Module 4: Evidence of Learning

In Active Class 6, we explored the journey of an IP packet from my home to your home, aiming to understand how data is transported in IP networks. The class was structured to achieve several learning objectives:

- Understanding the Internet Protocol (IP).
- Explaining the data plane operation of the network layer.
- Building a simple network in Cisco Packet Tracer and simulating its operation.

Activity 1

It was focused on analyzing IP using Wireshark. I captured packets from various network applications, analyzed IP datagrams' headers, identified IP addresses, determined IP version, identified transport layer protocols, examined IP header fields, and compared findings between different packet types.

Activity 2

It involved group discussions on IP and routing. As a group, we explored analogies between postal systems and computer networks, discussed building a network with LANs and configuring devices, and detailed packet routing steps between PCs.

Activity 3

It is centred on implementing learned concepts in Cisco Packet Tracer. I configured devices, verified connectivity using "ping" commands, and simulated packet routing to validate discussed steps.

Throughout the activities, we took notes, collaborated, and engaged actively to enhance learning and task completion.

Evidence: Module Exercises Quiz 4

Exercise 1:

Quiz 04 - Module 4: Network Layer-Data

Plane Total points 100/100 The respondent's email (rnirosh134@cicracampus.net) was recorded on submission of this form. ✓ The name of the transport layer packet is "segment". What is the name of 10/10 the network layer packet? IP frame **IP Segment** Datagram IP packet Exercise 2: ✓ Which of the following statement is incorrect? 10/10 The main function of the network layer's data plane is packet forwarding, it forwards datagrams from the sender to the receiver. In traditional networks, both data plane and control plane operations are implemented in the router. The main function of the network layer's data plane is packet forwarding, it forwards datagrams from the input link to the relevant output link. The main function of the network layer's control plane is routing, it decides the route that a packet takes from its sender to its receiver.

Exercise 3:

	~	A typical router consists of four main components. They are input ports, output ports, a switching fabric, and a routing processor. Which of these functions are implemented in hardware?	10/10	
	\bigcirc	Only input ports and output ports		
	\bigcirc	input ports, output ports, a switching fabric, and a routing processor		
	\bigcirc	Switching fabric and a routing processor		
	•	Input ports, output ports, and a switching fabric	✓	
Exe	ercise	4:		
	~	The packet loss that occurs at the output port of a router can be prevented by increasing the speed of the switching fabric. Is this statement true or false?	10/10	
	\bigcirc	True		
	•	False	~	
Exercise 5:				
	~	How does host's network layer identify the correct transport layer protocol of the segment it receives (in the payload)?	10/10	
	\bigcirc	Using the type of service field in the datagram header		
	•	Using the 8-bit protocol field in the datagram header	~	
	\bigcirc	Using the combination of type of service field and destination address field in the datagram header	he	
	\bigcirc	Using 16-hit identifier field in the datagram header		

Exercise 6:

	✓	What is the 32-bit binary equivalent of the IP address 192.168.1.25?	10/10	
	•	11000000 10101000 00000001 00011001	~	
	\bigcirc	11000000 10101000 00000001 00011101		
	\bigcirc	11000000 10101000 00000001 00111101		
	\bigcirc	11001000 10111000 00000001 00011001		
Exe	ercise	e 7:		
	~	Assume a sender sent an IP datagram to a receiver and there are two routers between the sender and the receiver.		
		1) How many interfaces that the datagram traveled through to reach the receiver?2) How many forwarding tables were indexed to move the datagram from the sender to receiver?		
	\circ	6 interfaces and 4 forwarding tables		
	•	6 interfaces and 2 forwarding tables	~	
	0	2 interfaces and 1 forwarding tables		
	\bigcirc	4 interfaces and 4 forwarding tables		
	\bigcirc	4 interfaces and 2 forwarding tables		

Exercise 8:

✓ Suppose that a router with four output ports will be forwarded packets to 10/10 the output interfaces as follows.

The router receives a datagram with the destination IP address of 11001000 00010111 00011000 111111110. Which output interface this datagram will be switched to?

Destination A	Address Rang		Link interface	
11001000	00010111	00010***	*****	0
11001000	00010111	00011000	*****	1
11001000	00010111	00011***	*****	2
otherwise				3

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Exercise 9:

✓ What does "192.168.24.0/24" mean?

10/10

- In this subnet (network), we have 128 host IP addresses and all host IP addresses will have 192.168.24 in common.
- In this subnet (network), we have 256 host IP addresses and all host IP addresses will have 192.168.24 in common.
- In this subnet (network), we have 256 host IP addresses and all host IP addresses will have 192.168.24.0 in common.
- In this subnet (network), we have 0 host IP addresses and all host IP addresses will have 192.168.24 in common.

Exercise 10:

✓ Which of the following statements is correct?	10/10
IPv6 datagrams do not have the checksum field	✓
IPv4 datagrams do not have the checksum field	
Both IPv4 and IPv6 datagrams do not have the checksum field	
Both IPv4 and IPv6 datagrams have the checksum field	

Notes

Forwarding and Routing:

- **Forwarding** refers to the local process of moving packets from a router's input link to the appropriate output link, akin to navigating through a single interchange on a trip.
- **Routing** is the network-wide process that determines the path packets take from source to destination4. It involves routing algorithms and is comparable to planning the entire trip.

Data Plane and Control Plane:

- **The Data Plane** is a local function that determines how a datagram arriving at a router input port is forwarded to an output port.
- **The Control Plane** is a network-wide logic that decides how datagrams are routed among routers from the source host to the destination host.

Network Service Models: Different network architectures offer various service models, such as the Internet's "best effort" model, which provides no guarantees on successful datagram delivery, timing, order, or available bandwidth.

Router Architecture: A generic router architecture includes input ports, a high-speed switching fabric, and output ports. The forwarding function operates in nanoseconds, while routing and management functions operate in milliseconds.

IP Addressing: IP addresses are 32-bit identifiers associated with each host or router interface. This module explains subnetting, CIDR (Classless InterDomain Routing), and the use of subnet masks.

Subnetting is the process of dividing a larger network into smaller, more manageable subnetworks or subnets.

- **Subnet Mask**: A subnet mask is used to identify the subnet portion of an IP address by masking certain bits.
- **IP Address Structure:** IP addresses have two parts: the network part and the host part. Subnetting involves borrowing bits from the host part to create the subnet part.
- **Defining Subnets:** Subnets are defined by detaching each interface from its host or router, creating isolated networks, each known as a subnet.
- CIDR Notation: Classless Inter-Domain Routing (CIDR) allows for a flexible assignment of IP addresses by specifying a subnet prefix length (e.g. /24).

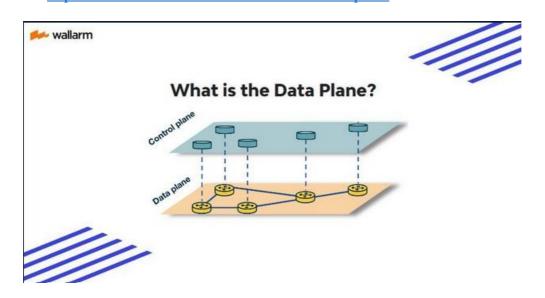
This process helps in efficient IP address management and improves network security and performance.

DHCP and NAT:

- **DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol)** allows hosts to dynamically obtain an IP address from a network server when joining a network9.
- NAT (Network Address Translation) enables multiple devices on a local network to share a single IP address when accessing the Internet10.
- **IPv6:** IPv6 addresses the limitations of IPv4, including the exhaustion of the address space. It introduces a 128-bit address space and simplifies packet processing.

Some external resources I referred to

- 1. Lee, I. (2024, May 2). What is the Data Plane? Wallarm. https://www.wallarm.com/what/what-is-the-data-plane
- Network data plane. (n.d.). NetworkLessons Notes. https://notes.networklessons.com/network-data-plane



Evidence: Active Classes

Active Class 6:

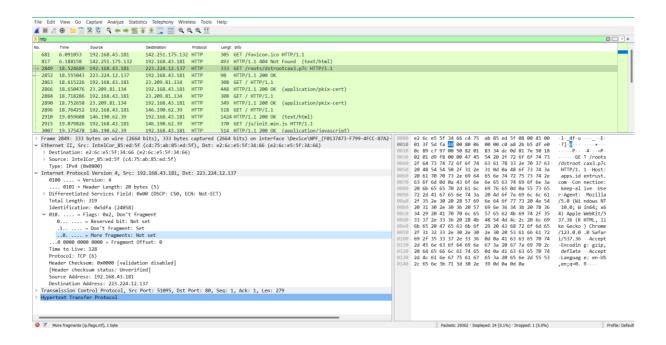
Activity 1:

In this activity, I utilized Wireshark to delve into the inner workings of IP protocols. After capturing packets from various network applications like web browsing and MSTeams, I selected specific packets to dissect.

I examined the IP datagram's header, identifying both my device's IP address and the destination host's IP address. By scrutinizing the IP header, I discerned the transport layer protocol used and compared it with the information in the packet details window.

Furthermore, I calculated the size of the IP header and payload in bytes, investigated whether the IP datagram was fragmented, and explored other essential fields in the IP header. Finally, I conducted a similar analysis using a different packet type, comparing and contrasting the findings.

The screenshot for the wireshark:



1. Examine the IP datagram's header. Can you identify the IP address of your device and the IP address of the destination host?

My Device's IP Address: 192.168.43.181 Destination Host IP Address: 223.224.12.137

2. Can you identify the version of IP addresses?

The version of IP addresses is IPv4. This can be identified by looking for the Version field in the IP header

3. By examine the IP header, can you identify the transport layer protocol used? Does this match with the transport layer protocol listed in in the packet details window?

By examining the Protocol field in the IP header we can identify the transport layer protocol as TCP.

4. What is the size of IP header in Bytes? What is the size of the payload (in Bytes) of this IP datagram? How did you calculate the size of the payload?

First, I looked for the "IHL" (Internet Header Length) field in the IP header. It's a 4-bit value representing the number of 32-bit words in the header. Multiply IHL by 4 to get the size in bytes. IHL of 5 translates to 5 * 4 = 20 bytes.

Subtracting the header length from the total packet size will give the payload size

payload size = total packet size - header length = 319-20

= 299

5. Can you check whether this IP datagram is fragmented or not? Explain your answer.

We can check for a flag named "MF" (More Fragments) in the IP header. If it's not set, the packet isn't fragmented. If it's set, the packet is part of a larger message broken into smaller fragments for transmission. since it is not set in my capture, the packet is not a part of large message or it is not broken into smaller fragments.

6. Examine other important fields in the IP header.

TOS (Type of Service): This field defines how a packet should be handled by the network. It's visible in the captured packet under "Internet Protocol" as "0x00" (which represents routine handling).

Total Length: This shows the entire packet's size in bytes. It's usually mentioned in the packet details window.

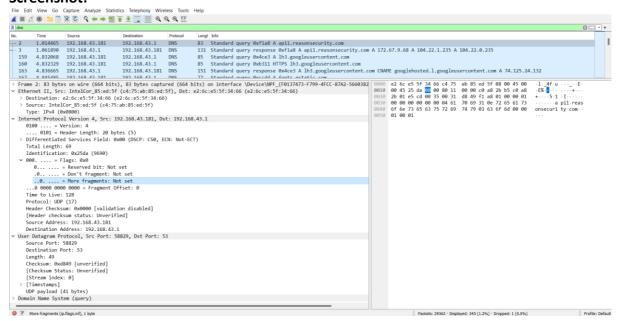
Identification: Used for fragmentation and reassembly, holds a unique identifier for the original packet (if fragmented). It's part of the IP header.

Flags: Besides "MF", there are other flags like "DF" (Don't Fragment) which, if set, indicates the packet shouldn't be fragmented.

Time to Live (TTL): This value decrements with each hop the packet takes on the network. If it reaches zero, the packet is discarded. It's a part of the IP header information.

7. Now, conduct a similar analysis using a different type of packet (if you have used HTTP before, now you can use DNS) and compare the findings.

Screenshot:



My Device's IP Address: 192.168.43.181 Destination Host IP Address: 192.168.43.1

IP Version:

The version of IP addresses is IPv4. This can be identified by looking for the "Version" field in the IP header

By examining the "Protocol" field in the IP header we can identify the transport layer protocol as UDP.

First, I looked for the "IHL" (Internet Header Length) field in the IP header. It's a 4-bit value representing the number of 32-bit words in the header. Multiply IHL by 4 to get the size in bytes. IHL of 5 translates to 5 * 4 = 20 bytes.

Subtracting the header length from the total packet size will give the payload size

payload size = total packet size - header length = 69-20 = 49

We can check for a flag named "MF" (More Fragments) in the IP header. If it's not set, the packet isn't fragmented. If it's set, the packet is part of a larger message broken into smaller fragments for transmission. since it is not set in my capture, the packet is not a part of large message or it is not broken into smaller fragments.

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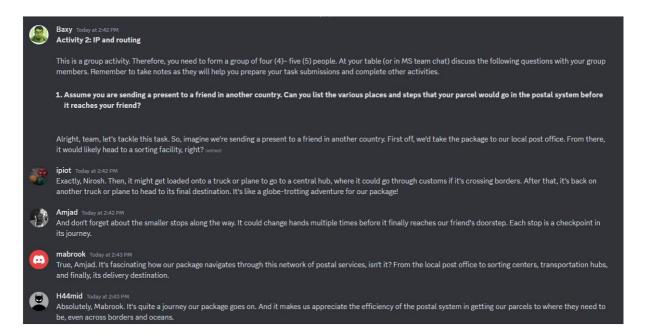
Time to Live (TTL): This value decrements with each hop the packet takes on the network. If it reaches zero, the packet is discarded. It's a part of the IP header information.

Activity 2:

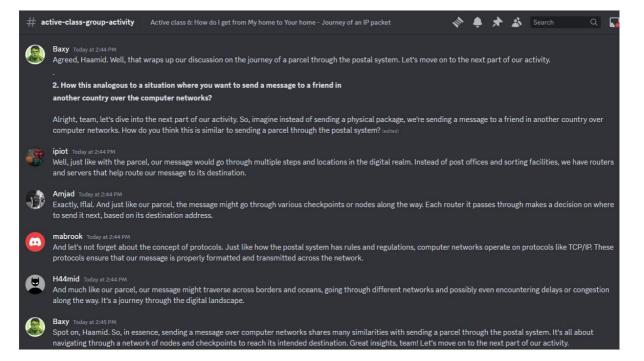
This collaborative group activity fostered discussions surrounding IP and routing concepts. Within my group, we contemplated the analogy between sending a present through the postal system and transmitting a message over computer networks.

We then tackled the task of building a network with two LANs and assigning roles to group members. As we configured devices, set IP addresses, and determined gateways, we strategized on enabling communication between LANs. Lastly, we meticulously outlined the steps a packet would traverse from PC1 to PC3.

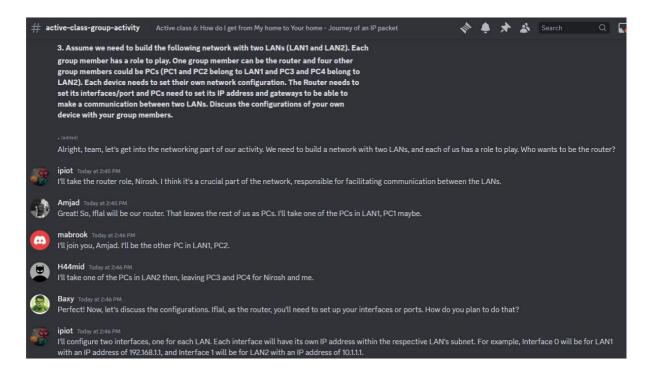
1. Assume you are sending a present to a friend in another country. Can you list the various places and steps that your parcel would go in the postal system before it reaches your friend?

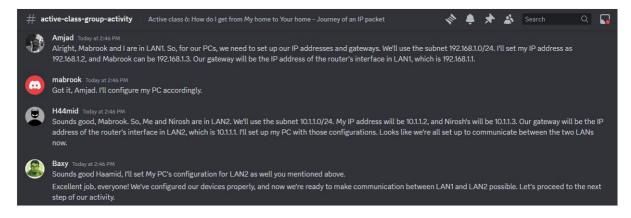


2. How this analogous to a situation where you want to send a message to a friend in another country over the computer networks?

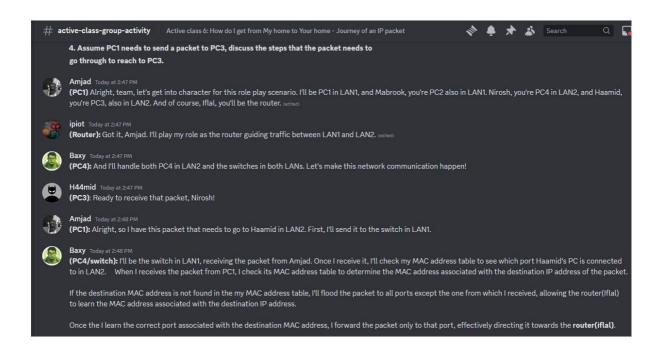


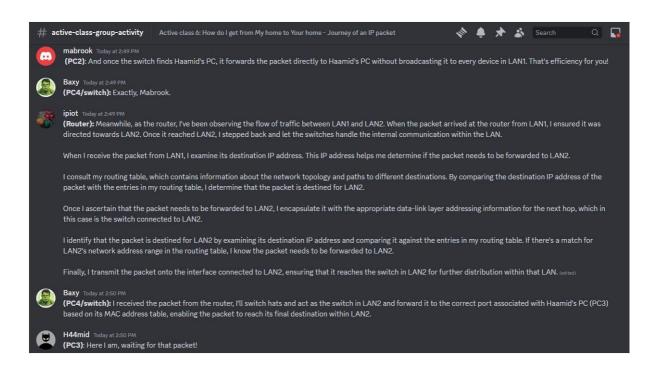
3. Assume we need to build the following network with two LANs (LAN1 and LAN2). Each group member has a role to play. One group member can be the router and four other group members could be PCs (PC1 and PC2 belong to LAN1 and PC3 and PC4 belong to LAN2). Each device needs to set their own network configuration. The Router needs to set its interfaces/port and PCs need to set its IP address and gateways to be able to make a communication between two LANs. Discuss the configurations of your own device with your group members.

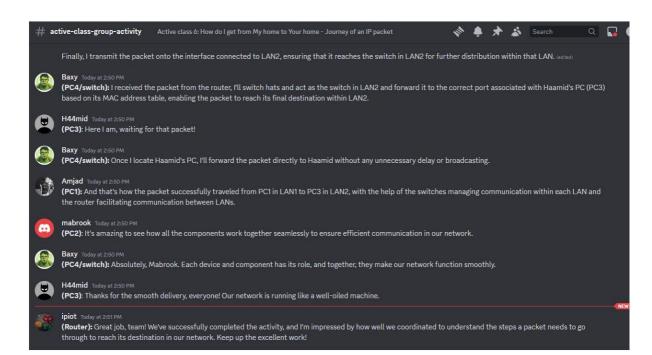




4. Assume PC1 needs to send a packet to PC3, discuss the steps that the packet needs to go through to reach to PC3.







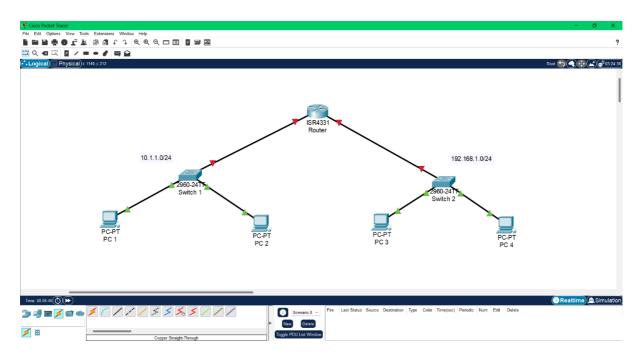
Activity 3:

The end of our learning journey involved implementing the network we conceptualized in Cisco Packet Tracer. I carefully determined the IP addresses of all PCs based on their LAN affiliations.

Once all devices were configured and interconnected, I verified connectivity using the ping command. Leveraging simulation mode, I validated the steps discussed in Activity 2. To show as evidence.

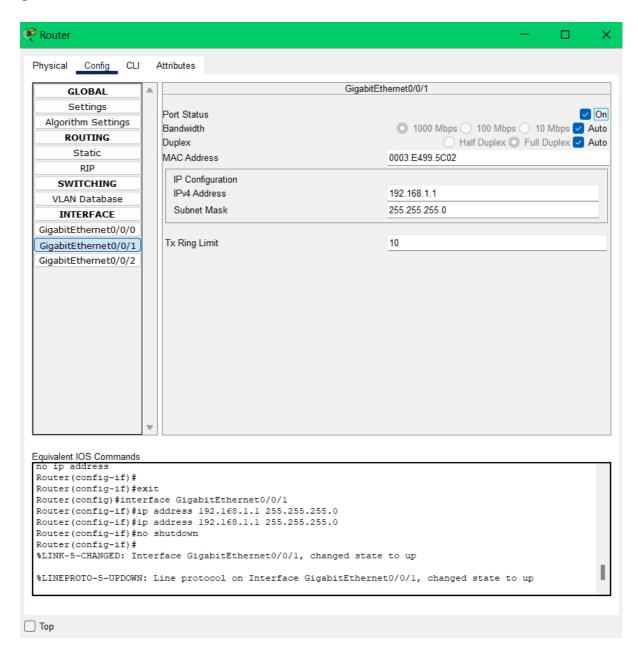
This involves practically setting up the network we discussed in Activity 2. We need to create the network with two LANs (LAN1 and LAN2) and configure the devices (PCs and router) with the appropriate IP addresses and settings as we discussed earlier.

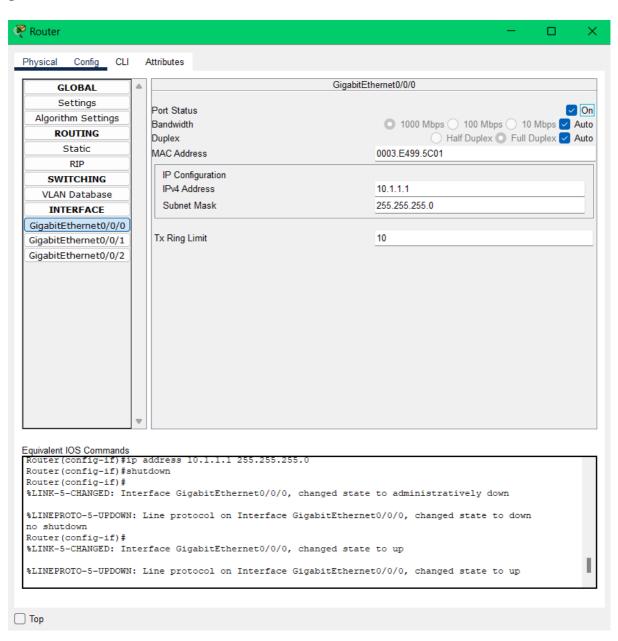
First, I created the network, before configuration



Then I configured the router for both the gigabit ethernet

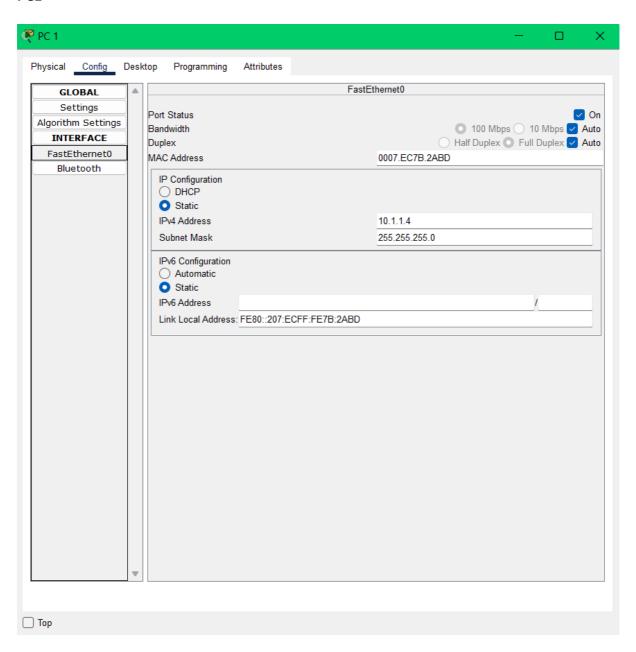
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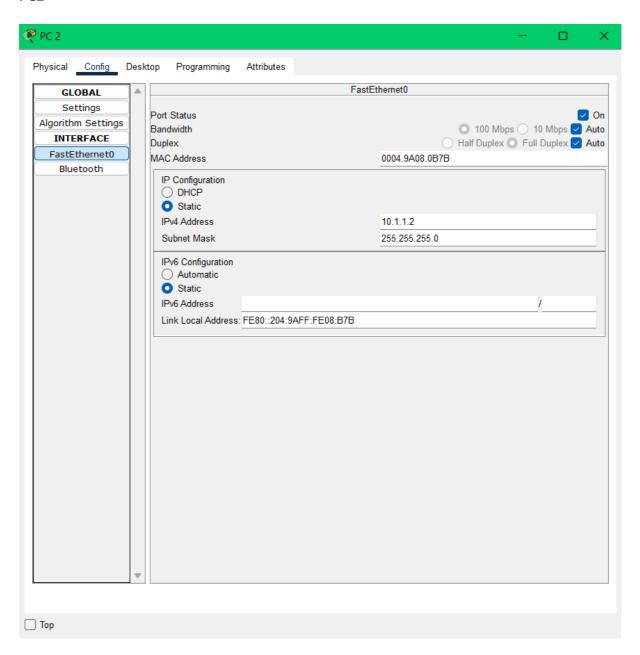


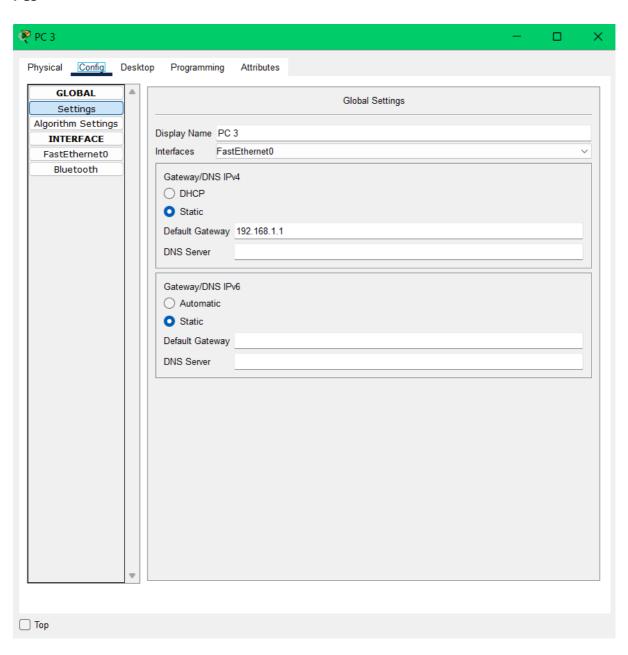


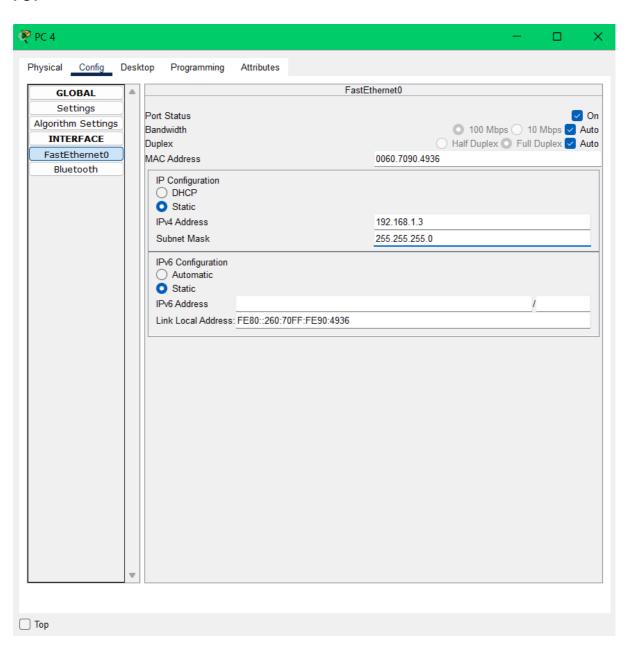
Now I gave the ip addresses for each PCs

PC1

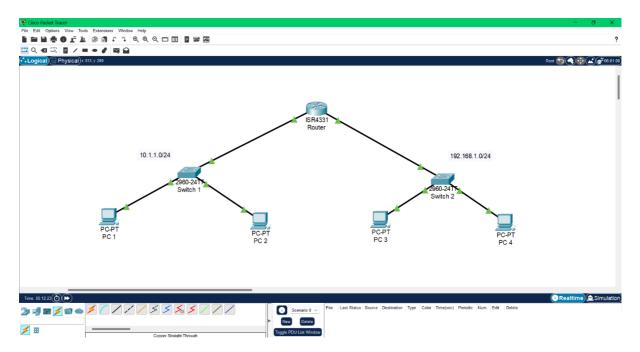






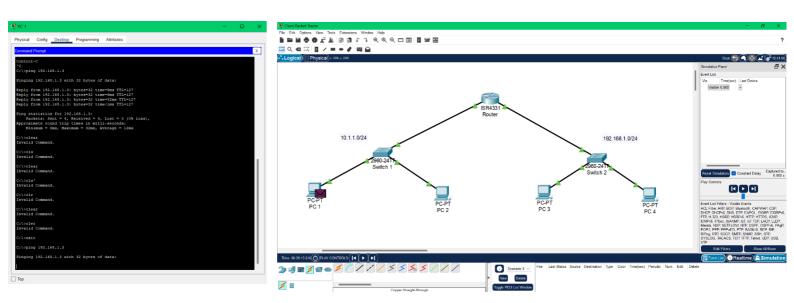


After configurations

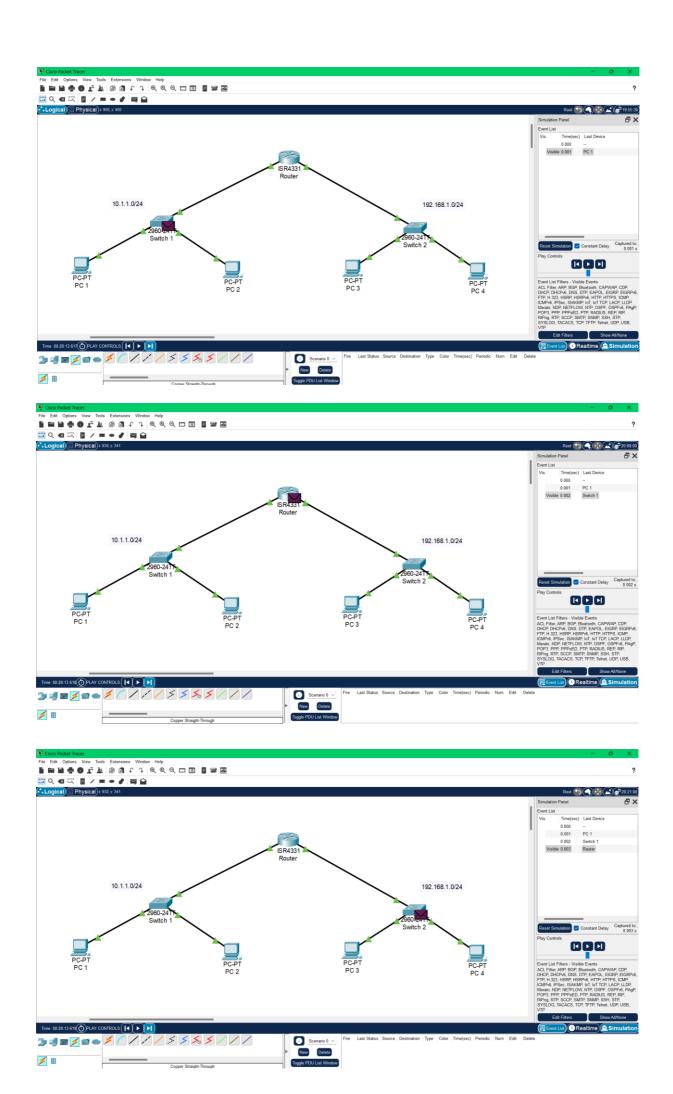


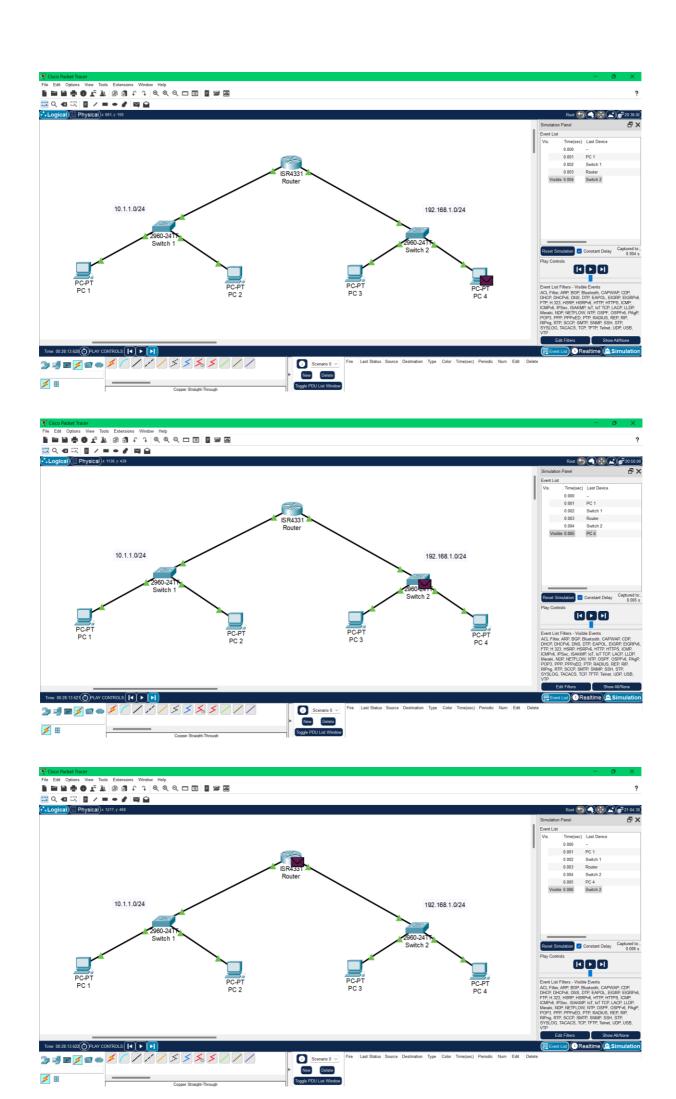
After setting up the network, we'll use the "ping" command from one PC to another to check if the devices can communicate with each other successfully. For instance, if PC3's IP address is 192.168.1.5, we'll type "ping 192.168.1.5" from PC1's command prompt to see if PC1 can reach PC3.

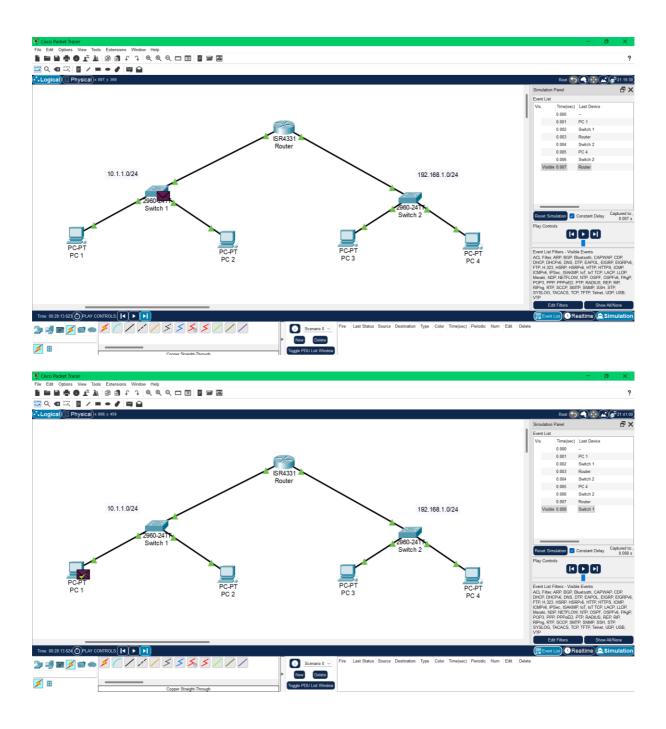
Now I sent a packet from PC1 to PC3



In Activity 2 Step 4, we discussed the steps a packet needs to go through to reach from one PC to another. In this step of Activity 3, we'll use Packet Tracer's simulation mode to visually verify if the packet follows the expected path we discussed earlier. This helps reinforce our understanding of how packets are routed through a network.







The packet first starts from the PC1, reaches the switch, then the switch forwards the packet to the router. Now the router looks for the correct network address