

Questions for networking

- how do we identify the hosts/processes communicating
- how do messages get from their source to their destination
- how do different machines send messages without interfering

Each level answers this question differently

Link level

- typical examples: Ethernet, Wi-Fi (802.11)
- less typical examples: ATM, Token ring, AppleTalk, Novell
- Bluetooth can also be considered link-level

Ethernet

- addresses: MAC (must be unique within a network)
- packet based
 - communication based on packets
 - each packet identifies the machine it is intended for
- "best effort" delivery
 - packets can get lost
- does not have "quality of service" guarantees
 - no way to reserve time on the network

Hub and spoke model

- Each host on a link connects to a hub
 - > one hub, many hosts
- The hub forwards every message to every host
- Hosts ignore messages not intended for them
 - > not secure at all; Ethernet assumes all hosts on the network are trusted

We can connect hubs to other hubs to increase the size of our network

-> this does not scale well to large networks

Switch

- optimized hub
 - > only sends messages to some hosts
 - > more expensive/complicated than a hub
- divides link into sub-links
 - > learns which MAC addresses are present in which sub-link
- messages are only sent to the sub-link that contains the destination

Routers - network-level connections

- > a host on a link that connects to an outside network
- > a connection point between two links
 - > can even connect different link types
 - > wi-fi to ethernet
 - > ethernet to DSL/cable modem/etc.
 - > etc.
- > behaves a lot like a switch

Hub vs switch - same level, but have different complexity

Switch vs router - different levels (link vs network)

Internet level

- identifies hosts using IP addresses
 - IPv4 address is 4 bytes (32 bits)
 - usually written in "dotted quad" form: each byte written in decimal separated by periods (eg., 127.0.0.1)
 - IPv6 address is 16 bytes (128 bits)
- most IP addresses refer to specific hosts
 - some hosts may have multiple IP addresses (rare)
 - some IP addresses have special meaning
- IP addresses are obtained in blocks with a common prefix
 - these blocks are assigned to organizations by various international groups
 - ultimately, ICANN is responsible for distributing IP addresses

IP addresses with a common prefix controlled by a single organization are called a "subnet"

We can identify a subnet by writing a slash and the number of bits after the IP address

a.b.c.d/p

- the first p bits identify the subnet
- the last 32-p bits identify a specific host within the subnet

33.54.120.240/16

33.54.x.x <- subnet identifier / subnet mask

Routers use subnet masks to simplify routing tables

- > all IP addresses in the same subnet will be routed the same way
- "classless internet routing"

IPv4 is still the dominant Internet standard

- 2^32 possible addresses (roughly 10^9)
 - > less than the population of the earth
 - > not enough in a world where everyone has a Internet device

IPv6 is the intended solution

- > increases number of addresses to 2^128 (approx. 10^36)
- > has not been widely adopted

What we actually did was introduce network address translation (NAT)

- share a single IP address between multiple devices
 - devices "behind" the NAT use a range of "local"/"private" IP addresses
 - > addresses that are not globally unique / cannot be routed
- NAT device translates addresses in messages intended for local hosts

NAT effectively live at the Transport layer

- may have to keep track of multiple on-going connections and forward packets to the appropriate local device

-> it is hard to run a server behind a NAT

the NAT must know which local device will handle a connection request

-> non-connection-based protocols (UDP) require special knowledge on the NAT

As far as the larger Internet can tell, all devices behind the NAT are the same host

-> NAT is similar to a firewall, but is not the same thing

-> a "firewall" is something that blocks certain communications

- > typically exist at the router level
- > block attempts to connect to specific services

Transport layer - process to process

- TCP and UDP: processes are identified by host address and port number

44.55.66.77:80

indicates port 80 on host 44.55.66.77

- specific services are associated with port numbers

- certain port numbers are standard (e.g., HTTP is 80)
- ports above 5000 are usually free for personal use

-> port numbers are mapped to processes within a host

-> each port is used by a single process

- > cannot have two processes on a single port

-> attempting to "bind" a port that is already in use will fail

-> nothing in TCP or UDP requires any specific port to be used for any specific purpose

-> the "standard" ports are just suggestions, but going along with conventions leads to fewer surprises

Typical TCP scenario

- client connects to server at well-known port number
- client is given an arbitrary port number at its end

Both ends are identified by host address + port number

How do we actually open a connection?

-> socket interface (originally for BSD Unix, now part of Posix)

#include <sys/socket.h>

socket - creates an entry in the file table that we can use to connect over a network

int // returns a file descriptor, or -1 on failure (sets errno)

socket(

- int domain, // what kind of network/protocol family
- int type, // typical: AF_INET, AF_INET6
- int protocol, // what are the semantics of the socket
- int protocol, // SOCK_STREAM - this is a streaming socket (TCP)
- int protocol, // SOCK_DGRAM - this is a datagram socket (UDP)
- int protocol, // identify the protocol, if more than one have the same semantics (almost always 0)

);

connect - establish a streaming connection to a remote host

- only used with connection-oriented protocols (TCP)

int // 0 for success, -1 for failure

connect(

- int socket,
- struct sockaddr *address, // e.g., IP address + port
- socklen_t address_size // size (in bytes) of *address

);

-> struct sockaddr is a lie; essentially acts a void pointer

- each domain has its own socket address struct (e.g., sockaddr_inet)
- the pointer we pass has to be to one of those

-> we specify the size, because different domains have different-sized addresses

IPv6 address larger than IPv4

How do we get the struct sockaddr for our specific domain?

We can construct it manually, but doing so is difficult

-> we need to be concerned about big- vs little-endian data

- > IP addresses and port numbers must be given in "network order" (big-endian)

hton() converts host-order integers to network order

-> we also need to look up the address of the remote host

hosts are usually identified by domain name (candle.cs.rutgers.edu)

domain name service (DNS) maps domain names to specific IP addresses

solution:

getaddrinfo()

- > we specify domain name or ip address + service name or port number
- > it gives us the sockaddr with everything set up
- > it is a little cumbersome, but it is the recommended way to do this

I will post some sample code with comments explaining how to use getaddrinfo

#include <netdb.h>

struct addrinfo {

- int ai_flags;
- int ai_family; // used with socket
- int ai_socktype; // used with socket
- int ai_protocol; // used with socket
- socklen_t ai_addrlen; // used with bind/connect
- struct sockaddr *ai_addr; // used with bind/connect
- char *ai_canonname;
- struct addrinfo *ai_next;

};

int // 0 for success, non-zero for failure

getaddrinfo(

- char *host, // e.g., domain name or IP address (dotted quad)
- char *service, // e.g., port number or service name
- struct addrinfo *hints, // additional information (narrows down what we get)
- struct addrinfo **list // output var: list will point to a linked list of struct addrinfo nodes

);

linked list is used in case there are multiple ways to connect to the remote host (e.g., if both IPv4 and IPv6 are available)

typical use: iterate through list until we successfully connect or bind

use freeaddrinfo() to deallocate the list once you are done with it

Basics (see sample code for a more complete version)

To connect to a remote host using TCP

int sock, err;

struct addrinfo hints, *info;

// initialize hints

memset(&hints, 0, sizeof(struct addrinfo)); // initialize all bytes to 0

hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC; // allow multiple domains (AF_INET and AF_INET6)

hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM; // we want a streaming connection

err = getaddrinfo(remote_host, service, &hints, &info);

// getaddrinfo("www.rutgers.edu", "http", &hints, &info)

// getaddrinfo("candle.cs.rutgers.edu", "22", &hints, &info)

if (err != 0) ...

// now info points to a linked list of addresses

// create socket

sock = socket(info->ai_family, info->ai_socktype, info->ai_protocol);

if (sock < 0) ...

// connect to remote host

err = connect(sock, info->ai_addr, info->ai_addrlen);

if (err) ...

freeaddrinfo(info);

write(sock, "Hello\n", 6);

To accept incoming connections

int listener, connection, err;

struct addrinfo hints, *info;

struct sockaddr_storage remote_addr; // as big as the largest supported address struct

socklen_t remote_addrlen;

// initialize hints

memset(&hints, 0, sizeof(struct addrinfo));

hints.ai_family = AF_UNSPEC;

hints.ai_socktype = SOCK_STREAM;

hints.ai_flags = AI_PASSIVE; // indicate we are going to use listen()

err = getaddrinfo(NULL, service, &hints, &info);

// NULL address means we want a port on our own host

if (err != 0) ...

listener = socket(info->ai_family, info->ai_socktype, info->ai_protocol);

if (listener < 0) ...

// associate this socket with a port

err = bind(listener, info->ai_addr, info->ai_addrlen);

if (err != 0) ...

// set up queue of incoming connection requests

err = listen(listener, queue_length);

if (err != 0) ...

freeaddrinfo(info);

// wait for an incoming connection request

connection = accept(listener, (struct sockaddr *) &remote_addr, &remote_addrlen);

// accept(listener, NULL, NULL)

if (connection < 0) ...

// use getnameinfo() to convert remote_addr back to human-readable strings

read(connection, buf, buflen);

write(connection, response, responselen);