

Datagram vs. stream.

Stream can be considered as a pipe that allows full duplex connection. A datagram or a packet on the other hand, has a source and a destination. There is no connection. Stream is like a communication channel while datagram is completely self contained. Streams provide a reliable and sequenced communication. Datagram's on the other hand are unreliable and no sequence maintained.

What is a stream socket?

A stream socket provides two way communications between a client and server. This communication is reliable and sequenced. Stream sockets are above TCP to run across any networks. They provide unduplicated flow of data and have well established mechanism for creating and destroying connections and for detecting errors.