

Application Layer Protocols

Course Title: Computer Networks



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Lecture Outline



1. Different Layer Protocols
2. Protocol Types
3. HTTP
4. DNS

What is Protocol?



- **Protocol:** In computer networks, communication occurs between entities in different systems.
- However, two entities can not simply send bit streams to each other and expect to be understood.
- For communication to occur, the entities must agree on a protocol.
- A protocol is a set of rules that govern data communications.
- A protocol defines what is communicated, how it is communicated, and when it is communicated.
- Example: HTTP, FTP, TCP, IP, etc.



Different Layer Protocols

OSI Model	Internet Model	Internet Protocols
Application	Application	HTTP, HTTPS, SSH, DNS, SSL, FTP, POP3, SMTP, IMAP, Telnet, NNTP
Presentation		
Session		
Transport	Transport	TCP, UDP
Network	Network	IP, ICMP, ARP, DHCP
Datalink	Network Link	Ethernet, PPP, ADSL
Physical		

Protocol Types



- **PUSH protocol:** In push protocols, the client opens a connection to the server and keeps it constantly active.
- The server will send (push) all new events to the client using that single always-on connection.
- In other words, the server PUSHes the new events to the client. Example: SMTP.
- **PULL protocol:** In pull protocols, the client periodically connects to the server, checks for and gets (pulls) recent events and then closes the connection and disconnects from the server.
- The client repeats this whole procedure to get updated about new events.
- In this mode, the clients periodically PULLs the new events from the server. Example: HTTP.

Application Layer Protocol: HTTP

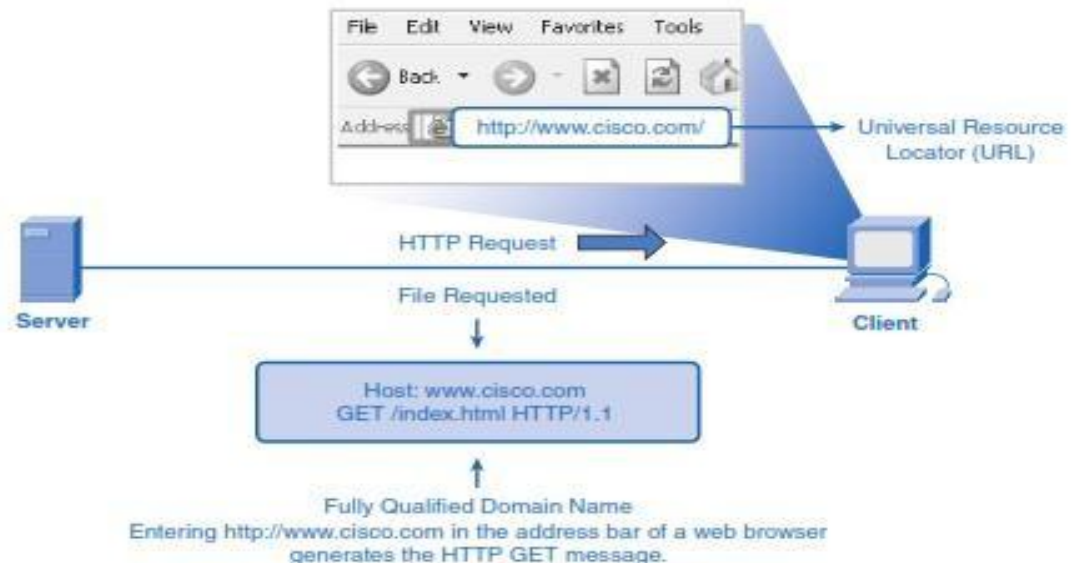


- HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) is used across the world wide web (www) for data transfer and is one of the most used application protocols.
- HTTP specifies a request/response protocol. When a client, typically a web browser, sends a request message to a server, the HTTP protocol defines the message types the client uses to request the web page and the message types the server uses to respond.
- The three common message types are:
 - GET
 - POST
 - PUT



Application Layer Protocol: HTTP (cont.)

- GET: It is a client request for data.
- A web browser sends the GET message to request pages from a web server.
- As shown in Figure, when the server receives the GET request, it responds with a status line, such as HTTP/1.1 200 OK, and a message of its own, the body of which can be the requested file.
an error message, or some other information.



Application Layer Protocol: HTTP (cont.)



- POST and PUT are used to send messages that upload data to the web server.
- For example, when the user enters data into a form embedded in a web page, POST includes the data in the message sent to the server.
- PUT uploads resources or content to the webserver.

Application Layer Protocol: HTTP runs on TCP



- The transfer protocol used throughout the World Wide Web is HTTP (Hyper Text Transfer Protocol).
- TCP provides a reliable data transfer service to HTTP, using TCP port 80.
- This implies that
 - each HTTP request message emitted by a client process eventually arrives intact at the server; similarly,
 - each HTTP response message emitted by the server process eventually arrives intact at the client.
- HTTP need not worry about lost data, or the details of how TCP recovers from loss or reordering of data within the network.
- That is the job of TCP and the protocols in the lower layers of the protocol stack.



Application Layer Protocol: DNS

Domain Name Service (DNS):

- DNS provides a core Internet function, translating hostnames to their underlying IP addresses, for user applications and other software on the Internet.
- The DNS protocol defines an automated service that matches resource names with the required numeric network address.
- DNS uses a large number of name servers, organized in a hierarchical fashion and distributed around the world.
- No one name server has all of the mappings for all of the hosts on the internet. Instead, the mappings are distributed across the name servers.

Application Layer Protocol: DNS

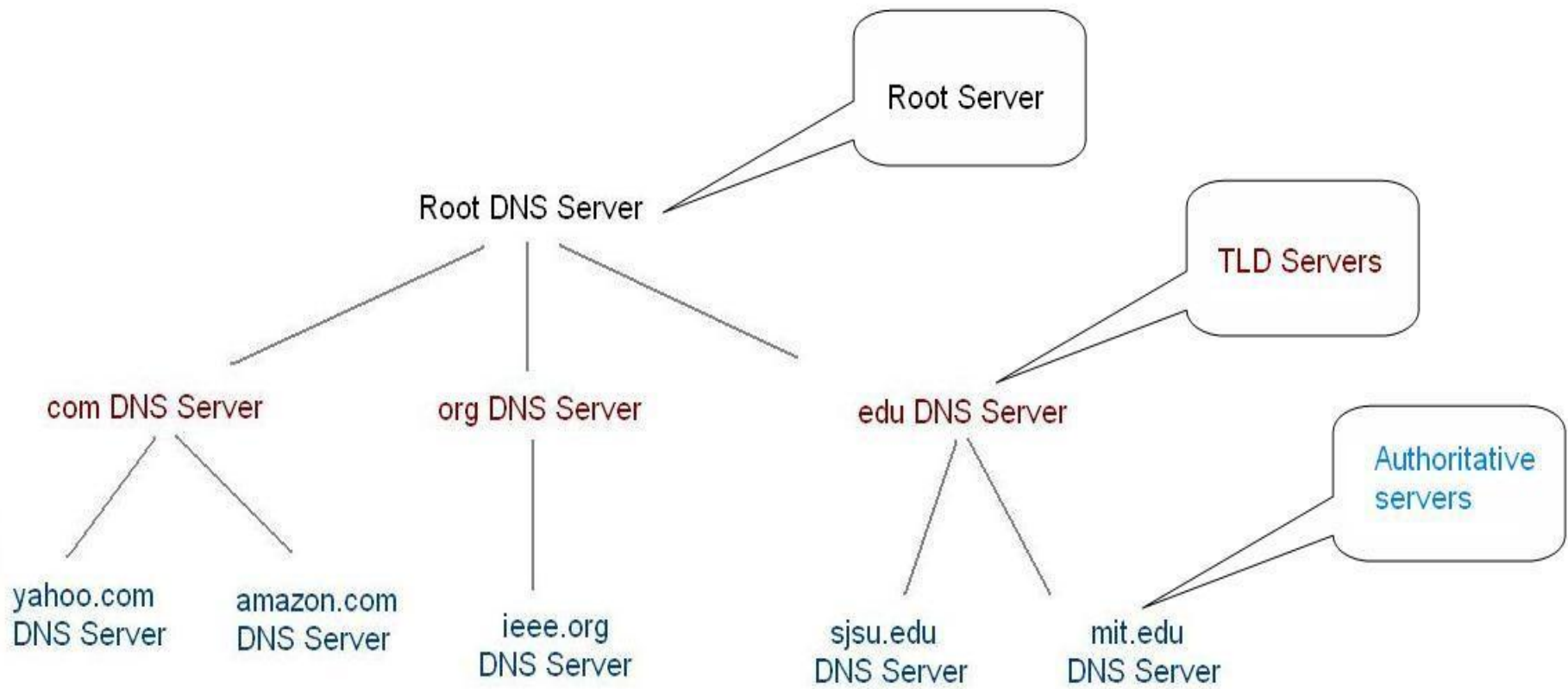


Domain Name Service (DNS):

- There are three types of name servers:
 1. Root name servers
 2. Local name server
 3. Authoritative name servers



DNS Hierarchy



DNS



1. **Root name servers:** A root server contains information about the root and top-level domains. When a local name server cannot immediately satisfy a query from a host (because it does not have a record for the hostname being requested), the local name server behaves as a DNS client and queries one of the root name servers.
2. **Local name server:** Each ISP - such as a university, an academic department, an employee's company or a residential ISP - has a local name server (also called a default name server). When a host issues a DNS query message, the message is first sent to the host's local name server. The IP address of the local name server is typically configured by hand in a host.
3. **Authoritative name servers:** Every host is registered with an authoritative name server. Typically, the authoritative name server for a host is a name server in the host's local ISP. Many name servers act as both local and authoritative name servers.

Internet Domain Names



- As an example, consider a namespace with names of the form:

- *local.site*

where *site* is the site name authorized by the central authority, *local* is the part of a name controlled by the site, and (".") is a delimiter used to separate them.

- adding a **group** subdivision to names already partitioned by site produces the following name syntax:

local.group.site



Internet Domain Names

Example: cs . aiub . edu

- contains three labels: cs, aiub, and edu.
- Any suffix of a label in a domain name is also called a domain.
- In the above example the lowest level domain is cs . aiub . edu, (the domain name for the Computer Science Department at AIUB University), the second level domain is aiub . edu (the domain name for AIUB University), and the top-level domain is edu (the domain name for educational institutions).
- As the example shows, domain names are written with the local label first and the top domain last.



Internet Domain Names

Domain Name	Meaning
COM	Commercial organizations
EDU	Educational institutions (4-year)
GOV	Government institutions
MIL	Military groups
NET	Major network support centers
ORG	Organizations other than those above
ARPA	Temporary ARPANET domain (obsolete)
INT	International organizations
<i>country code</i>	Each country (geographic scheme)

Example: Hannah want to connect at www.fredsco.com



1. Hannah opens a browser, types in www.fredsco.com, and sends a DNS resolution request to her DNS (example.com).
2. example.com's DNS doesn't know the name <http://www.fredsco.com>. However, the DNS now has some configuration that tells it that if it doesn't know the name, it should ask the DNS server at IP address 1.1.1.1 (Root server).
3. The DNS server at 1.1.1.1 has a table that lists the IP addresses of a bunch of name servers. DNS server 1.1.1.1 knows that for all names that end in "example.com," DNS 150.1.3.4 can resolve the names. It also knows that for all names that end in "fredsco.com," DNS 199.1.1.3 can resolve the names. Finally, DNS server 1.1.1.1 can direct each request to the right name server. This DNS sends a message back to the example.com DNS, referring it to the DNS at 199.1.1.3.

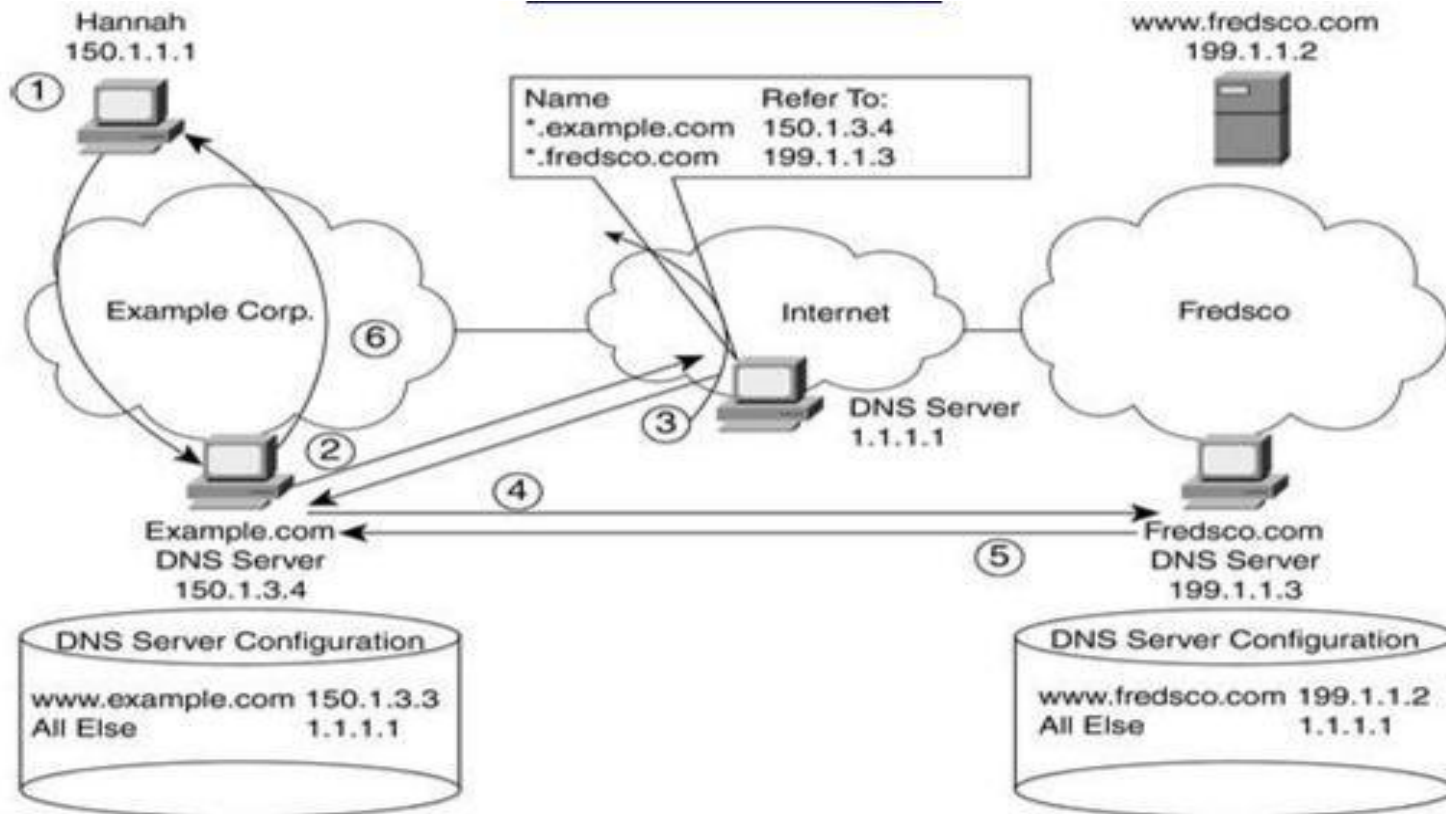
DNS: How it works?



4. The example.com DNS repeats the name resolution request, now sending the request to the DNSserver at Fredsco(199.1.1.3).
5. The Fredsco DNS gets the request, and it knows the name and IP address. It sends a reply to the requesting host, namely, example.com's DNSserver.
6. Finally, the example.com DNS server replies to Hannah, telling her that www.fredsco.com resolves to IP address 199.1.1.2.



DNS: How it works? (cont.)





Different types of DNS queries

DNS queries can be classified according to the manner in which a complete request is processed. Generally, queries can be classified as follows.

- 1. Recursive query:** A recursive query is a kind of query, in which the DNS server, who received the sender's query, will do all the job of fetching the answers, and giving it back to the sender.
During this process, the DNS server might also query other DNS servers on the internet on the sender's behalf, for the answer.
- 2. Iterative query OR Nonrecursive query:** In an iterative query, the name server, will not go and fetch the complete answer for the sender's query, but will give back a referral to other DNS server's, which might have the answer.



Recursive query/ Iterative query

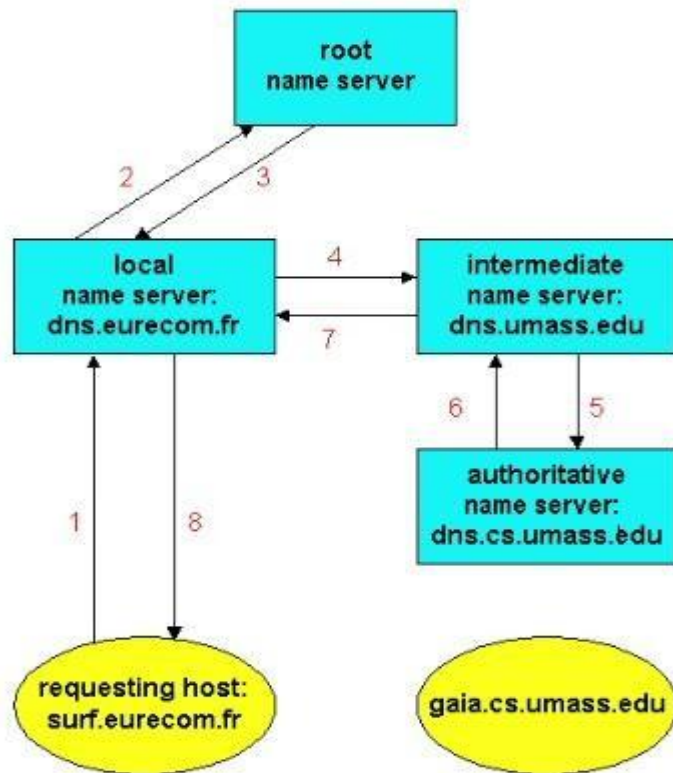


Fig: A query chain with iterative queries.

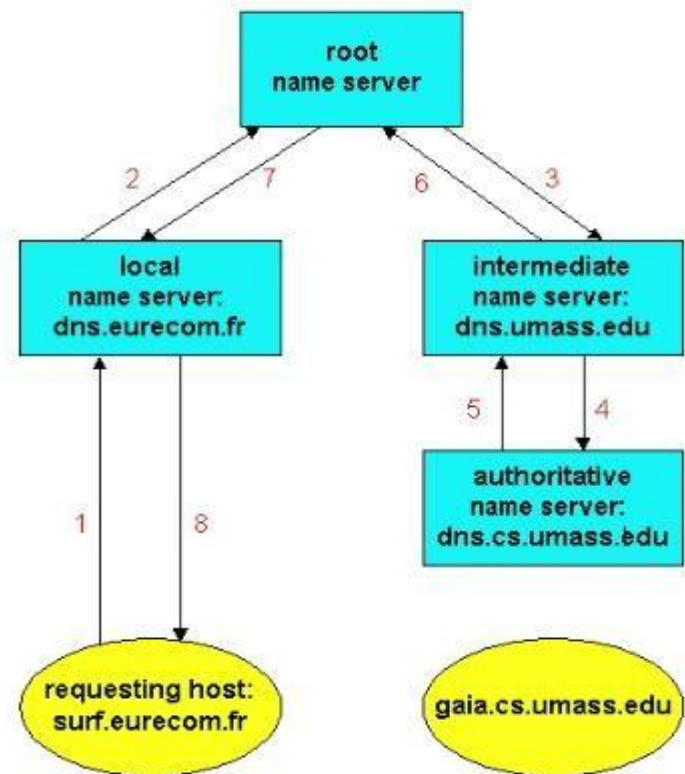


Fig: A query chain with recursive queries.



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