
Subject: Re: Get time and date from a server using a socket
Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Thu, 26 Feb 2009 08:21:04 GMT
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bernat wrote:

> Hello people,
>
> I'm trying to get the time and date from a public server using this
> code:
>
> SOCKET, 1, servername, 13
> date=""
> READF, 1, date
> CLOSE, 1
> PRINT, date
>
> I tried to get the date from all the servers that I found in the
> following link: <http://tf.nist.gov/tf-cgi/servers.cgi>
>
> The port 13 is the port for the daytime but I tried with 37 and 123
> ports (time and NTP protocol).
> I can't obtain a good result. Does anybody tried that ? Any
> suggestions or comments ?
>
> Thanks in advance,
>
> Bernat
>
>

Bernat,

NTP uses UDP rather than TCP for communication. Socket only does (as far as I know) TCP communication. I don't think IDL can (easily) do UDP. Probably spawning an external program is the way to go if you want to use NTP over UDP. I have no idea about the other protocols.

If it's useful, the unix command "ntpddate -q servername" will attempt to speak NTP for you and print the time back to the screen.

You should also check that firewalls, either on your local machine or at your connection to the internet, aren't blocking things. Some large organisations run their own time servers and block access to external ones.

Stepping back from the problem (and making some assumptions) another possible solution is probably for you to run time synchronization software on your local computer so that the time and date are always correct when just ask IDL for the local system time.

Thanks,

Allan
