Chapter One

Introduction to Computer Networks and Data Communications

Data Communications and Computer Networks: A Business User's Approach

Eighth Edition

After reading this chapter, you should be able to:

- Define the basic terms of computer networks
- Recognize the individual components of the big picture of computer networks
- Outline the common examples of communications networks
- Define the term “convergence” and describe how it applies to computer networks
- Cite the reasons for using a network architecture and explain how they apply to current network systems

After reading this chapter, you should be able to (continued):

- List the layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite and describe the duties of each layer
- List the layers of the OSI model and describe the duties of each layer
- Compare the TCP/IP protocol suite and the OSI model and list their differences and similarities

Introduction

- Who today has not used a computer network?
- Mass transit, interstate highways, 24-hour bankers, grocery stores, cable television, cell phones, businesses and schools, and retail outlets support some form of computer network

The Language of Computer Networks

- Computer network – an interconnection of computers and computing equipment using either wires or radio waves over small or large geographic areas
- Local area network – networks that are small in geographic size spanning a room, floor, building, or campus
- Metropolitan area network – networks that serve an area of 1 to 30 miles, approximately the size of a typical city

The Language of Computer Networks (continued)

- Wide area network – a large network that encompasses parts of states, multiple states, countries, and the world
- Personal area network – a network of a few meters, between wireless devices such as PDAs, laptops, and similar devices
- Campus area network – a network that spans multiple buildings on a business or school campus

The Language of Computer Networks (continued)

- Voice network – a network that transmits only telephone signals (essentially xtinct)
- Data network – a network that transmits voice and computer data (replacing voice networks)

The Language of Computer Networks (continued)

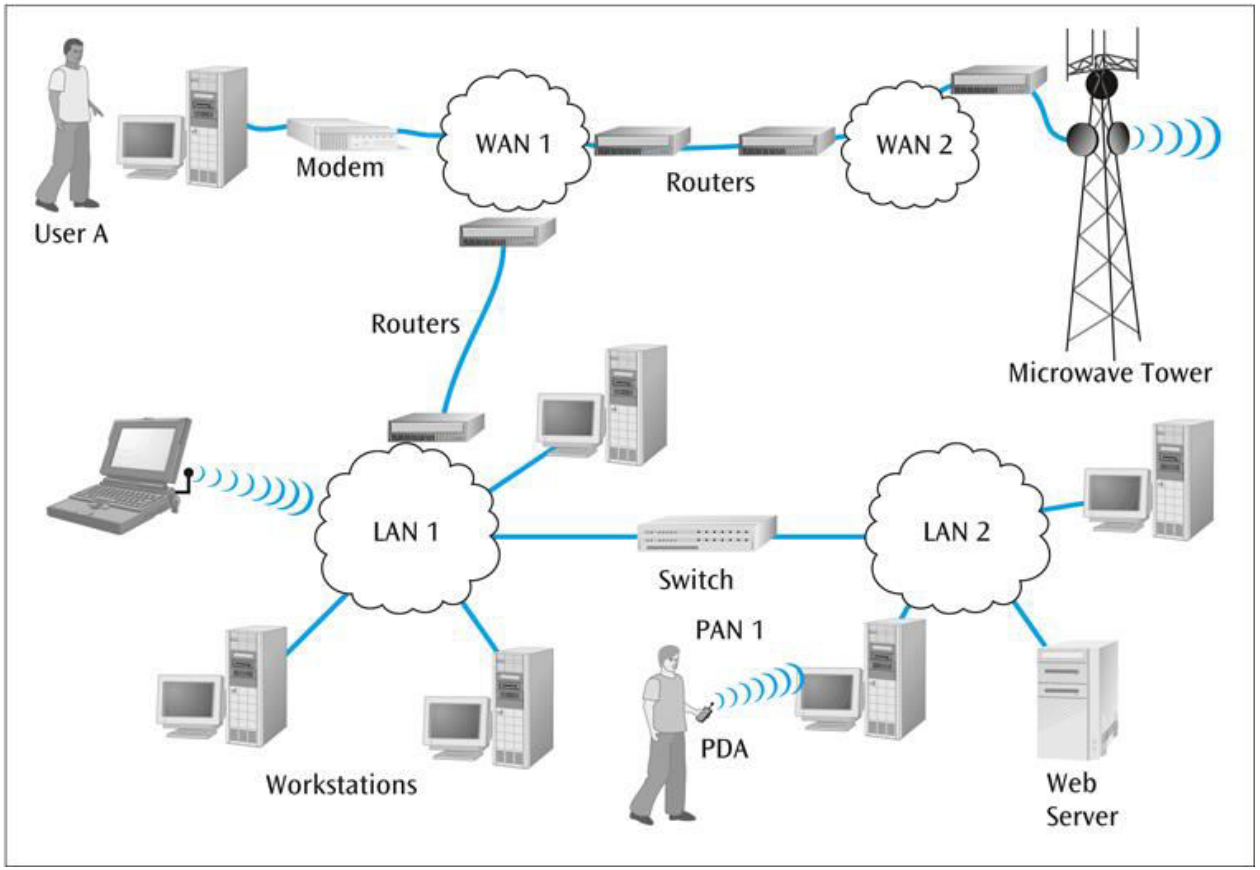
- Data communications – the transfer of digital or analog data using digital or analog signals
- Telecommunications – the study of telephones and the systems that transmit telephone signals (becoming simply data communications)
- Network management – the design, installation, and support of a network, including its hardware and software
- Network cloud – a network (local or remote) that contains software, applications, and/or data

The Big Picture of Networks

- Networks are composed of many devices, including:
  - Workstations (computers, tablets, wireless phones, etc)
  - Servers
  - Network switches
  - Routers (LAN to WAN and WAN to WAN)
  - Network nodes and subnetworks

The Big Picture of Networks (continued)

Figure 1-1
An overall view of the interconnection between different types of networks

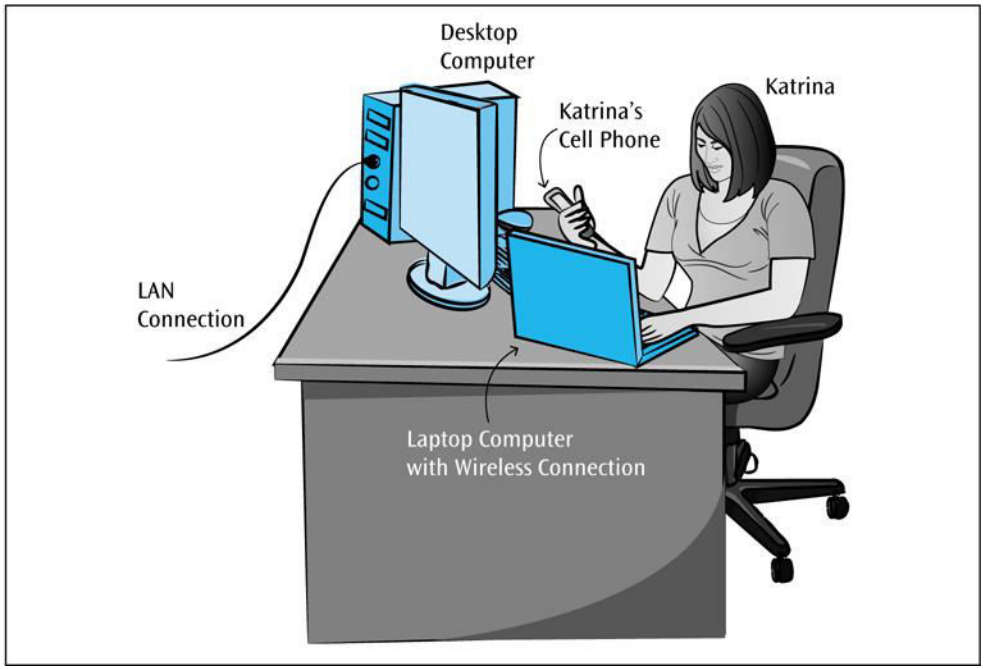


Common Examples of Communications Networks

- The desktop computer and the Internet
- A laptop computer and a wireless connection
- Cell phone networks
- Industrial sensor-based systems
- Mainframe systems
- Satellite and microwave networks

Common Examples of Communications Networks

Figure 1-2 Katrina sitting at a desk at school, surrounded by networks and their connections

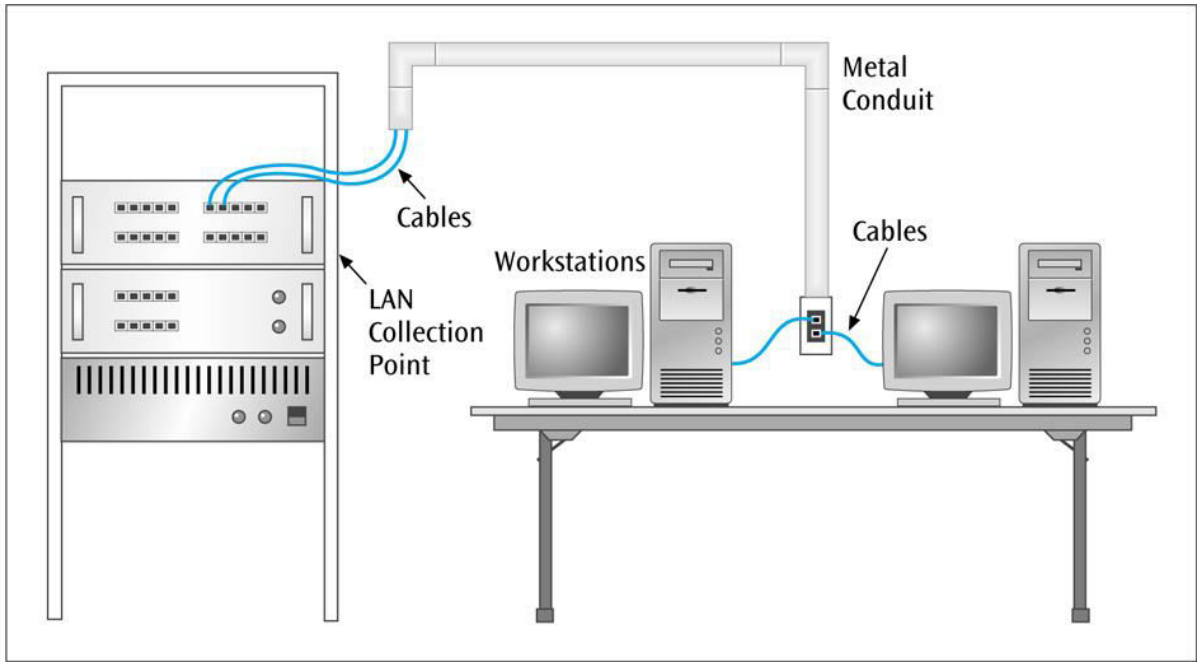


The Desktop Computer and the Internet

- Common throughout business, academic environments, and homes
- Typically a medium- to high-speed connection
- Computer (device) requires a NIC (network interface card)
- NIC connects to a hub-like device (switch)
- Often considered a client/server system

The Desktop Computer and the Internet

Figure 1-3 A desktop computer (or simply microcomputer) at work showing the connection between the user and the company's local area network.

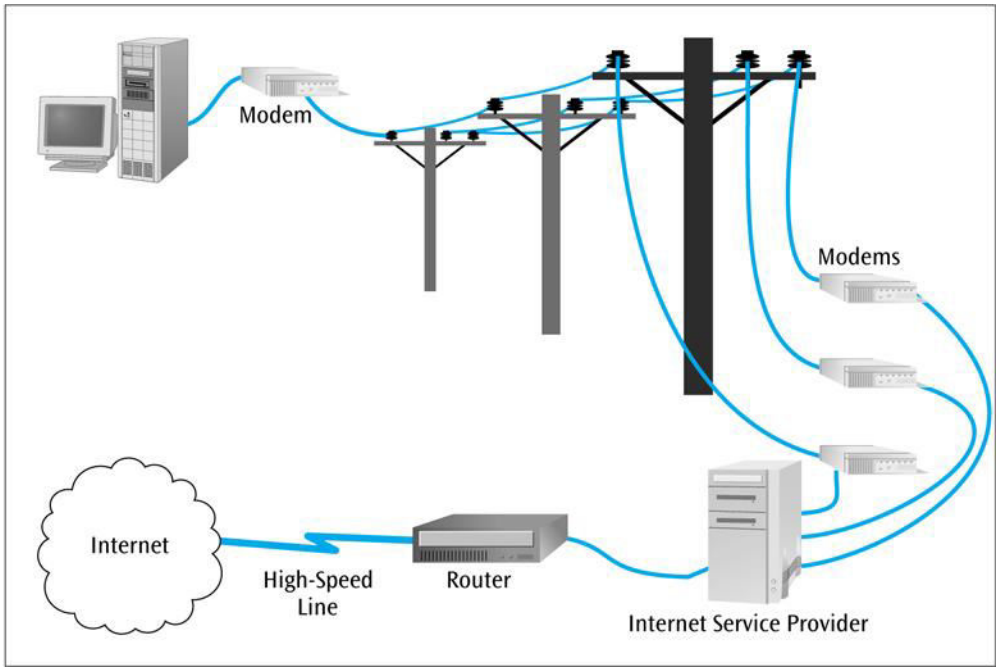


The Desktop Computer and the Internet

- At work or at school – connection is typically some form of Ethernet
- At home, for some, a dial-up modem is used to connect user's microcomputer to an Internet service provider
- Technologies such as DSL and cable modems are replacing dial-up modems

The Desktop Computer and the Internet

Figure 1-4 A microcomputer sending data over a DSL line to an Internet service provider and onto the Internet

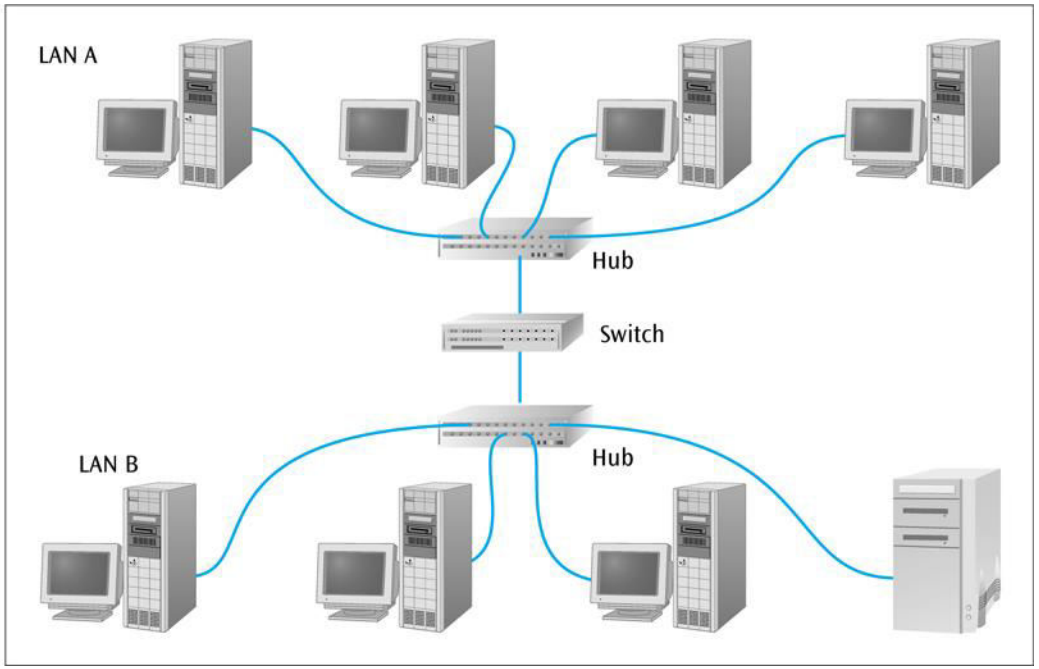


A Laptop Computer and a Wireless Connection

- At work or at school – connection is typically some form of wireless Ethernet
- Laptop wirelessly communicates with a wireless router or wireless access point
- Wireless router is typically connected to a wired-network

A Laptop Computer and a Wireless Connection

Figure 1-5 Two local area networks connected by a switch

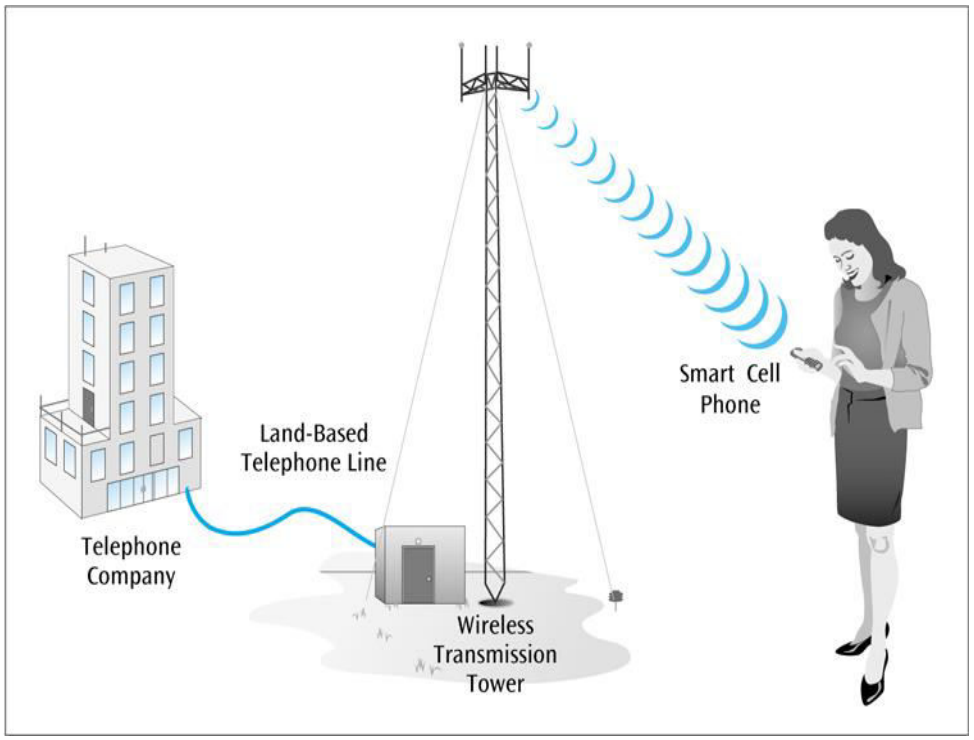


Cell Phone Networks

- Constantly expanding market across the U.S. and world
- Third generation services available in many areas and under many types of plans with fourth generation services starting to appear
- Latest generation includes higher speed data transfers (100s to 1000s of kilobits per second)

Cell Phone Networks (continued)

Figure 1-6 An example of a user with a smart cell phone transmitting and receiving data

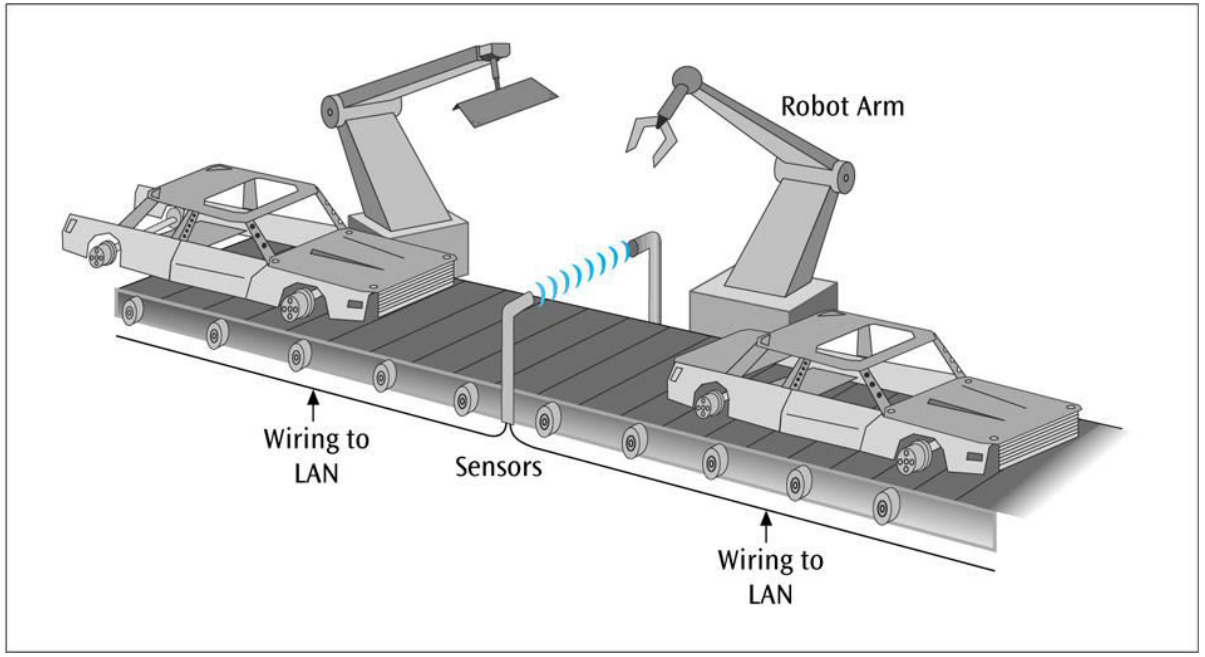


Industrial Sensor-based Systems

- Not all local area networks deal with microcomputer workstations
- Often found in industrial and laboratory environments
- Assembly lines and robotic controls depend heavily on sensor-based local area networks

Industrial Sensor-based Systems (continued)

Figure 1-7 An automobile moves down an assembly line and triggers a sensor

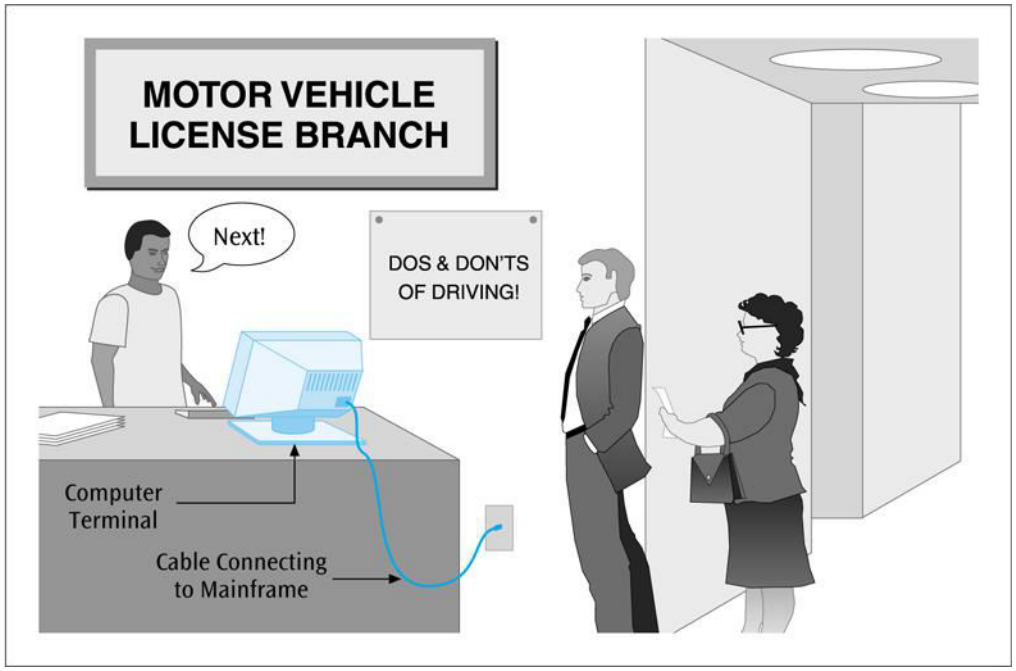


Mainframe Systems

- Predominant form in the 1960s and 1970s
- Still used in many types of businesses for data entry and data retrieval
- Few dumb terminals left today – most are microcomputers with terminal emulation card, a web browser and web interface, Telnet software, or a thin client

Mainframe Systems (continued)

Figure 1-8 Using a terminal (or thin-client workstation) to perform a text-based input transaction

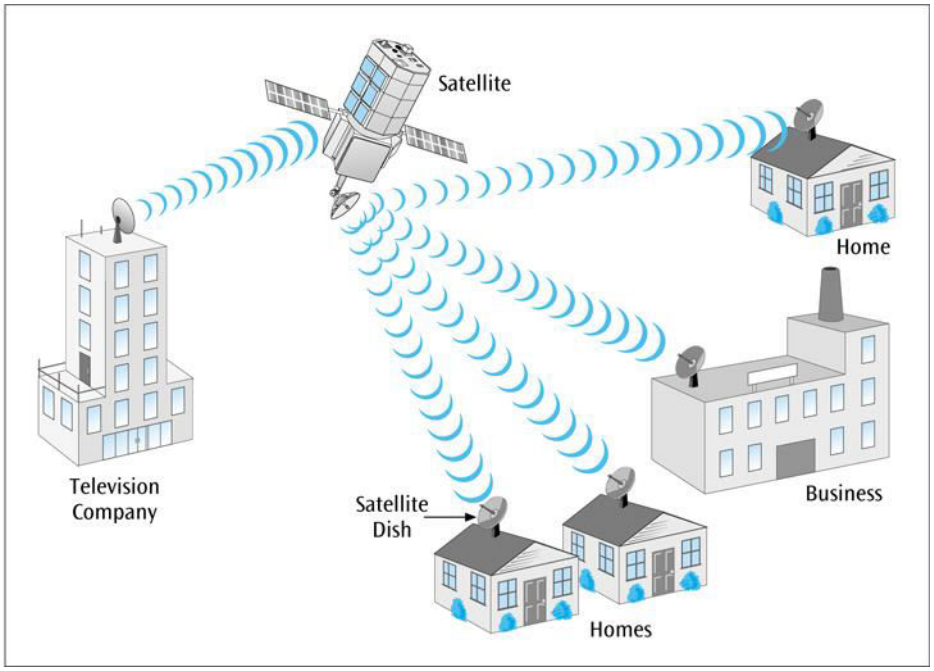


Satellite and Microwave Networks

- Typically long distance wireless connections
- Many types of applications including long distance telephone, television, radio, long-haul data transfers, and wireless data services
- Typically expensive services but many companies offer competitive services and rates
- Newer shorter-distance services such as Wi-Max

Satellite and Microwave Networks (continued)

Figure 1-9 Example of a television company using a satellite system to broadcast television services into homes and businesses

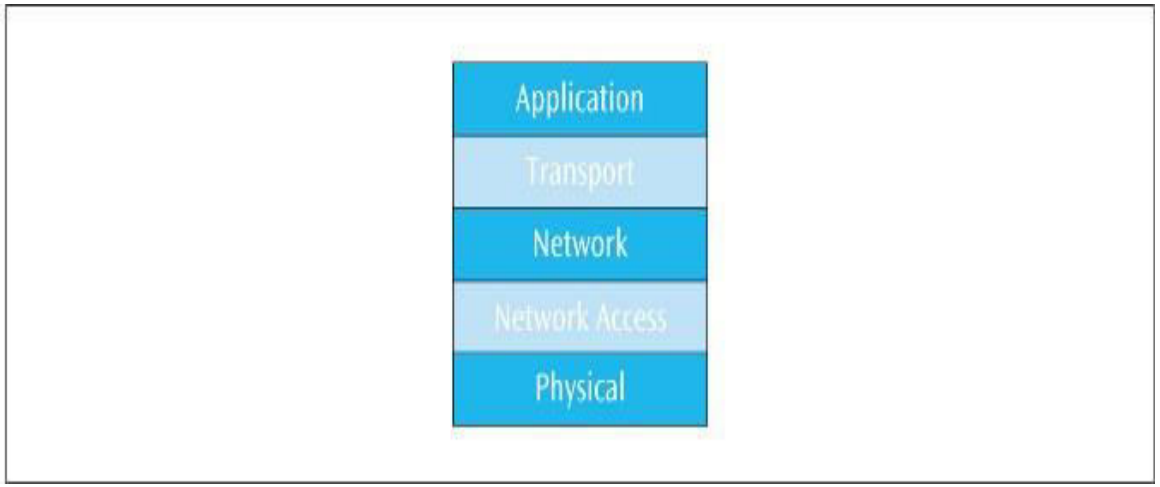


Network Architectures

- A reference model that describes the layers of hardware and software necessary to transmit data between two points or for multiple devices / applications to interoperate
- Reference models are necessary to increase likelihood that different components from different manufacturers will converse
- Two models to learn: TCP/IP protocol suite and OSI model

The TCP/IP Protocol Suite

Figure 1-10 The five layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite



Note: Some authors show only four layers, combining the two bottom layers.

The TCP/IP Protocol Suite (continued)

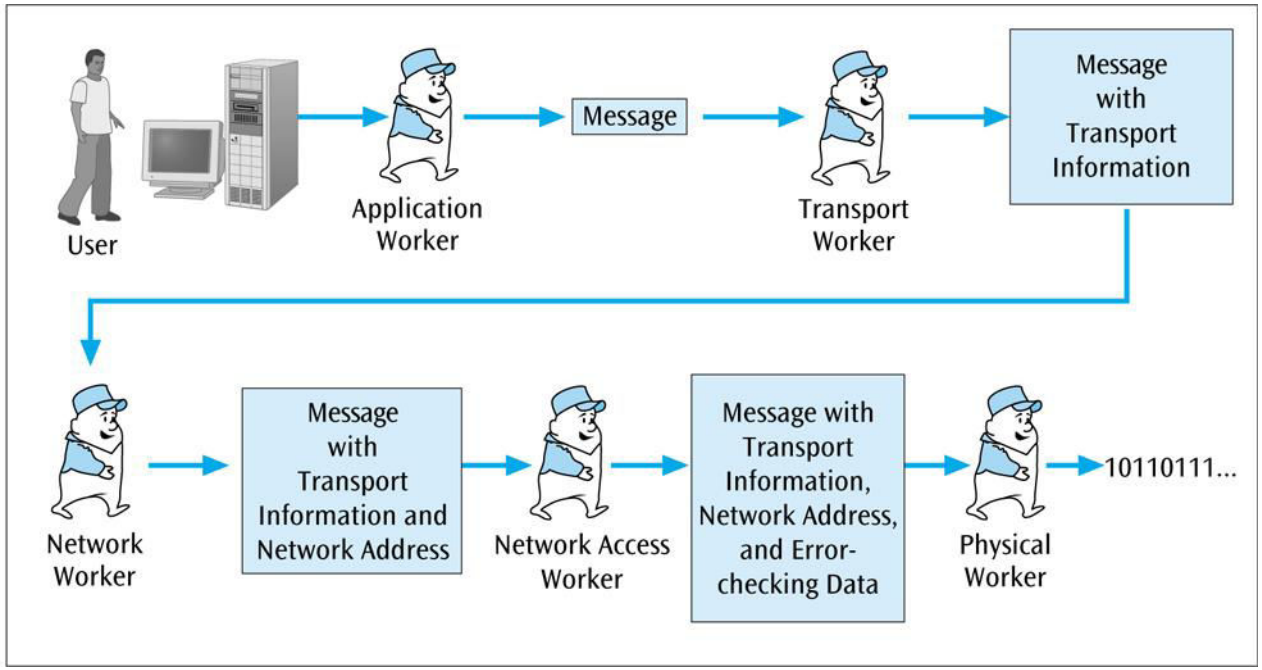
- Application layer
  - Where the application using the network resides
  - Common network applications include web browsing, e-mail, file transfers, and remote logins
- Transport layer
  - Performs a series of miscellaneous functions (at the *end-points* of the connection) necessary for presenting the data package properly to the sender or receiver

The TCP/IP Protocol Suite (continued)

- Network (Internet or internetwork or IP) layer
  - Responsible for creating, maintaining and ending network connections
  - Transfers data packet from node to node (e.g. router to router) within network
- Network access (data link) layer
  - Responsible for taking the data and transforming it into a frame with header, control and address information, and error detection code, then transmitting it between the workstation and the network
- Physical layer
  - Handles the transmission of bits over a communications channel
  - Includes voltage levels, connectors, media choice, modulation techniques

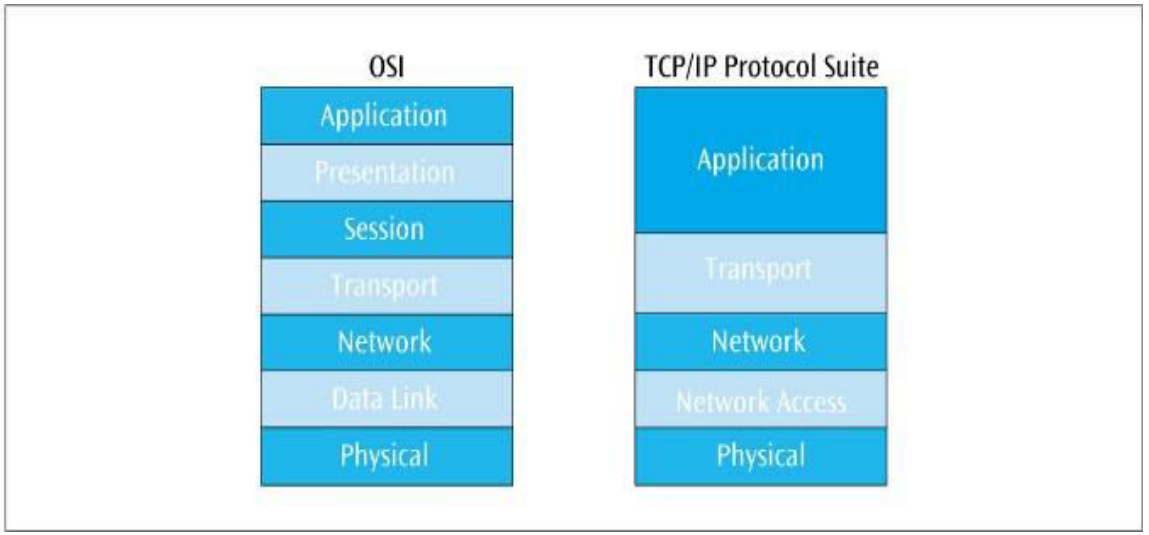
The TCP/IP Protocol Suite (continued)

Figure 1-11 "Network workers" perform their job duties at each layer in the model



The Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Model

Figure 1-12 The seven layers of the OSI model compared to the five layers of the TCP/IP protocol suite



The Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Model (continued)

- Application layer
  - Equivalent to TCP/IP's application layer
- Presentation layer
  - Responsible for "final presentation" of data (code conversions, compression, encryption)
- Session layer
  - Responsible for establishing "sessions" between users

The Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Model (continued)

- Transport layer
  - Equivalent to TCP/IP's transport layer
- Network layer
  - Equivalent to TCP/IP's network layer
- Data link layer
  - Responsible for taking the data and transforming it into a frame with header, control and address information, and error detection code

The Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Model (continued)

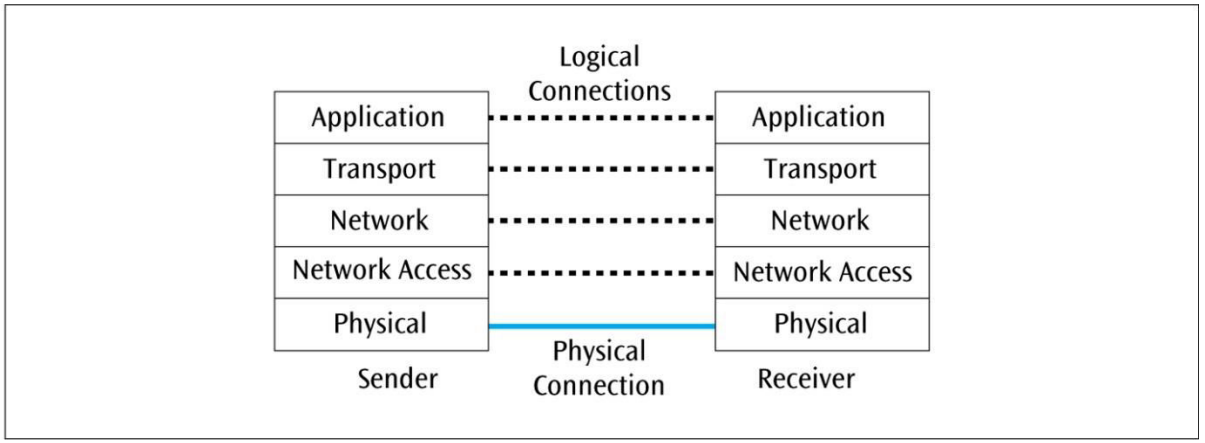
- Physical layer
  - Handles the transmission of bits over a communications channel
  - Includes voltage levels, connectors, media choice, modulation techniques

Logical and Physical Connections

- A logical connection is one that exists only in the software, while a physical connection is one that exists in the hardware
- Note that in a network architecture, only the lowest layer contains the physical connection, while all higher layers contain logical connections

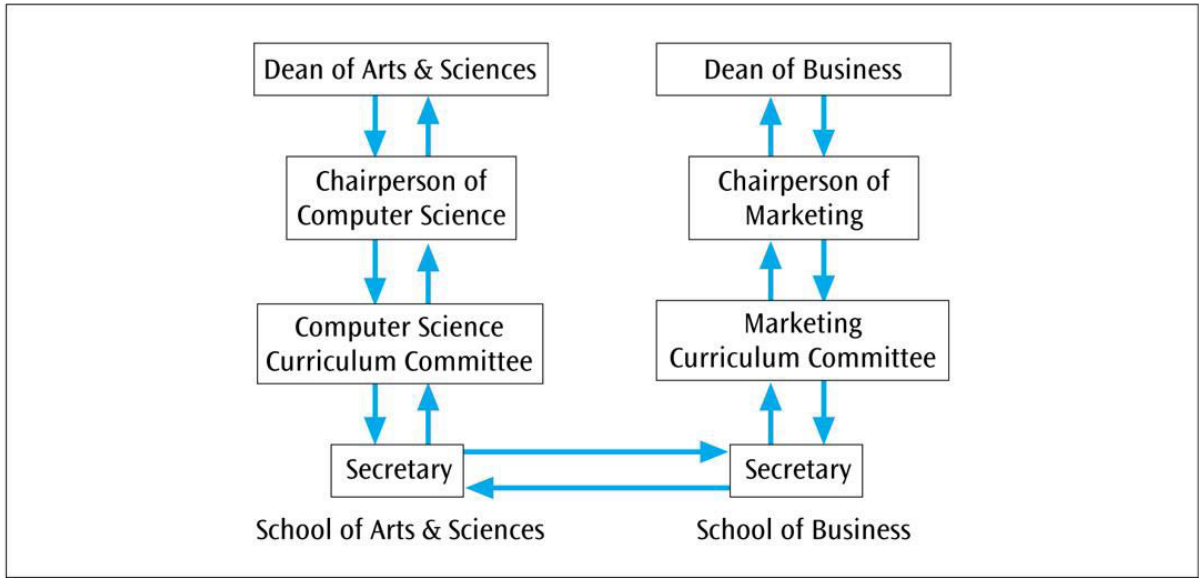
Logical and Physical Connections (continued)

Figure 1-13 Sender and receiver communicating using the TCP/IP protocol suite



Logical and Physical Connections (continued)

Figure 1-14 Flow of data through the layers of bureaucracy



The TCP/IP Protocol Suite in Action

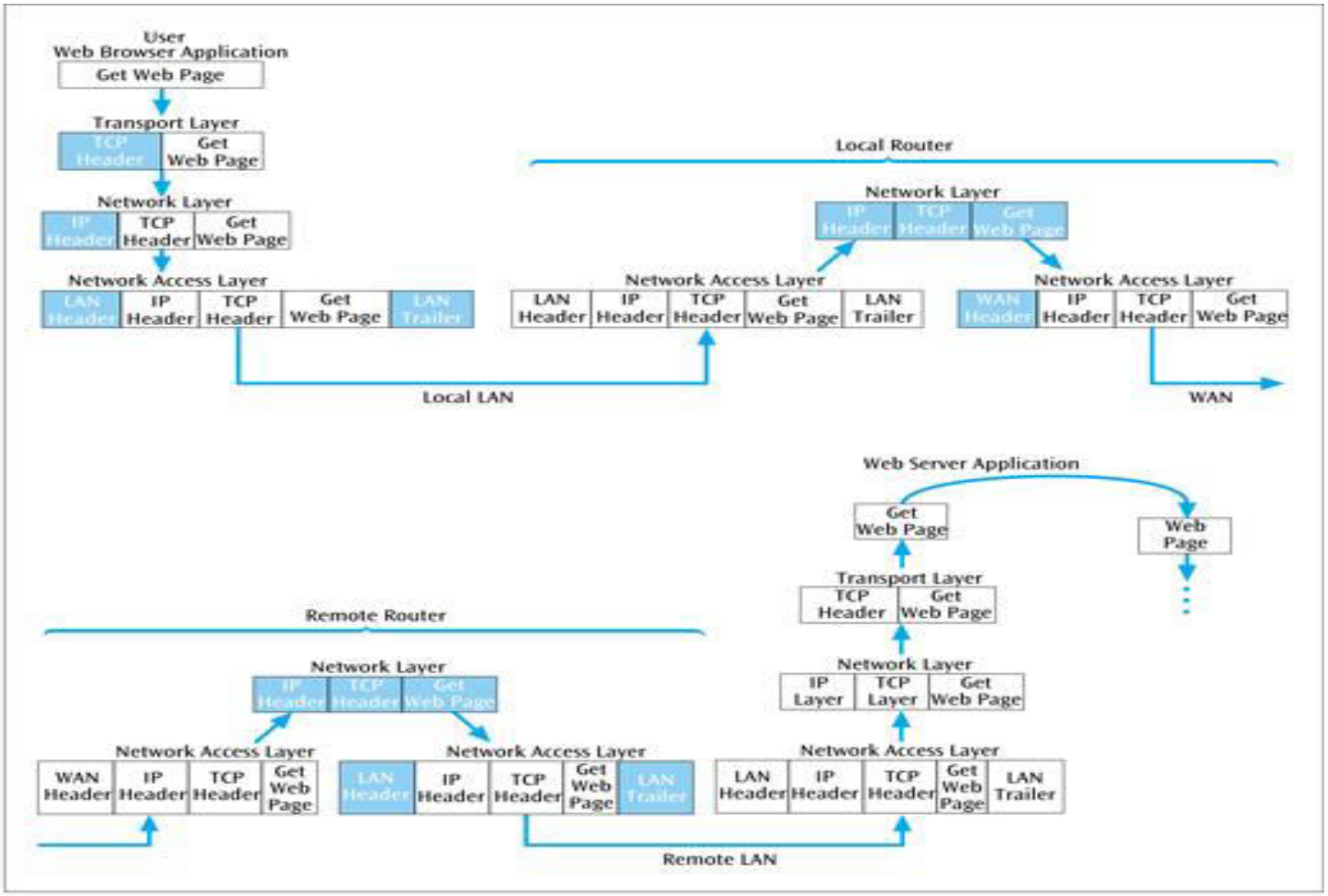


Figure 1-16 Path of a Web page request as it flows from browser to Internet Web server and back

Summary

- Many services and products that we use every day employ computer networks and data communications in some way
- Field of data communications and computer networks includes data networks, voice networks, wireless networks, local area networks, metropolitan area networks, wide area networks, and personal area networks

Summary (continued)

- Common examples of communications networks:
  - The desktop computer and the Internet
  - A laptop computer and a wireless connection
  - Cell phone networks
  - Industrial sensor-based systems
  - Mainframe systems
  - Satellite and microwave networks

Summary (continued)

- Key concept in networking is convergence
- A network architecture, or communications model, places network pieces in layers
  - Layers define *model* for functions or services that need to be performed
- The TCP/IP protocol suite is also known as the Internet model and is composed of five layers (some show four):
  - Application layer
  - Transport layer
  - Network layer
  - Network access layer
  - Physical layer

Summary (continued)

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) created the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model
  - OSI model is based on seven layers: application layer, presentation layer, session layer, transport layer, network layer, data link layer, physical layer
- A logical connection is a flow of ideas that occurs, without a direct physical connection, between the sender and receiver at a particular layer