

EN.601.414/614

Computer Networks

Data Link Layer

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Fall 2020 (TuTh 1:30-2:45pm on Zoom)



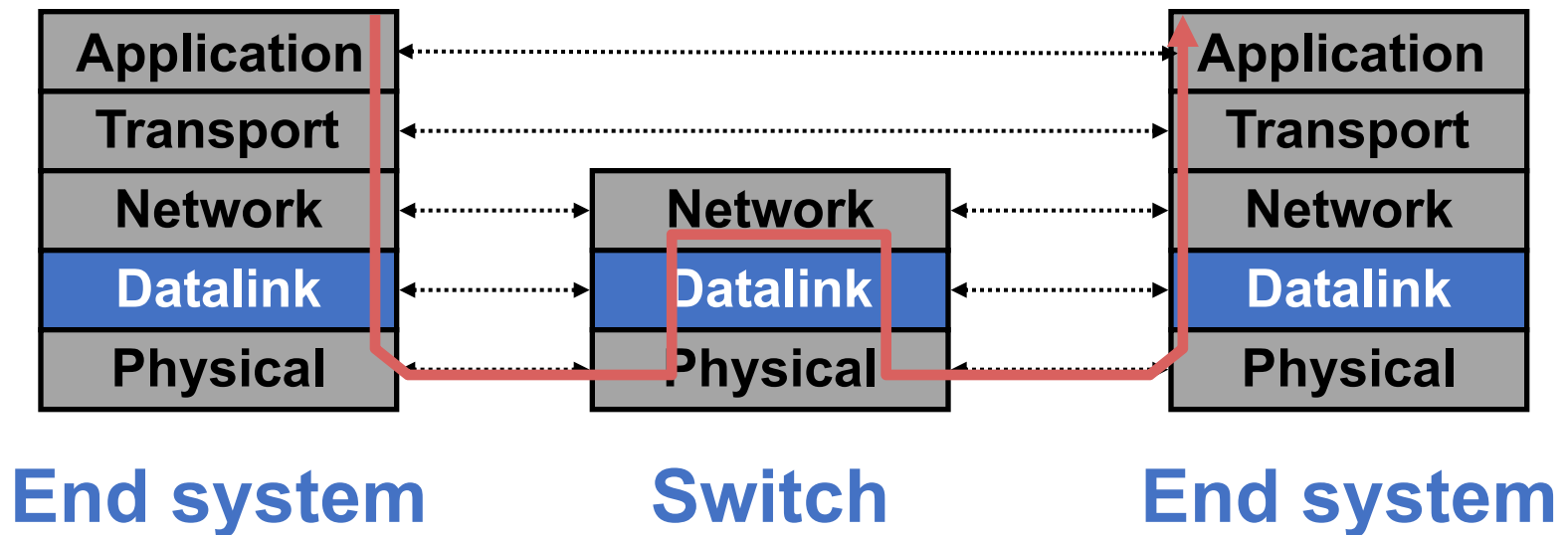
<https://github.com/xinjin/course-net>

Agenda

- **Data link layer**

Data link layer

- Present everywhere
- Transfers data between **adjacent nodes** or between **nodes on the same local area network**



Data link layer

- **Provides four primary services**

- Framing

- Encapsulates network layer data

- Link access

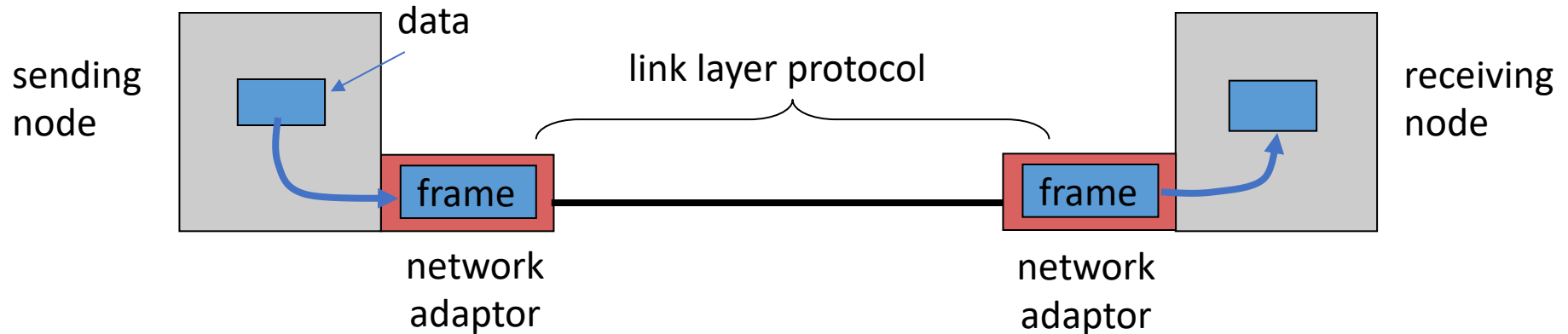
- Medium access control (MAC) protocol defines when to transmit frames

- Reliable delivery

- Primarily for mediums with high error rates (e.g., wireless)

- Error detection and correction

Packets are now “frames”



- **Frames encapsulate network layer packets**
- **Link layer protocols are implemented in h/w**
- **Frame formats can change based on link layer protocol**

Point-to-point vs. broadcast medium

- **Point-to-point: dedicated pairwise communication**
 - E.g., long-distance fiber link
 - E.g., point-to-point link b/n Ethernet switch and host
- **Broadcast: shared wire or wireless medium**
 - Traditional Ethernet (pre ~2000)
 - 802.11 wireless LAN

Multiple access algorithm

- **Context: a shared broadcast channel**
 - Must avoid having multiple nodes speaking at once
 - Otherwise, collisions lead to garbled data
 - Need distributed algorithm to determine which node can transmit
- **Three classes of techniques**
 - **Channel partitioning**: divide channel into pieces
 - **Taking turns**: scheme for deciding who transmits
 - **Random access**: allow collisions, and then recover
 - More in the Internet style!

Random access MAC protocols

- **When node has packet to send**
 - Transmit at full channel data rate **w/o** coordination
- **Two or more transmitting nodes \Rightarrow collision**
 - Data lost
- **Random access MAC protocol specifies**
 - How to **detect** and **recover** from collisions
- **Examples**
 - ALOHA and Slotted ALOHA
 - **CSMA, CSMA/CD, CSMA/CA** (wireless)

Ethernet

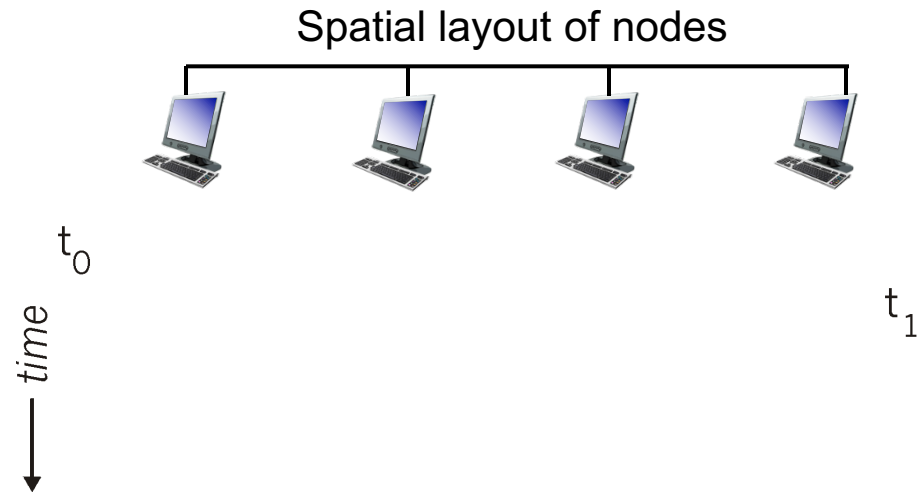
- **Invented as a broadcast technology**
 - Hosts share channel
 - Each packet received by all attached hosts
 - CSMA/CD for media access control
- **Modern Ethernets are “switched” (later)**
 - Point-to-point links between switches and between a host and switch
 - No sharing \Rightarrow no CSMA/CD
 - Uses “self learning” and “spanning tree” algorithms for routing

CSMA (Carrier Sense Multiple Access)

- **CSMA: listen before transmit**
 - If channel sensed idle: transmit entire frame
 - If channel sensed busy, defer transmission
- **Human analogy: don't interrupt others!**
- **Does not eliminate all collisions**
 - Why?

CSMA collisions

- **Propagation delay:**
two nodes may not hear each other before sending
- **CSMA reduces but does not eliminate collisions**
- **Collision: entire packet transmission time wasted**
 - Distance and propagation delay affect collision probability



CSMA/CD (Collision Detection)

- **CSMA/CD: carrier sensing, deferral as in CSMA**
 - Collisions detected within short time
 - Colliding transmissions aborted, reducing wastage
- **Collision detection easy in wired (broadcast) LANs**
 - Compare transmitted, received signals
- **Collision detection difficult in wireless LANs**
 - Later!

Three key ideas of random access

- **Carrier sense**

- Listen before speaking and don't interrupt
- Checking if someone else is already sending data
- ... and waiting till the other node is done

- **Collision detection**

- If someone else starts talking at the same time, stop
 - Make sure everyone knows there was a collision!
- Realizing when two nodes are transmitting at once
- ...by detecting that the data on the wire is garbled

Three key ideas of random access

- **Randomness**

- Don't start talking again right away
- Waiting for a random time before trying again

How long should you wait?

- **Should it be immediate?**
- **Should it be a random number with a fixed distribution?**

Ethernet: CSMA/CD Protocol

- **Carrier sense: wait for link to be idle**
- **Collision detection: listen while transmitting**
 - No collision: transmission is complete
 - Collision: abort transmission & send jam signal
- **Random access: binary exponential back-off**
 - After collision, wait a random time before retrying
 - After m^{th} collision, choose K randomly from $\{0, \dots, 2^m - 1\}$
 - Wait for $K * 512$ bit times before trying again
 - If transmission occurring when ready to send, wait until end of transmission (CSMA)

Switched Ethernet

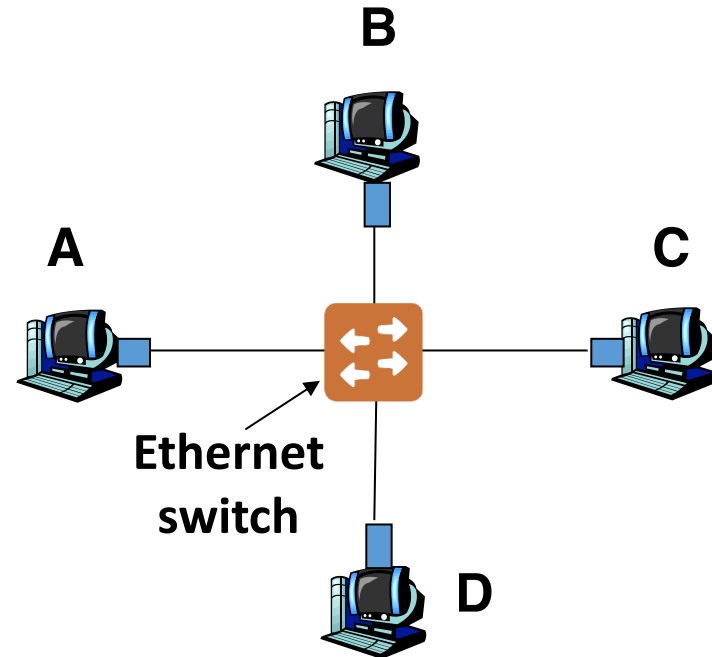
Broadcast vs. switched Ethernet

- **Invented as a broadcast technology**
 - Hosts share channel
 - Each packet received by all attached hosts
 - CSMA/CD for media access control
- **Modern Ethernets are “switched”**
 - Point-to-point links between switches and between a host and switch
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Why switched Ethernet?

- **Enables concurrent communication**

- Host A can talk to C, while B talks to D
- No collisions and no need for CSMA/CD
- No constraints on link lengths, etc.

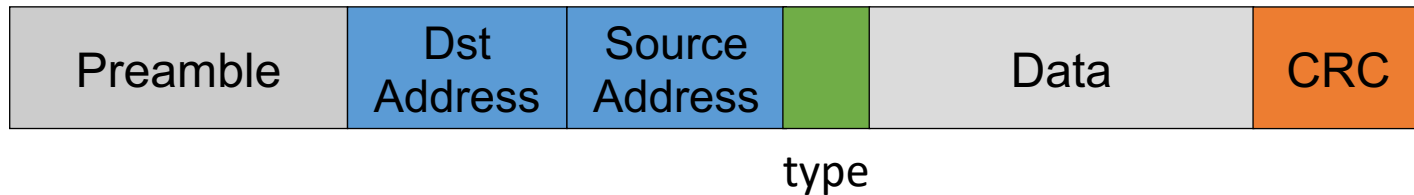


Topics

- **Frames and framing**
- **Addressing**
- **Routing**
- **Forwarding**
- **Discovery**

Ethernet “Frames”

- Encapsulates IP datagram



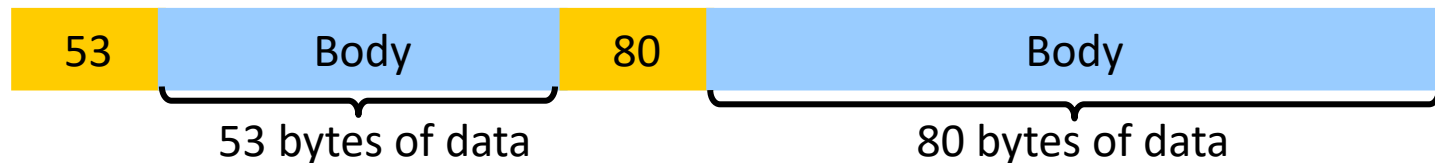
- **Preamble:** 7 bytes for clock synchronization and 1 byte to indicate start of frame
- **Addresses:** 6 bytes
- **Type:** 2 bytes, higher-layer protocol (e.g., IP)
- **Data payload:** max 1500 bytes, min 46 bytes
- **CRC:** 4 bytes for error detection

Framing frames

- **Physical layer puts bits on a link**
- **But, two hosts connected on the same physical medium need to be able to exchange frames**
 - Service provided by the link layer
 - Implemented by the network adaptor
- **Framing problem: how does the link layer determine where each frame begins and ends?**

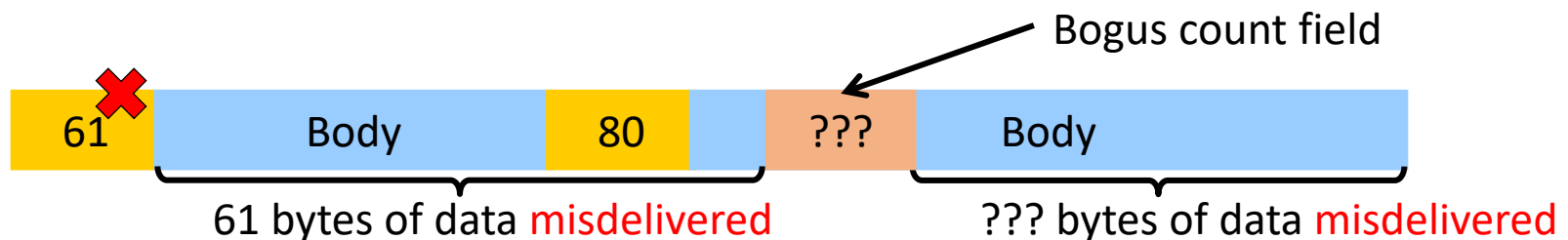
Simple approach: Count bytes

- **Sender includes number of bytes in header**



➤ Receiver extracts this number of bytes of body

- **What if the Count field is corrupted?**



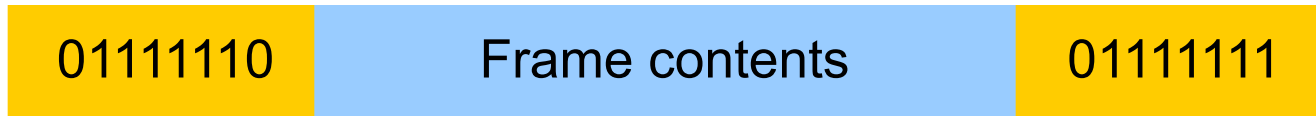
- L2 will frame the wrong bytes → a framing error
- CRC tells you to discard this frame, but what about the next one?

Desynchronization

- Once framing on a link is desynchronized, it can stay that way
- Need a method to **resynchronize**

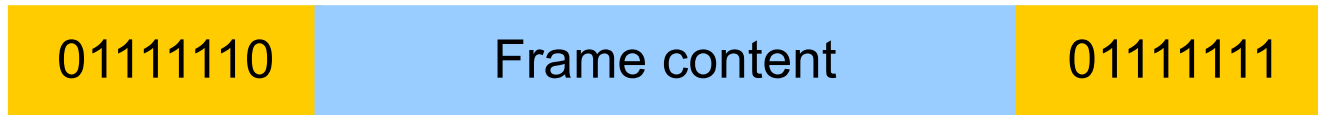
Framing with sentinel bits

- **Delineate frame with special “sentinel” bit pattern**
 - e.g., 01111110 \Rightarrow start, 01111111 \Rightarrow end



- **What if sentinel occurs within frame?**
- **Solution: bit stuffing**
 - Sender always inserts a 0 after five 1s in the frame contents
 - Receiver always removes a 0 appearing after five 1s

When receiver sees five 1s...



- **If next bit 0, remove it; begin counting again**
 - Because this must be a stuffed bit; we can't be at beginning/end of frame (those had six or seven 1s)
- **If next bit 1 (i.e., we've seen six 1s) then:**
 - If following bit is 0, this is start of frame
 - Because the receiver has seen 01111110
 - If following bit is 1, this is end of frame
 - Because the receiver has seen 01111111

Example: sentinel bits

- **Original data, including start/end of frame:**

➤ 01111110011111101111101111100101111111

- **Sender rule: five 1s → insert a 0**

➤ After bit stuffing at the sender:

➤ 01111110011111010111110011111000101111111

- **Receiver rule: five 1s and next bit 0 → remove 0**

➤ 01111110011111101111101111100101111111

Topics

- Frames and framing
- **Addressing**
- **Routing**
- **Forwarding**
- **Discovery**

Medium Access Control (MAC) Address

- **MAC address**

- Numerical address associated with a network adapter
- Flat name space of 48 bits (e.g., 00-15-C5-49-04-A9 in HEX)
- Unique, hard-coded in the adapter when it is built

- **Hierarchical Allocation**

- **Blocks**: assigned to vendors (e.g., Dell) by the IEEE
 - First 24 bits (e.g., 00-15-C5-**-**-**)
- **Adapter**: assigned by the vendor from its block
 - Last 24 bits

MAC address vs. IP address

MAC Addresses

- Hard-coded when adapter is built
- Flat name space of 48 bits (e.g., 00-0E-9B-6E-49-76)
- Like a social security number
- Portable, and can stay the same as the host moves
- Used to get packet between interfaces on same network

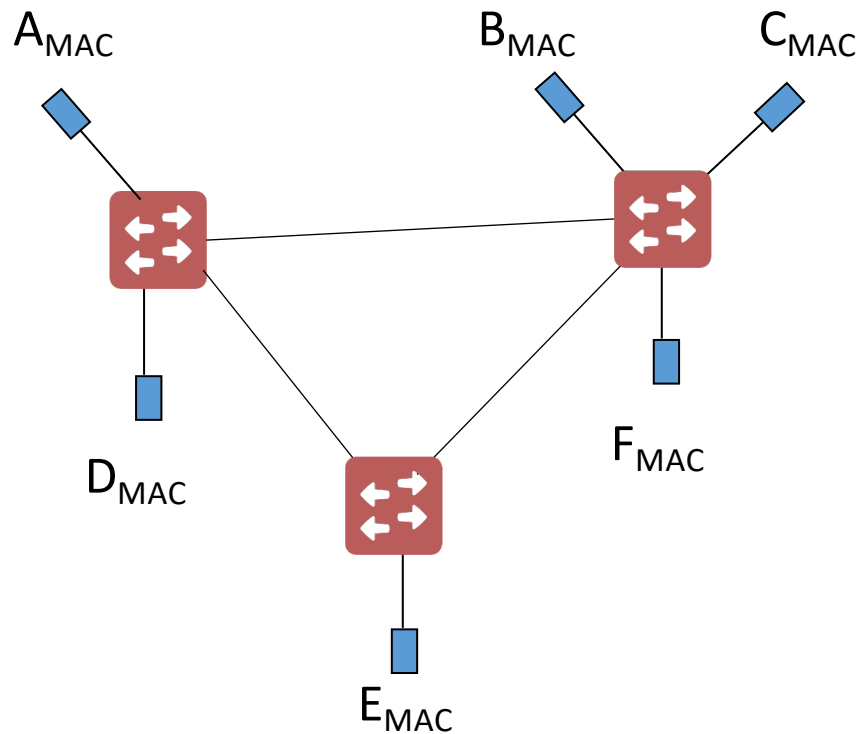
IP Addresses

- Configured, or learned dynamically
- Hierarchical name space of 32 bits (e.g., 12.178.66.9)
- Like a postal mailing address
- Not portable, and depends on where the host is attached
- Used to get a packet to destination IP subnet

Topics

- Frames and framing
- Addressing
- **Routing**
- **Forwarding**
- **Discovery**

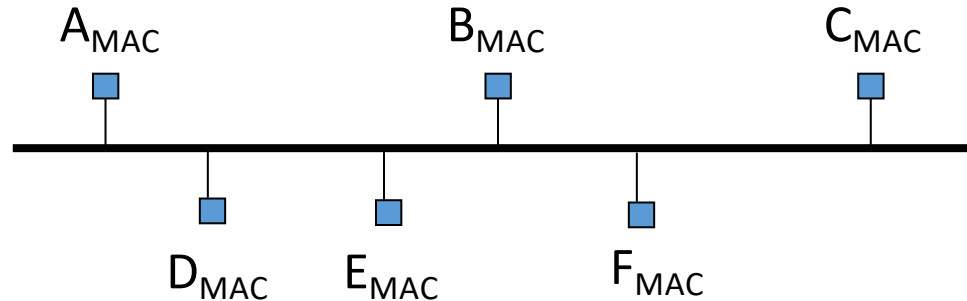
Routing with switched Ethernet?



Why does Ethernet not use LS/DV?

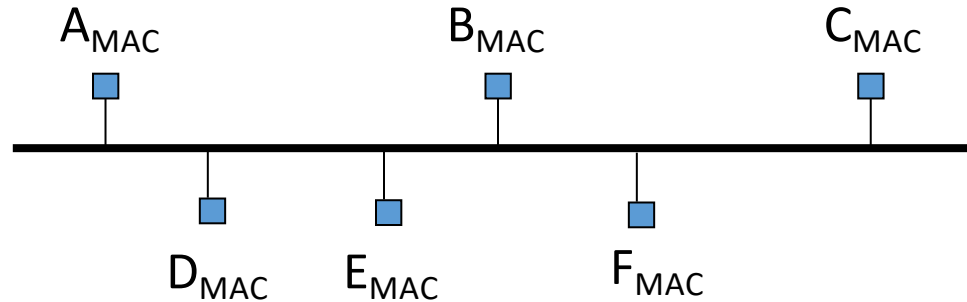
- **Concerns over scalability**
 - Flat MAC addresses cannot be aggregated like IP addresses
- **Legacy**

“Routing” with broadcast Ethernet



- **Sender transmits frame onto broadcast link**
- **Each receiver's link layer passes the frame to the network layer:**
 - If destination address matches the receiver's MAC address OR if the destination address is the broadcast MAC address (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)

“Routing” with broadcast Ethernet



- Ethernet is “plug-n-play”
- A new host plugs into the Ethernet and is good to go
 - No configuration by users or network operators
 - Broadcast as a means of bootstrapping communication

Why does Ethernet not use LS/DV?

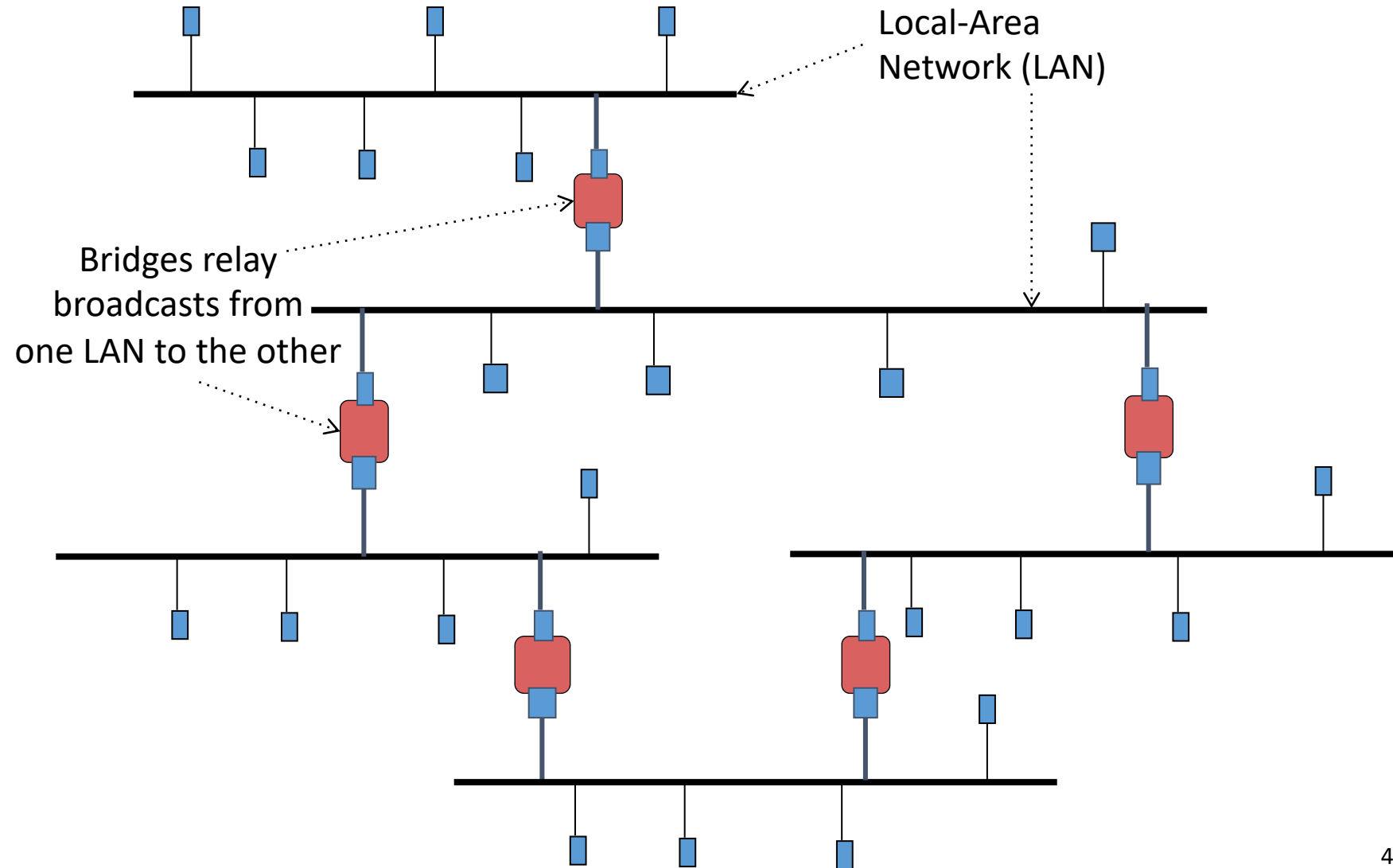
- **Concerns over scalability**

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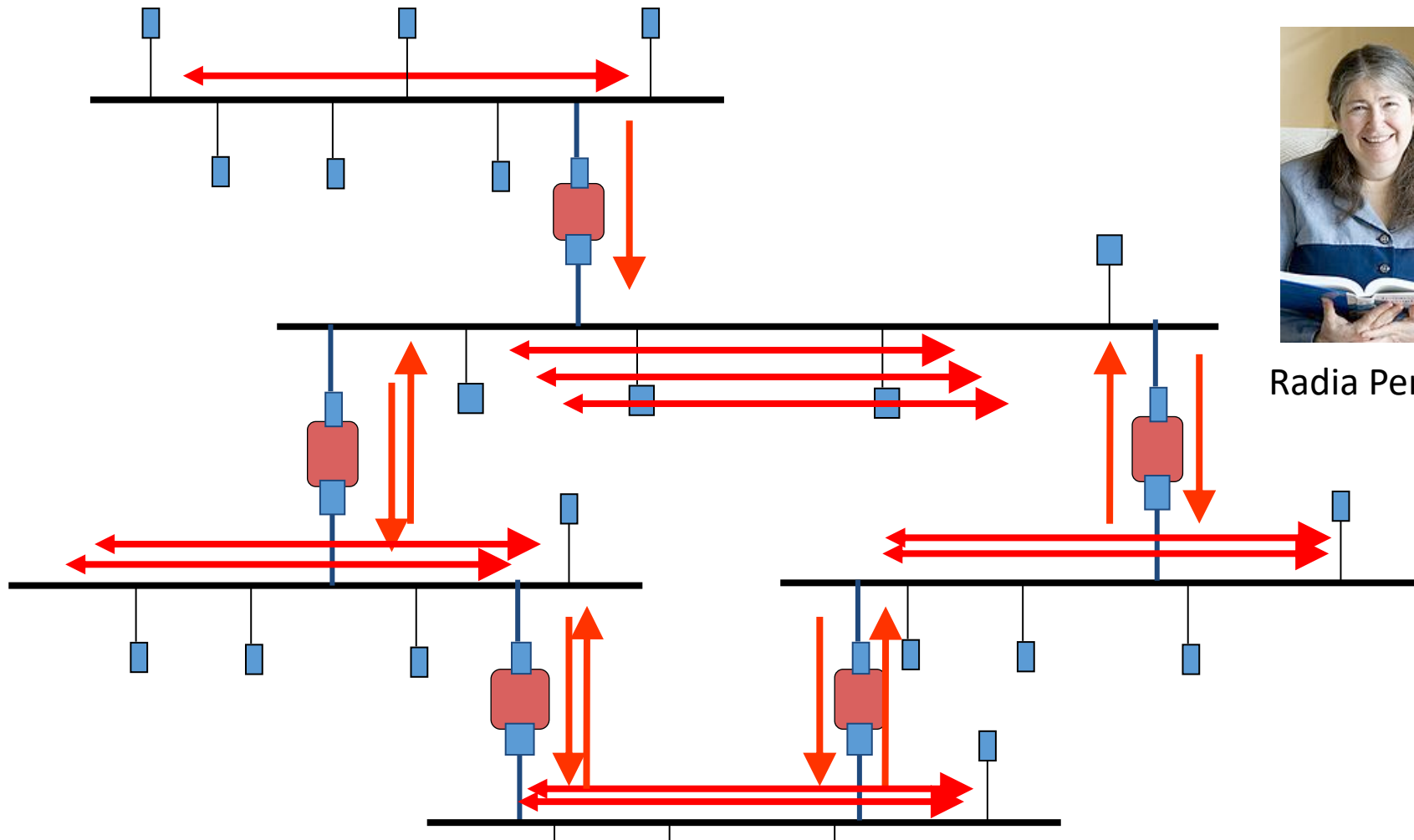
- **Legacy**

- Backward compatibility with broadcast Ethernet
- Desire to maintain Ethernet's plug-n-play behavior
- How broadcast Ethernet evolved

Routing in extended LANs



The “broadcast storm” problem



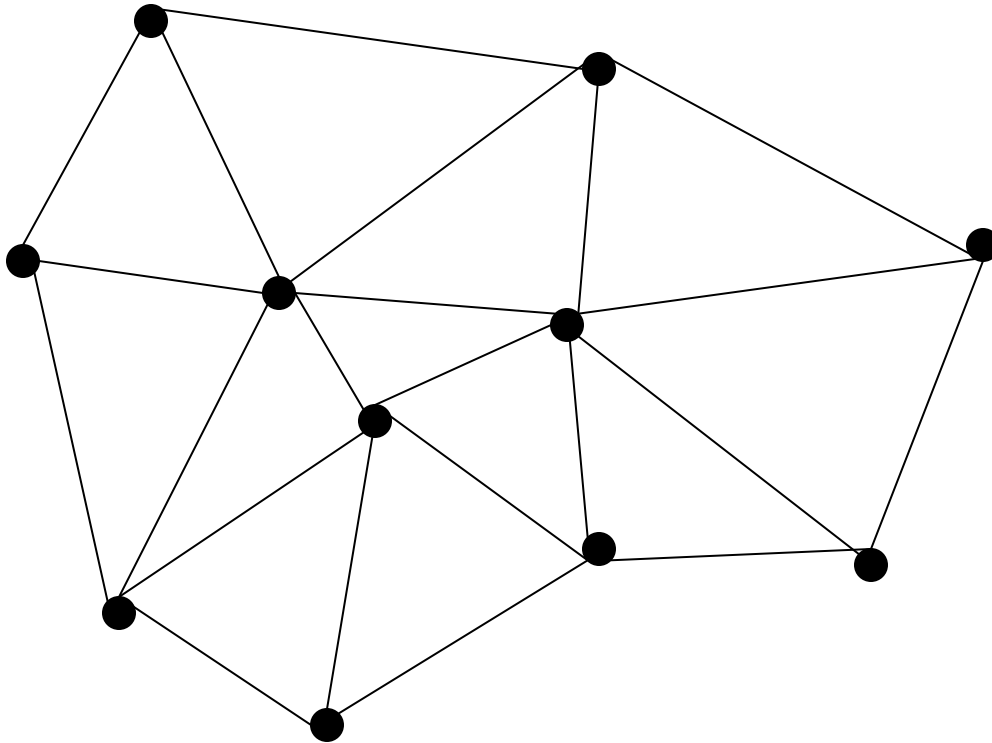
Radia Perlman

Perlman's idea: eliminate loops in the topology

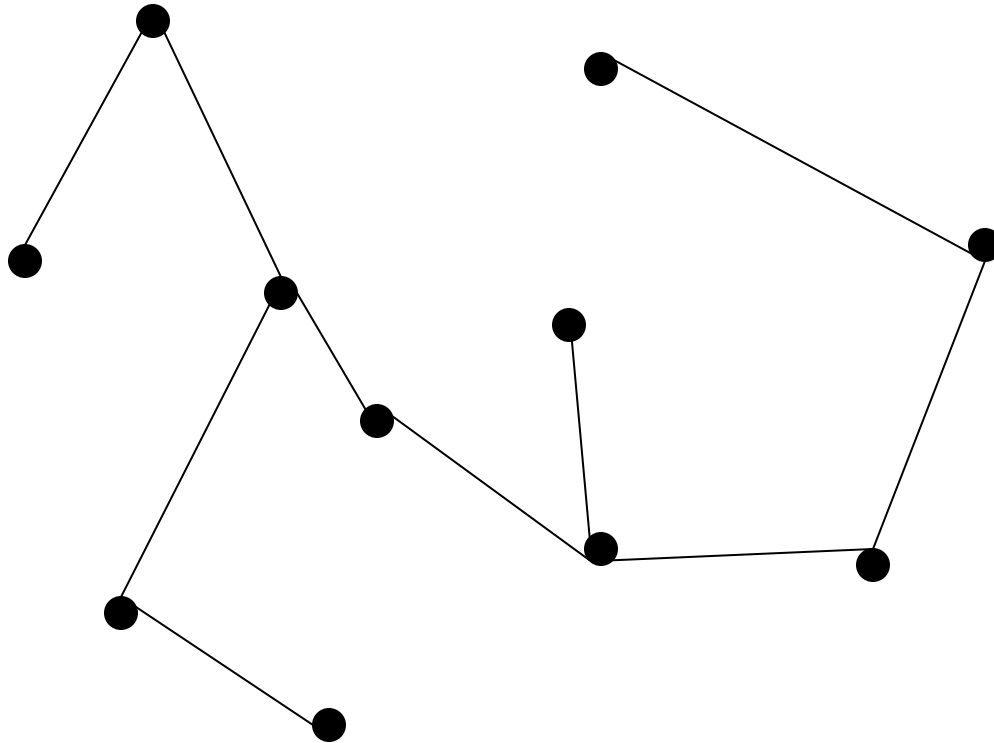
Easiest way to avoid loops

- **Use a topology where loops are impossible!**
- **Take arbitrary topology and build a **spanning tree****
 - Sub-graph that includes all vertices but contains no cycles
 - Links not in the spanning tree are not used to forward frames

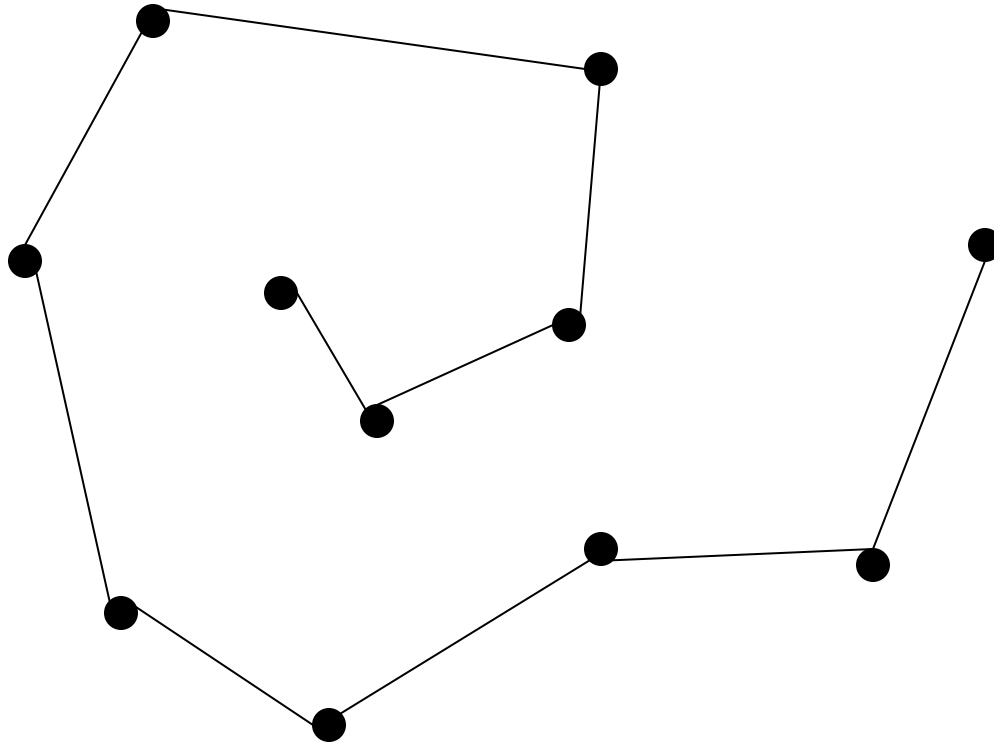
Consider a graph



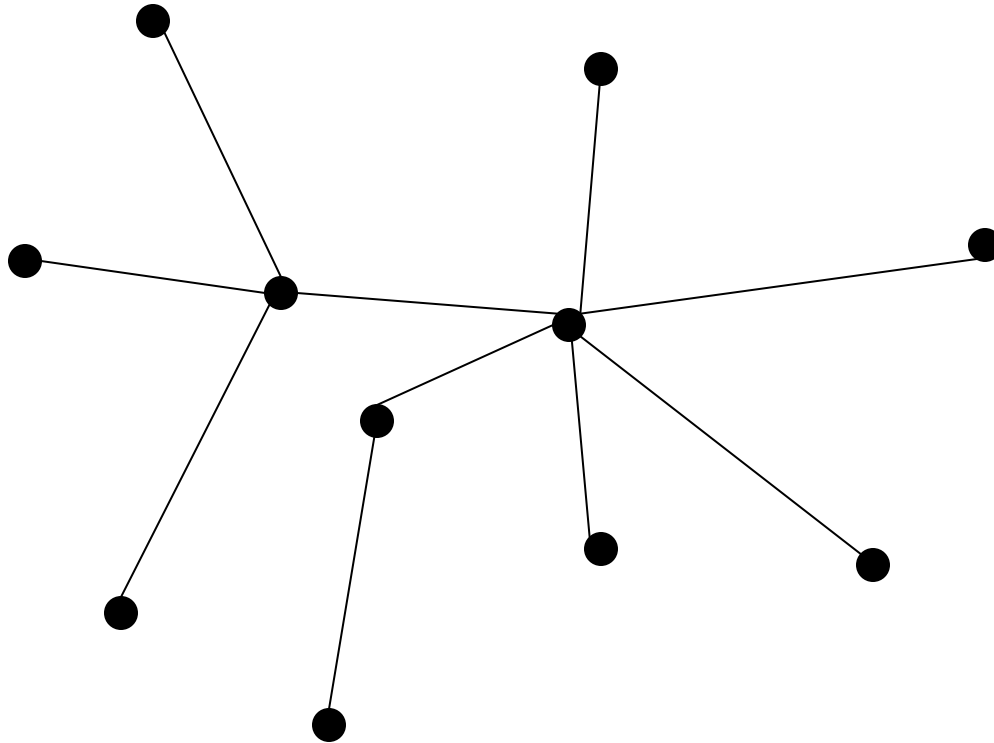
A spanning tree



Another spanning tree



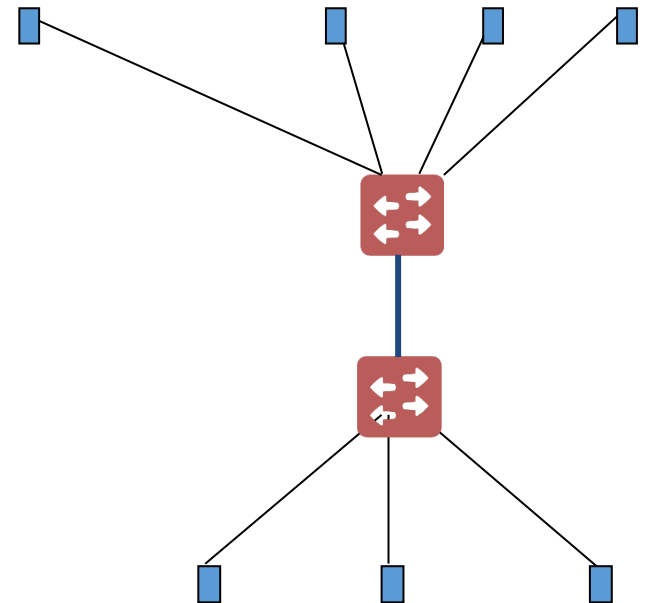
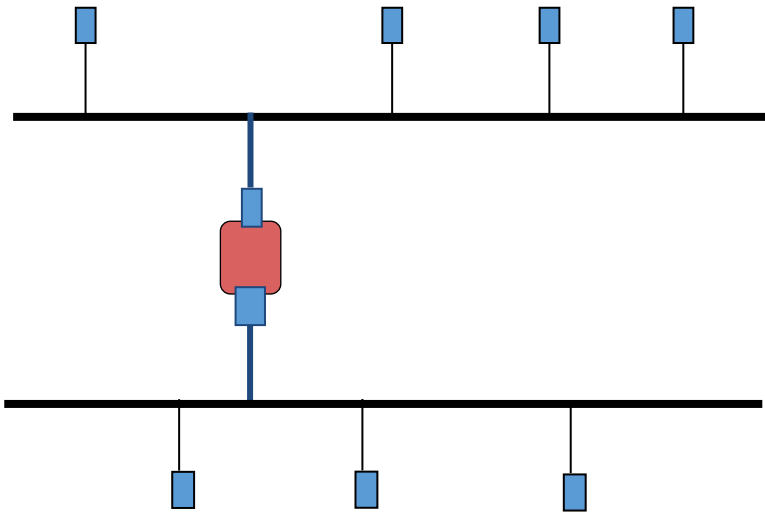
Yet another spanning tree



Spanning tree protocol (Perlman'85)

- **Protocol by which bridges construct a spanning tree**
- **Nice properties**
 - Zero configuration (by operators or users)
 - Self healing
- **Still used today**

From extended LANs to switched Ethernet



Switched Ethernet

- **Constraints (for backward compatibility)**
 - No changes to end-hosts
 - Maintain plug-n-play aspect
- **Earlier Ethernet achieved plug-n-play by leveraging a broadcast medium**
 - Can we do the same in a switched topology?

Group Discussion

- **Topic: Ethernet routing**

- How does Ethernet do routing? What are the pros and cons of the approach?

- **Discuss in groups, and each group chooses a leader to summarize the discussion**

- Everyone should speak.

- Turn on your audio and video. Do not mute.

Summary

- **Data link layer transfers data between adjacent nodes or nodes connected to the same switch**
- **Ethernet evolved from a broadcast medium to switched**
- **Next week: Link layer wrap up + putting everything together**

Thanks!
Q&A