490I Networking Fundamentals

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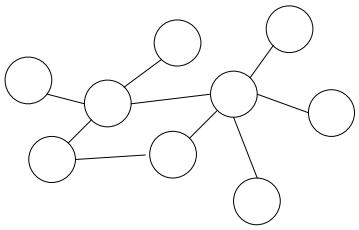
The Plan

- Talk about networking in general
  - Layers, Routing
- Specifically about IP
  - Service model, what TCP provides
- Work our way up to HTTP
  - What happens when you click a link?
- If time, drop down to Ethernet and wireless networking problems.
- Networks are distributed systems: failure is *expected*

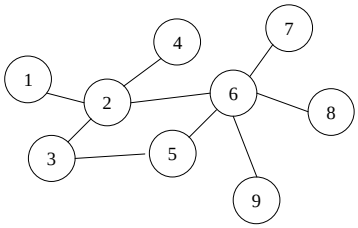
Basics

- Network – collection of nodes and links that cooperate for communication
- Nodes – computer systems
  - Internal (routers, bridges, switches)
  - Terminal (workstations)
- Links – connections for transmitting data
- Protocol – standards for formatting and interpreting data and control information

Nodes and links, oh my.



Nodes have addresses



Wires aren't perfect

- Attenuation (resistance)
- Delay (speed of light * 2/3)
- Noise (microwaves and such)
- Nodes aren't perfect either
- Unreliable!

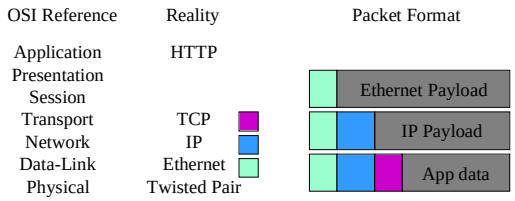
Getting Data Across (imperfect wires)

- Split up big files into small pieces (packets)
- Each packet (~1500 bytes) is sent separately
  - Can be corrupted (noise, bugs)
  - Can be dropped (if corrupted, overloaded)
  - Can be reordered (if retransmitted, different paths)
- Allows packets from different flows to be multiplexed along the same link

Layers

- Each layer abstracts the services of various lower layers, providing a uniform interface to higher layers.
- Each layer has convergence information:
  - How to interpret a packet's payload (protocol numbers)
  - How to use the services of a lower layer (ARP)

Layers



The Internet Protocol (IP)

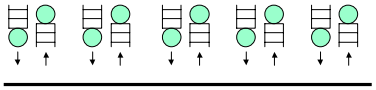
- Connects disparate networks
  - Single (hierarchical) address space
  - Single network header
- Assumes data link is unreliable,
- Provides unreliable service
  - Loss: A B D E
  - Duplication: A B B C D E
  - Corruption: A Q C D E
  - Reordering: A C D B E

IP Addresses

- 32 bits long, split into 4 octets:
  - For example, 128.95.2.24
- Hierarchical:
  - First bits describe which network
  - Last bits describe which host on the network
- UW subnets include:
  - 128.95/16, 140.142/16 …
- UW CSE subnets include:
  - 128.95.2/24, 128.95.4/24, 128.95.219/24…

Packet Forwarding

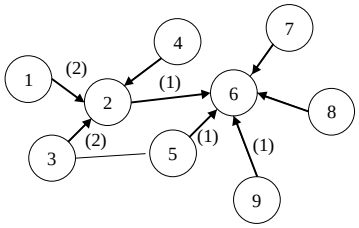
- Buffer incoming packets
- Decide which output link
- Buffer outgoing packets
- Send packet



Routing

- How do nodes determine which output link to use to reach a destination?
- Distributed algorithm for converging on shortest path tree
- Nodes exchange reachability information:
  - "I can get to 128.95.2/24 in 3 hops"

Shortest path tree



(x) Is the cost to get to 6. The metric (cost per link) here is 1. Simple algorithm: 6 broadcasts "I'm alive" to neighbors. Neighbors send "I can get to 6 in 1 hop", etc.

Route Aggregation

- What hierarchical addressing is good for.
- UW routers can advertise 128.95/16
- Other routers don't need forwarding table entries for each host in the network.

Routing Reality

- Routing in the Internet connects Autonomous Systems (AS's)
  - AT&T, Sprint, UUNet, BBN…
- Shortest path, sort of… money talks.
- I2 (new vBNS) connects educational institutions; routers check both source and destination.

TCP Service Model

- Provide reliability, ordering on the unreliable, unordered IP
- Byte-stream oriented: when you send data using TCP, you think about bytes, not about packets.

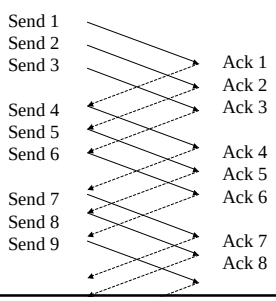
TCP Ports

- Connections are identified by the tuple:
  - IP source address
  - IP destination address
  - TCP source port
  - TCP destination port
- Allows multiple connections; multiple application protocols, between the same machines
- Well known ports for some applications: (web: 80, telnet: 23, mail:25, dns: 53)

TCP's Sliding Window

- Simple reliability:
  - Send one packet, wait for acknowledgment, then send the next…
- Better performance:
  - Keep several unacknowledged packets unacknowledged in the network (a window)

Sliding Window Example



- Window size = 3
- Can send up to three packets into the network at a time.
- Each packet has a sequence number for ordering

TCP's Congestion Control

- How big should the window be?
- Performance is limited by:
  - (window size) / round trip time
  - Performance of bottleneck link (modem?)
- If window is too small, performance is wasted.
- If window is too big, may overflow network buffers, causing packet loss.

Domain Name System

- We like to use names to refer to computers:
  - www.cs.washington.edu…
- But the network uses addresses!
- Simple solution: /etc/hosts
  - Text file lists names and addresses
- Scalable solution: DNS
  - Distributed database of name to address mappings

DNS Name hierarchy

- No accident DNS names are hierarchical
  - Allows distributed administration (CS dept administers cs.washington.edu zone, just like it administers 128.95.2/24)
- Root servers know about .edu, .com, .au, .uk servers
- .edu servers know about ucsd.edu, mit.edu, washington.edu…

Why DNS Works

- Caching
  - When a mapping is found, it is cached for a couple days to avoid repeated lookups
- Delegation
  - DNS clients rely on local servers to act as caching proxies
- Hierarchy
  - Distributed administration
  - Distributed data – we don't need to store names for machines in Zaire.

Steps for a web access

- Name lookup
  - Client to local DNS server
  - Local DNS may return a cached binding, or lookup the name for itself
- TCP Connection setup
  - Client to remote IP, port 80
- Send HTTP request
  - "GET /index.html"
- Receive HTTP response
  - "blah blah blah" maybe several packets
- TCP Connection teardown

HTTP 1.1

- Incremental improvements
- "Persistent connections" allow multiple requests over the same connection
  - Web transfers are often small
  - Avoid connection setup and teardown overhead
  - TCP is better the longer you use it: it learns how fast to send to get best performance without overflowing buffers.

Ethernet

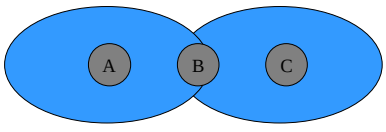
- CSMA/CD
- Carrier Sense: everyone listens until silence before speaking
- Multiple Access: everyone talks on the same wire
- Collision Detection: listen while talking to abort when two talk at the same time

Wireless networking

- Can we apply CSMA/CD to wireless networks too?
- What's different about networks without wires
  - More attenuation (fading)
  - More noise (burst errors too)
  - More delay (possibly)
  - Interference (walls, mountain ranges…)

802.11 Wireless

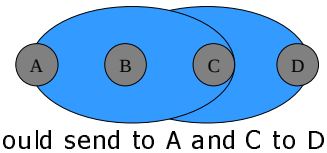
- Hidden station problem



- A sends to B, C might interrupt!

802.11 Wireless II

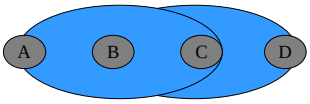
- Exposed station problem



- B could send to A and C to D at the same time (but would be inhibited if detecting collision)

802.11 Solution

- Multiple Access Collision Avoidance



- Sender B sends RTS – inhibits others from sending for a short time
- Receiver C sends CTS – inhibits others from sending until packet transferred.
- Sender B sends the packet.