

Network

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REVISION HISTORY

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Contents

1	Network	1
1.1	Audio	1
1.2	background	1
1.3	closenetworkconnexion	3
1.4	closenetworkserver	3
1.5	createnetworkserver	3
1.6	initnetwork	4
1.7	networkclientid	4
1.8	networkevent	4
1.9	networkserverevent	4
1.10	opennetworkconnexion	5
1.11	receivenetworkdata	5
1.12	receivenetworkfile	5
1.13	receivenetworkstring	6
1.14	sendnetworkdata	6
1.15	sendnetworkfile	6
1.16	sendnetworkstring	7

Chapter 1

Network

1.1 Audio

PureBasic - Network

Networks are widely spreaded all over the world and allow computers to communicate easily. PureBasic supports the official Internet protocol to exchange data: TCP/IP. This allows to write applications or games using this protocol, using the well known 'client-server' model. With these commands, it's possible to create any kind of internet like applications (browser, web server, ftp client...) or fast multiplayer games. To use these commands, you need a TCP/IP stack, like MIAMI or AmiTCP.

Priliminary explanations

Commands summary:

CloseNetworkConnexion
CloseNetworkServer
CreateNetworkServer
InitNetwork
NetworkClientID
NetworkEvent
NetworkServerEvent
OpenNetworkConnexion
ReceiveNetworkData
ReceiveNetworkFile
ReceiveNetworkString
SendNetworkData
SendNetworkFile
SendNetworkString

Network Client Demo
Network Server Demo

1.2 background

General Informations:

This piece of text is a little attempt to explain the basics of the client/server model and the TCP/IP protocol. This doesn't mean that all informations provided are complete nor 100% accurate.

TCP/IP:

This is a software only transfer protocol developed in the 70's to send and receive data from any location. The goal was to provide a flexible way to send big files without lot of overhead. In few words, the files are splitted down in many little parts (called 'packets') and sent one by one. Once it's on the network, the packet can take any way to reach the destination, and it's the software's part to repack all the little parts into one file. Each computer must have an own IP Address which is composed of 4 numbers (each number can take a value from 0 to 255) and a subnet mask (4 numbers too). Ex:

Address IP : 192.0.3.25
Subnet mask: 255.255.0.0

An IP address must be unique on the network, else there is a conflict (the packets don't know which computer to go to). On a local network (LAN: Local Area Network) the subnet mask must be the same on all computers, else it will have some problems.

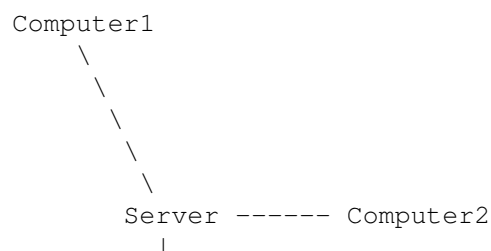
Special IPs:

127.0.0.1: Local IP. Each computer has this IP which represents himself. (called 'Loopback' too). This IP is very handy for programmers (you can test the client/server programs without being connected to any network)

255.255.255.255: never use this one, it's reserved for Broadcasting.

Client/Server:

This is a generic term which is widely used thanks to the internet. You guessed it, internet itself is a client/server like entity. Here is a little graphic to show how it looks:



```
    |  
    |  
Computer3
```

Ok, so if the Computer1 wants to send something to Computer2, it must send the data to the server and the server will send it to Computer2. The server is a bit like a dispatcher. It takes the data from a computer and sends it to another (or sends the requester information to this computer). A server can have any number of clients.

Maybe these little informations help you to build nice and fast internet based applications with PureBasic !

See you,

AlphaSND.

1.3 closenetworkconnexion

SYNTAX

```
CloseNetworkConnexion()
```

STATEMENT

Close the current connexion and send a notification to the server.

1.4 closenetworkserver

SYNTAX

```
CloseNetworkServer()
```

STATEMENT

Shutdown the currently running server. All clients connected to this server are automatically removed. The port is freed and can be reused by another application.

1.5 createnetworkserver

SYNTAX

```
Result = CreateNetworkServer(Port)
```

FUNCTION

Create a new network server on the local computer at the specified port. Port values can go from 6000 to 7000 (this is a recommended area space). Any number of servers can run simultaneously on the same computer but not with the same port number. If the 'Result' is NULL, the server can't be created (port in use), else the server has been correctly

created and is ready to use.

Port: Port number for this server

1.6 initnetwork

SYNTAX

```
Result.l = InitNetwork()
```

FUNCTION

This is the initroutine that always must be called before using any other routines in the Network library. This function attempts to open the 'bsdsocket.library'. If the 'Result is NULL, there is no TCP/IP stack available on the system, otherwise everything is initialized correctly.

1.7 networkclientid

SYNTAX

```
ClientID = NetworkClientID()
```

STATEMENT

This command is only needed on the server side. It's needed to know which client has sent the data.

1.8 networkevent

SYNTAX

```
Result = NetworkEvent()
```

STATEMENT

Not NULL if an information has been received via the Network and needs to be processed. After a NetworkEvent(), you can typically use commands like: ReceiveNetworkString(), ReceiveNetworkData(), etc..

1.9 networkserverevent

SYNTAX

```
EventInfo = NetworkServerEvent()
```

STATEMENT

Returns not NULL if an information has been received from a client actually connected to the server. To know which client has sent something, just use the NetworkClientID() command.

The return 'EventInfo' can take several values:

0: nothing has happened on the server.
2: a client has sent raw data
3: a client has sent a string (with SendNetworkString())
4: a client has quitted the connexion to the server
5: a client has sent a file (with SendNetworkFile())

1.10 opennetworkconnexion

SYNTAX

```
Result = OpenNetworkConnexion(ServerName$, Port)
```

STATEMENT

Try to open a connexion on the specified server. 'ServerName\$' can be an IP address or a full name (ie: "127.0.0.1" or "ftp.home.net"). If the connexion has been granted by the server the Result is not NULL, else the connexion has failed.

ServerName\$: Name or IP address of the computer which hosts the server to connect.

Port: Port number of the running server (see CreateNetworkServer).

1.11 receivenetworkdata

SYNTAX

```
ReceiveNetworkData(ClientID, *DataBuffer, Length)
```

STATEMENT

Receive raw data from the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which has sent the String. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to get the data which is actually in the network queue.

The data is read into the specified *DataBuffer.

1.12 receivenetworkfile

SYNTAX

```
ReceiveNetworkFile(ClientID, FileName$)
```

STATEMENT

Receive a file from the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which has sent the String. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to get the string which is actually in the network queue.

The file must have been sent by using the specific `SendNetworkFile()` command.

1.13 receivenetworkstring

SYNTAX

```
String$ = ReceiveNetworkString(ClientID)
```

STATEMENT

Receive a string from the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which has sent the String. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to get the string which is actually in the network queue.

The string must have been sent by using the specific `SendNetworkString()` command.

1.14 sendnetworkdata

SYNTAX

```
SendNetworkData(ClientID, *MemoryBuffer, Length)
```

STATEMENT

Send raw data to the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which should receive this data. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to send the data via the current connexion (created with `OpenNetworkConnexion()`).

1.15 sendnetworkfile

SYNTAX

```
SendNetworkFile(ClientID, FileName$)
```

STATEMENT

Send a full file to the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which should receive this data. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to send the data via the current connexion (created with `OpenNetworkConnexion()`).

The file is sent using very specific (and proof) methods. It must be received with the `ReceiveNetworkFile()` command.

This command locks the program execution until the whole file has been send.

1.16 sendnetworkstring

SYNTAX

```
SendNetworkFile(ClientID, String$)
```

STATEMENT

Send a string to the specified client. This command can be used by both client and server applications. On server side, 'ClientID' is the client which should receive this data. On a client side, just use '0' as 'ClientID' to send the data via the current connexion (created with OpenNetworkConnexion()).

The string is sent using very specific (and proof) methods. It must be received with the ReceiveNetworkString() command.