Layer 2 Ethernet and Wi-Fi (802.11)

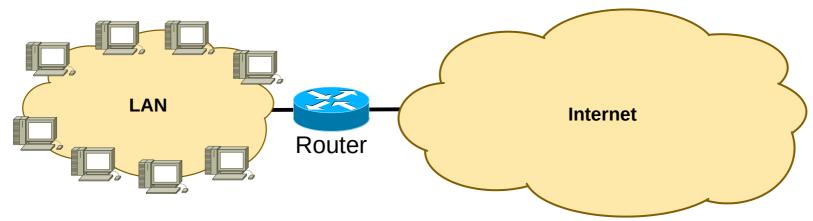
Fundamentos de Redes

Mestrado Integrado em Engenharia de Computadores e Telemática DETI-UA



Local Area Network (LAN)

- Is a computer network within a small geographical area.
 - Home, school, room, office building or group of buildings.
- Is composed of inter-connected hosts capable of accessing and sharing data, network resources and Internet access.
 - Host refers generically to a PC, server, or any other terminal.
- Technologies
 - Current: Ethernet, 802.11 (Wi-Fi)
 - Legacy: Token Ring, FDDI, ...

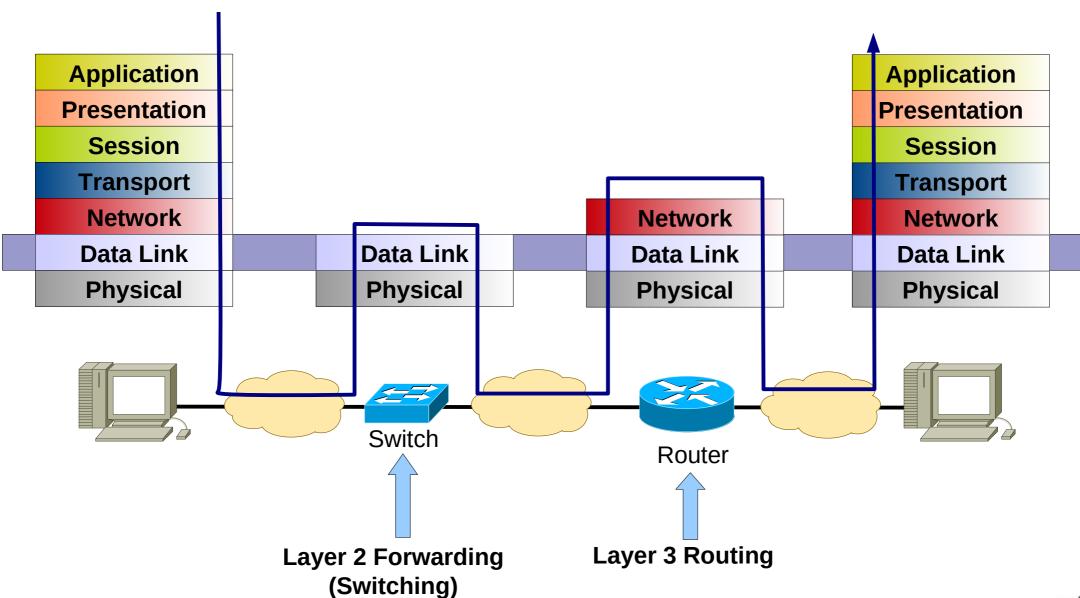


Ethernet

Ethernet (802.3)

- Most successful LAN technology.
- Invented at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC).
- Xerox, DEC and Intel defined in 1978 the standard for Ethernet 10Mbps.
- Uses "Carrier Sense/Multiple Access" with "Collision Detect" (CSMA/CD)
 - Carrier Sense: hosts can perceive is the communication channel is being used.
 - Multiple Access: multiple host can access simultaneously
 - Collision Detect: host "listen" the communication channel while transmitting to detect transmission collisions.
 - Collision: multiple physical signals overlapping and interfering with each other.

Ethernet based LAN



Ethernet Equipment

• Hub/Repeater:

- Operates only at the physical level (OSI Layer 1).
- Replicates and regenerates electrical signals.
- Hub = repetidor com múltiplas portas.
- Não é usado nas redes locais actuais!

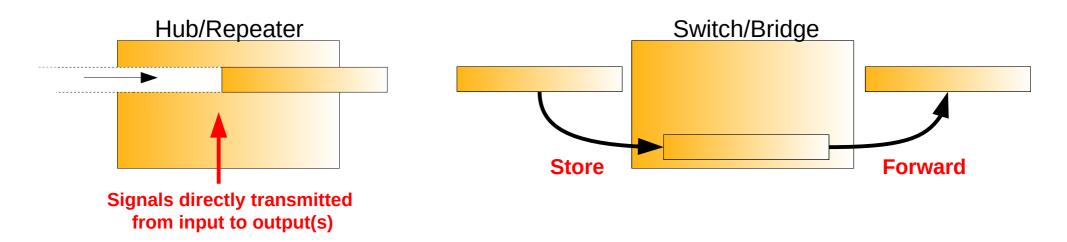
Switch/Bridge:

- Store-and-forward operation.
- Operates only at the data link level (OSI Layer 2).
- Physically separates (and logically interconnects) different collision domains
 - Nowadays all Ethernet hosts are connected to a switch → There no Ethernet collision domains!
- Forwards frames based on MAC addresses.
- Switch = bridge with multiple ports.

Router:

- Store-and-forward operation.
- Operates only at the network level (OSI Layer 3).
- Routes packets based on network addresses (e.g., IPv4 and IPv6).

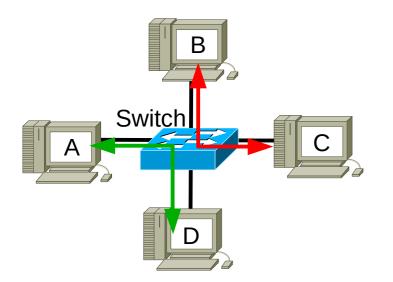
Switches/Bridges vs. Hubs/Repeaters

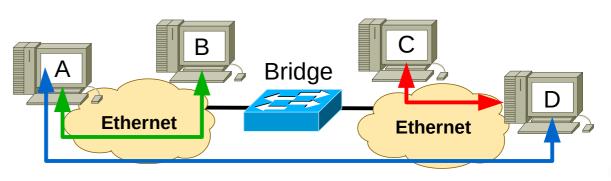


- Bridges/switches interconnect different local networks.
- Bridges/switches additional functions:
 - Store & Forward + Filtering
 - The Forwarding process decides to send a frame to a specid port based on the destination MAC address of the frame.
 - Ports may operate a different speeds.

Switching

- With Switches/Bridges
 - Interconnection done at OSI Layer 2.
 - Hosts can transmit simultaneously.
 - A network of Switches is a Broadcast Domain
 - An Ethernet frame with destination FF:FF:FF:FF:FF (Broadcast) will reach all connected switches and hosts.





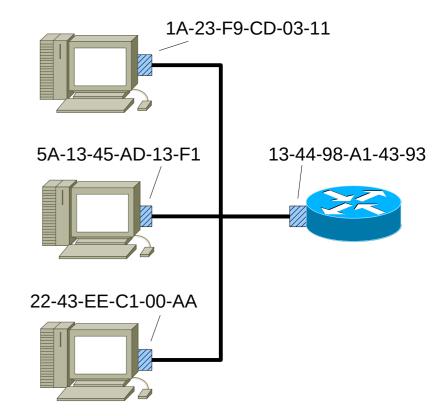
Ethernet Frame



- The sender's network card encapsulates an IP datagrama (or any other network protocol) in an Ethernet frame.
- Preamble:
 - 7 bytes with pattern 10101010 followed by one byte with pattern10101011.
 - Used to sincronize the sending and receiving clocks.
- Destination and Source addresses: 6 bytes Physical (MAC) address
 - If the network card receives a frame with destination equal to its own address or its the broadcast address, it will pass data to the network level process.
 - If not, drops the frame.
- Type defines which protocol is encapsulated in the frame (usually IPv4 or IPV6).
- The frame check sequence (FCS) is a four-octet cyclic redundancy check (CRC) that allows detection of corrupted data within the entire frame as received on the receiver side.

MAC Addresses

- MAC (Physical, Ethernet or LAN) Address:
 - Function: Allow the exchange of data between network interfaces connected using a Layer 2 network.
 - Have 6 bytes/48 bits.
 - Are unique.
 - Each network card has its own address.
 - Defined by manufacturer
 - Some hardware allows change.
 - First 24-, 28-, or 36-bits assign to manufacturer.
 - Hexadecimal notation
 - Broadcast: FF-FF-FF-FF-FF



Ethernet Frame Minimum Size

- Historically there were Ethernet technologies that allowed collisions and a collision detection mechanism had to be present (CSMA/CD).
- Depending on the technology and maximum cable size, the Ethernet frame had to be big enough to allow the collision detection mechanism to detect a frame being transmitted before the last frame byte leaving the source host.
- By legacy (it is possible to merge different Ethernet technologies) the minimum frame size is 64 bytes.
- If the frame's header plus data do not reach 64 bytes, a set of zeros must be added to the end of the frame to reach 64 bytes.
 - This is called padding.

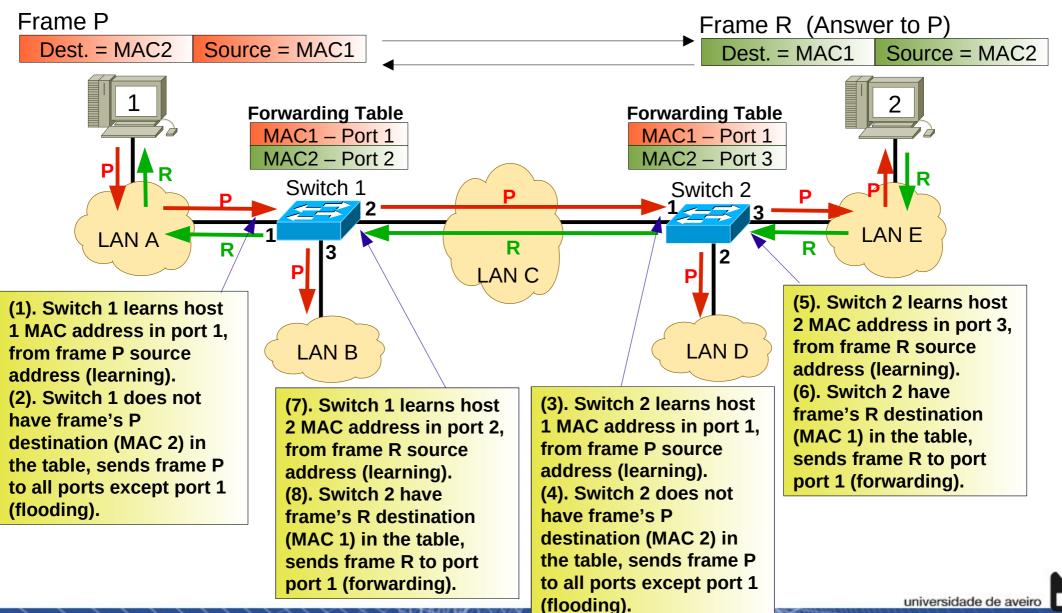
Switches Basic Operations

- Switches have a Forwarding Table.
- When a switch receives an Ethernet frame:
 - Registers an entry at the Forwarding Table the frame's source MAC address and the port where the frame was received.

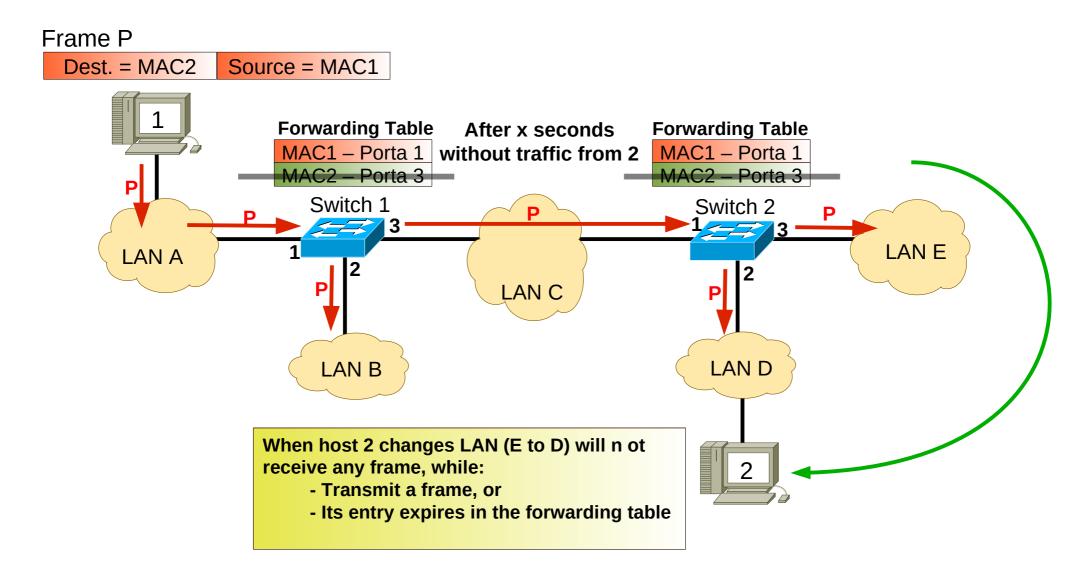
MAC	Porta
00:11:11:11:11	1
00:22:22:22:22	1
A1:33:33:33:33	2
44:44:44:44:44	3
55:55:55:00:00:55	3

- If no frames are received from that MAC address after some time (aging time) the entry is removed.
- Searches the Forwarding Table for the frame's destination MAC address and forwards the packet according:
 - Forwarding mechanism:
 - If the frame's destination MAC address exists in the table, the switches forwards the frame through the port associated with that MAC address.
 - Flooding mechanism:
 - If the frame's destination MAC address DOES NOT exist in the table, the switches forwards the frame through all active ports (except the one where it was received).
 - » Note: Just within the same VLAN (more details later).

Learning, Flooding and Forwarding

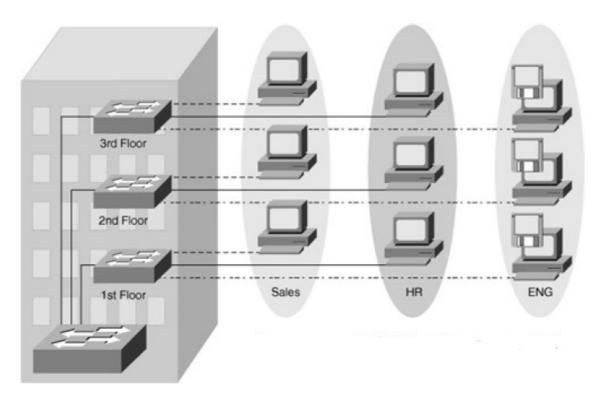


Forwarding Table Aging Time



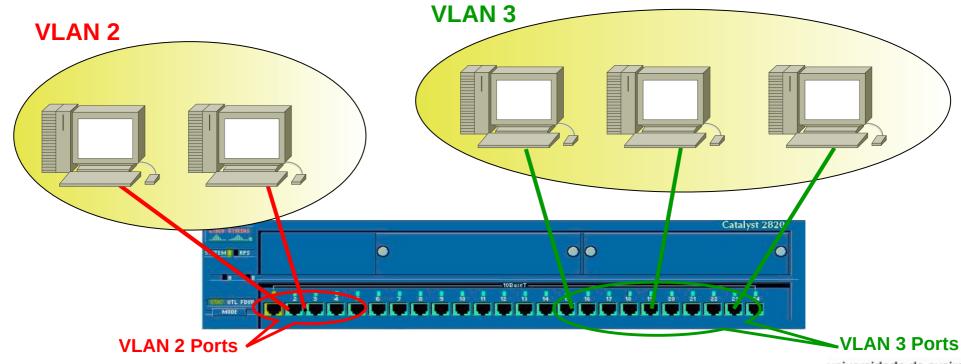
Virtual LAN (VLAN)

- A Virtual LAN (VLAN) is a group of hosts/users with a common set of requirements or characteristics in the same broadcast domain.
 - Independent of their physical location.
- Solves the scalability problems of large networks.
 - By breaking a single broadcast domain into several smaller broadcast domains.
 - Allows better/simpler network administration and security deployment.
- Hosts in different VLAN do not communicate by Layer 2.
 - Its communications are done at Layer 3 (with IP routing).



Defining Host VLAN

- The VLAN to which a host belongs depends only on the port of the switch.
 - Configured only in the switch.
 - Example: If port 1 is configure as VLAN 2, and port 20 is configured as VLAN 3:
 - → If host is connected to port 1 it is on VLAN 2,
 - → If host is connected to port 20 it is on VLAN 3.
- VLAN 1 is usually reserved to network administration.
 - Used to access configurations remotely via IP.



Example – VLAN

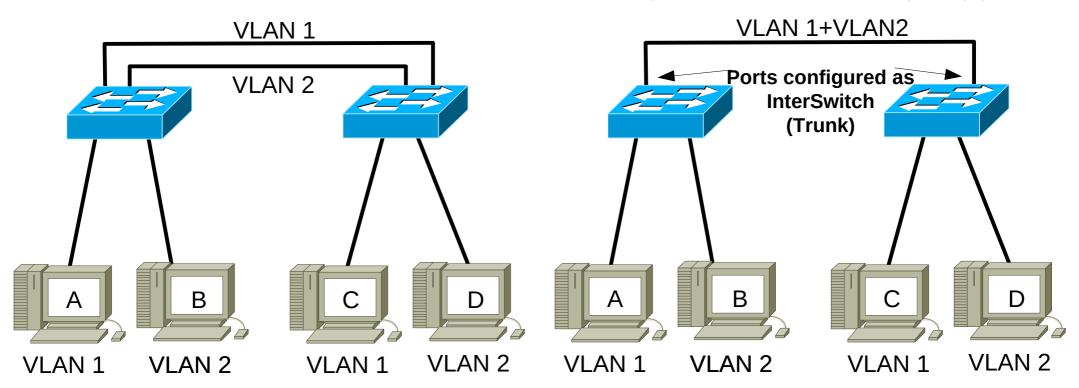
Pings sent by 10.0.0.1 # ping 10.0.0.2 Pinging 10.0.0.2 with 32 bytes of data: Reply from 10.0.0.2: bytes=32 time<10ms TTL=128 Ping statistics for 10.0.0.2: Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss), Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds: Minimum = Oms, Maximum = Oms, Average = Oms # ping 10.0.0.5 Pinging 10.0.0.5 with 32 bytes of data: Request timed out. Request timed out. Request timed out. Request timed out. В Ping statistics for 10.0.0.5: Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 0, Lost = 4 (100% loss), Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds: 10.0.0.1 10.0.0.2 10.0.0.5 10.0.0.6 Minimum = Oms, Maximum = Oms, Average = Oms # ping 10.0.0.6 VI AN 1 VLAN 2 Pinging 10.0.0.6 with 32 bytes of data: Request timed out. Request timed out. Request timed out.

Request timed out.

Interconnection of Switches

Physical link per VLAN

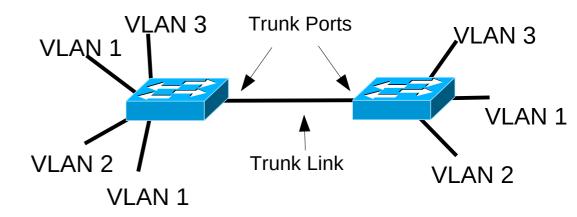
- With a single physical link.
- Using InterSwitch/Trunk port(s).



- Using a single physical link requires a mechanism to differentiate frames from different VLAN.
 - Frames must have a tagged
 - Added when forwarding to a trunk port.
 - → Read and removed when receiving a frame from a trunk port



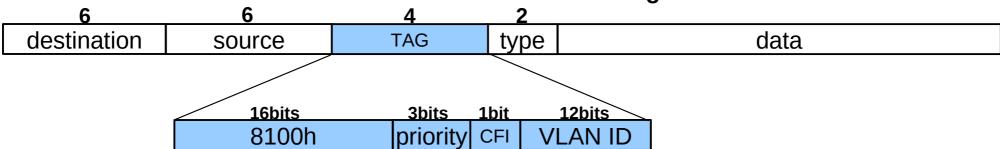
IEEE802.1Q Standard



Ethernet frame without a VLAN tag

6	6	2	
destination	source	type	data

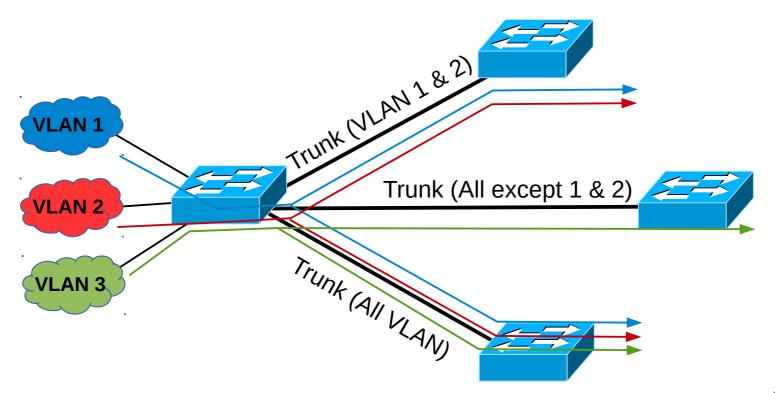
Ethernet frame with a VLAN tag



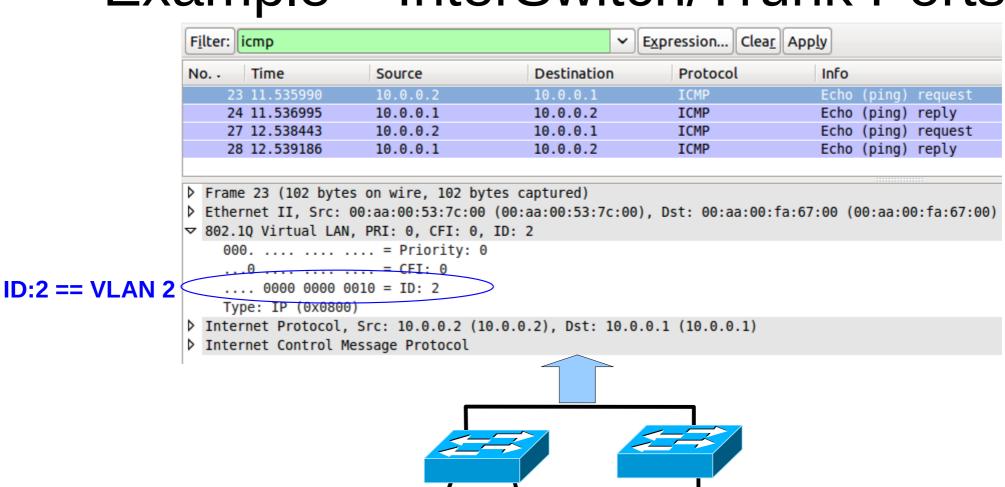
- Priority: Traffic relative priority according to standard 802.1q (0 to 7 values).
- CFI: Used to guarantee compatibility with older technologies (always zero in Ethernet).
- VLAN ID: VLAN identifier.

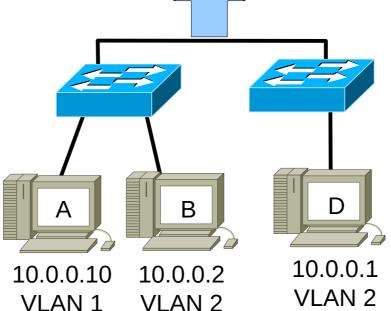
Trunk Links

- The physical link between two Trunk ports is called a Trunk link.
- A trunk carries traffic for multiple VLANs using IEEE 802.1Q.
 - Inter-Switch Link (ISL) encapsulation is an alternative but it getting obsolete.
- Trunks may transport all VLAN or only some!



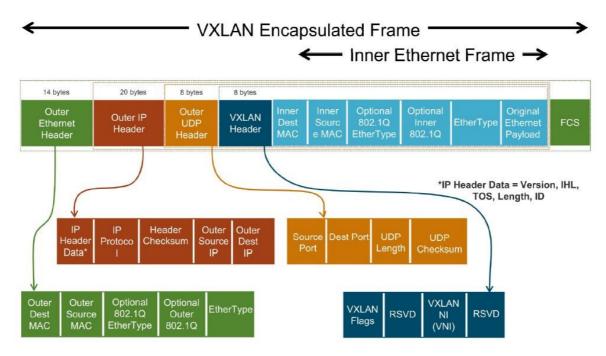
Example – InterSwitch/Trunk Ports





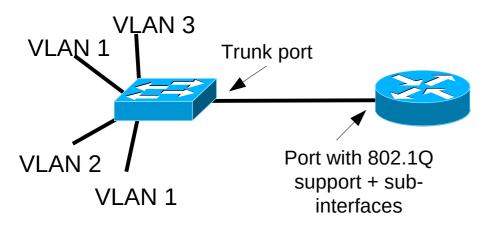
Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN)

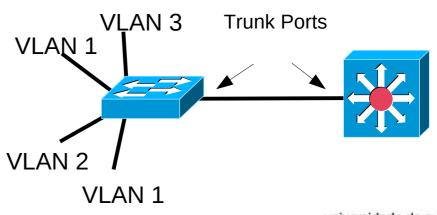
- Alternative/Complement to 802.1Q in Layer3 Switches.
- Encapsulates OSI Layer 2 Ethernet frames within Layer 4 UDP/IP datagrams.
 - Default port 4789.
- VLAN may be additionally identified by a VNI field with 24 bits.
 - 802.1Q tag only as 12 bits.
 - Allows for a very large number of VLAN.
- Usually used when connecting remote VLAN (connected only via IP) in Datacenter and Cloud scenarios.



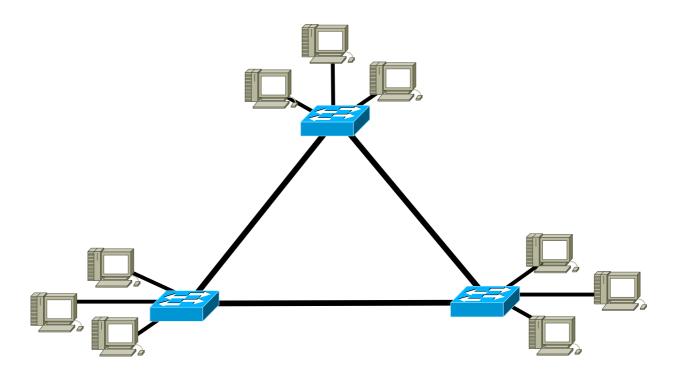
IP Connection between VLANs

- To communicate between different VLAN it is required to use Layer 3 (IP Routing).
- Common solutions:
 - A router with support to 802.1Q,
 - Connecting the physical router interface to a Trunk port.
 - → The router's physical interface is sub-divided in sub-interfaces (one for each VLAN).
 - → The IP gateway for a VLAN host is the IP address of the respective sub-interface in the Router.
 - A Layer 3 switch,
 - Connecting both switches (L3 and L2) using Trunk ports.
 - → Each VLAN is mapped to a virtual Layer 3 interface.
 - → The IP gateway for a VLAN host is the IP address of the respective virtual interface in the L3 switch.





Redundant Layer 2 Network

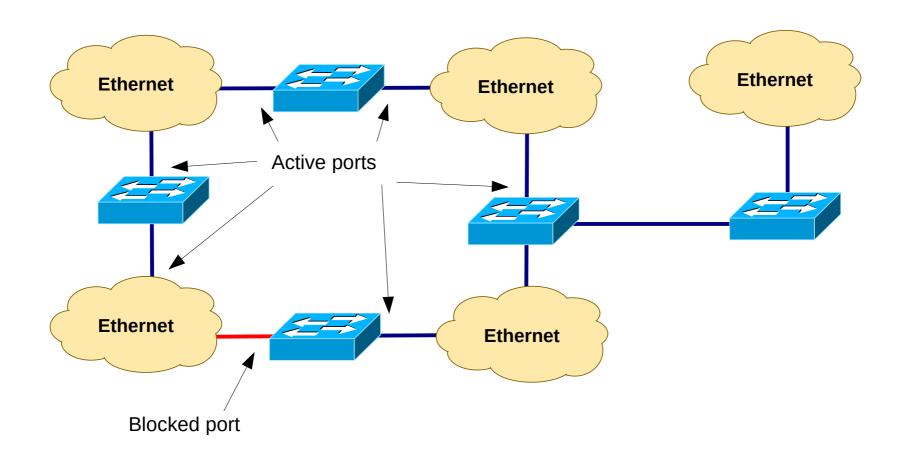


- Objective: Allow the network for dynamically recover from network failures.
- Problem: Link redundancy creates Layer 2 loops. Causes the collapse of communications when MAC frames with broadcast address are sent by any host due to infinite frame flooding.

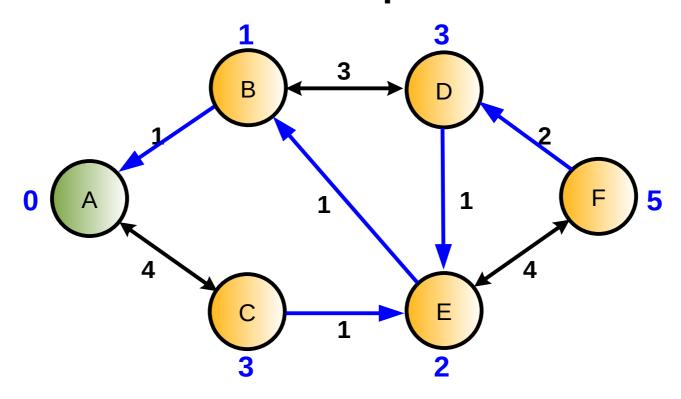
Spanning Tree Protocol (SPT)

- STP enables the network to deterministically block ports and provide a loop-free topology in a network with redundant links.
- There are several STP Standards and Features:
 - STP is the original IEEE 802.1D version (802.1D-1998) that provides a loop-free topology in a network with redundant links.
 - RSTP, or IEEE 802.1W, is an evolution of STP that provides faster convergence of STP.
 - Multiple Spanning Tree (MST) is an IEEE standard. MST maps multiple VLANs into the same spanning-tree instance.
 - Per VLAN Spanning Tree Plus (PVST+) is a Cisco enhancement of STP that provides a separate 802.1D spanning-tree instance for each VLAN configured in the network.
 - RPVST+ is a Cisco enhancement of RSTP that uses PVST+. It provides a separate instance of 802.1W per VLAN.

Spanning-Tree



Bellman Equations



• When link cost are not negative, then:

Shortest path from one node X to node A



Cost of the link from that node X to the node that follows it in the shortest path to A



Bellman-Ford Distributed and Asynchronous Algorithm

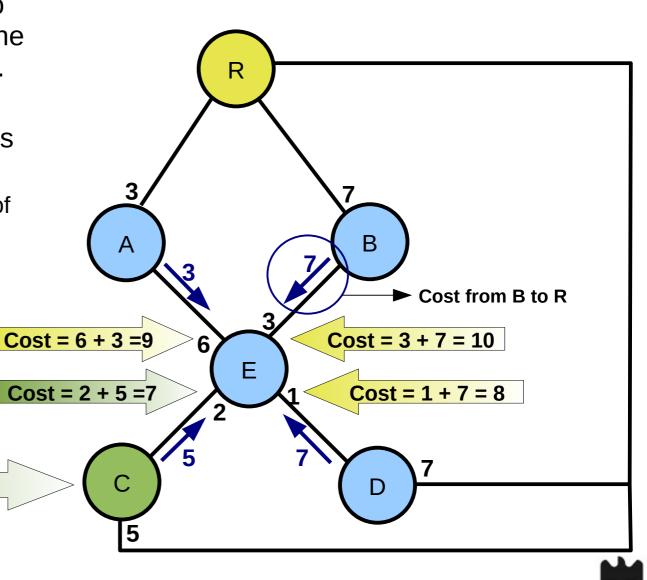
 Each node transmits periodically (to all its neighbors) the estimation of the cost between it and a destination R.

 Upon reception of a neighbor message, each node recalculates its own estimation of path cost to R.

 Adding to the received cost, the cost of the link between himself and the neighbor that sent a message (path cost).

 Choosing the lowest cost between all links/neighbors.

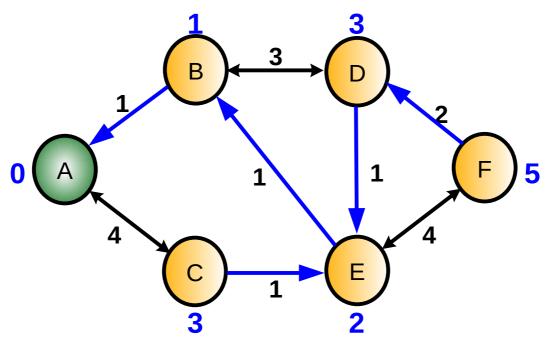
> Neighbor node chosen by E to forward traffic to destination R



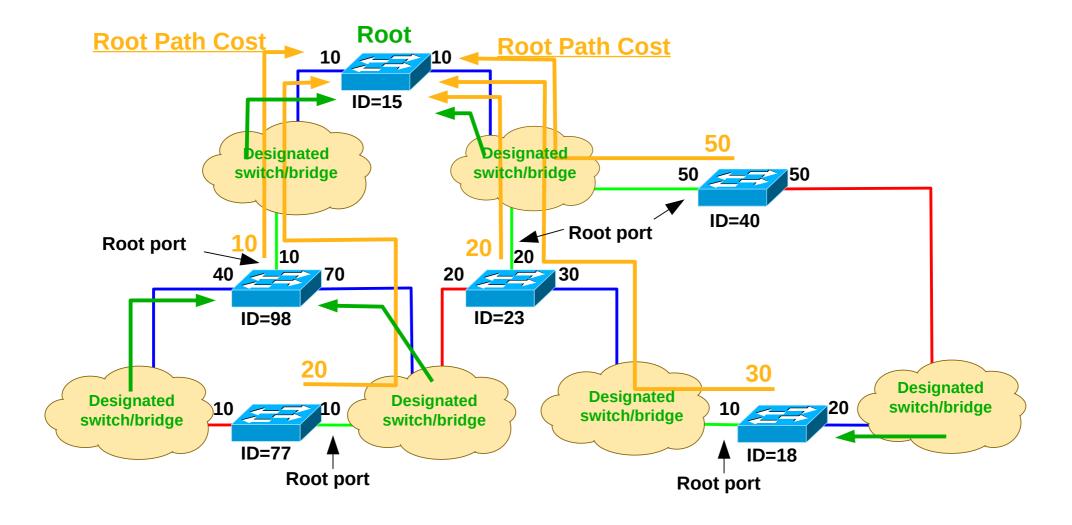
Routing based on Spanning Trees

- It is chosen an origin/root node.
- All nodes use the Bellman-Ford Distributed and Asynchronous Algorithm to calculate the neighbored node (and respective path cost) that provide the smallest cost to the origin/root node.
- The set of links used by all nodes to provide the shortest paths to the origin/root node is called the **Spanning Tree**.
- It is required a criteria to solve ties.

Paulo Salvador (salvador@ua.pt)



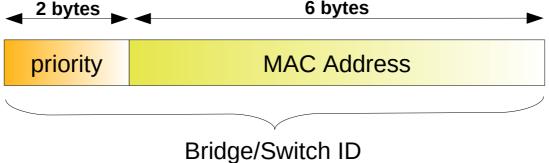
Spanning Tree Basic Concepts (1)



Spanning Tree Basic Concepts (2)

- Bridge/Switch ID each switch is identified by an 8 bytes identifier based on:
 - 2 Priority bytes, defined by configuration.
 - 6 bytes (one of the MAC Address of the switch, or any other unique 48 bit sequence).

Priority has precedence over the 6 bytes sequence (usually MAC address).

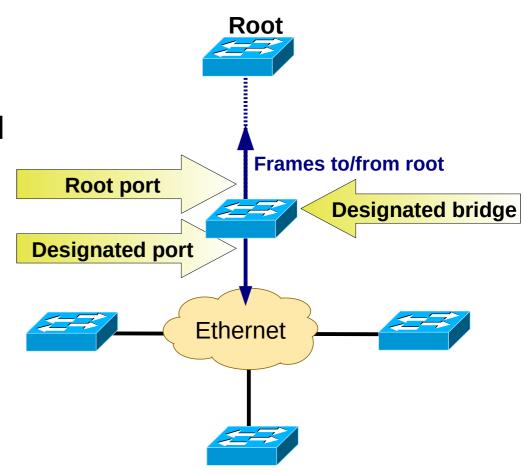


- Root Switch/bridge Switch chosen as origin/root of the spanning tree.
 - Switch com lowest ID.
- Path cost Cost associated with each port.
 - Has a default value, but can be changed by configuration.



Spanning Tree Basic Concepts (3)

- <u>Designated Bridge</u> Switch responsible to forward the packets from an Ethernet segment to and from the root.
 - The root bridge is the designated bridge to all Ethernet segments connected to it.
- <u>Designated Port</u> Port of the designated bridge that connects an Ethernet segment (to which is designated).
- Root Port Port of the designated bridge that provides the path to the root.



Spanning Tree Basic Concepts (4)

Possible Port States

Blocking state:

- MAC address learning and packet forwarding are disabled;
- Receives and processes BPDU.
- → After MaxAge time without receiving BPDU, it transitions to Listening state.

Listening state:

- MAC address learning and packet forwarding are disabled;
- Receives and processes BPDU.
- → When ForwardDelay timer expires the port transitions to Learning state.

Learning state:

- Learns MAC address;
- Packet forwarding are disabled;
- → Receives and processes BPDU.
- → When *ForwardDelay* timer expires the port transitions to Forwarding state.

Forwarding state:

- MAC address learning and packet forwarding are enabled;
- Receives and processes BPDU.

Disabled state:

- MAC address learning and packet forwarding are disabled;
- Does not receive BPDU.

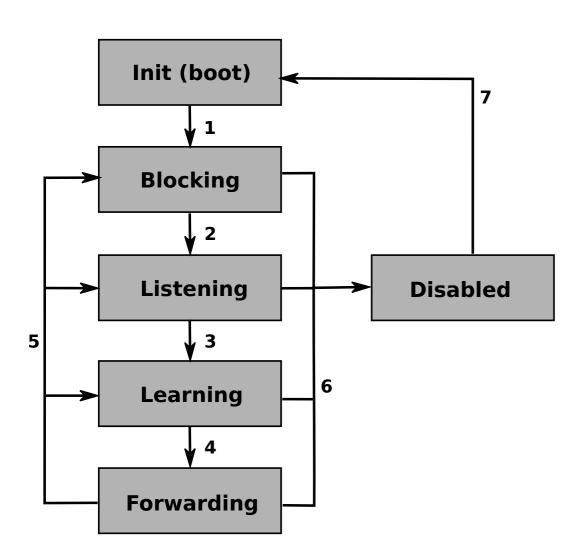


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Spanning Tree Basic Concepts (5)

- Each switch has an associated cost of the shortest path to the root (Root Path Cost), given by the sum of the costs of all root ports along the path to the root.
- The Root Port, in each switch, is the port that provides the best path to the root (lowest Root Path Cost).
 - If more than one have the lowest cost, it is chosen the one with the neighbor with the lowest ID.
 - If more of one link is used to connect to the "best" neighbor it is used the one with the lowest (neighbor) port identifier.
- The <u>Designated Bridge</u>, from each Ethernet segment, is the switch with the lowest <u>Root Path Cost</u> from all connected to that segment.
 - If more than one have the lowest cost, it is chosen the one with the with the lowest ID.
- The <u>Designated Port</u>, from each Ethernet segment, is the port that connects it to its Designated Bridge.
- The root and designated ports will be in Forwarding state.
- All remaining ports will be in Blocking state.

Port States Diagram

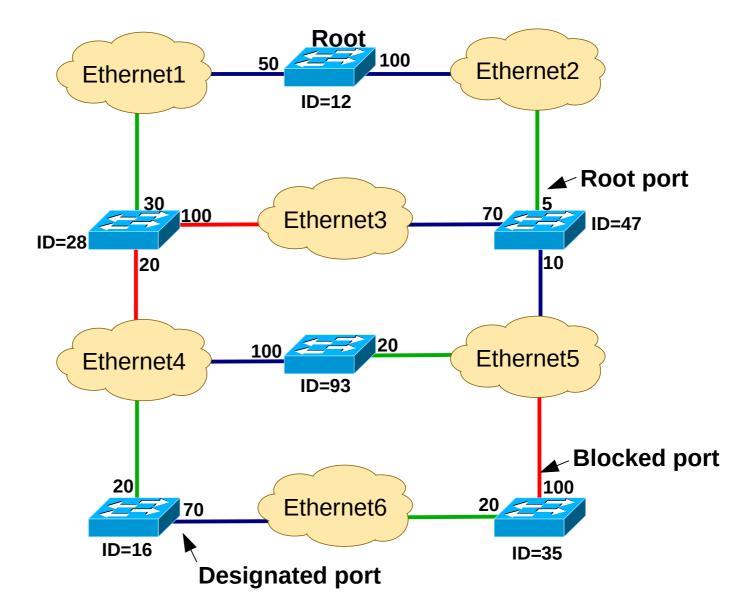


- 1) A port boots up and transitions to **Blocking** state.
- 2) When *MaxAge* timer expires the port transitions to **Listening** state.
- 3) When *ForwardDelay* timer expires the port transitions to **Learning** state.
- 4) When *ForwardDelay* timer expires the port transitions to **Forwarding** state.
- 5) After a topology change the port transitions immediately to **Blocking** state.
- 6) and 7) Administrative actions.

Example – Spanning Tree (1)

Designated bridges

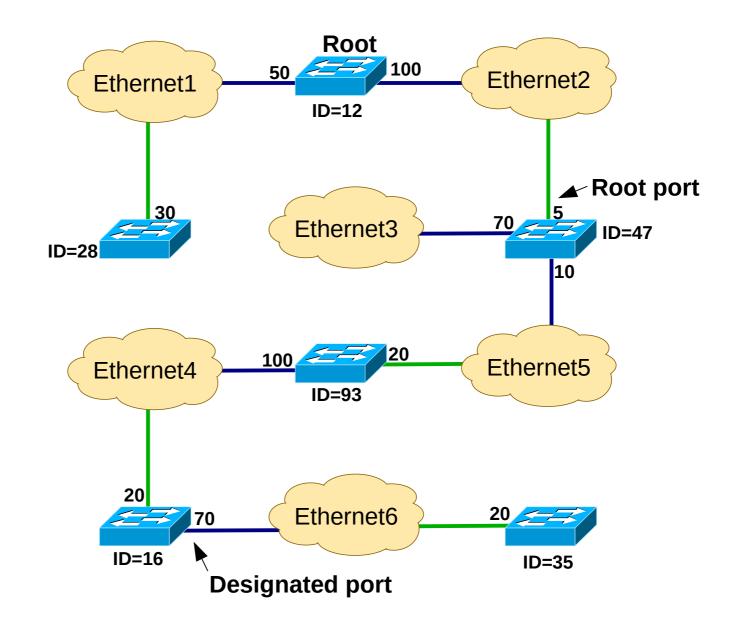
Eth1	12
Eth 2	12
Eth 3	47
Eth 4	93
Eth 5	47
Eth 6	16



Example – Spanning Tree (2)

Designated bridges

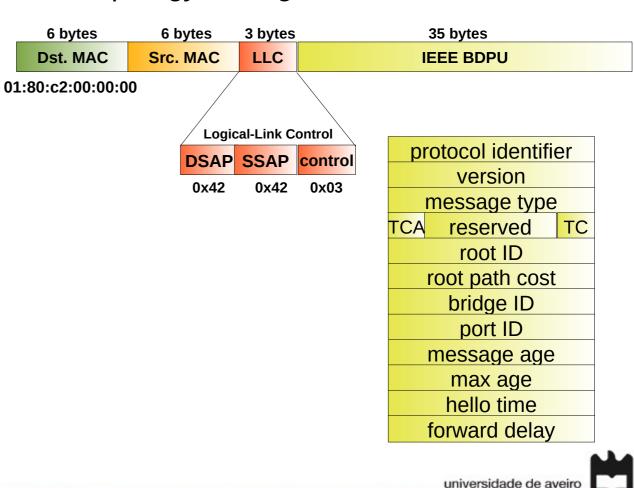
Eth1	12
Eth 2	12
Eth 3	47
Eth 4	93
Eth 5	47
Eth 6	16



Protocolo IEEE 802.1D BPDUs (Bridge Protocol Data Units)

- To build the spanning tree, switches exchange special messages between them called Bridge Protocol Data Units (BPDU).
- There are two types: Configuration e Topology Change Notification.

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet Destination: 01:80:c2:00:00:00 (01:80:c2:00:00:00) Source: 00:16:e0:9a:c3:92 (00:16:e0:9a:c3:92) Length: 39 **Logical-Link Control** DSAP: Spanning Tree BPDU (0x42) SSAP: Spanning Tree BPDU (0x42) Control field: U, func=UI (0x03) **Spanning Tree Protocol** Protocol Identifier: Spanning Tree Protocol (0x0000) Protocol Version Identifier: Spanning Tree (0) **BPDU Type: Configuration (0x00)** Root ID: 32768 / 00:05:1a:4e:fd:58 Root Path Cost: 200004 Bridge ID: 32768 / 00:16:e0:9a:c3:80 Port ID: 0x8012 Message Age: 1 Max Age: 20 Hello Time: 2



Forward Delay: 15

Configuration BPDU

 The setup of the Spanning Tree id dune using Conf - BPDU (configuration messages).

IEEE 802.3 Ethernet

Destination: 01:80:c2:00:00:00 (01:80:c2:00:00:00)

Source: 00:16:e0:9a:c3:92 (00:16:e0:9a:c3:92)

Length: 39

Logical-Link Control

DSAP: Spanning Tree BPDU (0x42) SSAP: Spanning Tree BPDU (0x42) Control field: U, func=UI (0x03)

Spanning Tree Protocol

Protocol Identifier: Spanning Tree Protocol (0x0000)

Protocol Version Identifier: Spanning Tree (0)

BPDU Type: Configuration (0x00)

Root ID: 32768 / 00:05:1a:4e:fd:58

Root Path Cost: 200004

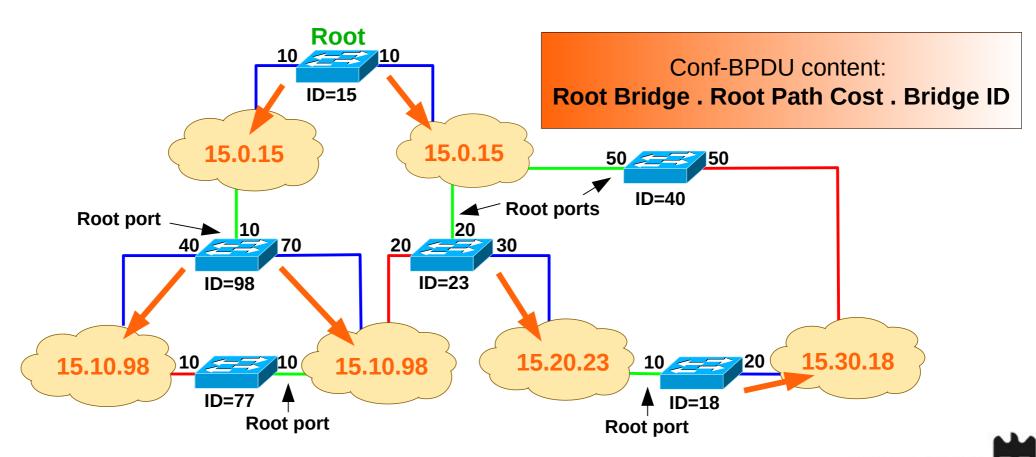
Bridge ID: 32768 / 00:16:e0:9a:c3:80

Port ID: 0x8012
Message Age: 1
Max Age: 20
Hello Time: 2
Forward Delay: 15

- More relevant fields:
 - Root ID: ID of the current root bridge.
 - Root Path Cost: estimation of the cost to the root.
 - Bridge ID: own bridge identifier.
 - Port ID: identifier of the port by which the BPDU was sent.
 - → Port priority (1 byte) + Port number

Spanning Tree Maintenance

- Periodically switches sent Conf-BPDUs by its <u>Designated Ports</u>.
 - Periodicity of Conf-BPDU messages = hello time
 - Recommended Hello time: 2 seconds.
 - Defined at the root bridge.



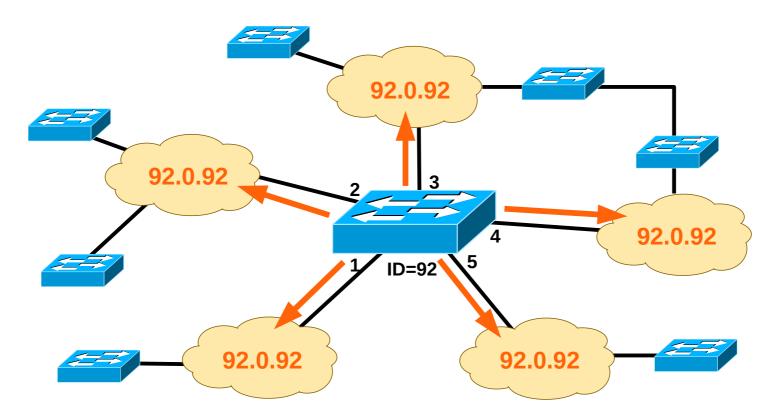
Sorting of Best BPDU

- A Conf-BPDU C1 is considered better than a Conf-BPDU C2 if:
 - The Root ID of C1 is lower than the one in C2,
 - With equal Root ID, if Root Path Cost of C1 is lower than the one in C2,
 - With equal <u>Root ID</u> and <u>Root Path Cost</u>, if the <u>Bridge ID</u> of C1 is lower than the one in C2,
 - With equal Root ID, Root Path Cost and Bridge ID, if the Port ID of C1 is lower than the one in C2.

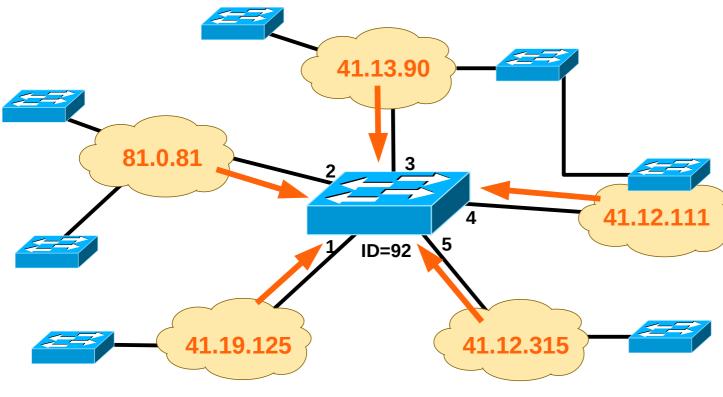
Root ID	Root Path Cost	Bridge ID	Port ID
18	27	32	2
18	27	32	4
18	27	43	1
18	35	23	3
23	31	45	2

Building the Spanning Tree (1)

- Each switch initially assumes to be the Root Bridge.
 - Assumes Root Path Cost = 0,
 - Sends Conf-BPDU to all its ports.



Building the Spanning Tree (2)



Best Conf-BPDU received by Bridge 92 (until now)

- Bridge92 is not root (BridgeID 92>41)
- Bridge 92 Root Port is 4.
 - Lowest RootID (41).
 - Lowest Root Path Cost (12+1=13).
 - Lowest Neighbor BridgeID (111<315)</p>
- Bridge 92 is Designated Bridge via ports 1 and 2
 - Port 2, Lowest RootID (41).
 - ◆ Port 1, Same RootID (41) and Lowest Root Path Cost (13<19).
- Bridge 92 ports 3 and 5 are blocked.
 - Neighbors have the same RootID (41).
 - Via port 3, Neighbor has the same Root Path Cost (13), but lower BridgeID (90 < 92).
 - Via port 5, Neighbor has lower Root Path Cost (12).

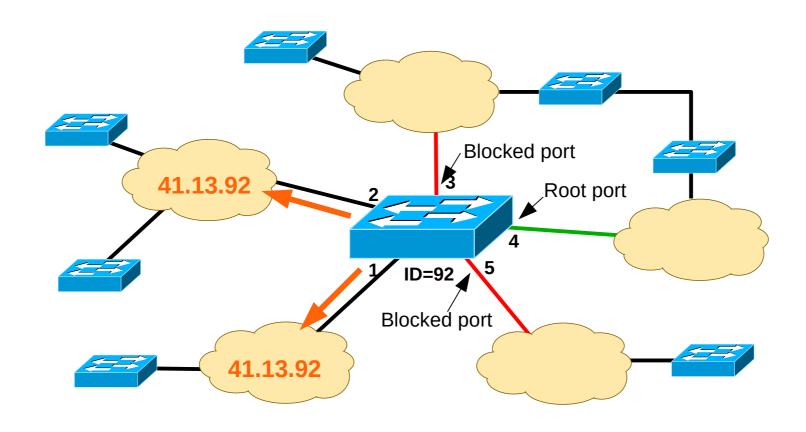
Estimations of Bridge 92 (assuming port costs equal to 1).

Root Bridge = 41

Root port = 4

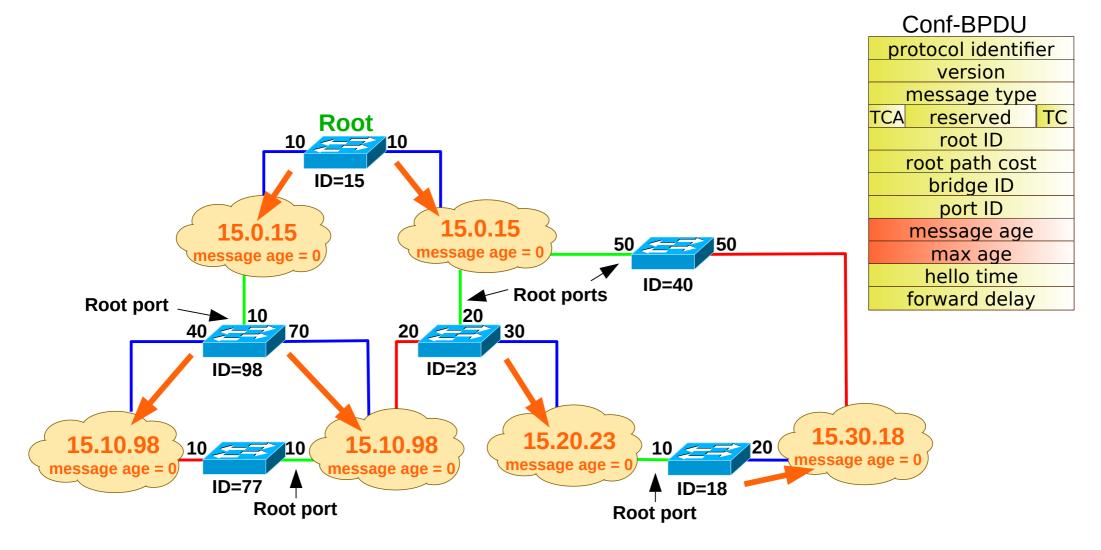
Root Path Cost = 12 + 1 = 13

Building the Spanning Tree (3)

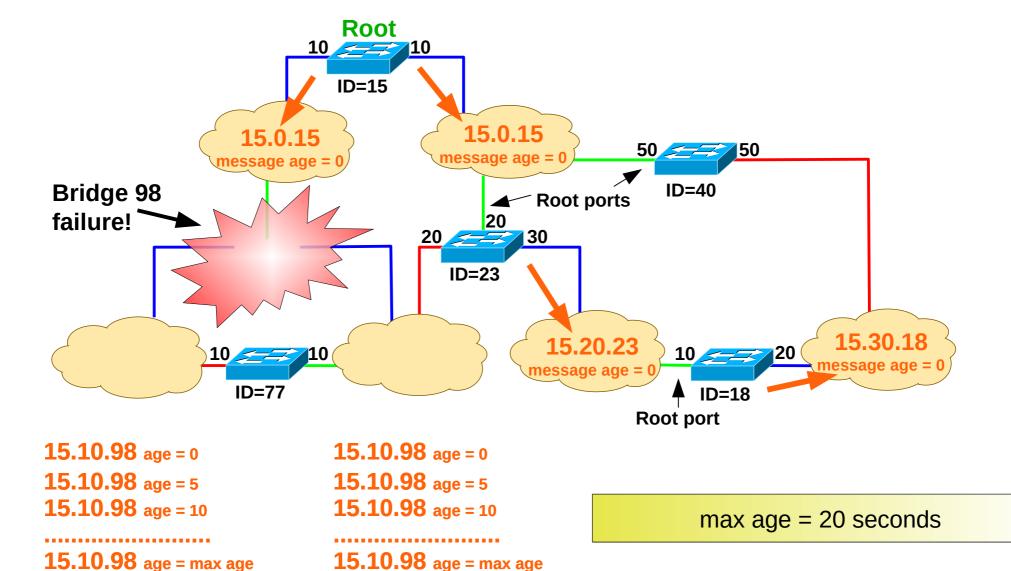


Conf-BPDU sent by Bridge 92 - 41.13.92

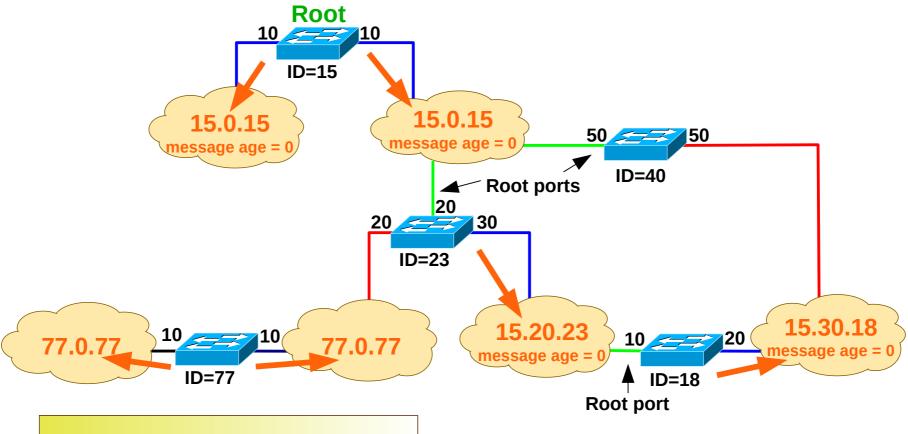
Network Failures (1)



Network Failures (2)

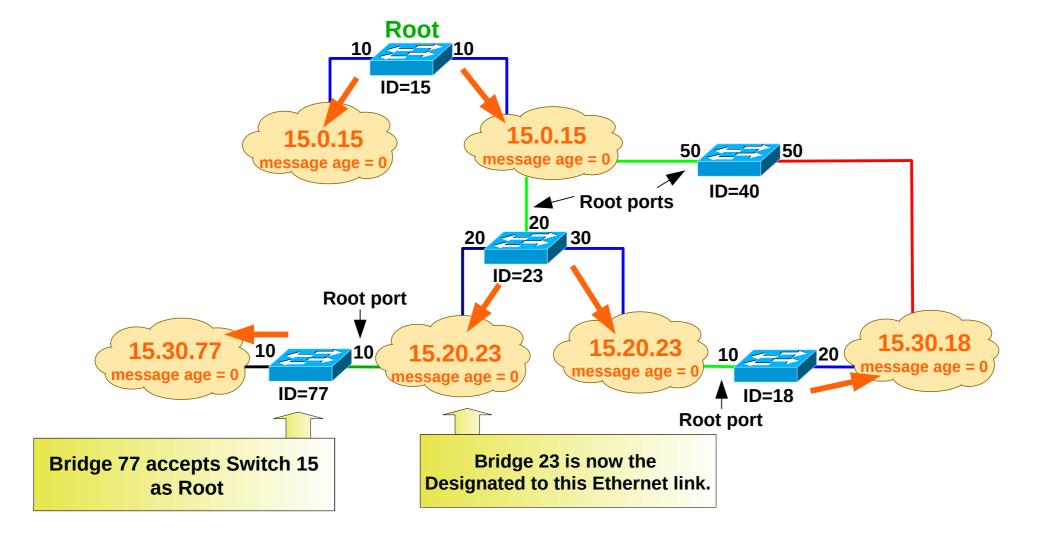


Network Failures (3)



Bridge 77 assumes to be Root

Network Failures (4)



Forwarding Tables Entries Lifetimes

- Forwarding Tables Long Lifetime Many frames will be lost when network is changing topology.
- Forwarding Tables Short Lifetime Creates to much traffic due to frequent flooding.
- There are two forwarding tables lifetimes:
 - Long: used by default (recommended value = 300 seconds)
 - Short: used when SPT is re-configuring (recommended value = 15 seconds)

Topology Change Notification

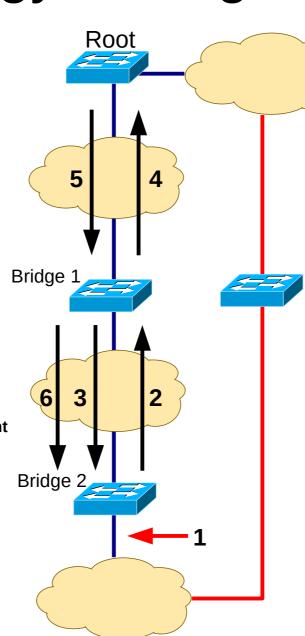
Conf (Configuration) BPDU

	• •	•		
protocol identifier				
	version			
	<mark>message</mark>	type = 0		
TCA	resei	ved	TC	
	root	ID		
	root pat	th cost		
bridge ID				
port ID				
message age				
max age				
hello time				
forward delay				

TCA - flag Topology Change Acknowledgment TC - flag Topology Change

TCN (Topology Change Notification) BPDU

protocol identifier
version
message type = 1



- 1. Port changes state to disabled or blocking
- 2. Sends TCN-BPDU (periodicity = hello time)
- 3. Sends Conf-BPDU with TCA = 1 while receiving TCN-BPDU
- 4. Sends TCN-BPDU (periodicity = hello time)
- Sends Conf-BPDU with TCA = 1 while receiving TCN-BPDU and with TC=1 for a period of time equal to ForwardDelay + MaxAge

Root bridge uses the forwarding table short lifetime during this period

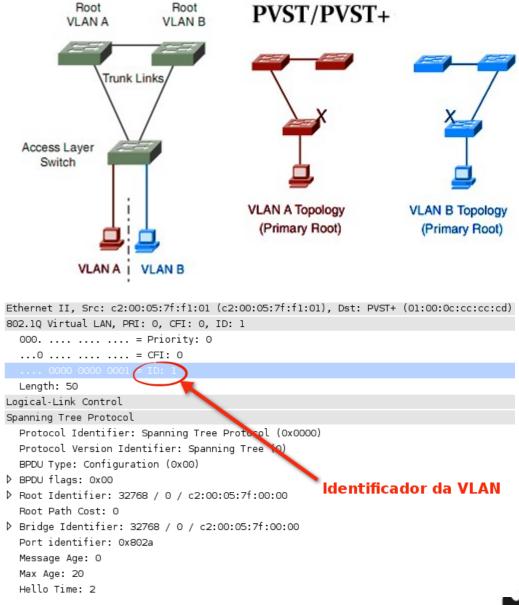
6. Sends Conf-BPDU with TC=1

Bridge 1 uses the forwarding table short lifetime while receiving Conf-BPDU with TC=1

Bridge 2 uses the forwarding table short lifetime while receiving Conf-BPDU with TC=1

Other Protocols (1)

- Cisco's proprietary versions of SPT are:
 - Per-VLAN Spanning Tree (PVST).
 - Per-VLAN Spanning Tree Plus (PVST+).
 - Create a different spanning tree for each VLAN.
 - Different roots, costs, blocked ports, etc...
 - In a complex switching network some switches may not have ports of all VLAN.



Other Protocols (2)

- IEEE 802.1p
 - Extension of IEEE 802.1Q.
 - Provides QoS based on relative priorities.
 - Defines the field User Priority (3 bits) that allows 8 levels of priority.
 - The standard recommends:
 - Priority 7 : Critical traffic,
 - Priorities 5–6: Delay sensitive traffic (voice and live video),
 - Priorities 1–4: Delay variation sensitive traffic (streaming),
 - Priority 0 : Other traffic.

Other Protocols (3)

- IEEE 802.1w Rapid Spanning Tree Protocol
 - Extension of IEEE 802.1D.
 - Speeds up the convergence time of the Spanning Tree in case of topology changes
 - There are only three port states in RSTP that correspond to the three possible operational states.
 - Adds two additional port roles to a port when in blocking state
 - Alternate port: possible alternative Root port.
 - Backup port: possible alternative Designated port.
 - Adds a negotiated mechanism between switches.
 - Uses the reserved bits in the Conf-BPDU.

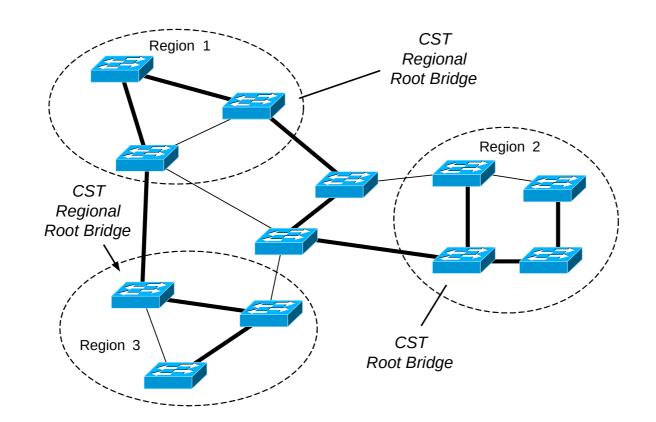
STP (802.1D) Port State	RSTP (802.1w) Port State	Is Port Included in Active Topology?	Is Port Learning MAC Addresses?
Disabled	Discarding	No	No
Blocking	Discarding	No	No
Listening	Discarding	Yes	No
Learning	Learning	Yes	Yes
Forwarding	Forwarding	Yes	Yes

Conf (Configuration) BPDU

	`			
protocol identifier				
version				
n	message type = 0			
TCA	reserved		TC	
	root ID			
	root path cost			
bridge ID				
port ID				
message age				
max age				
hello time				
forward delay				

Other Protocols (4)

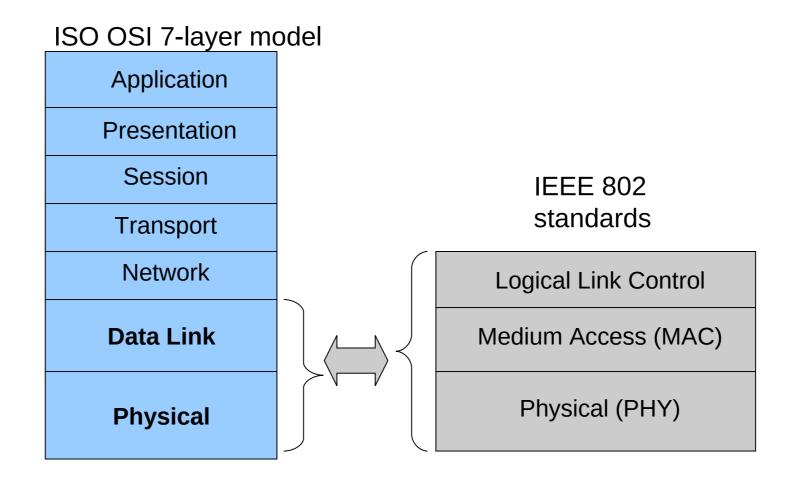
- IEEE 802.1s Multiple Spanning Tree Protocol
 - Creates multiple Spanning Trees.
 Allows the assignment of a set of several VLAN to a specific Common Spanning Tree (CST).
 - CST are usually mapped to regions of the network.



Wi-Fi

Standardization of Wireless Networks

 Wireless networks are standardized by the IEEE under the 802 LAN MAN standards committee.



Wireless Networks

- Networks are designed according to the number of users and coverage area
- There are several scales on the number of users and coverage area
 - Local: LANs → IEEE 802.11
 - Personal: PANs → e.g. Bluetooth, ZigBee
 - Regional: WANs → GSM, UMTS, LTE, 5G, LoRa,...
 - Worldwide : Satellite → Iridium, SpaceX Starlink?

Wireless LAN: Oveview

Two Types

- Infra-structured,
- Ad-hoc.

Advantages

- Flexible installation (minimum cables).
- More robust (no cable problems).
- One-time installation (conferences, historic buildings).

Problems

- Many proprietary solutions.
- Restrictions on the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Subject to frame collision when accessing the transmission medium.
 - More on this later.
- Lower bandwidths than cabled networks.

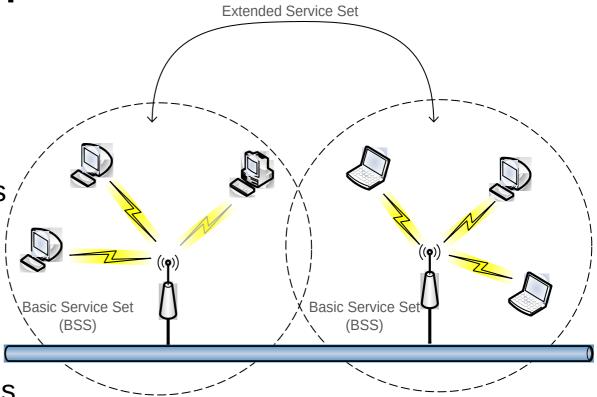
Evolution of WLAN standards

- WiFi 1 802.11b, 1999, 2.4 GHz band, 11 Mbps data rate
- WiFi 2 802.11a, 1999, 5 GHz band, 54 Mbps data rate
- WiFi 3 802.11g, 2003, 2.4 GHz band, 54 Mbps data rate
- WiFi 4 802.11n, 2009, 2.4 and 5 GHz bands, ~600 Mbps data rate
- WiFi 5 802.11ac, 2013, 5 GHz band, ~1.3 Gbps data rate
- WiFi 6 802.11ax, 2019, 1 to 7GHz bands, >11Gbps data rate



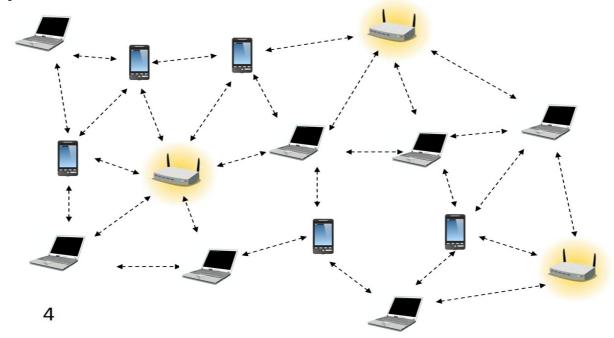
Components

- Station (STA)
 - Mobile terminal
- Access Point (AP)
 - STA connect to access points (infra-structured networks)
- Basic Service Set (BSS)
 - STA and AP with same coverage form a BSS
 - Group of IEEE 802.11 stations associated to an Access Point (AP)
 - Known through the SSID
- Extended Service Set (ESS)
 - Several BSSs interconnected by APs form a ESS



Ad-hoc Networks (IBSS)

- Temporary set of stations
- Forming an ad-hoc network an independent BSS (IBSS), means that there is no connection to a wired network
- No AP
- No relay function (direct connection)
- Simple setup



IEEE 802.11 services

- Station services (similar to wired network)
 - Authentication (login)
 - De-authentication (logout)
 - Privacy
 - Data delivery
- Distribution services
 - Association
 - Make logical connection between the AP and the station the AP will not receive any data from a station before association
 - Re-association (similar to association)
 - Send repeatedly to the AP.
 - Help the AP to know if the station has moved from/to another BSS.
 - After Power Save
 - Disassociation
 - Manually disconnect (PC is shutdown or adapter is ejected)

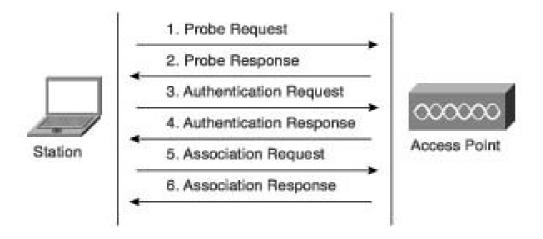


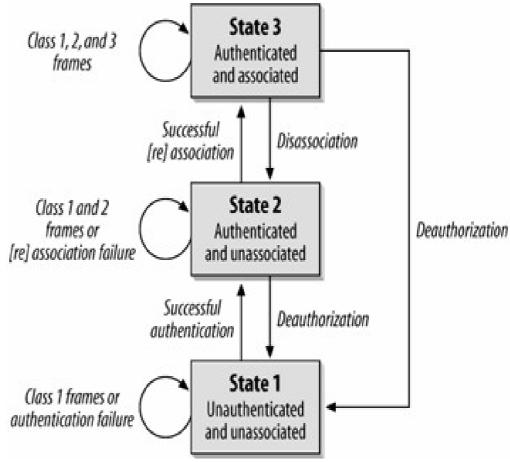
Joining a BSS

Station finds BSS/AP by Scanning/Probing.

BSS with AP: both Authentication and Association are

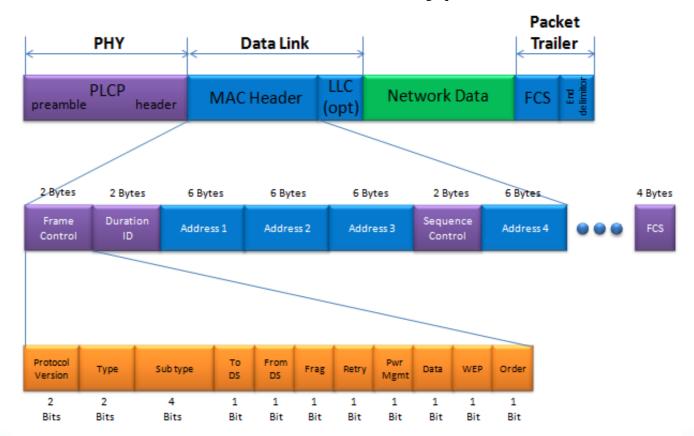
necessary for joining a BSS.





WLAN Frames

- Three types of frames
 - Control: RTS, CTS, ACK
 - Management
 - Data
- Header is different for the different types of frames.



Joining BSS with AP: Scanning

- A station willing to join a BSS must get in contact with the AP.
 This can happen through:
- 1. Passive scanning
 - The station scans the channels for a Beacon frame that is sent periodically from an AP to announce its presence and provide the SSID, and other parameters for WNICs within range
- 2. Active scanning (the station tries to find an AP)
 - The station sends a Probe Request frame Sent from a station when it requires information from another station
 - All AP's within reach reply with a Probe Response frame Sent from an AP containing capability information, supported data rates, etc., after receiving a probe request frame

Beacon Frame

```
- IEEE 802.11 Beacon frame, Flags: ......C
  Type/Subtype: Beacon frame (0x0008)
 → Frame Control Field: 0x8000
   .000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
  Receiver address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
  Destination address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
  Transmitter address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Source address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
   .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
  1001 1000 1010 .... = Sequence number: 2442
  Frame check sequence: 0x6f0b825c [unverified]
   [FCS Status: Unverified]
- IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN
 Fixed parameters (12 bytes)
    Timestamp: 660070796
    Beacon Interval: 0.102400 [Seconds]
   Capabilities Information: 0x0421

    Tagged parameters (123 bytes)

  → Tag: SSID parameter set: LABCOM
  Tag: Supported Rates 1(B), 2(B), 5.5(B), 6, 9, 11(B), 12, 18, [Mbit/sec]
  Tag: DS Parameter set: Current Channel: 13
   Tag: Traffic Indication Map (TIM): DTIM 0 of 0 bitmap
  → Tag: ERP Information
  Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
  → Tag: Cisco CCX1 CKIP + Device Name
   → Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: WMM/WME: Parameter Element
  → Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Unknown (1) (1)
  → Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet CCX version = 5
  → Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Unknown (11) (11)
   → Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Client MFP Disabled
```

Probe Request/Response Frames

```
- IEEE 802.11 Probe Request, Flags: .......C
  Type/Subtype: Probe Request (0x0004)
 Frame Control Field: 0x4000
   .000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
  Receiver address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
  Destination address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
  Transmitter address: Microsof 0a:43:e3 (c0:33:5e:0a:43:e3)
  Source address: Microsof 0a:43:e3 (c0:33:5e:0a:43:e3)
  BSS Id: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
   .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
  1100 1011 0001 .... = Sequence number: 3249
  Frame check sequence: 0xc7056d0a [unverified]
  [FCS Status: Unverified]

    IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN

    Tagged parameters (62 bytes)

  → Tag: SSID parameter set: TD WIFI GUEST
  → Tag: Supported Rates 1, 2, 5.5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 18, [Mbit/sec]
  → Tag: DS Parameter set: Current Channel: 13
  → Tag: HT Capabilities (802.11n D1.10)
   Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
```

```
IEEE 802.11 Probe Response, Flags: .......C
  Type/Subtype: Probe Response (0x0005)
 Frame Control Field: 0x5000
  .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
  Receiver address: IntelCor d2:98:58 (28:b2:bd:d2:98:58)
  Destination address: IntelCor d2:98:58 (28:b2:bd:d2:98:58)
  Transmitter address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Source address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
  1010 0010 1001 .... = Sequence number: 2601
  Frame check sequence: 0x80831320 [unverified]
  [FCS Status: Unverified]
- IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN
Fixed parameters (12 bytes)
   Timestamp: 664064263
   Beacon Interval: 0.102400 [Seconds]
  Capabilities Information: 0x0421

    Tagged parameters (117 bytes)

  → Tag: SSID parameter set: LABCOM
  Tag: Supported Rates 1(B), 2(B), 5.5(B), 6, 9, 11(B), 12, 18, [Mbit/sec]
  Tag: DS Parameter set: Current Channel: 13
  → Tag: ERP Information
  Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]
  → Tag: Cisco CCX1 CKIP + Device Name
  Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: WMM/WME: Parameter Element
  Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Unknown (1) (1)
  Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet CCX version = 5
  Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Unknown (11) (11)
  Tag: Vendor Specific: Cisco Systems, Inc.: Aironet Client MFP Disabled
```

Joining BSS with AP: Authentication

- Once an AP is found/selected, a station goes through authentication
- Open system authentication (default, 2-step process)
 - Station sends authentication frame with its identity
 - AP sends frame as an Ack / NAck
- Shared key authentication
 - Stations receive shared secret key through secure channel independent of 802.11
 - After the WNIC sends its initial authentication request, it will receive an authentication frame from the AP containing a challenge text
 - The WNIC sends an authentication frame containing the encrypted version of the challenge text to the AP.
 - The AP ensures the text was encrypted with the correct key by decrypting it with its own key.
 - The result of this process determines the WNIC's authentication status.

Authentication Frames

- Nowadays, WPA* secure networks use "Open System".
- Non-"Open System" authentication was used for WEP protected networks (unsecured and functionally deprecated).

```
- IEEE 802.11 Authentication, Flags: .......
                                                                 ← From Station
  Type/Subtype: Authentication (0x000b)
 Frame Control Field: 0xb000
   .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
  Receiver address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Destination address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Transmitter address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
  Source address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
  BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                  - IEEE 802.11 Authentication, Flags: ........
   .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
                                                     Type/Subtype: Authentication (0x000b)
  0001 0100 1011 .... = Sequence number: 331
                                                   Frame Control Field: 0xb000

    IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN

                                                     .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
 Fixed parameters (6 bytes)
                                                     Receiver address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
    Authentication Algorithm: Open System (0)
                                                     Destination address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
    Authentication SEQ: 0x0001
                                                     Transmitter address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                     Source address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
    Status code: Successful (0x0000)
                                                     BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                     .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
                                                     1010 1001 0000 .... = Sequence number: 2704
                                                     Frame check sequence: 0x9f8350el [unverified]
                                   From AP →
                                                     [FCS Status: Unverified]
                                                  - IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN
```

Fixed parameters (6 bytes)

Authentication SEO: 0x0002

Status code: Successful (0x0000)

Authentication Algorithm: Open System (0)

Joining BSS with AP: Association

- Once a station is authenticated, it starts the association process, i.e., information exchange about the AP/station capabilities and roaming
 - STA → AP: Associate Request frame
 - → Enables the AP to allocate resources and synchronize. The frame carries information about the WNIC, including supported data rates and the SSID of the network the station wishes to associate with.
 - ◆ AP → STA: Association Response frame
 - Acceptance or rejection to an association request. If it is an acceptance, the frame will contain information such as association ID and supported data rates.
 - New AP informs old AP (if it is a handover).
- Only after association is completed, a station can transmit and receive data frames.

Association Request/Response Frames

```
- IEEE 802.11 Association Request, Flags: .......
  Type/Subtype: Association Request (0x0000)
 → Frame Control Field: 0x0000
                                                                           ← From Station
   .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
  Receiver address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Destination address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  Transmitter address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
  Source address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
  BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
  .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
  0001 0100 1100 .... = Sequence number: 332
- IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN
 Fixed parameters (4 bytes)
  Capabilities Information: 0x0421
    Listen Interval: 0x000a

    Tagged parameters (43 bytes)

  → Tag: SSID parameter set: LABCOM
  → Tag: Supported Rates 1, 2, 5.5, 11, 6, 9, 12, 18, [Mbit/sec]
  → Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]

    IEEE 802.11 Association Response, Flags: .........

  Tag: Extended Capabilities (8 octets)
                                                                    Type/Subtype: Association Response (0x0001)
  → Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: WMM/WME: Information E
                                                                   Frame Control Field: 0x1000
                                                                    .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
                                                                    Receiver address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
                                                                    Destination address: D-LinkIn 6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e)
                                                                    Transmitter address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                                    Source address: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                                    BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d0 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d0)
                                                                    .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
                                                                    1010 1001 0001 .... = Sequence number: 2705
                                                                    Frame check sequence: 0xe7103b15 [unverified]
                                                                    [FCS Status: Unverified]
                                                                 - IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN
                                              From AP →
                                                                   Fixed parameters (6 bytes)
                                                                    Capabilities Information: 0x0421
                                                                      Status code: Successful (0x0000)
                                                                      ..00 0000 0000 0001 = Association ID: 0x0001
```

Tagged parameters (42 bytes)

Tag: Supported Rates 1(B), 2(B), 5.5(B), 6, 9, 11(B), 12, 18, [Mbit/sec]

→ Tag: Vendor Specific: Microsoft Corp.: WMM/WME: Parameter Element

→ Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec]

Data Frame

```
- IEEE 802.11 QoS Data, Flags: .p.....TC
   Type/Subtype: QoS Data (0x0028)
 Frame Control Field: 0x8841
   .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
                                                               ← Node that will receive frame (AP)
   Receiver address: Cisco 61:ee:d1 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d1)
   Transmitter address: IntelCor e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53) ← Node that send frame
   Destination address: D-LinkIn_6a:cc:6e (84:c9:b2:6a:cc:6e) ← Station to receive data
   Source address: IntelCor e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53)
                                                               ← Station who sent data
   BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d1 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d1)
   STA address: IntelCor_e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53)
   .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
   0000 0000 0011 .... = Sequence number: 3
   Frame check sequence: 0xc72771e8 [unverified]
   [FCS Status: Unverified]
 → Oos Control: 0x0000
 CCMP parameters

    Data (1244 bytes)

   Data: f8002648417037bc923106ead1717d4821fde0989beb08b1...
```

- Station "IntelCor*" sending data to station "D-LinkIn*" (via AP).
- Frame captured between station "IntelCor*" and AP ("Cisco*").



[Length: 1244]

Authentication and authorization mechanisms

- Changing according to the organization and the security level
 - Open network
 - Open network + MAC authentication
 - Open network + VPN-gateway
 - Open network + web-gateway
 - SSID
 - Shared key: WEP
 - Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA)
 - IEEE 802.11i (WPA2)
 - IEEE 802.1X
 - Virtual Private Networks (VPNs)

Open Network(s)

- Open network
 - Network is open, providing IP addresses with DHCP
 - There is no authentication and access is free
 - Does not require specific software
 - Access control is complicated
 - It is possible to 'see' all traffic in the network (sniffing)
- Open network + MAC authentication
 - The control of the station MAC address is added
 - Larger management load
 - ... But MAC addresses can be falsified
 - ... Difficult to support guests
 - → ... Impossible to use in public environments

Open Network + Gateways

- Open Network + VPN gateway.
 - Open network, with the client being authenticated in an IP VPN (L3) in order to be able to access its network from outside.
 - Requires VPN client software.
 - Difficult to use by guests.
 - Scalability is being enhanced.
 - VPN controllers can be expensive.
- Open network + web gateway.
 - Open network, with the client being authenticated in web server (L3), providing "credentials".
 - Easy to use by guests.
 - Standardization is being enhanced.
 - Scalability is being enhanced.
 - A browser needs to be working during the session.

Service Set ID (SSID)

- SSID name of the network.
- Identifies the BSS, emitted in the beacon.
- Networks can block beacon and force the AP to be directly specified by its name.
- This is not very efficient.
 - Operating systems are smarter.
 - The change of SSID requires a new advertisement to all stations.
 - With the increasing number of stations, security will decrease.
 - SSID is only useful to the self-organization of the stations, not to security.

WEP Protocol

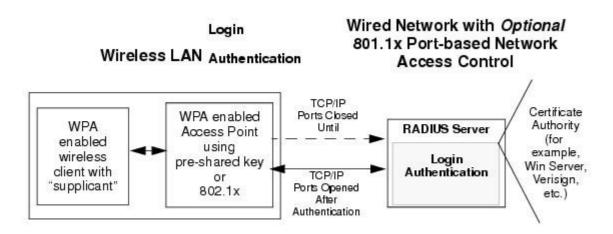
- Wired Equivalent Privacy → shared key scheme.
- Part of basic 802.11 standard.
- Security protocol at link layer (L2).
- Designed to be computationally efficient and self-synchronized.
- The station has to know the key (like a password) to access the AP.
- With passive monitoring, it can be broken (in seconds)
 - Header is not ciphered, all destinations and origins are visible.
 - Control frames are not ciphered, and then they can be changed.
 - AP is not authenticated and can be falsified.
 - Should not be implemented!

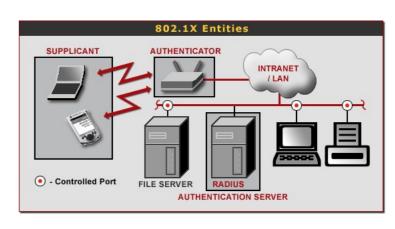
WPA and 802.11i (WPA2)

- IEEE 802.11i IEEE 802.11 task group "MAC enhancement for wireless security".
- Wi-Fi Protected Access (WiFi Alliance), WPA, is a subset internal in 802.11i.
 - Compatible with work developed in 802.11i.
 - Only supports BSS.
 - Defined to work in actual equipment.
 - Firmware update only.
 - Pass-phrase constant and shared, but keys are generated per session.
 - Used in the AP and station.
 - Uses "Open System" during authentication phase.
- WPA has two distinct components.
 - Authentication, based on 802.1X.
 - Ciphering based on TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol).

IEEE 802.1X

- Layer 2 solution between station and AP.
 - Available in many equipments (e.g. IEEE 802.xx).
 - Web systems frequently use 802.1X.
- Several authentication-mechanisms available (EAP-MD5, EAP-TLS, EAP-TTLS, PEAP)
- Multiple standard ciphering algorithms .
- Can cipher data with dynamic keys.
- Resorts to RADIUS servers.





WPA* Key Exchange

- Done during the Association process.
 - After Association Request/response frames.

```
205 595.669409767 IntelCor e8:14:53
                                       Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                                            802.11 110 Association Request, SN=38, FN=0, Flags=....., SSID=LABCOM SEC
  206 595.671214291 Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                       IntelCor e8:14:53
                                                            802.11 128 Association Response, SN=14, FN=0, Flags=......
  207 595.673042781 Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                       IntelCor e8:14:53
                                                            EAPOL 211 Key (Message 1 of 4)
   208 595.678333124 IntelCor e8:14:53
                                       Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                                            EAPOL 168 Key (Message 2 of 4)
  209 595.681795313 Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                       IntelCor e8:14:53
                                                            EAPOL
                                                                    269 Key (Message 3 of 4)
  210 595.683690439 IntelCor e8:14:53
                                       Cisco 61:ee:d1
                                                                   146 Key (Message 4 of 4)
                                                            EAP0L
Frame 207: 211 bytes on wire (1688 bits), 211 bytes captured (1688 bits) on interface 0
Radiotap Header v0. Length 56
→ 802.11 radio information
* IEEE 802.11 QoS Data, Flags: .....F.
  Type/Subtype: QoS Data (0x0028)
 Frame Control Field: 0x8802
  .000 0001 0011 1010 = Duration: 314 microseconds
  Receiver address: IntelCor e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53)
  Transmitter address: Cisco 61:ee:d1 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d1)
  Destination address: IntelCor e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53)
  Source address: Cisco 61:ee:d1 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d1)
  BSS Id: Cisco 61:ee:d1 (00:1c:f6:61:ee:d1)
  STA address: IntelCor e8:14:53 (b8:8a:60:e8:14:53)
  .... .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
  0000 0001 1100 .... = Sequence number: 28
 → Oos Control: 0x0007
Logical-Link Control
-802.1X Authentication
  Version: 802.1X-2004 (2)
  Type: Key (3)
  Length: 117
  Key Descriptor Type: EAPOL RSN Key (2)
  [Message number: 1]
 Key Information: 0x008a
  Key Length: 16
  Replay Counter: 1
  WPA Key Nonce: 4f65d0b4e9e77b88f2cbb135749eeb105a3aa1ef65de66a8...
  WPA Key RSC: 0000000000000000
  WPA Key ID: 0000000000000000
  WPA Key Data Length: 22
 WPA Key Data: dd14000fac046616ebb59b83e8cc1816ced0e542a935
```