**BGP (Border Gateway Protocol)** is a standardized exterior gateway protocol used to exchange routing information between different networks on the internet. It is the protocol that makes the internet work by ensuring that data can travel between different Autonomous Systems (AS), which are large networks or collections of IP networks and routers under the control of one entity.

**Key Points about BGP:**

* **Routing Protocol**: BGP determines the best paths for data to travel across the internet.
* **Inter-domain Protocol**: It operates between different ASes rather than within a single AS (like **OSPF** or **EIGRP**).
* **Path Vector Protocol**: BGP uses a path vector mechanism where each AS advertises the paths (routes) it can use to reach certain IP addresses.