

Lecture 8

Application Layer

ELEC 3506/9506

Communication Networks

Dr Wibowo Hardjawana
School of Electrical and Information
Engineering



Topics of the Day

- Application Layer Overview
- Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- E-Mail: SMTP, POP, IMAP
- Domain Name System (DNS)
- Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
- NETCONF and YANG



Layers in the TCP/IP Protocol Suite

Layer 5 Application Layer 4 Transport Layer 3 Network Data link Layer 2 **Physical** Layer 1

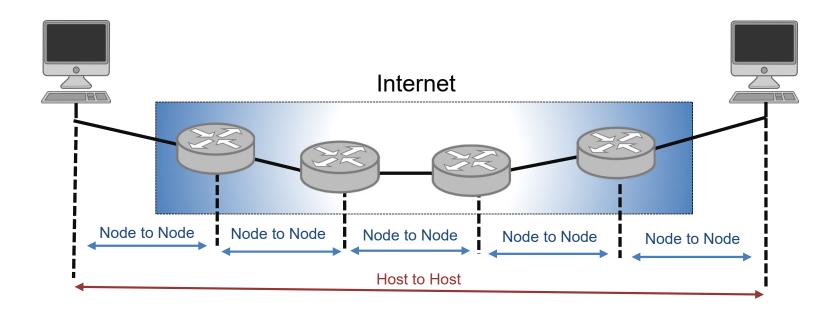
Application Layer:

- Providing services to Internet users
- Receiving services from transport layer
- The other four layers make the services at application layer possible



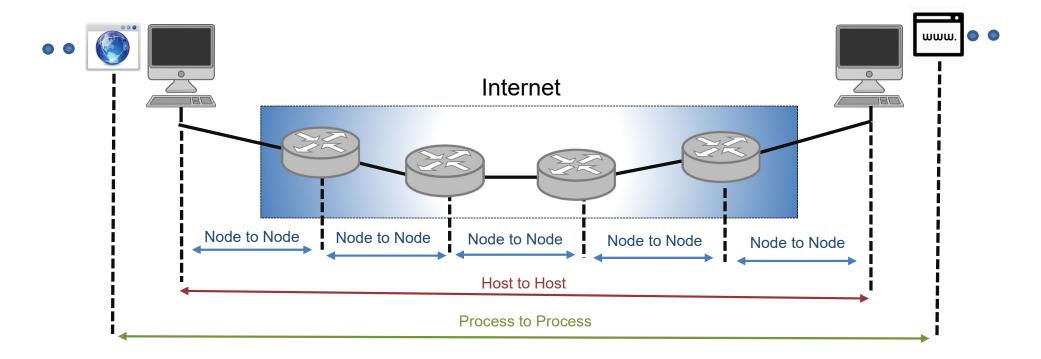
Transport Layer vs Other Layers

- Data Link Layer (Layer 2) Node to Node Communication.
- Network Layer (Layer 3) Host to Host Communication.





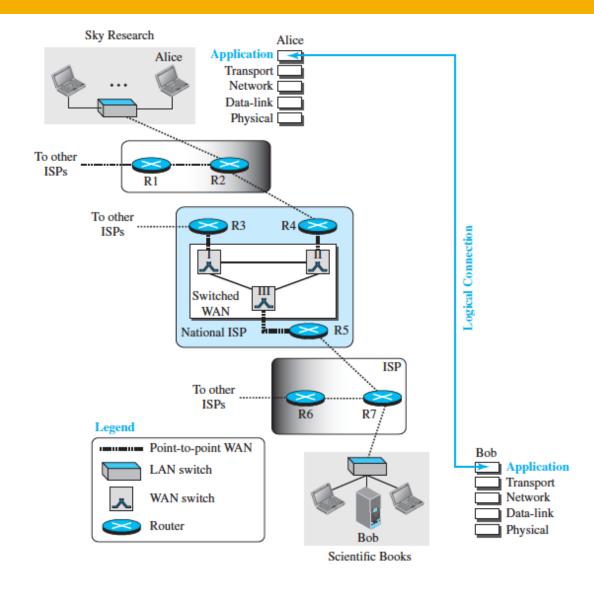
Transport Layer



Transport layer: provides logical communication between applications/processes running on different hosts.



Logical Connection at Application Layer





Add/Remove Application Layer Protocols

- The layered architecture makes the Internet flexible to add/remove/replace protocols in each layer
- If a protocol is added to each layer, it should be designed such that it uses the services provided by one of the protocols at the lower layer
- If a protocol is removed from a layer, care should be taken to change the protocol at the next higher layer that uses the services of the removed protocol
- Application layer protocols do not provide services to any other protocol in the suite. Thus, they can be removed easily
- New protocols can be added easily to application layer as long as they can use the services provided by the transport layer protocols

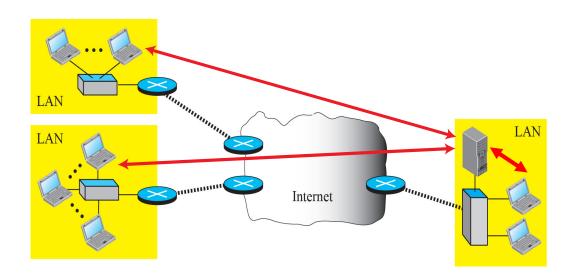


Application Layer Paradigms

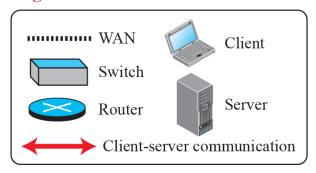
- Client-Server Paradigm (Traditional)
 - Service is provided by the server process, which must be running at all the time
 - Client: initiates contact with server, requests service from server
 - Server: provides requested service to client (router for Application Layer)
 - Examples: World Wide Web, file transfer protocol (FTP), email
- Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Paradigm (New)
 - No central server
 - Responsibility is shared between peers
 - A computer can both provide or receive services
 - Examples: Skype, BitTorrent, IPTV, Internet telephony



Client-Server Paradigm



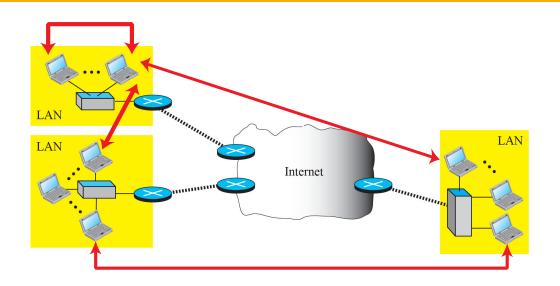
Legend



- Requires powerful server due to concentration of load
- Server may breakdown
- Only suitable for services that can return some type of income



Peer-to-Peer Paradigm



- Scalable & costeffective
- Cons:
 - Security
 - Applicability

Legend



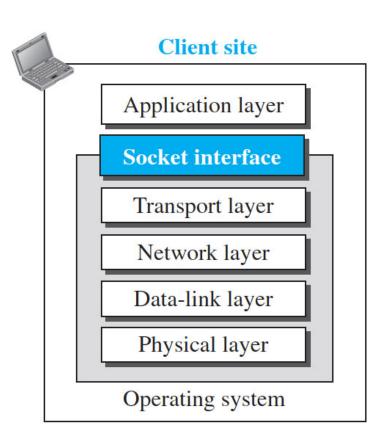


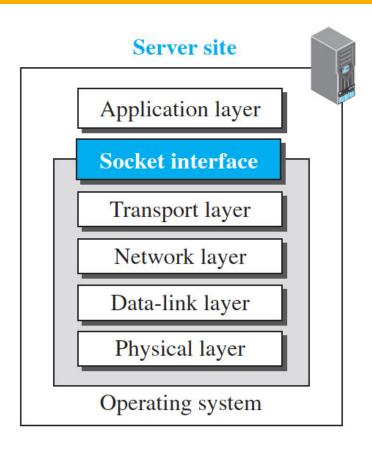
Client-Server Programming

- We need a set of instructions to tell the lowest four layers of the TCP/IP suite to:
 - open the connection
 - send and receive data from the other end
 - close the connection
- Application Programming Interface (API) between:
 - the process at the application layer and
 - the operating system that encapsulates the first four layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite
- Socket interface: one API providing communication between the application layer and the operating system



Socket Interface

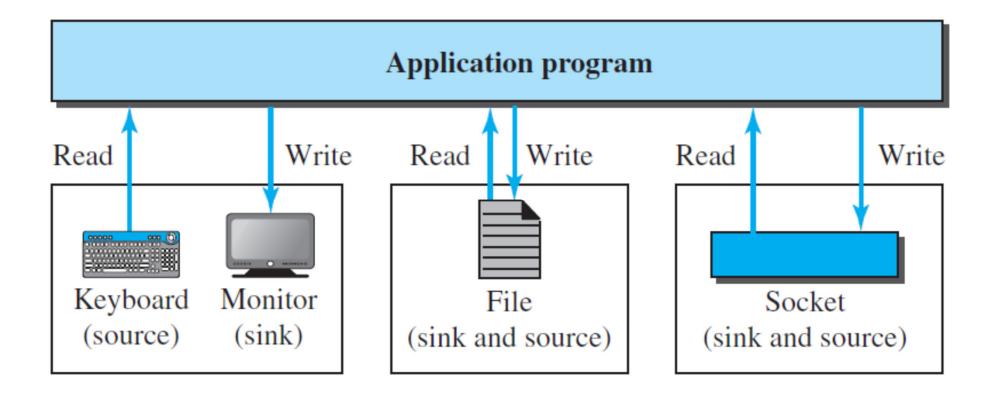




- Socket is not a physical entity; it is an abstraction
- Socket is created and used by the application program



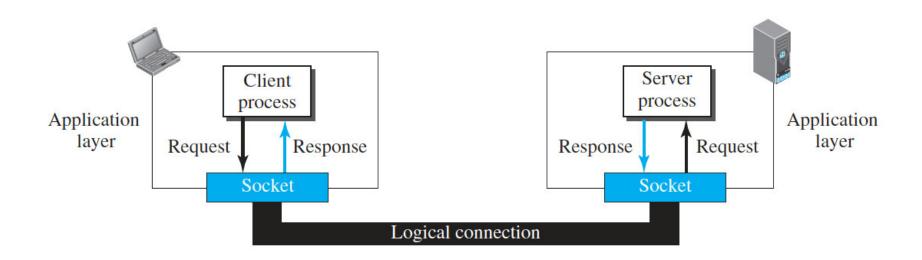
Socket as Data Source/Sink



Socket can be used the same way as other sources and sinks



Use Sockets in Process-to-Process Communication



- As far as the application layer is concerned, process-to-process communication is between two sockets
- The client thinks that the socket is the one that gives the response
- The server thinks that the socket is the one that sends the request
- A pair of socket addresses for communication



Using Services of the Transport Layer

- When writing a new application, can decide which transport layer protocol to use
- The choice of protocol seriously affects the capability of the application processes
 - TCP Protocol:
 - Connection-oriented
 - Reliable
 - Flow control
 - Error control
 - Congestion control

UDP Protocol:

- Connectionless
- Unreliable
- Simple
- Small delay
- Low overhead



Internet Applications: Application and Transport Protocols Standards

Application	Application Protocol	Transport Protocol	IETF Standard
Email Transfer	SMTP	TCP	RFC 821 / 5321 / 6409
Email Delivery	POP3 / IMAP4	TCP	RFC 1939 / RFC 3501
Remote Access	Telnet	TCP	RFC854
	SSH	TCP	RFC4251
Web	HTTP1.1/2.0	TCP	RFC2068/7230/7235 RFC 7540
File Transfer	FTP	TCP	RFC959
	SFTP	TCP	Tunneled in SSH
Instant Messaging	XMPP	TCP	RFC6120 / 6121
VoIP	SIP	TCP/UDP	RFC3261
Video Streaming	RTSP	RTP/UDP	RFC2326 / 3550



Transport Service Requirements for Common Apps

Application	Data Loss	Bandwidth	Time Sensitive
Email	No Loss	Elastic	No
Remote Access	No Loss	Elastic	< 150 ms
Web	No Loss	Elastic	No
File Transfer	No Loss	Elastic	No
Instant Messaging	No Loss	Elastic	Yes & No
VOIP	Loss Tolerant	Audio: 5Kb - 1Mb Video: 1Kb - 5Mb	< 150 ms [ITU-T]
Video Streaming	Loss Tolerant	Elastic / 1 Mb – 10 Mb	Yes (Depend on the type of video)
Interactive Games	Loss Tolerant	>~1 Kbps	~ 100 ms
Financial Apps	No Loss	Elastic	Depends



Standard Client-Sever Protocols

- Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP)
- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- E-Mail: SMTP, POP, IMAP
- Domain Name System (DNS)
- Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)



WWW and HTTP

- World Wide Web (WWW): an information space where documents and other web resources are:
 - identified by Uniform Resource Locators (URLs)
 - interlinked by hypertext links, and
 - accessible via the Internet
- WWW today is a distributed client-server service
- Web client (browser): Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, Safari
- Web server: where the web page is stored. Apache and Microsoft Internet Information Server
- HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP): Defines how the client-server programs can be written to retrieve web pages from the web



Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

- URL: The address of a resource on the Internet.
- It indicates the location of a resource and a protocol to access it.
- It usually contains four parts:
 - Protocol: the program needs to access the web page, e.g., http, ftp
 - Host: IP address of the server, or the domain name
 - Port: 16-bit port number, can be omitted if well-known
 - Path: the location and name of the file in the underlying operating system
- Different separators are used between the four parts

protocol://host/path

Used most of the time

protocol://host:port/path

Used when port number is needed

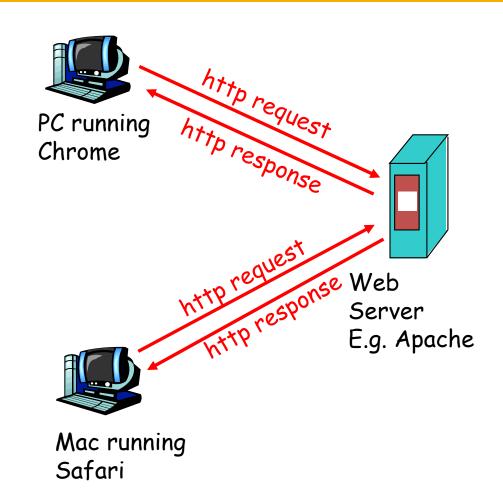
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The Web: HTTP protocol

HTTP: Hypertext Transfer Protocol

- Web's application layer protocol
- The server uses the port number 80
- Uses the services of TCP





Non-persistent vs Persistent Connections

Non-persistent connections

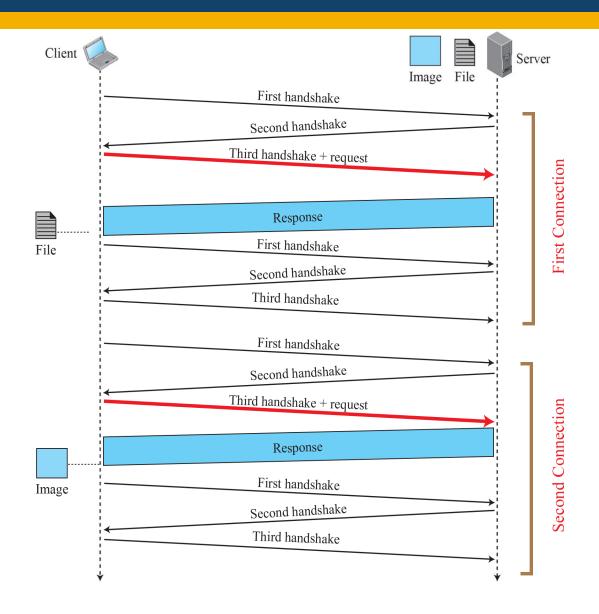
- Retrieve each object (e.g., pictures etc) using a new TCP connection
- One TCP connection is made for each request/response
- Specified by HTTP prior to version 1.1
- High overhead as different requests require different connections

Persistent connections

- Make a TCP connection to retrieve all objects
- The server leaves the connection open for more request after sending a response
- The server can close the connection at the request of a client or if a time-out has reached
- HTTP version 1.1 specifies a persistent connection by default



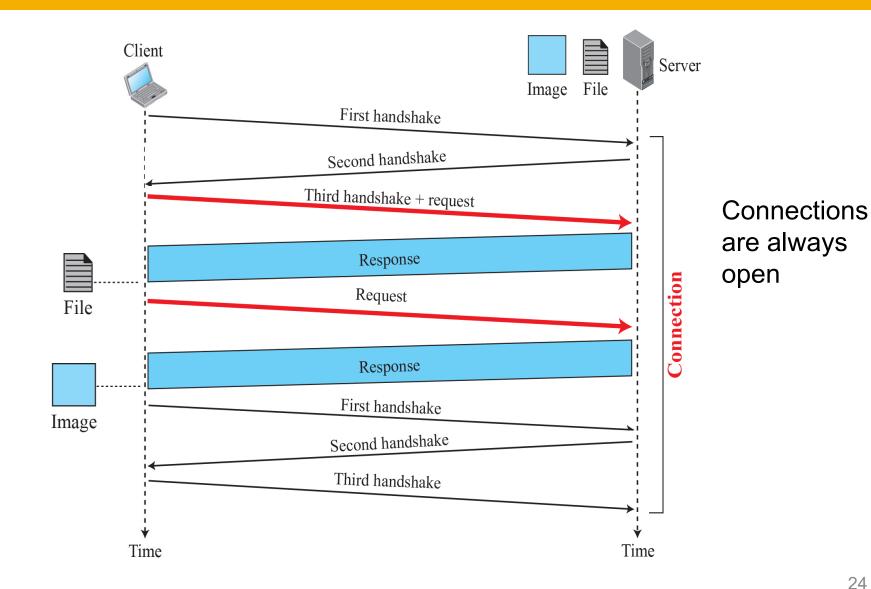
HTTP example (Non-Persistent)



Connections are opened, closed, opened and closed



HTTP example (Persistent)



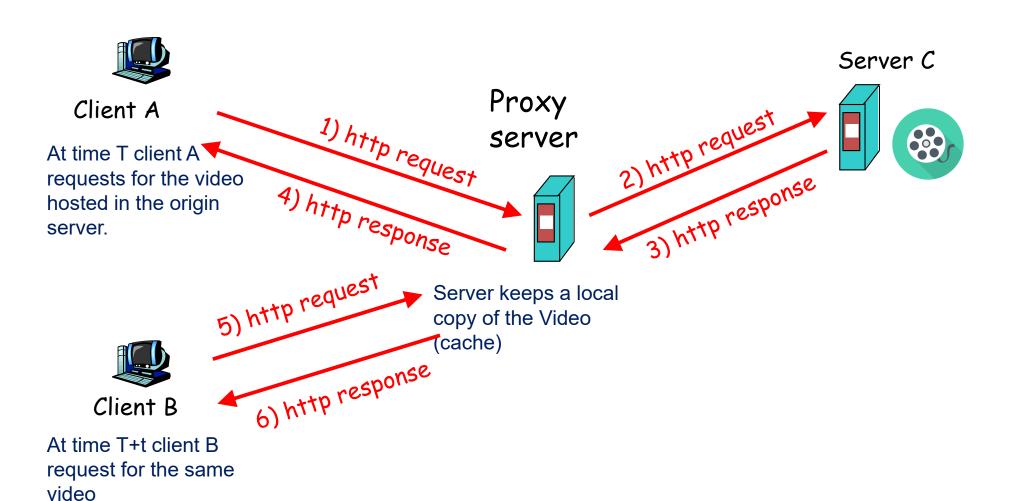


Web Caching: Proxy Servers

- Proxy server: a computer that keeps copies of response to recent requests
- The HTTP client sends a request to proxy server
 - If object is in web cache: web cache returns object
 - Else: web cache requests object from origin server, then returns object to client
- Advantages:
 - Reduces the load on the original server
 - Decreases traffic
 - Improve latency



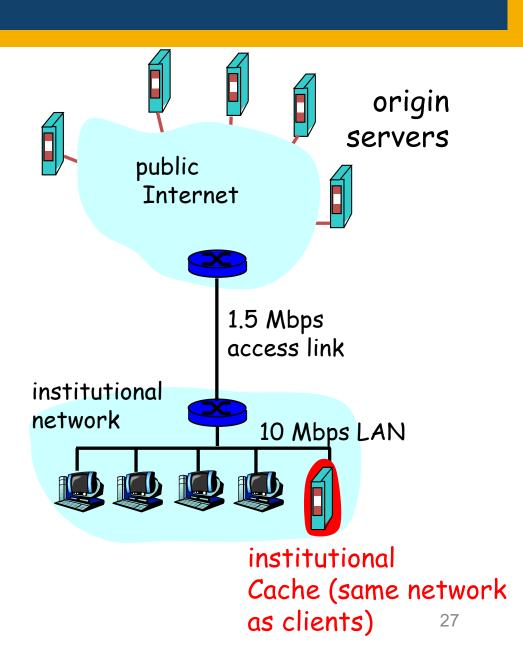
Proxy Server Operation





Why Web Caching?

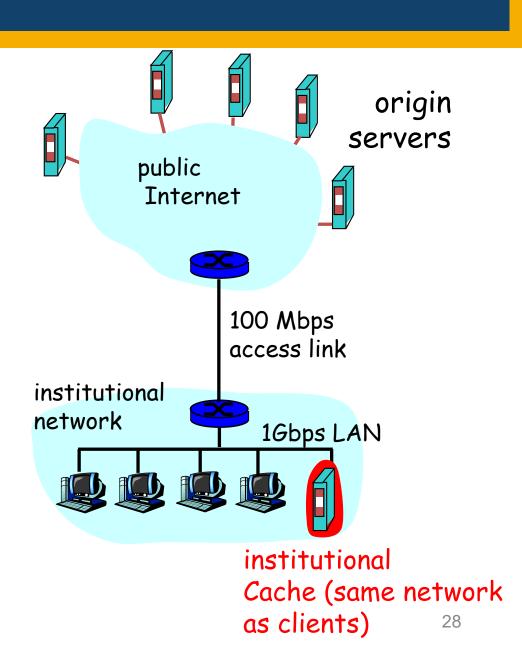
- Assume: cache is "close" to client (e.g., in same network)
- Smaller response time: cache "closer" to client
- Decrease traffic to distant servers
 - link out of institutional/local ISP network often bottleneck





Why Web Caching?

- Assume: cache is "close" to client (e.g., in same network)
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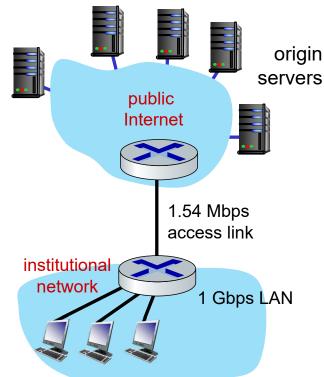
Caching example

Scenario:

- access link rate: 1.54 Mbps
- RTT from public internet (PI) router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: 100K bits
- Average request rate from browsers to origin servers:
 15/sec
 - average data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- Data rate=15 request/sec*100 kbits/request=1.5 Mbps
- LAN utilization: 1.5 Mbps /1Gbps=0.0015
- access link utilization = 1.5 Mbps/1.54 Mbps=0.97



problem: large delays at high utilization!

? is in next slides

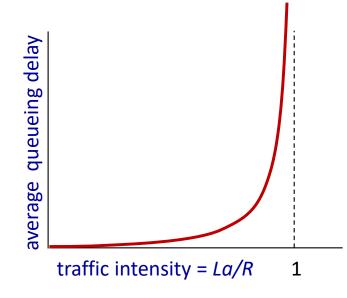


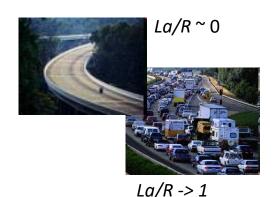
Packet queueing delay (M/M/1 model)

- R: link bandwidth (bps)
- L: packet length (bits)
- a: average packet arrival rate
- p: channel occupancy (e.g., busyness)
- $p=La/R \sim 0$: avg. queueing delay small
- $p=La/R \rightarrow 1$: avg. queueing delay large
- p=La/R > 1: more "work" arriving is more than can be serviced - average delay infinite!



- Effective transmission rate R(1-p) bps
- Delay = $\frac{L}{R(1-p)} = \frac{0.065}{(1-p)} = 2.165 \ sec$ for "?"
- When R=1Gbps p→0, delay ~0.0001 sec for "??"







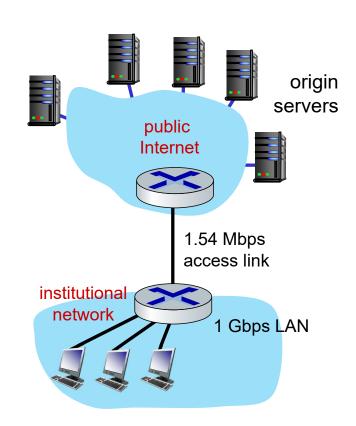
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Performance:

- Data rate=15 request/sec*100 kbits/request=1.5 Mbps
- LAN utilization: 1.5 Mbps /1Gbps=0.0015
- access link utilization = 1.5 Mbps/1.54 Mbps=0.97
- LAN delay=(100K bits/1Gbps)/(1-0.0015)=0.1msec
- end-end delay = Internet delay +
 access link delay + LAN delay
 = 2 sec + (2x2.165) sec + (2x0.0001) sec



problem: large delays at high utilization!

How about a faster link delay then?



Caching example: buy a faster access link

Scenario:

154 Mbps

- access link rate: 154 Mbps
- RTT from public internet router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: 100K bits
- Avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
 - avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- LAN utilization: 0.0015
- access link utilization = .97 → 0.0097
- end-end delay = Internet delay + access link delay + LAN delay
 - $= 2 \sec + minutes + 2x0.0001 \sec$

Reduction to msec delay but how much?

servers

public
Internet

154 Mbps
access link

institutional
network

1 Gbps LAN

origin

Cost: faster access link (expensive!)



Caching example: install a web cache

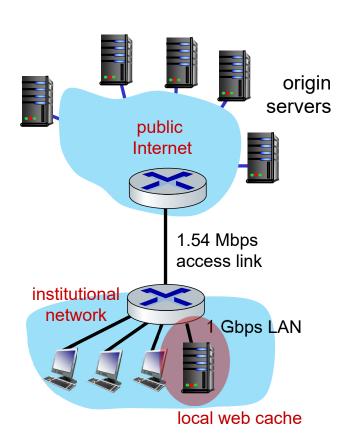
Scenario:

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- RTT from PI router to server: 2 sec
- Web object size: L=100K bits
- Avg request rate from browsers to origin servers: 15/sec
 - avg data rate to browsers: 1.50 Mbps

Performance:

- LAN utilization: .? How to compute link
- access link utilization = ? utilization, delay?
- average end-end delay = ?

Cost: web cache (cheap!)





Caching example: install a web cache

Calculating access link utilization, endend delay with cache:

- suppose cache hit rate is 0.4: 40% requests satisfied at the cache, 60% requests satisfied at the origin
- access link: 60% of requests use access link
- data rate to browsers over access link
 = 0.6 * 1.50 Mbps
 = .9 Mbps
- utilization = 0.9/1.54 = 0.58 ($2x \frac{0.065}{1-0.58}$)
 sec delay << RTT of 2 sec)
- average end-end delay
 - = 0.6 * (delay from origin servers) + 0.4 * (delay when satisfied at cache)
 - = 0.6 (RTT of 2 sec + 0.32 sec) + 0.4 (~2x0.0001 sec) = ~1.392 sec

network

local web cache

lower average end-end delay than with 154 Mbps link (and cheaper too!)



Knowledge Test

Join at menti.com l'use code 5606 3235



Consider a network with a utilisation of 1. Can the packets be transmitted successfully?

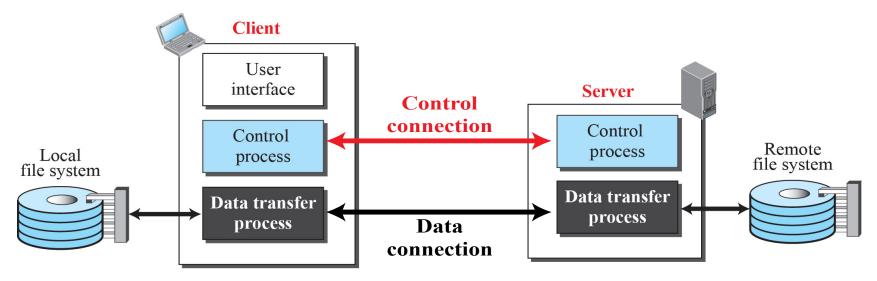


0 × Yes 0 ~



FTP: File Transfer Protocol

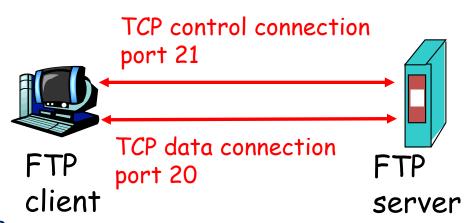
- FTP: standard protocol for transfer files from one host to another
- Client has three components:
 - User interface
 - Client control process
 - Data transfer process
- Server has two components:
 - Server control process
 - Server data transfer process





Separate Control And Data Connections

- Separation of commands and data transfer makes FTP more efficient
- Control connection: port 21
 - Uses very simple rules of communication
 - Needs to transfer only a line of command or a line of response at a time
 - Remains connected during the entire FTP session
- Data connection: port 20
 - Needs more complex rules due to the variety of data types transferred
 - Opened and then closed for each file transfer activity





FTP Commands, Responses

Sample FTP commands:

- Sent as ASCII text over control channel
 - USER UserID
 - PASS password
 - LIST: list subdirectories or files
 - RETR: filename; retrieve files from server
 - STOR: filename; store files to server

Sample FTP responses

- Status code and phrase (as in http)
 - 331 Username OK, password required
 - 125 data connection already open; transfer starting
 - 425 Can't open data connection
 - 452 Error writing file



FTP File Transfer Example

- Connecting to a public
 FTP server using a FTP client.
- Most of the OSs come with a FTP client for the terminal (accessible via ftp command) or there are GUI based clients such as FileZilla.

```
Last login: Sun Sep 11 12:45:53 on ttys002
                                                         Connecting to the
jolt-ev:~ sen040$ ftp ftp://speedtest.tele2.net
                                                         server
Trying 90.130.70.73...
Connected to speedtest.tele2.net.
220 (vsFTPd 2.3.5)
331 Please specify the password.
230 Login successful.
Remote system type is UNIX.
Using binary mode to transfer files.
200 Switching to Binary mode.
                                                  Listing the files
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||28580|).
150 Here comes the directory listing.
                                  1073741824000 Feb 19 2016 1000GB.zip
                                  107374182400 Feb 19 2016 100GB.zip
                                    102400 Feb 19 2016 100KB.zip
                                  104857600 Feb 19 2016 100MB.zip
                                  10737418240 Feb 19 2016 10GB.zip
              1 0
                                  10485760 Feb 19 2016 10MB.zip
                                  1073741824 Feb 19 2016 1GB.zip
                                      1024 Feb 19 2016 1KB.zip
                                   1048576 Feb 19 2016 1MB.zip
                                  209715200 Feb 19 2016 200MB.zip
                                  20971520 Feb 19 2016 20MB.zip
                                   2097152 Feb 19 2016 2MB.zip
                                   3145728 Feb 19 2016 3MB.zip
                                  524288000 Feb 19 2016 500MB.zip
                                  52428800 Feb 19 2016 50MB.zip
                                    524288 Feb 19 2016 512KB.zip
                                   5242880 Feb 19 2016 5MB.zip
drwxr-xr-x
              2 105
                                      4096 Sep 11 04:17 upload
226 Directory send OK.
                                  Accessing one file
ftp> get 5MB.zip
local: 5MB.zip remote: 5MB.zip
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||23788|).
150 Opening BINARY mode data connection for 5MB.zip (5242880 bytes).
                                                                      00:00 ETA
226 Transfer complete.
5242880 bytes received in 01:30 (56.69 KiB/s)
```

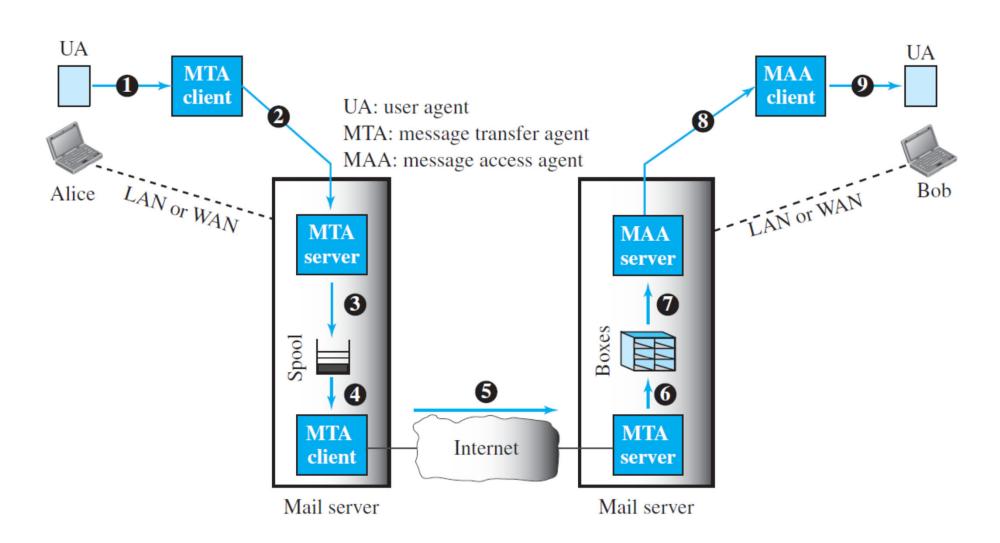


Electronic Mail

- Unique characteristics of E-mail application (compared with HTTP, FTP)
 - No immediate response is required
 - Infeasible for email recipients to run a server program and wait until someone sends an e-mail
 - The idea of client/server programming should be implemented using some intermediate servers
- Components of E-mail system
 - User Agent (UA): Software that composes, reads, replies to and forwards messages
 - Message transfer agent (MTA): Software that transfers messages from one computer to another
 - Message access agent (MAA): Software to access messages
 - Require two UAs, two pairs of MTAs (client and server), and a pair of MAAs (client and server)

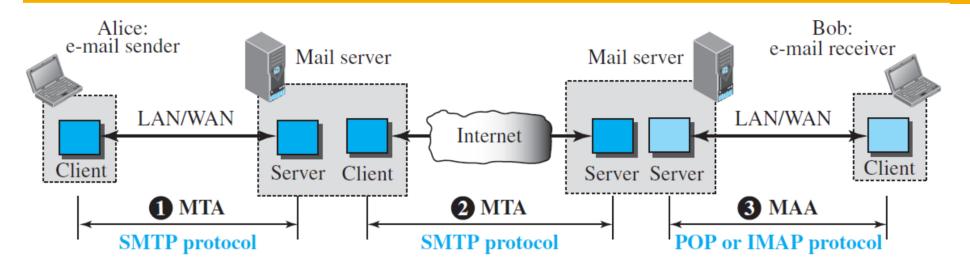


Electronic Mail System Architecture





Protocols Used in Electronic Mail



- E-mail application needs three uses of client-server paradigms
- MTA protocol: Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)
 - Push protocol: message is pushed from client to server
 - SMTP is used two times
- MAA protocol: Requires pull protocols
 - Message is pulled by client from server
 - Post Office Protocol, version 3 (POP3) and Internet Mail Access
 Protocol, version 4 (IMAP4)



Message Transfer Agent: SMTP

- SMTP defines how commands and responses must be sent between MTA client and server
- Uses TCP connection with the well-known port 25
- Three phases of transfer
 - Connection establishment (Handshaking)
 - Transfer of messages
 - Connection termination
- Command/response interaction
 - Commands (from client to server): ASCII text
 - Response (from server to client): status code and phrase
- Messages must be in 7-bit ASCII

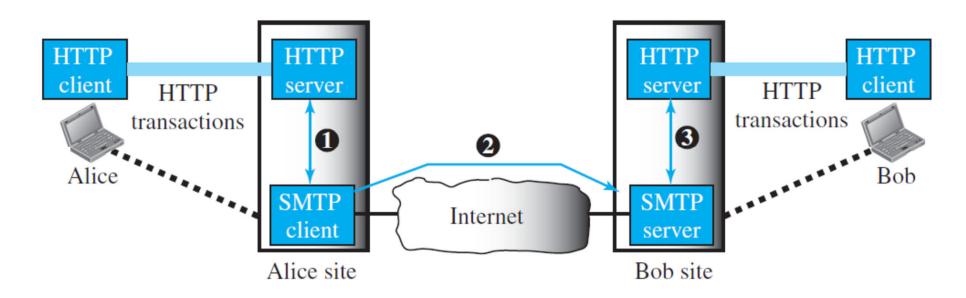


Message Access Agent: POP and IMAP

- Post Office Protocol, version 3 (POP3)
 - Simple but limited functionality
 - User cannot organize mails on the server
 - User cannot have different folders on the server
 - User cannot partially check the contents of the mail before downloading
- Internet Mail Access Protocol, version 4 (IMAP4)
 - More powerful and more complex with extra functions
 - User can check e-mail header prior to downloading
 - User can partially download e-mail
 - User can create, delete, or rename mailboxes on the mail server
 - User can create a hierarchy of mailboxes in a folder for e-mail storage



Web-Based Mail

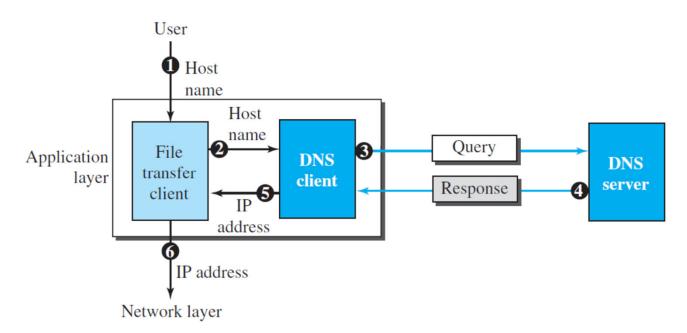


- Alice sends the message to the web server using HTTP transactions
- Bob receives message using HTTP transactions
- However, the message from the server of Alice to the server of Bob still uses SMTP protocol



DNS: Domain Name System

- TCP/IP protocols use IP address to uniquely identify the connection of a host
- People prefer to use names, e.g., yahoo.com
- How to map a name to an address?
- Domain Name System (DNS):
 - An application-layer protocol allows host and name servers to communicate to resolve address/name translation

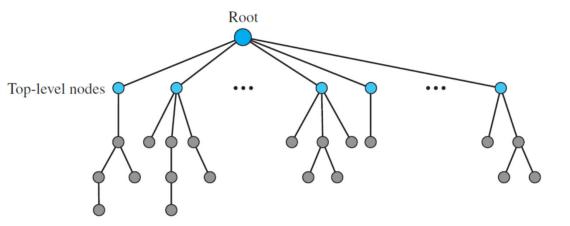




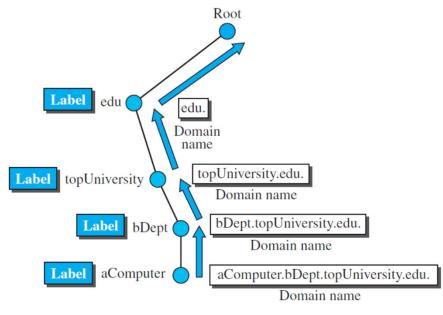
Domain Name Space

- Hierarchical domain name space: each name is made of several parts
- The names are defined in an inverted-tree structure with the root at the top
- Each node has a label and domain name
 - Label: a string with a maximum of 63 characters for each node
 - Domain name: a sequence of labels separated by dots, read from the node

up to the root



Domain name space

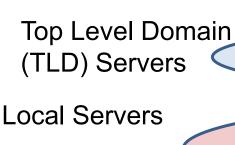


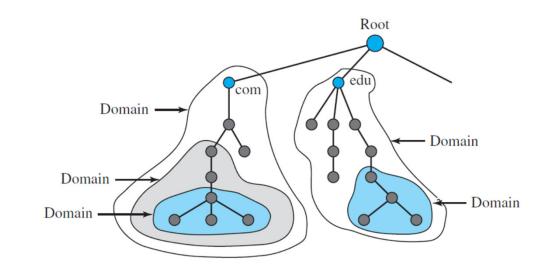
Domain names and labels

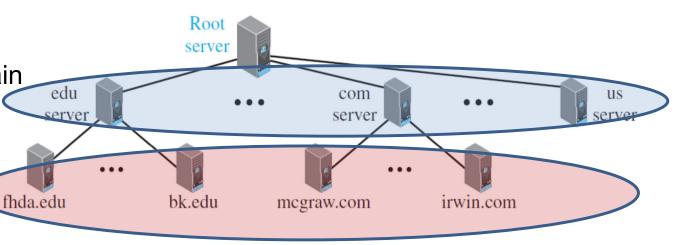


Domain and Hierarchy of Name Servers

- Domain: a subtree of the domain name space
- The information contained in the domain name space is distributed among many computers called DNS servers
- Hierarchy of servers in the same way as hierarchy of names









DNS Name Servers

Why not centralize DNS?

- Single point of failure
- Traffic volume
- Distant centralized database
- Maintenance
- Non-scalable

- No server has all name-to-IP address mappings
- Local name servers:
 - Each ISP, Organization has local (default) name server
 - Host DNS query first goes to local name server
- Authoritative name server:
 - Configured by an administrator with the hostname information for a particular domain
 - Information about these servers is added to the root servers when the domain is registered



Name-Address Resolution

- Resolution: mapping a name to an address
- Recursive resolution:
 - The DNS server that does not know the mapping make queries to other DNS servers on behalf of the client
 - "I don't know this name, but I will find it out for you"
- Iterative resolution:
 - The DNS server that does not known the mapping sends the IP address of the next server back to the one that requested it
 - "I don't know this name, but you may ask this server"

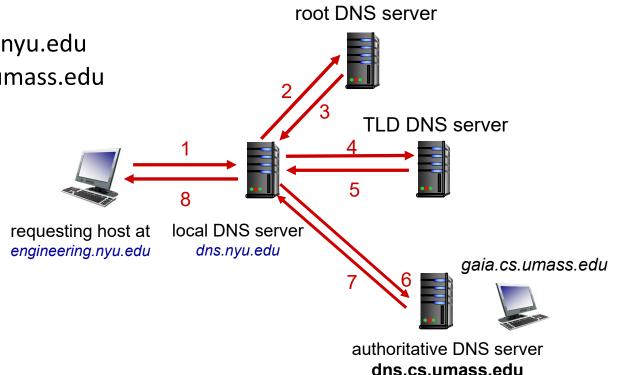


DNS name resolution: iterated query

Example: host at engineering.nyu.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"



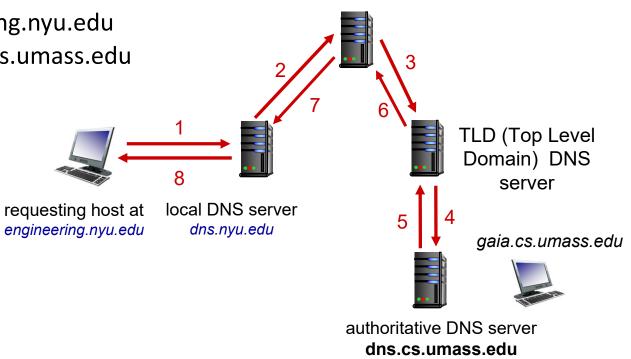


DNS name resolution: recursive query

Example: host at engineering.nyu.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu

Recursive query:

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

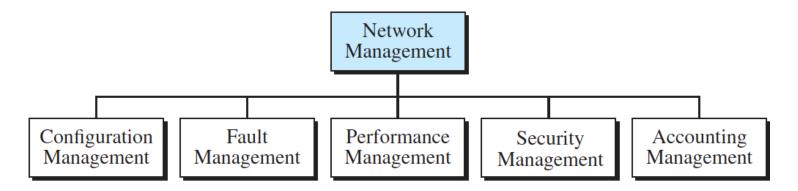


root DNS server



Network Management

 Network management: monitoring, testing, configuring, and troubleshooting network components to meet a set of requirement



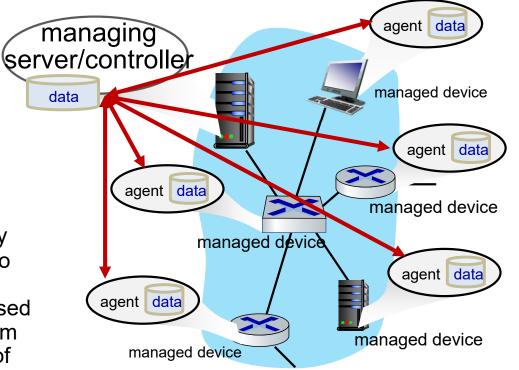


Components of network management

Managing server:

application, typically with network managers (humans) in the loop

Network
management
protocol: used by
managing server to
query, configure,
manage device; used
by devices to inform
managing server of
data, events.



Managed device:

equipment with manageable, configurable hardware, software components

Data: device
"state"
configuration data,
operational data,
device statistics

management

CLI (Command Line Interface)

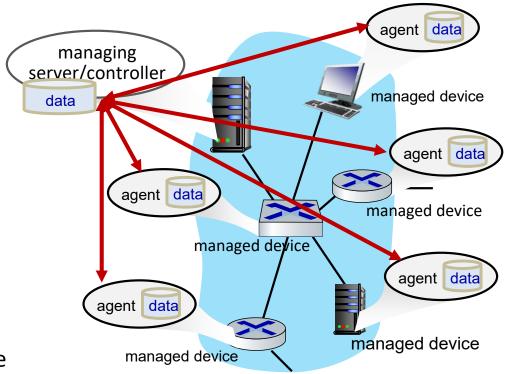
 operator issues (types, scripts) direct to individual devices (e.g., vis ssh)

SNMP/MIB

 operator queries/sets devices data (MIB) using Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

NETCONF/YANG

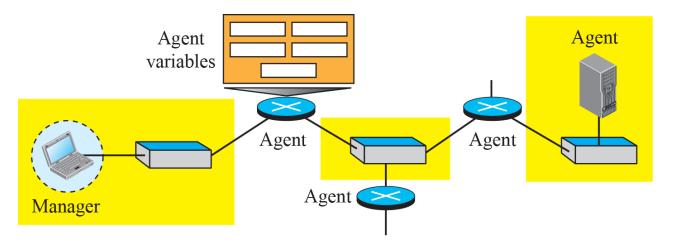
- more abstract, network-wide, holistic
- emphasis on multi-device configuration management.
- YANG: data modeling language
- NETCONF: communicate YANG-compatible actions/data to/from/among remote devices





Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)

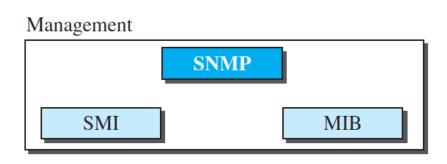
- An Application Layer protocol for managing devices in Internet using TCP/IP protocol suite
- Manager: a host that runs the SNMP client program
- Agent: a router or host that runs the SNMP server program
- Three basic ideas for management with SNMP
 - Manager checks an agent by requesting information of the agent
 - Manager forces agent to perform a task by resetting values in the agent database
 - Agent warns the manager of unusual situation

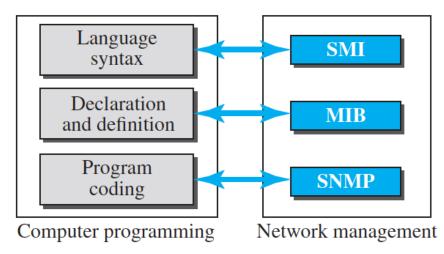




Management Protocols

- Internet management needs the cooperation of the following three protocols:
- SNMP:
 - Defines the format of packets exchanged between a manager and an agent
 - Reads and changes the status of objects in SNMP packets
- Structure of Management Information (SMI)
 - Defines the general rules for naming objects
 - Defines object types and how to encode objects and values
- Management Information Base (MIB)
 - Creates a collection of named objects, their types and relationships







SNMP: Management Information Base (MIB)

managed device's operational (and some configuration)



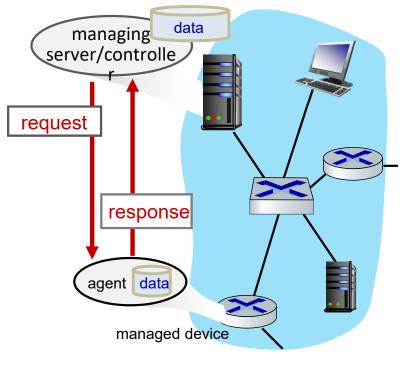
- gathered into device MIB module
 - 400 MIB modules defined in RFC's; many more vendor-specific MIBs
- Structure of Management Information (SMI): data definition language
- example MIB variables for UDP protocol:

Object ID	Name	Туре	Comments
1.3.6.1.2.1.7.1	UDPInDatagrams	32-bit counter	total # datagrams delivered
1.3.6.1.2.1.7.2	UDPNoPorts	32-bit counter	# undeliverable datagrams (no application at port)
1.3.6.1.2.1.7.3	UDInErrors	32-bit counter	# undeliverable datagrams (all other reasons)
1.3.6.1.2.1.7.4	UDPOutDatagrams	32-bit counter	total # datagrams sent
1.3.6.1.2.1.7.5	udpTable	SEQUENCE	one entry for each port currently in use

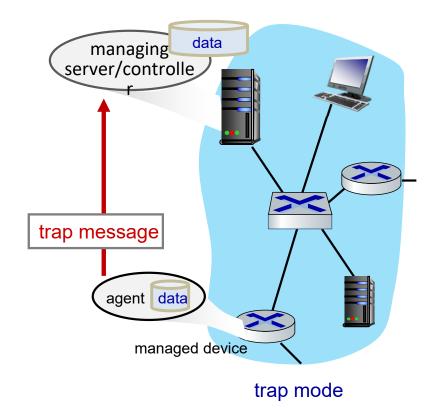


SNMP protocol

Two ways to convey MIB info, commands:



request/response mode

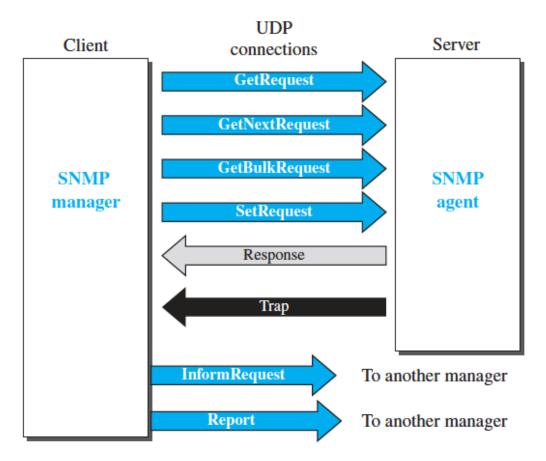


Unsolicited massage by agent



SNMP Operations

 SNMPv3 defines eight types of packets (or protocol data units, PDUs): GetRequest, GetNextRequest, GetBulkRequest, SetRequest, Response, Trap, InformRequest, and Report





SNMP Operations

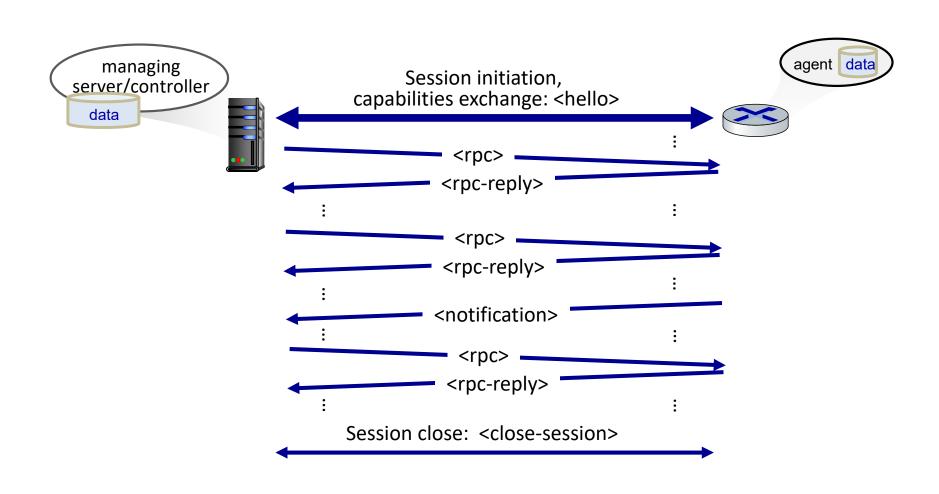
Message type	Direction	Function
GetRequest GetNextRequest GetBulkRequest	Manager to agent	Retrieve value of variables (instance, next in list, block)
SetRequest	Manager to agent	Set value in a variable
Response	Agent to manager	Give the value of variables requested by manger
Trap	Agent to manager	Inform manager of exceptional event
InformRequest	Manager to manager	Get value of variables from agent under the control of remote manager
Report	Manager to manager	Report errors between managers

ENETCONF (Network Configuration Protocol)

- Goal: actively manage/configure devices network-wide
- operates between managing server and managed network devices
 - actions: retrieve, set, modify, activate configurations
 - atomic-commit actions over multiple devices
 - query operational data and statistics
 - subscribe to notifications from devices
- remote procedure call (RPC) paradigm
 - NETCONF protocol messages encoded in XML
 - exchanged over secure, reliable transport protocol



NETCONF initialization, exchange, close





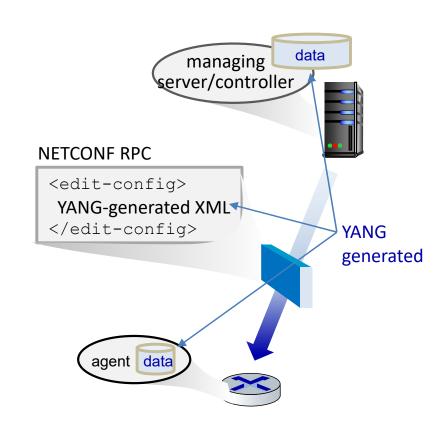
Selected NETCONF Operations

NETCONF	Operation Description		
<get-config></get-config>	Retrieve all or part of a given configuration. A device may have multiple configurations.		
<get></get>	Retrieve all or part of both configuration state and operational state data.		
<edit-config></edit-config>	Change specified (possibly running) configuration at managed device. Managed device <rpc-reply> contains <ok> or <rpcerror> with rollback.</rpcerror></ok></rpc-reply>		
<lock>, <unlock></unlock></lock>	Lock (unlock) configuration datastore at managed device (to lock out NETCONF, SNMP, or CLIs commands from other sources).		
<pre><create-subscription>, <notification></notification></create-subscription></pre>	Enable event notification subscription from managed device		



YANG

- data modeling language used to specify structure, syntax, semantics of NETCONF network management data
 - built-in data types, like SMI
- XML document describing device, capabilities can be generated from YANG description
- can express constraints among data that must be satisfied by a valid NETCONF configuration
 - ensure NETCONF configurations satisfy correctness, consistency constraints





Recommended Reading

 Behrouz A. Forouzan, Data Communications and Networking with TCP/IP Protocol Suite, 6th ed., 2022, Chapters 8 and 10

 J. F. Kurose and K. W. Ross, Computer Networking: A Top-Down Approach, 8th ed., 2022, Chapters 1, 2 and 5