

Data Communication

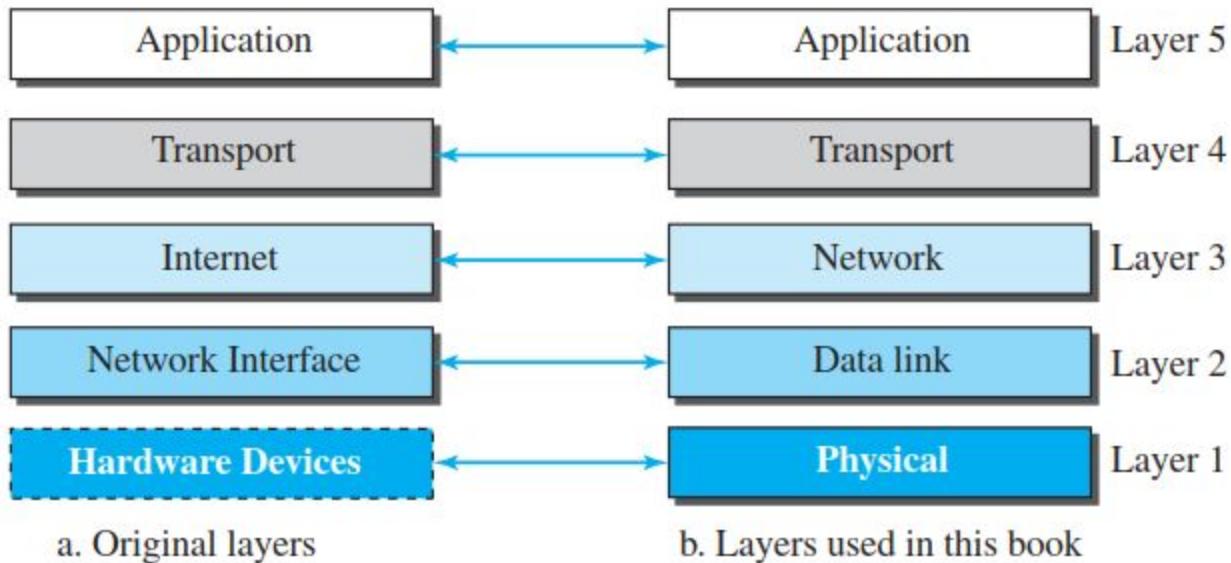
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TCP/IP model

- TCP/IP is a protocol suite (a set of protocols organized in different layers) used in the Internet today.

TCP/IP model

Figure 2.4 Layers in the TCP/IP protocol suite

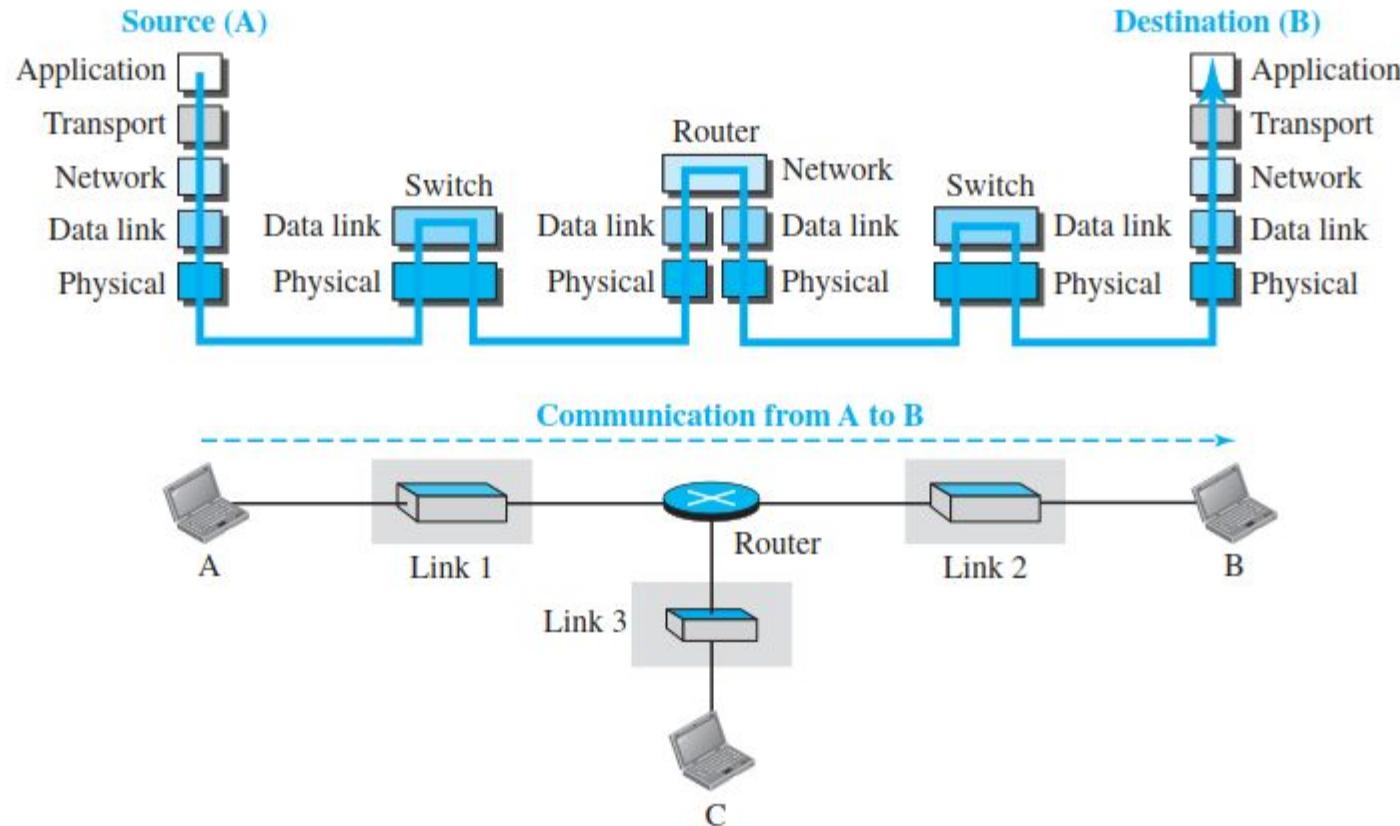


TCP/IP model

- To show how the layers in the TCP/IP protocol suite are involved in communication between two hosts, we assume that we want to use the suite in a small internet made up of three LANs (links), each with a link-layer switch. We also assume that the links are connected by one router, as shown in Figure 2.5.

TCP/IP model

Figure 2.5 Communication through an internet



TCP/IP model

- Let us assume that computer A communicates with computer B. As the figure shows, we have five communicating devices in this communication: source host (computer A), the link-layer switch in link 1, the router, the link-layer switch in link 2, and the destination host (computer B). Each device is involved with a set of layers depending on the role of the device in the internet.

TCP/IP model

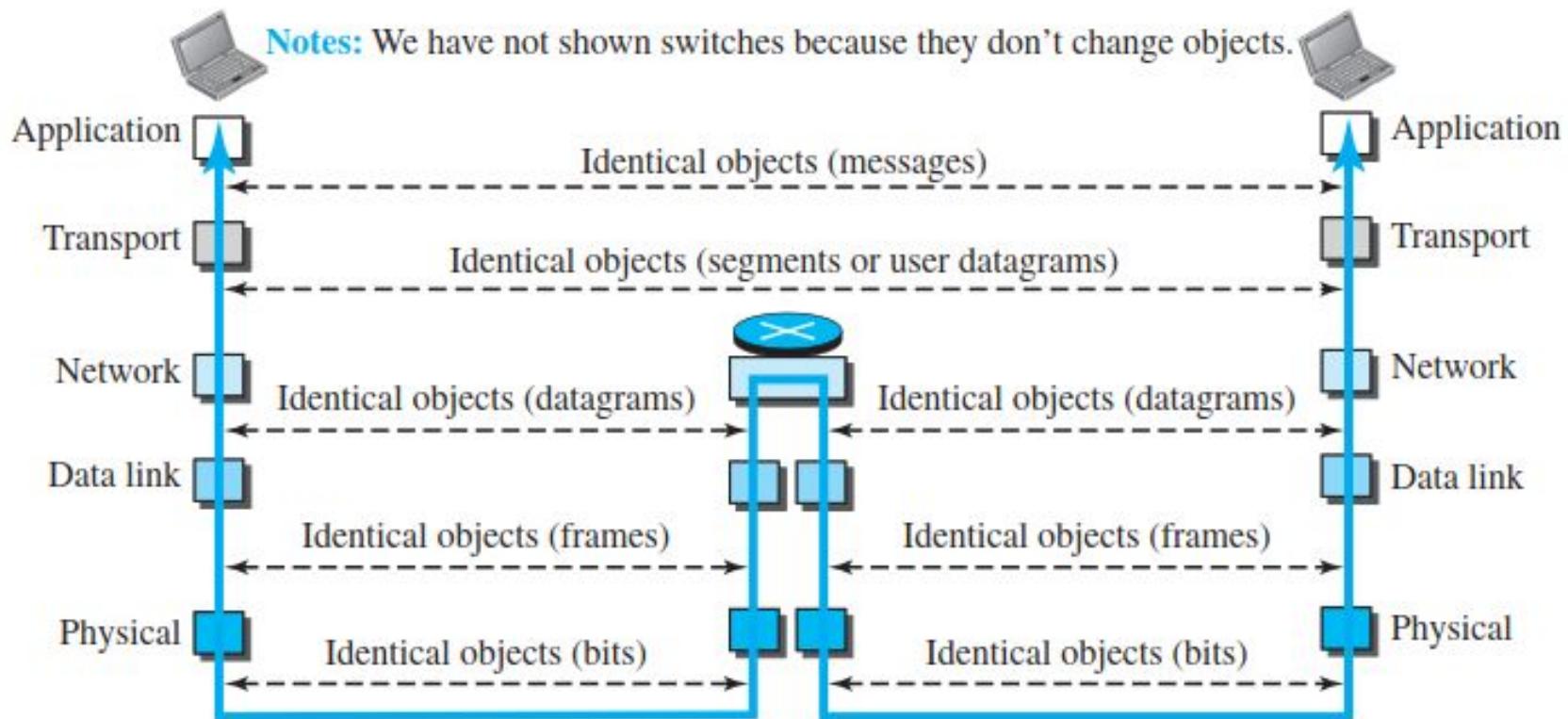
- The two hosts are involved in all five layers; the source host needs to create a message in the application layer and send it down the layers so that it is physically sent to the destination host. The destination host needs to receive the communication at the physical layer and then deliver it through the other layers to the application layer.

TCP/IP model

- Figure 2.7 shows the second principle discussed previously for protocol layering. We show the identical objects below each layer related to each device.

TCP/IP model

Figure 2.7 *Identical objects in the TCP/IP protocol suite*



Functions of physical layer

- We can say that the physical layer is responsible for carrying individual bits in a frame across the link. Although the physical layer is the lowest level in the TCP/IP protocol suite, the communication between two devices at the physical layer is still a logical communication because there is another, hidden layer, the transmission media, under the physical layer.

Physical layer

- Two devices are connected by a transmission medium (cable or air). We need to know that the transmission medium does not carry bits; it carries electrical or optical signals. So the bits received in a frame from the data-link layer are transformed and sent through the transmission media, but we can think that the logical unit between two physical layers in two devices is a bit.

Data link layer functions

- We have seen that an internet is made up of several links (LANs and WANs) connected by routers. There may be several overlapping sets of links that a datagram can travel from the host to the destination. The routers are responsible for choosing the best links. However, when the next link to travel is determined by the router, the data-link layer is responsible for taking the datagram and moving it across the link.

Data link layer functions

- Each link-layer protocol may provide different service. Some link-layer protocols provide complete error detection and correction, some provide only error correction.

Network layer functions

- The network layer in the Internet includes the main protocol, Internet Protocol (IP), that defines the format of the packet, called a datagram at the network layer. IP also defines the format and the structure of addresses used in this layer. IP is also responsible for routing a packet from its source to its destination, which is achieved by each router forwarding the packet to the next router in its path.

Network layer functions

- IP is a connectionless protocol that provides no flow control, no error control, and no congestion control services. This means that if any of these services is required for an application, the application should rely only on the transport-layer protocol.

Network layer functions

- The network layer also has some auxiliary protocols that help IP in its delivery and routing tasks. The Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) helps IP to report some problems when routing a packet.

Network layer functions

- The Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) is protocol that helps IP to find the link-layer address of a host or a router when its network-layer address is given.

Transport layer funtions

- The transport layer at the source host gets the message from the application layer, encapsulates it in a transport layer packet (called a segment or a user datagram in different protocols) and sends it.

Transport layer functions

- As we said, there are a few transport-layer protocols in the Internet, each designed for some specific task. The main protocol, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), is a connection-oriented protocol that first establishes a logical connection between transport layers at two hosts before transferring data. It creates a logical pipe between two TCPs for transferring a stream of bytes.

Transport layer functions

- TCP provides flow control (matching the sending data rate of the source host with the receiving data rate of the destination host to prevent overwhelming the destination), error control (to guarantee that the segments arrive at the destination without error and resending the corrupted ones), and congestion control to reduce the loss of segments due to congestion in the network.

Application layer functions

- As Figure 2.6 shows, the logical connection between the two application layers is end-to-end. The two application layers exchange messages between each other as though there were a bridge between the two layers.

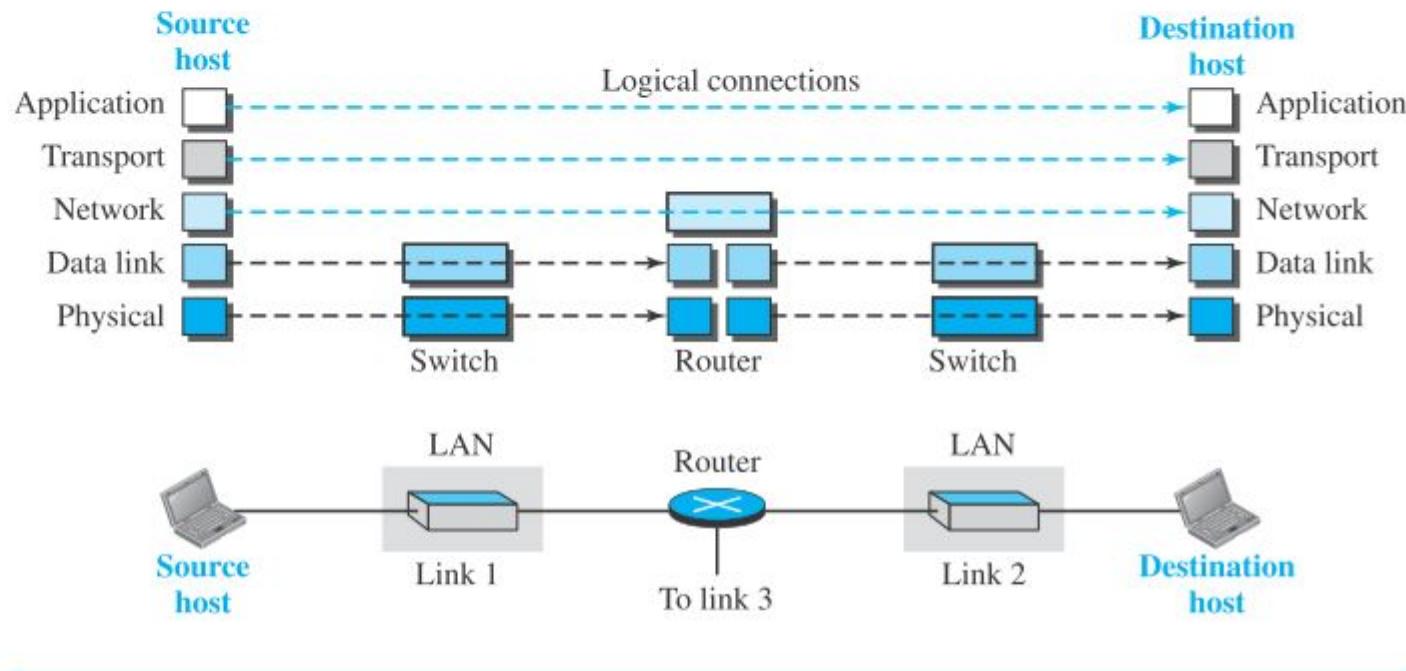
Application layer functions

- Communication at the application layer is between two processes (two programs running at this layer). To communicate, a process sends a request to the other process and receives a response. Process-to-process communication is the duty of the application layer. The application layer in the Internet includes many predefined protocols

Application layer functions

- The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is a vehicle for accessing the World Wide Web (WWW). The Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) is the main protocol used in electronic mail (e-mail) service. The File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is used for transferring files from one host to another.

Logical connections between layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite



Logical connections between layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite

- Using logical connections makes it easier for us to think about the duty of each layer. As the figure shows, the duty of the application, transport, and network layers is end-to-end.
- However, the duty of the data-link and physical layers is hop-to-hop, in which a hop is a host or router. In other words, the domain of duty of the top three layers is the internet, and the domain of duty of the two lower layers is the link.