# Task 9.1p

#### Active class 9: Data-link Layer

**Activity 1** involves understanding how devices in a Wi-Fi network communicate without interfering with each other. We simulate a Wi-Fi network where one person acts as the access point (AP) and others as devices. When someone wants to send data, they say "I'm sending a packet." If two people say this at the same time, there's a collision, and they need to try again. We then design a way to minimize these collisions and draw a timing diagram to illustrate our method. This helps us learn about the medium access control (MAC) protocols, like the one Wi-Fi uses, which helps devices take turns sending data to avoid collisions.

Activity 2 involves using Cisco Packet Tracer to simulate a network and understand how devices find each other. We assign static IP addresses to the devices and routers. We then discuss how a laptop (Laptop1) can find another computer (PC2) in the same network using the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP). ARP translates IP addresses into MAC addresses so devices can communicate. By pinging PC2 from Laptop1, we observe the ARP process, check the ARP tables, and compare them across different devices. This activity helps us understand how devices learn each other's addresses and communicate in a network.

**Activity 3** focuses on how a switch manages and directs traffic within a network. We set up a network with a Cisco switch and configure devices with static IPs. We record the MAC addresses of all devices and the switch's Ethernet ports. By pinging between different devices, we observe how the switch updates its MAC address table to keep track of where each device is. We then clear the MAC table and switch to using DHCP for assigning IP addresses, comparing the new MAC and ARP tables with our initial observations. This activity teaches us how switches use MAC addresses to efficiently direct network traffic and how they adapt to changes in the network.

#### **Notes**

The Data Link Layer is like a bridge between the physical network and the higher layers of the network. It's responsible for making sure data gets from one device to another reliably across a physical connection, like Ethernet cables or Wi-Fi signals.

**Addressing Devices:** Every device connected to a network has a unique identifier called a MAC (Media Access Control) address. This layer uses MAC addresses to identify devices within the same network. It's like giving each device a name so they can talk to each other.

**Spotting Errors:** When data is sent, sometimes errors can happen along the way. The Data Link Layer helps detect these errors using methods like checksums. It's like adding a little code to the data to make sure it arrives intact.

**Frame Structure:** Before data is sent, it's divided into chunks called frames. Each frame has a header and a trailer added to it. These contain important information like where the data is going, error checking bits, and signals to help the devices sync up.

**Sharing the Road:** Imagine a bunch of cars trying to use the same road. The Data Link Layer decides who gets to go first and who has to wait, to avoid crashes (or in network terms, collisions). Different methods, like CSMA/CD for Ethernet, help devices take turns talking.

**Controlling the Flow:** It's like managing the speed of a river so it doesn't overflow. The Data Link Layer makes sure data is sent at a rate the receiving device can handle. This prevents one device from sending too much data too fast and overwhelming another device.

**Logical Link Control:** This part of the Data Link Layer focuses on establishing, maintaining, and terminating connections between devices. It ensures that data is delivered reliably and in the right order, even if there are multiple paths the data could take.

**Common Protocols:** Ethernet and Wi-Fi (802.11) are examples of protocols that operate at this layer. These protocols define how data is formatted, transmitted, and received over the network.

**Hardware:** The Data Link Layer operates at the hardware level, meaning it works directly with devices like switches and network interface cards (NICs). These devices handle the physical transmission of data within the network.

**Examples:** When you connect to the internet through a Wi-Fi router, the Data Link Layer helps ensure your data gets to and from your device and the router without getting mixed up with other devices' data. Similarly, in an Ethernet network, switches use the Data Link Layer to direct data only to the devices it's meant for, ensuring efficient communication within the network.

#### **Error Detection and Avoidance Techniques:**

**Checksums**: Adding a small piece of data to the message that allows the receiver to check for errors. If the checksum doesn't match what the receiver calculates, it knows there's an error.

**Acknowledgment and Retransmission:** After receiving data, the receiver sends back a message (acknowledgment) confirming it got the data correctly. If the sender doesn't receive this acknowledgment within a certain time, it assumes there was an error and sends the data again.

#### Frame Structure:

- **Header**: Contains information like source and destination MAC addresses, frame length, and control bits.
- **Data**: The actual data being transmitted.
- Trailer: Includes error-checking information like a checksum to ensure data integrity.

#### Flow Control:

**Buffering**: When a device receives data faster than it can process it, it stores the excess data in a buffer until it's ready to handle it. This prevents data loss or overflow.

**Sliding Window Protocol:** This technique allows the sender to keep sending data until it receives an acknowledgment from the receiver. It adjusts the window size dynamically based on network conditions to optimize data transmission.

#### **Logical Link Control (LLC):**

**Purpose**: LLC is responsible for establishing, maintaining, and terminating connections between devices. It ensures that data is delivered reliably and in the correct order, even if there are multiple paths the data could take.

Usage: LLC is part of the IEEE 802.2 standard and is often implemented in protocols like Ethernet and Token Ring.

#### **Protocols Used and Their Purposes:**

**Ethernet (IEEE 802.3):** Used for wired LANs, Ethernet defines how data is formatted and transmitted over the network. It's one of the most widely used protocols in the world.

**Wi-Fi (IEEE 802.11):** Used for wireless LANs, Wi-Fi allows devices to connect to a network without physical cables. It enables wireless communication between devices like laptops, smartphones, and routers.

**Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP):** Used for establishing a direct connection between two nodes over various physical mediums like serial cables, phone lines, or fiber optic cables. It's commonly used for internet connections over dialup and DSL.

**High-Level Data Link Control (HDLC):** A bit-oriented protocol used for communication over point-to-point and multipoint links. It provides error detection and flow control.

**Frame Relay:** A packet-switching protocol used in Wide Area Networks (WANs) to transmit data between connected devices. It's known for its simplicity and efficiency in handling bursty traffic.

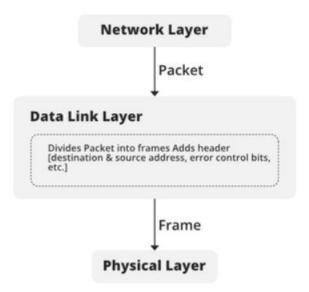
**Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM):** Used for transferring data, voice, and video over high-speed networks. It's based on transferring data in fixed-size cells, making it efficient for handling multimedia traffic.

These protocols serve different purposes but all operate within the Data Link Layer to ensure reliable and efficient communication within networks.

In summary, the Data Link Layer plays a crucial role in facilitating communication between devices within the same local network, ensuring data integrity, managing network resources, and establishing logical connections between network nodes. It serves as a bridge between the physical network medium and the higher layers of the OSI model, enabling seamless data transmission and network operation.

#### External resources I referred to

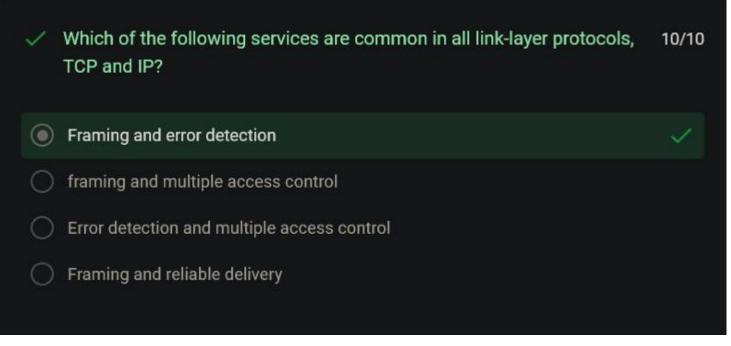
1. GeeksforGeeks. (2023, October 13). *Data link layer*. GeeksforGeeks. <a href="https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/data-link-layer/">https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/data-link-layer/</a>

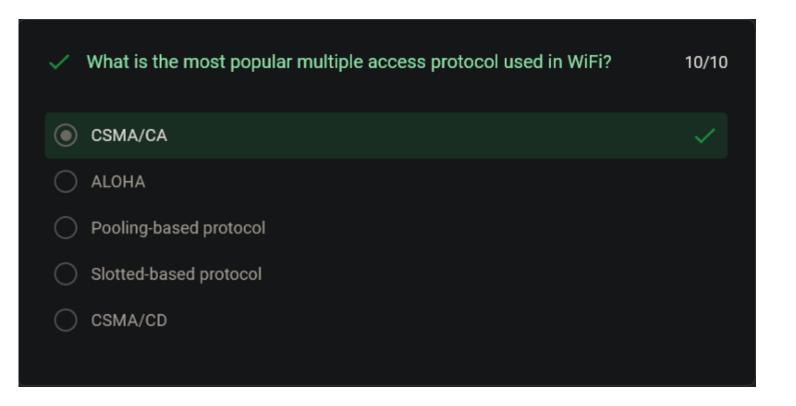


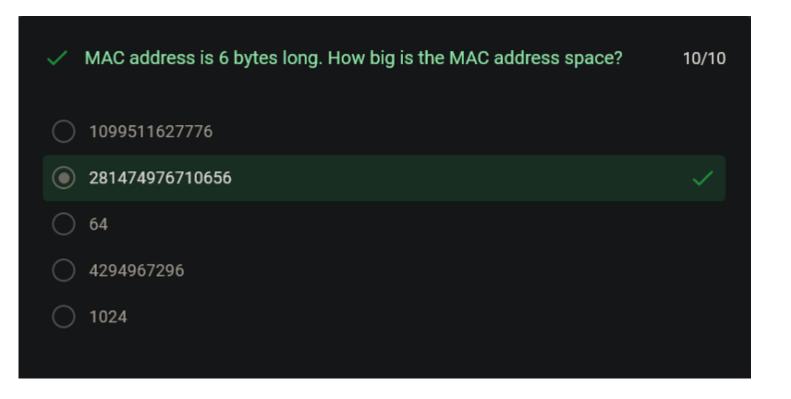
2. Mitra, R., Brown, G., Huffman, M., & Zhu, H. (n.d.). 3. The data link layer. Pressbooks.

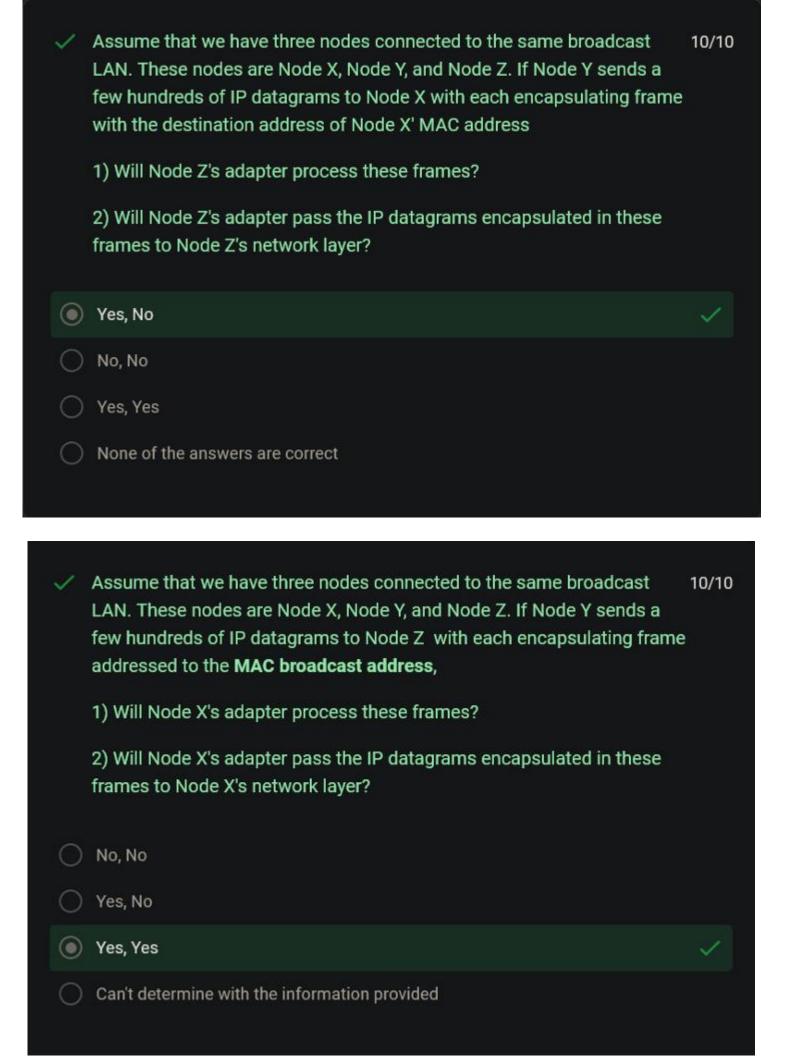
https://utsa.pressbooks.pub/networking/chapter/the-data-link-layer/

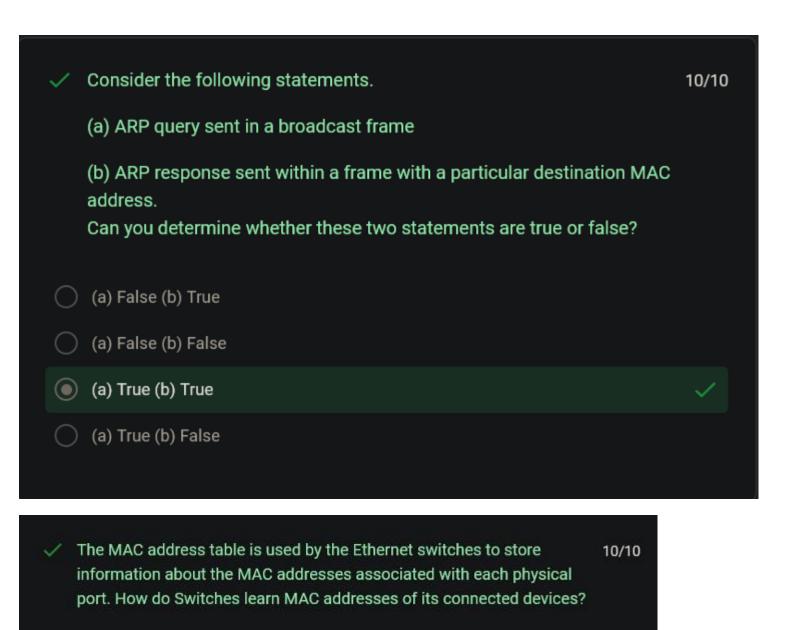
# Module 6: Data-Link Layer Total points 100/100 Email \* rnirosh134@cicracampus.net Which of the following statement is true regarding reliable packet 10/10 transfer? If all the links in a network provide reliable frame delivery, then TCP's reliable delivery service can be replaced by the link layer's reliable service. If all the links in a network provide reliable frame delivery, then TCP's reliable delivery service could be redundant. Even if all the links in a network provide reliable frame delivery, we still need to use TCP's reliable delivery service to guarantee the reliable delivery and also the in order delivery of the packets. Even if all the links in a network provide reliable frame delivery, we still need TCP's reliable delivery service to detect errors in the packets.









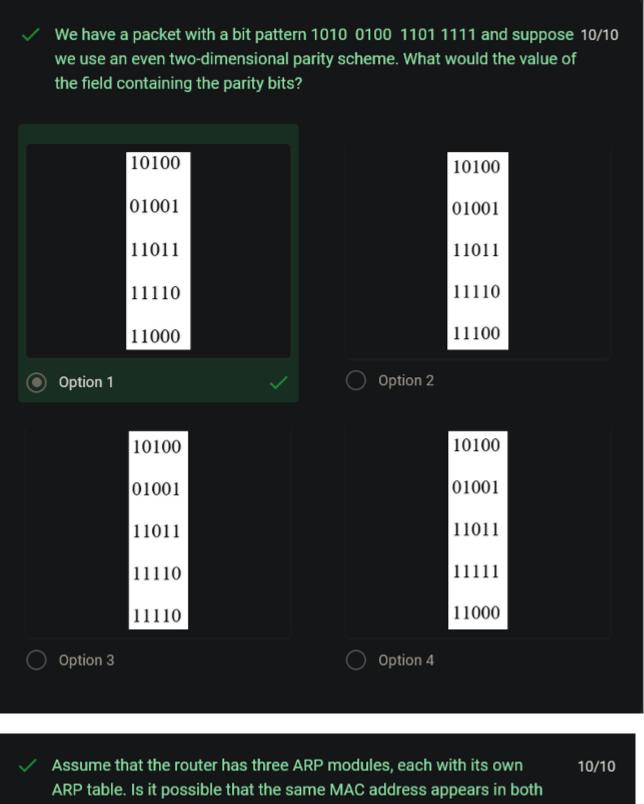


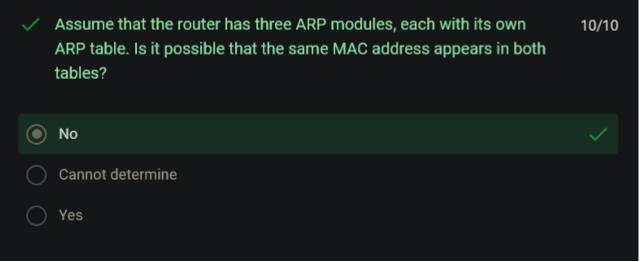
Using the source MAC address.

**Using DHCP** 

Using ARP

Using the destination MAC address.



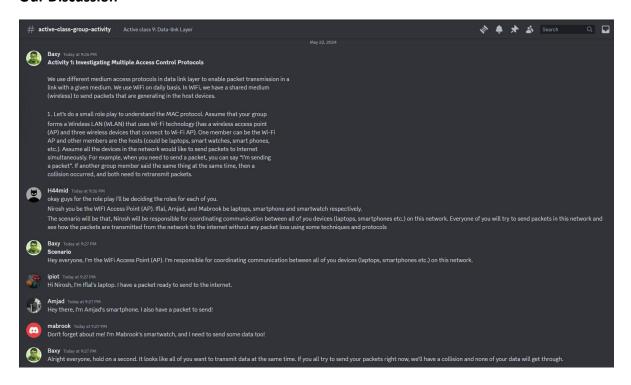


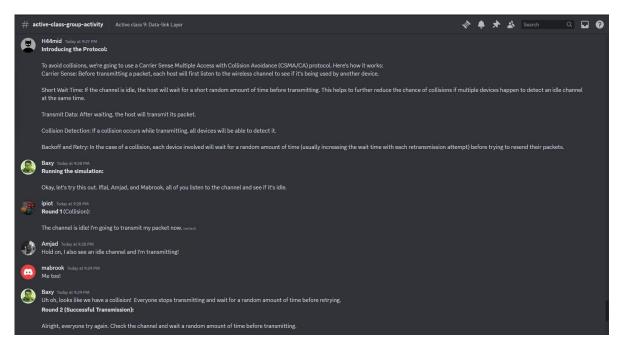
# **Activity 1: Investigating Multiple Access Control Protocols**

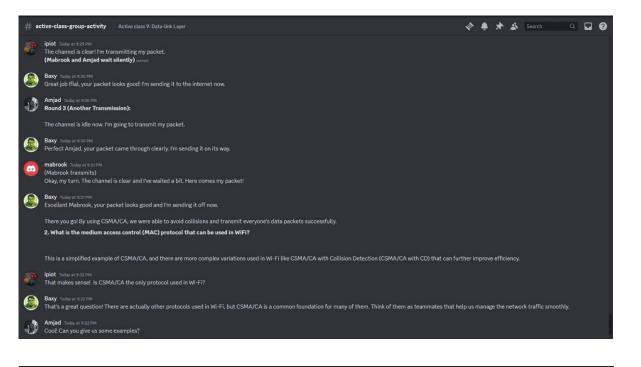
In this activity, we'll be acting out a WiFi network! I'll be the access point (AP), and others will be devices like laptops or phones.

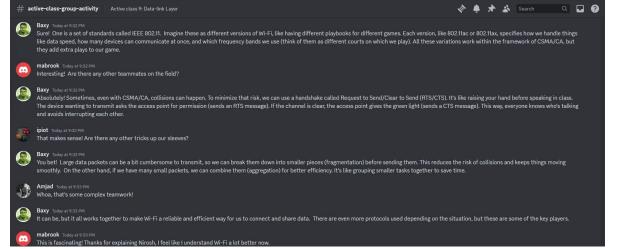
Imagine we all want to send data at the same time. Since WiFi is like a shared conversation, we need a plan to avoid garbled messages. We'll design a system where we check if the "airwaves" are free before talking. If two devices try to talk at once, we'll use a random waiting time to avoid interrupting each other again. We'll also draw a timeline to show how this waiting time works. Finally, we'll learn about the real system WiFi uses to manage communication.

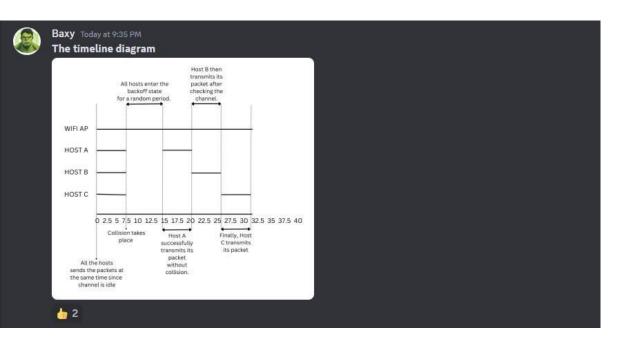
#### **Our Discussion**











### **Activity 2: ARP**

In Cisco Packet Tracer, I'll build a network with laptops, PCs, and routers. We'll assign static IP addresses to each device and grab screenshots for reference.

First up, we need to figure out how my laptop (Laptop1) chats with PC2 on the same network. We'll discuss a protocol that helps us discover this information and the steps involved.

Then, I'll ping PC2 from my laptop in simulation mode. This will activate a cool feature called ARP. We'll analyze the messages exchanged, like what PC2 sends and the order they appear in. We'll also pay close attention to IP and MAC addresses.

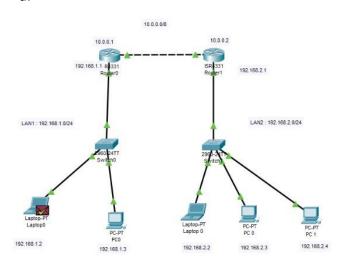
Remember how everyone keeps a cheat sheet of who's who on the network (ARP table)? We'll use commands to check these tables on various devices and see how they update as communication flows.

Next, I'll ping another PC (PC0) from my laptop and another laptop (Laptop0) will ping a different PC (PC1). We'll observe how the messages travel and update the cheat sheets (ARP tables) on each device.

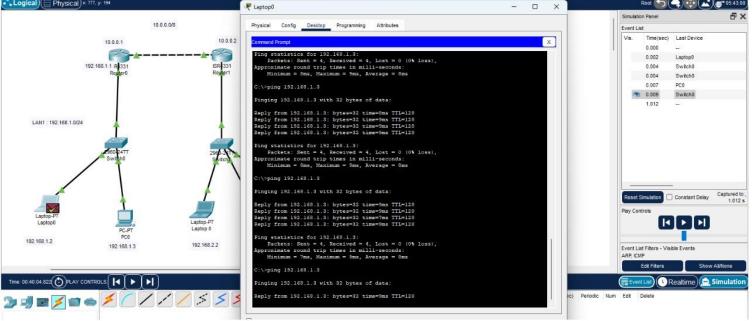
Finally, by comparing the ARP tables before and after our pings, we'll see how ARP helps devices talk to each other across the network. There's even a command to clear entries in these tables if needed!

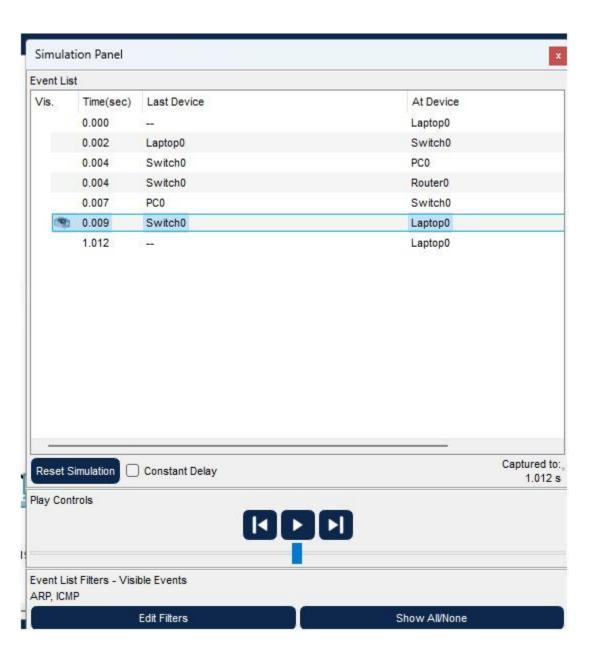
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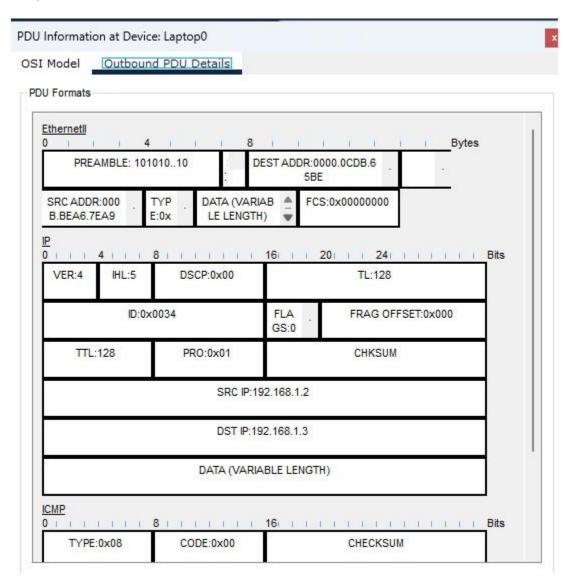
a.



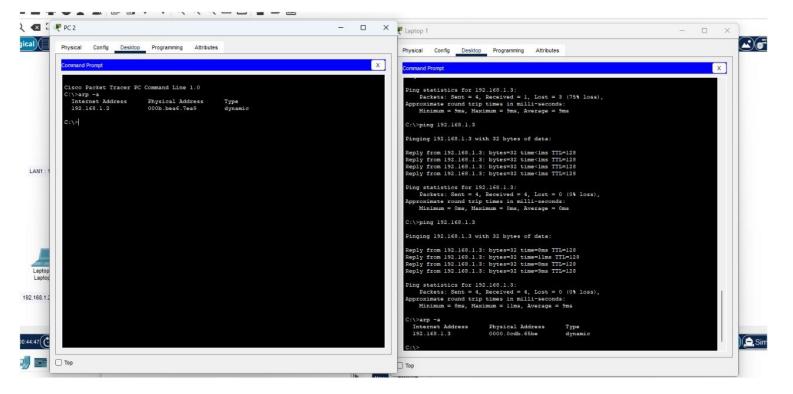




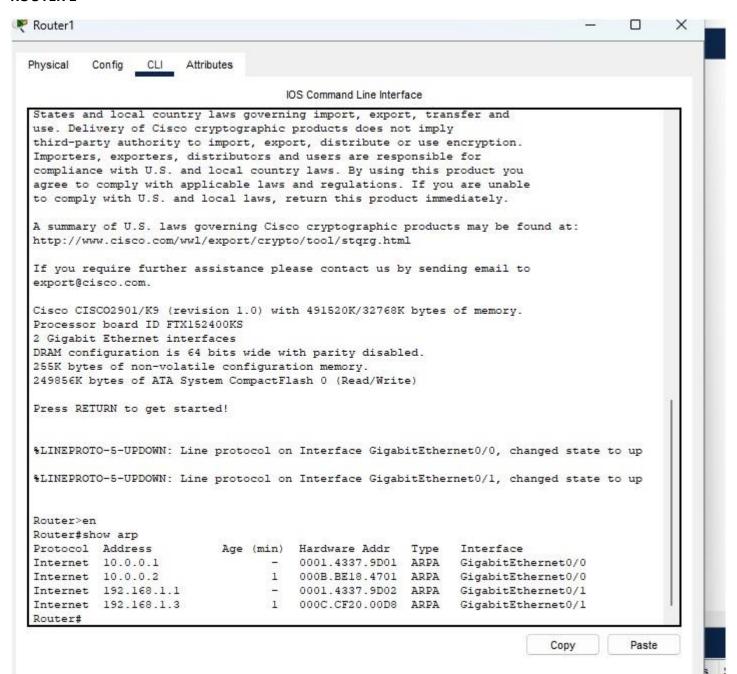




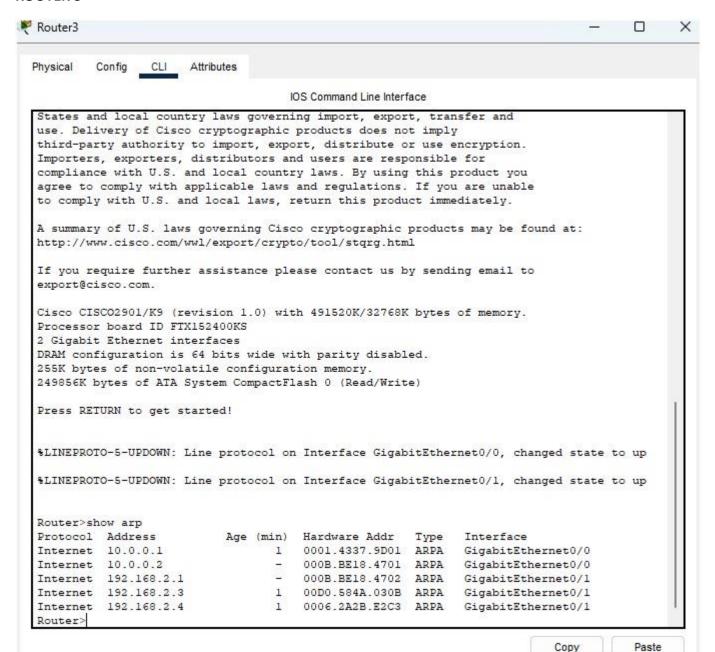
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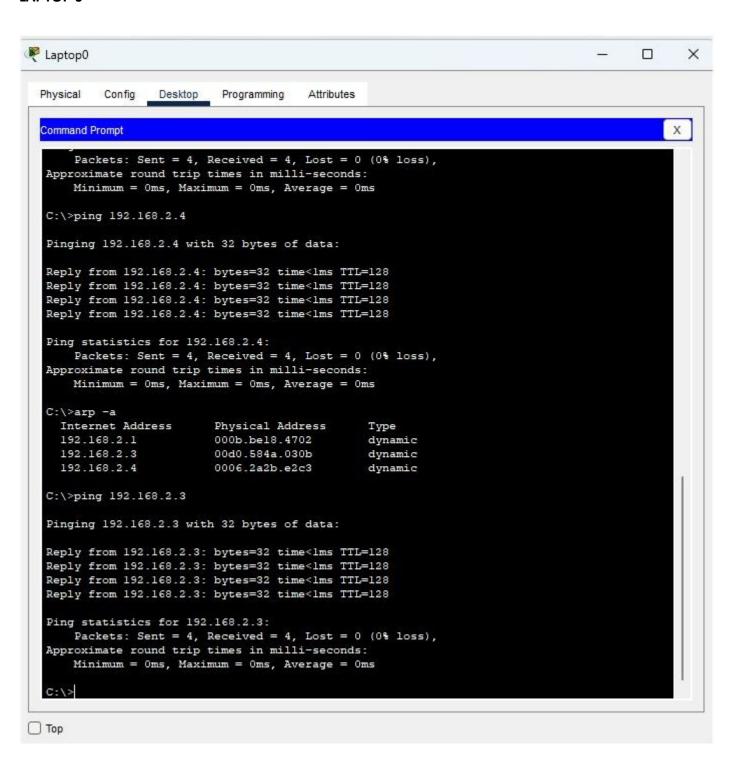


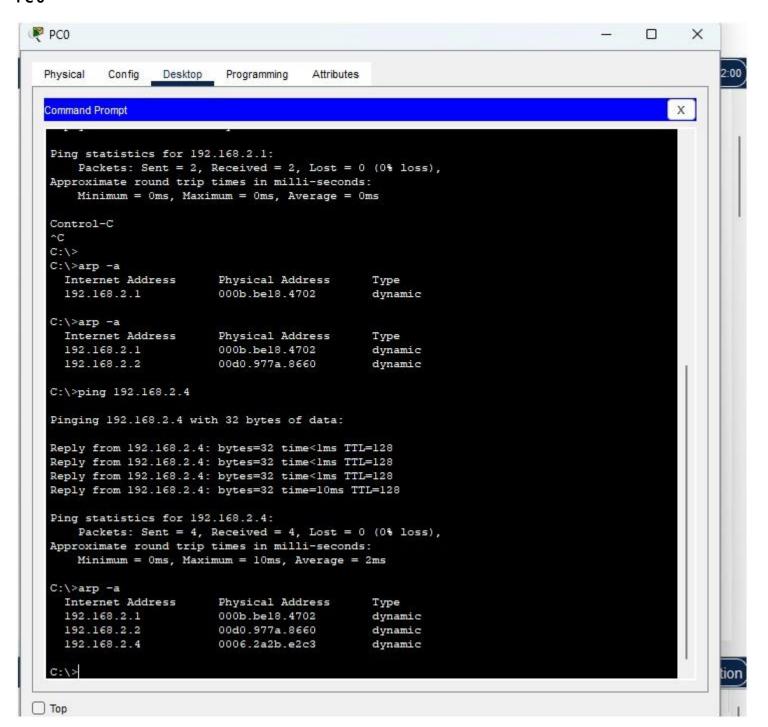
#### **ROUTER 1**



#### **ROUTER 3**

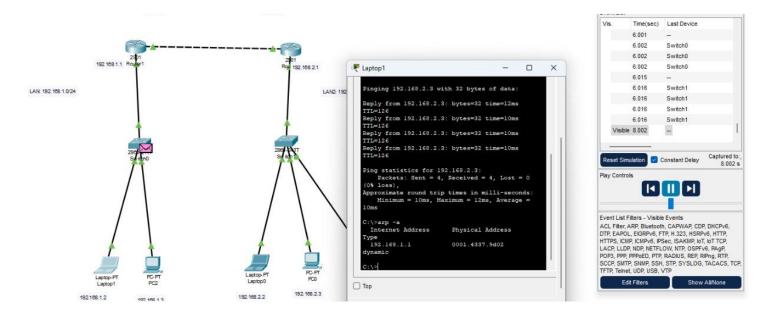




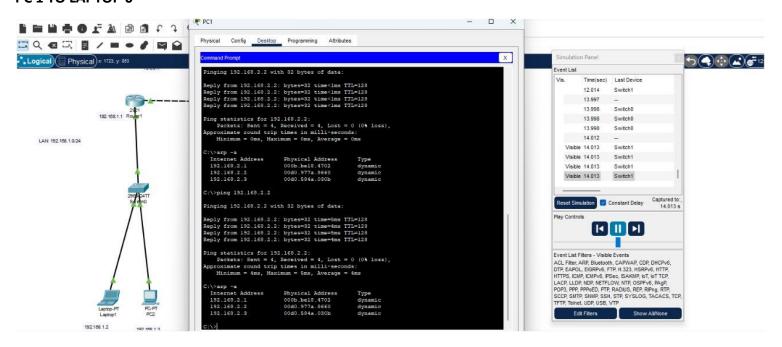


```
Config Desktop Programming
                                      Attributes
Physical
Command Prompt
C:\>arp -a
  Internet Address
                         Physical Address
                                               Type
  192.168.2.1
                         000b.be18.4702
                                               dynamic
 C:\>ping 192.168.2.3
 Pinging 192.168.2.3 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.2.3: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.2.3: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.2.3: bytes=32 time=5ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.2.3: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
 Ping statistics for 192.168.2.3:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
    Minimum = Oms, Maximum = 5ms, Average = 1ms
 C:\>ping 192.168.2.2
 Pinging 192.168.2.2 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.2.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.2.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
 Reply from 192.168.2.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
Reply from 192.168.2.2: bytes=32 time<1ms TTL=128
 Ping statistics for 192.168.2.2:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
    Minimum = 0ms, Maximum = 0ms, Average = 0ms
 C:\>arp -a
  Internet Address
                         Physical Address
                                               Type
  192.168.2.1
                         000b.bel8.4702
                                               dynamic
   192.168.2.2
                         00d0.977a.8660
                                               dynamic
  192.168.2.3
                         00d0.584a.030b
                                               dynamic
C:\>
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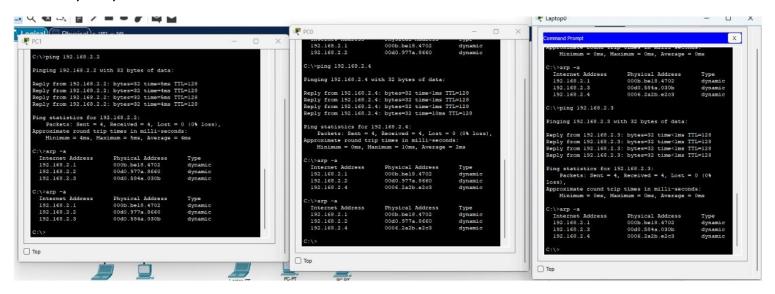
#### **LAPTOP 1 TO PC 0**



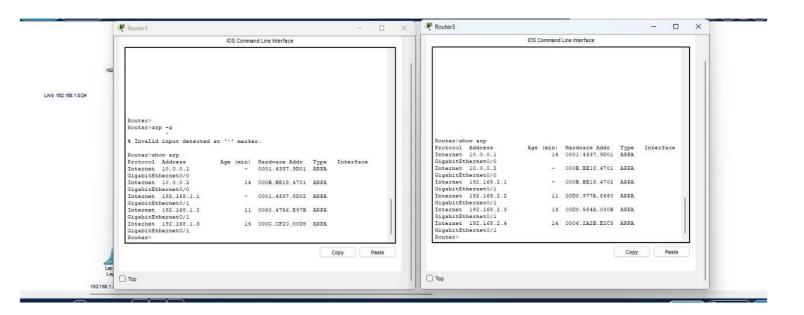
#### PC 1 TO LAPTOP 0



#### LAPTOP 0, PC 0, PC1



#### **ROUTER 1 AND ROUTER 3**



# Activity 3: Mapping physical connections - MAC address table.

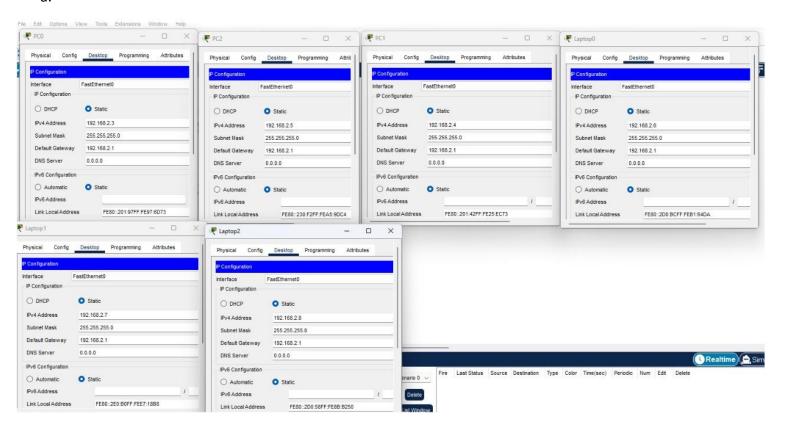
In Cisco Packet Tracer, I'll build a network with PCs, laptops, and a switch. First, I'll write down the MAC addresses of all the devices to get to know them better. We'll also check a list each PC and laptop keeps to remember other devices on the network (ARP table). The switch has its own list too, called a MAC address table, and we'll see what's in there using a special command.

#### Then, it's communication time!

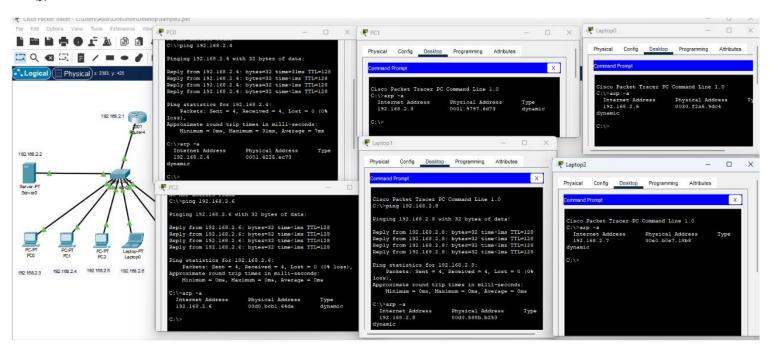
I'll ping Laptops 0 and 1 from different PCs. This will update the switch's list, and we'll watch it change with a cool magnifying glass tool. We'll even ping another laptop to see how the switch learns where devices are. To see the bigger picture, we'll check the ARP tables on the PCs and laptops again.

Next, we'll erase the switch's memory of all the devices. But instead of manually assigning IP addresses, we'll set up a DHCP server to do it automatically. We'll compare the new lists on the PCs and laptops (ARP tables) to what we saw before. Finally, we'll peek at the switch's list again and see how it differs. This will help us understand the difference between using a DHCP server and static IP assignment.

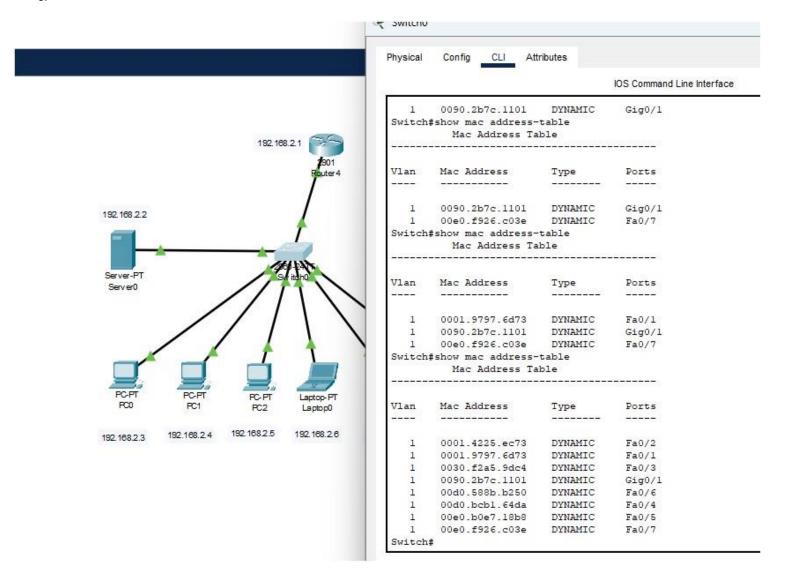
- 1.
- a.



b.

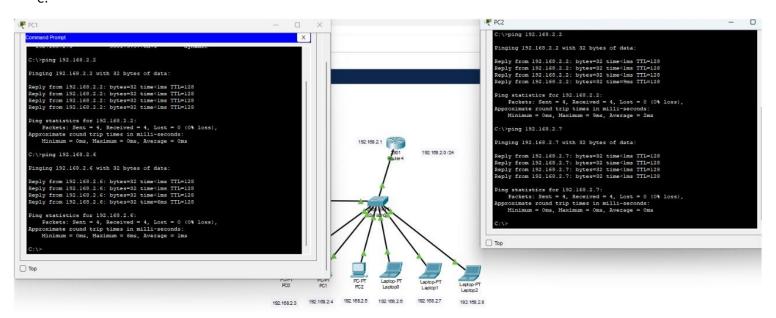


c.

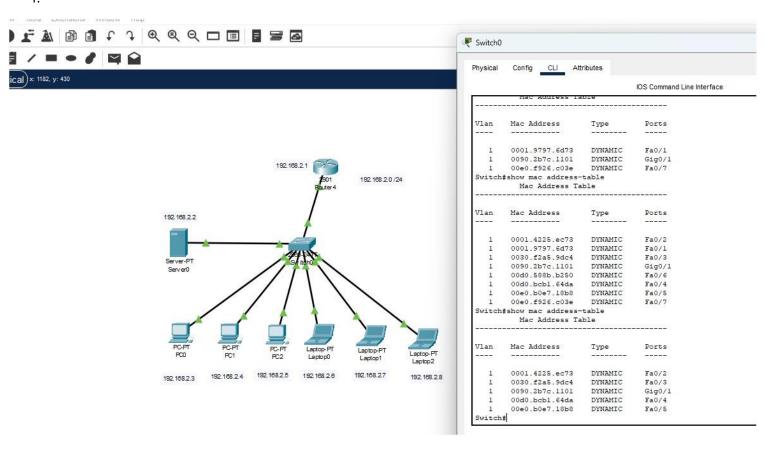


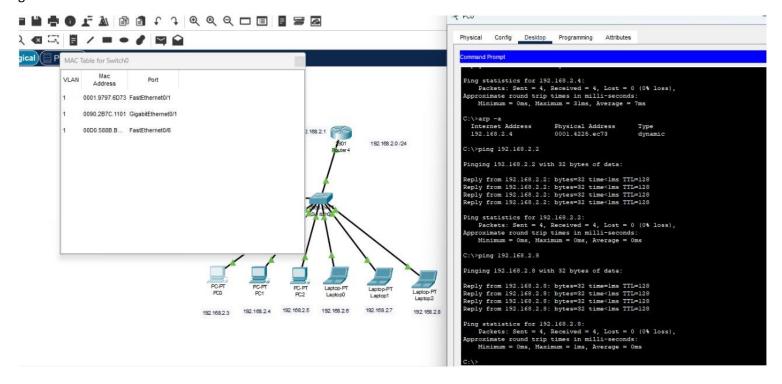
d.

e.

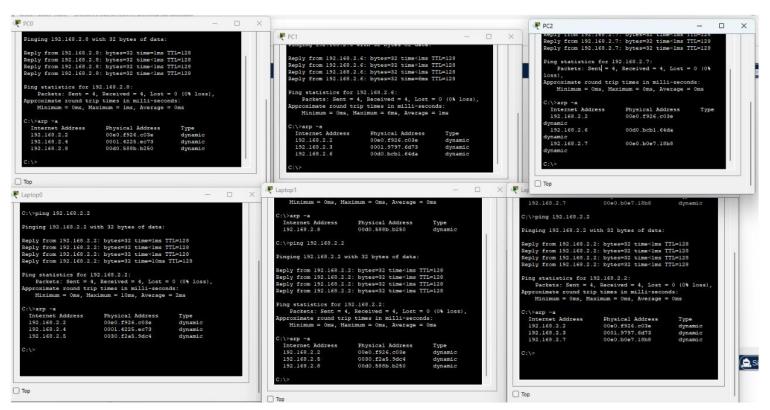


f.



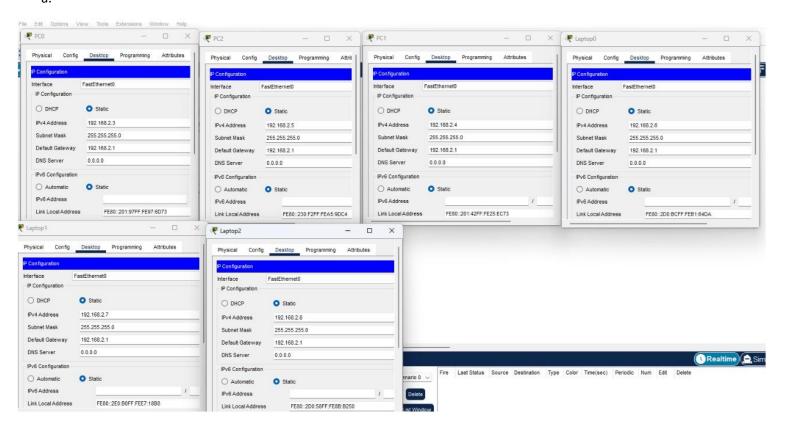


i.

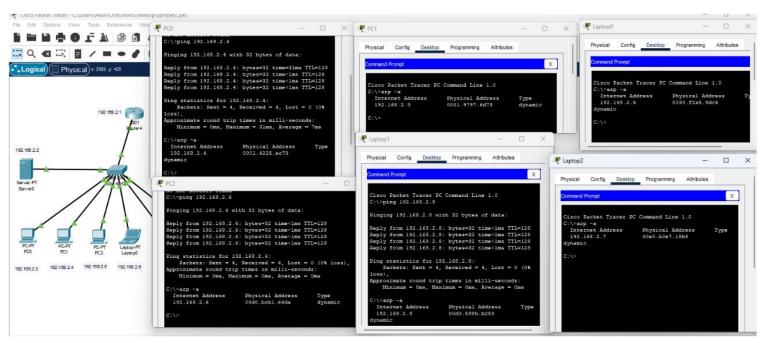


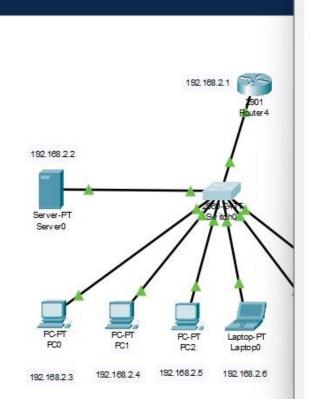
2.

a.



b.





2 SMITCHO

Switch#

Physical Config CLI Attributes IOS Command Line Interface 0090.2b7c.1101 DYNAMIC Gig0/1 Switch#show mac address-table Mac Address Table Vlan Mac Address Type ...... 0090.2b7c.1101 DYNAMIC Gig0/1 00e0.f926.c03e DYNAMIC Switch#show mac address-table Mac Address Table Vlan Mac Address Type Ports 0001.9797.6d73 DYNAMIC Fa0/1 1 0090.2b7c.1101 DYNAMIC Gig0/1 00e0.f926.c03e DYNAMIC Fa0/7 Switch#show mac address-table Mac Address Table Vlan Mac Address Type Ports 0001.4225.ec73 DYNAMIC 0001.9797.6d73 DYNAMIC Fa0/2 1 1 Fa0/1 0030.f2a5.9dc4 DYNAMIC Fa0/3 0090.2b7c.1101 DYNAMIC 1 Gig0/1 00d0.588b.b250 1 DYNAMIC Fa0/6 1 00d0.bcb1.64da DYNAMIC Fa0/4 00e0.b0e7.18b8 DYNAMIC Fa0/5 1 00e0.f926.c03e DYNAMIC Fa0/7