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Subject: Re: strange behaviour of SOCKET

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 21 Aug 2008 10:05:06 GMT

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pgrigis@gmail.com wrote:

- > Hi folks,
- >
- > for some mysterious reasons, socket is not working anymore
- > for me. I can access files in my own internet domain (i.e.
- > harvard.edu)
- > but I cannot access files [i.e. readf on the unit given by socket
- > hangs]
- > outside that domain (using HTTP GET commands).
- > I tried spawn, 'wget ...' from the same command line and this can get
- > files from everywhere.
- > Notice that "socket" itself and printf,unit both work (or at least
- > do not give troubles), is only readf,unit that hangs.
- >
- > So the question is: how is socket different than wget?
- > If this is a firewall issue, what settings are causing this?
- >

wget will use an environment variable called http\_proxy. Try:

```
echo $http_proxy
```

and see what you get. If they recently introduced a web proxy then the above could have been set system-wide by your system admin.

Assuming you can figure out what the proxy is, you can \*probably\* just ask socket to connect to this proxy and then ask for your file in the normal way. i.e. connect to your webproxy but send it a GET command containing a full URL at another domain.

- > I know this is not much information to go on, but this issue
- > seems pretty hard to track down, so I just thought I could ask
- > here before trying more desperate measures...

Another issue could be that the proxy is transparent and it's recently been updated and doesn't like the form of your GET commands. There is all sorts of extra rubbish you're supposed to supply (check the RFC) but that aren't usually necessary. Your proxy maybe just got a bit more picky - you'd expect an error message to come back from your read if this was the case but who knows.

You can also just try using telnet:

```
>telnet www.google.com 80
```

Trying 216.239.59.99...  
Connected to www.google.com (216.239.59.99).  
Escape character is '^]'.  
GET http://www.google.com/

which will cut IDL out of the loop but pretty much simulate what socket  
is trying to do.

Thanks,

Allan

>  
> Ciao,  
> Paolo  
>

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