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Subject: [SOLVED] TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [steffen](#) on Tue, 11 Mar 2014 11:35:57 GMT  
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Hi,

Newest uppsrc revision 7033.

Here on my Ubuntu 12.04 workstation I see a problem with TcpSocket.Connect, it always returns true, even if no server is listening at the other end:

```
TcpSocket client_socket;  
client_socket.Timeout(5000);  
if (client_socket.Connect("127.0.0.1", 12345)) // Connect to non existing server  
{  
    LOG("ERROR, Connect returned true");  
}  
else  
{  
    LOG("Correct, The connection could not be established");  
}
```

The doc mentions the operation is blocking, but it is not. It does not say anything about the return value, I just assume it would be true on success.

It works if I comment the O\_NONBLOCK from Socket.cpp->TcpSocket::SetupSocket(), like this:  
if(fcntl(socket, F\_SETFL, (fcntl(socket, F\_GETFL, 0)/\* | O\_NONBLOCK\*/))) {  
I discovered this while trying to connect to a slow server and the not so reader friendly  
TcpSocket::RawConnect function passed on the SOCKERR(EINPROGRESS) check. No matter if  
a connection was established or not.

I don't have the in depth knowledge on the upp code base, to say if removing the O\_NONBLOCK will cause undesired problems in other places.

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [mirek](#) on Wed, 12 Mar 2014 09:52:47 GMT  
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steffen wrote on Tue, 11 March 2014 07:35Hi,

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It works if I comment the `O_NONBLOCK` from `Socket.cpp->TcpSocket::SetupSocket()`, like this:  
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I discovered this while trying to connect to a slow server and the not so reader friendly `TcpSocket::RawConnect` function passed on the `SOCKERR(EINPROGRESS)` check. No matter if a connection was established or not.

I don't have the in depth knowledge on the upp code base, to say if removing the `O_NONBLOCK` will cause undesired problems in other places.

The documentation is misleading. It is only blocking w.r.t. DNS resolve.

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [steffen](#) on Wed, 12 Mar 2014 16:24:40 GMT  
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Thanks Mirek,

But what about the return value? I would expect `TcpSocket.Connect` to return true, when it has established a connection.

This is definitely not how it works, if the server is not responding.

I looked at the Linux man page on connect and for non blocking connections it says the following:  
Quote:EINPROGRESS

The socket is nonblocking and the connection cannot be completed immediately.

It is possible to `select(2)` or `poll(2)` for completion by selecting the socket for writing.

After `select(2)` indicates writability, use `getsockopt(2)` to read the `SO_ERROR` option at level `SOL_SOCKET` to determine whether `connect()` completed successfully (`SO_ERROR` is zero) or unsuccessfully

(`SO_ERROR` is one of the usual error codes listed here, explaining the reason for the failure).

I have attached a small example showing the error and the solution mentioned in the man page:  
When connecting to a non existing server, `TcpSocket.Connect` returns true, but fails on a subsequent write.

I have tested the example on both Windows and Linux, and both systems has the error.

So a solution could be one of these two:

1. Change TcpSocket::SetupSocket() to make a blocking socket:

Change Socket.cpp line 302 to

```
if(fcntl(socket, F_SETFL, (fcntl(socket, F_GETFL, 0)))) {
```

or

2. Implement the getsockopt call to check the connection before returning from RawConnect.

I can make a patch to RawConnect if you would prefer that solution.

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## File Attachments

1) [TcpSocketTest.7z](#), downloaded 343 times

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error

Posted by [mirek](#) on Wed, 12 Mar 2014 18:07:20 GMT

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Well, this variant of Connect actually returns 'true' if host name was resolved, false if not.

It should be possible to make things blocking using WaitWrite after Connect, then error can be checked (Wait actually calls select).

In fact, I guess Connect should be changed to the call itself.

Mirek

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error

Posted by [steffen](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 07:28:04 GMT

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I used the WaitWrite in the Connect2 function in my example, but checking errno just after the WaitWrite returns, it still shows 115 (EINPROGRESS).

It only works if I call getsockopt afterwards, then optval is set to 111 (Connection refused).

I have improved the logging in my example, so now the output is like this:

Quote:Test1 Connecting

After Connect: 115 Operation now in progress

Connected

Sending: My Test String

ERROR: 111 Connection refused

Test2 Connecting

After WaitWrite: 115 Operation now in progress  
optval: 111 Connection refused  
SUCCESS: No Connection to non existing server.

Test1 is getting the error after the first write attempt, but it should have failed on connect.  
Test2 calls getsockopt and detects the missing connection correctly.

## File Attachments

1) [TcpSocketTest.cpp](#), downloaded 348 times

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error

Posted by [steffen](#) on Thu, 13 Mar 2014 07:43:42 GMT

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Here is a patched version of RawConnect, I have NOT tried it with IPv6:

```
bool TcpSocket::RawConnect(addrinfo *arp)
{
    if(!arp) {
        SetSockError("connect", -1, "not found");
        return false;
    }
    String err;
    for(int pass = 0; pass < 2; pass++) {
        addrinfo *rp = arp;
        while(rp)
        {
            if(rp->ai_family == AF_INET == !pass) // Try to connect IPv4 in the first pass
            {
                if (Open(rp->ai_family, rp->ai_socktype, rp->ai_protocol))
                {
                    int r = connect(socket, rp->ai_addr, (int)rp->ai_addrlen);
                    if(r != 0)
                    {
                        if (WaitWrite())
                        {
                            int optval = 0;
                            socklen_t optlen = sizeof(optval);
                            if (getsockopt(GetSOCKET(), SOL_SOCKET, SO_ERROR, (char*)&optval, &optlen) == 0)
                            {
                                if (optval == 0)
                                    r = 0;
                                else
                                {
                                    if(err.GetCount())
                                        err << '\n';
                                    err << TcpSocketErrorDesc(optval);
                                }
                            }
                        }
                    }
                }
            }
            rp = rp->ai_next;
        }
    }
}
```

```

    }
    }
    }
    }
    if (r == 0)
    {
        mode = CONNECT;
        return true;
    }
    if(err.GetCount())
        err << '\n';
    err << TcpSocketErrorDesc(GetErrorCode());
    Close();
}
}
rp = rp->ai_next;
}
}
SetSockError("connect", -1, Nvl(err, "failed"));
return false;
}

```

And the output from my connect test is:

Quote:Test1 Connecting

SUCCESS: No Connection to non existing server.

Test2 Connecting

SUCCESS: No Connection to non existing server.

Regards,  
Steffen

Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error

Posted by [mirek](#) on Sun, 23 Mar 2014 16:16:51 GMT

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I am sorry for the delay, I had to think this through....

I am afraid I would not be happy with this change as proposed. The problem is that one of aims of non-blocking sockets was ability to provide the fully asynchronous mode of operation, as e.g. demonstrated in reference/GuiWebCrawler, where a multitude of HttpRequests is running concurrently, in single thread.

By adding Wait into Connect in this exact way, this would no longer be possible, as Connect would start waiting for the connection (would be now blocking).

That said, I understand that current behaviour is not quite correct too, I just do not see the 'right'

solution here now....

Mirek

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error

Posted by [steffen](#) on Mon, 24 Mar 2014 07:22:09 GMT

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Hi Mirek,

Thank you for the answer. I thought it might be complicated and I understand you concerns. I have another suggestion then, that wont break anything:

Could you add a function that can be called prior to Connect, where one can determine if the socket should be blocking or not?

Storing a member variable containing either O\_BLOCK or O\_NONBLOCK and then use this variable in the SetupSocket function.

```
bool TcpSocket::SetupSocket()
{
#ifdef PLATFORM_WIN32
    connection_start = msecs();
    u_long arg = 1;
    if(ioctlsocket(socket, FIONBIO, &arg)) {
        SetSockError("ioctlsocket(FIO[N]BIO)");
        return false;
    }
#else
#ifdef PLATFORM_BSD
    connection_start = msecs();
#endif
    if(fcntl(socket, F_SETFL, (fcntl(socket, F_GETFL, 0) | O_NONBLOCK))) {
        SetSockError("fcntl(O_[NON]BLOCK)");
        return false;
    }
#endif
    return true;
}
```

Would be something like this:

```
bool TcpSocket::SetupSocket()
{
#ifdef PLATFORM_WIN32
    connection_start = msecs();
    u_long arg = 1;
    if(ioctlsocket(socket, mBlockingMode, &arg)) {
        SetSockError("ioctlsocket(FIO[N]BIO)");
        return false;
    }
}
```

```
}  
#else  
#ifdef PLATFORM_BSD  
    connection_start = msecs();  
#endif  
if(fcntl(socket, F_SETFL, (fcntl(socket, F_GETFL, 0) | mBlockingMode))) {  
    SetSockError("fcntl(O_[NON]BLOCK)");  
    return false;  
}  
#endif  
return true;  
}
```

As I wrote earlier, commenting out the O\_NONBLOCK part also gives correct result.

Regards,  
Steffen

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [mirek](#) on Mon, 24 Mar 2014 09:21:31 GMT  
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On the second thought, Connect with host/port is documented as blocking. Perhaps we could add waiting for write or just (temporary) switch to blocking socket just for this Connect variant?

Mirek

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [steffen](#) on Mon, 24 Mar 2014 11:02:43 GMT  
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Yes it would be correct according to documentation, but wouldn't it break the web crawler example?

It seems like I always end up struggling with the same parts when doing communication code. There is excellent helper functions for detecting read and write readiness. But I often have problems with the connection part, either because of slow lines or servers being offline. It could be a great help if there was an IsConnected() function and/or a WaitConnect() function, like the WaitRead and WaitWrite functions.

Regards,  
Steffen

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [mirek](#) on Tue, 01 Apr 2014 17:51:27 GMT  
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I have now added "WaitConnect", please check.

I am yet undecided whether to add WaitConnect at the end of Connect... for now, I have changed docs.

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Subject: Re: TcpSocket Connect error  
Posted by [steffen](#) on Wed, 02 Apr 2014 05:02:52 GMT  
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Thank you very much Mirek, it works fine now.

Just leave it out of Connect. It's easy enough to do:

```
if (socket.Connect(...) && socket.WaitConnect())
{
    // Connected
}
else
{
    LOG(socket.GetErrorDesc());
}
```

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