

IP address:

- An IP address is a number that uniquely identifies every device (computer, smartphone, embedded device) on the network.
- 4 bytes e.g. 192.168.1.100.
- Devices connected on the network communicate with each other using their IP addresses as identities.



Image Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/identity-and-access-management/the-problem-with-two-factor-authentication/d/d-id/1113697>

Packet:

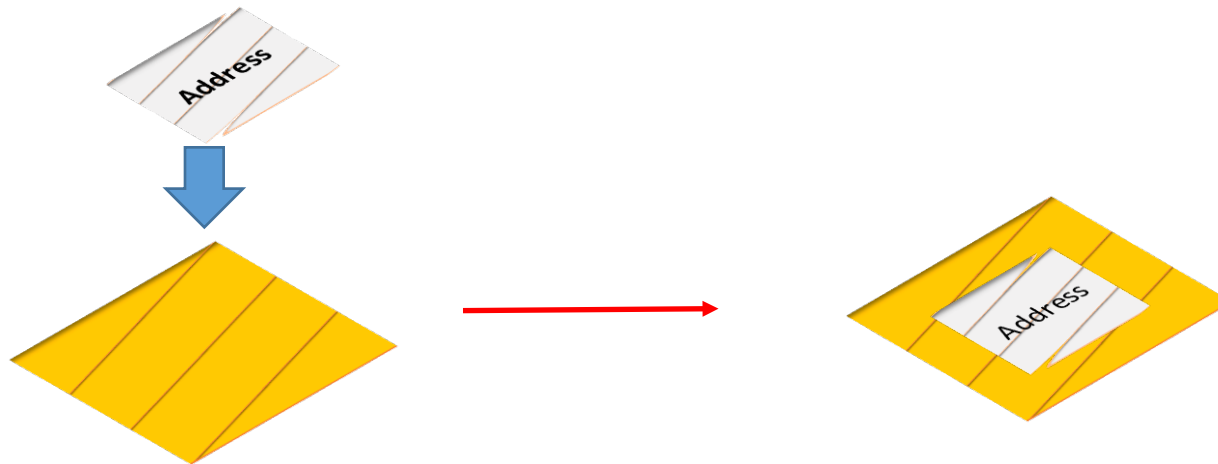
- A packet contains the information exchanged over the network.
- It also contains the details of the sending and receiving computers.



Image Source: http://www.webreference.com/programming/php_mysql/index.html

Packet Formation:

- When the information is sent (in form of a data packet) over the network, appropriate addressing information should be provided for the packet to reach the desired destination.
- The process of adding address information is similar to what is done for the letter mails. For example, the apartment number, street address and city information is required for the letter mail to reach the destination.



TCP/IP protocol suite

- System of rules that allows computers, smartphones and embedded devices to communicate with each other over the network.
- The process of taking the data from applications like web browser, segmenting it into small chunks if required, adding the addressing information (Port, IP and MAC), and sending out through the network interface card is performed as per the TCP/IP protocol suite.
- Combination of TCP & IP protocol suites:
 - TCP : Transmission Control Protocol
 - IP: Internet Protocol
- Based on four layer reference model.

Host

Application Layer

Applications work at this layer, e.g. HTML, FTP, HTTP

Transport Layer

Reliable flow of data packets between two hosts

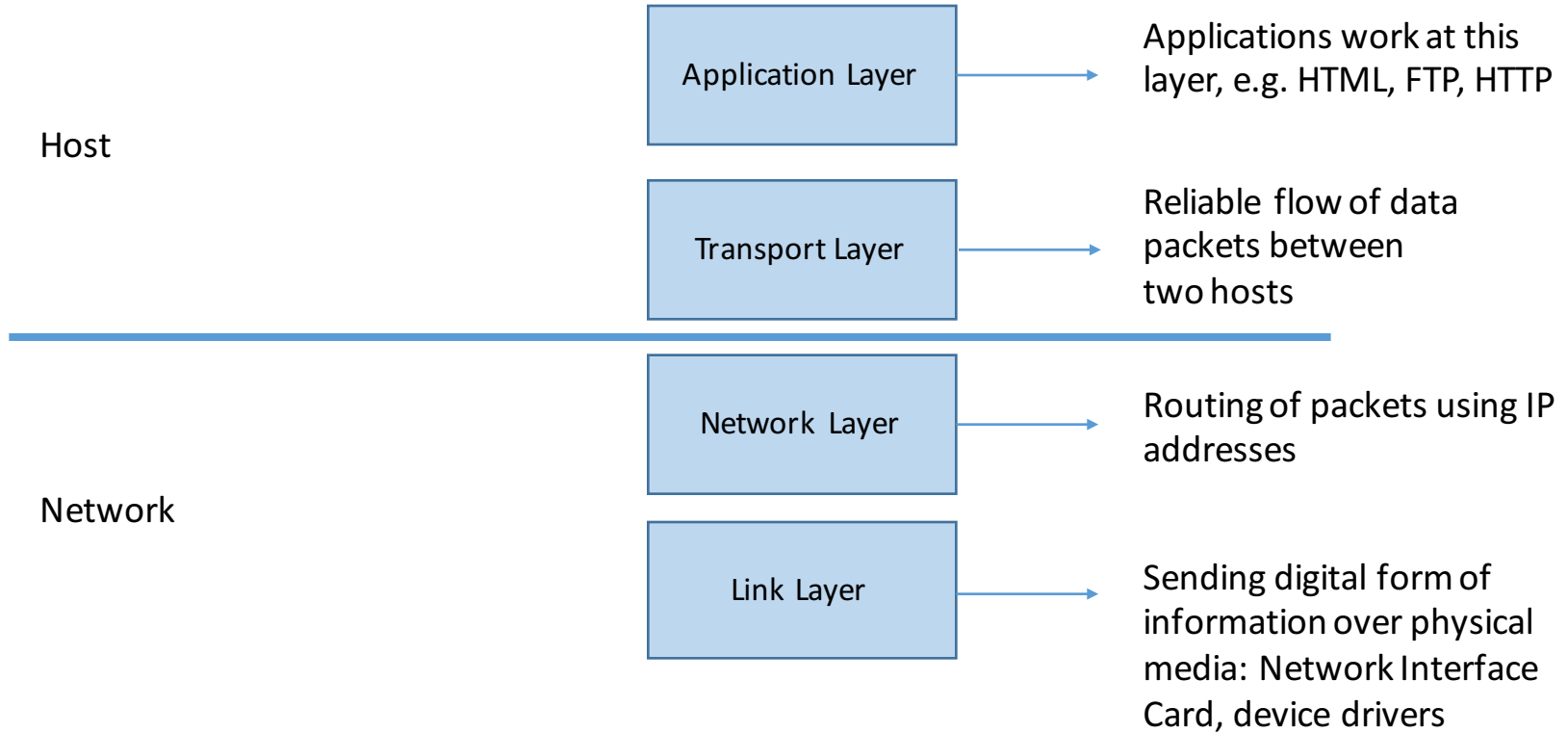
Network

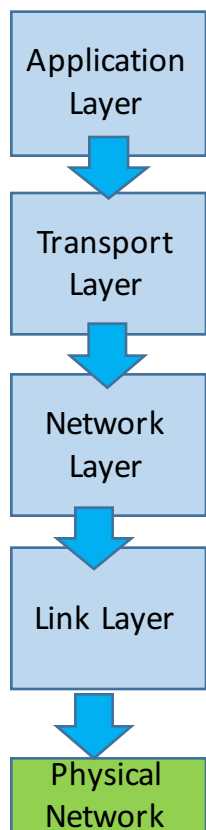
Network Layer

Routing of packets using IP addresses

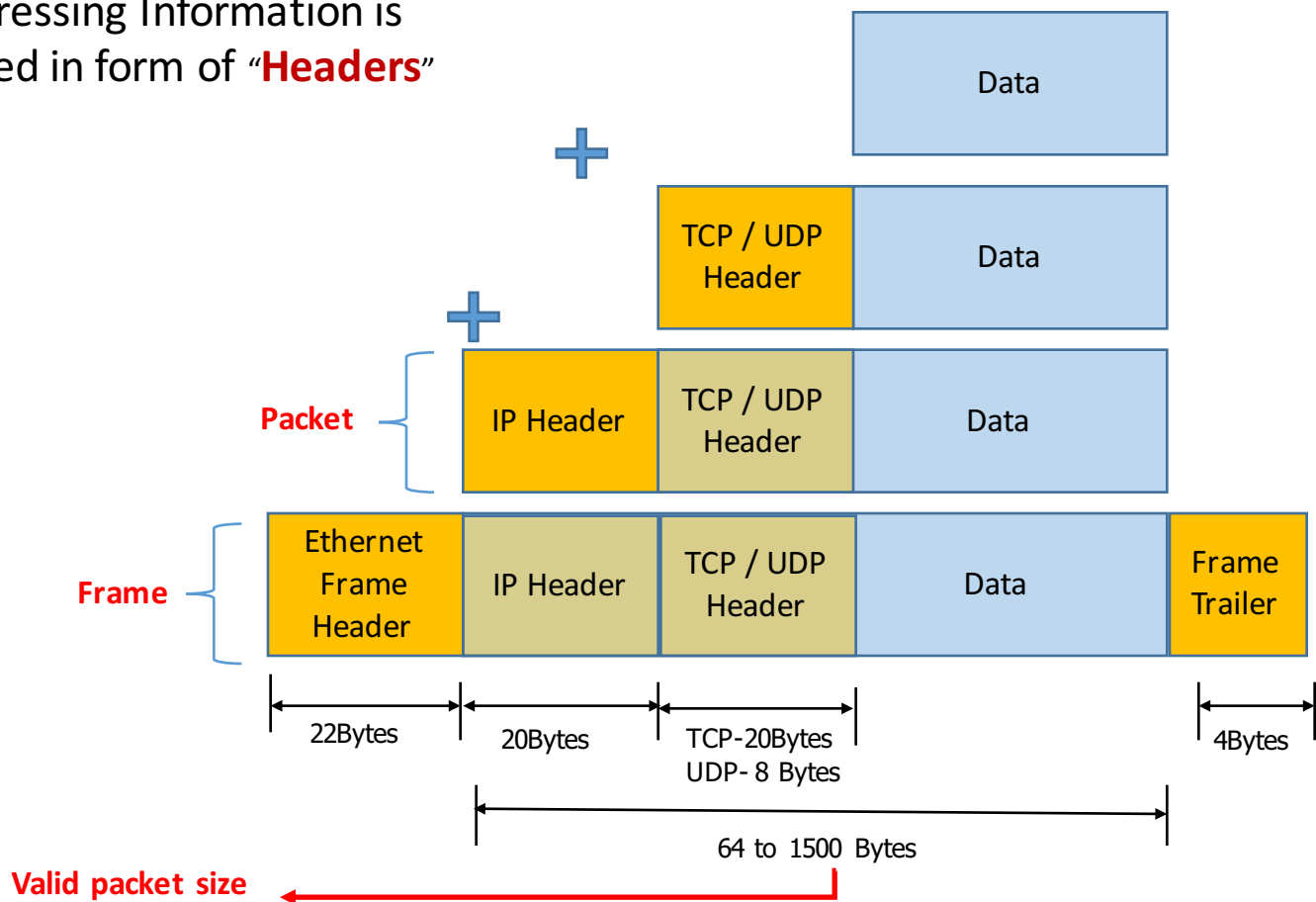
Link Layer

Sending digital form of information over physical media: Network Interface Card, device drivers





Addressing Information is added in form of “**Headers**”



Headers:

- Headers contain addressing information and other attributes necessary to route the frames in the network and process the packet at receiving host.

TCP Header

0		4	10	16	19	24	31
Source Port				Destination Port			
Sequence Number							
Acknowledgment Number							
Len	Reserved	Flags		Window			
Checksum				Urgent Pointer			

Total Size = 20 Bytes

IP Header

0	4	8	16	19	24	31
Version	Len	TOS	Total Length			
Identification			Flags	Fragment Offset		
TTL		Protocol	Header Checksum			
Source Internet Address						
Destination Internet Address						

Total Size = 20 Bytes

UDP Header

Source Port	Destination Port
Length	Checksum

Total Size = 8 Bytes

Stream of packets:

- There is a maximum size limit for the packet to be transmitted over the network.
- For Ethernet (the most common network technology), it is 1500 bytes.
 - 1460 Bytes of data payload + 20 Bytes of TCP header + 20 Bytes of IP header.
- A TCP packet can take only 1460 Bytes of data as a payload over Ethernet network. Therefore, the communication typically requires exchange of multiple packets between the source and the destination

- The payload to be transmitted is broken into smaller pieces to keep the packet size within limits. For example, to send a picture of 4 MB i.e. 4096 bytes, the picture will be segmented into smaller pieces and it will take more than one packet to send the picture.
- For an investigator it is important to capture multiple packets in order to make complete sense of the content being sent or received over the network.

