Introduction to **Sockets** Programming in C

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References



W. Richard Stevens, Bill Fenner, & Andrew M. Rudoff

Unix Network Programming

The Sockets Networking API Volume-1, Third Edition

Client-Server communication

Server

- passively waits for and responds to clients
- passive socket
- a Telnet server

Client-Server communication

Server

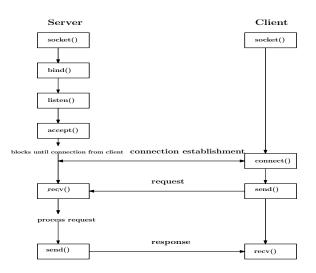
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Client

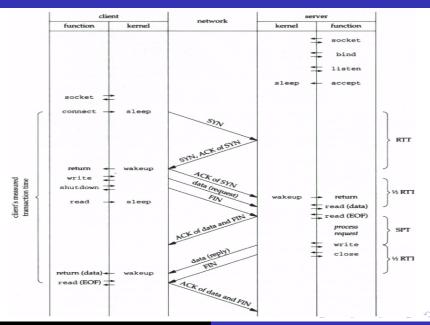
- initiates the communication
- must know the address and the port of the server
- active socket
- a Telnet client

Sockets - Procedures

Primitive	Meaning	
Socket	Create a new communication endpoint	
Bind	Attach a local address to a socket	
Listen	Announce willingness to accept connections	
Accept	Block caller until a connection request arrives	
Connect	Actively attempt to establish a connection	
Send	Send some data over the connection	
Receive	Receive some data over the connection	
Close	Release the connection	



Timeline of TCP Client-Server Interaction



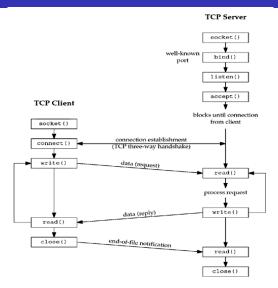
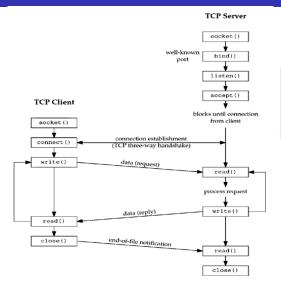
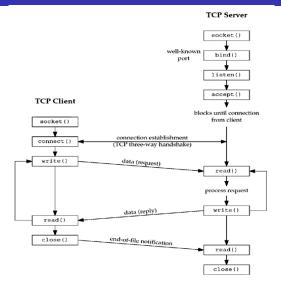


Figure: Socket functions for elementary TCP client/server



First, the server is started, then sometimes later, a client is started that connects to the server.

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Assume that the client sends a request to the server, the server processes the request, and the server sends a reply back to the client.

Figure: Socket functions for elementary TCP client/server

Datatypes:: POSIX definition

Datatype	Description	Header
int8_t	Signed 8-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
uint8_t	Unsigned 8-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
int16_t	Signed 16-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
uint16_t	Unsigned 8-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
int32_t	Signed 32-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
uint32_t	Unigned 8-bit integer	<sys types.h=""></sys>
sa_family_t	Address family of socket address structure, normally any unsigned integer type (uint16_t)	<sys socket.h=""></sys>
socklen_t	Length of socket address structure, normally, uint32_t	<sys socket.h=""></sys>
in_addr_t	IPv4 address, normally, uint32_t	<pre><netinet in.h=""></netinet></pre>
in_port_t	TCP or UDP port number, normally uint16_t	<netinet in.h=""></netinet>

socket fields

IPV4 socket fields

length	family		
port(16-bit)	address(32-bit)		
char array unused field(8-bytes)			

socket fields

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Generic socket fields

length		family	
char array (14-bytes)			

socket fields

IPV4 socket fields

length	family		
port(16-bit)	address(32-bit)		
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Generic socket fields

length	family	
char array (14-bytes)		

Note: Any calls to the socket functions that pass a socket address structure from the process to the kernel (e.g. bind) must cast the pointer to the protocol-specific address structure to be a pointer to a generic address structures.

IPV4 Socket Address structure

- An IPV4 socket address structure commonly called an Internet socket structure
- 2 It is named sockaddr_in.
- It is defined by including the <netinet/in.h> header.

IPV4 socket address structure: sockaddr_in

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IPV4 socket address structure: sockaddr_in

```
struct sockaddr in{
                 sin_len; /* length of structure(16) */
 uint8 t
 sa_family_t
                 sin family; /* AF INET */
 in port t
                 sin_port; /* 16-bit TCP or UDP port number:
                                 network byte orderd */
 struct in addr sin addr; /* 32-bit IPv4 address */
                 sin_zero[8]; /* unused */
 char
};
struct in addr{
 in addr t s addr:
                              /* 32-bit IPv4 address:
                                 network byte ordered */
1;
```

Generic Socket Address Structure

1 It is named sockaddr.

2 It is defined by including the <sys/socket.h> header.

Mapping: IPV4 Socket Address Structure to Generic Socket Address Structure

	sa₋len	sa₋family	sa₋data		
sockaddr	Length	Family	Data(14 bytes)		
	2 bytes	2 bytes	2 bytes	4 bytes	8 bytes
sockaddr₋in	Length	Family	Port	Address	Unused

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- Any socket function (e.g. bind) that takes any one of these pointers as an argument must deal with socket address structures from any supported protocol families.
- The pointer that is passed is declared to be the generic pointer type (void *). So, the pointer that is passed to be type casted to generic socket address structure.

Mapping: Example

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
len=sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
bind(sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, len);
```

 Both the IPv4 address and the TCP or UDP port number are always stored in the structure in network byte order.

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For Example

struct sockaddr_in servaddr;

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 address as an in_addr_t (typically an unsigned 32-bit integer)
 - The sin_zero member is unused, but set it to zero when filling in one of these structure. Although the most uses of the structure do not require that this member be 0, when binding a non wildcard IPv4 address, this member must be zero.

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 - The sin_zero member is unused, but set it to zero when filling in one of these structure. Although the most uses of the structure do not require that this member be 0, when binding a non wildcard IPv4 address, this member must be zero.
 - Socket address structures are used only a given host: The structure itself is not communicated between different hosts, although certain fileds (e.g. the IP address and port) are used for communication.

IPV6 Socket Address Structure

- It is named sockaddr_in6.
- 2 It is defined by including the <netinet/in.h> header.

IPV6 socket address structure: sockaddr_in6

```
struct sockaddr in6{
 uint8 t
                   sin6 len; /* length of this struct(28) */
                   sin6_family; /* AF_INET6 */
 sa family t
 in port t
                   sin6 port; /* transport layer port #:
                                    network byte orderd */
 uint32 t
                   sin6_flowinfo; /* flow information, undefined */
 struct in6 addr
                   sin6 addr; /* IPv6 address */
 uint32 t
                   sin6 scope id: /* set for interfaces
                                          for a scope */
1;
```

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IPV6 socket address structure: sockaddr_in6

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 uint8 t
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 sa_family_t
                  sin6 family: /* AF INET6 */
 in port t
                  sin6 port; /* transport layer port #:
                                    network byte orderd */
 uint32 t
                  sin6_flowinfo; /* flow information, undefined */
 struct in6 addr
                  sin6 addr; /* IPv6 address */
 uint32 t
                  sin6_scope_id; /* set for interfaces
                                         for a scope */
1;
struct in6 addr{
   uint8 t
              s6 addr[16];
                                    /* 128-bit IPv6 address:
                                       network byte ordered */
};
```

Note on IPV6 Socket Address Structure

- The sin6_len constant must be defined if the system supports the length member for socket address structure.
- The IPv6 family is AF_INET6, where as the IPv4 family is AF_INET
- The members in this structure are ordered so that if the sockaddr_in6 structure is 64-bits aligned, so is the 128-bit sin6_addr member.
- The sin6_flowinfo member is divided into two fields:
 - The low-order 20 bits are flow label
 - The hig-order 12 bits are reserved
- The sin6_scope_id identifies the scope zone in which a scoped address is meaningful, most commonly an interface index for a link-local address.



New Generic Socket Address Structure as part of the IPv6 Socket API

- It is named sockaddr_storage.
- sockaddr_storage is large enough to hold any socket address type supported by the system.
- It is defined by including the <netinet/in.h> header.

New Generic Socket Address Structure as part of the IPv6 Socket API

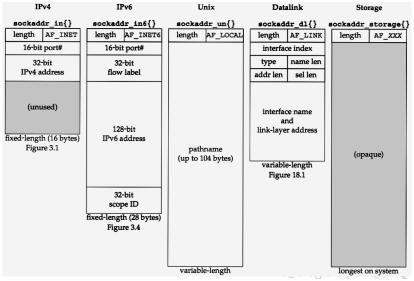
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The Five socket address structure

- IPv4 socket
- IPv6 socket
- Unix domain socket(Text Book Figure 15.1)
- Datalink socket(Text Book Figure 18.1)
- Storage socket

Comparison of various Socket Address Structure

Length field, and family field assumed to be 1 byte



Server program: server.c

```
/*Socket : Day Time Server*/
#include<stdio.h>
#include<svs/socket.h>
#include<sys/types.h>
#include<netinet/in.h>
#include<arpa/inet.h>
#include<stdlib h>
#include<string.h>
#include<time.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
 int listenfd, connfd, len;
 struct sockaddr in servaddr.clientaddr:
 char buff[1024];
 time t ticks:
 len=sizeof(struct sockaddr in);
 listenfd=socket(AF INET.SOCK STREAM.0):
  servaddr.sin family=AF INET;
  servaddr.sin addr.s addr=htonl(INADDR ANY);
  servaddr.sin port=htons(0);
 bind(listenfd,(struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, sizeof(servaddr));
 getsockname(listenfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, &len);
 printf("After bind ephemeral port=%d\n", (int) ntohs(servaddr.sin port));
 listen(listenfd, 5);
 connfd=accept(listenfd, (struct sockaddr *)&clientaddr,&len);
 ticks=time(NULL):
  snprintf(buff, sizeof(buff), "%s\r\n", ctime(&ticks));
 write (connfd, buff, strlen (buff));
 write(connfd, "ITER", 4);
 close(connfd):
```

Server program: client.c

```
/*Socket : Day Time Client*/
#include<stdio.h>
#include<svs/socket.h>
#include<sys/types.h>
#include<netinet/in.h>
#include<stdlib h>
#include<string.h>
#include<time.h>
#include<arpa/inet.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
 int sockfd, n, conn, len;
 int len:
 char recvline[1024]:
 struct sockaddr in servaddr;
 len=sizeof(struct sockaddr in);
 sockfd=socket(AF INET.SOCK STREAM.0):
 servaddr.sin family=AF INET;
 servaddr.sin addr.s addr=inet addr(arqv[1]);//get ip from server
 servaddr.sin_port=htons(atoi(argv[2])); // Get the port from the server
 connect(sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, sizeof(servaddr));
 n=read(sockfd, recvline, 1024);
 printf("%d\n",n);
 recvline[n]=0:
 printf("%s", recvline);
 close (sockfd):
```

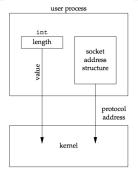
Value-Result Arguments-I

Socket address structure passed from process to Kernel

• bind, connect, send, sendto, sendmsg etc.

Example:

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len=sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
bind(sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, len);
```



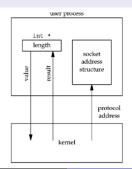
Value-Result Arguments-II

Socket address structure passed from kernel to process

• accept, recvfrom, recvmsg, getpeername, getsockname etc.

Example:

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
len=sizeof(struct sockaddr_in);
accept(sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, &len);
```





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 - This type of argument is called value-result argument.

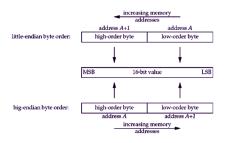


Byte Ordering Functions

Two ways to store the bytes in memory:

- little-endian byte order: with the lower-order byte at the starting address.
- big-endian byte order: with the higher-order byte at the starting address.

Let us consider a 16-bit integer that is made up of 2 bytes.

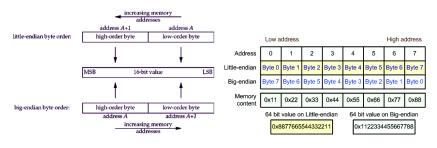


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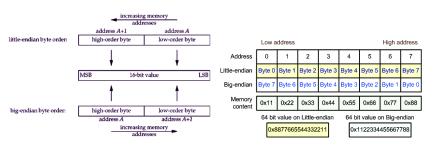


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Note: There is no standard between these two byte ordering. So, systems use either formats.

Host byte order: byte ordering used by a given system.

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Network byte order:

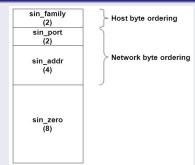
- Networking protocols define network byte order.
- Network byte order is big-endian byte order.
- The sending protocol stack and the receiving protocol stack must agree on the order in which the bytes of the multibytes fields will be transmitted.

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Byte ordering of sockaddr_in structure

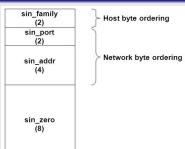


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Byte ordering of sockaddr_in structure



So, appropriate functions must be called to convert between host and network byte order.

Conversion Functions

Converts between host byte order and network byte order

- h host byte order
- n network byte order
- s short (2 bytes), converts port numbers
- 1 long (4 bytes), converts IP addresses

```
#include<netinet/in.h>
uint16_t htons(unit16_t host16bitvalue);
uint32_t hton1(unit32_t host32bitvalue);

Both return: value in network byte order
uint16_t ntohs(unit16_t net16bitvalue);
uint32_t ntoh1(unit32_t net32bitvalue);

Both return: value in host byte order
```

Byte Manipulation Functions

Two groups of functions:

- BSD provided: names begin with **b** (for byte)
- ANSI C provided: names begin with m (for memory)

As per 4.2BSD

Note: Berkeley-derived Functions

• bzero sets the specified number of bytes to 0 in the destination.

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- bcopy moves the specified number of bytes from the source to the destination.
- bcomp compares two arbitrary byte strings. The return value is zero if the two byte strings are identical; otherwise, it is nonzero.

Byte Manipulation Functions: ANSI C

- names begin with m (for memory) from 4.2BSD
- ANSI C provided:

Note: ANSI C-derived Functions

 memset sets the specified number of bytes to the value c in the destination.

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- memset sets the specified number of bytes to the value c in the destination.
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Note: ANSI C-derived Functions

- memset sets the specified number of bytes to the value c in the destination.
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- memcmp compares two arbitrary byte strings and returns 0 if they are identical. If not identical, the return value is either greater than 0 or less than 0, depending on whether the first unequal byte pointed to by ptrl is greater than or less than the corresponding byte pointed to by ptrl. The comparison is done assuming the two unequal bytes are unsigned chars.



Address Conversion Function

Convert Internet addresses between ASCII string (what human prefer to use) and network byte ordered binary values (values that are stored in socket address structures).

- inet_addr, and inet_aton functions convert an IPv4 addresses from a dotted-decimal string (e.g. 206.234.56.78) to its 32-bit network byte ordered binary value. inet_ntoa function does the reverse.
- functions for both IPv4 & IPv6 :inet_pton, inet_ntop

In inet_aton, and inet_ntoa:

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a- ASCII (ASCII string)

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- a- ASCII (ASCII string)
- n Network(network byte ordered binary values)



inet_aton, inet_addr, and inet_ntoa Descriptions

inet_aton: coverts C charcter string pointed to by strptr into its 32-bit binary betwork byte ordered value, which is strored through the pointer addptr. If successful, 1 is returned; otherwise, 0 is returned.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
inet_aton(argv[1], &servaddr.sin_addr);
```

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```
struct sockaddr in servaddr;
inet_aton(argv[1], &servaddr.sin_addr);
```

inet_addr: same conversion as like inet_aton, returning the 32-bit binary network byte ordered value. The function returns the constant **INADDR_NONE** (typically 32 one-bits) on an error.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
servaddr.sin addr.s addr=inet addr(argv[1]);
```

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constant INADDR_NONE (typically 32 one-bits) on an error.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
servaddr.sin_addr.s_addr=inet_addr(argv[1]);
```

inet_ntoa: converts a 32-bit binary network byte ordered IPv4 address into its corresponding dotted-decimal string.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
printf("IP::%s\n", inet_ntoa(servaddr.sin_addr));
```

inet_pton, and inet_ntop functions

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```
In inet_pton, and inet_ntop:
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```
p - Presentation (ASCII string)
```

inet_pton, and inet_ntop functions

In inet_pton, and inet_ntop:

- **p** Presentation (ASCII string)
- n Numeric (network byte ordered binary values)



inet_pton, and inet_ntop functions

```
#include<arpa/inet.h>
int inet_pton(int family, const char *strptr, void *addptr);
          Returns: 1 if OK,
                   0 if input not a valid presentation format,
                  -1 on error
const char *inet_ntop(int family, const void *addrptr,
                                  char *strptr, size_t len);
                           Returns: pointer to result if OK,
                                    NULL on error
```

In inet_pton, and inet_ntop:

- p Presentation (ASCII string)
- n Numeric (network byte ordered binary values)
- family AF_INET or AF_INET6. If family is not supported, both functions
 return an error with errno set to EAFNOSUPPORT.

inet_pton, and inet_ntop Descriptions

inet_pton: convert the string pointed to by strptr, storing the binary
result through the pointer addrptr. If successful, the return
value is 1. If the input string is not a valid presentation format
for the specified family, 0 is returned.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
inet_pton(AF_INET, argv[1], &servaddr.sin_addr);
```

inet_pton, and inet_ntop Descriptions

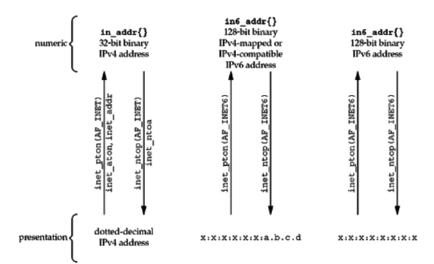
inet_pton: convert the string pointed to by strptr, storing the binary result through the pointer addrptr. If successful, the return value is 1. If the input string is not a valid presentation format for the specified family, 0 is returned.

```
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inet_pton(AF_INET, argv[1], &servaddr.sin_addr);
```

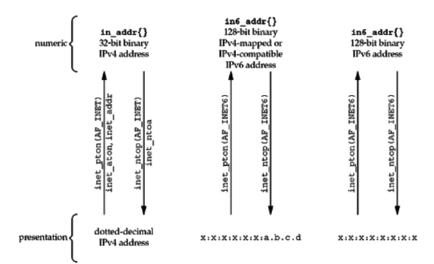
inet_ntop: does the reverse conversion, from numeric (addrptr) to presentation (strptr).

Note: If len is too small to hold the resulting presentation format, including the terminating null, a null pointer ie returned and errno is set to ENOSPC.

Summary of Address Conversion Functions



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Elementary **Socket** Functions

- (a) To perform network I/O, a process must call the *socket* function, specifying the type of communication protocol desired.
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Elementary **Socket** Functions

- (a) To perform network I/O, a process must call the *socket* function, specifying the type of communication protocol desired.
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- (c) Baisc functions:
 - socket
 - 2 connect
 - 6 bind
 - 4 listen
 - 3 accept
 - 6 close
 - getsockname and getpeername
 - Socket I/O functions: send, recv, read, and write etc.
 - 9



Socket Function

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AF_LOCAL	Unix domain protocols
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type:

-JP	
type	Description
SOCK_STREAM	stream socket
SOCK_DGRAM	datagram socket
SOCK_SEQPACKET	sequenced
	packet socket
SOCK_RAW	raw socket

Protocol family constants and type of socket for socket function

Protocol of Sockets for AF_INET or AF_INET6

The protocol argument to the socket function should bet set to the specific protocol type given in the below table or 0 to select the system's default for the given combination of family and type.

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Table: Protocol of sockets

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IPPROTO_SCTP	SCTP transport protocol

Table: Protocol of sockets

Example

```
#include<sys/socket.h>
int sockfd;
sockfd=socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0);
```

ON success, the **socket** function returns a small non-negative integer value stored on **sockfd**.

Combinations of **family** and **type** for the **socket** Function

	AF_INET	AF_INET6	AF_LOCAL	AF_ROUTE	AF_KEY
SOCK_STREAM	TCP SCTP	TCP SCTP	Yes		
SOCK_DGRAM	UDP	UDP	Yes		
SOCK_SEQPACKET	SCTP	SCTP	Yes		
SOCK_RAW	IPv4	IPV6		Yes	Yes

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	AF_INET	AF_INET6	AF_LOCAL	AF_ROUTE	AF_KEY
SOCK_STREAM	TCP SCTP	TCP SCTP	Yes		
SOCK_DGRAM	UDP	UDP	Yes		
SOCK_SEQPACKET	SCTP	SCTP	Yes		
SOCK_RAW	IPv4	IPV6		Yes	Yes

Note:

- Not all combinations of socket family and type are valid.
- Table above shows the valid combinations along with the actual protocols that are valid.
- The boxes marked "Yes" are valid but do not have handy acronums.
- The blank boxes are not supported.
- Ref. Text Book for AF_xxx versus PF_xxx



connect Function

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Example:

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
socklen_t addrlen;
addrlen=sizeof(sockaddr_in);
/* fill in servaddr{} :: IP address and port number*/
connect(int sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, addrlen);
```

Note:: In case of TCP socket

The **connect** function initiates TCP's three-way handshake. The function returns only when the connection is established or *error* occurs. There are several different *error* returns possible.

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ETIMEDOUT: If the client TCP receives no response to its **SYN** segment.

ECONNREFUSED: If the server's response to the client's **SYN** ia s reset (**RST**), this indicates that no process is waiting for connections on the server host at the port specified(i.e., the server process is probably not running). This kind of error is a *hard error*.

EHOSTUNREACH or

ENETUNREACH: If the client's **SYN** elicits an ICMP "destination unreachable" from some intermediate router. It is considered a *soft error*.

bind Function

- assigns a local protocol address to a socket.
- with the Internet protocols, the protocol address={a 32-bit IPv4 address or a 128-bit IPv6 address, along with a 16-bit TCP or UDP port number}.
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Example: bind Function

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
socklen_t addrlen;
addrlen=sizeof(sockaddr_in);
/* fill in servaddr{} :: IP address and port number*/
bind(sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&servaddr, addrlen);
```

Result: Specifying IP address and/or Port Number to bind

Process specifies		Result	
IP address	Port	nesuit	
Wildcard	0	Kernel chooses IP address, and port	
Wildcard	nonzero	Kernel chooses IP address, process speci- fies port	
Loacl IP address	0	Process specifies IP address, kernel chooses port	
Local IP address	nonzero	Process specifies IP address and port	

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		fies port	
Loacl IP address	0	Process specifies IP address, kernel	
		chooses port	
Local IP address	nonzero	Process specifies IP address and port	

with IPV4: The wildcard address is specified by the constant INADDR_ANY, whose value is 0.

```
struct sockaddr_in servaddr;
servaddr.sin_addr.s_addr=htonl(INADDR_ANY);
```

with IPv6: different than IPV4.

```
struct sockaddr_in6 serv;
serv.sin6_addr=in6addr_any; /*wildcard*/
```

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Example:

```
int sockfd;
listen(sockfd, 5);
```

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• When a socket is created by the socket function, it is assumed to be an active socket(e.g. a client socket that will issue a connect). The listen function converts an unconnected socket into a passive socket, indicating that the kernel should accept incoming connection requests directed to this socket(socket—listening socket).

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- In terms of the TCP state transition diagram, the call to listen moves the socket from the CLOSED state to the LISTEN state.
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More on backlog (The second argument to listen function)

Kernel maintains two queues for a given listening socket

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Kernel maintains two queues for a given listening socket

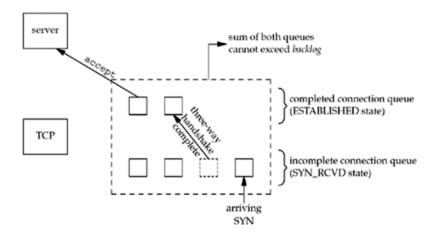
 An incomplete connection queue: which contains an entry for each SYN that has arrived from a client for which the server is awaiting completion of the TCP three-way hanshake. These sockets are in the SYN_rcvd state.

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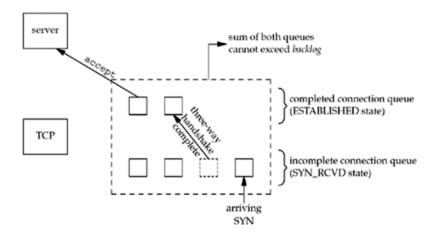
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- An incomplete connection queue: which contains an entry for each SYN that has arrived from a client for which the server is awaiting completion of the TCP three-way hanshake. These sockets are in the SYN_rcvd state.
- A completed connection queue: which contains an entry for each client with whom the TCP three-way handshake has completed. These sockets are in the ESTABLISHED state.

Two queues maintained by TCP for listening socket



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accept Function

accept () - called by a TCP server. Accept a connection on a socket.

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Example:

```
struct sockaddr_in cliaddr;
socklen_t addrlen; int fd;
addrlen=sizeof(sockaddr_in);
/* fill in servaddr{} :: IP address and port number*/
fd=accept(int sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&cliaddr, &addrlen);
```

close Function

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Example:

```
int sockfd;
close(sockfd);
```

Kernel to choose a port number for our socket

getsockname()

- To obtain the value of the ephemeral port assigned by the kernal, call *getsockname* to return the prorocol address.
- protocol address is the combination of ip address along with a port number. Also called socket address.
- getsockname() signature :

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Return value

- On success, zero is returned.
- On error, -1 is returned, and errno is set appropriately.



getpeername Function

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getpeername Function

getpeername() - Used to get the foreign protocol address associated with a socket.

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getpeername() - Used to get the foreign protocol address associated with a socket.

- sockfd is a socket descriptor returned by the socket function.
- The second argument is a pointer to generic socket address structure.
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Example:

```
struct sockaddr_in peeraddr;
socklen_t addrlen;
addrlen=sizeof(sockaddr_in);
/* fill in servaddr{} :: IP address and port number*/
getpeername(int sockfd, (struct sockaddr *)&peeraddr, &addrlen);
```

Just a Begin....