DHCP: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

A solution to manage IP addresses dynamically

???

Do all 4 billion+ users of internet

a) are active always?

b) they need permanent / static IP address ?

???

Answer : No

This is the basis for DHCP

Why not *reuse/share* IP address when it is not used?

User's perspective of DHCP

A host is connected to a network through wires or through Wi-Fi for the first time without knowing anything about that network….Automatically IP address is allocated..

'plug and play' protocol

DHCP: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

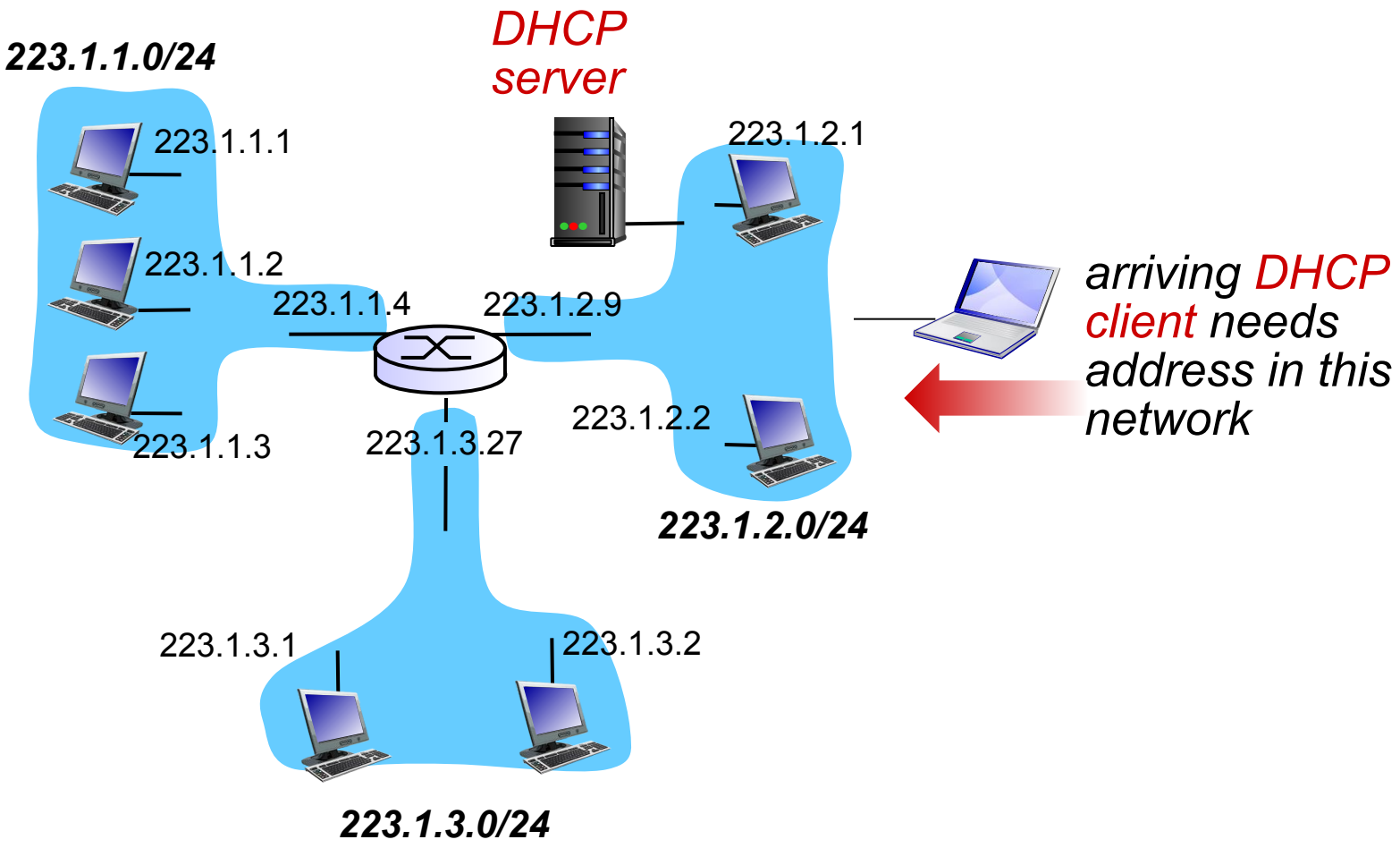
goal: allow host to *dynamically* obtain its IP address from network server when it joins network

- can renew its lease on address in use
- allows reuse of addresses (only hold address while connected/"on")
- support for mobile users who want to join network (more shortly)

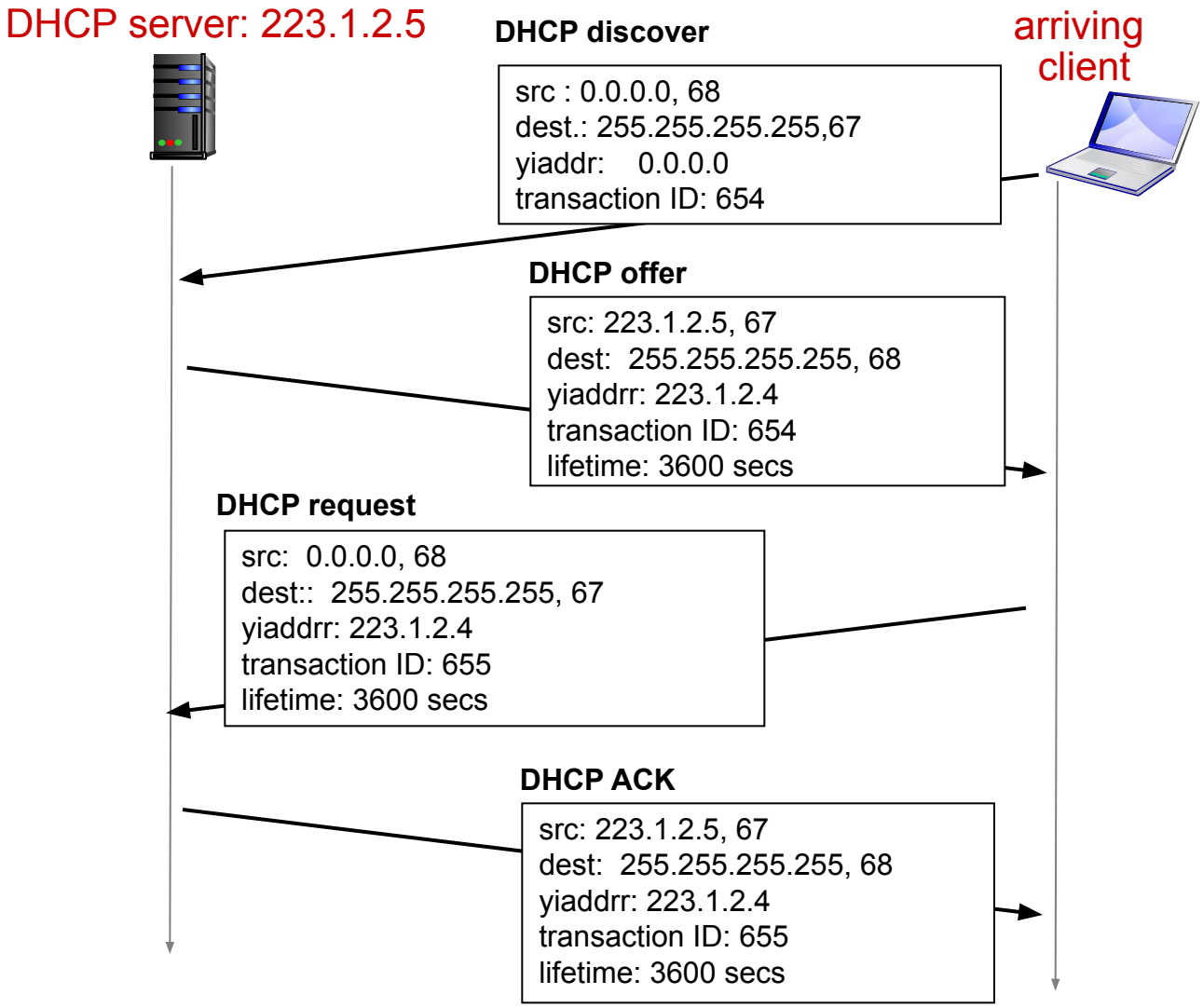
DHCP overview:

- host broadcasts "DHCP discover" msg [optional]
- DHCP server responds with "DHCP offer" msg [optional]
- host requests IP address: "DHCP request" msg
- DHCP server sends address: "DHCP ack" msg

DHCP client-server scenario



DHCP client-server scenario

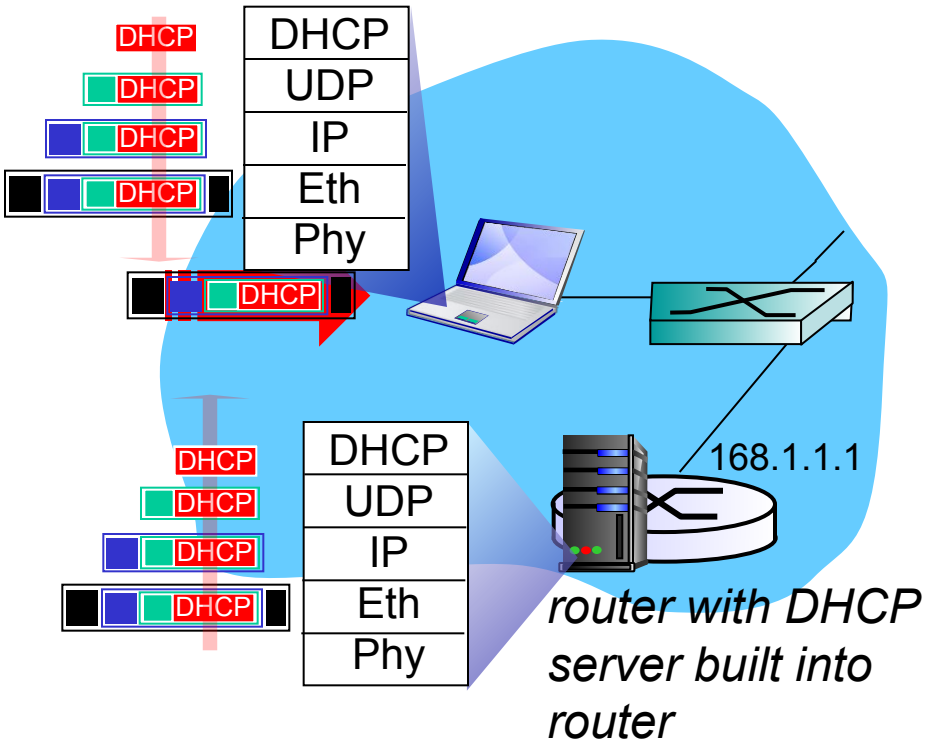


DHCP: more than IP addresses

DHCP can return more than just allocated IP address on subnet:

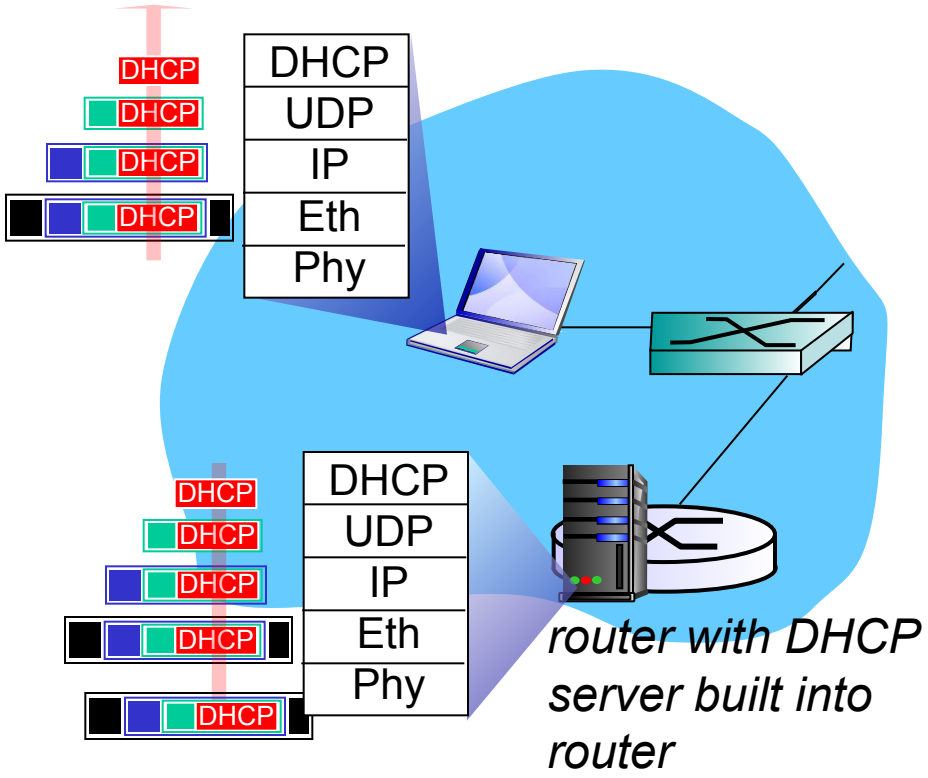
- address of first-hop router for client
- name and IP address of DNS sever
- network mask (indicating network versus host portion of address)

DHCP: example



- connecting laptop needs its IP address, addr of first-hop router, addr of DNS server: use DHCP
- DHCP request encapsulated in UDP, encapsulated in IP, encapsulated in 802.1 Ethernet
- Ethernet frame broadcast (dest: FFFFFFFFFFFF) on LAN, received at router running DHCP server
- Ethernet demuxed to IP demuxed, UDP demuxed to DHCP

DHCP: example



- DCP server formulates DHCP ACK containing client's IP address, IP address of first-hop router for client, name & IP address of DNS server
- encapsulation of DHCP server, frame forwarded to client, demuxing up to DHCP at client
- client now knows its IP address, name and IP address of DNS server, IP address of its first-hop router

DHCP

DHCP also provides to the client host :

1. IP address of local DNS
2. IP address of default gateway
3. Subnet mask