CS3281 / CS5281

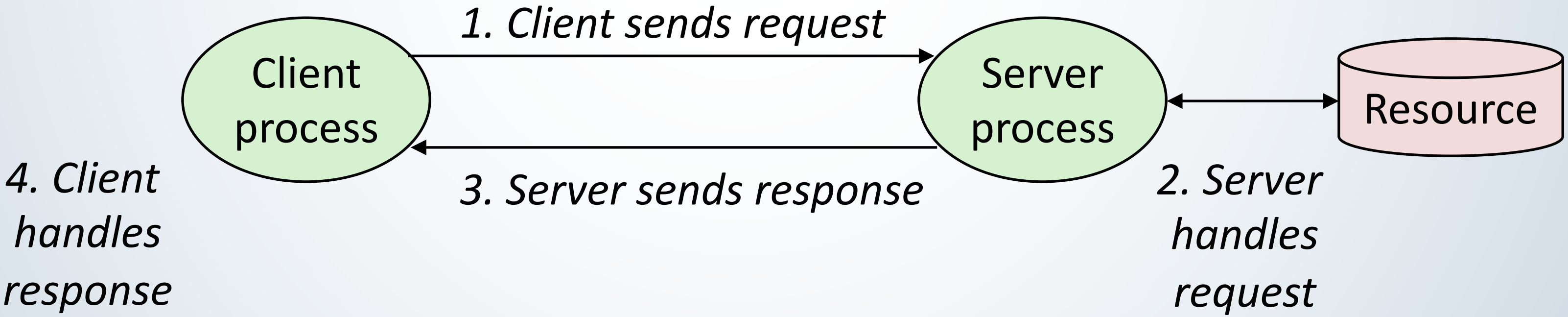
Network Programming

Will Hedgecock
Sandeep Neema
Bryan Ward

**Some lecture slides borrowed and adapted from CMU's "Computer Systems: A Programmer's Perspective"*

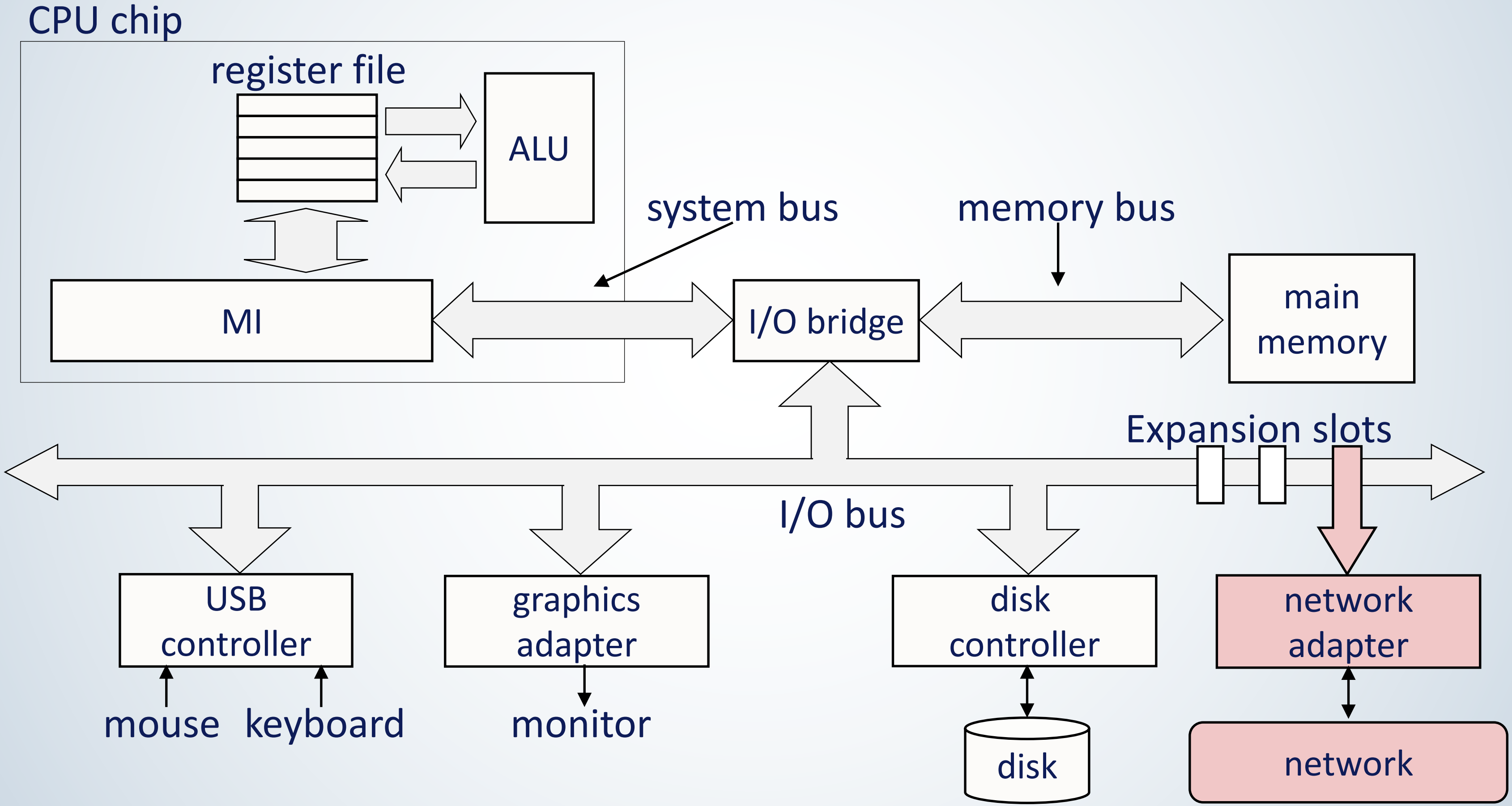
A Client-Server Transaction

- Most network applications are based on the client-server model:
  - A ***server*** process and one or more ***client*** processes
  - Server manages some ***resource***
  - Server provides ***service*** by manipulating resource for clients
  - Server activated by request from client (vending machine analogy)



Note: clients and servers are processes running on hosts (can be the same or different hosts)

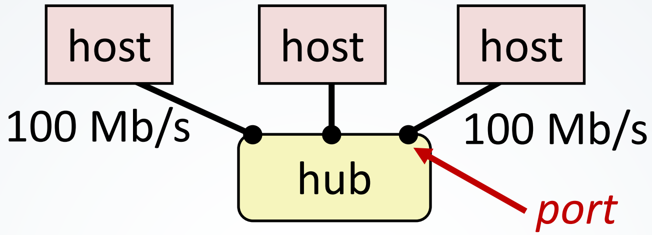
Hardware Organization of a Network Host



Computer Networks

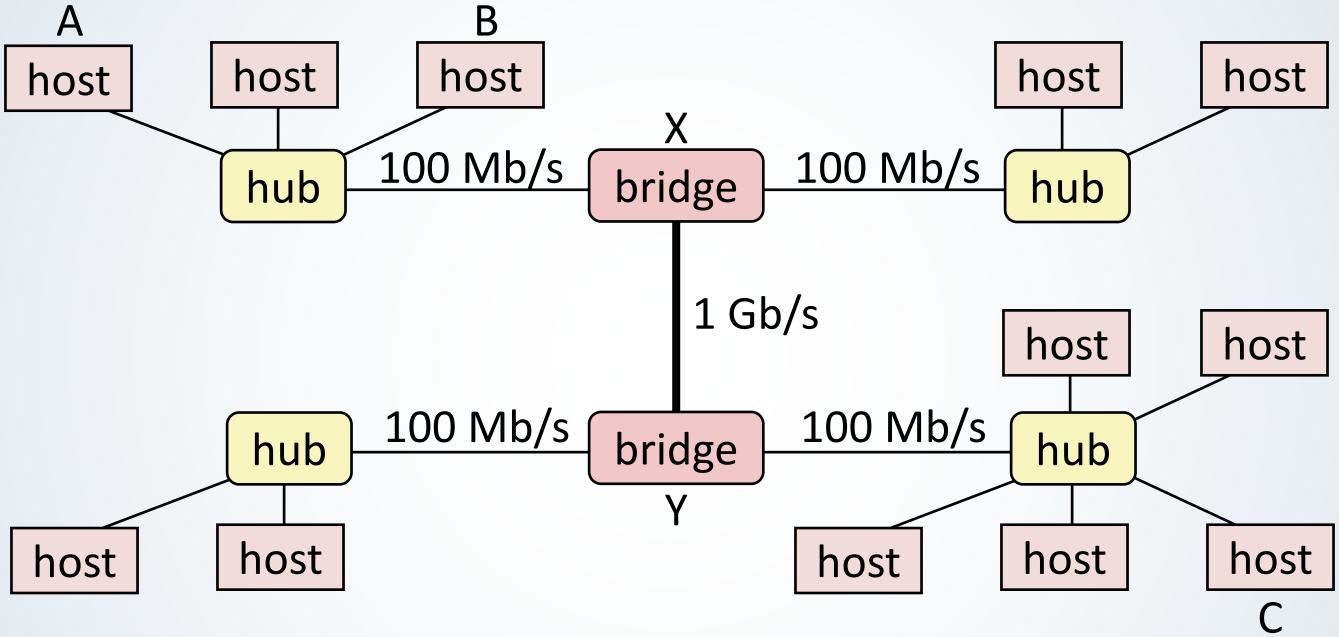
- A *network* is a hierarchical system of boxes and wires organized by geographical proximity
  - SAN (System Area Network) spans cluster or machine room
    - Switched Ethernet, Quadrics QSW, …
  - LAN (Local Area Network) spans a building or campus
    - Ethernet is most prominent example
  - WAN (Wide Area Network) spans country or world
    - Typically high-speed point-to-point phone lines
- An *internetwork (internet)* is an interconnected set of networks
  - The Global IP Internet (uppercase "I") is the most famous example of an internet (lowercase "i")
- Let's see how an internet is built from the ground up

Lowest Level: Ethernet Segment



- Ethernet segment consists of a collection of *hosts* connected by wires (twisted pairs) to a *hub*
- Spans room or floor in a building
- Operation
  - Each Ethernet adapter has a unique 48-bit address (MAC address)
    - E.g., 00:16:ea:e3:54:e6
  - Hosts send bits to any other host in chunks called ***frames***
  - Hub copies each bit from each port to every other port
    - Every host sees every bit
    - Note: Hubs are on their way out. Bridges (switches, routers) became cheap enough to replace them

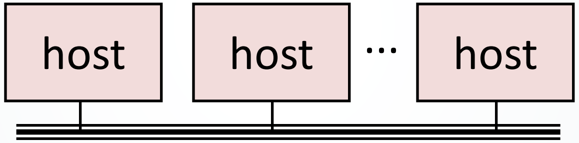
Next Level: Bridged Ethernet Segment



- Spans building or campus
- Bridges cleverly learn which hosts are reachable from which ports and then selectively copy frames from port to port

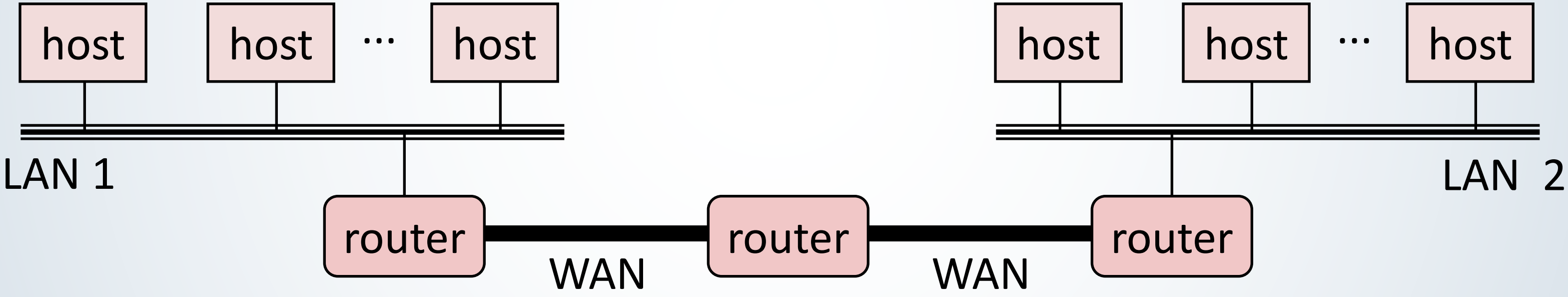
Conceptual View of LANs

- For simplicity, hubs, bridges, and wires are often shown as a collection of hosts attached to a single wire:



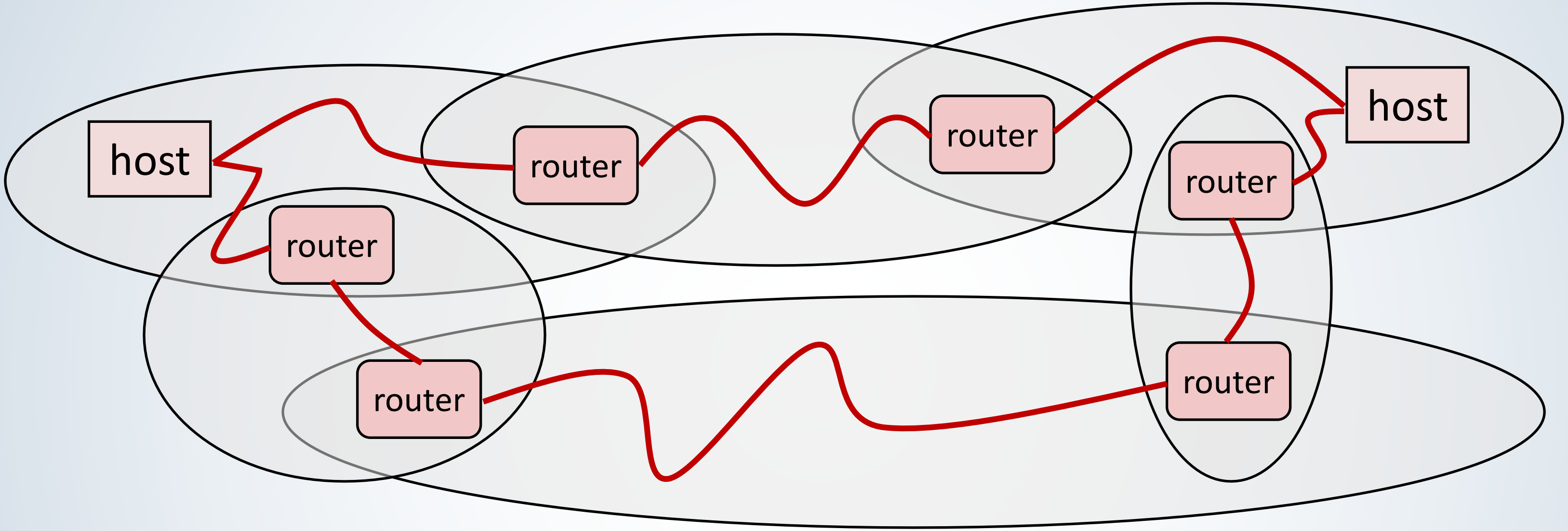
Next Level: Internets

- Multiple incompatible LANs can be physically connected by specialized computers called *routers*
- The connected networks are called an *internet* (lower case)



LAN 1 and LAN 2 might be completely different, totally incompatible (e.g., Ethernet, Fibre Channel, 802.11, T1-links, DSL, …)*

Logical Structure of an Internet



- Ad hoc interconnection of networks
  - No particular topology
  - Vastly different router & link capacities
- Send packets from source to destination by hopping through networks
  - Router forms bridge from one network to another
  - Different packets may take different routes

The Notion of an Internet Protocol

- How is it possible to send bits across incompatible LANs and WANs?

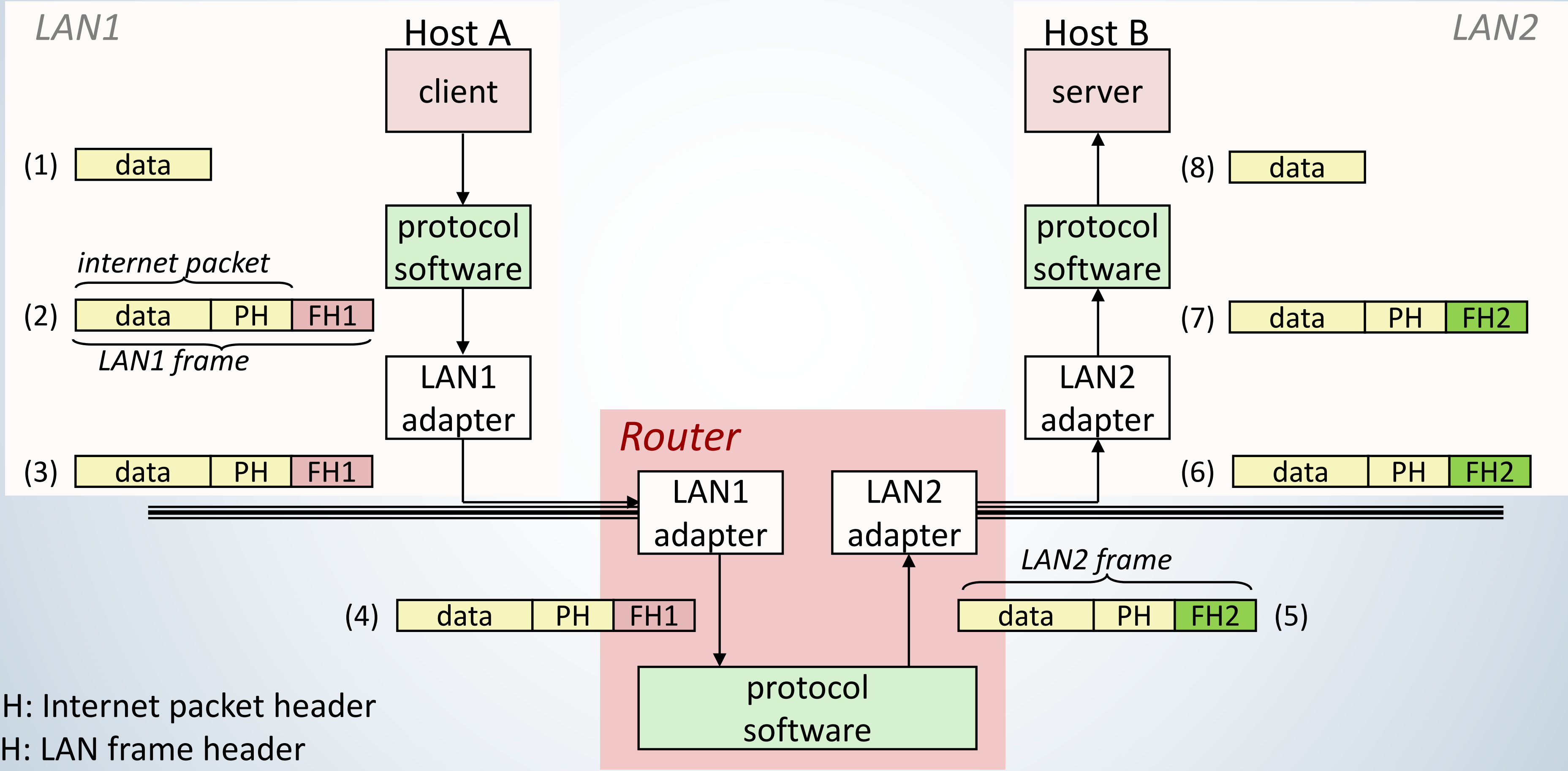
- Solution: *protocol* software running on each host and router
  - Protocol is a set of rules that governs how hosts and routers should cooperate when they transfer data from network to network.
  - Smooths out the differences between the different networks

What Does an Internet Protocol Do?

- Provides a *naming scheme*
  - An internet protocol defines a uniform format for ***host addresses***
  - Each host (and router) is assigned at least one of these internet addresses that uniquely identifies it

- Provides a *delivery mechanism*
  - An internet protocol defines a standard transfer unit (***packet***)
  - Packet consists of ***header*** and ***payload***
    - Header: contains info such as packet size, source and destination addresses
    - Payload: contains data bits sent from source host

Transferring Internet Data via Encapsulation



PH: Internet packet header

FH: LAN frame header

Other Issues

- We are glossing over a number of important questions:
  - What if different networks have different maximum frame sizes? (segmentation)
  - How do routers know where to forward frames?
  - How are routers informed when the network topology changes?
  - What if packets get lost?

- These (and other) questions are addressed by the area of systems known as *computer networking*

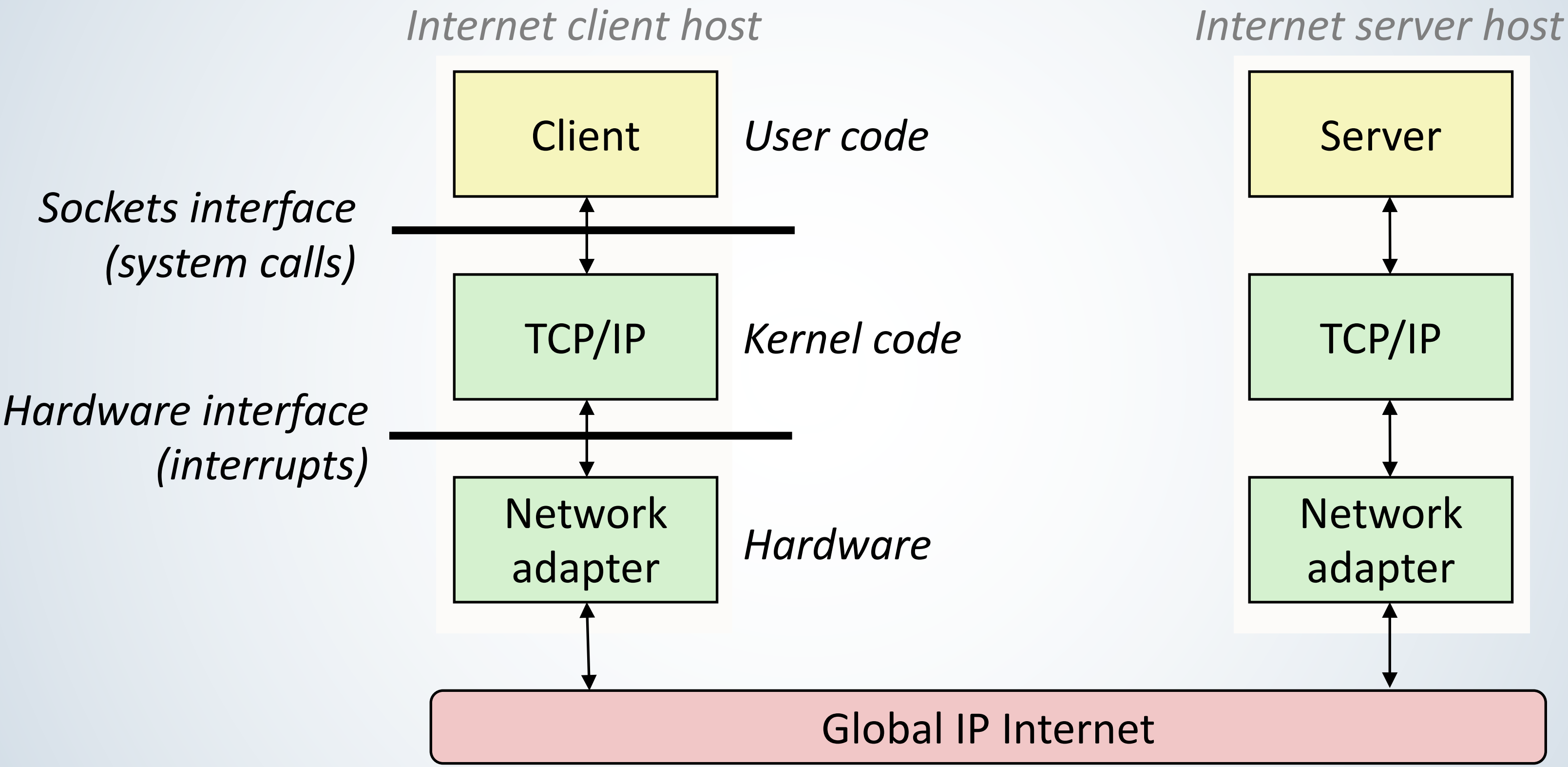
Global IP Internet (Upper Case)

- Most famous example of an internet

- Based on the TCP/IP protocol family
  - IP (Internet Protocol) :
    - Provides *basic naming scheme* and unreliable *delivery capability* of packets (datagrams) from *host-to-host*
  - UDP (Unreliable Datagram Protocol)
    - Uses IP to provide *unreliable* datagram delivery from *process-to-process*
  - TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)
    - Uses IP to provide *reliable* byte streams from *process-to-process* over *connections*

- Accessed via a mix of Unix file I/O and functions from the *sockets interface*

Organization of an Internet Application



A Programmer's View of the Internet

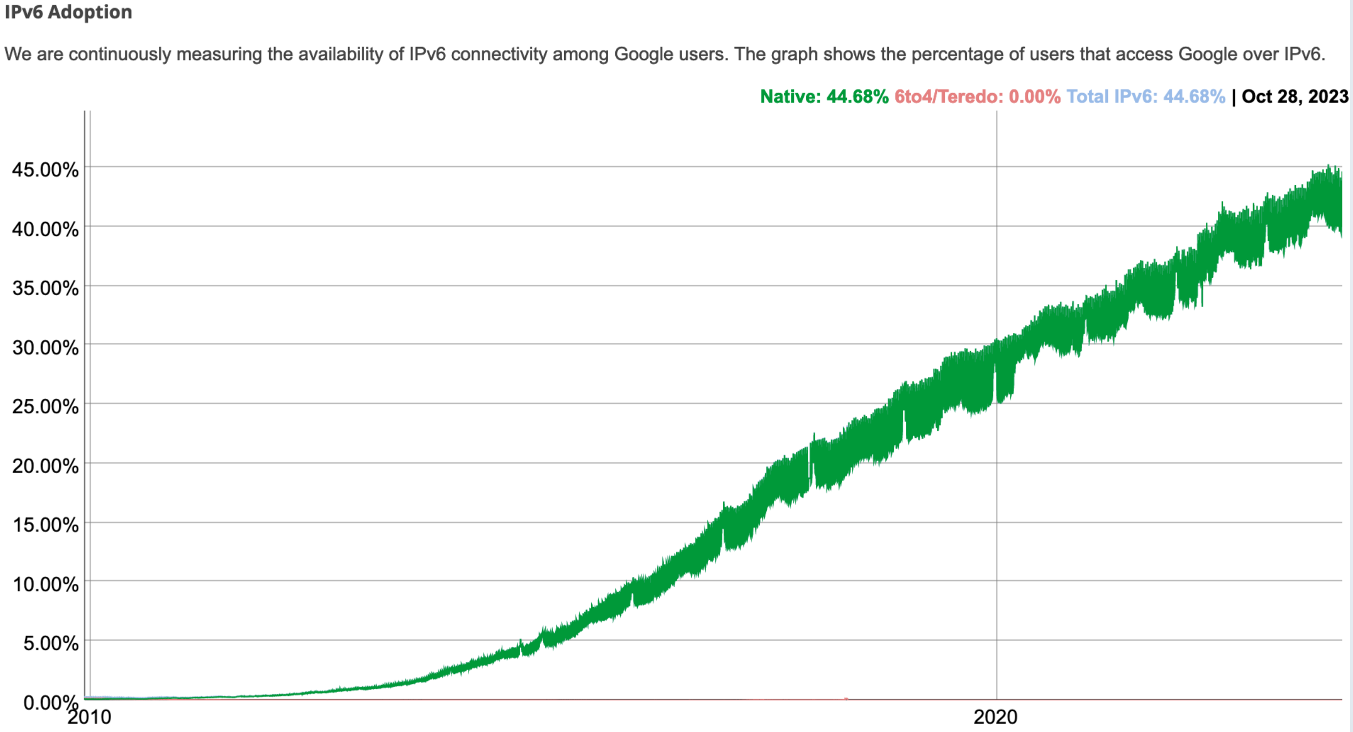
1. Hosts are mapped to a set of 32-bit *IP addresses*
   - 128.2.203.179

2. The set of IP addresses is mapped to a set of identifiers called Internet *domain names*
   - 129.59.107.38 is mapped to www.isis.vanderbilt.edu

3. A process on one Internet host can communicate with a process on another Internet host over a *connection*

Aside: IPv4 and IPv6

- The original Internet Protocol, with its 32-bit addresses, is known as *Internet Protocol Version 4* (IPv4)
  - IPv4 *only* has 2^{32} = 4,294,967,296 address
  - … we ran out in 2011… whoops
- 1996: Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) introduced *Internet Protocol Version 6* (IPv6) with 128-bit addresses
  - Intended as the successor to IPv4
- IPv6 traffic is increasing, but is still a minority of internet traffic
- We will focus on IPv4, but will show how to write networking code that is protocol independent



IPv6 Adoption

We are continuously measuring the availability of IPv6 connectivity among Google users. The graph shows the percentage of users that access Google over IPv6.

Native: 44.68% 6to4/Teredo: 0.00% Total IPv6: 44.68% | Oct 28, 2023

https://www.google.com/intl/en/ipv6/statistics.html#tab=ipv6-adoption

IP Addresses

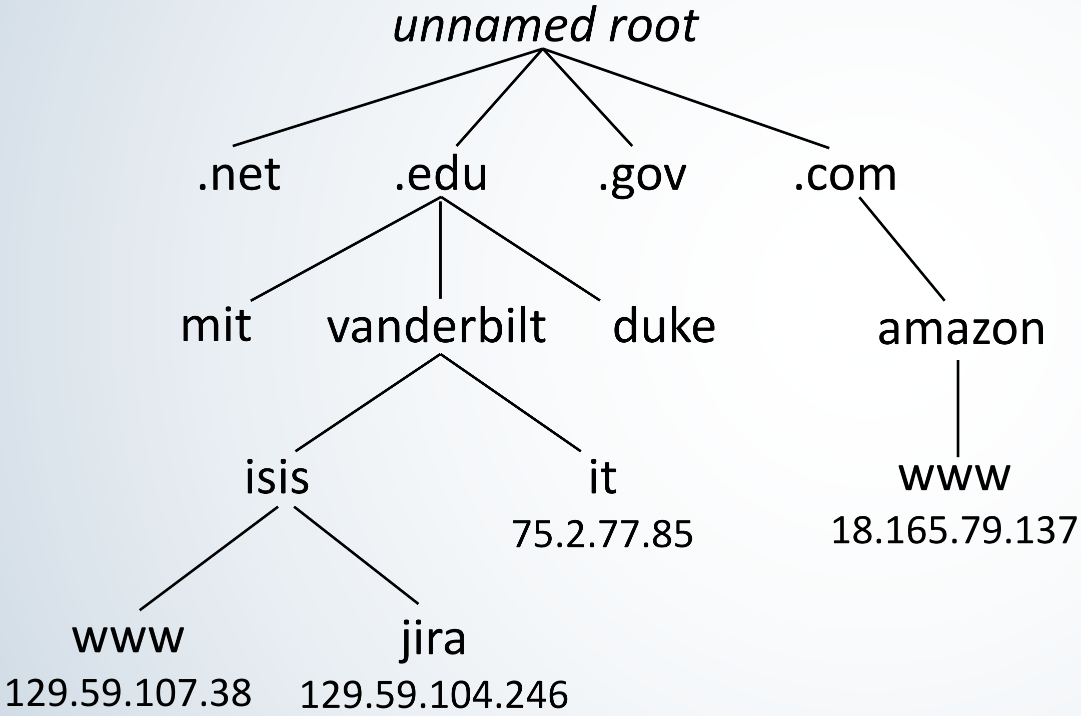
- 32-bit IP addresses are stored in an *IP address struct*
  - IP addresses are always stored in memory in *network byte order* (big-endian byte order)
    - x86, ARM, risc-v all little endian
  - True in general for any integer transferred in a packet header from one machine to another
    - E.g., the port number used to identify an Internet connection

```
/* Internet address structure */
struct in_addr {
    uint32_t  s_addr; /* network byte order (big-endian) */
};
```

Dotted-Decimal Notation

- By convention, each byte in a 32-bit IP address is represented by its decimal value and separated by a period
  - IP address: `0x8002C2F2 = 128.2.194.242`
- Use `getaddrinfo` and `getnameinfo` functions (described later) to convert between IP addresses and dotted decimal format.

Internet Domain Names



First-level domain names

Second-level domain names

Third-level domain names

Domain Naming System (DNS)

- The Internet maintains a mapping between IP addresses and domain names in a huge worldwide distributed database called *DNS*

- Conceptually, programmers can view the DNS database as a collection of millions of *host entries*
  - Each host entry defines the mapping between a set of domain names and IP addresses
  - In a mathematical sense, a host entry is an equivalence class of domain names and IP addresses

Properties of DNS Mappings

- Can explore properties of DNS mappings using `nslookup`
  - Output edited for brevity
- Each host has a locally defined domain name `localhost` which always maps to the *loopback address* `127.0.0.1`

```
linux> nslookup localhost
Address: 127.0.0.1
```

- Use `hostname` to determine real domain name of local host

Properties of DNS Mappings (cont.)

- Simple case: one-to-one mapping between domain name and IP address:

```
linux> nslookup www.isis.vanderbilt.edu
Address: 129.59.107.38
```

- Multiple domain names can be mapped to the same IP address:

```
linux> nslookup amazon.com
Address: 54.239.28.85
linux> nslookup amzn.com
Address: 54.239.28.85
```

Properties of DNS Mappings (cont.)

- Multiple domain names mapped to multiple IP addresses:

```
linux> nslookup www.twitter.com
Address: 199.16.156.6
Address: 199.16.156.70
Address: 199.16.156.102
Address: 199.16.156.230

linux> nslookup twitter.com
Address: 199.16.156.102
Address: 199.16.156.230
Address: 199.16.156.6
Address: 199.16.156.70
```

Internet Connections

- Clients and servers communicate by sending streams of bytes over *connections*. Each connection is:
  - *Point-to-point*: connects a pair of processes.
  - *Full-duplex*: data can flow in both directions at the same time,
  - *Reliable*: stream of bytes sent by the source is eventually received by the destination in the same order it was sent.

- *A socket* is an endpoint of a connection
  - *Socket address* is an **`IPaddress:port`** pair

- A *port* is a 16-bit integer that identifies a process:
  - ***Ephemeral port*:** Assigned automatically by client kernel when client makes a connection request.
  - ***Well-known port:*** Associated with some *service* provided by a server (e.g., port 80 is associated with Web servers)

Well-Known Ports and Service Names

- Popular services have permanently assigned *well-known ports and* corresponding *well-known service names*:
  - echo server: 7/echo
  - ssh servers: 22/ssh
  - email server: 25/smtp
  - Web servers: 80/http, 443/https

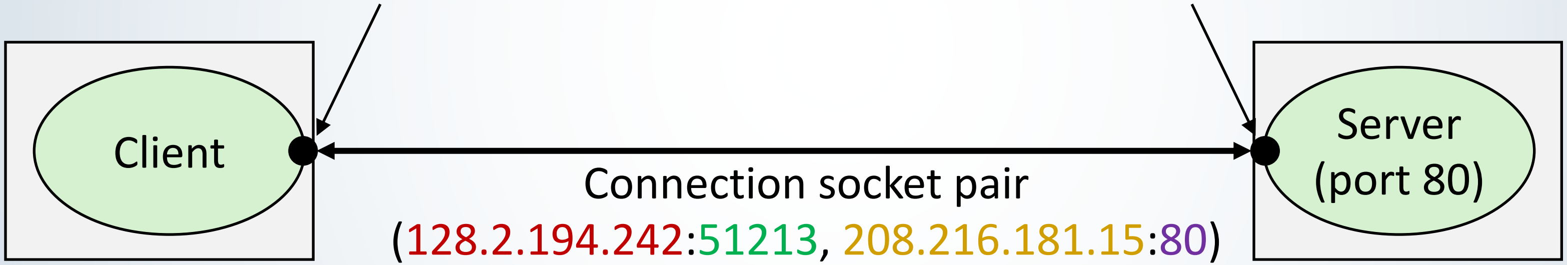
- Mappings between well-known ports and service names is contained in the file `/etc/services` on each Linux machine.

Anatomy of a Connection

- A connection is uniquely identified by the socket addresses of its endpoints (*socket pair*)
  - `(cliaddr:cliport, servaddr:servport)`

Client socket address
128.2.194.242:51213

Server socket address
208.216.181.15:80



Connection socket pair
(128.2.194.242:51213, 208.216.181.15:80)

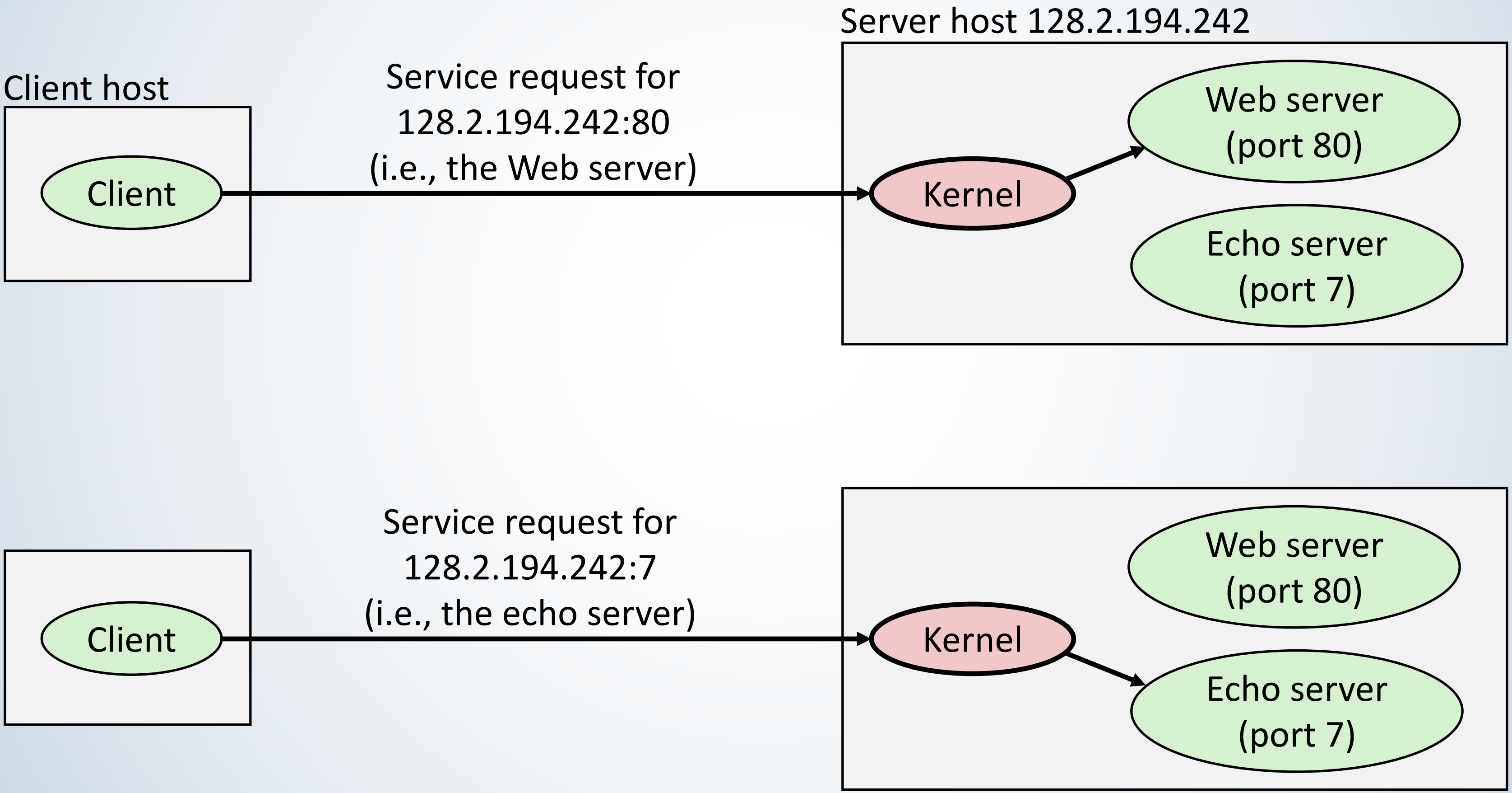
Client host address
128.2.194.242

Server host address
208.216.181.15

51213 is an ephemeral port allocated by the kernel

80 is a well-known port associated with Web servers

Using Ports to Identify Services



Sockets Interface

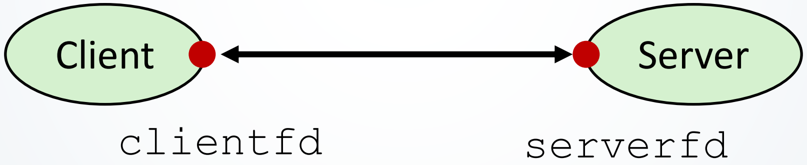
- Set of system-level functions used in conjunction with Unix I/O to build network applications.

- Created in the early 80’s as part of the original Berkeley distribution of Unix that contained an early version of the Internet protocols.

- Available on all modern systems
  - – Unix variants, Windows, OS X, IOS, Android, ARM

Sockets

- What is a socket?
  - To the kernel, a socket is an endpoint of communication
  - To an application, a socket is a file descriptor that lets the application read/write from/to the network
    - ***Remember:*** All Unix I/O devices, including networks, are modeled as files
- Clients and servers communicate with each other by reading from and writing to socket descriptors



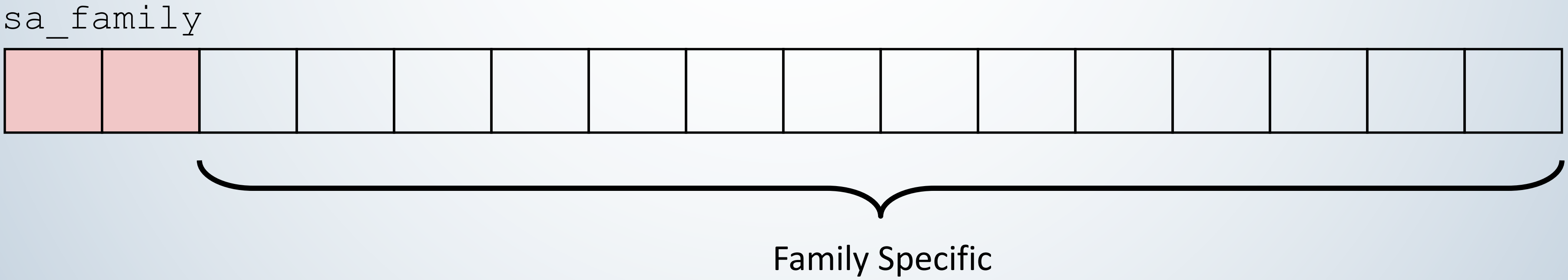
- The main distinction between regular file I/O and socket I/O is how the application "opens" the socket descriptors

Socket-Address Structures

- Generic socket address:
  - For address arguments to **connect**, **bind**, and **accept**
  - Necessary only because C did not have generic (**void ***) pointers when the sockets interface was designed
  - For casting convenience, we adopt the Stevens convention:

```
typedef struct sockaddr SA;
```

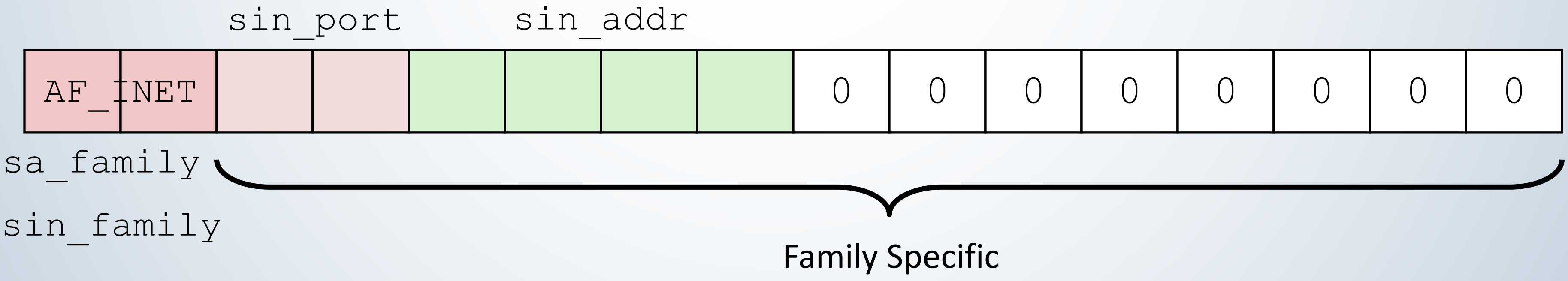
```
struct sockaddr {
  uint16_t  sa_family;    /* Protocol family */
  char      sa_data[14];  /* Address data.  */
};
```



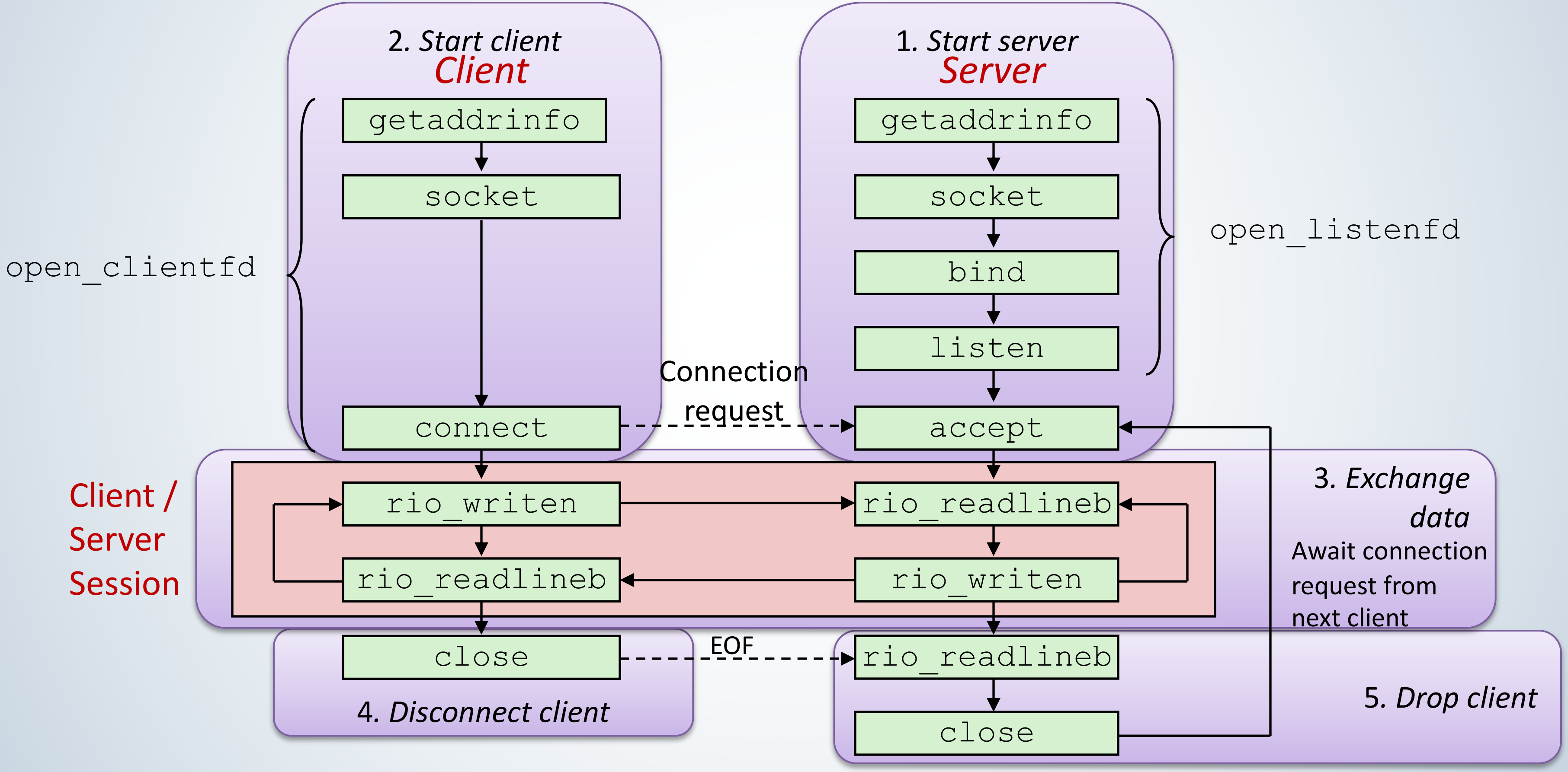
Socket Address Structures

- Internet-specific socket address:
  - Must cast (`struct sockaddr_in *`) to (`struct sockaddr *`) for functions that take socket address arguments.

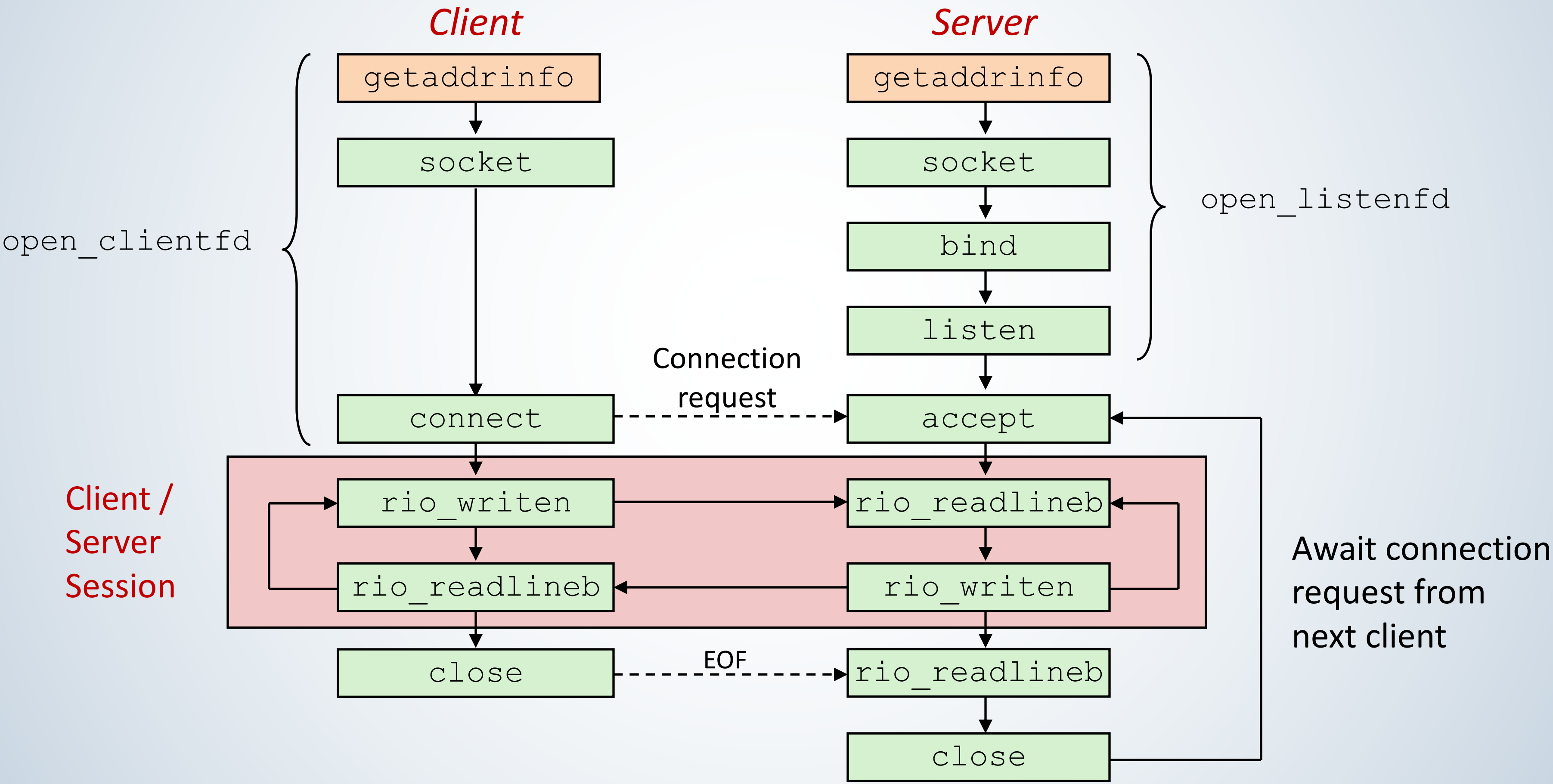
```
struct sockaddr_in  {
  uint16_t        sin_family;  /* Protocol family (always AF_INET) */
  uint16_t        sin_port;    /* Port num in network byte order */
  struct in_addr  sin_addr;    /* IP addr in network byte order */
  unsigned char   sin_zero[8]; /* Pad to sizeof(struct sockaddr) */
};
```



Sockets Interface



Sockets Interface



Host and Service Conversion: getaddrinfo()

- `getaddrinfo` is the modern way to convert string representations of hostnames, host addresses, ports, and service names to socket address structures.
  - Replaces obsolete `gethostbyname` and `getservbyname` funcs.

- Advantages:
  - Reentrant (can be safely used by threaded programs).
  - Allows us to write portable protocol-independent code
    - Works with both IPv4 and IPv6

- Disadvantages
  - Somewhat complex
  - Fortunately, a small number of usage patterns suffice in most cases

Host and Service Conversion: getaddrinfo()

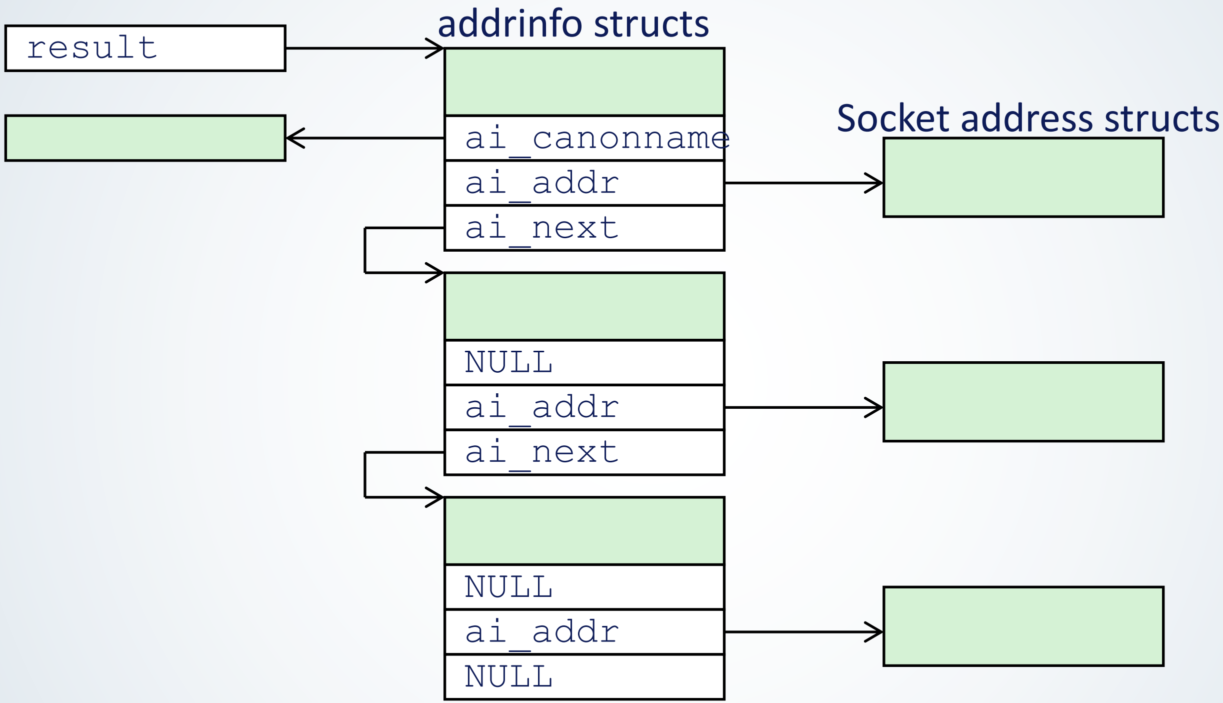
```
int getaddrinfo(const char *host,            /* Hostname or address */
                const char *service,         /* Port or service name */
                const struct addrinfo *hints,/* Input parameters */
                struct addrinfo **result);   /* Output linked list */

void freeaddrinfo(struct addrinfo *result);  /* Free linked list */

const char *gai_strerror(int errcode);       /* Return error msg */
```

- Given `host` and `service`, `getaddrinfo` returns `result` that points to a linked list of `addrinfo` structs, each of which points to a corresponding socket address struct, and which contains arguments for the sockets interface functions.
- Helper functions:
  - `freeadderinfo` frees the entire linked list.
  - `gai_strerror` converts error code to an error message.

Linked List Returned by getaddrinfo()



- Clients: walk this list, trying each socket address in turn, until the calls to `socket` and `connect` succeed.
- Servers: walk the list until calls to `socket` and `bind` succeed.

addrinfo Struct

```
struct addrinfo {
    int                 ai_flags;     /* Hints argument flags */
    int                 ai_family;    /* First arg to socket function */
    int                 ai_socktype;  /* Second arg to socket function */
    int                 ai_protocol;  /* Third arg to socket function  */
    char               *ai_canonname; /* Canonical host name */
    size_t              ai_addrlen;   /* Size of ai_addr struct */
    struct sockaddr    *ai_addr;      /* Ptr to socket address structure */
    struct addrinfo    *ai_next;      /* Ptr to next item in linked list */
};
```

- Each addrinfo struct returned by getaddrinfo contains arguments that can be passed directly to `socket` function.
- Also points to a socket address struct that can be passed directly to `connect` and `bind` functions.

Host and Service Conversion: getnameinfo()

- getnameinfo is the inverse of getaddrinfo, converting a socket address to the corresponding host and service.
  - Replaces obsolete gethostbyaddr and getservbyport funcs.
  - Reentrant and protocol independent.

```
int getnameinfo(const SA *sa, socklen_t salen, /* In: socket addr */
                char *host, size_t hostlen,    /* Out: host */
                char *serv, size_t servlen,    /* Out: service */
                int flags);                    /* optional flags */
```

Conversion Example

```
#include "csapp.h"

int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    struct addrinfo *p, *listp, hints;
    char buf[MAXLINE];
    int rc, flags;

    /* Get a list of addrinfo records */
    memset(&hints, 0, sizeof(struct addrinfo));
    hints.ai_family = AF_INET;       /* IPv4 only */
    hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM; /* Connections only */
    if ((rc = getaddrinfo(argv[1], NULL, &hints, &listp)) != 0) {
        fprintf(stderr, "getaddrinfo error: %s\n", gai_strerror(rc));
        exit(1);
    }
```

Conversion Example (cont.)

```
    /* Walk the list and display each IP address */
    flags = NI_NUMERICHOST; /* Display address instead of name */
    for (p = listp; p; p = p->ai_next) {
        Getnameinfo(p->ai_addr, p->ai_addrlen,
                    buf, MAXLINE, NULL, 0, flags);
        printf("%s\n", buf);
    }

    /* Clean up */
    Freeaddrinfo(listp);

    exit(0);
}
```

Running hostinfo

```
whaleshark> ./hostinfo localhost
127.0.0.1

whaleshark> ./hostinfo whaleshark.ics.cs.cmu.edu
128.2.210.175

whaleshark> ./hostinfo twitter.com
199.16.156.230
199.16.156.38
199.16.156.102
199.16.156.198
```

Next Time

- Using `getaddrinfo` for host and service conversion
- Writing clients and servers
- Writing Web servers!