

## FAQ 8.31 Can I use perl to run a telnet or ftp session?

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/comp.lang.perl.misc/2008-07/msg00054.html>

---

- *From:* PerlFAQ Server <[brian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:brian@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Wed, 2 Jul 2008 00:03:01 -0700
- 

This is an excerpt from the latest version `perlfaq8.pod`, which comes with the standard Perl distribution. These postings aim to reduce the number of repeated questions as well as allow the community to review and update the answers. The latest version of the complete `perlfaq` is at <http://faq.perl.org>.

---

8.31: Can I use perl to run a telnet or ftp session?

Try the `Net::FTP`, `TCP::Client`, and `Net::Telnet` modules (available from CPAN). <http://www.cpan.org/scripts/netstuff/telnet.emul.shar> will also help for emulating the telnet protocol, but `Net::Telnet` is quite probably easier to use..

If all you want to do is pretend to be telnet but don't need the initial telnet handshaking, then the standard dual-process approach will suffice:

```
use IO::Socket; # new in 5.004
$handle = IO::Socket::INET->new('www.perl.com:80')
or die "can't connect to port 80 on www.perl.com: $!";
$handle->autoflush(1);
if (fork()) { # XXX: undef means failure
select($handle);
print while <STDIN>; # everything from stdin to socket
} else {
print while <$handle>; # everything from socket to stdout
}
close $handle;
exit;
```

---

The `perlfaq-workers`, a group of volunteers, maintain the `perlfaq`. They are not necessarily experts in every domain where Perl might show up,

### FAQ 8.31 Can I use perl to run a telnet or ftp session?

so please include as much information as possible and relevant in any corrections. The perlfaq-workers also don't have access to every operating system or platform, so please include relevant details for corrections to examples that do not work on particular platforms. Working code is greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to help maintain the perlfaq, see the details in perlfaq.pod.

.