

Q5) We noted that network layer functionality can be broadly divided into data plane functionality and control plane functionality. What are the main functions of the data plane? Of the control plane? **(20p)**

A5) The main function of the data plane is packet forwarding, which is to forward datagrams from their input links to their output links. For example, the data plane's input ports perform physical layer function of terminating an incoming physical link at a router, perform link-layer function to interoperate with the link layer at the other side of the incoming link, and perform lookup function at the input ports.

Q6) Suppose the network layer provides the following service. The network layer in the source host accepts a segment of maximum size 1,200 bytes and a destination host address from the transport layer. The network layer then guarantees to deliver the segment to the transport layer at the destination host. Suppose many network application processes can be running at the destination host.

- a.** Design the simplest possible transport-layer protocol that will get application data to the desired process at the destination host. Assume the operating system in the destination host has assigned a 4-byte port number to each running application process. **(10p)**
- b.** Modify this protocol so that it provides a "return address" to the destination process. **(10p)**
- c.** In your protocols, does the transport layer "have to do anything" in the core of the computer network? **(10p)**

A6) a) Call this protocol Simple Transport Protocol (STP). At the sender side, STP accepts from the sending process a chunk of data not exceeding 1196 bytes, a destination host address, and a destination port number. STP adds a four-byte header to each chunk and puts the port number of the destination process in this header. STP then gives the destination host address and the resulting segment to the network layer. The network layer delivers the segment to STP at the destination host. STP then examines the port number in the segment, extracts the data from the segment, and passes the data to the process identified by the port number.

b) The segment now has two header fields: a source port field and destination port field. At the sender side, STP accepts a chunk of data not exceeding 1192 bytes, a destination host address, a source port number, and a destination port number. STP creates a segment which contains the application data, source port number, and destination port number. It then gives the segment and the destination host address to the network layer. After receiving the segment, STP at the receiving host gives the application process the application data and the source port number.

c) No, the transport layer does not have to do anything in the core; the transport layer "lives" in the end systems..