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CSE 460
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Lab 7 Report

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2. Process Pipes

```
#include <stdio.h>

FILE * popen(const char *command, const char *type);
int  pclose(FILE *stream);
```

Use "man" to study popen() and pclose().

popen()
The popen() function opens a process by creating a pipe, forking, and invoking the shell. Since a pipe is by definition unidirectional, the type argument may specify only reading or writing, not both; the resulting stream is correspondingly read-only or write-only.

pclose()
The pclose() function waits for the associated process to terminate and returns the exit status of the command as returned by wait4(2).

```
//pipe1.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

int main()
{
  FILE *fpi;                            //for reading a pipe

  char buffer[BUFSIZ+1];                //BUFSIZ defined in <stdio.h>

  int chars_read;
  memset ( buffer, 0,sizeof(buffer));   //clear buffer
  fpi = popen ( "ps -auxw", "r" );      //pipe to command "ps -auxw"
  if ( fpi != NULL ) {
    //read data from pipe into buffer
    chars_read = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFSIZ, fpi );
    if ( chars_read > 0 )
     cout << "Output from pipe: " << buffer << endl;
    pclose ( fpi );                     //close the pipe
    return 0;
  }

  return 1;
}
```

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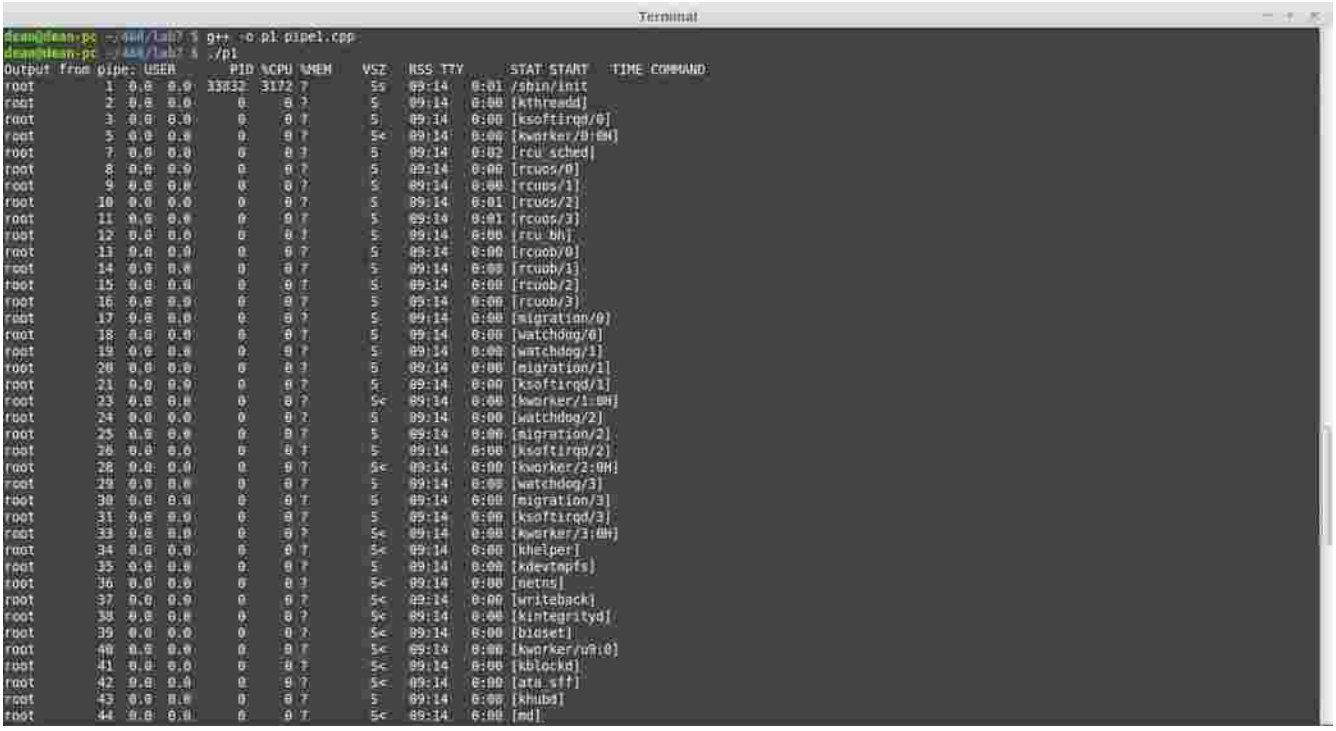
When we compile pipe1.cpp, we get the following:



We believe that this output is showing the information of all the pipes currently on the computer. We think that the pipes that have a PID that is not 0 are associated with commands that are connected to that particular pipe and are currently running on the computer. The reason why these pipes would have a PID greater than 0 is because it is a child process which always have a nonzero PID.

Modification of pipe1.cpp. New program is called pipe1a.cpp:

```
//pipe1a.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

int main()
{
  FILE *fpi;                                //for reading a pipe

  char buffer[BUFSIZ+1];                    //BUFSIZ defined in <stdio.h>
  char s[50];
  char r[50];

  int chars_read;
  memset ( buffer, 0,sizeof(buffer));   //clear buffer
```

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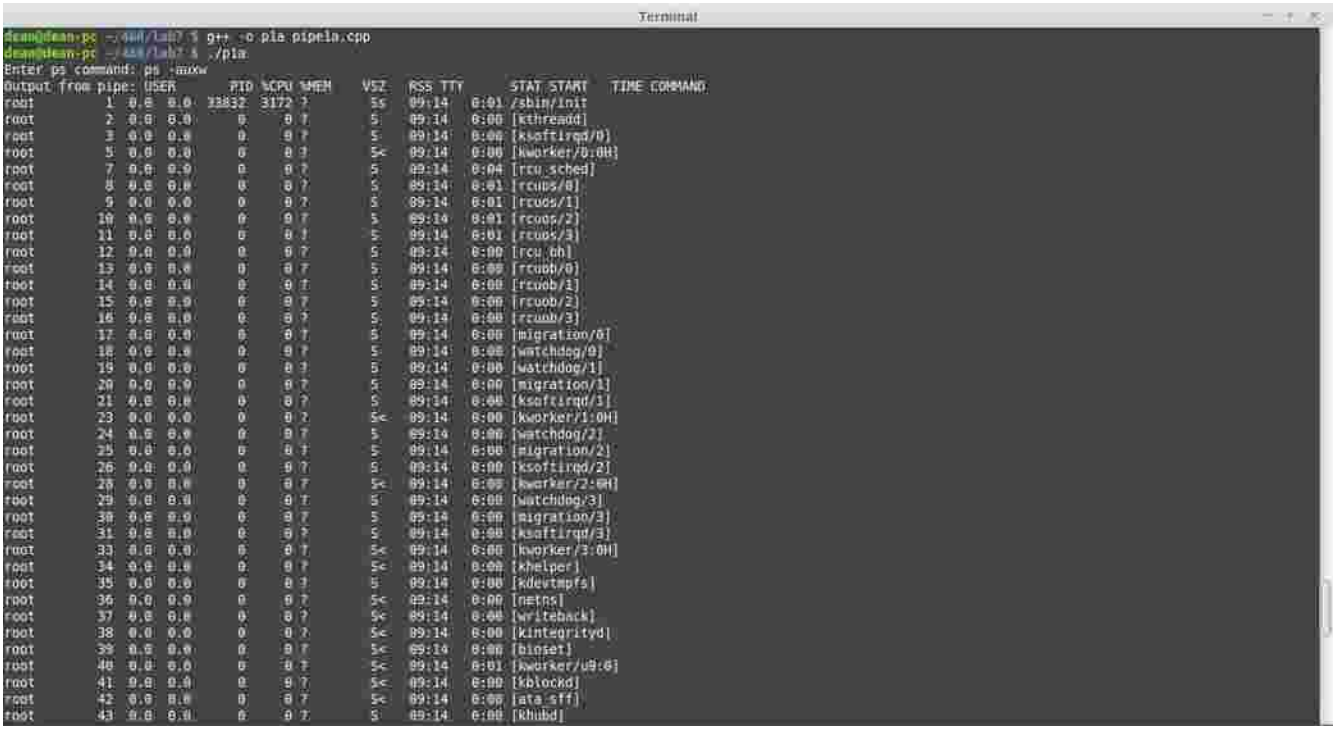
```
  cout << "Enter ps command: ";
  cin.getline(s, 50);
  strcpy(r, s);

  fpi = popen ( r, "r" );
  if ( fpi != NULL ) {
       //read data from pipe into buffer
    chars_read = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFSIZ, fpi );
    if ( chars_read > 0 )
      cout << "Output from pipe: " << buffer << endl;
    pclose ( fpi );                      //close the pipe
    return 0;
  }

  return 1;
}
```

Output of pipe1a.cpp:



pipe2.cpp code:

```
//pipe2.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <iostream>
```

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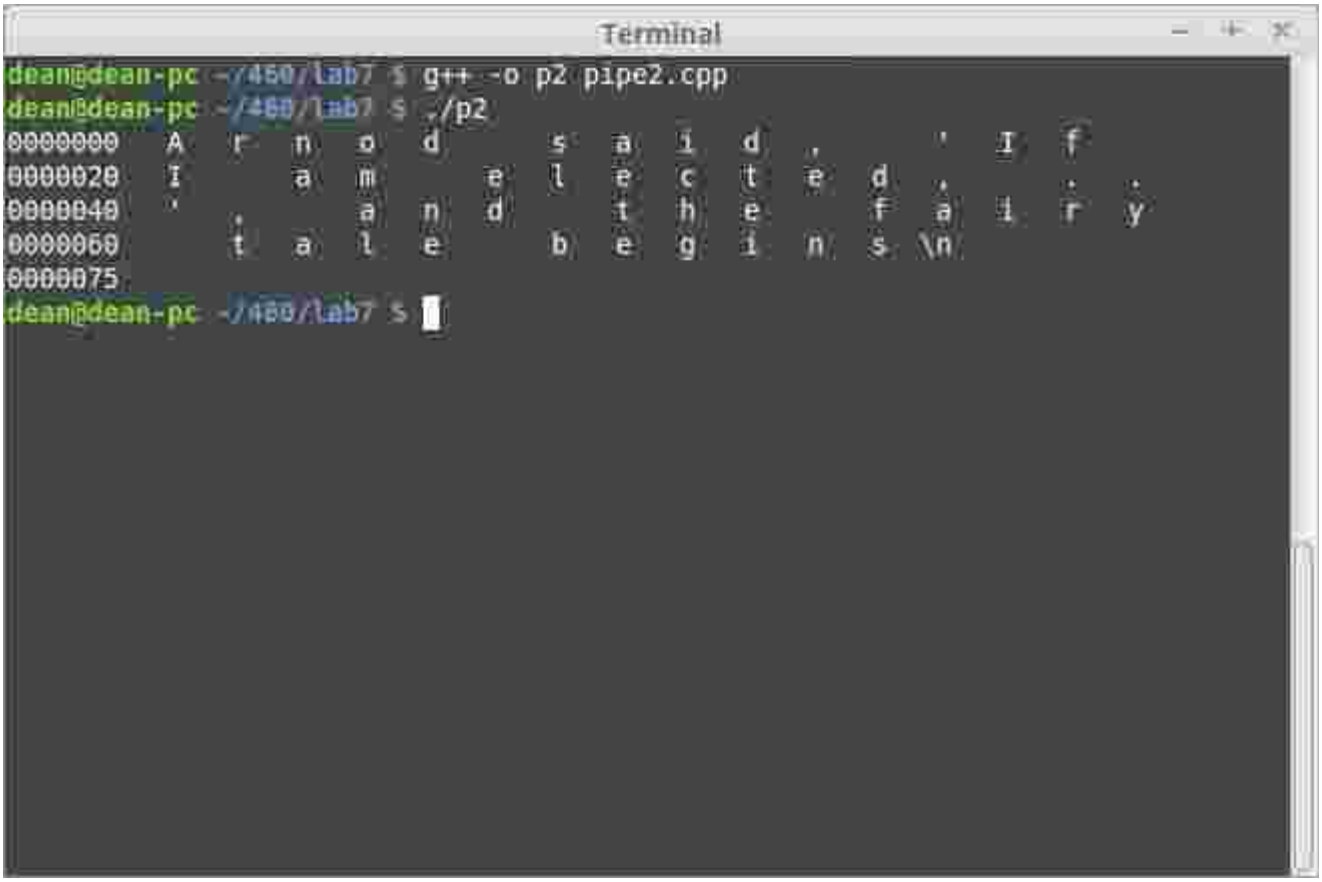
```
using namespace std;

int main()
{
  FILE *fpo;                              //for writing to a pipe

  char buffer[BUFSIZ+1];                  //BUFSIZ defined in <stdio.h>

  //Write buffer a message
  sprintf(buffer, "Arnod said, 'If I am elected, ..', and the fairy tale
begins\n");

  fpo = popen ( "od -c", "w" ); //pipe to command "od -c"
                                          //od -- output dump, see "man od"
  if ( fpo != NULL ) {
    //send data from buffer to pipe
    fwrite(buffer, sizeof(char), strlen(buffer), fpo );
    pclose ( fpo );                       //close the pipe
    return 0;
  }
  return 1;
}
```

output for pipe2.cpp:



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The output for pipe2.cpp looks this way because the “od -c” command selects ASCII characters or backslash escapes and prints it out like this. The program takes the buffer that was passed into fpo and runs the “od -c” command.

Modification of pipe2.cpp:
To modify pipe2.cpp to output the first three words in reverse order, we changed the following line:

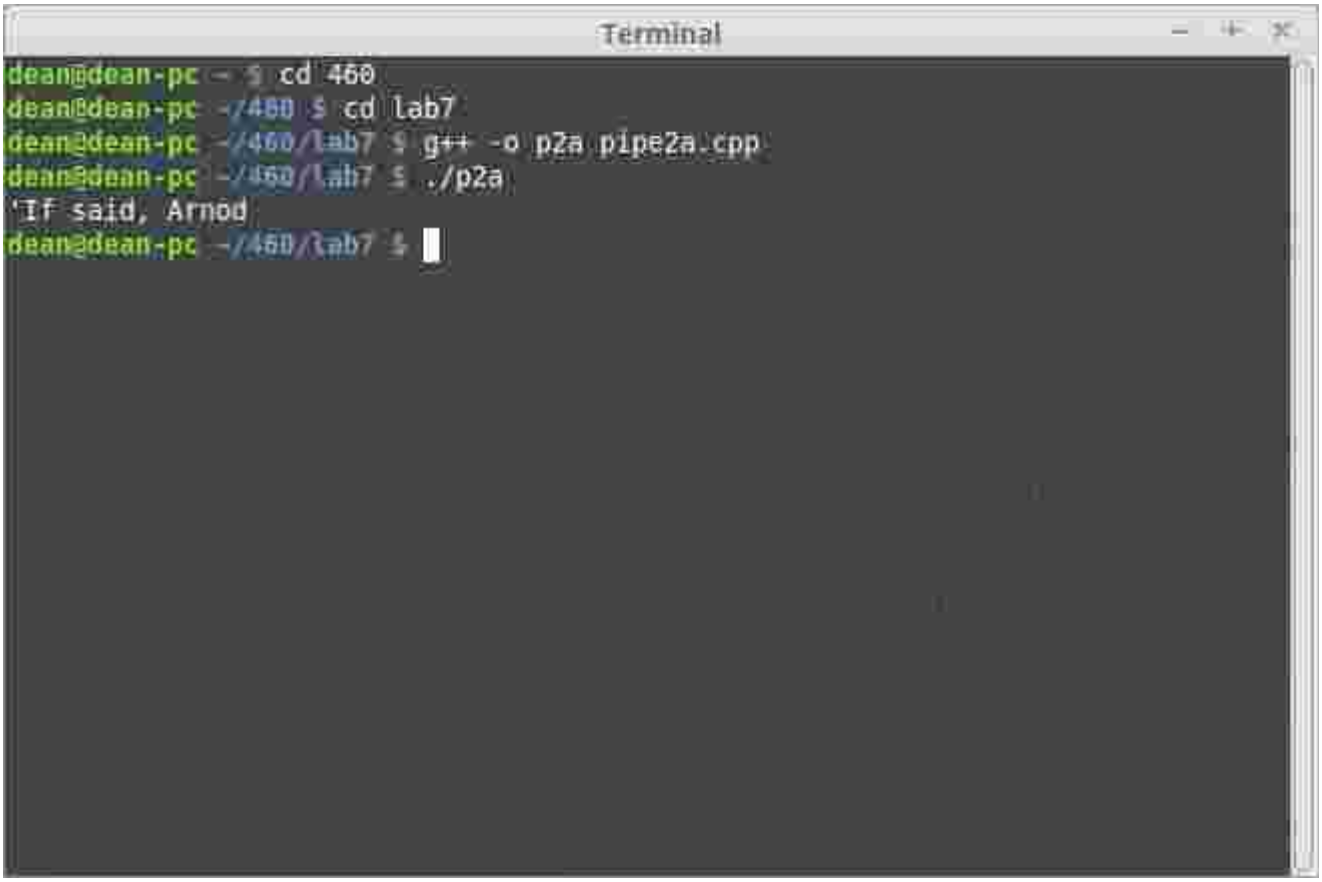
```
fpo = popen ( "od -c", "w" );
```

to this:

```
fpo = popen ( "awk '{print $3, $2, $1}'", "w" );
```

and we also changed the name of the program to pipe2a.cpp.

Output for pipe2a.cpp:



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3. The pipe Call

The lower-level pipe() function provides a means of passing data between two processes, without the overhead of invoking a shell to interpret the requested command.

```
#include <unistd.h>

int pipe ( int fd[2] );
```

Here is an example of a program that illustrates an array address of two integer file descriptors; it fills the array with two new file descriptors and returns 0 if successful. The two file descriptors returned are connected in a special way. Any data written to *fd[1]* can be read back from *fd[0]*. The data are processed on a first in, first out (FIFO) basis.

Code:

```
//pipe3.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <iostream>

using namespace std;

int main()
{
  int nbytes;
  int fd[2];            //file descriptors for pipe
  const char s[] = "CSUSB";
  char buffer[BUFSIZ+1];

  memset ( buffer, 0, sizeof(buffer) ); //clear buffer

  if ( pipe( fd ) == 0 ) {      //create a pipe
    nbytes = write( fd[1], s, strlen( s ) );    //send data to pipe
    cout << "Sent " << nbytes << " bytes to pipe." << endl;
    nbytes = read ( fd[0], buffer, BUFSIZ );    //read data from pipe
    cout << "Read " << nbytes << " from pipe: " << buffer << endl;
    return 0;
  }
  return 1;
}
```

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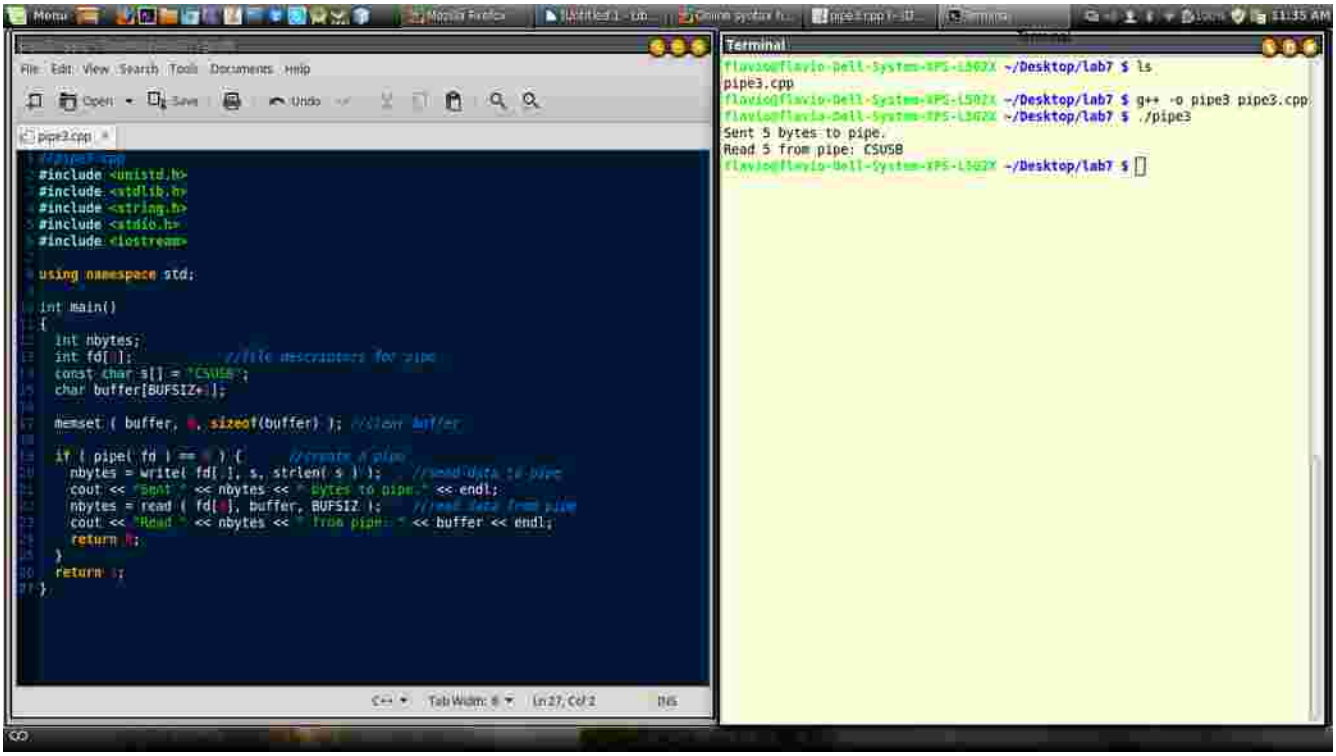
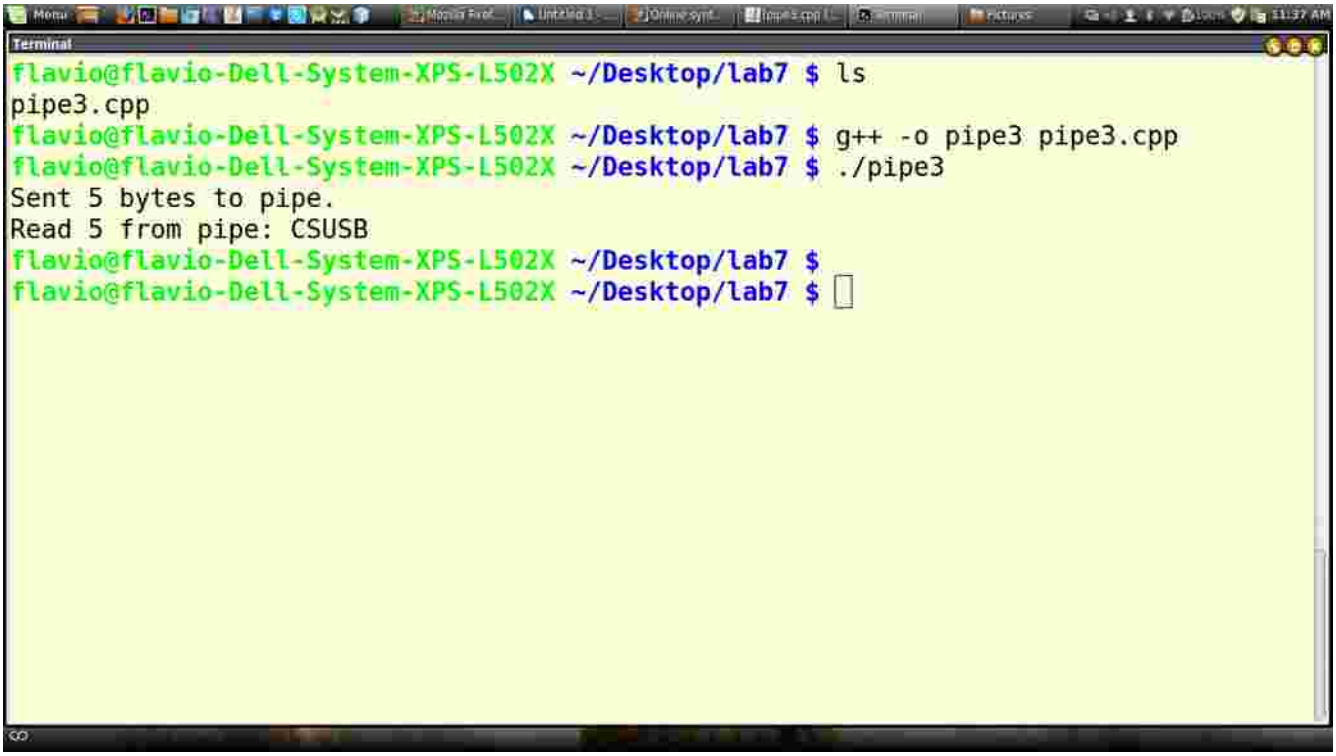
Here is the compilation and output:





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Since a pipe is a connection between two processes, the standard output from one process becomes the standard input of the other process. Therefore, it is possible to have a series of processes arranged in a a pipeline, with a pipe between each pair of processes in the series, and that's exactly what pipe3 does, it creates a pipe and gets back the input of the other process, in this case from the same pipe.

4. Parent and Child Processes

We can use **exec()** to create a child process running a different program. After an **exec** call, the old process has been replaced by the new child process. The following two programs demonstrate the concept.

The first is the "data producer", which creates the pipe and then invokes the child, the "data consumer".

```
//pipe4.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main()
{
    int data_processed;
    int file_pipes[2];
    const char some_data[] = "123";
    char buffer[BUFSIZ + 1];
    pid_t fork_result;

    memset(buffer, '\0', sizeof(buffer));

    if (pipe(file_pipes) == 0) {   //creates pipe
        fork_result = fork();
        if (fork_result == (pid_t)-1) {  //fork fails
            fprintf(stderr, "Fork failure");
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }

        if (fork_result == 0) {    //child
            sprintf(buffer, "%d", file_pipes[0]);
            (void)execl("pipe5", "pipe5", buffer, (char *)0);
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }
        else {                     //parent
            data_processed = write(file_pipes[1], some_data,
                                   strlen(some_data));
            printf("%d - wrote %d bytes\n", getpid(), data_processed);
        }
    }
```

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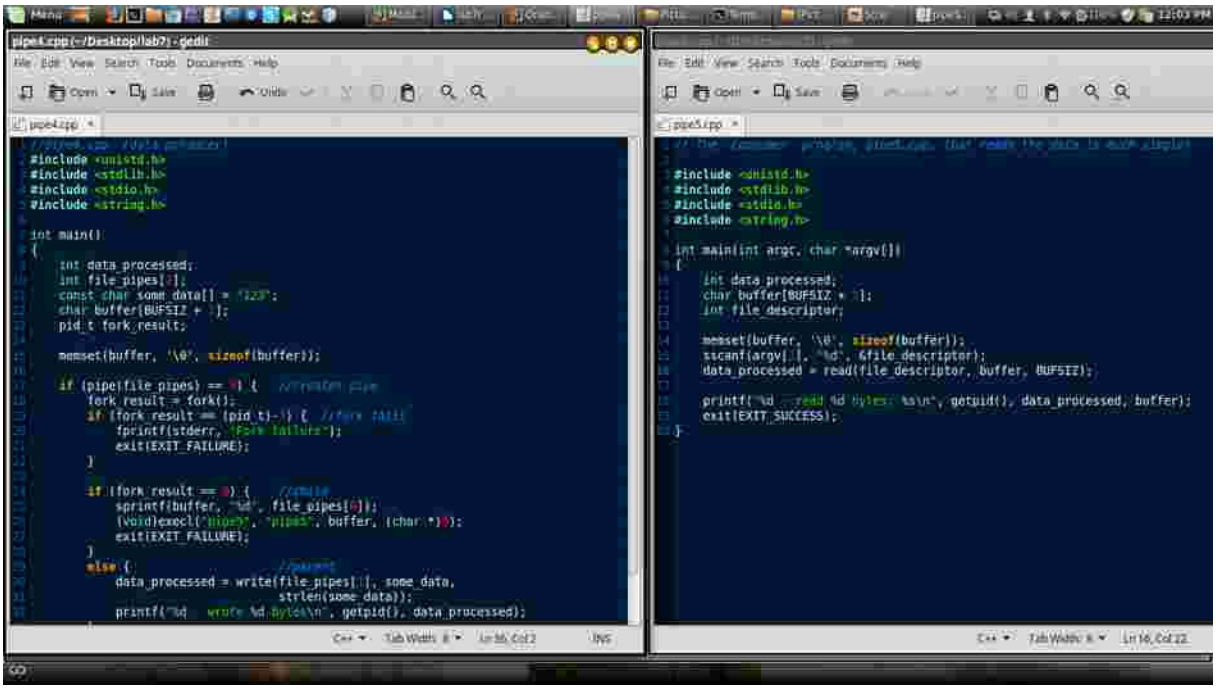
```
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

The 'consumer' program, pipe5.cpp, that reads the data is much simpler.

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int data_processed;
    char buffer[BUFSIZ + 1];
    int file_descriptor;

    memset(buffer, '\0', sizeof(buffer));
    sscanf(argv[1], "%d", &file_descriptor);
    data_processed = read(file_descriptor, buffer, BUFSIZ);

    printf("%d - read %d bytes: %s\n", getpid(), data_processed, buffer);
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

now compiling:

```
$ g++ -o pipe4 pipe4.cpp
$ g++ -o pipe5 pipe5.cpp
$ ./pipe4
```



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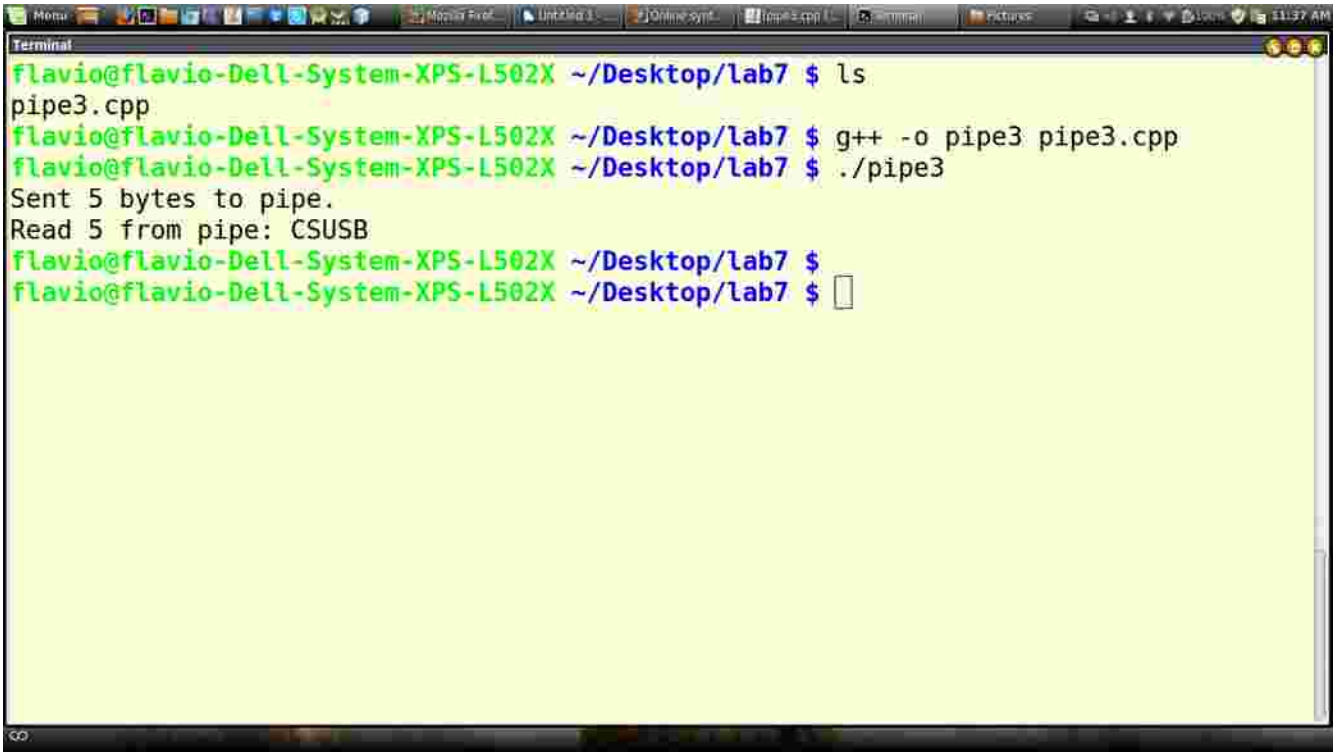

Here is the writing code to read a msg:

```c
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main()
{
    int fd;
    char * myfifo = "/tmp/myfifo";

    /* create the FIFO (named pipe) */
    mkfifo(myfifo, 0666);

    /* write "Hi" to the FIFO */
    fd = open(myfifo, O_WRONLY);
    write(fd, "CSE 455 lab 7", sizeof("CSE 455 lab 7"));
    close(fd);

    /* remove the FIFO */
    unlink(myfifo);

    return 0;
}
```

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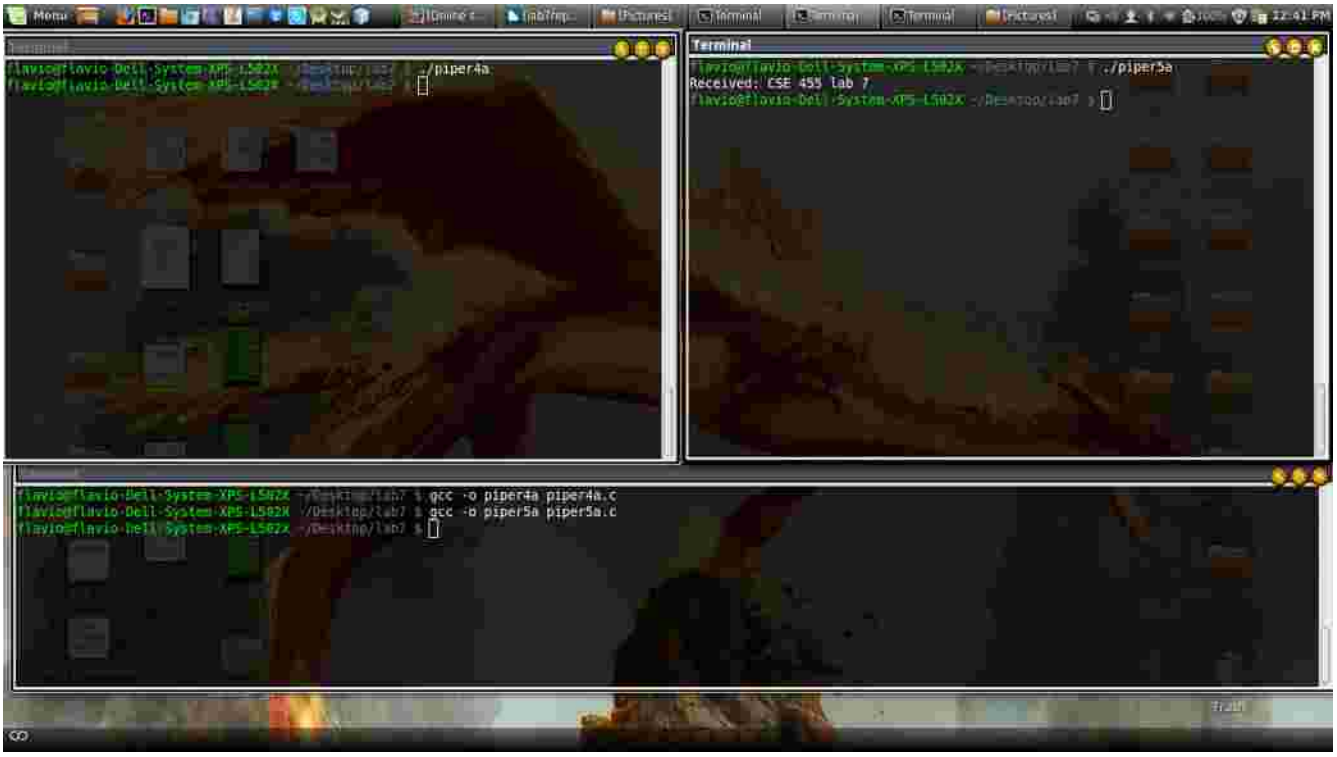
here is the reading code:

```c
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <unistd.h>

#define MAX_BUF 1024

int main()
{
    int fd;
    char * myfifo = "/tmp/myfifo";
    char buf[MAX_BUF];

    /* open, read, and display the message from the FIFO */
    fd = open(myfifo, O_RDONLY);
    read(fd, buf, MAX_BUF);
    printf("Received: %s\n", buf);
    close(fd);

    return 0;
}
```

here is the output:



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5. Special Pipes

A read on a pipe that is not open for writing returns zero, rather than blocking. Note that this is not the same as reading an invalid file descriptor, which **read** considers an error, returning -1. If we use a pipe across a **fork** call, there are two different file descriptors that we can use to write to the pipe, one in the parent and one in the child. We have to close the write file descriptors of the pipe in both parent and child processes. The **dup**() system call creates a copy of the file descriptor *oldfd*, using the lowest-numbered unused descriptor for the new descriptor. The **dup2**() system call performs the same task as **dup**(), except that it uses the descriptor number specified in *newfd* instead of the lowest-numbered unused descriptor. If the descriptor *newfd* was previously open, it is silently closed before being reused.

Code:

```
//up2low.cpp
//convert from upper case to lower case
#include <iostream>
#include <string>
#include <ctype.h>

using namespace std;

int main()
{

  string s;

  cout << "\nWaiting for input:";

  getline ( cin, s );
  char low[100];
  int len = s.length();
  for ( int i = 0; i < len; ++i )
    low[i] = tolower( s[i] );
  low[len] = 0;
  cout << "Lower case output: " << low << endl;
  return 0;
}
```

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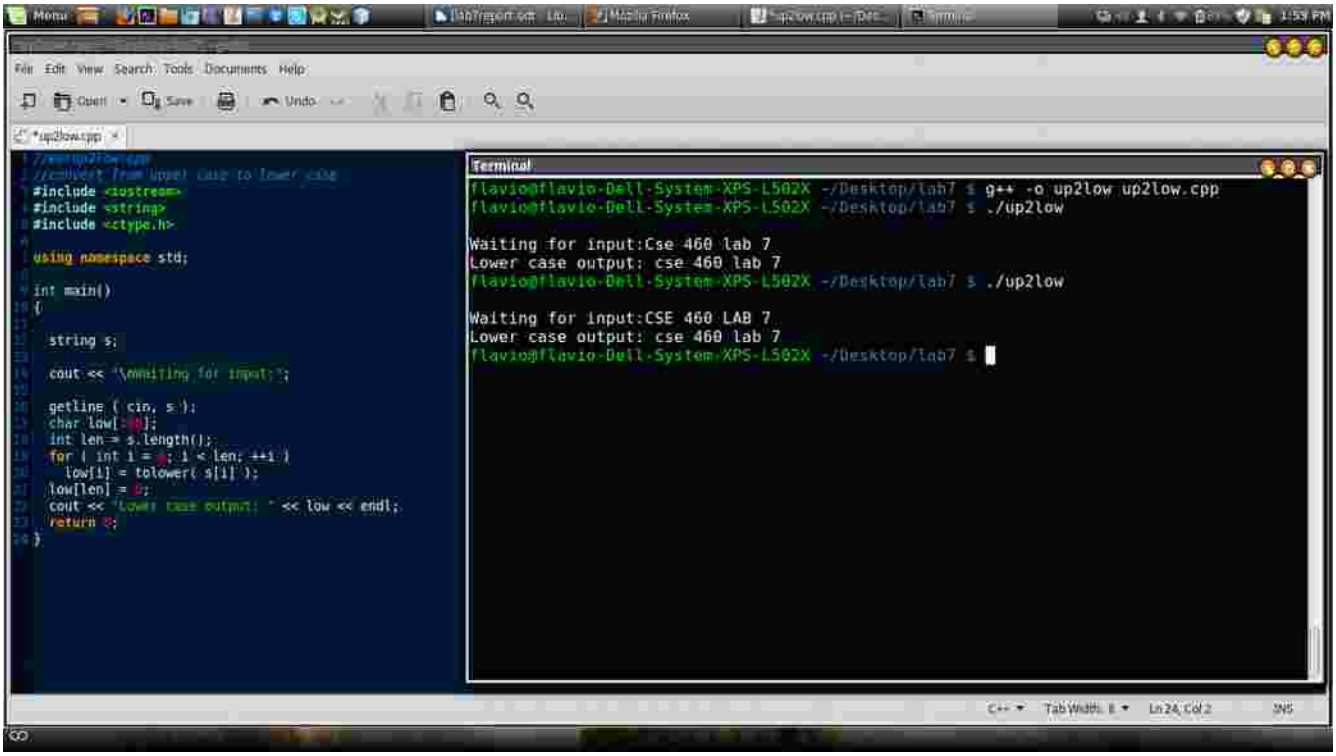
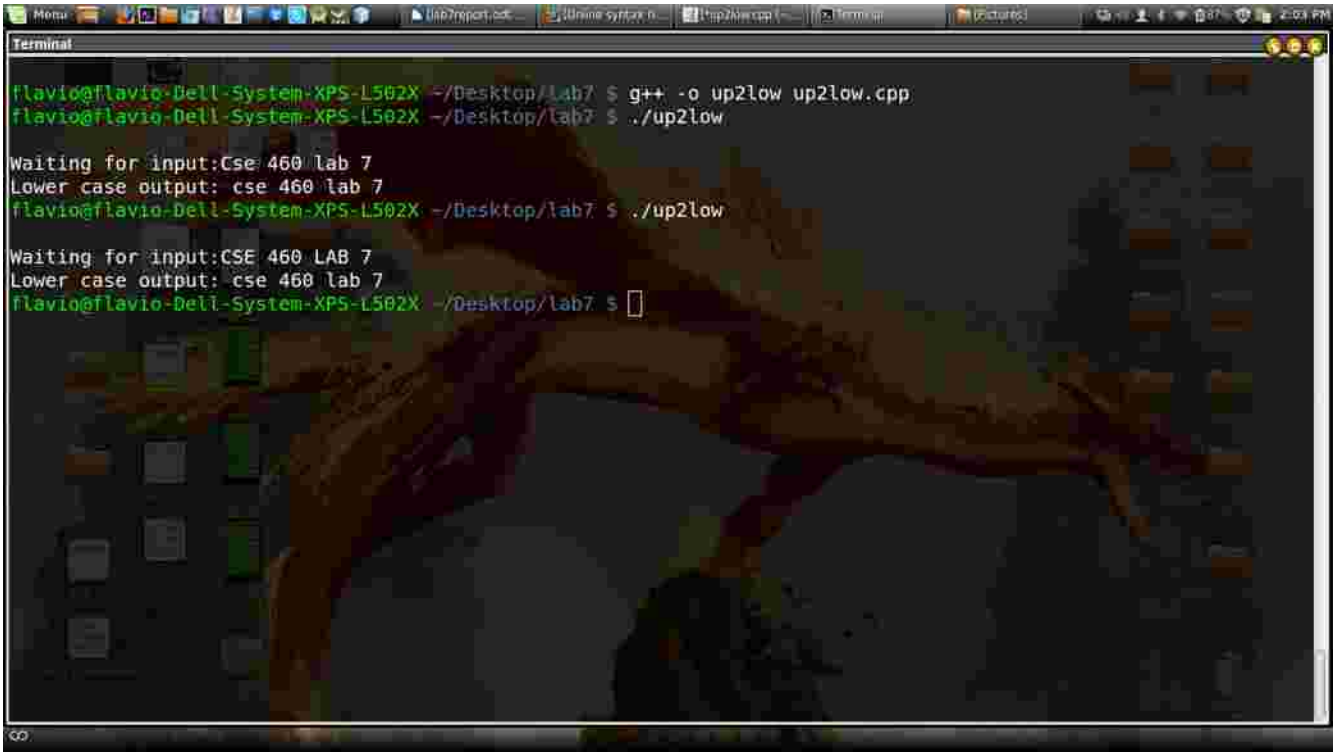
Program compiles and executes:





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The program above display any input into “lower case”

Pipe6 script code:

```
//pipe6.cpp
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>

int main()
{
    int data_processed;
    int file_pipes[2];
    const char some_data[] = "CSUSB The Beautiful!";
    pid_t fork_result;

    if (pipe(file_pipes) == 0) {
        fork_result = fork();
        if (fork_result == (pid_t)-1) {
            fprintf(stderr, "Fork failure");
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }

        if (fork_result == (pid_t)0) {  //child
            close(0);             //closes stdin
            dup(file_pipes[0]);   //copy file_pipes[0] to 0
            close(file_pipes[0]); //cleanup
            close(file_pipes[1]); //closes the write end of pipe

            execlp("path/up2low", "up2low", "-c", (char *)0);
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }
        else {                          //parent
            close(file_pipes[0]);       //closes the read end of pipe
            sleep ( 1 );                //sleep 1 second to ensure child ready
            data_processed = write(file_pipes[1], some_data,
                                   strlen(some_data));
            close(file_pipes[1]);
            printf("\nProcess %d wrote %d bytes\n", (int)getpid(), data_processed);
        }
    }
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

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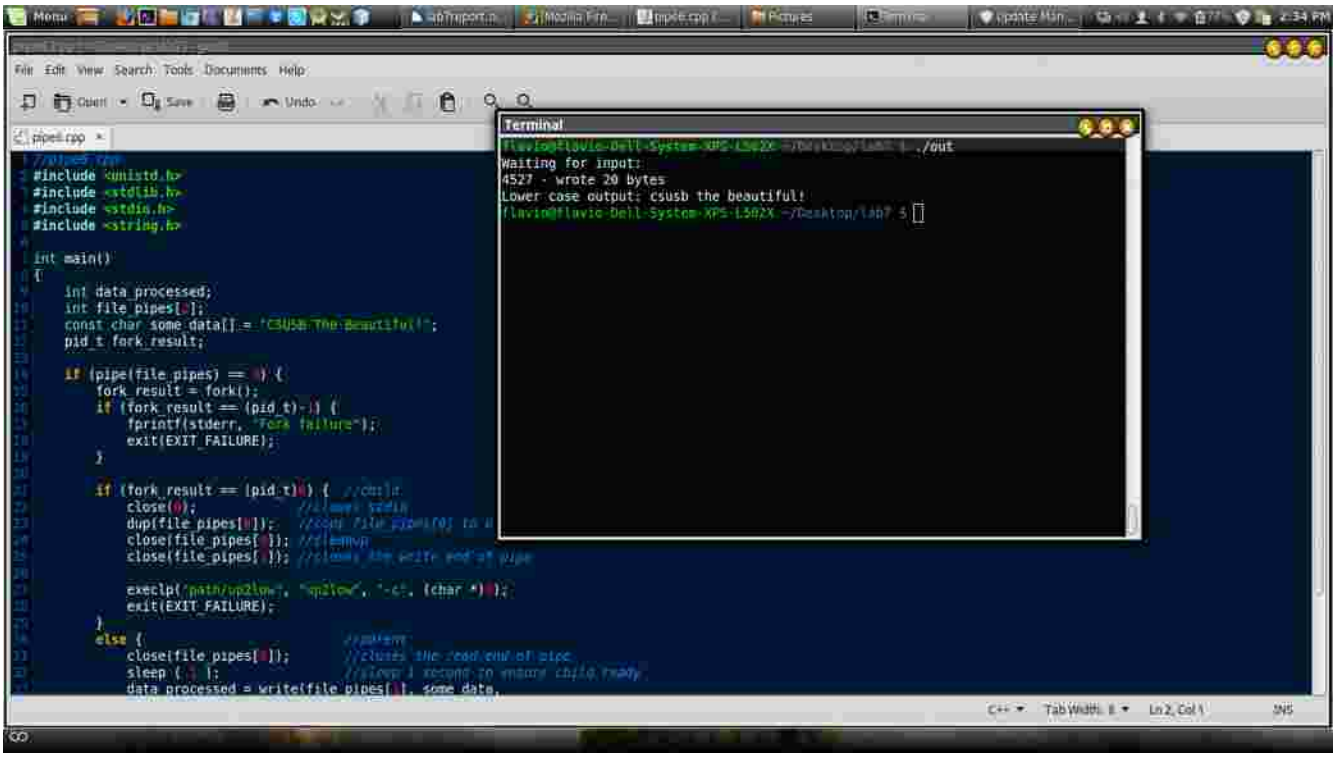
Compiling an executing:



Modify pipe6.cpp so that the child process executes a program written by you rather than **up2low:**

pipe6.cpp code modified:

We found easier to create a class called PIPE (random name) and create a function “msg” which executes “up2low” script:

```
//pipe6.cpp
#include <iostream>
#include <string.h>
#include <ctype.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>

using namespace std;

class PIPE
{

  public:
      void msg();
```

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```
};

void PIPE::msg()
{

   string s;

  cout << "\nWaiting for input:";

  getline ( cin, s );
  char low[100];
  int len = s.length();
  for ( int i = 0; i < len; ++i )
    low[i] = tolower( s[i] );
  low[len] = 0;
  cout << "Lower case output: " << low << endl;
}


int main()
{
    PIPE up2low;

    int data_processed;
    int file_pipes[2];
    const char some_data[] = "CSUSB The Beautiful!";
    pid_t fork_result;

    up2low.msg();

    if (pipe(file_pipes) == 0) {
        fork_result = fork();
        if (fork_result == (pid_t)-1) {
            fprintf(stderr, "Fork failure");
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }

        if (fork_result == (pid_t)0) {  //child
            close(0);             //closes stdin
            dup(file_pipes[0]);   //copy file_pipes[0] to 0
            close(file_pipes[0]); //cleanup
            close(file_pipes[1]); //closes the write end of pipe

            execlp("path/up2low", "up2low", "-c", (char *)0);
            exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
        }
        else {                          //parent
            close(file_pipes[0]);       //closes the read end of pipe
            sleep ( 1 );                //sleep 1 second to ensure child ready
            data_processed = write(file_pipes[1], some_data,
                                   strlen(some_data));
            close(file_pipes[1]);
            printf("\nProcess %d wrote %d bytes\n", (int)getpid(), data_processed);
```

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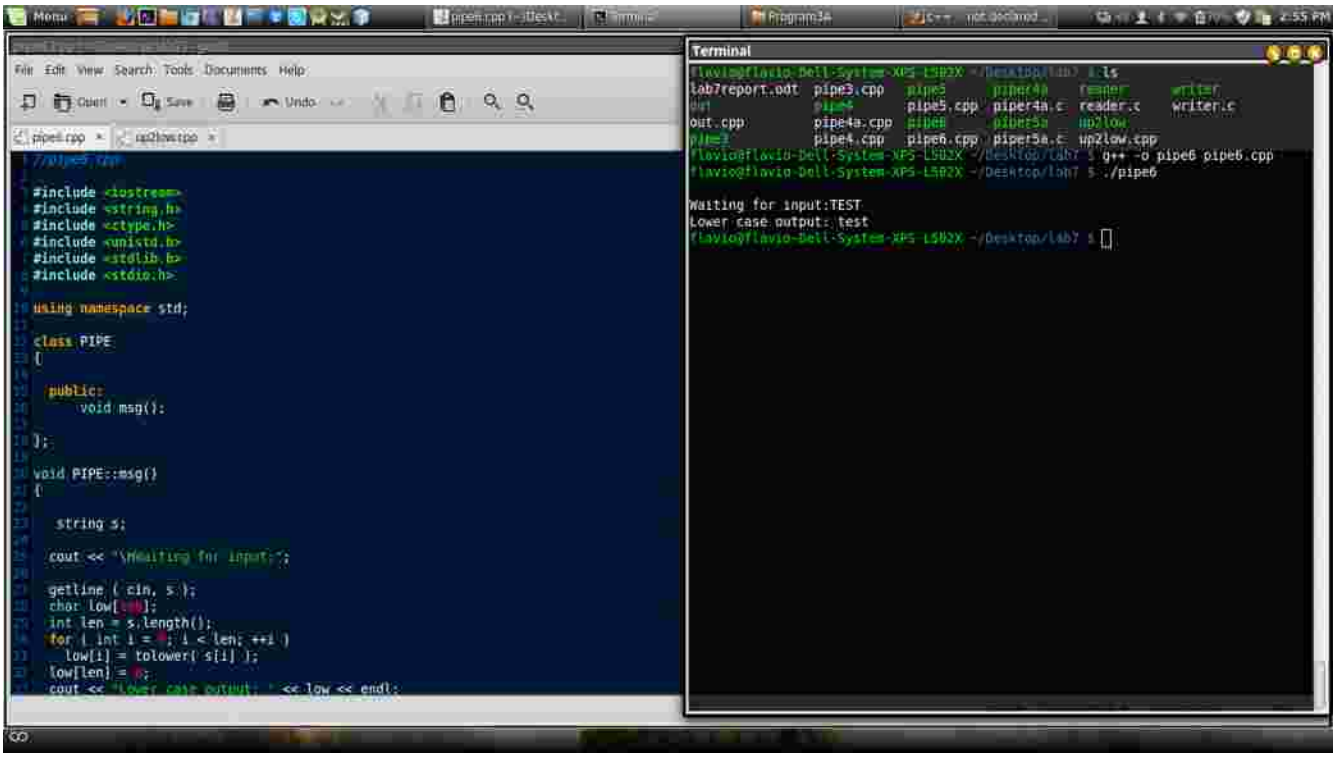
```
        }
    }

 exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

After compiling and executing the program does what it suppose to do.



Named Pipes: FIFOs

Data exchange between unrelated processes can be done using **FIFO**s, often referred to as **named pipes**. A named pipe is a special type of file that exists as a name in the file system, but behaves like unamed pipes.

Use "man" to study **mkfifo** and **mknod**. More detailed explanations of "mkfifo" can be obtained by the command:

```
$ info coreutils mkfifo
```

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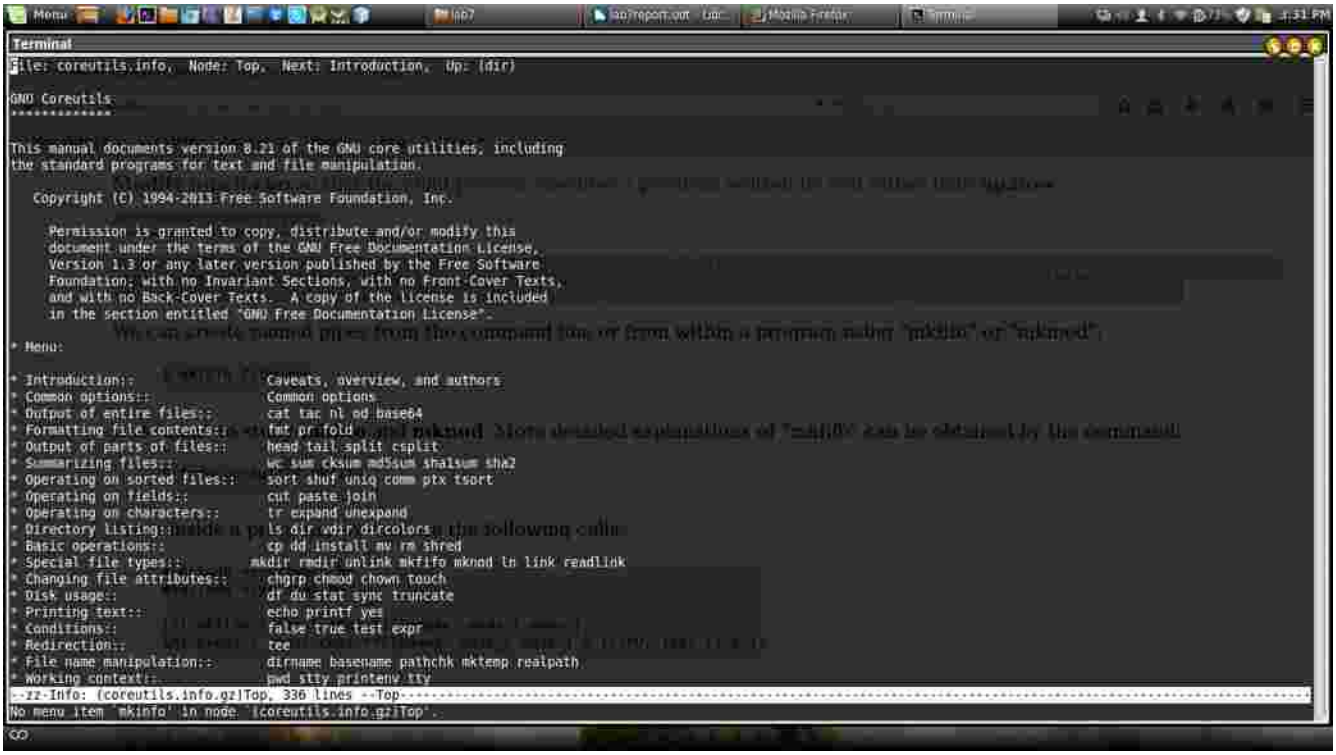

We can look for the pipe with:

```
$ ls -lF /tmp/my_fifo

$ prwxrwxr-x  1 tong tong 0 May  5 13:06 /tmp/my_fifo|
```

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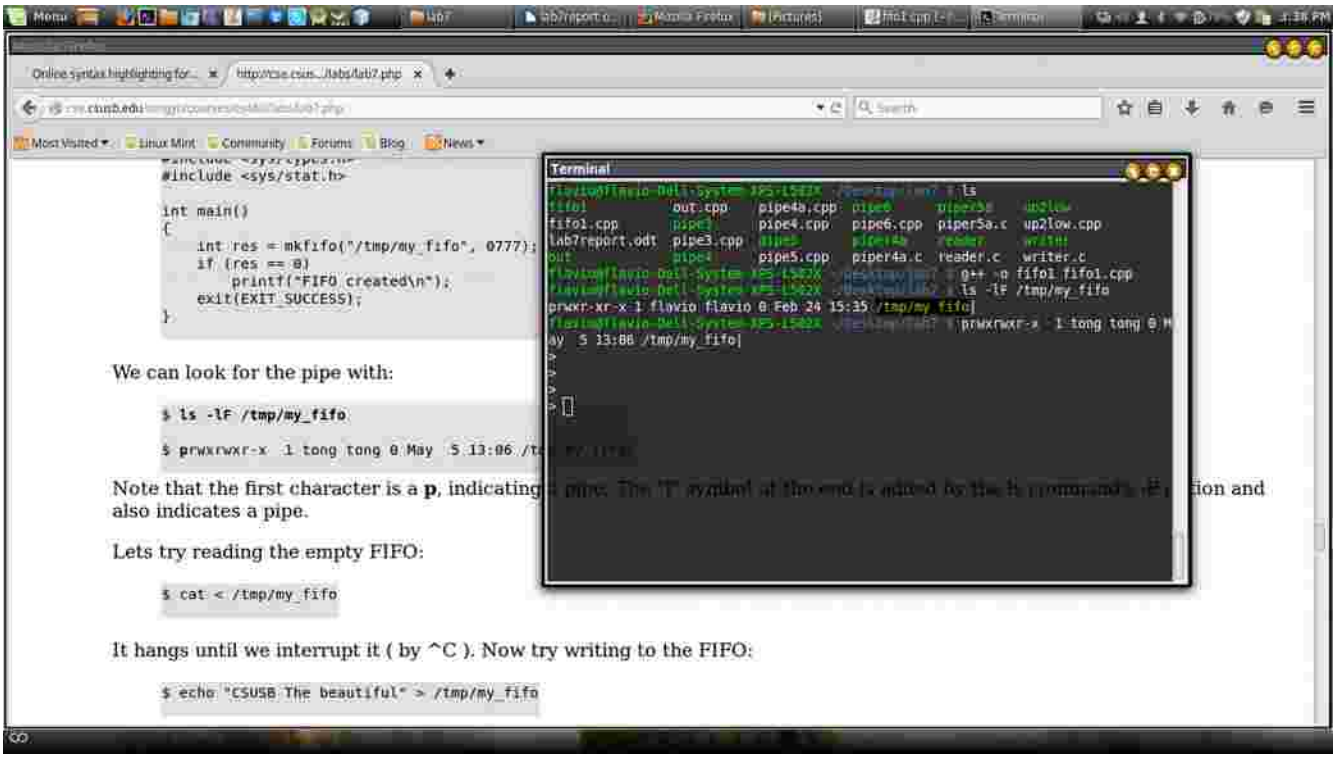
Note that the first character is a **p**, indicating a pipe. The "|" symbol at the end is added by the ls command's -F option and also indicates a pipe.



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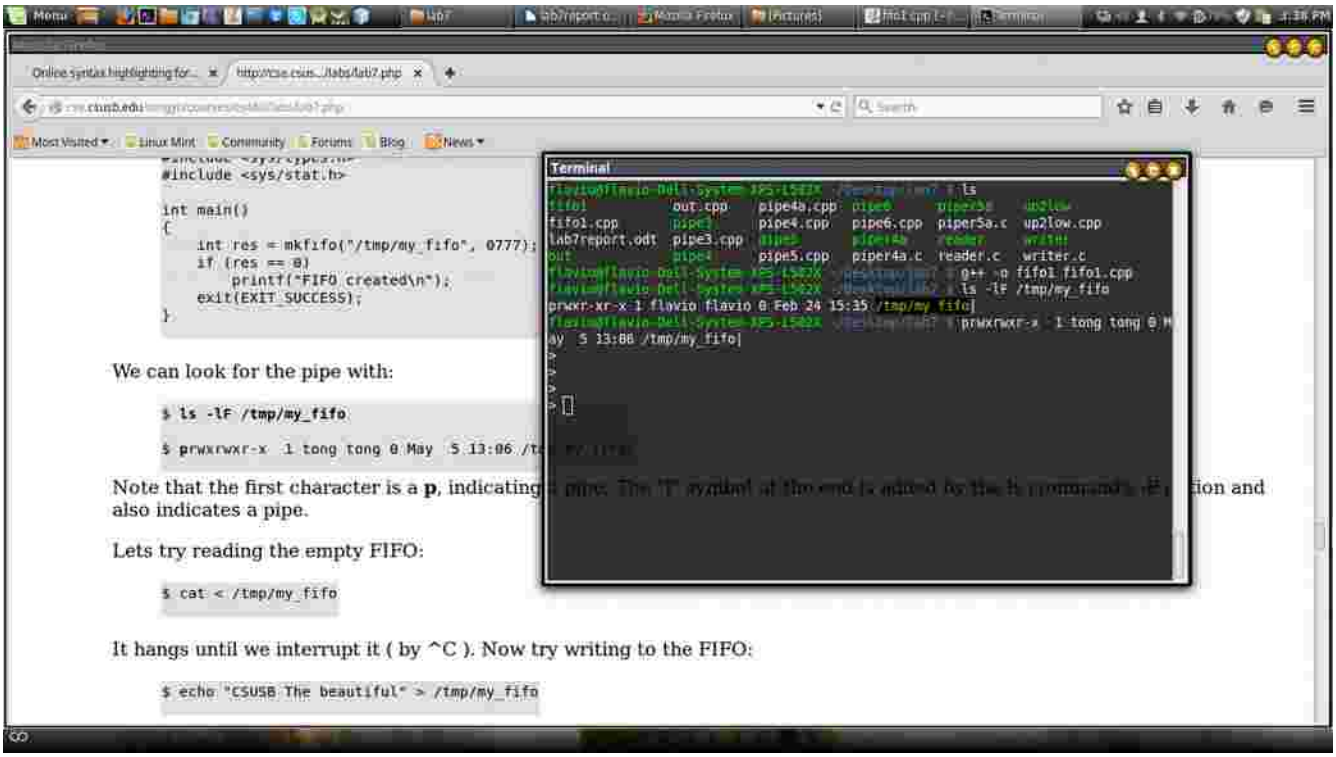
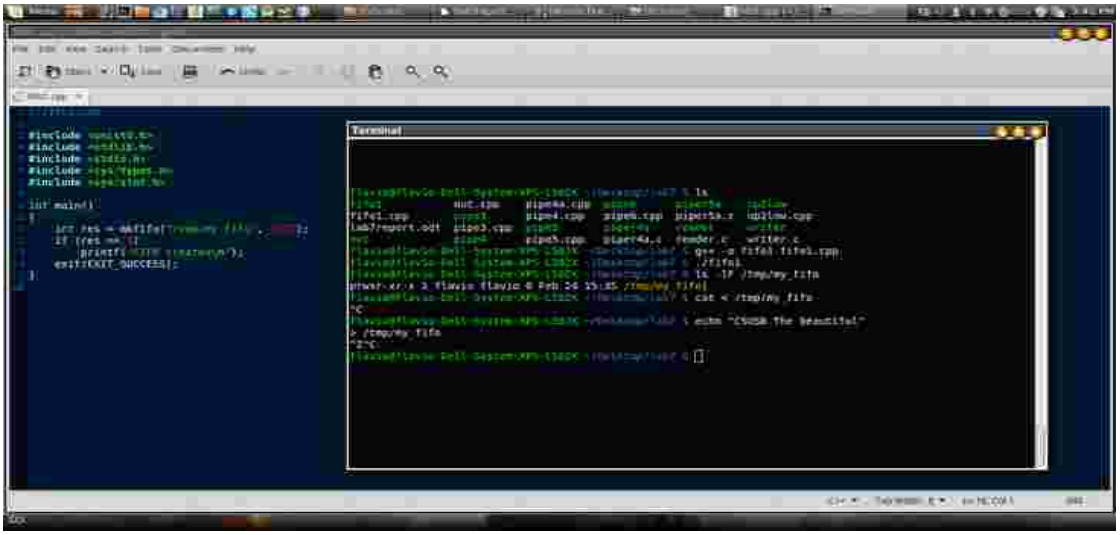


Lets try reading the empty FIFO:

```
$ cat < /tmp/my_fifo
```

It hangs until we interrupt it (by ^C). Now try writing to the FIFO:

```
$ echo "CSUSB The beautiful" > /tmp/my_fifo
```



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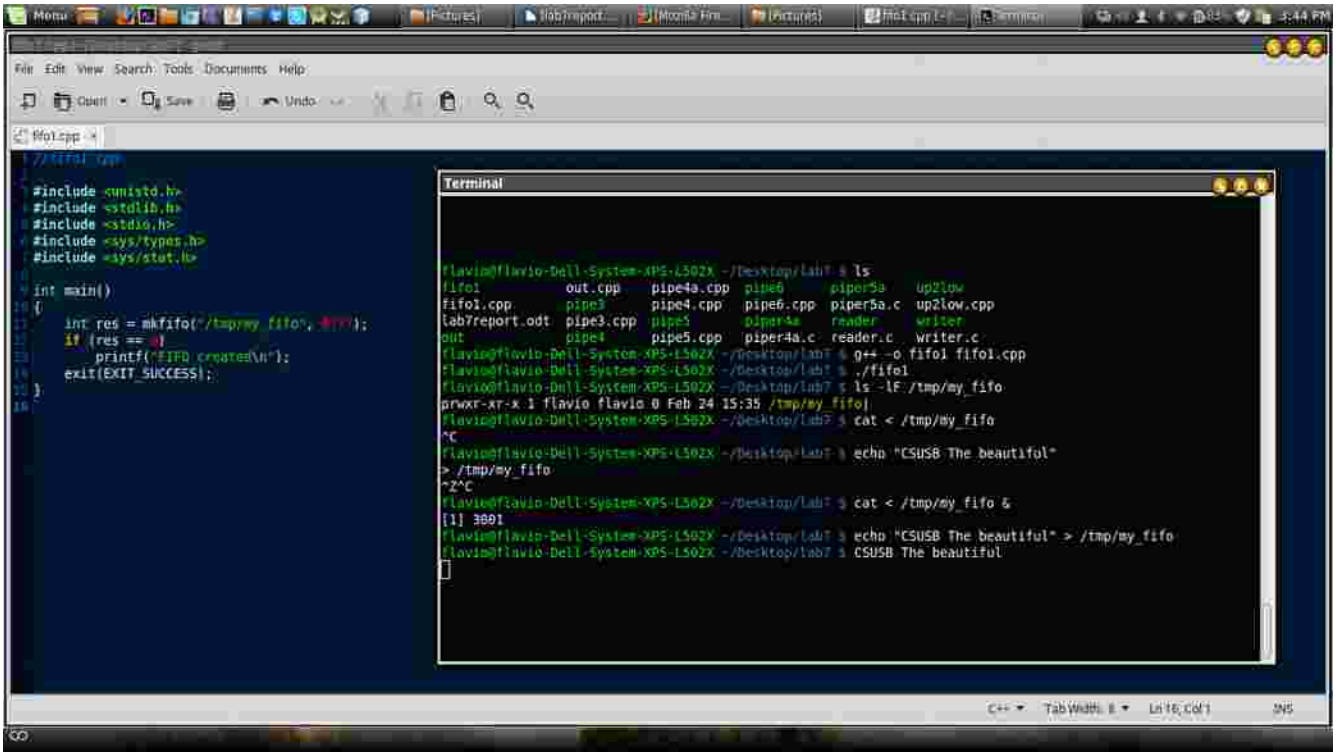
Again, it hangs. This is because there were no data in the FIFO, the **cat** and **echo** programs block, waiting some data to arrive and some other process to read the data, respectively.

If we do both at once, we can pass information through the pipe:

```
$ cat < /tmp/my_fifo &
[1] 5513
$ echo "CSUSB The beautiful" > /tmp/my_fifo
CSUSB The beautiful
```



The following is a client/server application that makes use FIFOs to communicate. The server program **server.cpp** creates and opens the server pipe which is set to read-only, with blocking. After sleeping (for demonstration purposes), the server reads in any data sent by a client, which has the **data_to_pass_st** structure. In the next stage, it performs some processing on the data just read from the client, converting all characters recieved to uppercase and combine the **CLIENT_FIFO_NAME** with the received **client_pid**. Finally, it sends the data back, opening the client pipe in write-only, blocking mode, and then shut down the FIFO server by closing the file and unlinking the FIFO.

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```
//server.cpp
#include <ctype.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <limits.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>

#define SERVER_FIFO_NAME "/tmp/serv_fifo"
#define CLIENT_FIFO_NAME "/tmp/client_fifo"

#define BUFFER_SIZE 20

struct data_to_pass_st {
    pid_t  client_pid;
    char   some_data[BUFFER_SIZE - 1];
};

int main()
{
    int server_fifo_fd, client_fifo_fd;
    struct data_to_pass_st my_data;
    int read_res;
    char client_fifo[256];
    char *tmp_char_ptr;

    mkfifo(SERVER_FIFO_NAME, 0777);
    server_fifo_fd = open(SERVER_FIFO_NAME, O_RDONLY);
    if (server_fifo_fd == -1) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Server fifo failure\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    sleep(10); /* lets clients queue for demo purposes */

    do {
        read_res = read(server_fifo_fd, &my_data, sizeof(my_data));
        if (read_res > 0) {

// In this next stage, we perform some processing on the data just read from the
client.
// We convert all the characters in some_data to uppercase and combine the
CLIENT_FIFO_NAME
// with the received client_pid.

            tmp_char_ptr = my_data.some_data;
            while (*tmp_char_ptr) {
                *tmp_char_ptr = toupper(*tmp_char_ptr);
                tmp_char_ptr++;
            }
            sprintf(client_fifo, CLIENT_FIFO_NAME, my_data.client_pid);
```

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```
// Then we send the processed data back, opening the client pipe in write-only,
blocking mode.
// Finally, we shut down the server FIFO by closing the file and then unlinking the
FIFO.

            client_fifo_fd = open(client_fifo, O_WRONLY);
            if (client_fifo_fd != -1) {
                write(client_fifo_fd, &my_data, sizeof(my_data));
                close(client_fifo_fd);
            }
        }
    } while (read_res > 0);
    close(server_fifo_fd);
    unlink(SERVER_FIFO_NAME);
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

The client program **client.cpp** opens the server FIFO, if it already exists, as a file. It then gets its own process ID, which forms some of the data that will be sent to the server. The client FIFO is also created and opened (read-only, blocking mode for reading back data.

Compile with the commands:

```
$ g++ -o server server.cpp
$ g++ -o client client.cpp
```

To test this out, we need to run a single copy of the server and serveral clients. To make them all started at approximately the same, we may use the following shell commands:

```
$ server &
$ for i in 1 2 3 4 5
> do
> client &
> done
```

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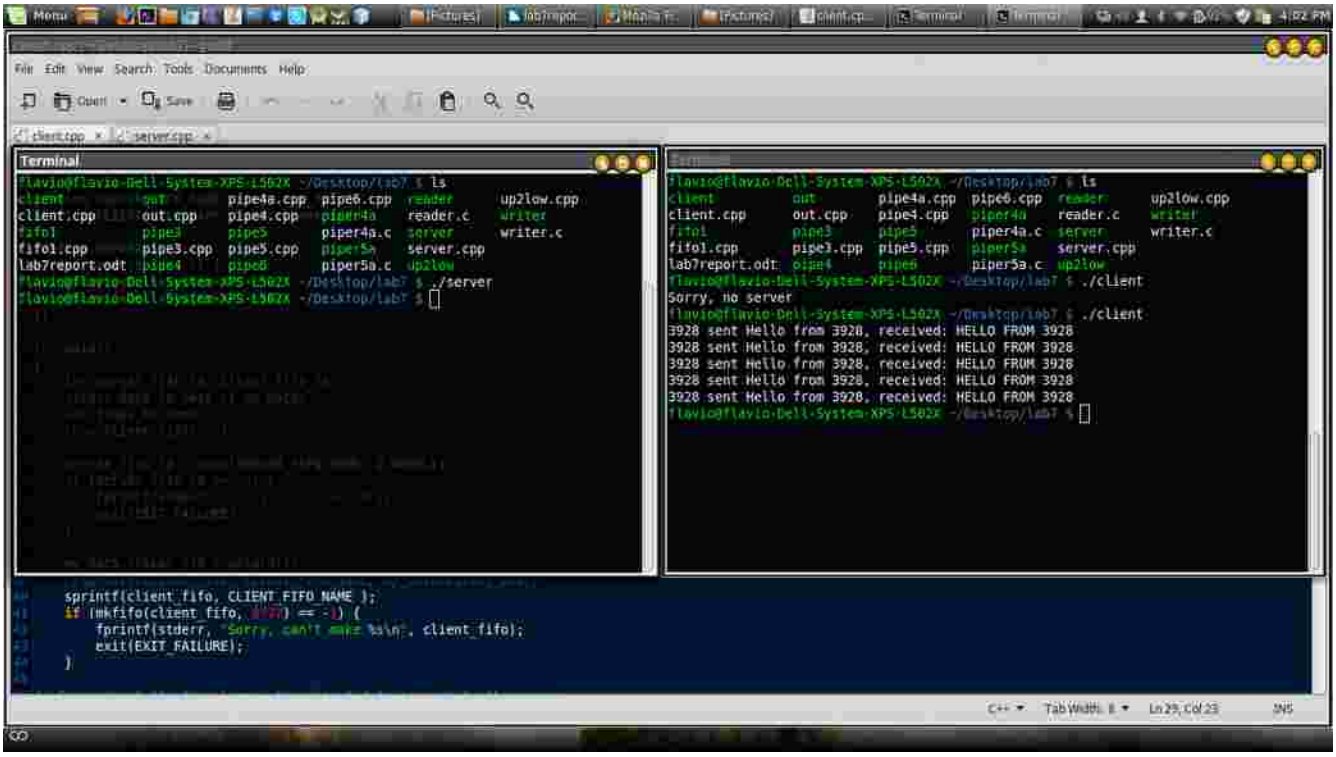
Here it is:



Try the scripts and then **modify** them so that received characters are converted to lower case rather than upper case.

Here is the code:

```
// In this next stage, we perform some processing on the data just read from the
client.
// We convert all the characters in some_data to uppercase and combine the
CLIENT_FIFO_NAME
// with the received client_pid.

            tmp_char_ptr = my_data.some_data;
            while (*tmp_char_ptr) {
                *tmp_char_ptr = tolower(*tmp_char_ptr);
                tmp_char_ptr++;
            }
```

The only part we had to change to display all lower case characters was to change the process of the data read from the client, which means “toupper” into “tolower.”

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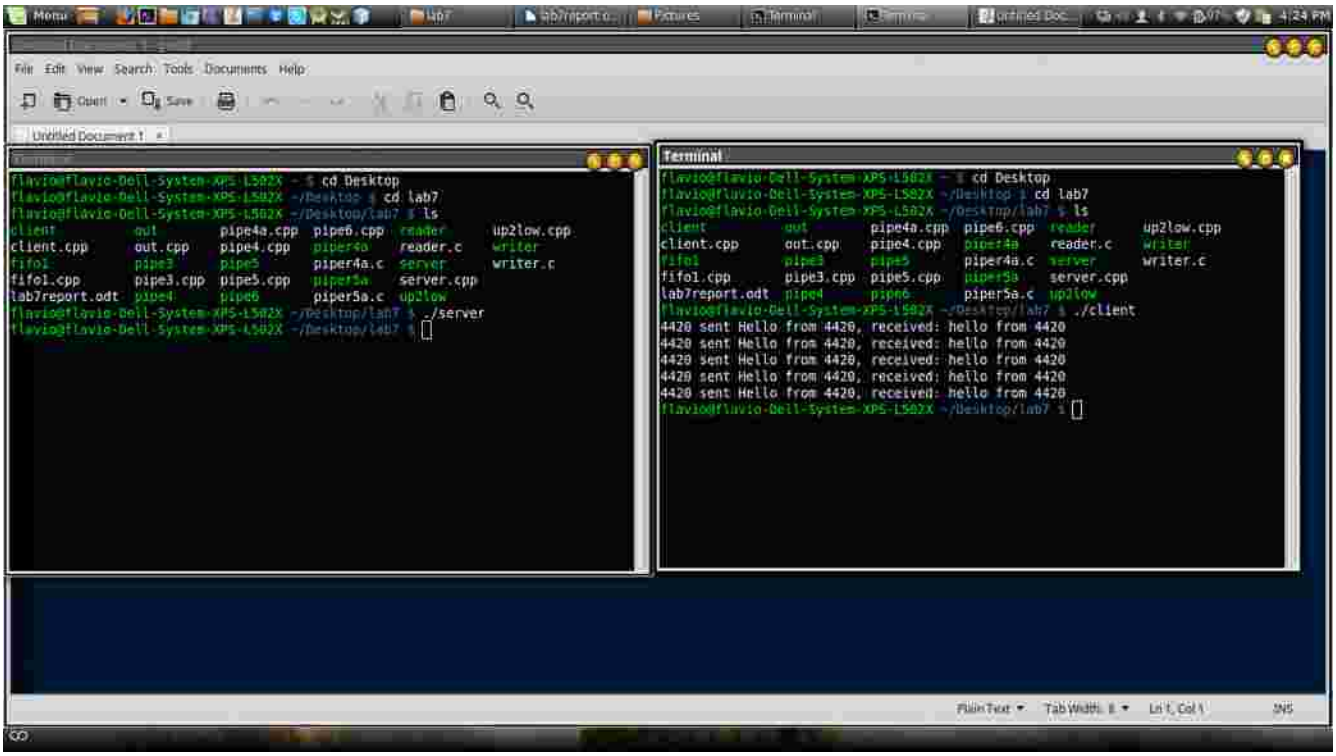
Here are the results:



We worked very hard to finish the lab and learned a lot about pipes. Because we were able to finish everything in this lab, we give ourselves a score of 20/20.