fd = *(server_fds+i);
        }
    }
}

```

```

    struct timeval timeout = prepare_time_structure(MSG_WAIT_TIMEOUT, 0);
    int avl_fds_count = select(max_fd+1, &read_fds, NULL, NULL, &timeout);
    if(avl_fds_count==-1){
        return -8;    // Error when waiting for socket
    }
    else if(avl_fds_count==0){
        return -9;    // Timed-out when waiting for message
    }
    *avl_fds = read_fds;
    return avl_fds_count;
}

ssize_t receive_message(int socket, char *msg_buffer, struct sockaddr_in
*sender_addr, int *sender_addr_len){
    int addr_buffer_size = sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
    int msg_size = recvfrom(socket, msg_buffer, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE,
MSG_WAITALL, (struct sockaddr*)sender_addr, sender_addr_len);
    if (*sender_addr_len > addr_buffer_size){
        *sender_addr_len = -1;    // Warning: Client address was truncated to
fit in buffer
    }
    return msg_size;
}

ssize_t send_message(int socket, char *msg, struct sockaddr_in
*destn_addr, int destn_addr_len){
    // Using MSG_CONFIRM to prevent ARP reprobng, since this is a reply
message
    int msg_size = sendto(socket, msg, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE, MSG_CONFIRM,
(struct sockaddr*)destn_addr, destn_addr_len);
    if(msg_size == -1){
        return -6;    // Couldn't send message
    }
    return msg_size;
}

ssize_t send_reply(int socket, char *msg, struct sockaddr_in *destn_addr,
int destn_addr_len){
    // Using MSG_CONFIRM to prevent ARP reprobng, since this is a reply
message

```

```

    int msg_size = sendto(socket, msg, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE, MSG_CONFIRM,
(struct sockaddr*)destn_addr, destn_addr_len);
    if(msg_size == -1){
        return -7;    // Couldn't send reply
    }
    return msg_size;
}

#endif

```

### 3. server.c - Server-side program

```

#include<stdio.h>
#include<stdlib.h>

#ifdef udp_socket
    #include "udp_socket.h"
#endif

#ifdef msg_io
    #include "msg_io.h"
#endif

#ifdef client_list
    #include "ClientList.h"
#endif

void main(){

    int self_socket = make_socket();
    if(self_socket<0){
        printf("\nCould not create socket. Retry!\n");
        return;
    }

    if (bind_server_socket(self_socket)<0){
        printf("\nCould not bind server socket. Retry!\n");
        destroy_socket(self_socket);
        return;
    }
}

```

```

}

// Keep track of all server sockets.
int num_sockets = 1;
int *server_sockets = (int*)malloc(sizeof(int)*num_sockets);
*(server_sockets+0) = self_socket;

// To keep track of known clients
ClientList *known_clients = make_empty_client_list();
// To store sender-client address
struct sockaddr_in *client_addr = malloc(sizeof(struct sockaddr_in));
int client_addr_len = sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
char *client_addr_ip_str =
(char*)malloc(sizeof(char)*ADDRESS_BUFFER_SIZE);
int client_addr_port;

char *msg_buffer = (char*)malloc(sizeof(char)*MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
fd_set readable_fds;
int msg_size = 0;
int response;
int read_fd;
int client_id;
do{
    // BLOCK till some client sends message

printf("\n-----"
);
    printf("\nServer waiting for client messages from all local
interfaces...\n\n");

    response = wait_for_message(server_sockets, num_sockets,
&readable_fds);
    if(response == -9){
        printf("\nTimed out when waiting for messages\nExiting...\n");
        break;
    }
    else if(response == -8){
        printf("\nError occurred when monitoring socket for
messages\nRetry!\n");
    }
}

```



```

// Handle all available readable descriptors
for(int read_idx=0; read_idx<num_sockets; read_idx++){
    read_fd = *(server_sockets+read_idx);

    if (FD_ISSET(read_fd, &readable_fds)==0){
        // This socket is not readable
        continue;
    }

    msg_size = receive_message(self_socket, msg_buffer,
client_addr, &client_addr_len);
    if (msg_size==0){
        printf("\nEmpty message\n");
    }
    else if(client_addr_len == -1){
        printf("\nMessage received from Client.\nCould not read
address\n");
    }
    else{
        // Alternatively, use inet_ntoa
        inet_ntop(ADDRESS_FAMILY, (void*)&client_addr->sin_addr,
client_addr_ip_str, ADDRESS_BUFFER_SIZE);
        client_addr_port = (int)ntohs(client_addr->sin_port);
        if (client_addr_ip_str == NULL) {
            printf("\nMessage received from Client.\nCould not read
address\n");
            continue;
        }
        else{
            client_id = find_or_add_client(client_addr,
known_clients);
            if(client_id==-1){
                printf("\nNew client rejected and acknowledged.
Client limit reached!\n");
                msg_size = send_reply(self_socket,
SERVER_REJECT_STRING, client_addr, client_addr_len);
                continue;
            }

```

```

        else if(strcmp(msg_buffer,
TERMINATION_INIT_STRING)==0){
            client_id = remove_client(client_addr,
known_clients);

            msg_size = send_reply(self_socket,
TERMINATION_ACK_STRING, client_addr, client_addr_len);
            printf("\nClient-%c (%s:%d) Removed from known
clients\n", (65+client_id), client_addr_ip_str, client_addr_port);
            continue;
        }
        printf("\nMessage received from \nClient-%c (%s:%d): ",
(65+client_id), client_addr_ip_str, client_addr_port);
    }
    printf("%s", msg_buffer);
    // Replying back
    bzero(msg_buffer, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
    printf("\nEnter Reply: ");
    scanf(" %[^\n]s", msg_buffer);
    // Consume the last newline character from read-buffer
    getchar();
    msg_size = send_reply(self_socket, msg_buffer, client_addr,
client_addr_len);
    }
}
}while(1==1);

destroy_socket(self_socket);
return;
}

```

#### 4. client.c - Client-side program

```

#include<stdio.h>
#include<stdlib.h>

#ifdef udp_socket
    #include "udp_socket.h"
#endif

```

```

#ifndef msg_io
    #include "msg_io.h"
#endif

void main(){

    int self_socket = make_socket();
    if(self_socket<0){
        printf("\nCould not create socket. Retry!\n");
        return;
    }

    char *server_ip = (char*)malloc(sizeof(char)*IP_STRING_LEN);
    printf("\nEnter Echo-Server IP Address: ");
    scanf(" %s", server_ip);
    struct sockaddr_in server_addr = wrap_address(server_ip, SERVER_PORT);
    int server_addr_len = sizeof(server_addr);

    // Structure to store the message source address
    struct sockaddr_in *source_addr = malloc(sizeof(struct sockaddr_in));
    int source_addr_len = sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);

    char *msg_buffer = (char*)malloc(sizeof(char)*MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
    int msg_size = 0;
    printf("\n\nDelimit Ping Messages with ';' \nEnter 'FORGETCLIENT;' to
terminate connection\n");
    do {
        bzero(msg_buffer, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
        printf("\nEnter Ping Message: ");
        scanf(" %[^\n]s", msg_buffer);
        // Consume the last newline character from read-buffer
        getchar();
        msg_size = send_message(self_socket, msg_buffer, &server_addr,
server_addr_len);
        // Reading back
        bzero(msg_buffer, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
        msg_size = receive_message(self_socket, msg_buffer, source_addr,
&source_addr_len);
        if(strcmp(msg_buffer, SERVER_REJECT_STRING)==0){
            printf("\nServer is busy. Exiting...\n");

```

```
        break;
    }
    else if(strcmp(msg_buffer, TERMINATION_ACK_STRING)==0){
        printf("\nExiting...\n");
        break;
    }
    printf("SERVER echoed: %s\n", msg_buffer, MSG_BUFFER_SIZE);
}while(1==1);

destroy_socket(self_socket);
return;
}
```

## Sample Outputs

SERVER	CLIENT-1
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Enter Echo-Server IP Address: 127.0.0.1
Message received from Client-A (127.0.0.1:55559): Hello server Enter Reply: Hey client A;	Delimit Ping Messages with ';' Enter 'FORGETCLIENT;' to terminate connection
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Enter Ping Message: Hello server; SERVER echoed: Hey client A
Message received from Client-B (127.0.0.1:55282): This is another client Enter Reply: Hi client B;	Enter Ping Message: FORGETCLIENT;
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Exiting...
----- New client rejected and acknowledged. Client limit reached!	----- Enter Echo-Server IP Address: 127.0.0.1
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	CLIENT-2 Delimit Ping Messages with ';' Enter 'FORGETCLIENT;' to terminate connection
Client-A (127.0.0.1:55559) Removed from known clients	Enter Ping Message: This is another client; SERVER echoed: Hi client B
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Enter Ping Message: FORGETCLIENT;
Message received from Client-A (127.0.0.1:35141): Now? Enter Reply: Yes, hello;	Exiting...
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	----- Enter Echo-Server IP Address: 127.0.0.1
Client-A (127.0.0.1:35141) Removed from known clients	CLIENT-3 then CLIENT-2 Delimit Ping Messages with ';' Enter 'FORGETCLIENT;' to terminate connection
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Enter Ping Message: Can you accept my message?;
Client-A (127.0.0.1:55282) Removed from known clients	Server is busy. Exiting... (base) karthikd@karthik-DEBIAN:~/Workspace/ComputerScience/Academics/sem_5/MMLab/Ex3-UDP/A_MulticlientChat\$ ./Client
----- Server waiting for client messages from all local interfaces...	Enter Echo-Server IP Address: 127.0.0.1
Timed out when waiting for messages Exiting...	Delimit Ping Messages with ';' Enter 'FORGETCLIENT;' to terminate connection
	Enter Ping Message: Now?; SERVER echoed: Yes, hello
	Enter Ping Message: FORGETCLIENT;
	Exiting...

## Result

Implemented a socket program in C language to establish client server communication. A multi-client chat server is developed, wherein a client sends a message to the server and the server in turn, sends back a reply to the client if it is already a known client or can be added to the clients list without exceeding the maximum number of allowed clients. Through this implementation, the following aspects were understood:

1. Basic functioning of the UDP protocol
2. Connectionless communication between client and server
3. Implementation details of socket programming using C language