



Lecture 6- Class B Subnetting



1. What is a Class B IP Address?

A **Class B IP address** is used for **medium to large-sized networks** .



Class B Range

- **128.0.0.0 to 191.255.255.255**



Default Subnet Mask

- **/16**
- First **16 bits** → Network part
- Last **16 bits** → Host part



Daily Life Example:

- Think of a university campus where each department has many computers.
- Class B allows many sub-networks with many hosts.



2. Understanding the Given IP

◆ IP Address:

172.168.10.0/22

- 172.x.x.x → **Class B**
 - Default Class B mask = **/16**
 - Given mask = **/22**
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3. What Does /22 Mean?

- Total bits in IPv4 = **32**
 - Network bits = **22**
 - Host bits = **32 – 22 = 10**
-  Extra bits added to network = **Borrowed bits**
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4. Borrowed Bits Calculation

- Default mask = /16
- Given mask = /22

Borrowed Bits

$$22 - 16 = 6 \text{ bits}$$

 These 6 bits are borrowed from the **host portion** and added to the **network portion** 

5. How Many Subnets?

Formula

$$\text{Number of Subnets} = 2^n$$

- $n = \text{borrowed bits} = 6$

Result

$$2^6 = 64 \text{ subnets}$$

Why needed?

- To divide one big organization network into multiple departments 
-



6. IP Addresses per Subnet

- ◆ Remaining Host Bits

$$32 - 22 = 10 \text{ bits}$$



Formula

$$\text{Total IPs per Subnet} = 2^{10} = 1024$$



Usable Hosts

$$1024 - 2 = 1022$$

- ❓ Why Subtract 2?

- First IP → Network Address 
- Last IP → Broadcast Address 



7. Finding Network ID Range (Very Important 🔥)



Key Rule

- Check **which octet is affected by subnetting**
- In /22, subnetting happens in the **3rd octet**



Block Size Calculation

- Borrowed bits in 3rd octet = **2 bits**
- Block size = **$2^2 = 4$**



8. Network Ranges for 172.168.10.0/22

Each subnet increases by **4** in the 3rd octet 

◆ First Few Subnets

Subnet No. Network ID Broadcast Address

1 172.168.0.0 172.168.3.255

2 172.168.4.0 172.168.7.255

3 172.168.8.0 172.168.11.255

4 172.168.12.0 172.168.15.255

...

...

...

64 172.168.252.0 172.168.255.255

 Total **64 networks** will be created 

Daily Life Analogy

- Each **subnet** = one department 
 - Network ID = department name board
 - Broadcast = office announcement system 
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9. Example 2: Class B Subnetting – 172.168.0.0/21

◆ Step 1: Identify Class

- 172.x.x.x → Class B
 - Default mask = /16
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◆ Step 2: Borrowed Bits

$$21 - 16 = 5 \text{ bits}$$

◆ Step 3: Number of Subnets

$$2^5 = 32 \text{ subnets}$$

◆ Step 4: Host Bits & Hosts

- Host bits = $32 - 21 = 11 \text{ bits}$

$$\text{Total IPs} = 2^{11} = 2048$$

$$\text{Usable Hosts} = 2046$$

◆ Step 5: Block Size & Network Range

- Subnetting octet = **3rd octet**
- Borrowed bits in 3rd octet = **3 bits**

$$\text{Block size} = 2^3 = 8$$

◆ Network Ranges

Subnet	Network ID	Broadcast
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1	172.168.0.0	172.168.7.255
---	-------------	---------------

2	172.168.8.0	172.168.15.255
---	-------------	----------------

Subnet	Network ID	Broadcast
3	172.168.16.0	172.168.23.255
...
32	172.168.248.0	172.168.255.255

Key Points to Remember

- Class B default mask = /16
 - Borrowed bits decide number of subnets
 - Block size helps find network ID
 - Always subtract 2 for usable hosts
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◆ 1 Chapter Summary

Class B subnetting is used to divide **medium to large networks** into multiple smaller and manageable sub-networks  .

A Class B IP address:

- Ranges from **128.0.0.0 – 191.255.255.255**
- Has a **default subnet mask /16**
- First **16 bits = Network**
- Last **16 bits = Host**

By using **CIDR notation** like /22 or /21, we:

- Borrow bits from the host portion
- Increase the number of networks (subnets)
- Control the number of hosts per subnet

Key concepts include:

- **Borrowed bits**
- **Number of subnets = 2^n**
- **Hosts per subnet = $2^n - 2$**
- **Block size** to find network ranges

👉 This chapter explains **how large organizations logically divide their networks** for efficiency, security, and scalability  

◆ 2 Chapter Conclusion ⚡

Class B subnetting is essential for **real-world enterprise networks** like:

- Universities 🎓
- Corporate offices 🏢
- Data centers 💻

By mastering this chapter, you learn:

- How to divide a big IP block into departments
- How CIDR gives flexibility beyond classful limits
- How to calculate subnets, hosts, and ranges confidently

💡 An interviewer can clearly see that:

You understand **both theory and practical subnet planning**

👉 Strong Class B subnetting = Strong networking fundamentals 🤓 🌎

◆ 3 Detailed Mind Map

Class B Subnetting

- |
 - |— Class B Overview
 - | — Range: 128.0.0.0 – 191.255.255.255
 - | — Default Mask: /16
 - | — 16 Network Bits
 - | — 16 Host Bits
 - |
 - |— CIDR Concept
 - | — /21, /22, etc.
 - | — Flexible subnetting
 - | — Borrowing host bits
 - |
 - |— Borrowed Bits
 - | — Given mask – Default mask
 - | — Decide number of subnets
 - |
 - |— Calculations
 - | — Subnets = 2^n
 - | — Hosts = $2^n - 2$
 - | — Block size
 - |
 - |— Block Size Logic

| |— Identify subnetting octet

| |— Use borrowed bits

| └ Increment network IDs

|

|— Example /22

| |— 64 subnets

| |— 1022 hosts each

| └ Increment = 4 (3rd octet)

|

|— Example /21

| |— 32 subnets

| |— 2046 hosts each

| └ Increment = 8 (3rd octet)

|

└ Key Rules

 |— Always subtract 2

 |— Network & Broadcast reserved

 └ CIDR removes class limitations



◆ 4 Q & A

❓ Q1. What is a Class B IP address?

Answer:

A Class B IP address is used for **medium to large networks** and ranges from **128.0.0.0 to 191.255.255.255**.

It has a default subnet mask of **/16**.

❓ Q2. How many network and host bits are there in Class B?

Answer:

- Network bits = 16
- Host bits = 16

This allows many subnets and many hosts per subnet .

❓ Q3. What is the default subnet mask of Class B?

Answer:

The default subnet mask of Class B is **255.255.0.0** or **/16**.

❓ Q4. What does CIDR /22 mean?

Answer:

/22 means:

- 22 bits are used for the network
- 10 bits are used for hosts

It allows flexible subnetting beyond default class limits .

? Q5. How do you calculate borrowed bits?

Answer:

Borrowed bits =

👉 Given mask – Default mask

Example:

$/22 - /16 = 6$ borrowed bits

? Q6. How many subnets are created in /22?

Answer:

Formula:

👉 Subnets = 2^n

Where n = borrowed bits = 6

So, $2^6 = 64$ subnets

? Q7. How many hosts per subnet in /22?

Answer:

Host bits = $32 - 22 = 10$

Total IPs = $2^{10} = 1024$

Usable hosts = **1022**

? Q8. Why do we subtract 2 from total IPs?

Answer:

Because:

- 1 IP is reserved for **Network ID**
- 1 IP is reserved for **Broadcast ID**

These cannot be assigned to devices ✗.

❓ Q9. What is block size in subnetting?

Answer:

Block size is the **jump value** between network IDs.

It helps find subnet ranges quickly ⚡ .

❓ Q10. In /22, which octet is used for subnetting?

Answer:

In /22, subnetting occurs in the **3rd octet**.

❓ Q11. What is the block size for /22?

Answer:

Borrowed bits in 3rd octet = 2

Block size = $2^2 = 4$

❓ Q12. Explain subnet ranges for 172.168.10.0/22

Answer:

Networks increase by **4 in the 3rd octet**:

- 172.168.0.0 – 172.168.3.255
 - 172.168.4.0 – 172.168.7.255
 - 172.168.8.0 – 172.168.11.255
- Total **64 subnets** ✓
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❓ Q13. Explain subnetting of 172.168.0.0/21

Answer:

- Borrowed bits = 5
- Subnets = 32
- Host bits = 11

- Usable hosts = 2046
 - Block size = 8 (3rd octet)
-

❓ **Q14. Why is Class B suitable for large organizations?**

Answer:

Because it:

- Supports many subnets
 - Supports thousands of hosts
 - Is scalable and efficient for enterprises  
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❓ **Q15. What happens if subnetting is not used?**

Answer:

Without subnetting:

- Network traffic increases 
 - Security decreases 
 - Network becomes slow and unmanageable 
-



❓ **Q16. How do you quickly identify Class B?**

Answer:

If the **first octet is between 128 and 191**, it is **Class B**.

❓ **Q17. What is the real-life analogy of Class B subnetting?**

Answer:

A **university campus**:

- Campus = Network
- Departments = Subnets
- Students/PCs = Hosts  