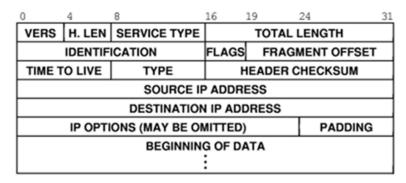
03. Data Communications. IP Delivery

Format of Internet Packets

The IP software defines its own internet packet format knows as an IP datagram.

It is a universal, virtual packet which has a particular format / structure which is very different to that of a hardware frame.

It can carry a single octet of data or multiple octets up to a maximum of 64K octets (including the header).

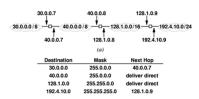


IP Datagram Header Format

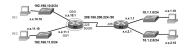
Forwarding an IP Datagram

Remember: A router makes its routing decision based on the destination IP address.

Routing informations is stored in a routing table. This table must be initialized on boot-up and updated if the topology changes.



High-level Routing Table



Real router Routing Table



Routing Table of Router 1 (R1)

IP Encapsulation

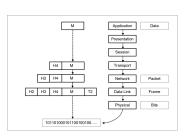
The physical network does not understand the datagram format. Instead, the datagram is placed in the data area of a hardware frame (this is known as encapsulation).

This process is applied on each leg of the transmission path.

The datagram is stored in memory without the additional frame header information.

The size of the frame header may vary as it traverses different network technologies.





Encapsulation and Information flow between the layers on an end-host