

Exercises

- 1 Implement the following server [template: sockets/ex.is_shell_sv.c]:

```
is_shell_sv <port>
```

The server creates a socket that listens on the specified port and accepts client requests containing shell commands. (⚠ Each client sends just **one** command to the server.) The server concurrently handles clients, executing each client's command, and passing the results back across the client's socket.

Some hints:

- To keep things simple, the server should obtain the client command by doing a single `read()` (not my `readLine()` function!) of a large buffer, on the (imperfect) assumption that that will retrieve the largest command the client might send. A more sophisticated solution would involve the use of `shutdown(fd, SHUT_WR)` (covered later) in the client, and a loop which reads until end-of-file in the server.
- Easy execution of a shell command:
`execl("/bin/sh", "sh", "-c", cmd, (char *) NULL);`
- To have the command send `stdout` (and `stderr`!) to the socket, use `dup2()`.
- Checking all system calls for errors will save you a lot of grief (really!).
- Need to write debugging output in the server? Open `/dev/tty`.
- Even without writing a client (which is a following exercise), you can test the server using `ncat`: `ncat <host> <port-number> <<< "cmd"`

Exercises

Once you have a working server and client, you can make it more robust by checking the following test cases:

- 1 `while true; do ncat <host> <port> <<< 'false'; done`
If we create lots of children, is the server reaping the zombies?
- 2 `ncat <host> <port> <<< 'sleep 1'`
Does this cause `accept()` in the server to fail with an error?
- 3 `ncat <host> <port> <<< 'rubbish'`
Does a suitable error message appear for the client?
- 4 `ncat <host> <port> <<< 'ls nonexistent-file'`
Does the error message from `ls` appear for the client?
- 5 `ncat <host> <port> <<< "echo $(seq 1 1000000 | tr -d '\012')"`
Does a very long command either get executed correctly or produce a suitable error message from the server?
- 6 Does your server handle the possibility that `fork()` may fail, by sending a suitable error message back to the client? Test this by modifying the code to replace the call to `fork()` with code that simply yields the value -1.

Note: “<<<” is `bash`-specific syntax meaning take standard input from the following command-line argument.