

# UDP Broadcasts

Client: broadcasts a request on a subnet/cable.

Servers: responds to any broadcast request.

Note: a broadcast is to all machines, not to all ports.  
A broadcast to the port 5432 can only be received by server programs running on port 5432.

Alternate wording: single port, multiple IP addresses.

Note: the server's response will provide the client with the IP address of the server.

Uses:

- Find a server
- Find all servers

Used by:

- Network Information Services (yp) (network accounts)
- Microsoft browser protocol (list shares)

## Broadcasts–Server Side

A server is running on a “port”.

It can receive any broadcast to that port.

By default, the receipt of broadcasts on a port is disabled. Any server wanting to respond to broadcasts enable receipt of broadcasts on a per port basis.

`setsockopt`

–Sets the options for a socket.

5 parameters

`int s` – the socket descriptor

`int level` – what level of the IP protocol stack this option modifies

`int optname` – which option is being set

`const void *optval` – the option is set to this value. The structure of the thing pointed to depends on the `optname`

`socklen_t optlen` – `sizeof(optval)`

1 return value

negative – Failed

other – Success

## setsockopt

```
int s = passiveUDP(service);  
int One = 1;  
setsockopt(s, SOL_SOCKET, SO_BROADCAST,  
           &One, sizeof(One));
```

s a socket.

SOL\_SOCKET—the option being set applies to this socket.

SO\_BROADCAST—the option being set is the ability to receive broadcasts. This options takes a “boolean” parameter, true enables the receipt of broadcasts, false disables it

&One—The option takes a boolean (`int`), to match the `void *` this is the address of a `int`.

`sizeof(One)`—as with many untyped parameters, you must say how large the parameter is.

For the server a one line addition enables the receipt of broadcasts.

The return value of `setsockopt` should be checked and an error exit done on `< 0`.

## **Broadcasts—Client Side**

Two things must be done to the client side.

- 1) the sending of broadcasts must be enabled
- 2) the broadcast address must be used in the sendto.

Setup steps:

- 1) get a socket
- 2) enable sending of broadcasts
- 3) send the broadcast, (receive replies)

Running steps:

Send a broadcast, i.e., send to the broadcast address.

Receive all replies. This probably means a loop with a select, and the select may have a timeout.

## Simple Broadcast Client

```
int main(){
    time_t  now;
    int s;
    int alen = sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
    int One = 1;
    struct sockaddr_in fsin, fsin_him;
    /* get socket */
    s = socket(PF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, IPPROTO_UDP);
    /* enable broadcast */
    setsockopt(s, SOL_SOCKET, SO_BROADCAST, &One,
        sizeof(One));
    fsin.sin_family = AF_INET;
    fsin.sin_port = htons(5432);
    fsin.sin_addr.s_addr = INADDR_BROADCAST;
    /* send broadcast */
    sendto(s, " ", 1, 0,
        (struct sockaddr *)&fsin, sizeof(fsin));
    /* get first reply */
    recvfrom(s, &now, sizeof(now), 0,
        (struct sockaddr *)&fsin_him, &alen);
    return 0;
};
```

## **Robust Client**

Need to check the return values of all system calls and handle (error exit) any problems.

Handle multiple replies or no replies (select with bailout)