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POLLING

- ★ The polling protocol requires one of the nodes to be designated as a Master node (Primary station).
- ★ The master node polls each of the nodes in a round-robin fashion.
- ★ In particular, the master node first sends a message to node 1, saying that it (node 1) can transmit up to some maximum number of frames.
- ★ After node 1 transmits some frames, the master node tells node 2 it (node 2) can transmit up to the maximum number of frames.
- ★ The master node can determine when a node has finished sending its frames by observing the lack of a signal on the channel.

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POLLING

- ★ The procedure continues in this manner, with the master node polling each of the nodes in a cyclic manner.
- ★ The polling protocol eliminates the collision.
- ★ This allows polling to achieve a much higher efficiency.
- ★ The first drawback is that the protocol introduces a polling delay—the amount of time required to notify a node that it can transmit.
- ★ The second drawback, which is potentially more serious, is that if the master node fails, the entire channel becomes inoperative.

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POLLING – FUNCTIONS

- ★ **Poll function** : If the primary wants to receive data, it asks the secondaries if they have anything to send.
- ★ **Select function** : If the primary wants to send data, it tells the secondary to get ready to receive.

EFFICIENCY OF POLLING

Let T_{poll} be the time for polling and T_t be the time required for transmission of data. Then,

$$\text{Efficiency} = \frac{T_t}{T_t + T_{poll}}$$