Distributed Systems

02. Networking

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Connecting computers

• Point-to-point links
  – Connect one sender with one receiver
  – No conflict for access to link
  – Not practical: limits any-any communication
Connecting computers

• Communication network
  – Share the infrastructure
  – **Collision**: when two nodes transmit at the same time, same channel
    • Both signals get damaged
  – Multiple access problem
    • *How do you coordinate multiple senders?*
Multiple Access Protocols

• Ways of enabling devices to share a network
• Three approaches
  1. **Channel partitioning**
     • Time Division Multiplexing (TDM)
       – each node gets a time slot
     • Frequency Division Multiplexing (FDM)
       – each channel gets a frequency band

  2. **Taking turns**
     • Polling protocol – master polls nodes in sequence
     • Token passing protocol – node needs a token to transmit

  3. **Random access**
     • No scheduled time slots
     • Statistical multiplexing
     • Retransmit if there’s a collision

  Bandwidth allocated even if nothing to transmit!

  Fails badly

  Complex

  Sounds like it shouldn’t work well … but it does!
Modes of connection

**Circuit-switching (virtual circuit)**
- Dedicated path (route) – established at setup
- Guaranteed (fixed) bandwidth – routers commit to resources
- Typically fixed-length packets (cells) – each cell only needs a virtual circuit ID
- Constant latency

**Packet-switching (datagram)**
- Shared connection; competition for use with others
- Data is broken into chunks called packets
- Each packet contains a destination address
- available bandwidth $\leq$ channel capacity
- variable latency
Ethernet

• Packet-based protocol
• Originally designed for shared (bus-based) links
• Each endpoint has a unique ethernet address
  – MAC address: 48-bit value

• Evolution
  – Ethernet hub
    • Simulates a bus-based LAN
    • Every bit received on an interface is transmitted onto every other interface
  – Ethernet switch
    • Forwards frames to the correct host
    • Self-learning (learns from source address)
    • Switch is transparent to hosts
    • No collisions!
Ethernet service guarantees

• Each packet (frame) contains a CRC checksum
  – Recipient will drop the frame if it is bad

• No acknowledgement of packet delivery

• Unreliable, in-order delivery
Going beyond the LAN

• LAN = Local Area Network
  – A set of devices connected to the same ethernet network is a LAN
  – Wi-Fi (802.11) is compatible with ethernet and part of the LAN

• We want to communicate beyond the LAN

• The Internet
  – Evolved from ARPANET (1969)
  – Internet = global network of networks based on the Internet Protocol (IP) family of protocols
The Internet: Key Design Principles

1. Support interconnection of networks
   – No changes needed to the underlying physical network
   – IP is a *logical network*

2. Assume unreliable communication; design for *best effort*
   – If a packet does not get to the destination, software on the receiver will have to detect it and the sender will have to retransmit it

3. **Routers** connect networks
   – Store & forward delivery
   – They need *not store information* about the flow of packets

4. No global (centralized) control of the network
Routers tie LANs together into one Internet

A packet may pass through many networks – within and between ISPs
Protocols
What’s in the data?

• For effective communication
  – same language, same conventions

• For computers:
  – electrical encoding of data
  – where is the start of the packet?
  – which bits contain the length?
  – is there a checksum? where is it?
    how is it computed?
  – what is the format of an address?
  – byte ordering
These instructions & conventions are known as protocols

Protocols encompass data formats, order of messages, responses
Layering

To ease software development and maximize flexibility:

– Network protocols are generally organized in layers
– Replace one layer without replacing surrounding layers
– Higher-level software does not have to know how to format an Ethernet packet
  … or even know that Ethernet is being used
Exist at different levels

understand format of address  
and how to compute a checksum  

humans vs. whales  
different wavelengths  

versus  

request web page  

French vs. Hungarian
Layering

Most popular model of guiding (not specifying) protocol layers is

**OSI reference model**

Adopted and created by ISO

7 layers of protocols

OSI = Open Systems Interconnection
From the ISO = International Organization for Standardization
Transmits and receives raw data to communication medium

Does not care about contents

Media, voltage levels, speed, connectors

Deals with representing bits

Examples: USB, Bluetooth, 802.11
OSI Reference Model: Layer 2

- Detects and corrects errors
- Organizes data into frames before passing it down. Sequences packets (if necessary)
- Accepts acknowledgements from immediate receiver

Examples: Ethernet MAC, PPP
An ethernet switch is an example of a device that works on layer 2. It forwards ethernet frames from one host to another as long as the hosts are connected to the switch (switches may be cascaded). This set of hosts and switches defines the local area network (LAN).
OSI Reference Model: Layer 3

Relay and route information to destination

Manage journey of datagrams and figure out intermediate hops (if needed)

Examples: IP, X.25

Deals with datagrams
An IP router is an example of a device that works on layer 3.

A router takes an incoming IP packet and determines which interface to send it out.

It enables multiple networks to be connected together.
OSI Reference Model: Layer 4

Provides an interface for end-to-end (application-to-application) communication: sends & receives segments of data. Manages flow control. May include end-to-end reliability.

Network interface is similar to a mailbox.

Examples: TCP, UDP
OSI Reference Model: Layer 5

Services to coordinate dialogue and manage data exchange

Software implemented switch

Manage multiple logical connections

Keep track of who is talking: establish & end communications

Examples: HTTP 1.1, SSL

Deals with data streams
Data representation

Concerned with the meaning of data bits

Convert between machine representations

Examples:
XDR, ASN.1, MIME, XML
OSI Reference Model: Layer 7

Collection of application-specific protocols

Examples:
- web (HTTP)
- email (SMTP, POP, IMAP)
- file transfer (FTP)
- directory services (LDAP)
A layer communicates with its counterpart
A layer communicates with its counterpart

Logical View

1. Physical
2. Data Link
3. Network
4. Transport
5. Session
6. Presentation
7. Application
A layer communicates with its counterpart
But really traverses the stack

What’s really happening
Protocol Encapsulation

At any layer
- The higher level protocol headers are just treated like data
- Lower level protocol headers can be ignored

An ethernet switch or ethernet driver sees this:

A router or IP driver sees this:

A TCP driver sees this:

An application sees this:
Client-Server Communication
Addressing machines (data link layer)

Each interface on a host has a unique MAC address

- E.g., aramis.rutgers.edu: 48-bit ethernet address =
  = 00:03:ba:09:1b:b0

- This isn’t too interesting to us as programmers
  - We can send ethernet frames to machines on the same LAN
Addressing machines (network layer)

Each interface on a host is given a unique IP address

- IPv4 (still the most common in the U.S.): 32-bit number
  - Example, cs.rutgers.edu = 128.6.4.2 = 0x80060402

- IPv6: 128-bit number
  - Example, cs.rutgers.edu = 0:0:0:0:FFFF:128.6.4.2 = ::FFFF:8006:0402

- This also isn’t too interesting to us as programmers
  - We can send IP packets to machines on the Internet
  - BUT … we want to talk to applications
IP gives us two transport-layer protocols

- **TCP: Transmission Control Protocol**
  - Connection-oriented service: operating system keeps state
  - Full-duplex connection: both sides can send messages over the same link
  - Reliable data transfer: the protocol handles retransmission
  - In-order data transfer: the protocol keeps track of sequence numbers
  - Flow control: receiver stops sender from sending too much data
  - Congestion control: "plays nice" on the network

- **UDP: User Datagram Protocol**
  - Connectionless service: lightweight transport layer over IP
  - Data may be lost
  - Data may arrive out of sequence
  - Checksum for corrupt data: operating system drops bad packets
  - Sender can keep blasting data to the receiver even if it can’t keep up
Reliable data transfer

• Simplest approach: stop & wait

  while (no ack)
  send message
  wait for ack

• Problem
  – In the best case, the next packet is delayed for the latency of the entire path
  – Inefficient use of data channel

• Solution
  – Cumulative acknowledgments
TCP acknowledgements

• Sequence number
  – Starting byte sequence # of the data chunk being sent

• Acknowledgement number
  – Receiver responds with the next byte it’s expecting
    – Cumulative acknowledgements
      • A receiver may receive a bunch of messages – respond only with the first missing byte #
  – Out-of-order segments may be buffered at the receiver
    • Will be sent to the application in order

The sender can send multiple messages without waiting for an acknowledgements
Controlling traffic: flow control

- Sending big chunks of data is more efficient than small chunks
  - Especially if we have to wait for acknowledgements
- Sending & sending & sending is more efficient than sending & waiting for acknowledgements
  - But we don’t want to have a fast sender overwhelm a slow receiver
- Flow control
  - Allow a receiver to control the rate of transmission
  - TCP receive window: # bytes receiver is willing to accept

Data rate \( \approx \) window size \( \div \) round-trip-time
Controlling traffic: congestion control

- Additive increase
  - Increase window size by one segment each round-trip time

- Multiplicative decrease
  - If we lose a segment (timeout occurs)
  - Decrease window size by 2

- Additive Increase, Multiplicative Decrease (AIMD)
Addressing applications (transport layer)

Communication endpoint at the machine

- **Port number**: 16-bit value
- Port number = transport endpoint
  - Identifies a specific data stream
- Some services use well-known port numbers (0 – 1023)
  - IANA: Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (www.iana.org)
  - Also see the file `/etc/services`
- Ports for proprietary apps: 1024 – 49151
- Dynamic/private ports: 49152 – 65535

- To communicate with applications, we use a transport layer protocol and an IP address and port number
Network API

• App developers need access to the network
• A Network Application Programming Interface (API) provides this
• Core services provided by the operating system
  – Operating System controls access to resources
• Libraries may handle the rest

• We will only look at IP-based communication
Programming: connection-oriented protocols

- establish connection
- [negotiate protocol]
- exchange data
- terminate connection

**virtual circuit service**
- provides illusion of having a dedicated circuit
- messages guaranteed to arrive in-order
- application does not have to address each message

*Not to be confused with virtual circuit networks*
- Which provide constant latency & guaranteed bandwidth
- TCP simulates a virtual circuit network … sort of
Programming: connectionless protocols

- no call setup
- send/receive data (each packet addressed)
- no termination

**datagram service**

- client is not positive whether message arrived at destination
- no state has to be maintained at client or server
- cheaper but less reliable than virtual circuit service
Sockets

• Dominant API for transport layer connectivity
• Created at UC Berkeley for 4.2BSD Unix (1983)
• Design goals
  – Communication between processes should not depend on whether they are on the same machine
  – Communication should be efficient
  – Interface should be compatible with files
  – Support different protocols and naming conventions
    • Sockets is not just for the Internet Protocol family
What is a socket?

Abstract object from which messages are sent and received

– Looks like a file descriptor

– Application can select particular style of communication
  • Virtual circuit (connection-oriented), datagram (connectionless), message-based, in-order delivery

– Unrelated processes should be able to locate communication endpoints
  • Sockets can have a name
  • Name should be meaningful in the communications domain
    – E.g., Address & port for IP communications
Connection-Oriented (TCP) socket operations

Client

- Create a socket
- Name the socket (assign local address, port)
- Connect to the other side
- read / write byte streams
- close the socket

Server

- Create a socket
- Name the socket (assign local address, port)
- Set the socket for listening
- Wait for and accept a connection; get a socket for the connection
- read / write byte streams
- close the socket
- close the listening socket
Connectionless (UDP) socket operations

Client

Create a socket
Name the socket (assign local address, port)
Send a message
Receive a message
close the socket

Server

Create a socket
Name the socket (assign local address, port)
Receive a message
Send a message
close the socket
The end