

Link layer

Hosts and routers: nodes

layer-2 packet: frame, encapsulates datagram.

- header and trailer
- channel access
 - "MAC" addresses (Medium Access Control)

Error handling

- Seldom used on reliable fibers
- important for wireless links.
- flow control
- error detection
- error correction
- half-duplex and full-duplex

Link layer is partly implemented in hardware and partly in software.

Error Detection and Correction bits are sent (EDC).

- In practice bit-errors and lost packets are regarded as the same thing.

Error detection functions

- Even parity, 1 bit, the number of ones should be even, detects single bit error.
 - Used in Memory and RAID disks
- Internet checksum, 16 bits, modular sum
 - Used in IP, TCP and UDP
- CRC-32, 32 bits, cyclic code (polynomial division), detects burst errors.
 - Used in Ethernet.

Two types of "links"

- point-to-point (Ethernet)
- broadcast (old Ethernet, wireless)

Multi access protocol

- We want:
 - bandwidth should be divided equally
 - decentralization
 - no need to synchronize clocks
- three broad classes
 - channel partitioning (time slots, frequency bands, different coding)
 - TDMA, FDMA, CDMA
 - random access. Collisions can happen and we should be able to recover.
 - Ethernet, IEEE 802.11
 - "taking turns". Coordinated
 - Bluetooth

Random access protocols

CSMA (Carrier sense multiple access)

- listen to see if anyone else is sending.
- collisions can still happen
- can't recover from collisions

CSMA/CD (collision detection)

- stop sending if collision is detected
- listen and compare with sent data.
- used in wired networks

MAC addresses and ARP

- MAC addresses are burned into the hardware at the factory
 - each adapter has a unique address.
 - IEEE allocates addresses
- ARP: address resolution protocol
 - maps IP address to MAC address
 - ARP query is broadcasted to FF-FF-FF-FF-FF-FF
 - information is cached until TTL timeout
 - "plug-and-play"

Ethernet

- most common for LAN networks
- used to use common bus
- now uses switches instead
- Ethernet frame includes preamble, addresses, type, data and CRC
 - preamble used to synchronize clock rates.