

# *Name and Address Conversions*

## 11.1 Introduction

All the examples so far in this text have used numeric addresses for the hosts (e.g., 206.6.226.33) and numeric port numbers to identify the servers (e.g., port 13 for the standard daytime server and port 9877 for our echo server). We should, however, use names instead of numbers for numerous reasons: Names are easier to remember; the numeric address can change but the name can remain the same; and with the move to IPv6, numeric addresses become much longer, making it much more error-prone to enter an address by hand. This chapter describes the functions that convert between names and numeric values: `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr` to convert between hostnames and IPv4 addresses, and `getservbyname` and `getservbyport` to convert between service names and port numbers. It also describes two protocol-independent functions: `getaddrinfo` and `getnameinfo`, which convert between hostnames and IP addresses *and* between service names and port numbers.

## 11.2 Domain Name System (DNS)

The DNS is used primarily to map between hostnames and IP addresses. A hostname can be either a *simple name*, such as `solaris` or `freebsd`, or a *fully qualified domain name* (FQDN), such as `solaris.unpbook.com`.

Technically, an FQDN is also called an *absolute name* and must end with a period, but users often omit the ending period. The trailing period tells the resolver that this name is fully qualified and it doesn't need to search its list of possible domains.

In this section, we will cover only the basics of the DNS that we need for network programming. Readers interested in additional details should consult Chapter 14 of TCPv1 and [Albitz and Liu 2001]. The additions required for IPv6 are in RFC 1886 [Thomson and Huitema 1995] and RFC 3152 [Bush 2001].

## Resource Records

Entries in the DNS are known as *resource records* (RRs). There are only a few types of RRs that we are interested in.

**A** An A record maps a hostname into a 32-bit IPv4 address. For example, here are the four DNS records for the host `freebsd` in the `unpbook.com` domain, the first of which is an A record:

```

freebsd  IN  A      12.106.32.254
         IN  AAAA   3ffe:b80:1f8d:1:a00:20ff:fea7:686b
         IN  MX     5  freebsd.unpbook.com.
         IN  MX     10 mailhost.unpbook.com.

```

**AAAA** A AAAA record, called a “quad A” record, maps a hostname into a 128-bit IPv6 address. The term “quad A” was chosen because a 128-bit address is four times larger than a 32-bit address.

**PTR** PTR records (called “pointer records”) map IP addresses into hostnames. For an IPv4 address, the 4 bytes of the 32-bit address are reversed, each byte is converted to its decimal ASCII value (0–255), and `in-addr.arpa` is then appended. The resulting string is used in the PTR query.

For an IPv6 address, the 32 4-bit nibbles of the 128-bit address are reversed, each nibble is converted to its corresponding hexadecimal ASCII value (0–9a–f), and `ip6.arpa` is appended.

For example, the two PTR records for our host `freebsd` would be `254.32.106.12.in-addr.arpa` and `b.6.8.6.7.a.e.f.f.f.0.2.0.0.a.0.1.0.0.0.d.8.f.1.0.8.b.0.e.f.f.3.ip6.arpa`.

Earlier standards specified that IPv6 addresses were looked up in the `ip6.int` domain. This was changed to `ip6.arpa` for consistency with IPv4. There will be a transition period during which both zones will be populated.

**MX** An MX record specifies a host to act as a “mail exchanger” for the specified host. In the example for the host `freebsd` above, two MX records are provided: The first has a preference value of 5 and the second has a preference value of 10. When multiple MX records exist, they are used in order of preference, starting with the smallest value.

We do not use MX records in this text, but we mention them because they are used extensively in the real world.

CNAME CNAME stands for “canonical name.” A common use is to assign CNAME records for common services, such as `ftp` and `www`. If people use these service names instead of the actual hostnames, it is transparent when a service is moved to another host. For example, the following could be CNAMEs for our host `linux`:

```
ftp      IN  CNAME  linux.unpbook.com.
www      IN  CNAME  linux.unpbook.com.
```

It is too early in the deployment of IPv6 to know what conventions administrators will use for hosts that support both IPv4 and IPv6. In our example earlier in this section, we specified both an A record and a AAAA record for our host `freebsd`. One possibility is to place both the A record and the AAAA record under the host’s normal name (as shown earlier) and create another RR whose name ends in `-4` containing the A record, another RR whose name ends in `-6` containing the AAAA record, and another RR whose name ends in `-611` containing a AAAA record with the host’s link-local address (which is sometimes handy for debugging purposes). All the records for another of our hosts are then

```
aix      IN  A      192.168.42.2
          IN  AAAA   3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38
          IN  MX     5  aix.unpbook.com.
          IN  MX     10 mailhost.unpbook.com.
aix-4    IN  A      192.168.42.2
aix-6    IN  AAAA   3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38
aix-611  IN  AAAA   fe80::204:acff:fe17:bf38
```

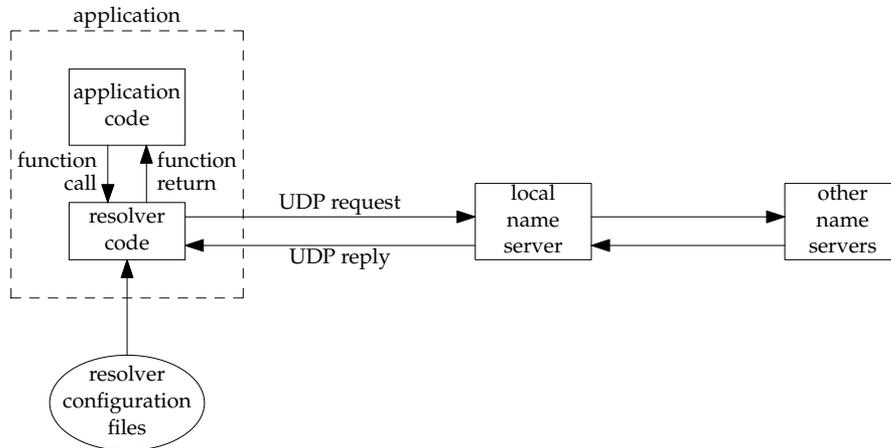
This gives us additional control over the protocol chosen by some applications, as we will see in the next chapter.

## Resolvers and Name Servers

Organizations run one or more *name servers*, often the program known as BIND (Berkeley Internet Name Domain). Applications such as the clients and servers that we are writing in this text contact a DNS server by calling functions in a library known as the *resolver*. The common resolver functions are `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`, both of which are described in this chapter. The former maps a hostname into its IPv4 addresses, and the latter does the reverse mapping.

Figure 11.1 shows a typical arrangement of applications, resolvers, and name servers. We now write the application code. On some systems, the resolver code is contained in a system library and is link-edited into the application when the application is built. On others, there is a centralized resolver daemon that all applications share, and the system library code performs RPCs to this daemon. In either case, application code calls the resolver code using normal function calls, typically calling the functions `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`.

The resolver code reads its system-dependent configuration files to determine the location of the organization’s name servers. (We use the plural “name servers” because most organizations run multiple name servers, even though we show only one local



**Figure 11.1** Typical arrangement of clients, resolvers, and name servers.

server in the figure. Multiple name servers are absolutely required for reliability and redundancy.) The file `/etc/resolv.conf` normally contains the IP addresses of the local name servers.

It might be nice to use the names of the name servers in the `/etc/resolv.conf` file, since the names are easier to remember and configure, but this introduces a chicken-and-egg problem of where to go to do the name-to-address conversion for the server that will do the name and address conversion!

The resolver sends the query to the local name server using UDP. If the local name server does not know the answer, it will normally query other name servers across the Internet, also using UDP. If the answers are too large to fit in a UDP packet, the resolver will automatically switch to TCP.

## DNS Alternatives

It is possible to obtain name and address information without using the DNS. Common alternatives are static host files (normally the file `/etc/hosts`, as we describe in Figure 11.21), the Network Information System (NIS) or Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP). Unfortunately, it is implementation-dependent how an administrator configures a host to use the different types of name services. Solaris 2.x, HP-UX 10 and later, and FreeBSD 5.x and later use the file `/etc/nsswitch.conf`, and AIX uses the file `/etc/netsvc.conf`. BIND 9.2.2 supplies its own version named the Information Retrieval Service (IRS), which uses the file `/etc/irs.conf`. If a name server is to be used for hostname lookups, then all these systems use the file `/etc/resolv.conf` to specify the IP addresses of the name servers. Fortunately, these differences are normally hidden to the application programmer, so we just call the resolver functions such as `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`.

## 11.3 gethostbyname Function

Host computers are normally known by human-readable names. All the examples that we have shown so far in this book have intentionally used IP addresses instead of names, so we know exactly what goes into the socket address structures for functions such as `connect` and `sendto`, and what is returned by functions such as `accept` and `recvfrom`. But, most applications should deal with names, not addresses. This is especially true as we move to IPv6, since IPv6 addresses (hex strings) are much longer than IPv4 dotted-decimal numbers. (The example AAAA record and `ip6.arpa` PTR record in the previous section should make this obvious.)

The most basic function that looks up a hostname is `gethostbyname`. If successful, it returns a pointer to a `hostent` structure that contains all the IPv4 addresses for the host. However, it is limited in that it can only return IPv4 addresses. See Section 11.6 for a function that handles both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses. The POSIX specification cautions that `gethostbyname` may be withdrawn in a future version of the spec.

It is unlikely that `gethostbyname` implementations will actually disappear until the whole Internet is using IPv6, which will be far in the future. However, withdrawing the function from the POSIX specification is a way to assert that it should not be used in new code. We encourage the use of `getaddrinfo` (Section 11.6) in new programs.

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct hostent *gethostbyname(const char *hostname);
```

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error with `h_errno` set

The non-null pointer returned by this function points to the following `hostent` structure:

```
struct hostent {
    char *h_name;          /* official (canonical) name of host */
    char **h_aliases;     /* pointer to array of pointers to alias names */
    int h_addrtype;       /* host address type: AF_INET */
    int h_length;         /* length of address: 4 */
    char **h_addr_list;   /* ptr to array of ptrs with IPv4 addrs */
};
```

In terms of the DNS, `gethostbyname` performs a query for an A record. This function can return only IPv4 addresses.

Figure 11.2 shows the arrangement of the `hostent` structure and the information that it points to assuming the hostname that is looked up has two alias names and three IPv4 addresses. Of these fields, the official hostname and all the aliases are null-terminated C strings.

The returned `h_name` is called the *canonical* name of the host. For example, given the CNAME records shown in the previous section, the canonical name of the host `ftp.unpbook.com` would be `linux.unpbook.com`. Also, if we call `gethostbyname` from the host `aix` with an unqualified hostname, say `solaris`, the FQDN (`solaris.unpbook.com`) is returned as the canonical name.

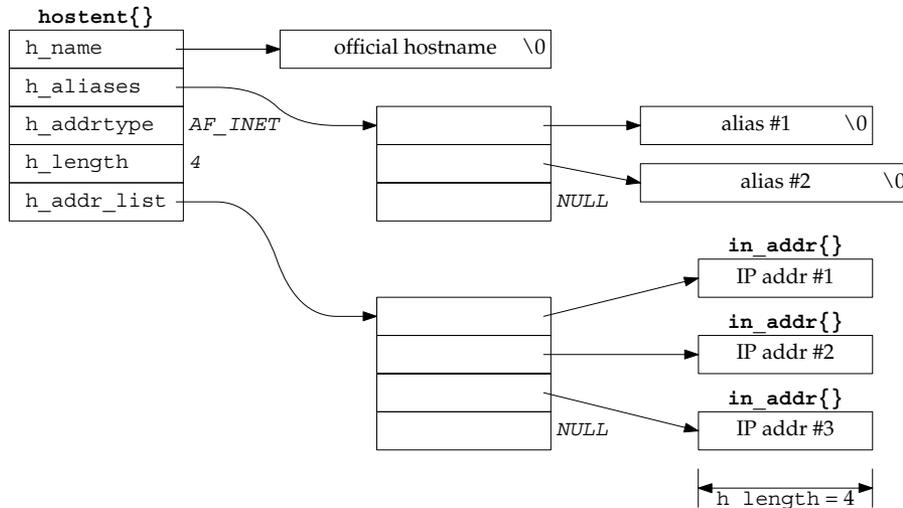


Figure 11.2 `hostent` structure and the information it contains.

Some versions of `gethostbyname` allow the *hostname* argument to be a dotted-decimal string. That is, a call of the form

```
hptr = gethostbyname("192.168.42.2");
```

will work. This code was added because the Rlogin client accepts only a hostname, calling `gethostbyname`, and will not accept a dotted-decimal string [Vixie 1996]. The POSIX specification permits, but does not require, this behavior, so a portable application cannot depend on it.

`gethostbyname` differs from the other socket functions that we have described in that it does not set `errno` when an error occurs. Instead, it sets the global integer `h_errno` to one of the following constants defined by including `<netdb.h>`:

- `HOST_NOT_FOUND`
- `TRY_AGAIN`
- `NO_RECOVERY`
- `NO_DATA` (identical to `NO_ADDRESS`)

The `NO_DATA` error means the specified name is valid, but it does not have an A record. An example of this is a hostname with only an MX record.

Most modern resolvers provide the function `hstrerror`, which takes an `h_errno` value as its only argument and returns a `const char *` pointer to a description of the error. We show some examples of the strings returned by this function in the next example.

## Example

Figure 11.3 shows a simple program that calls `gethostbyname` for any number of command-line arguments and prints all the returned information.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 main(int argc, char **argv)
4 {
5     char    *ptr, **pptr;
6     char    str[INET_ADDRSTRLEN];
7     struct hostent *hptr;

8     while (--argc > 0) {
9         ptr = *++argv;
10        if ( (hptr = gethostbyname(ptr)) == NULL) {
11            err_msg("gethostbyname error for host: %s: %s",
12                ptr, hstrerror(h_errno));
13            continue;
14        }
15        printf("official hostname: %s\n", hptr->h_name);

16        for (pptr = hptr->h_aliases; *pptr != NULL; pptr++)
17            printf("\talias: %s\n", *pptr);

18        switch (hptr->h_addrtype) {
19            case AF_INET:
20                pptr = hptr->h_addr_list;
21                for ( ; *pptr != NULL; pptr++)
22                    printf("\taddress: %s\n",
23                        Inet_ntop(hptr->h_addrtype, *pptr, str, sizeof(str)));
24                break;

25            default:
26                err_ret("unknown address type");
27                break;
28        }
29    }
30    exit(0);
31 }

```

---

**Figure 11.3** Call `gethostbyname` and print returned information.

- 8-14 `gethostbyname` is called for each command-line argument.
- 15-17 The official hostname is output followed by a list of alias names.
- 18-24 `pptr` points to the array of pointers to the individual addresses. For each address, we call `inet_ntop` and print the returned string.

We first execute the program with the name of our host `aix`, which has just one IPv4 address.

```

freebsd % hostent aix
official hostname: aix.unpbook.com
address: 192.168.42.2

```

Notice that the official hostname is the FQDN. Also notice that even though this host has an IPv6 address, only the IPv4 address is returned.

Next is a Web server with multiple IPv4 addresses.

```
freebsd % hostent cnn.com
official hostname: cnn.com
address: 64.236.16.20
address: 64.236.16.52
address: 64.236.16.84
address: 64.236.16.116
address: 64.236.24.4
address: 64.236.24.12
address: 64.236.24.20
address: 64.236.24.28
```

Next is a name that we showed in Section 11.2 as having a CNAME record.

```
freebsd % hostent www
official hostname: linux.unpbook.com
alias: www.unpbook.com
address: 206.168.112.219
```

As expected, the official hostname differs from our command-line argument.

To see the error strings returned by the `hsterror` function, we first specify a non-existent hostname, and then a name that has only an MX record.

```
freebsd % hostent nosuchname.invalid
gethostbyname error for host: nosuchname.invalid: Unknown host

freebsd % hostent uunet.uu.net
gethostbyname error for host: uunet.uu.net: No address associated with name
```

## 11.4 gethostbyaddr Function

The function `gethostbyaddr` takes a binary IPv4 address and tries to find the hostname corresponding to that address. This is the reverse of `gethostbyname`.

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct hostent *gethostbyaddr(const char *addr, socklen_t len, int family);

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error with h_errno set
```

This function returns a pointer to the same `hostent` structure that we described with `gethostbyname`. The field of interest in this structure is normally `h_name`, the canonical hostname.

The `addr` argument is not a `char*`, but is really a pointer to an `in_addr` structure containing the IPv4 address. `len` is the size of this structure: 4 for an IPv4 address. The `family` argument is `AF_INET`.

In terms of the DNS, `gethostbyaddr` queries a name server for a PTR record in the `in-addr.arpa` domain.

## 11.5 getservbyname and getservbyport Functions

Services, like hosts, are often known by names, too. If we refer to a service by its name in our code, instead of by its port number, and if the mapping from the name to port number is contained in a file (normally `/etc/services`), then if the port number changes, all we need to modify is one line in the `/etc/services` file instead of having to recompile the applications. The next function, `getservbyname`, looks up a service given its name.

The canonical list of port numbers assigned to services is maintained by the IANA at <http://www.iana.org/assignments/port-numbers> (Section 2.9). A given `/etc/services` file is likely to contain a subset of the IANA assignments.

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct servent *getservbyname(const char *servname, const char *protoname);

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error
```

This function returns a pointer to the following structure:

```
struct servent {
    char *s_name;      /* official service name */
    char **s_aliases; /* alias list */
    int s_port;        /* port number, network-byte order */
    char *s_proto;     /* protocol to use */
};
```

The service name *servname* must be specified. If a protocol is also specified (*protoname* is a non-null pointer), then the entry must also have a matching protocol. Some Internet services are provided using either TCP or UDP (for example, the DNS and all the services in Figure 2.18), while others support only a single protocol (e.g., FTP requires TCP). If *protoname* is not specified and the service supports multiple protocols, it is implementation-dependent as to which port number is returned. Normally this does not matter, because services that support multiple protocols often use the same TCP and UDP port number, but this is not guaranteed.

The main field of interest in the `servent` structure is the port number. Since the port number is returned in network byte order, we must not call `htons` when storing this into a socket address structure.

Typical calls to this function could be as follows:

```
struct servent *sptr;

sptr = getservbyname("domain", "udp"); /* DNS using UDP */
sptr = getservbyname("ftp", "tcp");   /* FTP using TCP */
sptr = getservbyname("ftp", NULL);    /* FTP using TCP */
sptr = getservbyname("ftp", "udp");   /* this call will fail */
```

Since FTP supports only TCP, the second and third calls are the same, and the fourth call will fail. Typical lines from the `/etc/services` file are

```

freebsd % grep -e ^ftp -e ^domain /etc/services
ftp-data      20/tcp      #File Transfer [Default Data]
ftp           21/tcp      #File Transfer [Control]
domain       53/tcp      #Domain Name Server
domain       53/udp      #Domain Name Server
ftp-agent    574/tcp     #FTP Software Agent System
ftp-agent    574/udp     #FTP Software Agent System
ftps-data    989/tcp     # ftp protocol, data, over TLS/SSL
ftps         990/tcp     # ftp protocol, control, over TLS/SSL

```

The next function, `getservbyport`, looks up a service given its port number and an optional protocol.

```

#include <netdb.h>

struct servent *getservbyport(int port, const char *protoname);

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error

```

The *port* value must be network byte ordered. Typical calls to this function could be as follows:

```

struct servent *sptr;

sptr = getservbyport(htons(53), "udp"); /* DNS using UDP */
sptr = getservbyport(htons(21), "tcp"); /* FTP using TCP */
sptr = getservbyport(htons(21), NULL); /* FTP using TCP */
sptr = getservbyport(htons(21), "udp"); /* this call will fail */

```

The last call fails because there is no service that uses port 21 with UDP.

Be aware that a few port numbers are used with TCP for one service, but the same port number is used with UDP for a totally different service. For example, the following:

```

freebsd % grep 514 /etc/services
shell        514/tcp     cmd          #like exec, but automatic
syslog       514/udp

```

shows that port 514 is used by the `rsh` command with TCP, but with the `syslog` daemon with UDP. Ports 512–514 have this property.

### Example: Using `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname`

We can now modify our TCP daytime client from Figure 1.5 to use `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname` and take two command-line arguments: a hostname and a service name. Figure 11.4 shows our program. This program also shows the desired behavior of attempting to connect to all the IP addresses for a multihomed server, until one succeeds or all the addresses have been tried.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 main(int argc, char **argv)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     char     recvline[MAXLINE + 1];
7     struct  sockaddr_in servaddr;
8     struct  in_addr  *pptr;
9     struct  in_addr  *inetaddrp[2];
10    struct  in_addr  inetaddr;
11    struct  hostent  *hp;
12    struct  servent  *sp;
13
14    if (argc != 3)
15        err_quit("usage: daytimetcpcli1 <hostname> <service>");
16
17    if ( (hp = gethostbyname(argv[1])) == NULL) {
18        if (inet_aton(argv[1], &inetaddr) == 0) {
19            err_quit("hostname error for %s: %s", argv[1],
20                hstrerror(h_errno));
21        } else {
22            inetaddrp[0] = &inetaddr;
23            inetaddrp[1] = NULL;
24            pptr = inetaddrp;
25        }
26    } else {
27        pptr = (struct in_addr **) hp->h_addr_list;
28    }
29
30    if ( (sp = getservbyname(argv[2], "tcp")) == NULL)
31        err_quit("getservbyname error for %s", argv[2]);
32
33    for ( ; *pptr != NULL; pptr++) {
34        sockfd = Socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0);
35
36        bzero(&servaddr, sizeof(servaddr));
37        servaddr.sin_family = AF_INET;
38        servaddr.sin_port = sp->s_port;
39        memcpy(&servaddr.sin_addr, *pptr, sizeof(struct in_addr));
40        printf("trying %s\n", Sock_ntop((SA *) &servaddr, sizeof(servaddr)));
41
42        if (connect(sockfd, (SA *) &servaddr, sizeof(servaddr)) == 0)
43            break;
44            /* success */
45        err_ret("connect error");
46        close(sockfd);
47    }
48
49    if (*pptr == NULL)
50        err_quit("unable to connect");
51
52    while ( (n = Read(sockfd, recvline, MAXLINE)) > 0) {
53        recvline[n] = 0;
54        /* null terminate */
55        Fputs(recvline, stdout);
56    }
57
58    exit(0);
59 }

```

---

*names/daytimetcpcli1.c*

**Figure 11.4** Our daytime client that uses `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname`.

**Call `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname`**

13-28 The first command-line argument is a hostname, which we pass as an argument to `gethostbyname`, and the second is a service name, which we pass as an argument to `getservbyname`. Our code assumes TCP, and that is what we use as the second argument to `getservbyname`. If `gethostbyname` fails to look up the name, we try using the `inet_aton` function (Section 3.6) to see if the argument was an ASCII-format address. If it was, we construct a single-element list consisting of the corresponding address.

**Try each server address**

29-35 We now code the calls to `socket` and `connect` in a loop that is executed for every server address until a `connect` succeeds or the list of IP addresses is exhausted. After calling `socket`, we fill in an Internet socket address structure with the IP address and port of the server. While we could move the call to `bzero` and the subsequent two assignments out of the loop, for efficiency, the code is easier to read as shown. Establishing the connection with the server is rarely a performance bottleneck for a network client.

**Call `connect`**

36-39 `connect` is called, and if it succeeds, `break` terminates the loop. If the connection establishment fails, we print an error and close the socket. Recall that a descriptor that fails a call to `connect` must be closed and is no longer usable.

**Check for failure**

41-42 If the loop terminates because no call to `connect` succeeded, the program terminates.

**Read server's reply**

43-47 Otherwise, we read the server's response, terminating when the server closes the connection.

If we run this program specifying one of our hosts that is running the daytime server, we get the expected output.

```
freebsd % daytimetcpcli1 aix daytime
trying 192.168.42.2:13
Sun Jul 27 22:44:19 2003
```

What is more interesting is to run the program to a multihomed system that is not running the daytime server.

```
freebsd % daytimetcpcli1 gateway.tuc.noao.edu daytime
trying 140.252.108.1:13
connect error: Operation timed out
trying 140.252.1.4:13
connect error: Operation timed out
trying 140.252.104.1:13
connect error: Connection refused
unable to connect
```

## 11.6 getaddrinfo Function

The `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr` functions only support IPv4. The API for resolving IPv6 addresses went through several iterations, as will be described in Section 11.20; the final result is the `getaddrinfo` function. The `getaddrinfo` function handles both name-to-address and service-to-port translation, and returns `sockaddr` structures instead of a list of addresses. These `sockaddr` structures can then be used by the socket functions directly. In this way, the `getaddrinfo` function hides all the protocol dependencies in the library function, which is where they belong. The application deals only with the socket address structures that are filled in by `getaddrinfo`. This function is defined in the POSIX specification.

The POSIX definition of this function comes from an earlier proposal by Keith Sklower for a function named `getconninfo`. This function was the result of discussions with Eric Allman, William Durst, Michael Karels, and Steven Wise, and from an early implementation written by Eric Allman. The observation that specifying a hostname and a service name would suffice for connecting to a service independent of protocol details was made by Marshall Rose in a proposal to X/Open.

```
#include <netdb.h>

int getaddrinfo(const char *hostname, const char *service,
               const struct addrinfo *hints, struct addrinfo **result);
```

Returns: 0 if OK, nonzero on error (see Figure 11.7)

This function returns through the *result* pointer a pointer to a linked list of `addrinfo` structures, which is defined by including `<netdb.h>`.

```
struct addrinfo {
    int      ai_flags;           /* AI_PASSIVE, AI_CANONNAME */
    int      ai_family;        /* AF_XXX */
    int      ai_socktype;      /* SOCK_XXX */
    int      ai_protocol;      /* 0 or IPPROTO_XXX for IPv4 and IPv6 */
    socklen_t ai_addrlen;      /* length of ai_addr */
    char     *ai_canonname;     /* ptr to canonical name for host */
    struct sockaddr *ai_addr;   /* ptr to socket address structure */
    struct addrinfo *ai_next;  /* ptr to next structure in linked list */
};
```

The *hostname* is either a hostname or an address string (dotted-decimal for IPv4 or a hex string for IPv6). The *service* is either a service name or a decimal port number string. (See also Exercise 11.4, where we want to allow an address string for the host or a port number string for the service.)

*hints* is either a null pointer or a pointer to an `addrinfo` structure that the caller fills in with hints about the types of information the caller wants returned. For example, if the specified service is provided for both TCP and UDP (e.g., the domain service, which refers to a DNS server), the caller can set the `ai_socktype` member of the *hints* structure to `SOCK_DGRAM`. The only information returned will be for datagram sockets.

The members of the *hints* structure that can be set by the caller are:

- `ai_flags` (zero or more `AI_XXX` values *OR*'ed together)
- `ai_family` (an `AF_xxx` value)
- `ai_socktype` (a `SOCK_xxx` value)
- `ai_protocol`

The possible values for the `ai_flags` member and their meanings are:

<code>AI_PASSIVE</code>	The caller will use the socket for a passive open.
<code>AI_CANONNAME</code>	Tells the function to return the canonical name of the host.
<code>AI_NUMERICHOST</code>	Prevents any kind of name-to-address mapping; the <i>hostname</i> argument must be an address string.
<code>AI_NUMERICSERV</code>	Prevents any kind of name-to-service mapping; the <i>service</i> argument must be a decimal port number string.
<code>AI_V4MAPPED</code>	If specified along with an <code>ai_family</code> of <code>AF_INET6</code> , then returns IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses corresponding to A records if there are no available AAAA records.
<code>AI_ALL</code>	If specified along with <code>AI_V4MAPPED</code> , then returns IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses in addition to any AAAA records belonging to the name.
<code>AI_ADDRCONFIG</code>	Only looks up addresses for a given IP version if there is one or more interface that is not a loopback interface configured with an IP address of that version.

If the *hints* argument is a null pointer, the function assumes a value of 0 for `ai_flags`, `ai_socktype`, and `ai_protocol`, and a value of `AF_UNSPEC` for `ai_family`.

If the function returns success (0), the variable pointed to by the *result* argument is filled in with a pointer to a linked list of `addrinfo` structures, linked through the `ai_next` pointer. There are two ways that multiple structures can be returned:

1. If there are multiple addresses associated with the *hostname*, one structure is returned for each address that is usable with the requested address family (the `ai_family` hint, if specified).
2. If the service is provided for multiple socket types, one structure can be returned for each socket type, depending on the `ai_socktype` hint. (Note that most `getaddrinfo` implementations consider a port number string to be implemented only by the socket type requested in `ai_socktype`; if `ai_socktype` is not specified, an error is returned instead.)

For example, if no hints are provided and if the domain service is looked up for a host with two IP addresses, four `addrinfo` structures are returned:

- One for the first IP address and a socket type of `SOCK_STREAM`
- One for the first IP address and a socket type of `SOCK_DGRAM`
- One for the second IP address and a socket type of `SOCK_STREAM`
- One for the second IP address and a socket type of `SOCK_DGRAM`

We show this example in Figure 11.5. There is no guaranteed order of the structures when multiple items are returned; that is, we cannot assume that TCP services will be returned before UDP services.

Although not guaranteed, an implementation should return the IP addresses in the same order as they are returned by the DNS. Some resolvers allow the administrator to specify an address sorting order in the `/etc/resolv.conf` file. IPv6 specifies address selection rules (RFC 3484 [Draves 2003]), which could affect the order of addresses returned by `getaddrinfo`.

The information returned in the `addrinfo` structures is ready for a call to `socket` and then either a call to `connect` or `sendto` (for a client), or `bind` (for a server). The arguments to `socket` are the members `ai_family`, `ai_socktype`, and `ai_protocol`. The second and third arguments to either `connect` or `bind` are `ai_addr` (a pointer to a socket address structure of the appropriate type, filled in by `getaddrinfo`) and `ai_addrlen` (the length of this socket address structure).

If the `AI_CANONNAME` flag is set in the `hints` structure, the `ai_canonname` member of the first returned structure points to the canonical name of the host. In terms of the DNS, this is normally the FQDN. Programs like `telnet` commonly use this flag to be able to print the canonical hostname of the system to which they are connecting, so that if the user supplied a shortcut or an alias, he or she knows what got looked up.

Figure 11.5 shows the returned information if we execute the following:

```
struct addrinfo      hints, *res;

bzero(&hints, sizeof(hints));
hints.ai_flags = AI_CANONNAME;
hints.ai_family = AF_INET;

getaddrinfo("freebsd4", "domain", &hints, &res);
```

In this figure, everything except the `res` variable is dynamically allocated memory (e.g., from `malloc`). We assume that the canonical name of the host `freebsd4` is `freebsd4.unpbook.com` and that this host has two IPv4 addresses in the DNS.

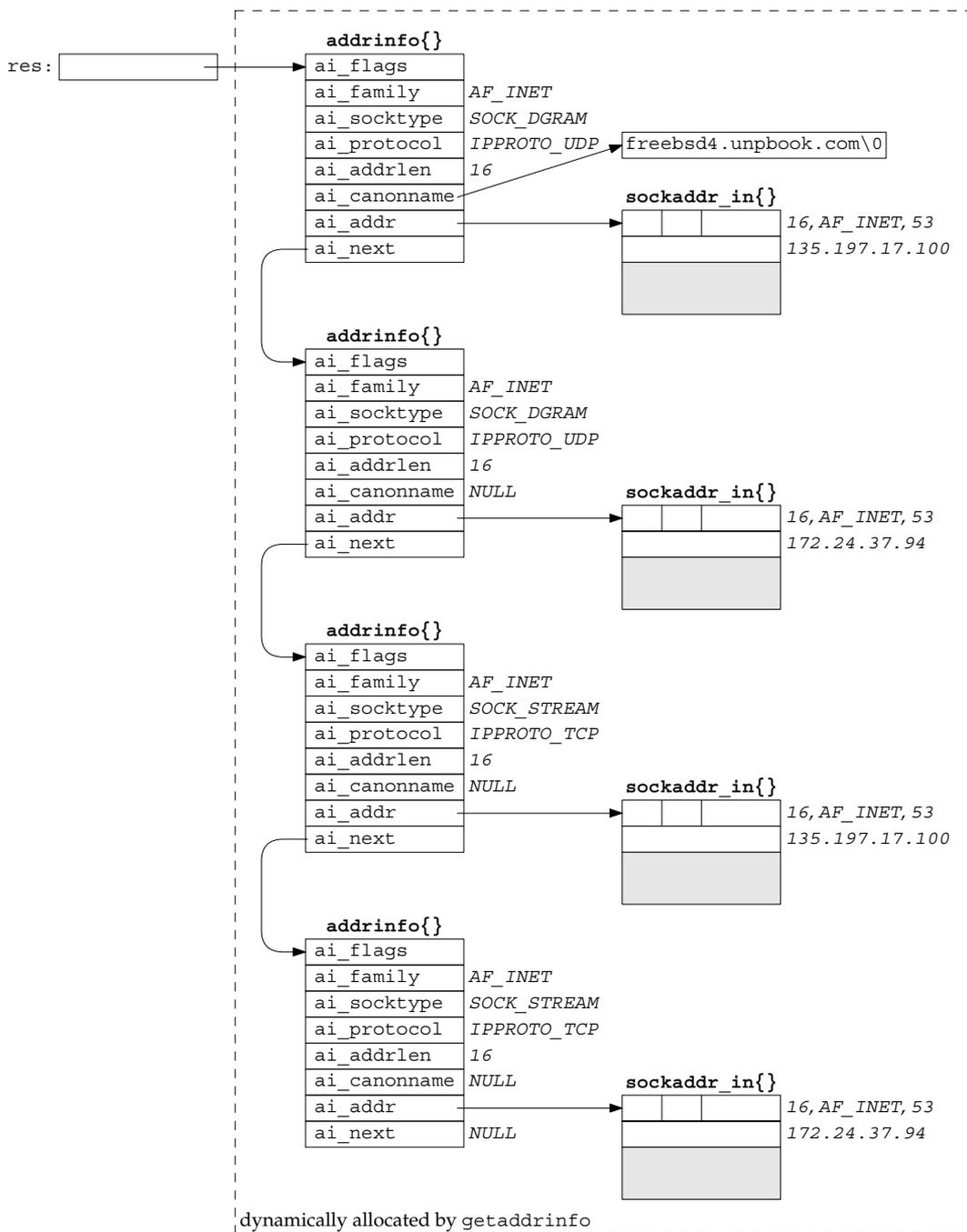


Figure 11.5 Example of information returned by `getaddrinfo`.

Port 53 is for the domain service. This port number will be in network byte order in the socket address structures. We also show the returned `ai_protocol` values as `IPPROTO_TCP` or `IPPROTO_UDP`. It would also be acceptable for `getaddrinfo` to return an `ai_protocol` of 0 for the two `SOCK_STREAM` structures if that is sufficient to specify TCP (it is not sufficient if the system implements SCTP, for example), and an `ai_protocol` of 0 for the two `SOCK_DGRAM` structures if the system doesn't implement any other `SOCK_DGRAM` protocols for IP (as of this writing, none are yet standardized, but two are in development in the IETF). It is safest for `getaddrinfo` to always return the specific protocol.

Figure 11.6 summarizes the number of `addrinfo` structures returned for each address that is being returned, based on the specified service name (which can be a decimal port number) and any `ai_socktype` hint.

ai_socktype hint	Service is a name, service provided by:						Service is a port number
	TCP only	UDP only	SCTP only	TCP and UDP	TCP and SCTP	TCP, UDP, and SCTP	
0	1	1	1	2	2	3	error
<code>SOCK_STREAM</code>	1	error	1	1	2	2	2
<code>SOCK_DGRAM</code>	error	1	error	1	error	1	1
<code>SOCK_SEQPACKET</code>	error	error	1	error	1	1	1

**Figure 11.6** Number of `addrinfo` structures returned per IP address.

Multiple `addrinfo` structures are returned for each IP address only when no `ai_socktype` hint is provided and the service name is supported by multiple transport protocols (as indicated in the `/etc/services` file).

If we were to enumerate all 64 possible inputs to `getaddrinfo` (there are six input variables), many would be invalid and some would make little sense. Instead, we will look at the common cases.

- Specify the *hostname* and *service*. This is normal for a TCP or UDP client. On return, a TCP client loops through all returned IP addresses, calling `socket` and `connect` for each one, until the connection succeeds or until all addresses have been tried. We will show an example of this with our `tcp_connect` function in Figure 11.10.

For a UDP client, the socket address structure filled in by `getaddrinfo` would be used in a call to `sendto` or `connect`. If the client can tell that the first address doesn't appear to work (either by receiving an error on a connected UDP socket or by experiencing a timeout on an unconnected socket), additional addresses can be tried.

If the client knows it handles only one type of socket (e.g., Telnet and FTP clients handle only TCP; TFTP clients handle only UDP), then the `ai_socktype` member of the *hints* structure should be specified as either `SOCK_STREAM` or `SOCK_DGRAM`.

- A typical server specifies the *service* but not the *hostname*, and specifies the `AI_PASSIVE` flag in the *hints* structure. The socket address structures returned should contain an IP address of `INADDR_ANY` (for IPv4) or `IN6ADDR_ANY_INIT` (for IPv6). A TCP server then calls `socket`, `bind`, and `listen`. If the server wants to `malloc` another socket address structure to obtain the client's address from `accept`, the returned `ai_addrlen` value specifies this size.

A UDP server would call `socket`, `bind`, and then `recvfrom`. If the server wants to `malloc` another socket address structure to obtain the client's address from `recvfrom`, the returned `ai_addrlen` value specifies this size.

As with the typical client code, if the server knows it only handles one type of socket, the `ai_socktype` member of the *hints* structure should be set to either `SOCK_STREAM` or `SOCK_DGRAM`. This avoids having multiple structures returned, possibly with the wrong `ai_socktype` value.

- The TCP servers that we have shown so far create one listening socket, and the UDP servers create one datagram socket. That is what we assume in the previous item. An alternate server design is for the server to handle multiple sockets using `select` or `poll`. In this scenario, the server would go through the entire list of structures returned by `getaddrinfo`, create one socket per structure, and use `select` or `poll`.

The problem with this technique is that one reason for `getaddrinfo` returning multiple structures is when a service can be handled by IPv4 and IPv6 (Figure 11.8). But, these two protocols are not completely independent, as we will see in Section 12.2. That is, if we create a listening IPv6 socket for a given port, there is no need to also create a listening IPv4 socket for that same port, because connections arriving from IPv4 clients are automatically handled by the protocol stack and by the IPv6 listening socket, assuming that the `IPV6_V6ONLY` socket option is not set.

Despite the fact that `getaddrinfo` is “better” than the `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname` functions (it makes it easier to write protocol-independent code; one function handles both the hostname and the service; and all the returned information is dynamically allocated, not statically allocated), it is still not as easy to use as it could be. The problem is that we must allocate a *hints* structure, initialize it to 0, fill in the desired fields, call `getaddrinfo`, and then traverse a linked list trying each one. In the next sections, we will provide some simpler interfaces for the typical TCP and UDP clients and servers that we will write in the remainder of this text.

`getaddrinfo` solves the problem of converting hostnames and service names into socket address structures. In Section 11.17, we will describe the reverse function, `getnameinfo`, which converts socket address structures into hostnames and service names.

## 11.7 `gai_strerror` Function

The nonzero error return values from `getaddrinfo` have the names and meanings shown in Figure 11.7. The function `gai_strerror` takes one of these values as an argument and returns a pointer to the corresponding error string.

```
#include <netdb.h>

const char *gai_strerror(int error);
```

Returns: pointer to string describing error message

Constant	Description
EAI_AGAIN	Temporary failure in name resolution
EAI_BADFLAGS	Invalid value for <code>ai_flags</code>
EAI_FAIL	Unrecoverable failure in name resolution
EAI_FAMILY	<code>ai_family</code> not supported
EAI_MEMORY	Memory allocation failure
EAI_NONAME	<code>hostname</code> or <code>service</code> not provided, or not known
EAI_OVERFLOW	User argument buffer overflowed ( <code>getnameinfo()</code> only)
EAI_SERVICE	<code>service</code> not supported for <code>ai_socktype</code>
EAI_SOCKTYPE	<code>ai_socktype</code> not supported
EAI_SYSTEM	System error returned in <code>errno</code>

Figure 11.7 Nonzero error return constants from `getaddrinfo`.

## 11.8 freeaddrinfo Function

All the storage returned by `getaddrinfo`, the `addrinfo` structures, the `ai_addr` structures, and the `ai_canonname` string are obtained dynamically (e.g., from `malloc`). This storage is returned by calling `freeaddrinfo`.

```
#include <netdb.h>

void freeaddrinfo(struct addrinfo *ai);
```

`ai` should point to the first `addrinfo` structure returned by `getaddrinfo`. All the structures in the linked list are freed, along with any dynamic storage pointed to by those structures (e.g., socket address structures and canonical hostnames).

Assume we call `getaddrinfo`, traverse the linked list of `addrinfo` structures, and find the desired structure. If we then try to save a copy of the information by copying just the `addrinfo` structure and calling `freeaddrinfo`, we have a lurking bug. The reason is that the `addrinfo` structure itself points to dynamically allocated memory (for the socket address structure and possibly the canonical name), and memory pointed to by our saved structure is returned to the system when `freeaddrinfo` is called and can be used for something else.

Making a copy of just the `addrinfo` structure and not the structures that it in turn points to is called a *shallow copy*. Copying the `addrinfo` structure and all the structures that it points to is called a *deep copy*.

## 11.9 getaddrinfo Function: IPv6

The POSIX specification defines the `getaddrinfo` function and the information it returns for both IPv4 and IPv6. We note the following points before summarizing these return values in Figure 11.8.

- `getaddrinfo` is dealing with two different inputs: the type of socket address structure the caller wants back and the type of records that should be searched for in the DNS or other database.
- The address family in the `hints` structure provided by the caller specifies the type of socket address structure that the caller expects to be returned. If the caller specifies `AF_INET`, the function must not return any `sockaddr_in6` structures; if the caller specifies `AF_INET6`, the function must not return any `sockaddr_in` structures.
- POSIX says that specifying `AF_UNSPEC` will return addresses that can be used with *any* protocol family that can be used with the hostname and service name. This implies that if a host has both AAAA records and A records, the AAAA records are returned as `sockaddr_in6` structures and the A records are returned as `sockaddr_in` structures. It makes no sense to also return the A records as IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses in `sockaddr_in6` structures because no additional information is being returned: These addresses are already being returned in `sockaddr_in` structures.
- This statement in the POSIX specification also implies that if the `AI_PASSIVE` flag is specified without a hostname, then the IPv6 wildcard address (`IN6ADDR_ANY_INIT` or `0::0`) should be returned as a `sockaddr_in6` structure, along with the IPv4 wildcard address (`INADDR_ANY` or `0.0.0.0`), which is returned as a `sockaddr_in` structure. It also makes sense to return the IPv6 wildcard address first because we will see in Section 12.2 that an IPv6 server socket can handle both IPv6 and IPv4 clients on a dual-stack host.
- The address family specified in the `hint` structure's `ai_family` member, along with the flags such as `AI_V4MAPPED` and `AI_ALL` specified in the `ai_flags` member, dictate the type of records that are searched for in the DNS (A and/or AAAA) and what type of addresses are returned (IPv4, IPv6, and/or IPv4-mapped IPv6). We summarize this in Figure 11.8.
- The hostname can also be either an IPv6 hex string or an IPv4 dotted-decimal string. The validity of this string depends on the address family specified by the caller. An IPv6 hex string is not acceptable if `AF_INET` is specified, and an IPv4 dotted-decimal string is not acceptable if `AF_INET6` is specified. But, if `AF_UNSPEC` is specified, either is acceptable and the appropriate type of socket address structure is returned.

One could argue that if `AF_INET6` is specified, then a dotted-decimal string should be returned as an IPv4-mapped IPv6 address in a `sockaddr_in6` structure. But, another way to obtain this result is to prefix the dotted-decimal string with `0::ffff::`.

Figure 11.8 summarizes how we expect `getaddrinfo` to handle IPv4 and IPv6

addresses. The “Result” column is what we want returned to the caller, given the variables in the first three columns. The “Action” column is how we obtain this result.

Hostname specified by caller	Address family specified by caller	Hostname string contains	Result	Action
non-null hostname string; active or passive	AF_UNSPEC	hostname	All AAAA records returned as <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s and all A records returned as <code>sockaddr_in{}</code> s	AAAA record search and A record search
		hex string	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code>
		dotted-decimal	One <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>
	AF_INET6	hostname	All AAAA records returned as <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s	AAAA record search
			If <code>ai_flags</code> contains <code>AI_V4MAPPED</code> , all AAAA records returned as <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s else all A records returned as IPv4-mapped IPv6 <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s	AAAA record search if no results then A record search
			If <code>ai_flags</code> contains <code>AI_V4MAPPED</code> and <code>AI_ALL</code> , all AAAA records returned as <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s and all A records returned as IPv4-mapped IPv6 <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> s	AAAA record search and A record search
		hex string	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code>
		dotted-decimal	Looked up as hostname	
	AF_INET	hostname	All A records returned as <code>sockaddr_in{}</code> s	A record search
		hex string	Looked up as hostname	
dotted-decimal		One <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>	
null hostname string; passive	AF_UNSPEC	implied 0::0 implied 0.0.0.0	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> and one <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code> <code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>
	AF_INET6	implied 0::0	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code>
	AF_INET	implied 0.0.0.0	One <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>
null hostname string; active	AF_UNSPEC	implied 0::1 implied 127.0.0.1	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code> and one <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code> <code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>
	AF_INET6	implied 0::1	One <code>sockaddr_in6{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET6)</code>
	AF_INET	implied 127.0.0.1	One <code>sockaddr_in{}</code>	<code>inet_pton(AF_INET)</code>

Figure 11.8 Summary of `getaddrinfo` and its actions and results.

Note that Figure 11.8 specifies only how `getaddrinfo` handles IPv4 and IPv6; that is, the number of addresses returned to the caller. The actual number of `addrinfo` structures returned to the caller also depends on the socket type specified and the service name, as summarized earlier in Figure 11.6.

## 11.10 getaddrinfo Function: Examples

We will now show some examples of `getaddrinfo` using a test program that lets us enter all the parameters: the hostname, service name, address family, socket type, and `AI_CANONNAME` and `AI_PASSIVE` flags. (We do not show this test program, as it is about 350 lines of uninteresting code. It is provided with the source code for the book, as described in the Preface.) The test program outputs information on the variable number of `addrinfo` structures that are returned, showing the arguments for a call to `socket` and the address in each socket address structure.

We first show the same example as in Figure 11.5.

```
freebsd % testga -f inet -c -h freebsd4 -s domain
socket(AF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, 17), ai_canonname = freebsd4.unpbook.com
      address: 135.197.17.100:53

socket(AF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, 17)
      address: 172.24.37.94:53

socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6), ai_canonname = freebsd4.unpbook.com
      address: 135.197.17.100:53

socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
      address: 172.24.37.94:53
```

The `-f inet` option specifies the address family, `-c` says to return the canonical name, `-h bsdi` specifies the hostname, and `-s domain` specifies the service name.

The common client scenario is to specify the address family, socket type (the `-t` option), hostname, and service name. The following example shows this for a multi-homed host with three IPv4 addresses:

```
freebsd % testga -f inet -t stream -h gateway.tuc.noao.edu -s daytime
socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
      address: 140.252.108.1:13

socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
      address: 140.252.1.4:13

socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
      address: 140.252.104.1:13
```

Next, we specify our host `aix`, which has both a `AAAA` record and an `A` record. We do not specify the address family, but we provide a service name of `ftp`, which is provided by TCP only.

```

freebsd % testga -h aix -s ftp -t stream
socket(AF_INET6, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
    address: [3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38]:21
socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
    address: 192.168.42.2:21

```

Since we didn't specify the address family, and since we ran this example on a host that supports both IPv4 and IPv6, two structures are returned: one for IPv4 and one for IPv6.

Next, we specify the `AI_PASSIVE` flag (the `-p` option); we do not specify an address family or hostname (implying the wildcard address). We also specify a port number of 8888 and a stream socket.

```

freebsd % testga -p -s 8888 -t stream
socket(AF_INET6, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
    address: [::]:8888
socket(AF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 6)
    address: 0.0.0.0:8888

```

Two structures are returned. Since we ran this on a host that supports IPv6 and IPv4 without specifying an address family, `getaddrinfo` returns the IPv6 wildcard address and the IPv4 wildcard address. The IPv6 structure is returned before the IPv4 structure, because we will see in Chapter 12 that an IPv6 client or server on a dual-stack host can communicate with either IPv6 or IPv4 peers.

## 11.11 host\_serv Function

Our first interface to `getaddrinfo` does not require the caller to allocate a *hints* structure and fill it in. Instead, the two fields of interest, the address family and the socket type, are arguments to our `host_serv` function.

```

#include "unp.h"

struct addrinfo *host_serv(const char *hostname, const char *service,
                          int family, int socktype);

```

Returns: pointer to `addrinfo` structure if OK, NULL on error

Figure 11.9 shows the source code for this function.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 struct addrinfo *
3 host_serv(const char *host, const char *serv, int family, int socktype)
4 {
5     int      n;
6     struct addrinfo hints, *res;

7     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
8     hints.ai_flags = AI_CANONNAME; /* always return canonical name */
9     hints.ai_family = family; /* AF_UNSPEC, AF_INET, AF_INET6, etc. */
10    hints.ai_socktype = socktype; /* 0, SOCK_STREAM, SOCK_DGRAM, etc. */

11    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
12        return (NULL);

13    return (res); /* return pointer to first on linked list */
14 }

```

---

Figure 11.9 host\_serv function.

7-13 The function initializes a *hints* structure, calls *getaddrinfo*, and returns a null pointer if an error occurs.

We will call this function from Figure 16.17 when we want to use *getaddrinfo* to obtain the host and service information, but we want to establish the connection ourself.

## 11.12 tcp\_connect Function

We will now write two functions that use *getaddrinfo* to handle most scenarios for the TCP clients and servers that we write. The first function, *tcp\_connect*, performs the normal client steps: create a TCP socket and connect to a server.

```

#include "unp.h"

int tcp_connect(const char *hostname, const char *service);

```

Returns: connected socket descriptor if OK, no return on error

Figure 11.10 shows the source code.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 tcp_connect(const char *host, const char *serv)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     struct addrinfo hints, *res, *ressave;
7     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
8     hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;
9     hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM;
10    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
11        err_quit("tcp_connect error for %s, %s: %s",
12                host, serv, gai_strerror(n));
13    ressave = res;
14    do {
15        sockfd = socket(res->ai_family, res->ai_socktype, res->ai_protocol);
16        if (sockfd < 0)
17            continue;          /* ignore this one */
18        if (connect(sockfd, res->ai_addr, res->ai_addrlen) == 0)
19            break;            /* success */
20        Close(sockfd);        /* ignore this one */
21    } while ( (res = res->ai_next) != NULL);
22    if (res == NULL)          /* errno set from final connect() */
23        err_sys("tcp_connect error for %s, %s", host, serv);
24    freeaddrinfo(ressave);
25    return (sockfd);
26 }

```

---

**Figure 11.10** tcp\_connect function: performs normal client steps.

### Call getaddrinfo

7-13 getaddrinfo is called once and we specify the address family as AF\_UNSPEC and the socket type as SOCK\_STREAM.

### Try each addrinfo structure until success or end of list

14-25 Each returned IP address is then tried. socket and connect are called. It is not a fatal error for socket to fail, as this could happen if an IPv6 address is returned but the host kernel does not support IPv6. If connect succeeds, a break is made out of the loop. Otherwise, when all the addresses have been tried, the loop also terminates. freeaddrinfo returns all the dynamic memory.

This function (and our other functions that provide a simpler interface to `getaddrinfo` in the following sections) terminates if either `getaddrinfo` fails or no call to `connect` succeeds. The only return is upon success. It would be hard to return an error code (one of the `EAI_xxx` constants) without adding another argument. This means that our wrapper function is trivial.

```
int
Tcp_connect(const char *host, const char *serv)
{
    return(tcp_connect(host, serv));
}
```

Nevertheless, we still call our wrapper function instead of `tcp_connect`, to maintain consistency with the remainder of the text.

The problem with the return value is that descriptors are non-negative, but we do not know whether the `EAI_xxx` values are positive or negative. If these values were positive, we could return the negative of these values if `getaddrinfo` fails, but we also have to return some other negative value to indicate that all the structures were tried without success.

### Example: Daytime Client

Figure 11.11 shows our daytime client from Figure 1.5 recoded to use `tcp_connect`.

---

```
1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 main(int argc, char **argv)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     char     recvline[MAXLINE + 1];
7     socklen_t len;
8     struct  sockaddr_storage ss;
9
10    if (argc != 3)
11        err_quit
12        ("usage: daytimetcpcli <hostname/IPaddress> <service/port#>");
13
14    sockfd = Tcp_connect(argv[1], argv[2]);
15
16    len = sizeof(ss);
17    Getpeername(sockfd, (SA *) &ss, &len);
18    printf("connected to %s\n", Sock_ntop_host((SA *) &ss, len));
19
20    while ( (n = Read(sockfd, recvline, MAXLINE)) > 0) {
21        recvline[n] = 0;          /* null terminate */
22        Fputs(recvline, stdout);
23    }
24    exit(0);
25 }
```

---

**Figure 11.11** Daytime client recoded to use `tcp_connect`.

### Command-line arguments

9-11 We now require a second command-line argument to specify either the service name or the port number, which allows our program to connect to other ports.

### Connect to server

12 All the socket code for this client is now performed by `tcp_connect`.

### Print server's address

13-15 We call `getpeername` to fetch the server's protocol address and print it. We do this to verify the protocol being used in the examples we are about to show.

Note that `tcp_connect` does not return the size of the socket address structure that was used for the `connect`. We could have added a pointer argument to return this value, but one design goal for this function was to reduce the number of arguments compared to `getaddrinfo`. What we do instead is use a `sockaddr_storage` socket address structure, which is large enough to hold and fulfills the alignment constraints of any socket address type the system supports.

This version of our client works with both IPv4 and IPv6, while the version in Figure 1.5 worked only with IPv4 and the version in Figure 1.6 worked only with IPv6. You should also compare our new version with Figure E.12, which we coded to use `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname` to support both IPv4 and IPv6.

We first specify the name of a host that supports only IPv4.

```
freebsd % daytimetcpcli linux daytime
connected to 206.168.112.96
Sun Jul 27 23:06:24 2003
```

Next, we specify the name of a host that supports both IPv4 and IPv6.

```
freebsd % daytimetcpcli aix daytime
connected to 3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38
Sun Jul 27 23:17:13 2003
```

The IPv6 address is used because the host has both a AAAA record and an A record, and as noted in Figure 11.8, since `tcp_connect` sets the address family to `AF_UNSPEC`, AAAA records are searched for first, and only if this fails is a search made for an A record.

In the next example, we force the use of the IPv4 address by specifying the host-name with our `-4` suffix, which we noted in Section 11.2 is our convention for the host-name with only A records.

```
freebsd % daytimetcpcli aix-4 daytime
connected to 192.168.42.2
Sun Jul 27 23:17:48 2003
```

## 11.13 tcp\_listen Function

Our next function, `tcp_listen`, performs the normal TCP server steps: create a TCP socket, bind the server's well-known port, and allow incoming connection requests to be accepted. Figure 11.12 shows the source code.

```
#include "unp.h"

int tcp_listen(const char *hostname, const char *service, socklen_t *addrlenp);

Returns: connected socket descriptor if OK, no return on error
```

### Call `getaddrinfo`

8-15 We initialize an `addrinfo` structure with our hints: `AI_PASSIVE`, since this function is for a server, `AF_UNSPEC` for the address family, and `SOCK_STREAM`. Recall from Figure 11.8 that if a hostname is not specified (which is common for a server that wants to bind the wildcard address), the `AI_PASSIVE` and `AF_UNSPEC` hints will cause two socket address structures to be returned: the first for IPv6 and the next for IPv4 (assuming a dual-stack host).

### Create socket and bind address

16-25 The `socket` and `bind` functions are called. If either call fails, we just ignore this `addrinfo` structure and move on to the next one. As stated in Section 7.5, we always set the `SO_REUSEADDR` socket option for a TCP server.

### Check for failure

26-27 If all the calls to `socket` and `bind` fail, we print an error and terminate. As with our `tcp_connect` function in the previous section, we do not try to return an error from this function.

28 The socket is turned into a listening socket by `listen`.

### Return size of socket address structure

29-32 If the `addrlenp` argument is non-null, we return the size of the protocol addresses through this pointer. This allows the caller to allocate memory for a socket address structure to obtain the client's protocol address from `accept`. (See Exercise 11.7 also.)

## Example: Daytime Server

Figure 11.13 shows our daytime server from Figure 4.11, recoded to use `tcp_listen`.

### Require service name or port number as command-line argument

11-12 We require a command-line argument to specify either the service name or port number. This makes it easier to test our server, since binding port 13 for the daytime server requires superuser privileges.

### Create listening socket

13 `tcp_listen` creates the listening socket. We pass a NULL pointer as the third argument because we don't care what size address structure the address family uses; we will use `sockaddr_storage`.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 tcp_listen(const char *host, const char *serv, socklen_t *addrlenp)
4 {
5     int    listenfd, n;
6     const int on = 1;
7     struct addrinfo hints, *res, *ressave;
8
9     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
10    hints.ai_flags = AI_PASSIVE;
11    hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;
12    hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM;
13
14    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
15        err_quit("tcp_listen error for %s, %s: %s",
16                host, serv, gai_strerror(n));
17    ressave = res;
18
19    do {
20        listenfd =
21            socket(res->ai_family, res->ai_socktype, res->ai_protocol);
22        if (listenfd < 0)
23            continue;          /* error, try next one */
24
25        Setsockopt(listenfd, SOL_SOCKET, SO_REUSEADDR, &on, sizeof(on));
26        if (bind(listenfd, res->ai_addr, res->ai_addrlen) == 0)
27            break;             /* success */
28
29        Close(listenfd);       /* bind error, close and try next one */
30    } while ( (res = res->ai_next) != NULL);
31
32    if (res == NULL)           /* errno from final socket() or bind() */
33        err_sys("tcp_listen error for %s, %s", host, serv);
34
35    Listen(listenfd, LISTENQ);
36
37    if (addrlenp)
38        *addrlenp = res->ai_addrlen;    /* return size of protocol address */
39
40    freeaddrinfo(ressave);
41
42    return (listenfd);
43 }

```

---

**Figure 11.12** tcp\_listen function: performs normal server steps.

### Server loop

14-22 accept waits for each client connection. We print the client address by calling sock\_ntop. In the case of either IPv4 or IPv6, this function prints the IP address and port number. We could use the function getnameinfo (Section 11.17) to try to obtain the hostname of the client, but that involves a PTR query in the DNS, which can take some time, especially if the PTR query fails. Section 14.8 of TCPv3 notes that on a busy Web server, almost 25% of all clients connecting to that server did not have PTR records

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 #include    <time.h>

3 int
4 main(int argc, char **argv)
5 {
6     int      listenfd, connfd;
7     socklen_t len;
8     char     buff[MAXLINE];
9     time_t   ticks;
10    struct sockaddr_storage cliaddr;

11    if (argc != 2)
12        err_quit("usage: daytimetcpsrv1 <service or port#>");

13    listenfd = Tcp_listen(NULL, argv[1], NULL);

14    for ( ; ; ) {
15        len = sizeof(cliaddr);
16        connfd = Accept(listenfd, (SA *) &cliaddr, &len);
17        printf("connection from %s\n", Sock_ntop((SA *) &cliaddr, len));

18        ticks = time(NULL);
19        snprintf(buff, sizeof(buff), "%.24s\r\n", ctime(&ticks));
20        Write(connfd, buff, strlen(buff));

21        Close(connfd);
22    }
23 }

```

---

*names/daytimetcpsrv1.c*

**Figure 11.13** Daytime server recoded to use `tcp_listen` (see also Figure 11.14).

in the DNS. Since we do not want a server (especially an iterative server) to wait seconds for a PTR query, we just print the IP address and port.

### Example: Daytime Server with Protocol Specification

There is a slight problem with Figure 11.13: The first argument to `tcp_listen` is a null pointer, which combined with the address family of `AF_UNSPEC` that `tcp_listen` specifies might cause `getaddrinfo` to return a socket address structure with an address family other than what is desired. For example, the first socket address structure returned will be for IPv6 on a dual-stack host (Figure 11.8), but we might want our server to handle only IPv4.

Clients do not have this problem since the client must always specify either an IP address or a hostname. Client applications normally allow the user to enter this as a command-line argument. This gives us the opportunity to specify a hostname that is associated with a particular type of IP address (recall our `-4` and `-6` hostnames in Section 11.2), or to specify either an IPv4 dotted-decimal string (forcing IPv4) or an IPv6 hex string (forcing IPv6).

But there is a simple technique for servers that lets us force a given protocol on a server, either IPv4 or IPv6: Allow the user to enter either an IP address or a hostname as a command-line argument to the program and pass this to `getaddrinfo`. In the case of an IP address, an IPv4 dotted-decimal string differs from an IPv6 hex string. The following calls to `inet_pton` either fail or succeed, as indicated:

```
inet_pton(AF_INET, "0.0.0.0", &foo);    /* succeeds */
inet_pton(AF_INET, "0::0", &foo);      /* fails */
inet_pton(AF_INET6, "0.0.0.0", &foo);  /* fails */
inet_pton(AF_INET6, "0::0", &foo);    /* succeeds */
```

Therefore, if we change our servers to accept an optional argument, and if we enter

```
% server
```

it defaults to IPv6 on a dual-stack host, but entering

```
% server 0.0.0.0
```

explicitly specifies IPv4 and

```
% server 0::0
```

explicitly specifies IPv6.

Figure 11.14 shows this final version of our daytime server.

### Handle command-line arguments

11-16 The only change from Figure 11.13 is the handling of the command-line arguments, allowing the user to specify either a hostname or an IP address for the server to bind, in addition to a service name or port.

We first start this server with an IPv4 socket and then connect to the server from clients on two other hosts on the local subnet.

```
freebsd % daytimecpsrv2 0.0.0.0 9999
connection from 192.168.42.2:32961
connection from 192.168.42.3:1389
```

Now we start the server with an IPv6 socket.

```
freebsd % daytimecpsrv2 0::0 9999
connection from [3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38]:32964
connection from [3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:230:65ff:fe15:caa7]:49601
connection from [::ffff:192.168.42.2]:32967
connection from [::ffff:192.168.42.3]:49602
```

The first connection is from the host `aix` using IPv6 and the second is from the host `macosx` using IPv6. The next two connections are from the hosts `aix` and `macosx`, but using IPv4, not IPv6. We can tell this because the client's addresses returned by `accept` are both IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses.

What we have just shown is that an IPv6 server running on a dual-stack host can handle either IPv4 or IPv6 clients. The IPv4 client addresses are passed to the IPv6 server as IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses, as we will discuss in Section 12.2.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 #include    <time.h>

3 int
4 main(int argc, char **argv)
5 {
6     int      listenfd, connfd;
7     socklen_t len;
8     char     buff[MAXLINE];
9     time_t   ticks;
10    struct sockaddr_storage cliaddr;

11    if (argc == 2)
12        listenfd = Tcp_listen(NULL, argv[1], &addrlen);
13    else if (argc == 3)
14        listenfd = Tcp_listen(argv[1], argv[2], &addrlen);
15    else
16        err_quit("usage: daytimetcpsrv2 [ <host> ] <service or port>");

17    for ( ; ; ) {
18        len = sizeof(cliaddr);
19        connfd = Accept(listenfd, (SA *) &cliaddr, &len);
20        printf("connection from %s\n", Sock_ntop((SA *) &cliaddr, len));

21        ticks = time(NULL);
22        snprintf(buff, sizeof(buff), "%.24s\r\n", ctime(&ticks));
23        Write(connfd, buff, strlen(buff));

24        Close(connfd);
25    }
26 }

```

---

*names/daytimetcpsrv2.c*

**Figure 11.14** Protocol-independent daytime server that uses `tcp_listen`.

## 11.14 `udp_client` Function

Our functions that provide a simpler interface to `getaddrinfo` change with UDP because we provide one client function that creates an unconnected UDP socket, and another in the next section that creates a connected UDP socket.

```

#include "unp.h"

int udp_client(const char *hostname, const char *service,
              struct sockaddr **saptr, socklen_t *lenp);

```

Returns: unconnected socket descriptor if OK, no return on error

This function creates an unconnected UDP socket, returning three items. First, the return value is the socket descriptor. Second, *saptr* is the address of a pointer (declared

by the caller) to a socket address structure (allocated dynamically by `udp_client`), and in that structure, the function stores the destination IP address and port for future calls to `sendto`. The size of the socket address structure is returned in the variable pointed to by `lenp`. This final argument cannot be a null pointer (as we allowed for the final argument to `tcp_listen`) because the length of the socket address structure is required in any calls to `sendto` and `recvfrom`.

Figure 11.15 shows the source code for this function.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 udp_client(const char *host, const char *serv, SA **saptr, socklen_t *lenp)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     struct addrinfo hints, *res, *ressave;
7
8     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
9     hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;
10    hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_DGRAM;
11
12    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
13        err_quit("udp_client error for %s, %s: %s",
14                host, serv, gai_strerror(n));
15    ressave = res;
16
17    do {
18        sockfd = socket(res->ai_family, res->ai_socktype, res->ai_protocol);
19        if (sockfd >= 0)
20            break;          /* success */
21    } while ( (res = res->ai_next) != NULL);
22
23    if (res == NULL)        /* errno set from final socket() */
24        err_sys("udp_client error for %s, %s", host, serv);
25
26    *saptr = Malloc(res->ai_addrlen);
27    memcpy(*saptr, res->ai_addr, res->ai_addrlen);
28    *lenp = res->ai_addrlen;
29
30    freeaddrinfo(ressave);
31
32    return (sockfd);
33 }

```

---

Figure 11.15 `udp_client` function: creates an unconnected UDP socket.

`getaddrinfo` converts the *hostname* and *service* arguments. A datagram socket is created. Memory is allocated for one socket address structure, and the socket address structure corresponding to the socket that was created is copied into the memory.

### Example: Protocol-Independent Daytime Client

We now recode our daytime client from Figure 11.11 to use UDP and our `udp_client` function. Figure 11.16 shows the protocol-independent source code.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 int
3 main(int argc, char **argv)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     char     recvline[MAXLINE + 1];
7     socklen_t salen;
8     struct  sockaddr *sa;
9
10    if (argc != 3)
11        err_quit("usage: daytimeudpcli1 <hostname/IPaddress> <service/port#>");
12
13    sockfd = Udp_client(argv[1], argv[2], (void **) &sa, &salen);
14
15    printf("sending to %s\n", Sock_ntop_host(sa, salen));
16
17    Sendto(sockfd, "", 1, 0, sa, salen);    /* send 1-byte datagram */
18
19    n = Recvfrom(sockfd, recvline, MAXLINE, 0, NULL, NULL);
20    recvline[n] = '\0';    /* null terminate */
21    Fputs(recvline, stdout);
22
23    exit(0);
24 }

```

---

Figure 11.16 UDP daytime client using our `udp_client` function.

12-17 We call our `udp_client` function and then print the IP address and port of the server to which we will send the UDP datagram. We send a one-byte datagram and then read and print the reply.

We need to send only a zero-byte UDP datagram, as what triggers the daytime server's response is just the arrival of a datagram, regardless of its length and contents. But, many SVR4 implementations do not allow a zero-length UDP datagram.

We run our client specifying a hostname that has a AAAA record and an A record. Since the structure with the AAAA record is returned first by `getaddrinfo`, an IPv6 socket is created.

```

freebsd % daytimeudpcli1 aix daytime
sending to 3ffe:b80:1f8d:2:204:acff:fe17:bf38
Sun Jul 27 23:21:12 2003

```

Next, we specify the dotted-decimal address of the same host, resulting in an IPv4 socket.

```

freebsd % daytimeudpcli1 192.168.42.2 daytime
sending to 192.168.42.2
Sun Jul 27 23:21:40 2003

```

## 11.15 udp\_connect Function

Our `udp_connect` function creates a connected UDP socket.

```
#include "unp.h"

int udp_connect(const char *hostname, const char *service);

Returns: connected socket descriptor if OK, no return on error
```

With a connected UDP socket, the final two arguments required by `udp_client` are no longer needed. The caller can call `write` instead of `sendto`, so our function need not return a socket address structure and its length.

Figure 11.17 shows the source code.

```
1 #include      "unp.h"
2 int
3 udp_connect(const char *host, const char *serv)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     struct addrinfo hints, *res, *ressave;
7
8     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
9     hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;
10    hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_DGRAM;
11
12    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
13        err_quit("udp_connect error for %s, %s: %s",
14                host, serv, gai_strerror(n));
15    ressave = res;
16
17    do {
18        sockfd = socket(res->ai_family, res->ai_socktype, res->ai_protocol);
19        if (sockfd < 0)
20            continue;          /* ignore this one */
21
22        if (connect(sockfd, res->ai_addr, res->ai_addrlen) == 0)
23            break;            /* success */
24
25        Close(sockfd);        /* ignore this one */
26    } while ( (res = res->ai_next) != NULL);
27
28    if (res == NULL)          /* errno set from final connect() */
29        err_sys("udp_connect error for %s, %s", host, serv);
30
31    freeaddrinfo(ressave);
32
33    return (sockfd);
34 }
```

*lib/udp\_connect.c*

**Figure 11.17** `udp_connect` function: creates a connected UDP socket.

This function is nearly identical to `tcp_connect`. One difference, however, is that the call to `connect` with a UDP socket does not send anything to the peer. If something is wrong (the peer is unreachable or there is no server at the specified port), the caller does not discover that until it sends a datagram to the peer.

## 11.16 udp\_server Function

Our final UDP function that provides a simpler interface to `getaddrinfo` is `udp_server`.

```
#include "unp.h"

int udp_server(const char *hostname, const char *service, socklen_t *lenptr);

Returns: unconnected socket descriptor if OK, no return on error
```

The arguments are the same as for `tcp_listen`: an optional *hostname*, a required *service* (so its port number can be bound), and an optional pointer to a variable in which the size of the socket address structure is returned.

Figure 11.18 shows the source code.

```

1 #include      "unp.h"
2 int
3 udp_server(const char *host, const char *serv, socklen_t *addrlenp)
4 {
5     int      sockfd, n;
6     struct addrinfo hints, *res, *ressave;
7     bzero(&hints, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
8     hints.ai_flags = AI_PASSIVE;
9     hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;
10    hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_DGRAM;
11    if ( (n = getaddrinfo(host, serv, &hints, &res)) != 0)
12        err_quit("udp_server error for %s, %s: %s",
13                host, serv, gai_strerror(n));
14    ressave = res;
15    do {
16        sockfd = socket(res->ai_family, res->ai_socktype, res->ai_protocol);
17        if (sockfd < 0)
18            continue;          /* error - try next one */
19        if (bind(sockfd, res->ai_addr, res->ai_addrlen) == 0)
20            break;             /* success */
21        Close(sockfd);         /* bind error - close and try next one */
22    } while ( (res = res->ai_next) != NULL);
23    if (res == NULL)           /* errno from final socket() or bind() */
24        err_sys("udp_server error for %s, %s", host, serv);
25    if (addrlenp)
26        *addrlenp = res->ai_addrlen;    /* return size of protocol address */
27    freeaddrinfo(ressave);
28    return (sockfd);
29 }

```

*lib/udp\_server.c*

*lib/udp\_server.c*

**Figure 11.18** `udp_server` function: creates an unconnected socket for a UDP server.

This function is nearly identical to `tcp_listen`, but without the call to `listen`. We set the address family to `AF_UNSPEC`, but the caller can use the same technique that we described with Figure 11.14 to force a particular protocol (IPv4 or IPv6).

We do not set the `SO_REUSEADDR` socket option for the UDP socket because this socket option can allow multiple sockets to bind the same UDP port on hosts that support multicasting, as we described in Section 7.5. Since there is nothing like TCP's `TIME_WAIT` state for a UDP socket, there is no need to set this socket option when the server is started.

### Example: Protocol-Independent Daytime Server

Figure 11.19 shows our daytime server, modified from Figure 11.14 to use UDP.

---

```

1 #include    "unp.h"
2 #include    <time.h>

3 int
4 main(int argc, char **argv)
5 {
6     int      sockfd;
7     ssize_t  n;
8     char     buff[MAXLINE];
9     time_t   ticks;
10    socklen_t len;
11    struct sockaddr_storage cliaddr;

12    if (argc == 2)
13        sockfd = Udp_server(NULL, argv[1], NULL);
14    else if (argc == 3)
15        sockfd = Udp_server(argv[1], argv[2], NULL);
16    else
17        err_quit("usage: daytimeudpsrv [ <host> ] <service or port>");

18    for ( ; ; ) {
19        len = sizeof(cliaddr);
20        n = Recvfrom(sockfd, buff, MAXLINE, 0, (SA *) &cliaddr, &len);
21        printf("datagram from %s\n", Sock_ntop((SA *) &cliaddr, len));

22        ticks = time(NULL);
23        snprintf(buff, sizeof(buff), "%.24s\r\n", ctime(&ticks));
24        Sendto(sockfd, buff, strlen(buff), 0, (SA *) &cliaddr, len);
25    }
26 }

```

---

*names/daytimeudpsrv2.c*

**Figure 11.19** Protocol-independent UDP daytime server.

## 11.17 getnameinfo Function

This function is the complement of `getaddrinfo`: It takes a socket address and returns a character string describing the host and another character string describing the service. This function provides this information in a protocol-independent fashion; that is, the caller does not care what type of protocol address is contained in the socket address structure, as that detail is handled by the function.

```
#include <netdb.h>

int getnameinfo(const struct sockaddr *sockaddr, socklen_t addrlen,
               char *host, socklen_t hostlen,
               char *serv, socklen_t servlen, int flags);
```

Returns: 0 if OK, nonzero on error (see Figure 11.7)

`sockaddr` points to the socket address structure containing the protocol address to be converted into a human-readable string, and `addrlen` is the length of this structure. This structure and its length are normally returned by `accept`, `recvfrom`, `getsockname`, or `getpeername`.

The caller allocates space for the two human-readable strings: `host` and `hostlen` specify the host string, and `serv` and `servlen` specify the service string. If the caller does not want the host string returned, a `hostlen` of 0 is specified. Similarly, a `servlen` of 0 specifies not to return information on the service.

The difference between `sock_ntop` and `getnameinfo` is that the former does not involve the DNS and just returns a printable version of the IP address and port number. The latter normally tries to obtain a name for both the host and service.

Figure 11.20 shows the six *flags* that can be specified to change the operation of `getnameinfo`.

Constant	Description
<code>NI_DGRAM</code>	Datagram service
<code>NI_NAMEREQD</code>	Return an error if name cannot be resolved from address
<code>NI_NOFQDN</code>	Return only hostname portion of FQDN
<code>NI_NUMERICHOST</code>	Return numeric string for hostname
<code>NI_NUMERICSCOPE</code>	Return numeric string for scope identifier
<code>NI_NUMERICSERV</code>	Return numeric string for service name

Figure 11.20 *flags* for `getnameinfo`.

`NI_DGRAM` should be specified when the caller knows it is dealing with a datagram socket. The reason is that given only the IP address and port number in the socket address structure, `getnameinfo` cannot determine the protocol (TCP or UDP). There are a few port numbers that are used for one service with TCP and a completely different service with UDP. An example is port 514, which is the `rsh` service with TCP, but the `syslog` service with UDP.

`NI_NAMEREQD` causes an error to be returned if the hostname cannot be resolved

using the DNS. This can be used by servers that require the client's IP address to be mapped into a hostname. These servers then take this returned hostname and call `getaddrinfo`, and then verify that one of the returned addresses is the address in the socket address structure.

`NI_NOFQDN` causes the returned hostname to be truncated at the first period. For example, if the IP address in the socket address structure was 192.168.42.2, `gethostbyaddr` would return a name of `aix.unpbook.com`. But if this flag was specified to `getnameinfo`, it would return the hostname as just `aix`.

`NI_NUMERICHOST` tells `getnameinfo` not to call the DNS (which can take time). Instead, the numeric representation of the IP address is returned as a string, probably by calling `inet_ntop`. Similarly, `NI_NUMERICSERV` specifies that the decimal port number is to be returned as a string instead of looking up the service name, and `NI_NUMERICSERVICE` specifies that the numeric form of the scope identifier is to be returned instead of its name. Servers should normally specify `NI_NUMERICSERV` because the client port numbers typically have no associated service name—they are ephemeral ports.

The logical OR of multiple flags can be specified if they make sense together (e.g., `NI_DGRAM` and `NI_NUMERICHOST`).

## 11.18 Re-entrant Functions

The `gethostbyname` function from Section 11.3 presents an interesting problem that we have not yet examined in the text: It is not *re-entrant*. We will encounter this problem in general when we deal with threads in Chapter 26, but it is interesting to examine the problem now (without having to deal with the concept of threads) and to see how to fix it.

First, let us look at how the function works. If we look at its source code (which is easy since the source code for the entire BIND release is publicly available), we see that one file contains both `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`, and the file has the following general outline:

```
static struct hostent host;    /* result stored here */

struct hostent *
gethostbyname(const char *hostname)
{
    return(gethostbyname2(hostname, family));
}

struct hostent *
gethostbyname2(const char *hostname, int family)
{
    /* call DNS functions for A or AAAA query */

    /* fill in host structure */

    return(&host);
}
```

```
struct hostent *
gethostbyaddr(const char *addr, socklen_t len, int family)
{
    /* call DNS functions for PTR query in in-addr.arpa domain */

    /* fill in host structure */

    return(&host);
}
```

We highlight the `static` storage class specifier of the result structure because that is the basic problem. The fact that these three functions share a single `host` variable presents yet another problem that we will discuss in Exercise 11.1. (`gethostbyname2` was introduced with the IPv6 support in BIND 4.9.4. It has since been deprecated; see Section 11.20 for more detail. We will ignore the fact that `gethostbyname2` is involved when we call `gethostbyname`, as that doesn't affect this discussion.)

The re-entrancy problem can occur in a normal Unix process that calls `gethostbyname` or `gethostbyaddr` from both the main flow of control and from a signal handler. When the signal handler is called (say it is a `SIGALRM` signal that is generated once per second), the main flow of control of the process is temporarily stopped and the signal handling function is called. Consider the following:

```
main()
{
    struct hostent *hptr;

    ...
    signal(SIGALRM, sig_alm);

    ...
    hptr = gethostbyname( ... );
    ...
}

void
sig_alm(int signo)
{
    struct hostent *hptr;

    ...
    hptr = gethostbyname( ... );
    ...
}
```

If the main flow of control is in the middle of `gethostbyname` when it is temporarily stopped (say the function has filled in the `host` variable and is about to return), and the signal handler then calls `gethostbyname`, since only one copy of the variable `host` exists in the process, it is reused. This overwrites the values that were calculated for the call from the main flow of control with the values calculated for the call from the signal handler.

If we look at the name and address conversion functions presented in this chapter, along with the `inet_XXX` functions from Chapter 4, we note the following:

- Historically, `gethostbyname`, `gethostbyaddr`, `getservbyname`, and `getservbyport` are not re-entrant because all return a pointer to a static structure.

Some implementations that support threads (Solaris 2.x) provide re-entrant versions of these four functions with names ending with the `_r` suffix, which we will describe in the next section.

Alternately, some implementations that support threads (HP-UX 10.30 and later) provide re-entrant versions of these functions using thread-specific data (Section 26.5).

- `inet_pton` and `inet_ntop` are always re-entrant.
- Historically, `inet_ntoa` is not re-entrant, but some implementations that support threads provide a re-entrant version that uses thread-specific data.
- `getaddrinfo` is re-entrant only if it calls re-entrant functions itself; that is, if it calls re-entrant versions of `gethostbyname` for the hostname and `getservbyname` for the service name. One reason that all the memory for the results is dynamically allocated is to allow it to be re-entrant.
- `getnameinfo` is re-entrant only if it calls re-entrant functions itself; that is, if it calls re-entrant versions of `gethostbyaddr` to obtain the hostname and `getservbyport` to obtain the service name. Notice that both result strings (for the hostname and the service name) are allocated by the caller to allow this re-entrancy.

A similar problem occurs with the variable `errno`. Historically, there has been a single copy of this integer variable per process. If a process makes a system call that returns an error, an integer error code is stored in this variable. For example, when the function named `close` in the standard C library is called, it might execute something like the following pseudocode:

- Put the argument to the system call (an integer descriptor) into a register
- Put a value in another register indicating the `close` system call is being called
- Invoke the system call (switch to the kernel with a special instruction)
- Test the value of a register to see if an error occurred
- If no error, return (0)
- Store the value of some other register into `errno`
- return (-1)

First, notice that if an error does not occur, the value of `errno` is not changed. That is why we cannot look at the value of `errno` unless we know that an error has occurred (normally indicated by the function returning `-1`).

Assume a program tests the return value of the `close` function and then prints the value of `errno` if an error occurred, as in the following:

```
if (close(fd) < 0) {
    fprintf(stderr, "close error, errno = %d\n", errno)
    exit(1);
}
```

There is a small window of time between the storing of the error code into `errno` when the system call returns and the printing of this value by the program, during which another thread of execution within this process (i.e., a signal handler) can change the value of `errno`. For example, if, when the signal handler is called, the main flow of control is between `close` and `fprintf` and the signal handler calls some other system call that returns an error (say `write`), then the `errno` value stored from the `write` system call overwrites the value stored by the `close` system call.

In looking at these two problems with regard to signal handlers, one solution to the problem with `gethostbyname` (returning a pointer to a static variable) is to *not* call nonre-entrant functions from a signal handler. The problem with `errno` (a single global variable that can be changed by the signal handler) can be avoided by coding the signal handler to save and restore the value of `errno` in the signal handler as follows:

```
void
sig_alm(int signo)
{
    int  errno_save;

    errno_save = errno;          /* save its value on entry */
    if (write( ... ) != nbytes)
        fprintf(stderr, "write error, errno = %d\n", errno);
    errno = errno_save;         /* restore its value on return */
}
```

In this example code, we also call `fprintf`, a standard I/O function, from the signal handler. This is yet another re-entrancy problem because many versions of the standard I/O library are nonre-entrant: Standard I/O functions should not be called from signal handlers.

We will revisit this problem of re-entrancy in Chapter 26 and we will see how threads handle the problem of the `errno` variable. The next section describes some re-entrant versions of the `hostname` functions.

## 11.19 `gethostbyname_r` and `gethostbyaddr_r` Functions

There are two ways to make a nonre-entrant function such as `gethostbyname` re-entrant.

1. Instead of filling in and returning a static structure, the caller allocates the structure and the re-entrant function fills in the caller's structure. This is the technique used in going from the nonre-entrant `gethostbyname` to the re-entrant `gethostbyname_r`. But, this solution gets more complicated because not only

must the caller provide the `hostent` structure to fill in, but this structure also points to other information: the canonical name, the array of alias pointers, the alias strings, the array of address pointers, and the addresses (e.g., Figure 11.2). The caller must provide one large buffer that is used for this additional information and the `hostent` structure that is filled in then contains numerous pointers into this other buffer. This adds at least three arguments to the function: a pointer to the `hostent` structure to fill in, a pointer to the buffer to use for all the other information, and the size of this buffer. A fourth additional argument is also required: a pointer to an integer in which an error code can be stored, since the global integer `h_errno` can no longer be used. (The global integer `h_errno` presents the same re-entrancy problem that we described with `errno`.)

This technique is also used by `getnameinfo` and `inet_ntop`.

2. The re-entrant function calls `malloc` and dynamically allocates the memory. This is the technique used by `getaddrinfo`. The problem with this approach is that the application calling this function must also call `freeaddrinfo` to free the dynamic memory. If the free function is not called, a *memory leak* occurs: Each time the process calls the function that allocates the memory, the memory use of the process increases. If the process runs for a long time (a common trait of network servers), the memory usage just grows and grows over time.

We will now discuss the Solaris 2.x re-entrant functions for name-to-address and address-to-name resolution.

```
#include <netdb.h>

struct hostent *gethostbyname_r(const char *hostname,
                               struct hostent *result,
                               char *buf, int buflen, int *h_errnop);

struct hostent *gethostbyaddr_r(const char *addr, int len, int type,
                               struct hostent *result,
                               char *buf, int buflen, int *h_errnop);
```

Both return: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error

Four additional arguments are required for each function. `result` is a `hostent` structure allocated by the caller. It is filled in by the function. On success, this pointer is also the return value of the function.

`buf` is a buffer allocated by the caller and `buflen` is its size. This buffer will contain the canonical hostname, the alias pointers, the alias strings, the address pointers, and the actual addresses. All the pointers in the structure pointed to by `result` point into this buffer. How big should this buffer be? Unfortunately, all that most man pages say is something vague like, “The buffer must be large enough to hold all of the data associated with the host entry.” Current implementations of `gethostbyname` can return up to 35 alias pointers and 35 address pointers, and internally use an 8192-byte buffer to hold alias names and addresses. So, a buffer size of 8192 bytes should be adequate.

If an error occurs, the error code is returned through the `h_errnop` pointer, not

through the global `h_errno`.

Unfortunately, this problem of re-entrancy is even worse than it appears. First, there is no standard regarding re-entrancy and `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`. The POSIX specification says that `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr` need not be re-entrant. Unix 98 just says that these two functions need not be thread-safe.

Second, there is no standard for the `_r` functions. What we have shown in this section (for example purposes) are two of the `_r` functions provided by Solaris 2.x. Linux provides similar `_r` functions, except that instead of returning the `hostent` as the return value of the function, the `hostent` is returned using a value-result parameter as the next to last function argument. It returns the success of the lookup as the return value from the function as well as in the `h_errno` argument. Digital Unix 4.0 and HP-UX 10.30 have versions of these functions with different arguments. The first two arguments for `gethostbyname_r` are the same as the Solaris version, but the remaining three arguments for the Solaris version are combined into a new `hostent_data` structure (which must be allocated by the caller), and a pointer to this structure is the third and final argument. The normal functions `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr` in Digital Unix 4.0 and HP-UX 10.30 are re-entrant by using thread-specific data (Section 26.5). An interesting history of the development of the Solaris 2.x `_r` functions is in [Maslen 1997].

Lastly, while a re-entrant version of `gethostbyname` may provide safety from different threads calling it at the same time, this says nothing about the re-entrancy of the underlying resolver functions.

## 11.20 Obsolete IPv6 Address Lookup Functions

While IPv6 was being developed, the API to request the lookup of an IPv6 address went through several iterations. The resulting API was complicated and not sufficiently flexible, so it was deprecated in RFC 2553 [Gilligan et al. 1999]. RFC 2553 introduced its own new functions, which were finally simply replaced by `getaddrinfo` and `getnameinfo` in RFC 3493 [Gilligan et al. 2003]. This section briefly describes some of the old API to assist in the conversion of programs using the old API.

### The `RES_USE_INET6` Constant

Since `gethostbyname` doesn't have an argument to specify what address family is of interest (like `getaddrinfo`'s `hints.ai_family` struct entry), the first revision of the API used the `RES_USE_INET6` constant, which had to be added to the resolver flags using a private, internal interface. This API was not very portable since systems that used a different internal resolver interface had to mimic the BIND resolver interface to provide it.

Enabling `RES_USE_INET6` caused `gethostbyname` to look up AAAA records first, and only look up A records if a name had no AAAA records. Since the `hostent` structure only has one address length field, `gethostbyname` could only return either IPv6 or IPv4 addresses, but not both.

Enabling `RES_USE_INET6` also caused `gethostbyname2` to return IPv4 addresses as IPv4-mapped IPv6 addresses. We will describe `gethostbyname2` next.

## The `gethostbyname2` Function

The `gethostbyname2` function adds an address family argument to `gethostbyname`.

```
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <netdb.h>
```

```
struct hostent *gethostbyname2(const char *name, int af);
```

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error with `h_errno` set

When the `af` argument is `AF_INET`, `gethostbyname2` behaves just like `gethostbyname`, looking up and returning IPv4 addresses. When the `af` argument is `AF_INET6`, `gethostbyname2` looks up and returns only AAAA records for IPv6 addresses.

## The `getipnodebyname` Function

RFC 2553 [Gilligan et al. 1999] deprecated `RES_USE_INET6` and `gethostbyname2` because of the global nature of the `RES_USE_INET6` flag and the wish to provide more control over the returned information. It introduced the `getipnodebyname` function to solve some of these problems.

```
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <netdb.h>
```

```
struct hostent *getipnodebyname(const char *name, int af,
                                int flags, int *error_num);
```

Returns: non-null pointer if OK, NULL on error with `error_num` set

This function returns a pointer to the same `hostent` structure that we described with `gethostbyname`. The `af` and `flags` arguments map directly to `getaddrinfo`'s `hints.ai_family` and `hints.ai_flags` arguments. For thread safety, the return value is dynamically allocated, so it must be freed with the `freehostent` function.

```
#include <netdb.h>
```

```
void freehostent(struct hostent *ptr);
```

The `getipnodebyname` and its matching `getipnodebyaddr` functions are deprecated by RFC 3493 [Gilligan et al. 2003] in favor of `getaddrinfo` and `getnameinfo`.

## 11.21 Other Networking Information

Our focus in this chapter has been on hostnames and IP addresses and service names and their port numbers. But looking at the bigger picture, there are four types of information (related to networking) that an application might want to look up: hosts, networks, protocols, and services. Most lookups are for hosts (`gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`), with a smaller number for services (`getservbyname` and `getservbyaddr`), and an even smaller number for networks and protocols.

All four types of information can be stored in a file and three functions are defined for each of the four types:

1. A `getXXXent` function that reads the next entry in the file, opening the file if necessary.
2. A `setXXXent` function that opens (if not already open) and rewinds the file.
3. An `endXXXent` function that closes the file.

Each of the four types of information defines its own structure, and the following definitions are provided by including the `<netdb.h>` header: the `hostent`, `netent`, `protoent`, and `servent` structures.

In addition to the three `get`, `set`, and `end` functions, which allow sequential processing of the file, each of the four types of information provides some *keyed lookup* functions. These functions go through the file sequentially (calling the `getXXXent` function to read each line), but instead of returning each line to the caller, these functions look for an entry that matches an argument. These keyed lookup functions have names of the form `getXXXbyYYY`. For example, the two keyed lookup functions for the host information are `gethostbyname` (look for an entry that matches a hostname) and `gethostbyaddr` (look for an entry that matches an IP address). Figure 11.21 summarizes this information.

Information	Data file	Structure	Keyed lookup functions
Hosts	<code>/etc/hosts</code>	<code>hostent</code>	<code>gethostbyaddr</code> , <code>gethostbyname</code>
Networks	<code>/etc/networks</code>	<code>netent</code>	<code>getnetbyaddr</code> , <code>getnetbyname</code>
Protocols	<code>/etc/protocols</code>	<code>protoent</code>	<code>getprotobyname</code> , <code>getprotobynumber</code>
Services	<code>/etc/services</code>	<code>servent</code>	<code>getservbyname</code> , <code>getservbyport</code>

**Figure 11.21** Four types of network-related information.

How does this apply when the DNS is being used? First, only the host and network information is available through the DNS. The protocol and service information is always read from the corresponding file. We mentioned earlier in this chapter (with Figure 11.1) that different implementations employ different ways for the administrator to specify whether to use the DNS or a file for the host and network information.

Second, if the DNS is being used for the host and network information, then only the keyed lookup functions make sense. You cannot, for example, use `gethostent` and expect to sequence through all entries in the DNS! If `gethostent` is called, it reads only the `/etc/hosts` file and avoids the DNS.

Although the network information can be made available through the DNS, few people set this up. [Albitz and Liu 2001] describes this feature. Typically, however, administrators build and maintain an `/etc/networks` file and it is used instead of the DNS. The `netstat` program with the `-i` option uses this file, if present, and prints the name for each network. However, classless addressing (Section A.4) makes these functions fairly useless, and these functions do not support IPv6 at all, so new applications should avoid using network names.

## 11.22 Summary

The set of functions that an application calls to convert a hostname into an IP address and vice versa is called the resolver. The two functions `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr` are the historical entry points. With the move to IPv6 and threaded programming models, the `getaddrinfo` and `getnameinfo` functions are more useful, with the ability to resolve IPv6 addresses and their thread-safe calling conventions.

The commonly used function dealing with service names and port numbers is `getservbyname`, which takes a service name and returns a structure containing the port number. This mapping is normally contained in a text file. Additional functions exist to map protocol names into protocol numbers and network names into network numbers, but these are rarely used.

Another alternative that we have not mentioned is calling the resolver functions directly, instead of using `gethostbyname` and `gethostbyaddr`. One program that invokes the DNS this way is `sendmail`, which searches for an MX record, something that the `gethostbyXXX` functions cannot do. The resolver functions have names that begin with `res_`; the `res_init` function is an example. A description of these functions and an example program that calls them can be found in Chapter 15 of [Albitz and Liu 2001] and typing `man resolver` should display the man pages for these functions.

## Exercises

- 11.1 Modify the program in Figure 11.3 to call `gethostbyaddr` for each returned address, and then print the `h_name` that is returned. First run the program specifying a hostname with just one IP address and then run the program specifying a hostname that has more than one IP address. What happens?
- 11.2 Fix the problem shown in the preceding exercise.
- 11.3 Run Figure 11.4 specifying a service name of `chargen`.

- 11.4 Run Figure 11.4 specifying a dotted-decimal IP address as the hostname. Does your resolver allow this? Modify Figure 11.4 to allow a dotted-decimal IP address as the hostname and a decimal port number string as the service name. In testing the IP address for either a dotted-decimal string or a hostname, in what order should these two tests be performed?
- 11.5 Modify Figure 11.4 to work with either IPv4 or IPv6.
- 11.6 Modify Figure 8.9 to query the DNS and compare the returned IP address with all the destination host's IP addresses. That is, call `gethostbyaddr` using the IP address returned by `recvfrom`, followed by `gethostbyname` to find all the IP addresses for the host.
- 11.7 In Figure 11.12, the caller must pass a pointer to an integer to obtain the size of the protocol address. If the caller does not do this (i.e., passes a null pointer as the final argument), how can the caller still obtain the actual size of the protocol's addresses?
- 11.8 Modify Figure 11.14 to call `getnameinfo` instead of `sock_ntop`. What flags should you pass to `getnameinfo`?
- 11.9 In Section 7.5, we discussed port stealing with the `SO_REUSEADDR` socket option. To see how this works, build the protocol-independent UDP daytime server in Figure 11.19. Start one instance of the server in one window, binding the wildcard address and some port of your choosing. Start a client in another window and verify that this server is handling the client (note the `printf` in the server). Next, start another instance of the server in another window, this time binding one of the host's unicast addresses and the same port as the first server. What problem do you immediately encounter? Fix this problem and restart this second server. Start a client, send a datagram, and verify that the second server has stolen the port from the first server. If possible, start the second server again from a different login account on the first server to see if the stealing still succeeds. Some vendors will not allow the second bind unless the user ID is the same as that of the process that has already bound the port.
- 11.10 At the end of Section 2.12, we showed two `telnet` examples: to the daytime server and to the echo server. Knowing that a client goes through the two steps `gethostbyname` and `connect`, which lines output by the client indicate which steps?
- 11.11 `getnameinfo` can take a long time (up to 80 seconds) to return an error if a hostname cannot be found for an IP address. Write a new function named `getnameinfo_timeout` that takes an additional integer argument specifying the maximum number of seconds to wait for a reply. If the timer expires and the `NI_NAMEREQD` flag is not specified, just call `inet_ntop` and return an address string.