## Minimum Sim LAN

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#### Abstract

The Minimum Sim-LAN project, is a Python-based simulation of local area network (LAN) operations that aims to demonstrate the core principles of network communication without the need for complex physical infrastructure. This project focuses on the essential components of a LAN, excluding unnecessary features or external libraries, to create a minimalist yet fully functional model. Task 3 of the project introduces advanced features that enhance the simulation's complexity and realism, including dynamic switch table updates, encrypted packets, modulation, and firewall implementation. These features are critical for maintaining network integrity, security, and performance. The dynamic update of switch tables allows the network to adapt to changes in network topology, encrypted packets ensure data security, modulation and demodulation facilitate digital signal transmission, and firewalls provide a protective barrier against unauthorized access and potential threats. The codes are in https://github.com/Wendy-Ying/Minimum-Sim-LAN.

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## 1 Introduction

The Minimum Sim-LAN project uses Python to simulate local area network (LAN) operations. The project is based on the practical application of network theory to the data transmission, network protocols, and topologies that form the backbone of modern communication systems. The goal is to create a simplified but fully functional LAN model that demonstrates the fundamentals of network communication without the need for complex physical infrastructure. The project was designed to be minimalist, focusing on the basic components of the LAN and excluding any unnecessary features or external libraries.

Task 3 of the Minimum Sim-LAN project marks a significant increase in complexity, as it introduces a set of advanced features that bring the simulation closer to the complexity of real-world networks.

- The first feature is the dynamic updating of switch tables in response to changes in interfaces or MAC addresses. This is similar to the way modern switches learn and adapt to the network environment, ensuring efficient and accurate routing of data. This feature is critical to maintaining the integrity and performance of the network because it allows the switch to recognize new devices or reconfigure routes in response to changes in the network topology.
- The second feature is the implementation of encrypted packets, which adds a layer of security to the network. This is critical in today's digital environment where data breaches and cyber attacks are prevalent. By modeling encrypted communications, the project provides insights on how to protect data in transit, a fundamental aspect of network security.
- The third function is modulation and demodulation, which is the process of converting digital signals into codes for transmission and re-parsing them upon reception.
- Finally, the implementation of firewalls adds a layer of protection to the network. A firewall is a key component of network security because it monitors and controls network traffic based on a set of security rules. This feature simulates how a firewall prevents unauthorized access and protects the network from potential threats.

## 2 Switch Table Update

In modern networks, switching tables are key to ensuring accurate and efficient packet transmission. As network devices are added or moved, changes in interfaces and MAC addresses can directly affect the topology of the network. Therefore, dynamically updating the switching table to accommodate these changes is critical to maintaining the stability and performance of the network.

In my implementation, I use a listening mechanism to detect changes in interfaces or MAC addresses in the network. Once a change is detected, the system automatically updates the switching table to ensure that packets are properly forwarded to the new destination. This process involves monitoring network devices and updating the switching table in real time.

## Algorithm 1 Update MAC Table on Interface/MAC Changes

```
1: procedure ADDMAC(mac, interface)
 2:
      oldMac \leftarrow Get MAC For Interface(interface)
 3:
      if MAC updated then
          Delete oldMac
 4:
      end if
 5:
      if Interface updated then
 6:
 7:
          Get mac from old oldInterface
          Delete mac
 8:
      end if
 9:
      Add mac to macTable with interface
10:
```

The dynamic switching table update feature significantly improves network adaptability and routing efficiency. By responding to network changes in a timely manner, packet loss and delay due to routing errors are reduced, thus improving overall network performance. In simulation tests, we observe that the dynamic update mechanism can adapt to network changes faster and improve the reliability of data transmission compared to static switching tables.

```
C:\Windows\Svstem32\cmd.e X
D:\wendy\study\2024-2025Fall\数据通信和网络\期末项目>python task3_update_change.py
           learned MAC 00:00:00:00:00:01
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:02 received packet: Hello from A
Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:1 to interface 0
Switch forwarding packet to known interface 2
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00:00:00

Deleted MAC 00:00:00:00:00:01 from interface 0

Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:01 to interface 0
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:01 received packet: Hello from C
Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:3 to interface 2
Switch forwarding packet to known interface 1
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00:02 received packet: Hello from C Deleted MAC 00:00:00:00:00:03 from interface 2
Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:03 to interface 2
Switch learned MAC 00:00:00:00:00:04
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:03 received packet: Hello from D
Deleted interface 1 from mac 00:00:00:00:00:04
Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:04 to interface 1
Switch forwarding packet to known interface 0
Host 00:00:00:00:00:01 received packet: Hello from E
Deleted MAC 00:00:00:00:00:03 from interface
Switch added MAC 00:00:00:00:00:03 to interface 3
Current MAC address to interface mapping:
MAC: 00:00:00:00:00:01 -> Interface:
MAC: 00:00:00:00:00:04 -> Interface:
      00:00:00:00:00:03 -> Interface:
D:\wendy\study\2024-2025Fall\数据通信和网络\期末项目>
```

Figure 1: Switch Table Update

# 3 Encrypted Packets

In the digital era, network security has become an issue that cannot be ignored. Unencrypted network communication is susceptible to security threats such as eavesdropping and tampering, so encryption of data packets is a basic measure to protect the security of network communication. AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) is a widely-used symmetric encryption algorithm, which has become an important cornerstone of modern information security because of its high efficiency and strong security.

AES encryption algorithm has a wide range of applications in the fields of data transmission, file encryption and network security. Especially in the field of network security, AES encryption is used to protect data transmission in the field of financial transactions, such as bank card transactions, ATM machine transactions, electronic payments, etc., in order to ensure the security of the transaction process. In my project, I used AES encryption to protect the data transmitted in the network. AES is a symmetric key encryption method, which means that it uses the same key for encryption and decryption. AES uses a packet cryptography method, which divides the data into chunks (usually 128-bit) and encrypts each chunk individually. This structure enhances the security by ensuring that each chunk of data is encrypted independently. AES encrypts the data into chunks and encrypts each chunk individually.

#### Algorithm 2 AES-CBC Encryption and Decryption

- 1: **Encrypt:** AES-CBC(key, message)
- 2: Pad message using PKCS7
- 3: Generate random IV
- 4: Encrypt message with key and IV
- 5: Return IV + encrypted message
- 6: **Decrypt:** AES-CBC(key, encrypted\_message)
- 7: Extract IV from encrypted\_message
- 8: Decrypt encrypted message with key and IV
- 9: Remove PKCS7 padding
- 10: Return decrypted message

While data encryption ensures security during the transmission of information, it also has an impact on computer performance in terms of reduced processing speeds, increased storage requirements, impacted I/O operations, and potentially additional consumption of system resources.

However, AES is optimized for both hardware and software to ensure fast encryption and decryption speeds, and this efficiency allows AES to protect data without significantly impacting performance, making it ideal for real-time applications.

AES is designed to be resilient to known cryptographic attacks, including brute force, differential and linear cryptanalysis. This robustness makes it suitable for high-security environments. AES algorithms are used in a wide range of scenarios in: the financial industry, e-commerce, mobile applications, cloud storage, file and disk encryption, government and military communications, secure messaging, and more.

Figure 2: Encrypted Packets

## 4 Modulation

In a communication system, modulation is the process of converting a digital signal into a form suitable for transmission over an analog channel, while demodulation is the opposite process, i.e., converting a received analog signal back into the original digital signal. In digital communications, modulation-demodulation usually involves the conversion between a digital signal (such as a character string) and a binary signal. This conversion is accomplished through ASCII, a character coding standard used to map specific digital values to characters.

In my project, the modulation process involves converting data of string type to binary form. This process can be achieved by following steps:

- Character to ASCII conversion: first, each character in the string is converted to its corresponding ASCII value. ASCII assigns a unique number to each character which can be used to represent the character.
- ASCII to Binary Conversion: Next, each ASCII value is converted to its binary equivalent. Since ASCII is a 7- or 8-bit code, this conversion process involves representing these bits in binary form.
- Transmission of Binary Data: The converted binary data can then be transmitted over a network, simulating the actual process of transmitting a digital signal over a communication channel.

The demodulation process is the inverse of modulation, and it consists of the following steps:

- Binary to ASCII conversion: The received binary data is first converted back to ASCII. This is achieved by parsing the binary data into its corresponding ASCII value.
- ASCII to Character Conversion: Once the ASCII values are obtained, they can be converted back to their corresponding characters to reconstruct the original string data.
- Reconstruction and validation of the data: Finally, the demodulated data needs to be validated to ensure that no errors occurred during transmission or that errors can be detected and corrected.

#### Algorithm 3 Host Communication Protocol

```
1: function String2Digital(message)
      return [ord(char) for char in message]
3: end function
   function Digital2String(message)
      return ''.join(chr(num) for num in message)
6: end function
   function SEND_PACKET(dst_mac, payload, switch)
7:
      digital payload = STRING2DIGITAL(payload)
8:
      packet = Packet(self.mac, dst mac, digital payload)
9:
10:
      switch.HANDLE PACKET(packet)
11: end function
12: function RECEIVE_PACKET(packet)
      string payload = DIGITAL2STRING(packet.payload)
13:
      self.buffer.append(string_payload)
14:
15: end function
```

Modulation and demodulation using ASCII codes for digital encoding has several advantages:

- Simplicity: ASCII is a widely understood and supported coding system, making the implementation process relatively simple.
- Compatibility: Due to the widespread use of ASCII, this modem method has good compatibility with a wide range of devices and systems.

• Efficiency: By directly converting characters to binary, this method is very efficient in processing text data.

Despite the above advantages of using ASCII for modem, challenges may be encountered in practical applications, such as handling data with non-ASCII character sets or ensuring the reliability of data transmission. To address these issues, more complex encoding schemes, such as UTF-8, as well as the introduction of error detection and correction mechanisms, such as parity check or more advanced correction codes, can be used to ensure data integrity and accuracy.

```
D:\Wendy\study\2024-2025Fall\数据通信和网络\期末项目>python task3_modulation.py
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00:00 digital payload: 'Hello from A'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00:00 digital payload: [72, 101, 108, 108, 111, 32, 102, 114, 111, 109, 32, 65]
Switch learned MAC 00:00:00:00:00:00 doll
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:02 sreding payload: 'Hello from A'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:02 sending payload: 'Hello from B'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: [72, 101, 108, 108, 111, 32, 102, 114, 111, 109, 32, 66]
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from B'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: [72, 101, 108, 108, 111, 32, 102, 114, 111, 109, 32, 66]
Switch flooding packet to all interfaces
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from B'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from B'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from B'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from A'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from A'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from A'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from C'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from C'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from C'
Host 00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from C'
Host 00:00:00:00:00:00 sending payload: 'Hello from C'
Host 00:00:00:00:00 sending p
```

Figure 3: Modulation

## 5 Firewall

A firewall is a basic network security device whose main function is to create a protective barrier between internal and external networks. The core function of a firewall is to monitor and control the flow of data passing through it, ensuring that only packets that comply with a specific security policy are allowed to enter or leave the network. This security policy is usually based on a set of rules that define which types of traffic are allowed and which are prohibited.

The working principle of a firewall involves constant monitoring of network traffic and rule-based decision making. When a packet arrives at the firewall, the firewall examines the packet against a predefined set of rules. These rules may contain allow or deny instructions for specific IP addresses, ports, or protocols. If the packet's information matches one of the rules in the rule set, the firewall performs the appropriate action, which may be to release the packet or block it. In addition, the firewall has a logging function that records information about all blocked packets, which is very important for post-mortem analysis and security auditing.

This working mechanism of the firewall makes it a key component of network border security, which effectively prevents unauthorized access and protects the network from malicious traffic. By carefully scrutinizing traffic to and from the network, firewalls ensure the security of network resources and the integrity of data.

#### Algorithm 4 Firewall Rule Checking Algorithm

```
1: procedure AddFirewallRule(rule)
       firewall\_rules.append(rule)
       Print "Firewall rule added: rule"
 3:
 4: end procedure
   function CheckFirewall(packet)
       allowed \leftarrow True
 6:
 7:
       for rule in firewall\_rules do
          if rule.action \leftarrow 'block' and (rule.src mac \leftarrow packet.src or rule.dst mac \leftarrow packet.dst) then
 8:
              allowed \leftarrow False
 9:
              break
10:
          end if
11:
12:
       end for
       return allowed
13:
14: end function
   procedure HandlePacket(packet)
       if CheckFirewall(packet) then
16:
17:
          Forward packet
18:
          Print "Firewall blocked packet"
19:
       end if
20:
21: end procedure
```

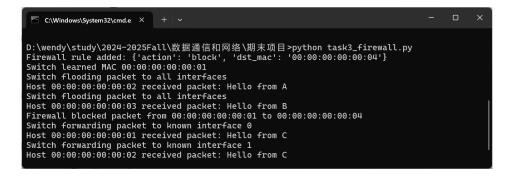


Figure 4: Firewall

#### Firewalls have many advantages:

- Enhanced Security: Firewalls effectively prevent unauthorized access and protect internal networks from external threats.
- Access Control: Through precise rule settings, firewalls can restrict network access to specific users or services, enhancing network access control.
- Intrusion Prevention: Modern firewalls often integrate Intrusion Prevention System (IDS) features to identify and block potential attacks.
- Packet Filtering: Firewalls filter packets at the network layer, providing a first line of defense for network communications.

#### Inevitably, firewalls have certain drawbacks:

• Performance impact: In high-traffic networks, firewalls can become a performance bottleneck, especially when performing deep packet inspection.

• Complexity of rule management: As the network environment changes, firewall rules need to be constantly updated and maintained, which can lead to management complexity.

## 6 Conclusion

In conclusion, the Minimum Sim-LAN project successfully simulates the critical operations and security aspects of a local area network through its minimalist design and advanced features. The dynamic updating of switch tables, implementation of encrypted packets using AES encryption, modulation and demodulation processes, and the integration of firewalls, all contribute to a robust simulation that closely mirrors the complexities of real-world networks. This project not only provides a practical understanding of LAN operations but also highlights the importance of network security and data integrity in modern communication systems. The simulation's ability to adapt to network changes, protect against cyber threats, and maintain efficient data transmission demonstrates its educational and practical value. As network technologies continue to evolve, the principles and techniques implemented in this project remain foundational to the development of secure and efficient network systems.

Figure 5: All Works Integrated Together

In the end, all the function was combined in a single script to realize a complete Minimum Sim LAN.

## 7 Appendix

```
from ee315 24 lib import SwitchFabric, Packet
   from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.ciphers import Cipher, algorithms, modes
   from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import padding
   from cryptography.hazmat.backends import default_backend
4
   import os
   import re
6
8
   # Generate AES key
   def generate aes key():
      return os.urandom(16) # Generate a 32-byte random key
10
11
   # AES encryption function
12
   def aes encrypt (key, message):
13
     # Use PKCS7 padding to ensure the message length is a multiple of the AES block
14
         size
     padder = padding.PKCS7(128).padder()
15
     padded message = padder.update(message.encode()) + padder.finalize()
16
17
     # Generate a random IV (Initialization Vector)
18
     iv = os.urandom(16)
19
20
     # Set up the AES cipher, using CBC mode
21
      cipher = Cipher(algorithms.AES(key), modes.CBC(iv), backend=default backend())
22
     encryptor = cipher.encryptor()
23
24
     # Encrypt the padded message
25
     encrypted_message = encryptor.update(padded_message) + encryptor.finalize()
26
27
     # Return the IV and the encrypted message (IV + encrypted message)
28
      return iv + encrypted message
29
30
   # AES decryption function
31
   def aes_decrypt(key, encrypted_message):
32
     # Extract the IV (first 16 bytes) and the encrypted message
33
     iv = encrypted message [:16]
34
     encrypted_message = encrypted_message [16:]
35
36
     \# Set up the AES decryptor, using CBC mode
37
      cipher = Cipher(algorithms.AES(key), modes.CBC(iv), backend=default_backend())
38
      decryptor = cipher.decryptor()
39
40
     # Decrypt the message
41
     padded message = decryptor.update(encrypted message) + decryptor.finalize()
42
43
     # Remove padding
44
     unpadder = padding.PKCS7(128).unpadder()
45
46
47
        message = unpadder.update(padded_message) + unpadder.finalize()
48
        return message.decode() # Decode to a string
49
      except ValueError as e:
50
        return None
51
```

```
52
    def string2digital(message):
53
      return list (message)
54
55
    # Convert digital to a byte string (digital payload)
56
    def digital2string(digital payload):
57
      return bytes (digital payload)
58
59
    class Host:
60
      def ___init___(self , mac, interface , key):
61
         if not re.match(r'^([0-9A-Fa-f]{2}:){5}[0-9A-Fa-f]{2}$', mac):
62
           raise ValueError("Invalid MAC address format")
63
         self.mac = mac
64
         self.interface = interface
65
         self.buffer = []
66
         self.aes key = key
67
68
      def send packet (self, dest mac, message, switch):
69
        print()
70
        print(f"Initial Message: '{message}'")
71
72
        encrypted_message = aes_encrypt(self.aes_key, message) # Encrypt the message
        digital_payload = string2digital(encrypted_message) # Convert to digital
73
            payload
        print(f"Encrypted Message: {encrypted_message}")
74
        print(f"Transmission Message: {digital_payload}")
75
76
        packet = Packet(self.mac, dest_mac, digital_payload)
77
        switch.handle_packet(packet) # Send the packet through the switch
78
        switch.add mac(self.mac, self.interface)
79
80
      def receive packet (self, packet):
81
82
         if packet.dst == self.mac:
          byte payload = digital2string(packet.payload) # Convert to byte string
83
84
          # Decrypt the message
85
           decrypted_payload = aes_decrypt(self.aes_key, byte_payload) # Decrypt the
86
              digital payload
87
           if decrypted_payload:
88
             self.buffer.append(decrypted_payload)
89
             print(f"Received and Recovered Message: '{decrypted payload}'")
90
           else:
91
             print("Failed to decrypt the packet.")
92
93
    class Switch:
94
      def ___init___(self , fabric , num_interfaces=8):
95
         self.num interfaces = num interfaces
96
         self.interfaces = \{\}
97
         self.mac\_table = \{\}
98
         self.mac = \{\}
99
         self.fabric = fabric
100
         self.firewall_rules = [] # New firewall rules list
101
        for i in range(self.num_interfaces):
102
           self.interfaces[i] = None
103
```

```
104
       def add_firewall_rule(self, rule):
105
         self.firewall rules.append(rule)
106
107
         print()
108
         print(f"Firewall rule added: {rule}")
109
       def handle packet (self, packet):
110
        \# Learn the source MAC address and store the interface number
111
        src mac = packet.src
112
113
        dst_mac = packet.dst
114
        # Check if the source MAC is already in the MAC table
115
         if src mac not in self.mac table:
116
117
          \# Learn the source MAC address and associate it with the incoming interface
           self.mac\_table[src\_mac] = 0
118
           print(f"Switch learned MAC {src mac}")
119
         else:
120
           self.mac table[src mac] = 1
121
122
123
        \# Check firewall rules before forwarding
         if self.check_firewall(packet):
124
          # Selective forwarding or flooding
125
           if dst_mac in self.mac_table:
126
             # Forward to the known destination interface
127
128
             dst interface = None
             for interface, mac in self.fabric.physical_map.items():
129
               if mac = dst mac:
130
                 dst interface = interface
131
                 break
132
             self.mac\_table[dst\_mac] = 1
133
134
             print (f"Switch forwarding packet to known interface {dst interface}")
             self.fabric.forward_to_interface(packet, dst_interface)
135
136
             # Update the MAC table with the new interface
137
             self.mac table [dst mac] = 1
138
             # Flood to all interfaces except the incoming one
139
140
             print (f"Switch flooding packet to all interfaces")
             for i, host in self.interfaces.items():
141
               if host and i != src mac:
142
                 self.fabric.forward_to_interface(packet, i)
143
144
         else:
           print(f"Firewall blocked packet from {src_mac} to {dst_mac}")
145
146
      # Key changes
147
      def add_mac(self, mac, interface):
148
        # Delete the old interface
149
150
        old_mac = self.get_mac_for_interface(interface)
151
         if old mac != mac and old mac != None:
           del self.mac[old_mac]
152
           del self.mac_table[old_mac]
153
           print(f"Deleted interface {interface} from mac {mac} ")
154
155
        # Delete the old mac
        if mac in self.mac:
156
           del self.mac[mac]
157
```

```
del self.mac_table[mac]
158
          print(f"Deleted MAC {mac} from interface {interface}")
159
        self.mac[mac] = interface
160
        print(f"Switch added MAC {mac} to interface {interface}")
161
162
      def get_mac_for_interface(self, interface):
163
        for mac, intf in self.mac.items():
164
          if intf == interface:
165
            return mac
166
        return None
167
168
      def print mac(self):
169
        print()
170
        print("Current MAC address to interface mapping:")
171
        for mac, interface in self.mac.items():
172
          print(f"MAC: {mac} -> Interface: {interface}")
173
174
      def check firewall (self, packet):
175
        # Default to allow all packets through
176
177
        allowed = True
        for rule in self.firewall_rules:
178
          if rule ['action'] = 'block':
179
            # If the rule includes src\_mac, check the source MAC address
180
            if 'src_mac' in rule and rule ['src_mac'] == packet.src:
181
              allowed = False
182
183
            \# If the rule includes dst\_mac, check the destination MAC address
184
            if 'dst_mac' in rule and rule ['dst_mac'] = packet.dst:
185
              allowed = False
186
              break
187
        return allowed
188
189
    # Create the network
190
    shared_fabric = SwitchFabric()
191
    switch = Switch (shared fabric)
192
193
194
    # Generate AES key
    key = generate_aes_key()
195
196
    # Create hosts
197
    host1 = Host("00:00:00:00:00:01", 0, key)
198
    host2 = Host("00:00:00:00:00:02", 1, key)
199
    host3 = Host("00:00:00:00:00:03", 2, key)
200
201
    # Connect hosts to the switch
202
    shared fabric.connect host to switch (host1, switch)
203
    shared_fabric.connect_host_to_switch(host2, switch)
204
    shared fabric.connect host to switch (host3, switch)
205
206
    # Simulate communication
207
    208
209
    host3.send_packet("00:00:00:00:00:01", "Hello from C", switch)
210
211
```

```
# Add a new MAC address
212
    host4 = Host("00:00:00:00:00:04", 1, key)
213
    shared_fabric.connect_host_to_switch(host4, switch)
214
    host4.send_packet("00:00:00:00:00:03", "Hello from D", switch)
215
216
    # Add a new interface
217
    host5 = Host("00:00:00:00:00:03", 3, key)
218
    shared_fabric.connect_host_to_switch(host5, switch)
219
220
    host5.send_packet("00:00:00:00:00:01", "Hello from E", switch)
221
222
    # Add a firewall rule to block communication from 00:00:00:00:00:04
    switch.add_firewall_rule({ 'action ': 'block', 'dst_mac': '00:00:00:00:00:04'})
223
    host1.send\_packet("00:00:00:00:00:04", "Hello from A", switch) # This package
224
        will be blocked
225
    # print the dictionary
226
    switch.print_mac()
227
```