RPG Does TCP/IP

(Socket Progamming in RPG IV)

Presented by

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"There are 10 types of people in the world. Those who understand binary, and those who don't."

Objectives Of This Session



- Understand how to write TCP/IP Client Programs in RPG
- Understand how to write TCP/IP Server Programs in RPG
- Find any needed documentation for TCP/IP programming

This session will not cover the use of TCP/IP tools, such as the IBM i FTP client, PING or TRACERT commands. It's purely about building your own TCP/IP programs from the ground up.

Sample Scenarios using TCP/IP

- A custom-designed "thick-client" program. (Windows GUI and RPG backend)
- Any place you might have written custom communications (such as ICF files) in the past can be replaced with a pure TCP/IP solution.
- Server-to-server interfacing. Real-time communication between two backend servers (even if they're on different platforms and in different programming languages.)
- You may want to write your own tools that use standard Internet protocols such as Telnet, FTP, HTTP, E-mail, etc. You can write your own TCP/IP tools from the ground up in RPG. -- or invent your own!
- Direct communication with a sign, scale, printer, barcode scanner, etc.

TCP/IP is a Suite of Protocols

There are four *main* network protocols in the TCP/IP suite. The name "TCP/IP" is taken from the two most popular of these protocols.



The Socket APIs



The GETTIME Program

To demonstrate the concepts in this presentation, I've developed some simple example programs:

GETTIME - client program

- Accept an IP address or Domain name as a parameter.
- Connect to port 8123 on the server (specified in first parm)
- Send the "SEND TIME" command.
- Receive back the time stamp.
- Use DSPLY to display it on the screen.

SHOWTIME - server program

- Wait for a connection on port 8123
- Wait for a command from the client (only supported command is "SEND TIME")
- Send the current time from the system clock.
- Disconnect.

When I call GETTIME, it will produce results like this:

CALL GETTIME PARM('server6.scottklement.com') DSPLY Server's time is: 2007-04-03-12.19.47.692000

Objective 1

HOW TO WRITE A CLIENT PROGRAM

Binary vs. Dotted Addresses

BINARY IP ADDRESS

Computer uses a 4-byte binary number (10U 0 in RPG), such as **x'C0A864C8'**

DOTTED IP ADDRESS

People print each byte as a separate number, separated with a "dot". **Example: 192.168.100.200**

These represent the same address – just different ways of writing it. When the user gives you a "dotted" IP address, you need a way to convert it to binary format.

You do that with the inet_addr() API....

The inet_addr() API

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Convert a "dotted" address to binary

The inet_addr() API converts a dotted address to a binary IP address.

D inet_addr	PR	<pre>10U 0 ExtProc('inet_addr')</pre>
D char_addr		<pre>* value options(*string)</pre>

I have a copy book called SOCKET_H that contains all of the prototypes, named constants, and data structures used with the socket APIs. You can download it from my Web site at:

http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/

```
/copy socket_h
D dotted s 15a
D ip_addr s 10u 0
dotted = '192.168.100.200';
ip_addr = inet_addr(%trim(dotted));
// ip_addr is now 3232261320
```

Get IP Address for Domain Name

NAMES NOT NUMBERS!!

Instead of an IP address, the user might give you a name like:

www.google.com -or- isociety.common.org

In order for your system to translate names to numbers, it has to be told where to find a DNS server. You can specify an IP address for a DNS server on the following command:

CHGTCPDMN HOSTNAME('mycomputer') DMNNAME('example.com') HOSTSCHPTY(*LOCAL) INTNETADR('x.x.x')

You can run the DNS server on your IBM i box, but you don't have to. IBM i is quite happy to use a server running on Windows, Unix, etc. You can even use one provided by your ISP. Just put the correct IP address in the INTNETADR parm above.

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Gethostbyname() API

Look up ("resolve") the IP address for a host name

gethostbyname() definition from SOCKET H: D gethostbyname extProc('gethostbyname') PR * D HostName value options(*string) Based(p_hostent) D hostent DS * D h name * D h aliases h_addrtype **5I 0** D h_length **51** 0 D D h_addrlist * * D p_h_addr S Based(h addrlist) D h addr S 10U 0 Based(p h addr) Using gethostbyname() in your RPG program: /copy socket_h D host 100A s inz('isociety.common.org') D ip addr 10u 0 s

p_hostent = gethostbyname(%trim(host)); Performs lookup in BOTH if (p_hostent = *null); host table and DNS. errMsg = 'Host not found!'; ip_addr = h_addr;

else:

endif;

Handle Both IP Address and DNS

C *ENTRY PLIST C PARM host /free ip_addr = inet_addr(%trim(host)); if (ip_addr = INADDR_NONE); p_hostent = gethostbyname(%trim(host)); if (p hostent = *null); errMsg = 'Host not found!' else; ip_addr = h_addr; endif; endif;

- First try inet_addr() to see if it's a valid IP address.
- If not valid, inet_addr() will return INADDR_NONE
- Then try gethostbyname().

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Ports

Think about this:

- An IP address gets you to the right computer (actually, network interface!)
- How do you get to the right application (program) within that computer?
- > Port numbers are sent in each packet to distinguish each program from the others.
- Servers usually use a "well-known" port number so clients know who to connect to. It's always the same for that particular server.
- Kinda like a telephone extension number. (dial 1-800-KLEMENT, then you hear "if you know your party's extension, please dial it now...)

FTP is always 21. TELNET is always 23. SMTP (email) is always 25. HTTP is always 80 Ports above 4000 are used for "custom programming" ...etc...

The SHOWADDR (time server) example program will run on port 8123.

The socket() API

Pick Up the Phone / Create Socket

Once you know who you're connecting to, you need a socket to work with.

From SOCKET_H:

D	socket	PR	10I 0 ExtProc('socket')	
D	AddrFamily		10I 0 Value	
D	SocketType		10I 0 Value	
D	Protocol		10I 0 Value	

Sockets can be used with many different types of networks (IPv4, IPv6, IPX/SPX, UNIX domain). You have to tell the system what type you want.

- > AddrFamily = address family (protocol family), i.e. which protocol suite to use.
 - AF_INET means TCP/IP (IPv4)
 - AF_INET6 means TCP/IP (IPv6)
- SocketType = Type of socket
 - SOCK_STREAM = stream socket (TCP)
 - SOCK_DGRAM = datagram socket (UDP)
- > Protocol = Which protocol within the family.
 - IPPROTO_IP = Use TCP or UDP based on the SocketType parameter.

socket() API Sample Code

The socket() API returns a "socket descriptor", or -1 if an error occurs.

SOCKET DESCRIPTOR:

Because you can have many simultaneous sockets, and they don't have a name (like the filenames you'd put on an F-spec) you need a way to keep track of each socket you open.

The socket() API returns a number that IBM i uses internally to keep it straight from other connections.

You must save that number into a variable, and pass it to subsequent APIs to tell them which socket to operate on.

/copy socket_h	L			
D mySock	S	10i 0		
mySock = sc	cket(AF_INET:	SOCK STREAM:	IPPROTO IP);
if (mySock	= -1).	_	·	

The connect() API

Dial Phone / Connect Socket

A socket address data structure (IPv4 version shown) stores info about the address and port to connect to. From SOCKET_H:

	ekaddr)
D sin_Family 5I 0	
D sin_Port 5U 0	
D sin_addr 10U 0	
D sin_zero 8A	

> Sin_Family identifies which "address family" (or protocol suite = TCP/IP)
 > Sin_Zero should always be hex zeroes.

D connect PF	101 0	<pre>ExtProc('connect')</pre>
D Sock_Desc	101 0	VALUE
D p_SockAddr	*	VALUE
D AddressLen	101 0	VALUE

- > Sock_Desc = the descriptor (the number returned by the socket() API)
- > p_SockAddr = Address (%ADDR) of the socket address data structure.
- > AddressLen = The size (%SIZE) of the socket address in bytes.

Returns 0 if connected successfully, or -1 if an error occurs.

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connect() API Sample Code

In your RPG program:

/copy socket h D connto ds likeds(sockaddr in) D rc 10i 0 s connto = *allx'00'; connto.sin_family = AF_INET; // Type of address connto.sin_addr = IP_Addr; // Result of DNS lookup connto.sin_port = 8123 // port number rc = connect(mySock: %addr(connto): %size(connto)); if (rc = -1);// error has occurred endif;

Most errors in a TCP/IP client program occur during this API, because it's the first place where bytes are sent/received from the remote computer – so if there's something wrong with the connection, this is the first place you'll notice it!

The send() and recv() APIs

Talk / Hold a Conversation

D Sena	PR	101 0	ExtProc('send')	
D Sock_Desc	3	101 0	Value	
D p_Buffer		*	Value	
D BufferLei	J	101 0	Value	
D Flags		10I C	Value	
D Recv	PR	101 (ExtProc('recv')	
D Sock_Desc	3	101 0	Value	
D p_Buffer		*	Value	
	h	107 0	Value	
D BufferLei			Value	

- Sock_Desc = descriptor (value returned by socket() API)
- **p_buffer** = address of variable to send/receive.
- BufferLen = length of data to send, or size of variable to receive data into.
- Flags = Almost never used. Pass 0 for this parameter.

When receiving: How much data depends on how much is immediately available – NOT like a record. Variable won't always be filled, or match the exact size that was written on the other end.

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Translating Data

Since most network applications communicate in ASCII, you'll need to be able to convert ASCII to EBCDIC and vice-versa.

D QDCXLATE	PR ExtPgm('QDCXLATE')
D len	5p 0 const
D data	32767A options(*varsize)
D table	10a constv

QDCXLATE is a system API that can translate data according to a table. IBM provides many tables, but for simple applications, I typically use these:

- QTCPASC = translate EBCDIC to ASCII
- QTCPEBC = translate ASCII to EBCDIC

QDCXLATE is a simple way to convert data, suitable for simple applications. The iconv() API is a better solution, but much more complicated, so I use QDCXLATE in my examples.

Sample Code to Send Data

This is code from a custom application that synchronizes time between two servers. After connecting, the client sends a command to the server that says 'SEND TIME'.

20a D cmd s 10i 0 D len s D CRLF C x'0d25' . . . cmd = 'SEND TIME' + CRLF; QDCXLATE(%len(%trimr(cmd)): cmd: 'QTCPASC'); len = send(mySock: %addr(cmd): %len(%trimr(cmd)): 0); if (len < %len(%trimr(cmd)));</pre> errMsg = 'Error during send.'; endif;

There's nothing special about the string "SEND TIME", it could be any data I wanted to send to the server program. In this case, the server program waits for the words "SEND TIME" and when it receives them, it sends it's current time stamp.

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Sample Code to Receive Data

The time stamp the server sends is always 26 bytes long, but depending on the network speed, it may not all arrive in one recv() call. I use a loop to add the data together til I have all 26 bytes.

```
D tempvar
                  s
                                26a
D response
                  s
                                26a varying
   • •
    response = '';
    dou %len(response) = 26;
       len = recv( mySock: %addr(tempvar): %size(tempvar): 0);
       if (len = -1);
           errMsg = 'Error during recv.';
       endif;
       response = response + %subst(tempvar:1:len);
    enddo;
    len = %len(response);
    tempvar = response;
    QDCXLATE( len : tempvar: 'QTCPEBC' );
    response = %subst(tempvar: 1: len);
    dsply ('Server''s time is: ' + response);
```



Error Constants

There are named constants that correspond to each possible value of "errno". Here's a partial list (from ERRNO_H). These are the error codes listed in the IBM manuals.

* Address already in use. D EADDRINUSE C 3420 * Address not available. D EADDRNOTAVAIL C 3421 * The type of socket is not supported in this address family. D EAFNOSUPPORT С 3422 * Operation already in progress. D EALREADY С 3423 * Connection ended abnormally. D ECONNABORTED 3424 С * A remote host refused an attempted connect operation D ECONNREFUSED C 3425 * A connection with a remote socket was reset by that socket. D ECONNRESET С 3426 * Operation requires destination address. D EDESTADDRREQ C 3427 * A remote host is not available. D EHOSTDOWN C 3428

Error Numbers Used in Program

In this example, a different message is supplied for some errors to make them clearer to the user. It illustrates how you might use an error constant in your program.

```
repeat = *off;
dou not repeat;
  rc = connect( mySock: %addr(connto): %size(connto));
  if (rc = -1);
     ptr = sys_errno();
      select;
      when errno = EINTR;
        repeat = *on;
      when errno = ECONNREFUSED;
        errMsg = 'No server program running on remote computer.';
      when errno = EHOSTDOWN;
         errMsg = 'Remote computer is down';
      other:
         errMsg = %str( strerror(errno) );
      endsl;
      exsr LogError;
  endif;
enddo;
```

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Objective 2

HOW TO WRITE A SERVER PROGRAM

The Easy Way to Write a Server

Due to time constraints, I'll only describe the "easy way" to create a TCP server in this talk.

Rather than doing all the work yourself, use INETD. You configure it:

- Port server runs on (using service table)
- Type of socket (tcp or udp)
- Name of your program.

INETD will:

- 1. Sit and wait for a client to connect.
- 2. Create a new socket for the new connection. (It will always be #0)
- **3**. Submit your program to batch (with the socket already connected) to talk to the client.

Setting Up Your Service

For time "TIMEDEMO" server (the one that returns the current time stamp for synching the clock) to work, I need to register it with inetd. To do that, I have to follow these steps:

Add my new custom service to the system's service table.

ADDSRVTBLE SERVICE('timedemo') PORT(8123) PROTOCOL('tcp')

 Edit inetd's configuration file to tell it which services to listen on, and which programs to submit for each service.

EDTF '/QIBM/USERDATA/OS400/INETD/inetd.conf'

Unfortunately, IBM does not provide a GUI tool (that I know of) for configuring INETD. Plus, the documentation is a bit sketchy. However, it's the same as the inetd programs that are ubiquitos on Unix systems, so the manual pages for Unix explain the setup:

Here's a link to the one for FreeBSD (open source Unix for the PC):

http://www.freebsd.org/cgi/man.cgi?guery=inetd.conf&format=html

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Service Table

Every system has a table (file) that lets you cross reference wellknown services to port numbers.

Not distributed across the Internet like DNS.

More like the HOSTS table – just a file on each computer.

			Work with S	ervice Table Ent	ries		
	Type 1=	options, press E Add 4=Remove	nter. 5=Display				
	Opt	Service		Port	Protocol		
WRKSRVTRI F							
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	_						
command:	_						
	_						
	_						
	_						
	-						
	-						
	-						
							more
	===>						
	F3=E	xit F4=Prompt	F5=Refresh	F6=Print list	F9=Retrie	ve F12=	Cancel
	F17=	Top F18=Bottom					

Configuring INETD

# Basic se	ervices				
#echo	stream	tcp	nowait	QTCP	* INTERNAL
#discard	stream	tcp	nowait	QTCP	* INTERNAL
#chargen	stream	tcp	nowait	QTCP	* INTERNAL
#daytime	stream	tcp	nowait	QTCP	* INTERNAL
#time	stream	tcp	nowait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#echo	dgram	udp	wait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#discard	dgram	udp	wait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#chargen	dgram	udp	wait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#daytime	dgram	udp	wait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#time	dgram	udp	wait	QTCP	*INTERNAL
#					
timedemo	stream tcp	nowait	t QUSER	/QSY	S.LIB/MYLIB.LIB/SHOWTIME.PGM

- Lines that begin with # are comments.
- Timedemo is the service name for port 8123
- Socket type is "stream tcp"
- INETD will not wait for my program to complete after submitting it.
- My program will run with the authority of the QUSER user profile.
- My program is called SHOWTIME in library MYLIB

Use these commands to restart INETD to activate new config: ENDTCPSVR SERVER(*INETD) STRTCPSVR SERVER(*INETD) 31

SHOWTIME Program (1 of 3)

The program that gets submitted by INETD

D errmsg	S	52a
D cmd	S	20a varying
D buf	S	20a
D data	S	26a
D len	S	10i 0
D mySock	s	10i 0
/free		
mySock =	0;	
exsr Recv	Cmd;	
if cmd =	'SEND TIME';	
exsr S	endTime;	
endif;		
callp clo	se(0);	

INETD will always pass you the connected socket as descriptor #0. You do not have to call socket() to create it, it has been done for you by INETD.

SHOWTIME Program (2 of 3)

The program that gets submitted by INETD

```
begsr RecvCmd;
```

```
cmd = '';
dou ( %len(cmd)>1 and %subst(cmd:%len(cmd)-1:2) = x'0d0a' );
len = recv( mySock: %addr(buf): %size(buf): 0);
if (len = -1);
errMsg = 'Error during recv.';
leavesr;
endif;
cmd = cmd + %subst(buf: 1: len);
enddo;
// Translate to EBCDIC and strip off CRLF
buf = cmd;
QDCXLATE( %len(cmd) : buf: 'QTCPEBC' );
cmd = %subst(buf:1:%len(cmd));
%len(cmd) = %len(cmd) - 2;
endsr;
```

```
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```

SHOWTIME Program (3 of 3)

The program that gets submitted by INETD

```
begsr SendTime;
```

```
// send timestamp:
data = %char(%timestamp(): *ISO);
QDCXLATE( %len(data): data: 'QTCPASC' );
len = send( mySock: %addr(data): %size(data): 0);
if (len = -1);
    errMsg = 'Error during send.';
    callp close(mySock);
    leavesr;
endif;
```

```
endsr;
```



Application-Level Protocols

Once you have the basics of connecting, binding, accepting and spawning written once, you can create a template, and do it the same way every time.

The hard part is knowing what needs to be sent and received!

Just as different people speak different languages, so do computer programs. Each one has it's own set of commands and expected responses. This is called an "application-level protocol."

For the most part, the only thing that changes from one application to another is what gets sent and received!

RED TEXT = Send by Server

BLACK TEXT = Sent by Client

Example Application: SMTP E-mail

```
220 mail.scottklement.com is ready!
HELO iseries.example.com
250 mail.scottklement.com Hello iseries.example.com [1.2.3.4],
pleased to meet you
MAIL FROM:<sklement@systeminetwork.com>
250 2.1.0 <sklement@systeminetwork.com>... Sender ok
RCPT TO:<example@scottklement.com>
250 2.1.5 <example@scottklement.com>... Recipient ok
DATA
354 Enter mail, end with "." on a line by itself
From: Scott Klement <sklement@systeminetwork.com>
To: Example Person <example@scottklement.com>
Subject: Hello there.
SOCKETS RULE!
              YEAH!
250 2.0.0 1337fG6x032243 Message accepted for delivery
OUIT
221 2.0.0 grungy.dstorm.net closing connection
```

Example Application: HTTP

```
GET /index.html HTTP/1.1
Host: www.scottklement.com:80
Connection: close
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Tue, 03 Apr 2007 07:49:09 GMT
```

```
Server: Apache/2.0.52
Content-Length: 8294
Connection: close
Content-Type: text/html; charset=ISO-8859-1
<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">
<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">
<html>
<html>
<head>
        <meta name="Author" content="Scott Klement">
        <title>Scott Klement's web page</title>
```

</html>

Objective 3

WHERE TO FIND DOCUMENTATION

Where To Find Application Docs

The only difference between the ones I've shown you and other protocols is the exact commands and responses. They all pretty much work the same.

All of the Internet Standard Protocols are documented by Request For Comments (RFC) documents. Here are some of the more popular ones:

Protocol	Description	RFC
HTTP	Hypertext Transport Protocol (Web)	2616
FTP	File Transfer Protocol	959
SMTP	Simple Mail Transport Protocol	2821
POP3	Post Office Protocol	1939
Telnet	Basic Terminal Emulation	854-861
TN5250	5250 emulation over Telnet	1205

These are all publicly available. To get started, go to http://www.faqs.org/rfcs

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More Information

IBM Provides documentation in the Information Center – but it's oriented towards the ILE C programming language. In RPG, you must write your own:

- Prototypes
- Data structures
- Constants

Or download them from my site! http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/

The official IBM documentation for the socket API is found under: *Programming / APIs / APIs by Category / Unix-type / Sockets*

Scott has a (V4, fixed-format oriented) tutorial about sockets on his Web site: http://www.scottklement.com/rpg/socktut/

Scott has also written articles in his newsletter:Introduction:article ID 51701Error handling:article ID 51720Server programming:article ID 51809Server w/INETD:article ID 53182Timing Out Sockets:article ID 53809

Tip: To read these articles, key the article ID into the search box, in the upperright corner of www.SystemiNetwork.com

More Information

In System iNEWS magazine:

May 2006 issue, "TCP/IP and Sockets in RPG" http://www.systeminetwork.com/article/rpg-programming/tcpip-and-sockets-in-rpg-600

Sept 2006 issue, "SSL Sockets from RPG? Of Course You Can!" <u>http://www.systeminetwork.com/article/rpg-programming/ssl-sockets-from-rpg-of-course-you-</u>can-709

Scott's open source RPG software, written with sockets:

HTTPAPI (HTTP protocol) http://www.scottklement.com/httpapi/

FTPAPI (FTP protocol) http://www.scottklement.com/ftpapi/

TN5250 (written in C for Linux, not in RPG) http://tn5250.sourceforge.net

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This Presentation

You can download a PDF copy of this presentation from:

http://www.scottklement.com/presentations/

Thank you!