

An aerial photograph of the Dalhousie University campus. In the foreground, a large, historic stone building with a central clock tower and many windows is visible. To its right is a green soccer field with white markings. In the background, there are more modern university buildings and lush green trees. A yellow banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the course title.

# **CSCI 3171 - Network Computing Network Core**

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# Goal and Roadmap

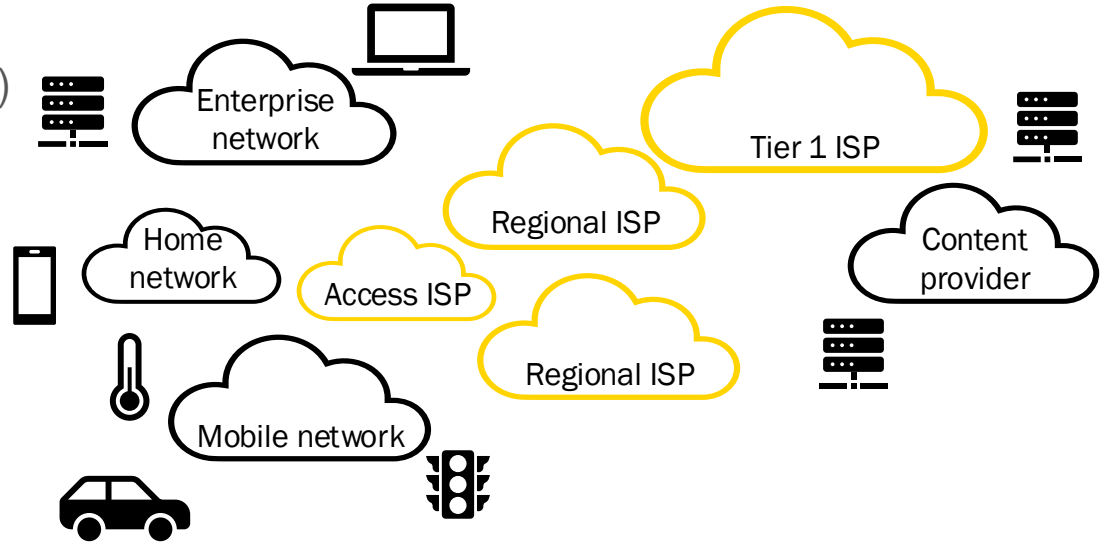
- Goal:
  - *Big picture* of the Internet
  - Introduction to terminology
- Overview and roadmap
  - What is the Internet? What is a protocol?
  - Network edge: hosts, access network, physical media
  - Network core: packet switching
  - Performance: loss, delay, throughput
  - Packet and circuit switching
  - Protocol layers, service models
  - Internet structure and challenges





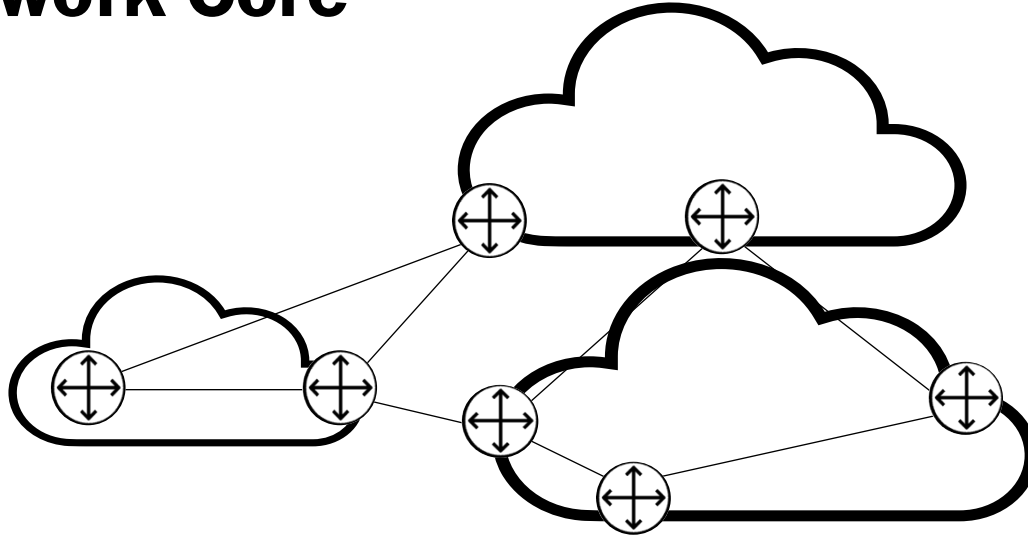
# A Closer Look at the Internet Structure

- Network edge
  - Devices (hosts and servers)
- Network core
  - Interconnected routers
  - Network of networks





# Network Core

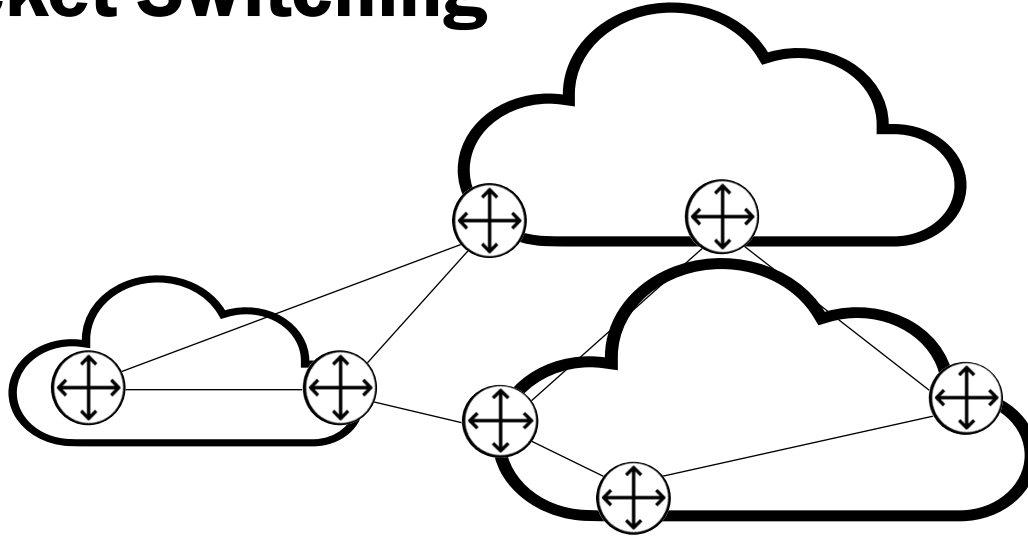


Mesh of interconnected routers

- How to deliver packets to the destination?



# Packet Switching

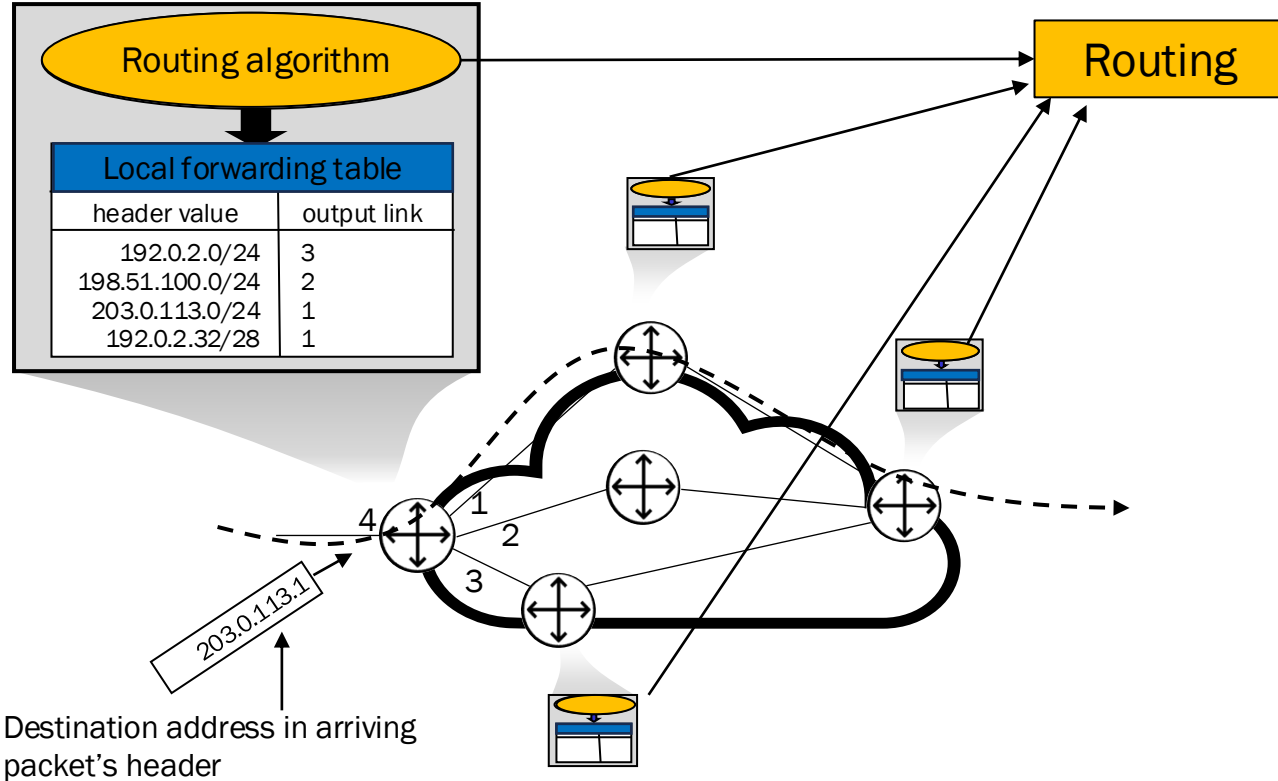


- Packet-switching: hosts break application-layer messages into packets
- Network forwards packets from one router to the next, across links on path from source to destination



# Two Key Network Core Functions

Forwarding





# Routing vs Forwarding

- Routing
  - Global action to compute end-to-end paths taken by packets
  - Involves routing protocols and algorithms
- Forwarding (or packet switching)
  - Local action to move arriving packets from router's input link to appropriate router output link





# Routing Analogy







# Routing Analogy

