

JavaScript chat over network

Assignment

This assignment consists of creating a server that allows multiple clients to chat over the network.

Users will connect to the server in a specified port (that will be easy to configure, just changing a variable) and will talk to the server using a simple protocol defined below:

1. When the socket is opened, the first thing a user has to do is to configure their username typing:

```
USERNAME teixe
```

The username won't accept spaces in between.

2. To send a message, the user has to type:

```
SEND Hello, world!
```

A user won't be allowed to send a message if they didn't specify an username first.

3. The user will receive the peers messages with the following format:

```
RECEIVE teixe Hello, world!
```

The user won't receive their own messages. The receive command receives first the username that sent the message followed by the message itself.

To try the application use the program `netcat` and, once completed, you should be able to reproduce the following session:

```
root@ubuntu~: nc localhost 8080
USERNAME teixe (->)
SEND Hello, world! (->)
USERNAME not valid (->)
ERROR Username contains empty spaces. (<-)
NOT_A_COMMAND test (->)
ERROR Unrecognised command. (<-)
```

(->) Indicates that this message was sent by the user. (<-) Indicates that this message was sent from the server.

Another example, this time using two connections at the same time:

```
root@ubuntu~: nc localhost 8080
USERNAME teixe (1)
SEND hi (3)
RECEIVE jeff bye (-)
```

```
root@ubuntu~: nc localhost 8080
USERNAME jeff (2)
RECEIVE teixe hi (-)
SEND bye (4)
```

The numbers on the right indicate order. (-) indicates that it was automatically received by the server.

Tips

1. You can try a live working example with `netcat` on learn.jtef.io port 8080.
2. Start with the following code:

```
const net = require('net');

const server = net.createServer((socket) => {
  socket.end('goodbye\n');
});

server.listen(8080, () => {
  console.log('opened server on', server.address());
});
```

3. Find more information about NodeJS sockets in: <https://nodejs.org/docs/latest-v16.x/api/net.html>.