

Some useful tips about /dev/tcp

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Just some simple tips that I found very useful.

Bash supports read/write operations on a pseudo-device file `/dev/tcp/[host]/[port]` ^[1].
Writing to this special file makes bash open a tcp connection to `host:port` , and this feature may be used for some useful purposes, for example:

Query an NTP server

this command:

```
cat </dev/tcp/ntp.fortuna.org/123
```

reads the time in

Fetch a web page

this script

```
exec 3<>/dev/tcp/192.168.1.1/80
echo -e "GET / HTTP/1.1\r\n\r\n" >&3
cat <&3
```

fetches the front

Perform a scan

In case you are not sure if a host is up, you can check if a tcp port is open. Here is a simple script:

So, you can perform

```
for ip in {1..254};
do for port in {22,80,443,3306,3389};
do (echo >/dev/tcp/192.168.1.|$ip/$port) >& /dev/null && echo "192.168.1.$ip:$port is c
done;
done
```

You can customize the script changing the involved subnet.

Download a file

```
wget ()
{
IFS=/ read proto z host query <<< "$1"
exec 3< /dev/tcp/$host/80
{
echo GET /$query HTTP/1.1
echo connection: close
echo host: $host
echo
```

```
} >&3
sed '1,/^\$/d' <&3 > $(basename $1)
}




_wget http://www.andreafortuna.org/robots.txt
```

References

1. <https://tldp.org/LDP/abs/html/devref1.html>

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