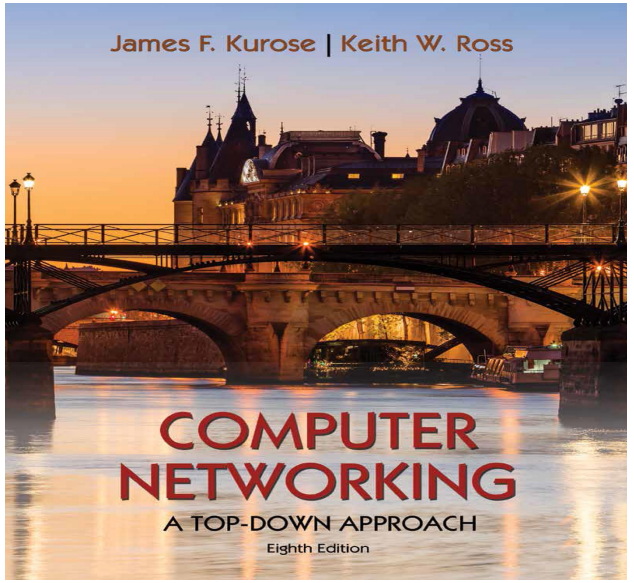
Computer Networks

The Link Layer



- Introduction to the Link Layer
- Error-detection and -correction Techniques
- Multiple Access Links and Protocols
- Switched Local Area Networks
- Link Virtualization: a Network as a Link Layer
- Data Center Networking
- Retrospective: A Day in the Life of a Web Page Request

Datacenter networks

10’s to 100’s of thousands of hosts, often closely coupled, in close proximity:

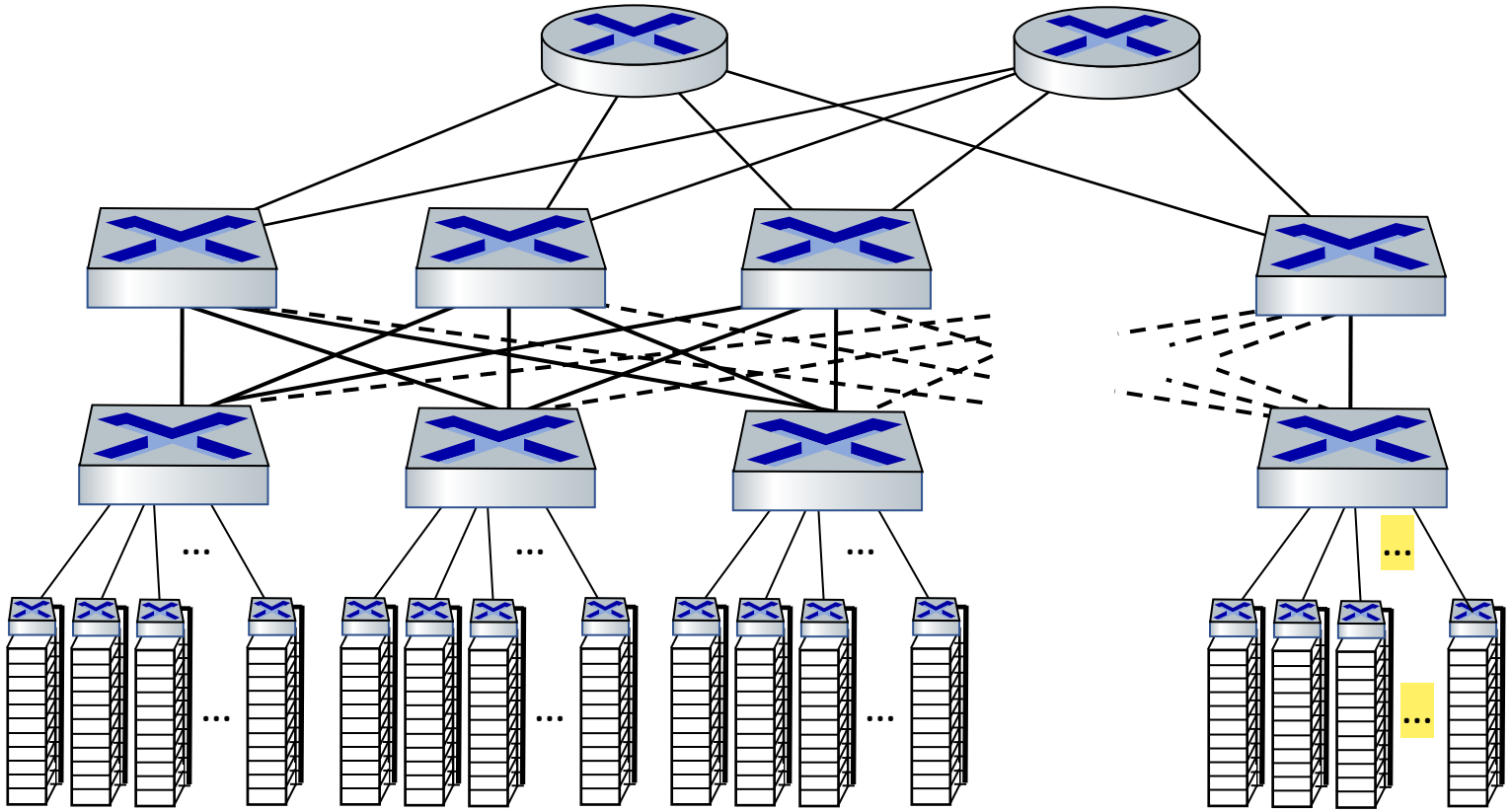
- e-business (e.g. Amazon)
- content-servers (e.g., YouTube, Akamai, Apple, Microsoft)
- search engines, data mining (e.g., Google)

challenges:

- multiple applications, each serving massive numbers of clients
- reliability
- managing/balancing load, avoiding processing, networking, data bottlenecks

Inside a 40-ft Microsoft container, Chicago data center

Datacenter networks: network elements



Border routers
- connections outside datacenter

Tier-1 switches
- connecting to ~16 T-2s below

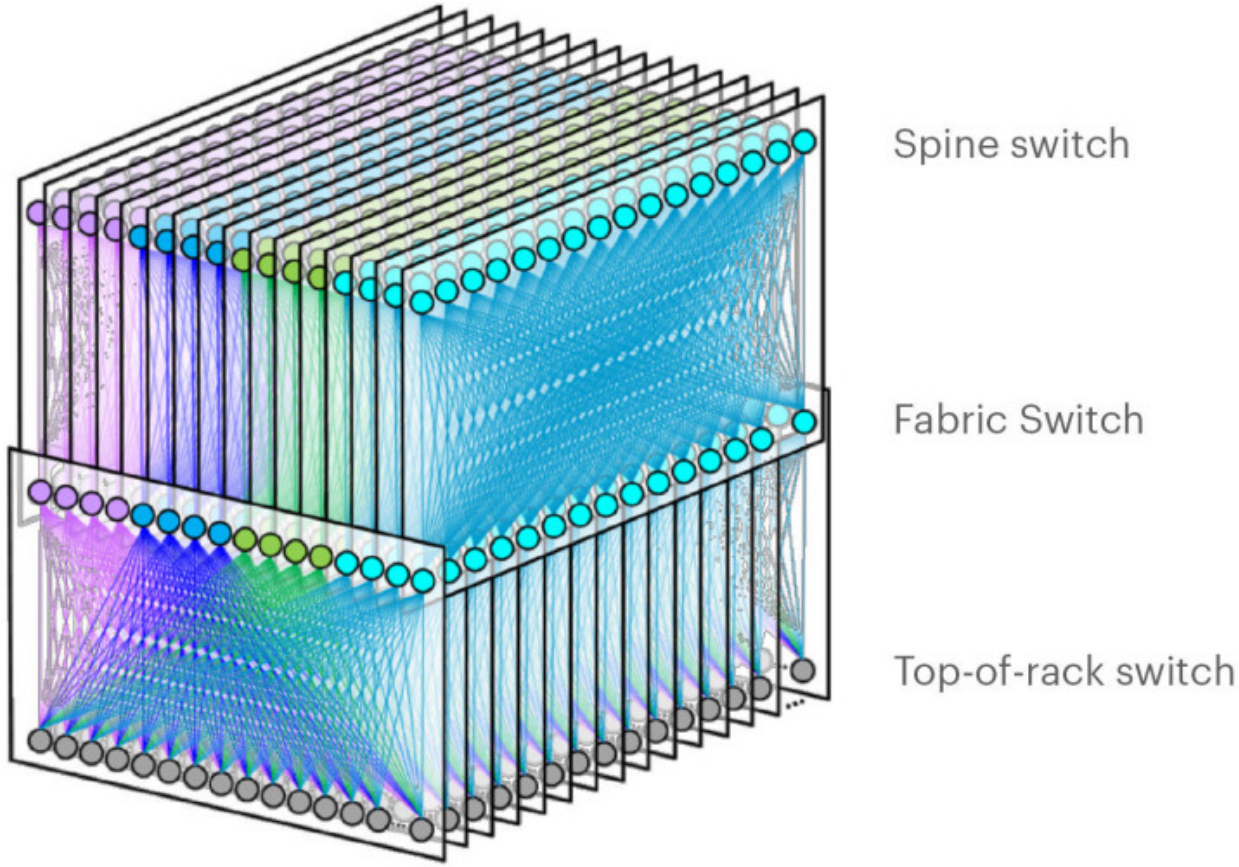
Tier-2 switches
- connecting to ~16 TORs below

Top of Rack (TOR) switch
- one per rack
- 40-100Gbps Ethernet to blades

Server racks
- 20- 40 server blades: hosts

Datacenter networks: network elements

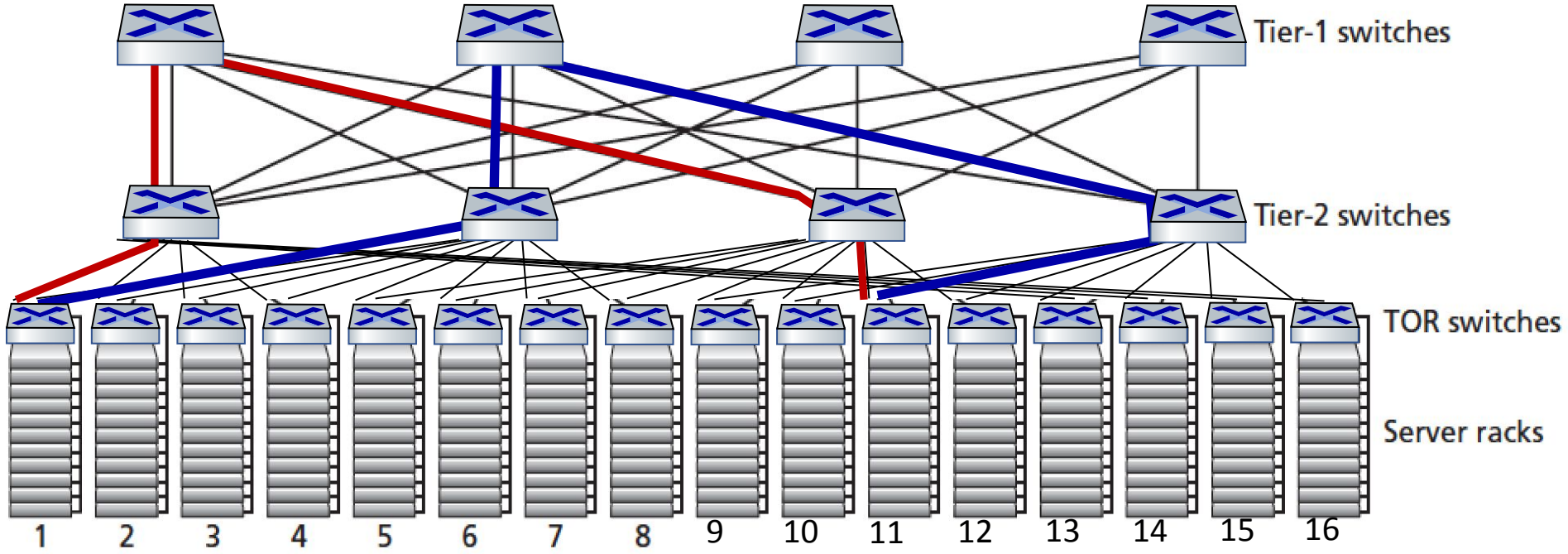
Facebook F16 data center network topology:



https://engineering.fb.com/data-center-engineering/f16-minipack/ (posted 3/2019)

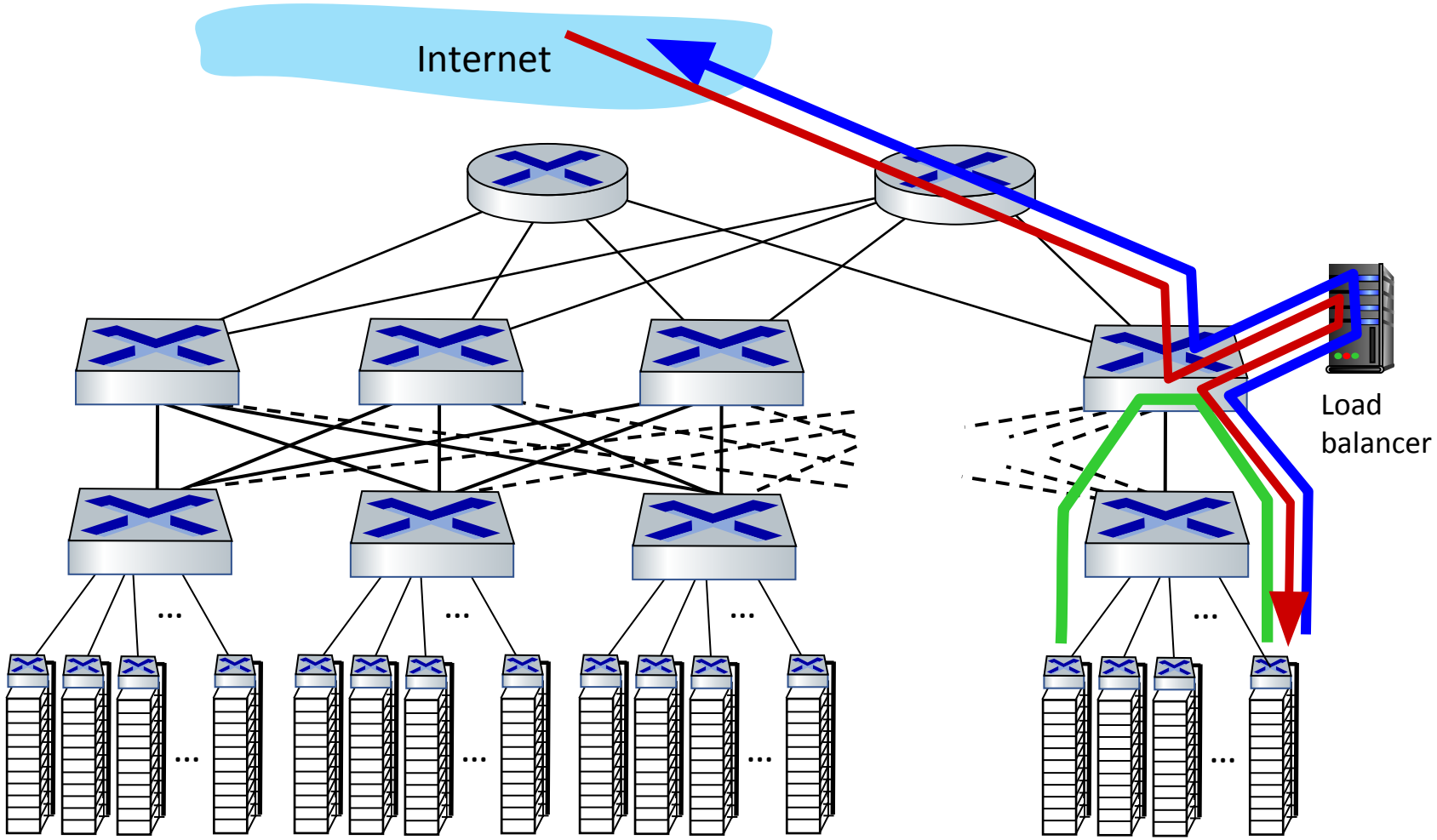
Datacenter networks: multipath

- rich interconnection among switches, racks:
  - increased throughput between racks (multiple routing paths possible)
  - increased reliability via redundancy



two disjoint paths highlighted between racks 1 and 11

Datacenter networks: application-layer routing



load balancer: application-layer routing

- receives external client requests
- directs workload within data center
- returns results to external client (hiding data center internals from client)