# socat Bidirectional byte relay

## CONCEPTS

socat <addr1> <addr2> opens two endpoints and copies bytes both ways between them. Everything else is choosing the two addresses.

**Address 1** TYPE:args,options
↓ both ways
**socat** relay loop
↓ both ways
**Address 2** TYPE:args,options

An address is TYPE:arg:arg,option,option=value. Options follow the commas; the type name is case-insensitive.

## BASICS

`socat <addr1> <addr2>`
Relay between two addresses

`socat - <addr>`
Connect stdin/stdout to an address

`socat -u <addr1> <addr2>`
One way only: first read, second write

`socat -d -d <addr1> <addr2>`
Log more: -d notices, -d -d info

`socat -v <addr1> <addr2>`
Dump transferred text to stderr

`socat -T <secs> <addr1> <addr2>`
Quit after this much inactivity

## TCP AND UDP

`socat - TCP:<host>:<port>`
Connect to a TCP port

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<port> -`
Listen for one TCP connection

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<port>,fork,reuseaddr -`
Serve each client in a child process

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<port>,bind=<ip> -`
Listen on one local address only

## TCP AND UDP (cont.)

`socat - UDP:<host>:<port>`
Send and receive UDP datagrams

## UNIX SOCKETS AND FILES

`socat UNIX-LISTEN:<path>,fork -`
Listen on a Unix socket

`socat - UNIX-CONNECT:<path>`
Connect to a Unix socket

## FORWARD AND PROXY

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<lport>,fork,reuseaddr TCP:<host>:<port>`
Forward a local port to a remote one

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<lport>,fork,bind=<ip> TCP:<host>:<port>`
Forward, listening on one address only

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<port>,fork UNIX-CONNECT:<path>`
Expose a Unix socket over TCP

`socat -v TCP-LISTEN:<lport>,fork TCP:<host>:<port>`
Forward and print the traffic

## TLS

`socat - OPENSSL:<host>:<port>`
Connect over TLS (verifies the server)

## PROGRAMS AND TERMINALS

`socat TCP-LISTEN:<port>,fork EXEC:<prog>`
Run a program per connection

## RECIPES

### Send a file between hosts

```
# receiver
socat -u TCP-LISTEN:5000 CREATE:in.tar
# sender
socat -u OPEN:in.tar TCP:<host>:5000
```