

CSCE 463/612

Networks and Distributed Processing
Fall 2025

Preliminaries II

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Agenda

- Homework #1
 - HTTP basics
 - Windows sockets

HTTP Basics

- 1) Find # using strchr() and truncate
- 2) Find ?, extract query, truncate
- 3) Find /, extract path, truncate
- 4) Find :, extract port, truncate, obtain host

- General URL format:
 - Optional elements shown in square brackets

```
scheme://[user:pass@]host[:port][/path][?query][#fragment]
```

- No need to parse username/password in this homework, but you have to strip off the fragment and extract the port number from the host
 - If the path is not present, must use root “/” in its place
- HTTP request is [/path][?query]

```
URL = http://google.com
```

```
Request /
```

```
URL = http://tamu.edu:8080/cs/in:dex.php?test=1#something
```

```
Request /cs/in:dex.php?test=1
```

```
URL = http://tamu.edu?test=1/blah
```

```
Request /?test=1/blah
```

```
URL = http://tamu.edu?tes:t=1/blah
```

```
Request /?tes:t=1/blah
```

HTTP Basics 2

minimal request

```
METHOD request HTTP/version\r\n\r\n
```

- HTTP request message
 - Begins with the **method** line, followed by (field: value) pairs
 - Ends with an empty line

```
GET /courses/ HTTP/1.0\r\nHost: irl.cs.tamu.edu\r\nConnection: close\r\n\r\n
```

- Methods in hw1
 - GET and HEAD, same syntax

- HTTP responses
 - Status line begins with HTTP/
 - Status codes are 3-digit integers

status line →

HTTP header

empty line →

object

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\nCache-Control: private\r\nContent-Type: text/html\r\nServer: Microsoft-IIS/7.0\r\nX-Powered-By: ASP.NET\r\nMicrosoftOfficeWebServer: 5.0_Pub\r\nMS-Author-Via: MS-FP/4.0\r\nDate: Thu, 17 Jan 2013 09:22:34 GMT\r\nConnection: close\r\nContent-Length: 16367\r\n\r\n<html>\n<head>\n<meta http-equiv="Content-Language"\ncontent="en-us"> <meta http-\nequiv="Content-Type"\ncontent="text/html; charset=windows-\n1252">...
```

Agenda

- Homework #1
 - HTTP basics
 - Windows Sockets

Windows Sockets

- Sockets are interfaces to the TCP/IP protocol stack
 - More on TCP and IP later in the semester
 - HTTP (hw1) uses TCP
 - Sockets identified by their **handle**
- Communication using sockets is accomplished by a set of system calls to **Winsock**
 - Winsock is the Windows implementation of sockets
 - Parts are identical to Berkeley sockets on Unix
- TCP sockets can be used in two modes:
 - Client (socket actively establishes outgoing connections)
 - Server (socket listens for incoming connections)

Windows Sockets 2

- **IP address**: uniquely identifies the host to be contacted
 - 4-byte number, often written with a dot between each byte
 - How to assign IP 128.194.135.60 to an integer in C++?
- **Localhost** has IP address 127.0.0.1
- What if multiple network applications need to be run simultaneously on one host?
- Solution: ports
 - Each socket can be **bound** to a unique port
 - Socket = OS handle, port = externally visible identifier
 - The OS forwards incoming messages to sockets based on ports they are bound to

Windows Sockets 3

- Ports are 2-byte unsigned integers
 - Port 0 reserved, 1-1023 are **system**; 1024-65535 **user**
- Some well-known ports
 - HTTP: 80 (sometimes also 8000 or 8080)
 - Telnet: 23
 - SSH: 22
 - SMTP: 25 (encrypted SMTP on 465, 587)
- See <http://www.iana.org/assignments/port-numbers>
- When issuing a connect, the OS **implicitly** binds the socket to the next available port
 - Clients do not need to worry about their port numbers
 - But explicit binding is mandatory for servers

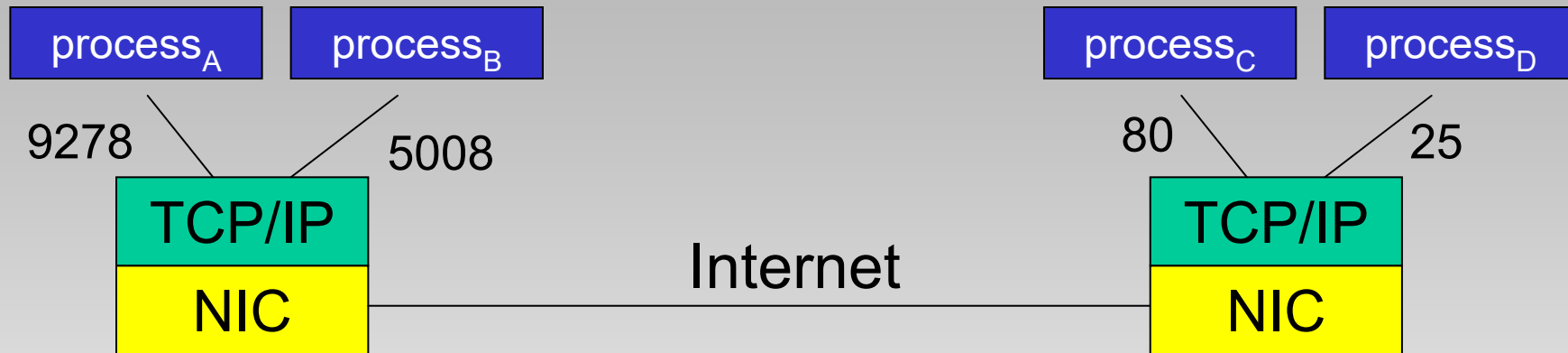
Example (Windows)

- Use “netstat –a” to see open ports on your host

Proto	Local Address	Foreign Address	State
TCP	viper:echo	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:discard	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:daytime	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:qotd	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:chargen	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:epmap	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:microsoft-ds	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:netbios-ssn	viper:0	LISTENING
TCP	viper:3713	imap.cs.tamu.edu:pop3	TIME_WAIT
TCP	viper:3717	google.com:http	ESTABLISHED
TCP	viper:3718	google.com:http	ESTABLISHED
TCP	viper:38209	nyc-113-77-11-99.comcast.com:12876	ESTABLISHED

↑
P2P application (BitTorrent) or possibly hacker

Windows Sockets 4



- Winsock requires initialization (unlike Unix)
 - This should be done **before** any other winsock calls
 - Once per program execution

```
#include <windows.h>
WSADATA wsaData;
WORD wVersionRequested = MAKEWORD(2,2);
if (WSAStartup(wVersionRequested, &wsaData) != 0)
{
    printf("WSAStartup error %d\n", WSAGetLastError());
    exit(-1);
}
```

Agenda

- HTTP basics
- Windows sockets
 - Clients

Clients

See the 463-sample.zip
project on course website

- Steps to writing a TCP client:

- Open a socket
- Determine the IP address of the server in URL
- Initiate connection with the server
- Send request
- Receive response
- Close socket

- Task 1: open/close
a TCP socket

- Sockets are
initially unbound
(i.e., no port
associated)

```
SOCKET sock = socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, IPPROTO_TCP);  
if (sock == INVALID_SOCKET)  
{  
    printf("socket() error %d\n", WSAGetLastError());  
    exit(-1);  
}  
...  
closesocket (sock);
```

Clients 2

<http://128.194.135.72/page.htm>
<http://irl.cs.tamu.edu/page.htm>

- Task 2: determine the IP address of the server in URL
- First assume the server is specified by an IP address
 - Try converting to 4-byte int using `inet_addr(host);`
- If this fails, then the server is given by its hostname
 - Use the domain name system (DNS)
 - DNS resolves **fully-qualified domain names** (FQDN) such as `www.tamu.edu` to their IP addresses (`165.91.22.70`)
- DNS lookup performed through a system call
 - `struct hostent* remote = gethostbyname(host);`
 - Returns 4-byte IP addresses inside the structure

Clients 3

- Task 3: connect socket to server on given port

```
struct sockaddr_in server;

server.sin_family = AF_INET;           // IPv4
server.sin_addr = ...                  // from inet_addr or gethostbyname
server.sin_port = ...                  // port #

if (connect (sock, (struct sockaddr*) &server,
             sizeof(struct sockaddr_in)) == SOCKET_ERROR)
{
    printf ("Connection error: %d\n", WSAGetLastError());
    return;
}
```

- Main caveat is that all numbers must be in **network byte order** (MSB first)
 - Forward (host-to-network): htons(), htonl()
 - Reverse (network-to-host): ntohs(), ntohl()
- inet_addr and gethostbyname internally perform this, so usually only port # needs explicit conversion

Clients 4

- Task 4: send request conforming to correct protocol

```
char *sendBuf = new char [requestLength + 1]; // +1 for NULL
// place request into buf (e.g., sprintf)
if (send (sock, sendBuf, requestLen, 0) == SOCKET_ERROR)
{
    printf ("Send error: %d\n", WSAGetLastError());
    return;
}
```

- Task 5: receive response into recvBuf
 - Data arrives in chunks from function recv(), needs to be appended to a character buffer
- Size of message and each chunk is **unknown** a-priori
 - Recv() must be called repeatedly until it returns 0 bytes
 - Use a pointer that moves along receive buffer
 - Buffer starts from 4-8 KB and is resized dynamically to accommodate longer messages