



Introduction to Networks & Distributed Computing

CECS 327





Protocol Suites and Layering Models

Defn: Protocols are Standardized method for transmitting data and/or establishing communications between different devices.

- **They specify:**

- Format of messages
- Meaning of messages
- Rules for exchanging messages
- Procedures for handling problems

- **Network hardware** functions at a very low level.

- Hardware related problems can occur that need to be addressed by protocols:
 - Bits can be corrupted or destroyed
 - Entire packets can be lost
 - Packets can be duplicated
 - Packets can be delivered out of order

Protocol Suites and Layering Models

- **Protocols** can also be used to distinguish among:

- Multiple computers on a network
- Multiple applications on a computer
- Multiple copies of a single application on a computer

Networks are very heterogeneous

Hardware/link	→	Ethernet: 3com, Dlink
Network	→	Routers: cisco, juniper etc.
Application	→	App: Email, IM, IE etc.

- The hardware/software of communicating parties are often not built by the same vendor, yet they can communicate because they use the same protocol



Protocol Suites and Layering Models

■ Sets of Protocols

- Sets of protocols are designed to work together.
- Each protocol solves a small part of the communications problem
- Sets of protocols are known as:
 - Protocol Suites
 - Protocol families
- Ex: HTTP is using IP to send/receive data.
- They are designed in layers.

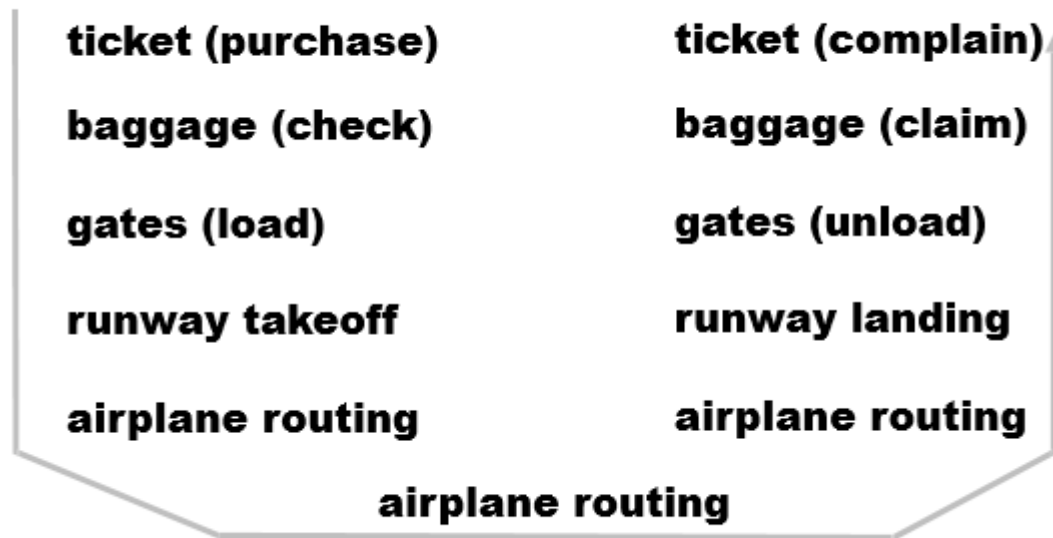
■ What is Layering in networking?

- A way to deal with complexity
- Add multiple levels of abstraction
- Each level encapsulates some key functionality
- And exports an interface to other components
- Example?



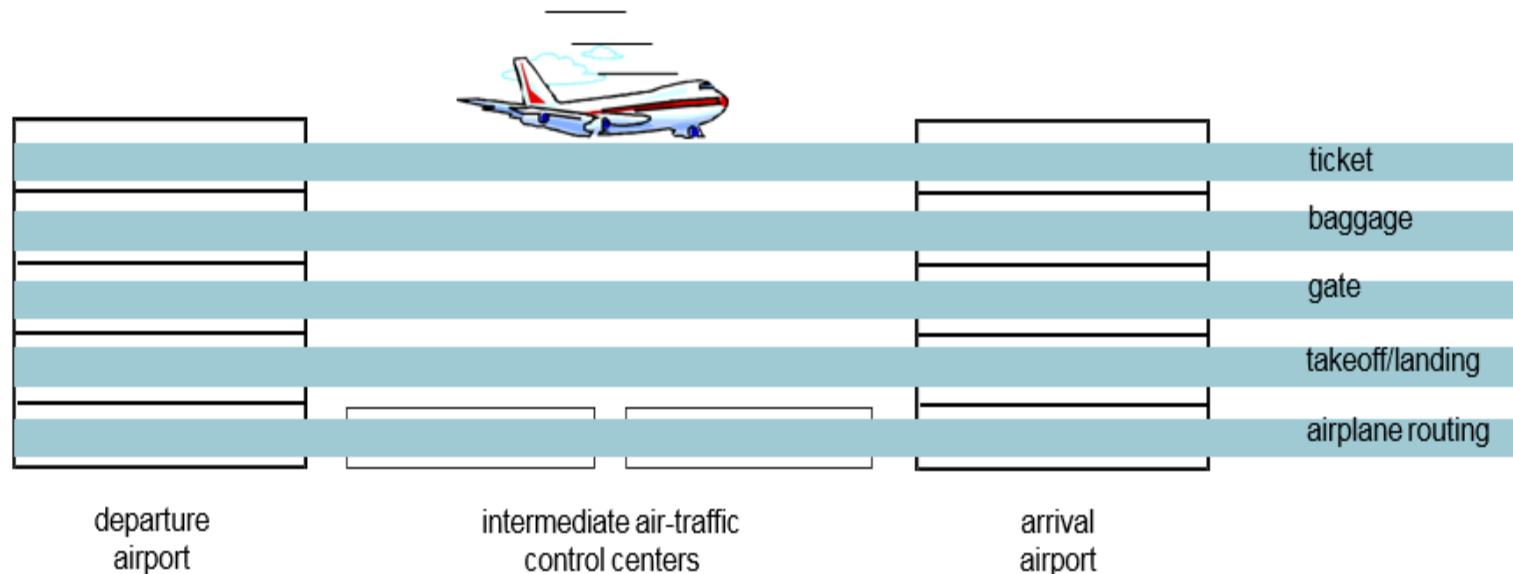
Protocol Suites and Layering Models

- Organization of Air Travel Example



Protocol Suites and Layering Models

■ Organization of Air Travel Example



Layers: each layer implements a service

- Via its own internal-layer actions
- Relying on services provided by layer below



Protocol Suites and Layering Models

Features of Layering:

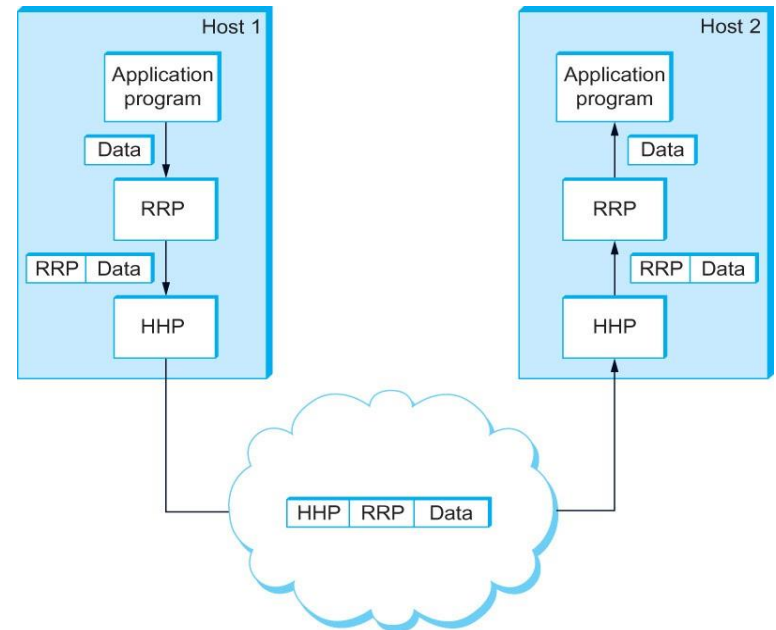
- Sub-divide the problem
 - Each layer relies on services from layer below
 - Each layer exports services to layer above

- Advantages of Layering?
 - Simplifies design and implementation
 - Easy to modify/evolve

Protocol Suites and Layering Models

Protocol Design

- Protocols are divided into layers
- Each layer is devoted to one sub-problem
- Protocols exist at many levels.
 - Application level protocols
 - Protocols at the hardware level
- Each protocol provides different service to higher layers and relied on services from lower layers.



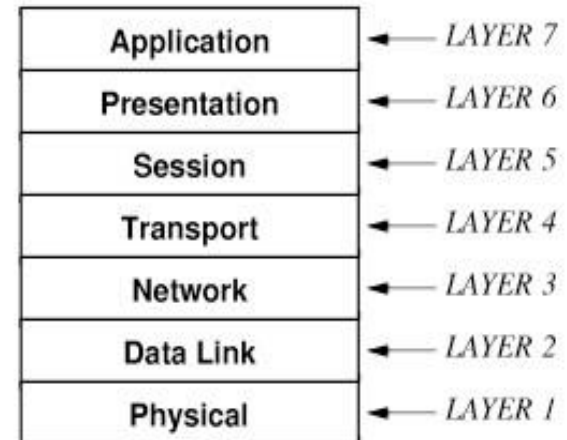


Protocol Suites and Layering Models

The OSI 7-Layer Model

The 7-Layer Model:

- Was defined fairly early in the development of
- Is now somewhat dated
- Does not include the internet layer



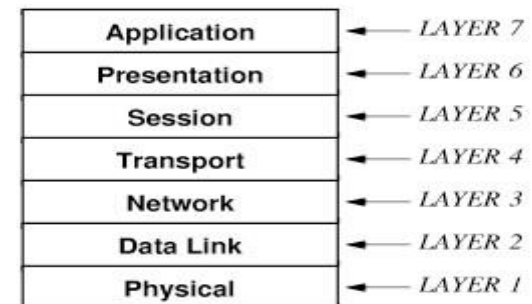
Example: The ISO (International Standards Organization) OSI (Open System Interconnection) 7-layer Reference Model



Protocol Suites and Layering Models

The OSI 7-Layer Model

- **Layer 1: Physical**
 - Handles the transmission of raw bits over a communication link.
- **Layer 2: Data Link (media access)**
 - Collects a stream of bits into a larger aggregate called a *frame*
 - Network adaptor along with device driver in OS implement the protocol in this layer
 - Frames are actually delivered to hosts based on MAC address.
- **Layer 3: Network**
 - Handles routing among nodes within a packet-switched network
 - Unit of data exchanged between nodes in this layer is called a *packet*
 - Packets are actually delivered to hosts based on IP address.



Protocol Suites and Layering Models

- **Transport Layer**

- Implements a process-to-process channel
- Unit of data exchanges in this layer is called a *message*

- **Session Layer**

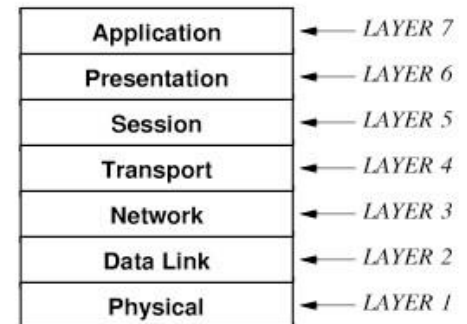
- Provides the mechanism for opening, closing and managing a communication session between end-user appli

- **Presentation Layer**

- Concerned about the format of data exchanged between peers

- **Application Layer**

- Ensures application programs communication with other application programs over a network.





References

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- Computer Networks, Fifth Edition: A Systems Approach (The Morgan Kaufmann Series in Networking).
- Computer Networks and Internets (5th Edition)
- Some slides by Dr. Tracy Bradley Maples