

【CN】 Day5

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☰ Materials	Circuit Switching: FDM and TDM
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【Ch1】 Computer Networks and the Internet

1.3.2 Circuit Switching

There are two fundamental approaches to moving data through a network of links and switches: [circuit switching](#) and [packet switching](#).

- In circuit-switched networks, [the resources](#) needed along a path to provide for communication between the end systems are [reserved for the duration of the communication](#) session between the end systems.
- In packet-switched networks, [these resources are not reserved](#). A session's messages [use the resources on demand](#) and, as a consequence, may have to wait.

Traditional telephone networks are examples of circuit-switched networks. Consider what happens when one person wants to send information to another over a telephone network.

Before the sender can send the information, the network must establish a connection between the sender and the receiver. [The switches on the path stay connection state for that connection](#). This is called a [circuit](#).

It also reserves a constant transmission rate in the network's links for the duration of the connection.

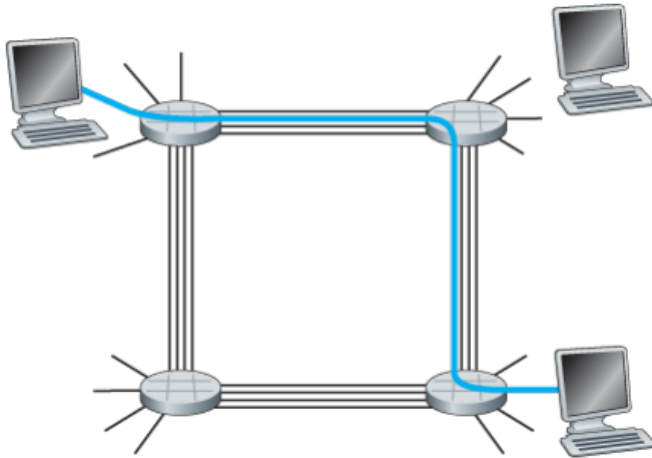


Figure 1.13 A simple circuit-switched network consisting of four switches and four links

When two hosts want to communicate, the network establishes a dedicated **end-to-end connection** between the two hosts.

In order for Host A to communicate with Host B, **the network must first reserve one circuit on each of two links**. In this example, the connection uses the second circuit in the first link and the fourth circuit in the second link.

Multiplexing in Circuit-Switched Networks

A circuit in a link is implemented with either **frequency-division multiplexing(FDM)** or **time-division multiplexing(TDM)**.

With FDM, the frequency spectrum of a link is divided up among the connections established across the link. Specifically, the link **dedicates a frequency band to each connection** for the duration of the connection. The width of the band is called the **bandwidth**.

For a TDM link, time is divided into **frames** of fixed duration, and each frame is divided into a fixed number of **time slots**. When the network establishes a connection across a link, **the network dedicates one time slot in every frame to this connection**.

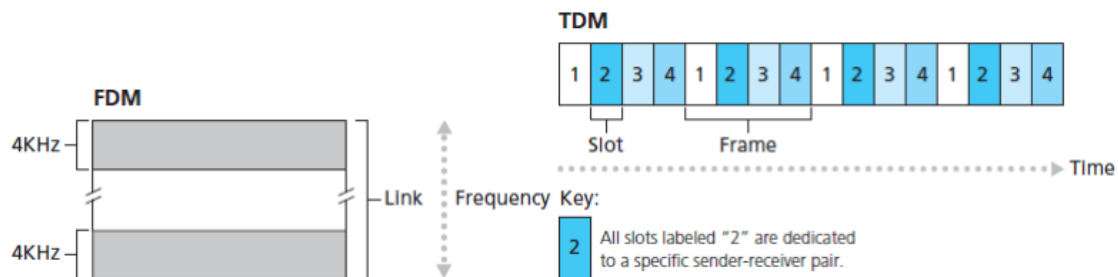


Figure 1.14

With FDM, each circuit continuously gets a fraction of the bandwidth. With TDM, each circuit gets all of the bandwidth periodically during brief intervals of time (that is, during slots)

For TDM, the transmission rate of a circuit is equal to the frame rate multiplied by the number of bits in a slot.

For example, if the link transmits 8,000 frames per second and each slot consists of 8 bits. The transmission rate of each circuit is then 64kbps.

Proponents of packet switching have always argued that circuit switching is **wasteful because the dedicated circuits are idle during silent periods**.

For example, when one person in a telephone call stops talking, the idle network resources **cannot be used by other ongoing connections**.

Packet Switching vs. Circuit Switching

Critics of packet switching have often argued that packet switching is not suitable for real-time services (for example, telephone calls and video conference calls) because of its variable and unpredictable end-to-end delays (due primarily to variable and unpredictable queuing delays).

Proponents of packet switching argues that: (1) it offers better sharing of transmission capacity than circuit switching and (2) it is simpler, more efficient, and less costly to implement than circuit switching.