

Purpose: This is designed to familiarize you with TCP clients.

Build a TCP time client in a file called `TCptime.c`. Your client will contact the “special” time server located on port 5001 of panther.

Use the main program–client procedure format. The default service should "5001". The default host should be "panther".

The time server will pass you back an 4 byte integer representing a UCT time in network standard order. You will read that integer, convert it to host order, and then UNIX epoch time, then print it using the `ctime` system call. For an example of how to convert and print the integer see Comer’s `UDptime` client. You will need to include `time.h`.

If the read fails, or the connection closes before you have received 4 bytes; print an error message and exit. No call to `ctime` is made in this case.

You don’t have to handle the case of “can’t make a connection” because Comer’s code will print an error message and exit for you.

Discussion: One of the points of the TCP discussion was that, in a stream, boundaries are not preserved. You will need to assemble the 4 bytes (since they may come in on separate reads) before doing the conversion. The **panther** server is perverse and will try to force the bytes to arrive at your client in separate reads. It will occasionally lose (close) the connection (1 time in 5).

Submit: a printout of your `TCptime.c` file.

A copy of this file must be located in your class home directory; and have the name above. This is to allow the instructor to use a script to test your homework.

Testing: what you should see is something fairly close to the current date. About 1 time in 5 you should see the error message.