DNS: domain name system

people: many identifiers:

- SSN, name, passport #

Internet hosts, routers:

- IP address (32 bit) - used for addressing datagrams
- "name", e.g., www.yahoo.com - used by humans

Q: how to map between IP address and name, and vice versa ?

Domain Name System:

- *distributed database* implemented in hierarchy of many *name servers*
- *application-layer protocol:* hosts, name servers communicate to *resolve* names (address/name translation)
  - note: core Internet function, implemented as application-layer protocol
  - complexity at network's "edge"

DNS: services, structure

DNS services

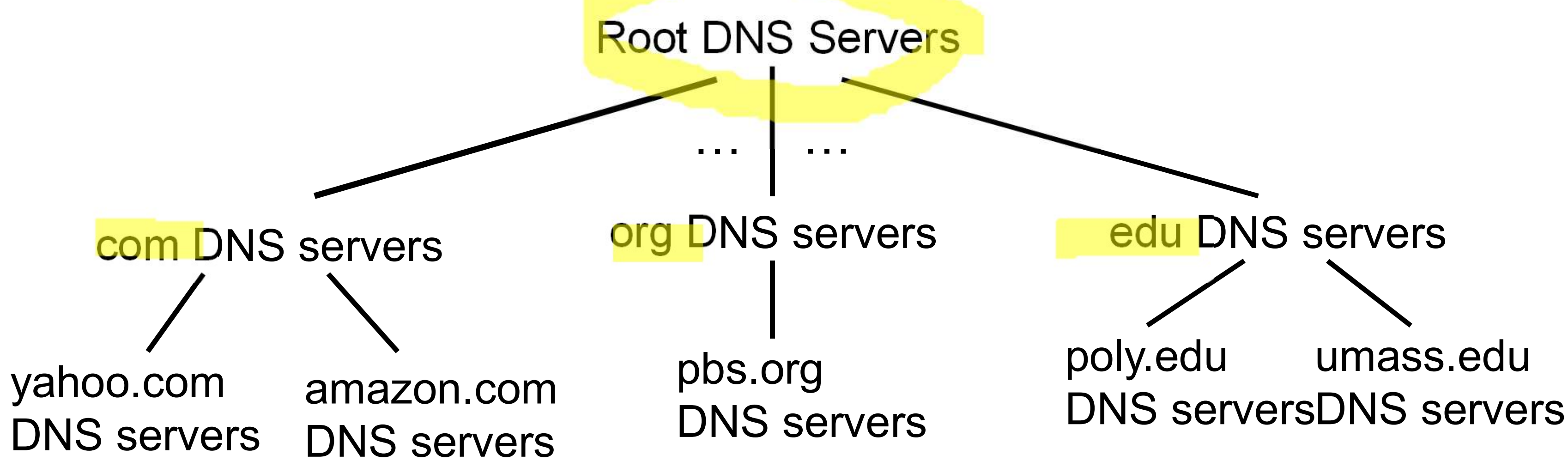
- hostname to IP address translation
- host aliasing
  - canonical, alias names
- mail server aliasing
- load distribution
  - replicated Web servers: many IP addresses correspond to one name
  - **Table** – ipaddr-names Lookup mechanism

why not centralize DNS?

- single point of failure
- traffic volume
- distant centralized database
- maintenance

A: *doesn't scale!*

DNS: a distributed, hierarchical database



client wants IP for www.amazon.com; 1st approximation:

- client queries root server to find com DNS server
- client queries .com DNS server to get amazon.com DNS server
- client queries amazon.com DNS server to get IP address for www.amazon.com
- TLDs .in, .biz, .in **.edu.in .daiict.ac.in**

- Root
- .in dataset
    - Servers for 2nd level dns info:
    - .ac server
    - .com server
    - .co server
    - .org server

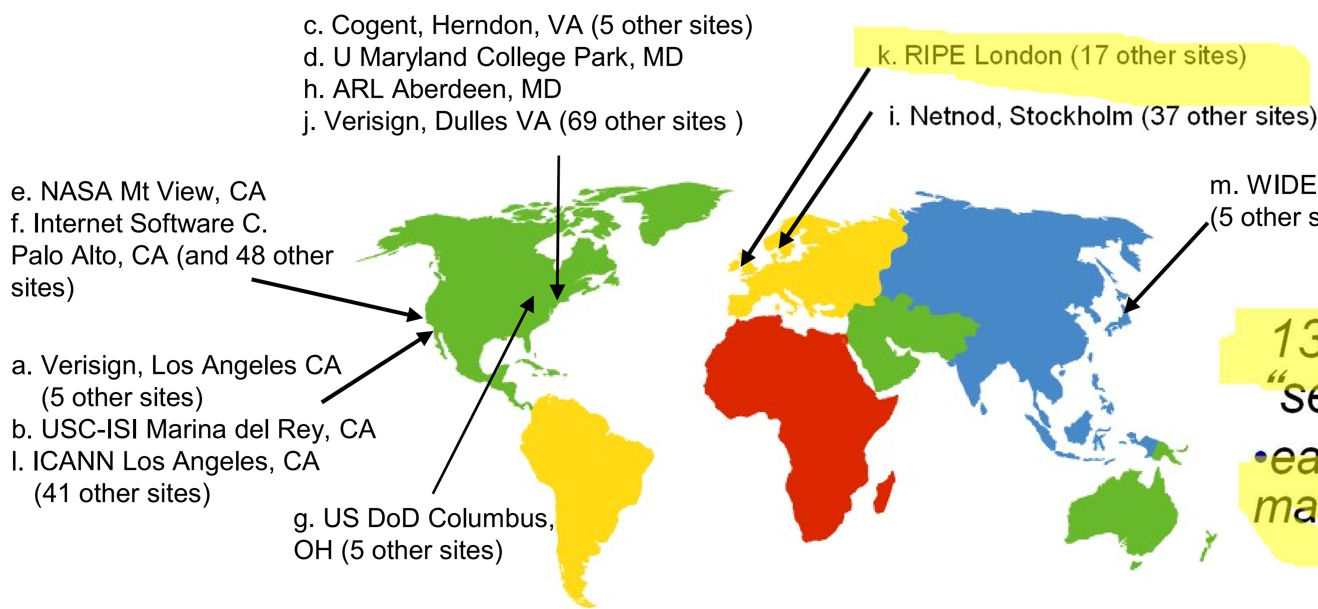
- .ac server dataset
    - .daiict server
    - .iitd server
    - .iitb server

- .daiict.ac.in
    - Intranet server
    - Sbg server

- DNS network protocol
- Query the distributed database to get the mapping.
- Query-response protocol - Goals
  - Low latency
  - Query itself has to be processed hierarchically

DNS: root name servers

- contacted by local name server that can not resolve name
- root name server:
  - contacts authoritative name server if name mapping not known
  - gets mapping
  - returns mapping to local name server



13 logical root name "servers" worldwide

- *each "server" replicated many times*

TLD, authoritative servers

top-level domain (TLD) servers:

- responsible for com, org, net, edu, aero, jobs, museums, and all top-level country domains, e.g.: uk, fr, ca, jp
- Network Solutions maintains servers for .com TLD
- Educause for .edu TLD

authoritative DNS servers:

- organization's own DNS server(s), providing authoritative hostname to IP mappings for organization's named hosts
- can be maintained by organization or service provider

- DNS Domain Name Service
- Allows us to use addresses like **google.com** as opposed to **10.100.1.2** for remote machines

Local DNS name server

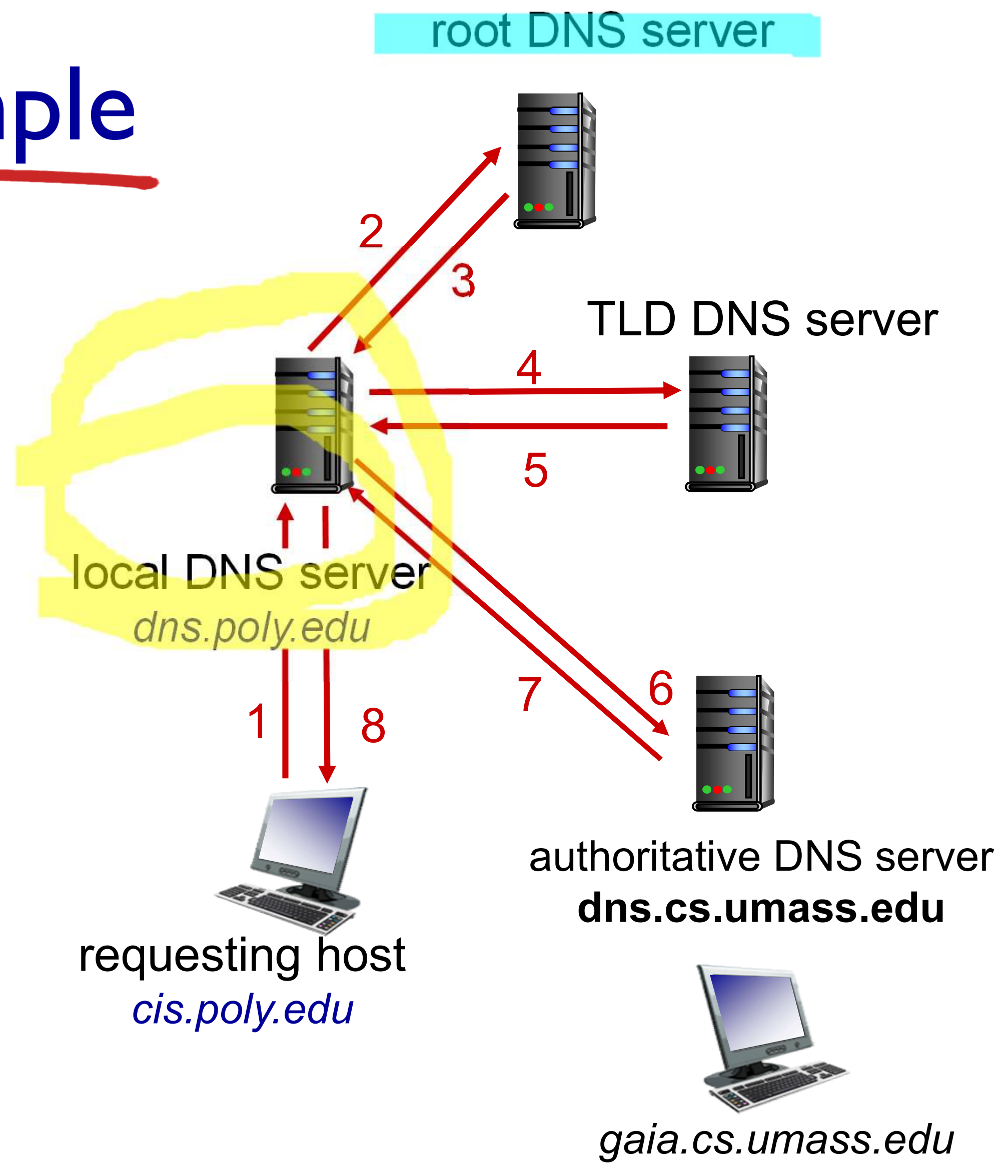
- does not strictly belong to hierarchy
- each ISP (residential ISP, company, university) has one
  - also called "default name server"
- when host makes DNS query, query is sent to its local DNS server
  - has local cache of recent name-to-address translation pairs (but may be out of date!)
  - acts as proxy, forwards query into hierarchy

DNS name resolution example

- host at cis.poly.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu

iterated query:

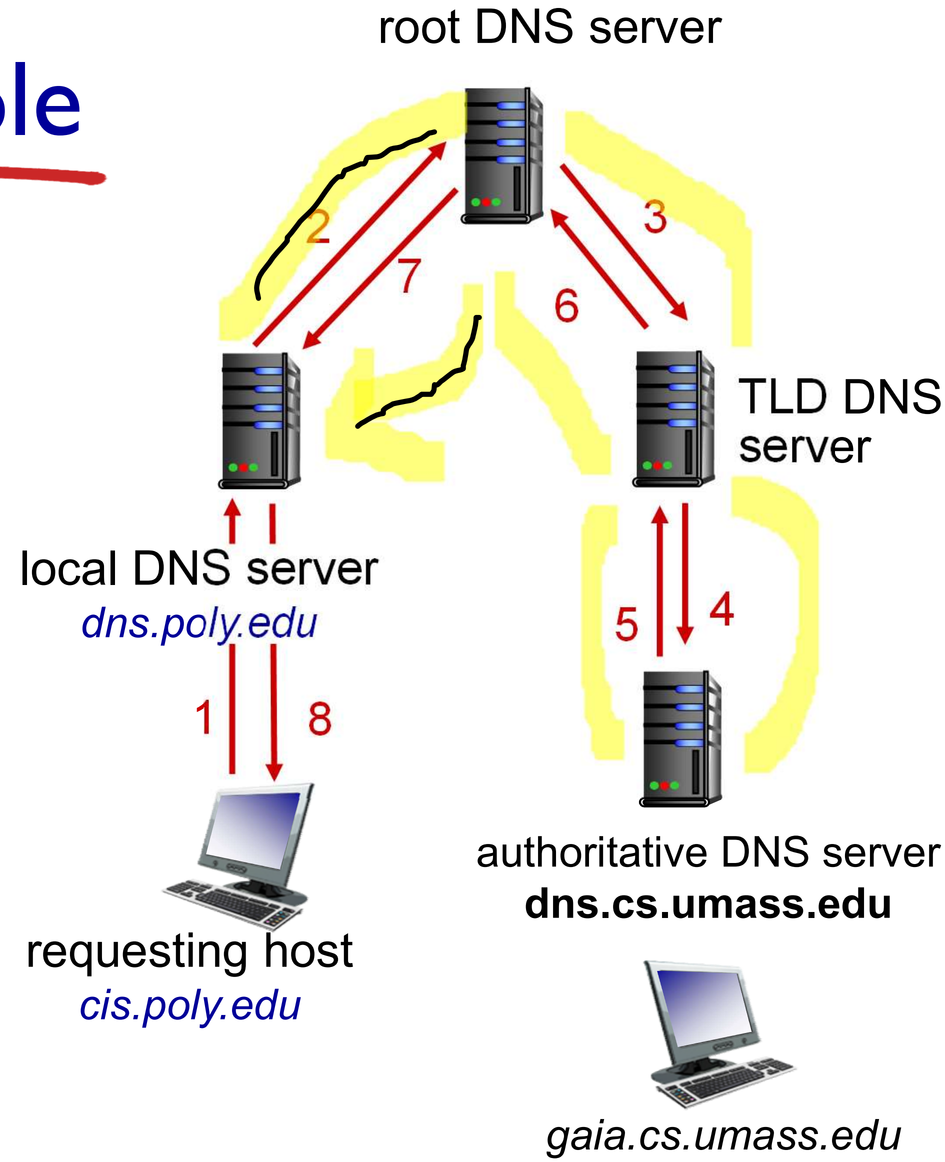
- contacted server replies with name of server to contact
- "I don't know this name, but ask this server"



DNS name resolution example

recursive query:

- puts burden of name resolution on contacted name server
- heavy load at upper levels of hierarchy?



DNS: caching, updating records

- once (any) name server learns mapping, it *caches* mapping
  - cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time (TTL)
  - TLD servers typically cached in local name servers
    - thus root name servers not often visited
- cached entries may be *out-of-date* (best effort name-to-address translation!)
  - if name host changes IP address, may not be known Internet-wide until all TTLs expire
- update/notify mechanisms proposed IETF standard
  - RFC 2136

DNS records

DNS: distributed database storing resource records (RR)

RR format: `(name, value, type, ttl)`

type=A

- `name` is hostname
- `value` is IP address

type=NS

- `name` is domain (e.g., foo.com)
- `value` is hostname of authoritative name server for this domain

type=CNAME

- `name` is alias name for some "canonical" (the real) name
- `www.ibm.com` is really `servereast.backup2.ibm.com`
- `value` is canonical name

type=MX

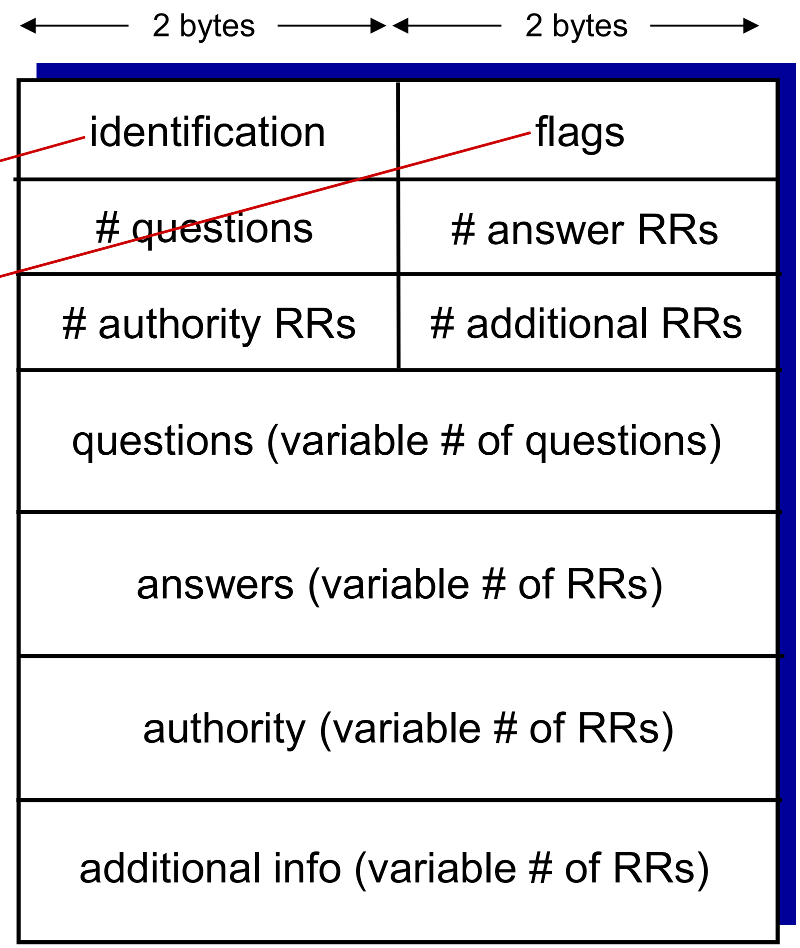
- `value` is name of mailserver associated with `name`

DNS protocol, messages

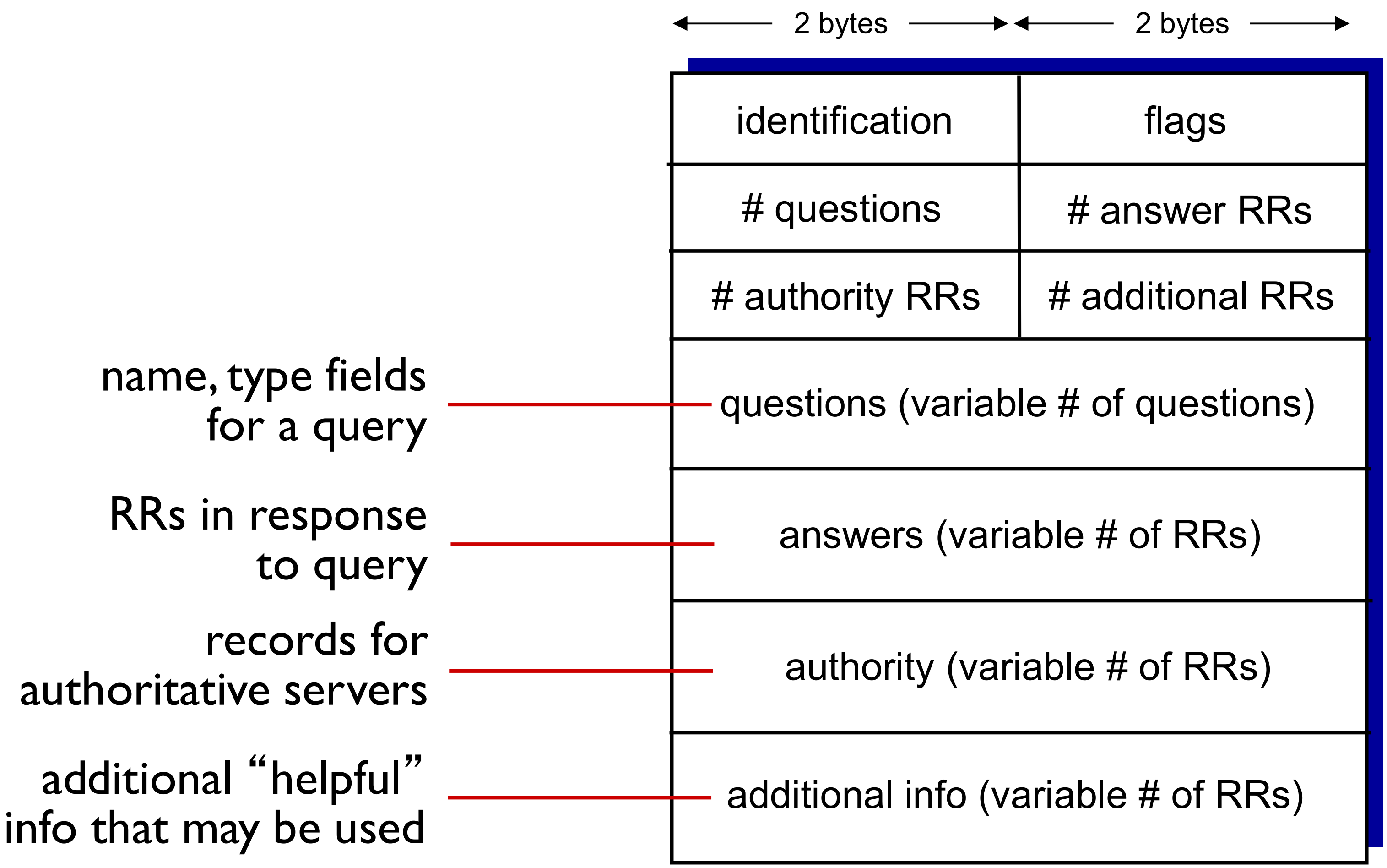
- *query* and *reply* messages, both with same *message format*

message header

- identification: 16 bit # for query, reply to query uses same #
- flags:
  - query or reply
  - recursion desired
  - recursion available
  - reply is authoritative



DNS protocol, messages



Inserting records into DNS

- example: new startup "Network Utopia"
- register name networkuptopia.com at *DNS registrar* (e.g., Network Solutions)
  - provide names, IP addresses of authoritative name server (primary and secondary)
  - registrar inserts two RRs into .com TLD server:
    (networkutopia.com, dns1.networkutopia.com, NS)
    (dns1.networkutopia.com, 212.212.212.1, A)
- create authoritative server type A record for www.networkuptopia.com; type MX record for networkutopia.com

Attacking DNS

DDoS attacks
- bombard root servers with traffic
  - not successful to date
  - traffic filtering
  - local DNS servers cache IPs of TLD servers, allowing root server bypass
- bombard TLD servers
  - potentially more dangerous

redirect attacks
- man-in-middle
  - Intercept queries
- DNS poisoning
  - Send bogus relies to DNS server, which caches

exploit DNS for DDoS
- send queries with spoofed source address: target IP
- requires amplification

- Client-Server applications
- Server (resources/information)
- Client (request for such information)

- Database + server
- Allows this database to be accessed remotely by any of the clients

- Server – has the resources
- Asymmetric. Power
- Server goes down / information not available
- Server has access to your private data

- Alternative to client-server model

- Peer to peer (P2P) application
  - All entities act both as client and server
  - Information is distributed across peer devices
  - No single point of failure
  - Privacy related issues are also not as severe
  - Governments/authorities also are not able to control access to information

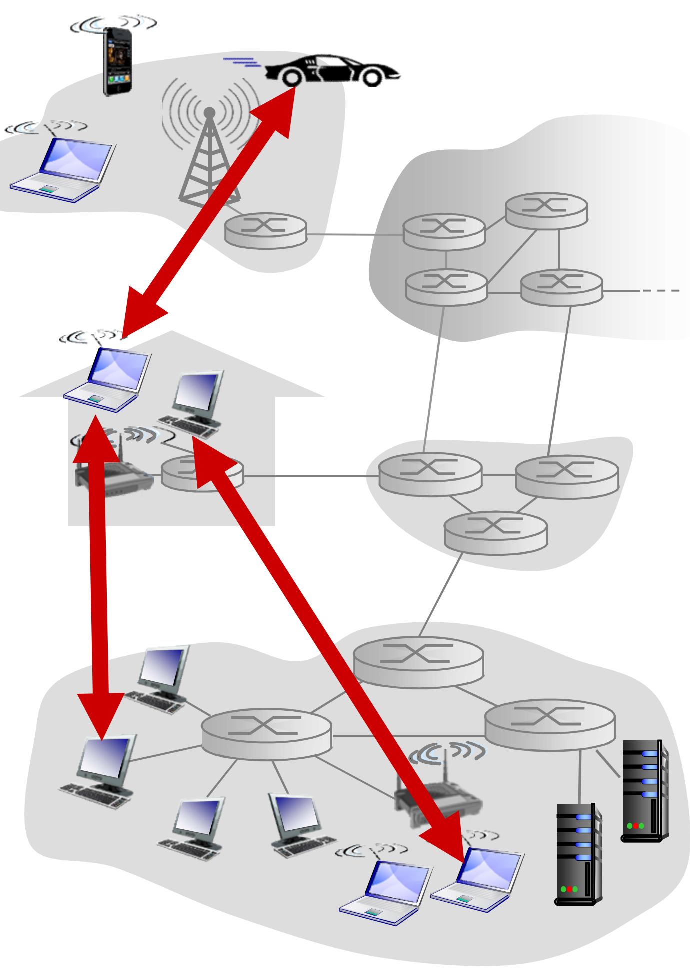
  - File sharing application (torrent protocol)
  - Xender, share it
  - Dropbox?
  - Find a list of different types of p2p application

Pure P2P architecture

- *no* always-on server
- arbitrary end systems directly communicate
- peers are intermittently connected and change IP addresses

examples:

- file distribution (BitTorrent)
- Streaming (KanKan)
- VoIP (Skype)



File distribution: client-server vs P2P

Question: how much time to distribute file (size *F*) from one server to *N* *peers*?

- peer upload/download capacity is limited resource
- Distributed search / getting files in chunks (in parallel)