Device Drivers

LAB -3

Exercise 8

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SNULL (Simple Network Utility for Loading Localities) works by creating two interfaces. The messages transmitted to one interface loopbacks to the other interface. It looks like the computer has two external links but in fact it is replying to itself. To be able to establish such a communication through the SNULL interface the source and destination addresses need to be modified during data transmission. In other words, packets sent through one of the interfaces should be received by the other, but the receiver of the outgoing packet shouldn't be recognized as the local host. The same applies to the source address of received packets. To achieve this kind of "hidden loopback," the snull interface toggles the least significant bit of the third octet of both the source and destination addresses; that is, it changes both the network number and the host number of class C IP numbers. The net effect is that packets sent to network A appear on the interface as packets belonging to network B.