

IPC : Named Pipes, RPC and Sockets etc.

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In SQL Server BOL it is mentioned that Named Pipes, RPC and Sockets are all IPC mechanisms. Basically I want to understand –

1. What are these IPC mechanisms?
2. Are they common to other Operating Systems?
3. RPC, Named Pipes, Sockets, local pipes, anonymous pipes – are these some standards or protocols or code libraries?
4. Are these essential fro client–server environment? Which one came first, ipc or client–server computing?

Is it possible to have client–server computing without IPC?

5. What is the difference between TCP/IP sockets, windows sockets and Winsock?
6. When I open a web browser and connect to a web site I am using TCP/IP for sure, but are there any sockets or IPC also involved in this connection?

These are some of the things I would like to understand. I appreciate if someone could direct me to any resources, or books that cover these topics.

Thanks