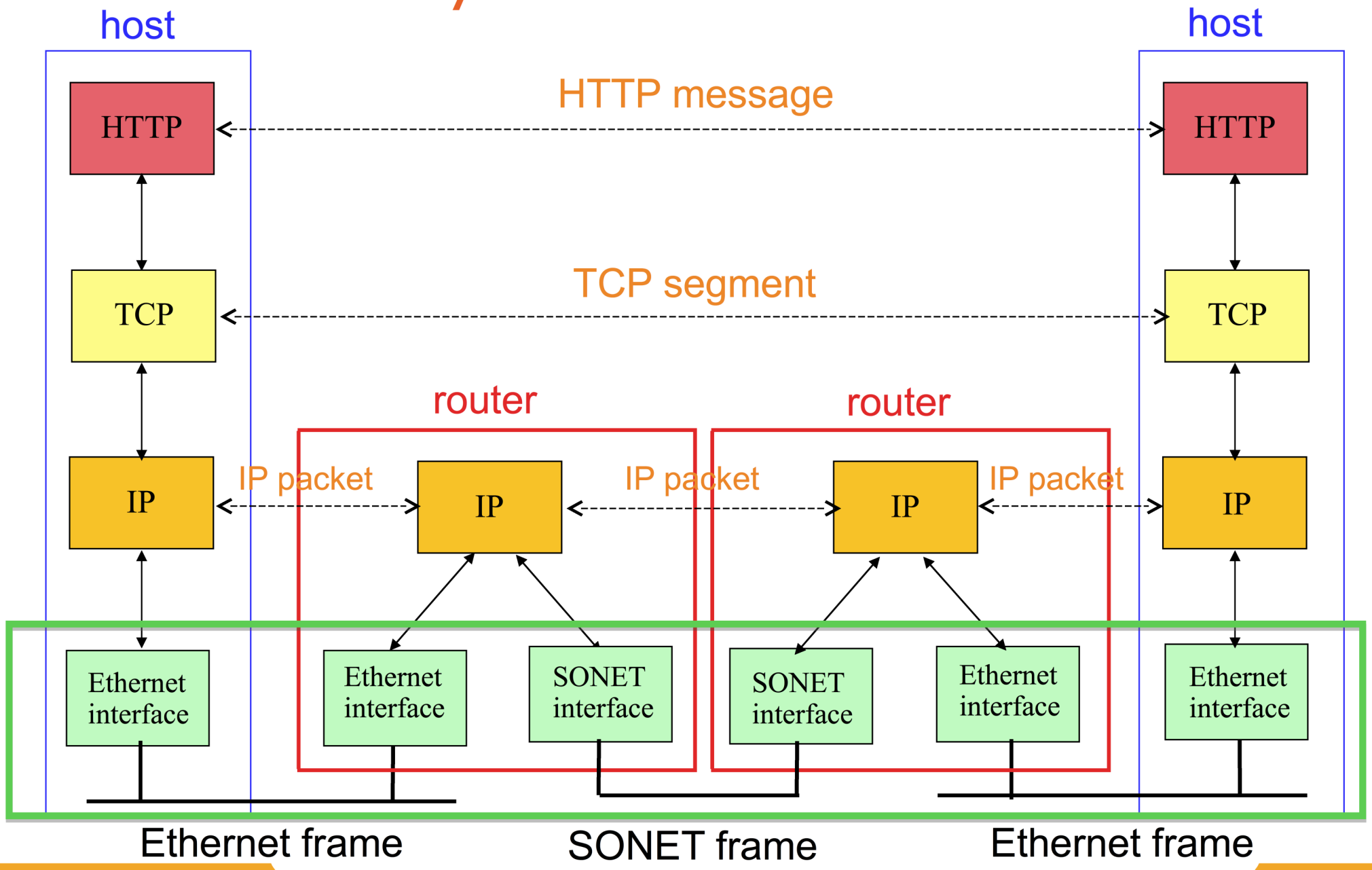
Unit 4: Local links and networks

Sources: L. Cerdà, J. Rexford, ISOC, wikipedia, etc.

Protocol Layers



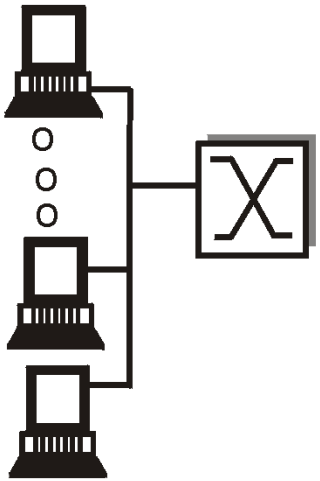
Link = Medium + Adapters

What is a Link?

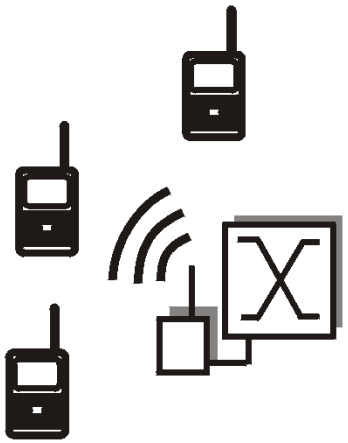
Communication Medium

Network Adapter

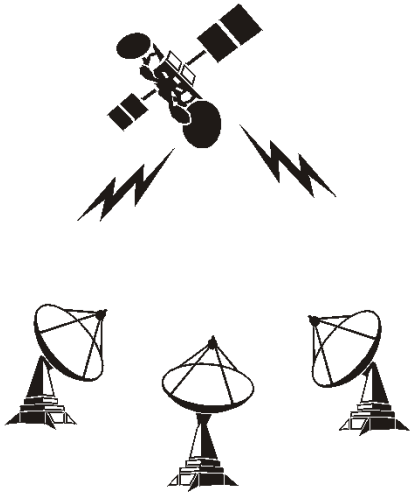
Broadcast Links: Shared Media



shared wire
(e.g. Ethernet)



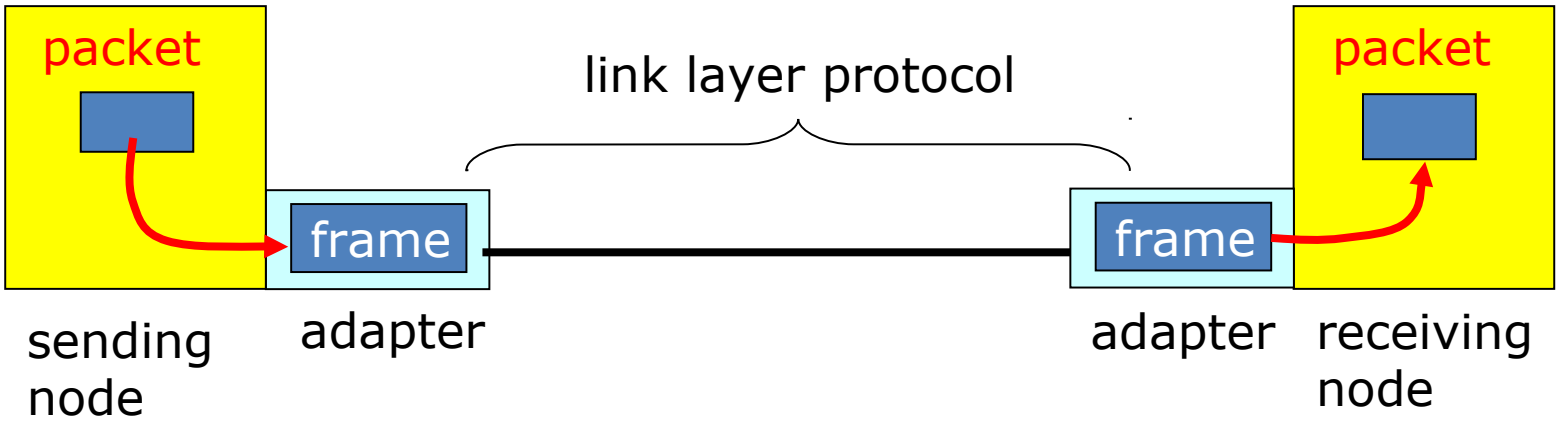
shared wireless
(e.g. Wavelan)



satellite

cocktail party

Adaptors Communicating



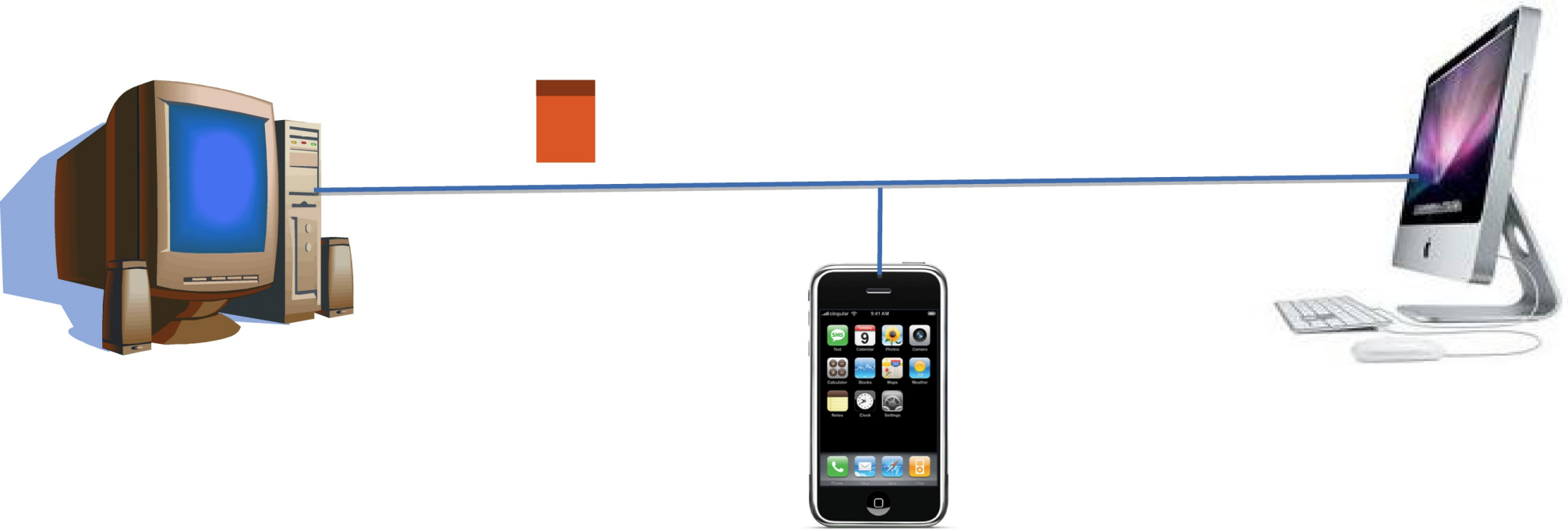
- Sending side
  - Encapsulates packet in a frame
  - Adds error checking bits, flow control, etc.
- Receiving side
  - Looks for errors, flow control, etc.
  - Extracts datagram and passes to receiving node

Link-Layer Services

- Encoding
  - Represent the 0s and 1s
- Framing
  - Encapsulate packet into frame, adding header/trailer
- Error detection
  - Receiver detecting errors with checksums
- Error correction
  - Receiver optionally correcting errors
- Flow control
  - Pacing between sending and receiving nodes

Addresses

Medium Access Control Address



- Identify the sending and receiving adapter
  - Unique identifier for each network adapter
  - Identifies the intended receiver(s) of the frame
  - … and the sender who sent the frame

Medium Access Control Address

- MAC address (e.g., 00-15-C5-49-04-A9)
  - Numerical address used within a link
  - Unique, hard-coded in the adapter when it is built
  - Flat name space of 48 bits
- Hierarchical allocation
  - Blocks: assigned to vendors (e.g., Dell) by the IEEE
  - Adapters: assigned by the vendor from its block
- Broadcast address (i.e., FF-FF-FF-FF-FF-FF)
  - Send the frame to *all* adapters

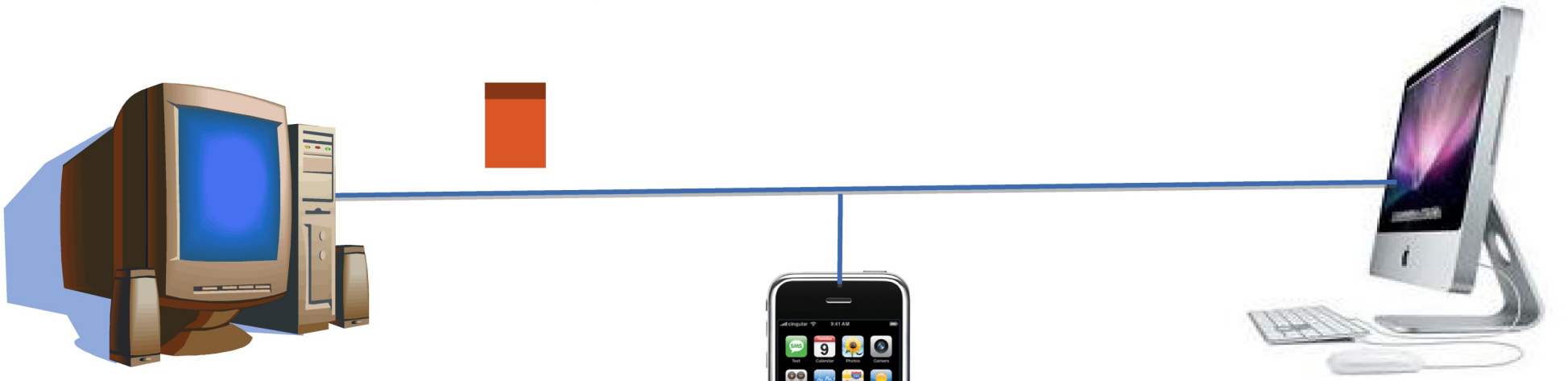
As an Aside: Promiscuous Mode

- Normal adapter: receives frames sent to
  - The local MAC address
  - Broadcast address FF-FF-FF-FF-FF-FF
- Promiscuous mode
  - Receive *everything*, independent of destination MAC
- Useful for packet sniffing
  - Network monitoring
  - E.g., wireshark, tcpdump

Why Not Just Use IP Addresses?

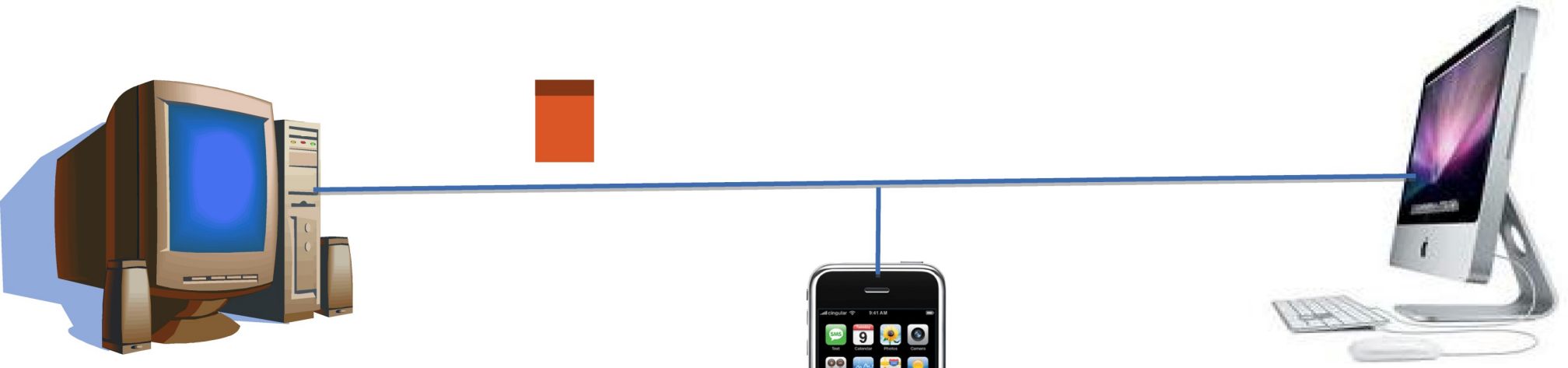
- Links can support *any* network protocol
  - Not just for IP (e.g., IPX, Appletalk, X.25, …)
  - Different addresses on different kinds of links
- An adapter may move to a new location
  - So, cannot simply assign a static IP address
  - Instead, must reconfigure the adapter's IP address
- Must identify the adapter during bootstrap
  - Need to talk to the adapter to assign it an IP address

Who Am I: Acquiring an IP Address



- Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
  - Broadcast "I need an IP address, please!"
  - Response "You can have IP address 1.2.3.4."

Who Are You: Discovering the Receiver



71-65-F7-2B-08-53

1.2.3.4

0C-C4-11-6F-E3-98

1.2.3.6

1A-2F-BB-76-09-AD

1.2.3.5

- Address Resolution Protocol (ARP)
  - Broadcast "who has IP address 1.2.3.6?"
  - Response "0C-C4-11-6F-E3-98 has 1.2.3.6!"

Sharing the Medium

Collisions

71-65-F7-2B-08-53

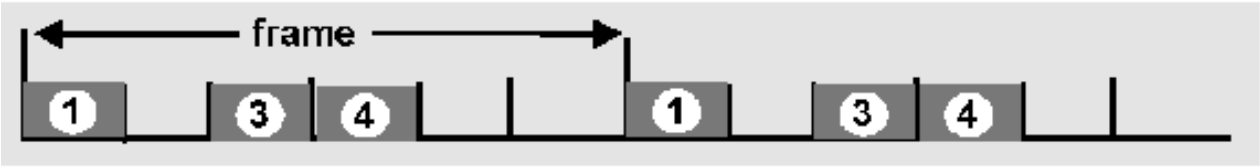
0C-C4-11-6F-E3-98

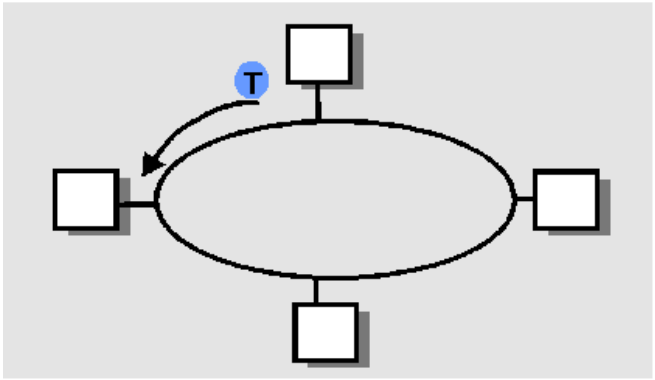
1A-2F-BB-76-09-AD

- Single shared broadcast channel
  - Avoid having multiple nodes speaking at once
  - Otherwise, collisions lead to garbled data

Multi-Access Protocol

- Divide the channel into pieces
  - In time
  - In frequency
- Take turns
  - Pass a token for the right to transmit
- Punt
  - Let collisions happen
  - … and detect and recover



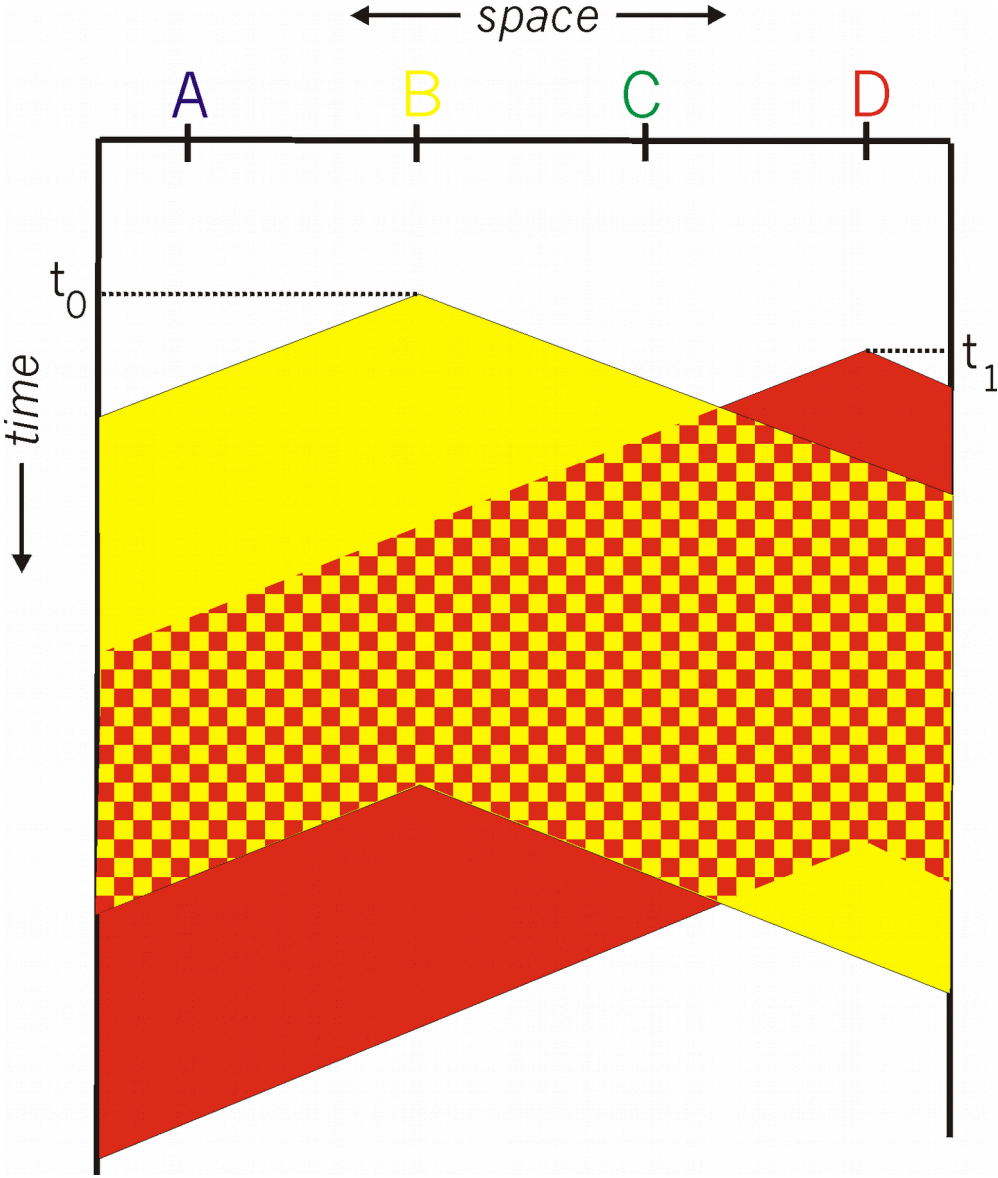


Like Human Conversation…

- Carrier sense
  - Listen before speaking
  - …and don't interrupt!
- Collision detection
  - Detect simultaneous talking
  - … and shut up!
- Random access
  - Wait for a random period of time
  - … before trying to talk again!

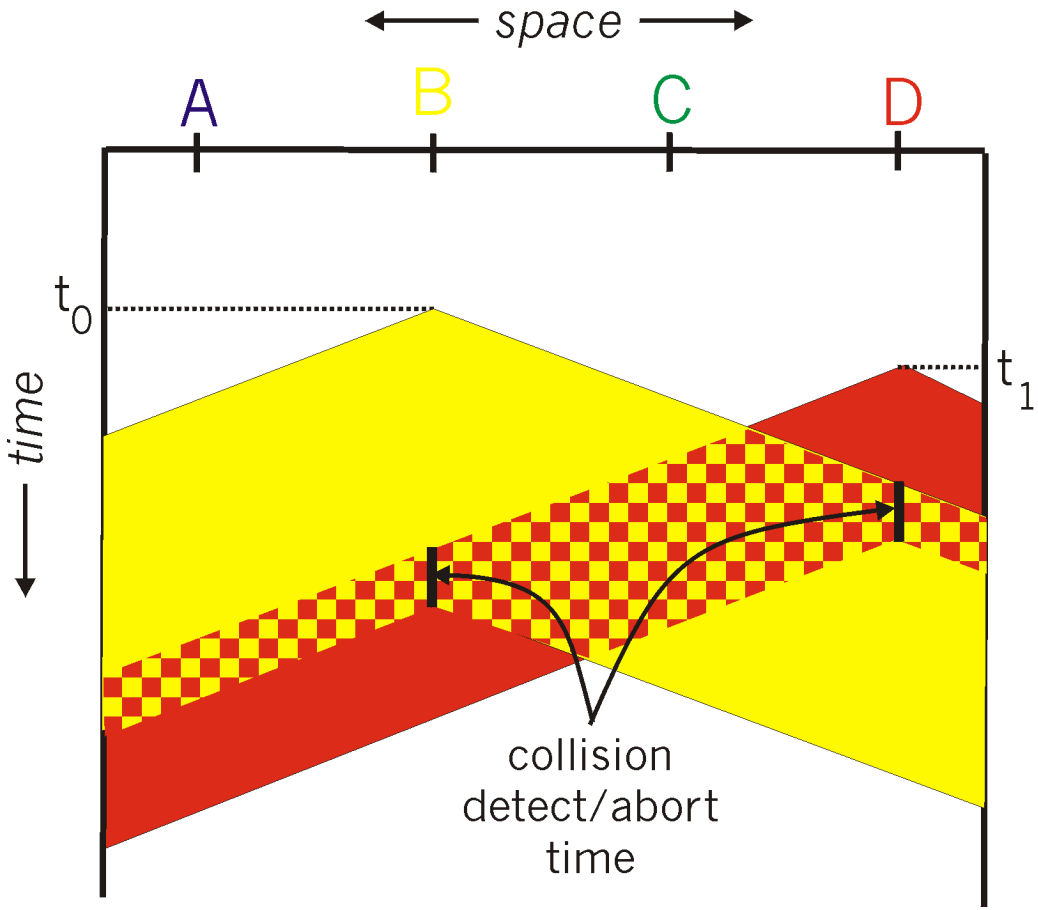
Carrier Sense Multiple Access

- Listen for other senders
  - Then transmit your data
- Collisions can still occur
  - Propagation delay
  - Wasted transmission



CSMA/CD Collision Detection

- Detect collision
  - Abort transmission
  - Jam the link
- Wait random time
  - Transmit again
- Hard in wireless
  - Must receive data while transmitting



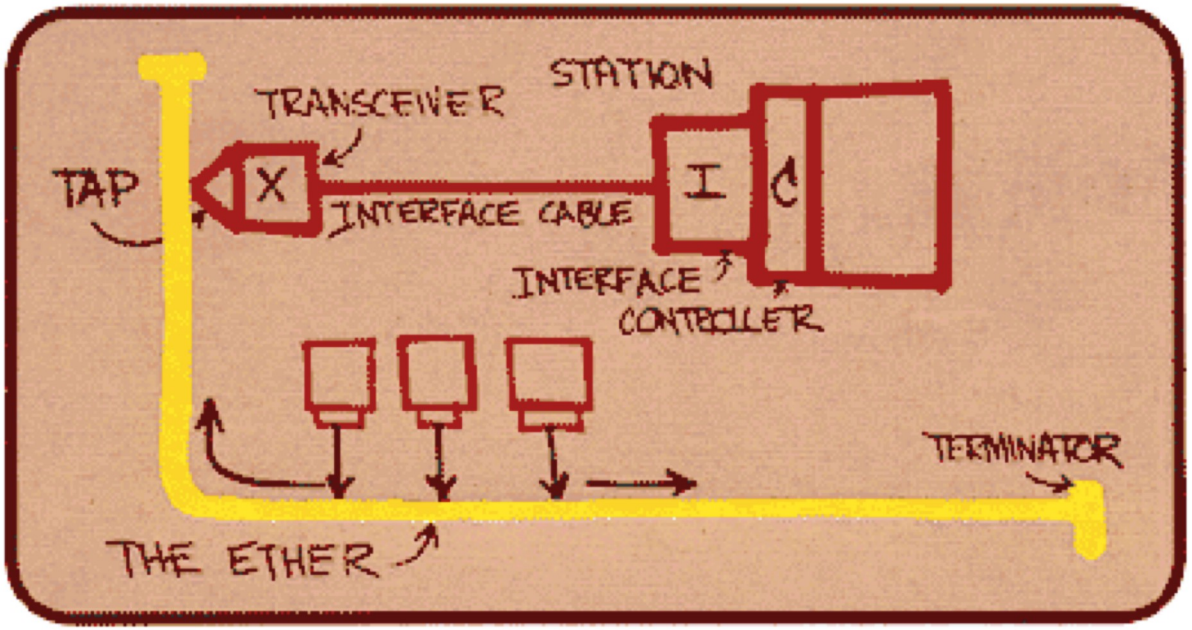
Comparing the Three Approaches

- Channel partitioning
  - Efficient and fair at high load
  - Inefficient at low load
- "Taking turns"
  - Eliminates empty slots without collisions
  - Vulnerable to failures (e.g. lost token)
- Random access
  - Efficient at low load
  - Collision overhead at high load

Ethernet

Ethernet

- Dominant wired LAN technology
- First widely used LAN technology
- Kept up with speed race: 10 Mbps – 100 Gbps (200, 400 Gbps under dev)



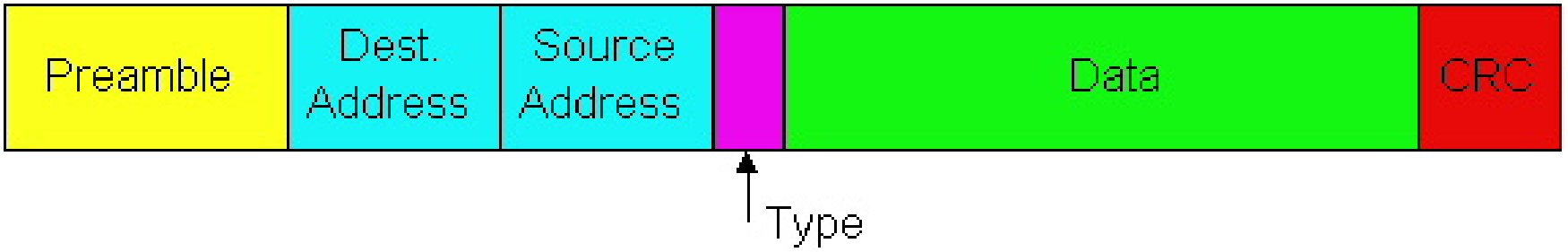
Metcalfe's Ethernet sketch

Ethernet Uses CSMA/CD

- Carrier Sense: wait for link to be idle
  - Channel idle: start transmitting
  - Channel busy: wait until idle
- Collision Detection: listen while transmitting
  - No collision: transmission is complete
  - Collision: abort transmission, and send jam signal
- Random Access: exponential back-off
  - After collision, wait random time before trying again
  - After m^{th} collision, choose K randomly from $\{0, \ldots, 2^m-1\}$
  - … and wait for K*512 bit times before trying again

Ethernet Frame Structure

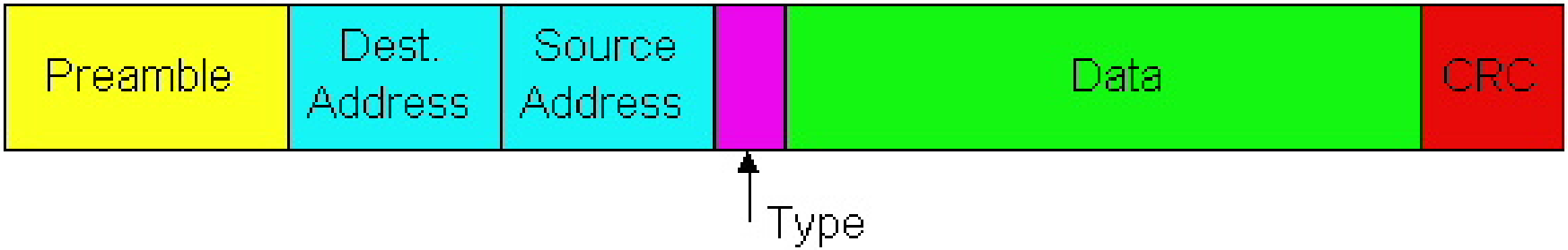
- Sending adapter encapsulates packet in frame



- Preamble: synchronization
  - Seven bytes with pattern 10101010, followed by one byte with pattern 10101011
  - Used to synchronize receiver, sender clock rates

Ethernet Frame Structure

- Addresses: source and destination MAC addresses
  - Adaptor passes frame to network-level protocol
    If destination is local MAC address or broadcast addr
  - Otherwise, adapter discards frame
- Type: indicates the higher layer protocol
  - Usually IP, but also Novell IPX, AppleTalk, …
- CRC: cyclic redundancy check
  - Checked at receiver
  - If error is detected, the frame is simply dropped



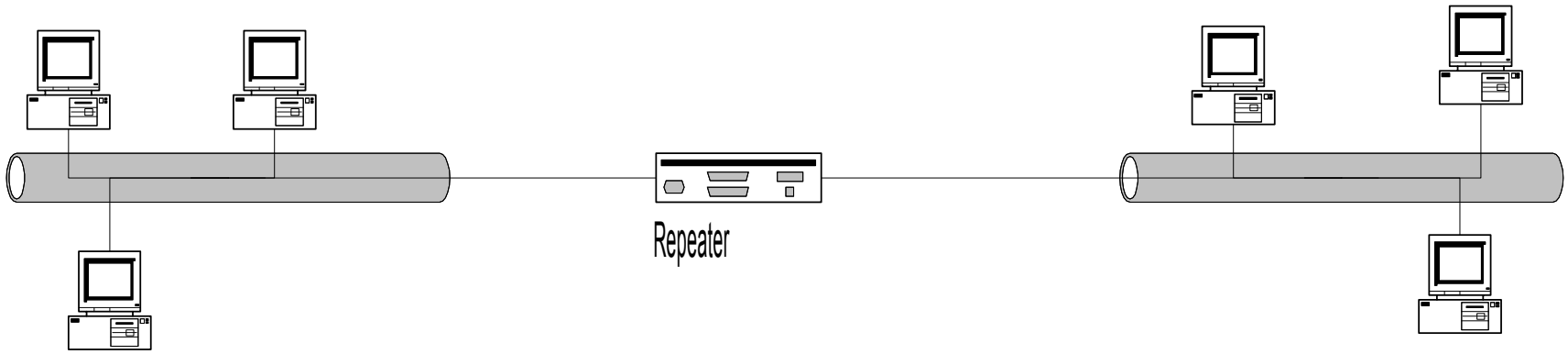
Unreliable, Connectionless Service

- Connectionless
  - No handshaking between send and receive adapter
- Unreliable
  - Receiving adapter doesn’t send ACKs or NACKs
  - Packets passed to network layer can have gaps
  - Gaps can be filled by transport protocol (e.g., TCP)
  - Otherwise, the application will see the gaps

Hubs and Switches

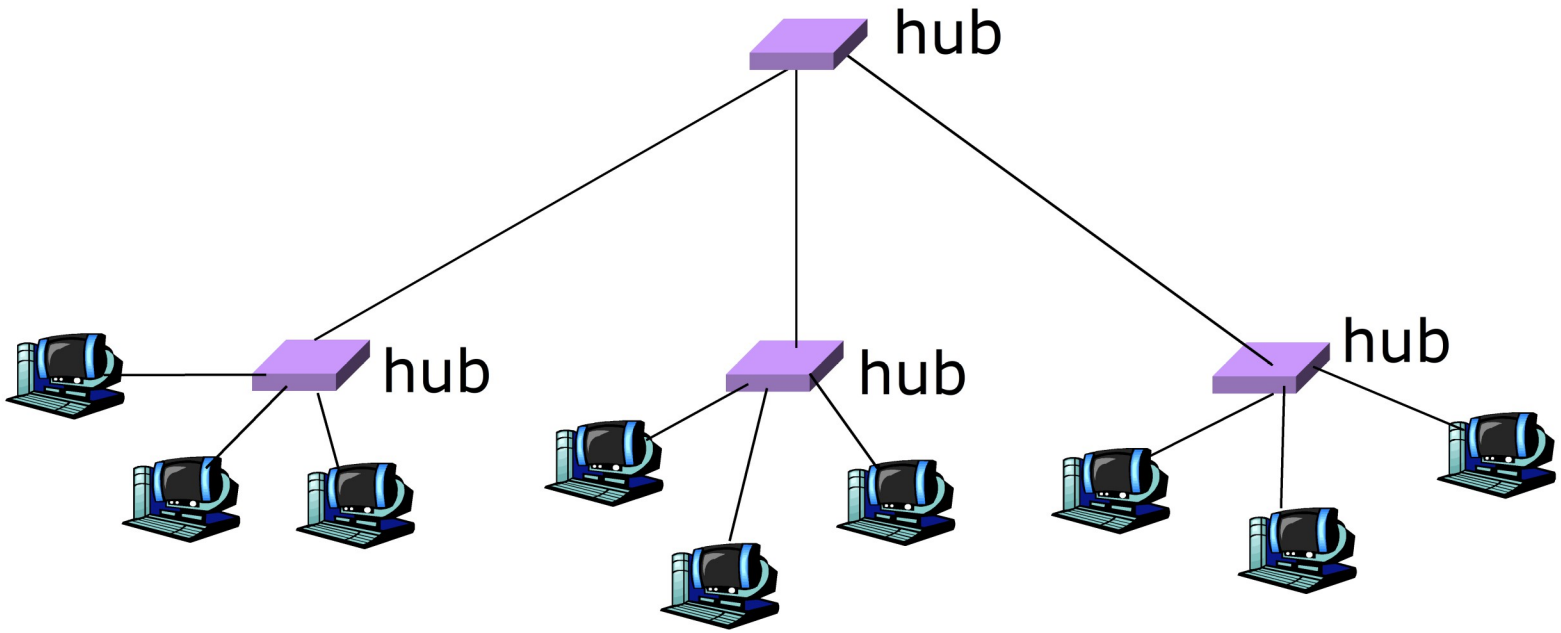
Physical Layer: Repeaters

- Distance limitation in local-area networks
  - Electrical signal becomes weaker as it travels
  - Imposes a limit on the length of a LAN
- Repeaters join LANs together
  - Analog electronic device
  - Continuously monitors electrical signals
  - Transmits an amplified copy



Physical Layer: Hubs

- Joins multiple input lines electrically
  - Designed to hold multiple line cards
  - Do not necessarily amplify the signal
- Very similar to repeaters
  - Also operates at the physical layer

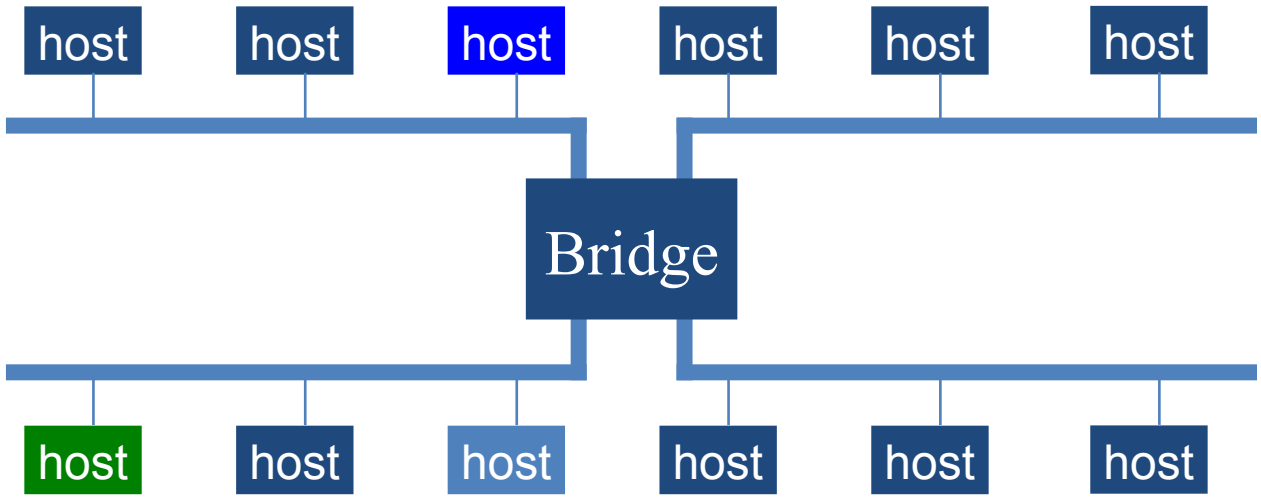


Limitations of Repeaters and Hubs

- One large shared link
  - Each bit is sent everywhere
  - So, aggregate throughput is limited
- Cannot support multiple LAN technologies
  - Does not buffer or interpret frames
  - Can’t interconnect between different rates/formats
- Limitations on maximum nodes and distances
  - Shared medium imposes length limits
  - E.g., cannot go beyond 2500 meters on Ethernet

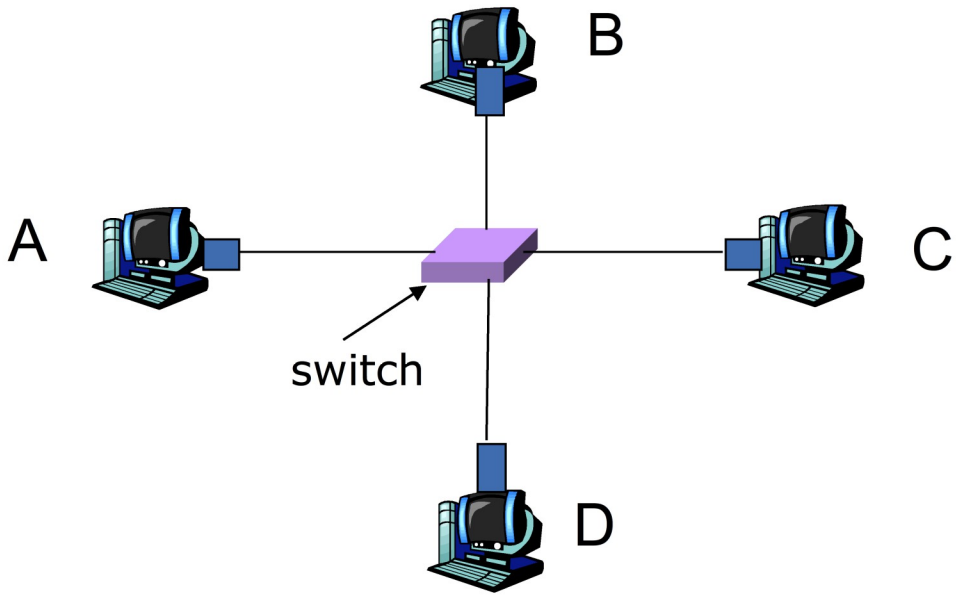
Link Layer: Bridges

- Connects two or more LANs at the link layer
  - Extracts destination address from the frame
  - Looks up the destination in a table
  - Forwards the frame to the appropriate segment
- Each segment can carry its own traffic



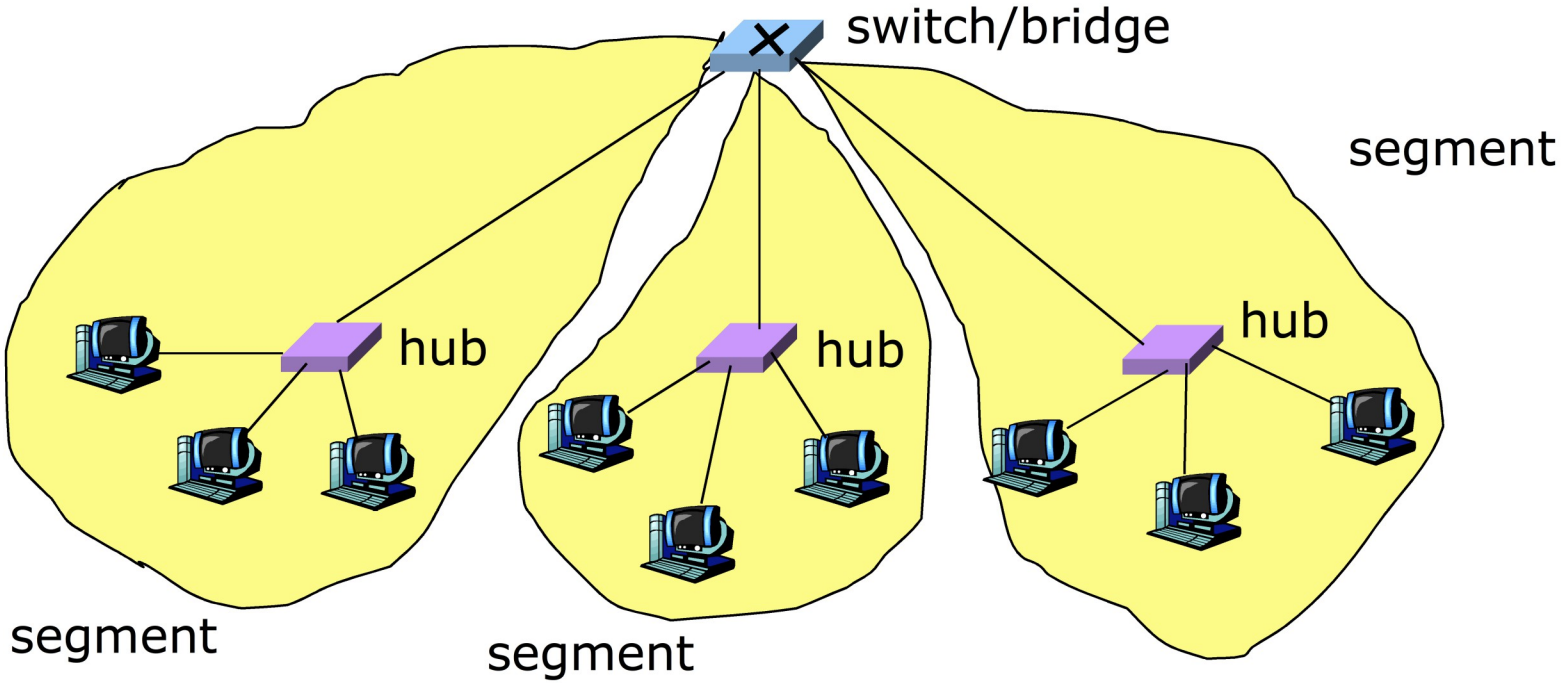
Link Layer: Switches

- Typically connects individual computers
  - A switch is essentially the same as a bridge
  - … though typically used to connect hosts
- Supports concurrent communication
  - Host A can talk to C, while B talks to D



Bridges/Switches: Traffic Isolation

- Switch filters packets
  - Frame only forwarded to the necessary segments
  - Segments can support separate transmissions

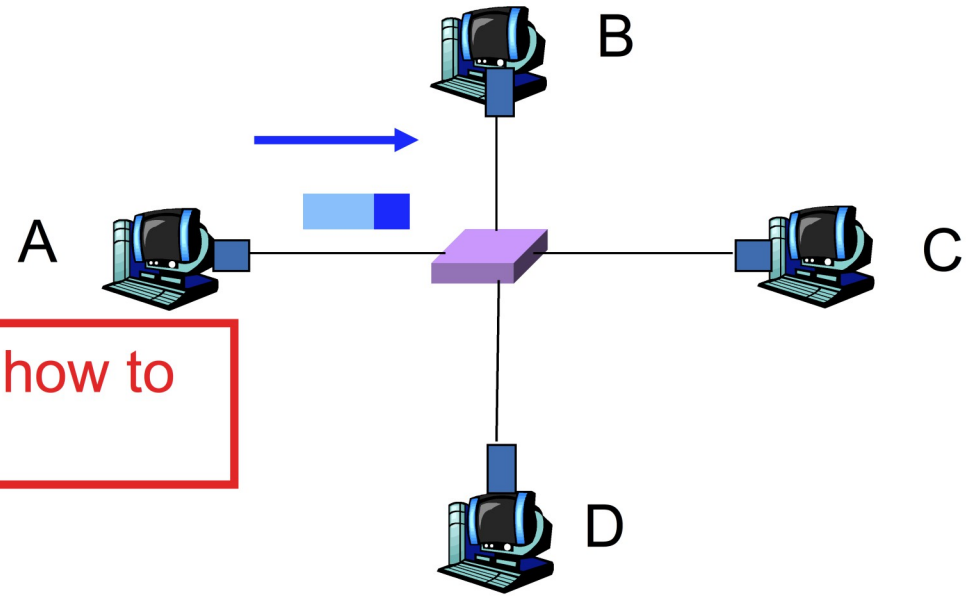


Advantages Over Hubs/Repeaters

- Only forwards frames as needed
  - Avoid unnecessary load on segments
- Wider geographic span
  - Separate segments allow longer distances
- Improves privacy
  - Hosts can “snoop” traffic traversing their segment
  - … but not all the rest of the traffic
- Can join segments using different technologies

Self Learning: Building the Table

- When a frame arrives
  - Inspect the *source* MAC address
  - Associate the address with the *incoming* interface
  - Store the mapping in the switch table
  - Use a timer to eventually forget the mapping

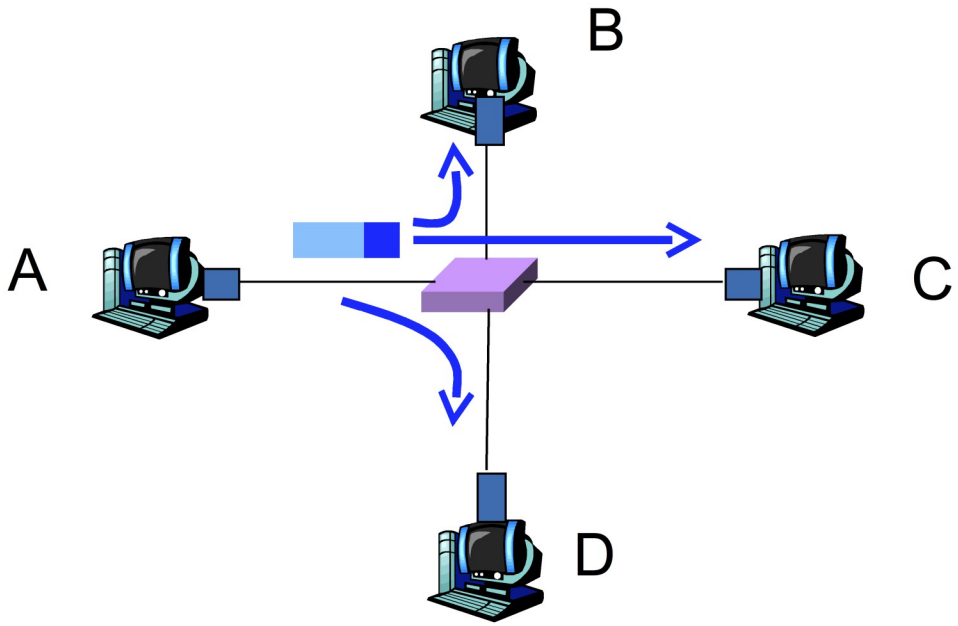


Switch learns how to reach A.

Self Learning: Handling Misses

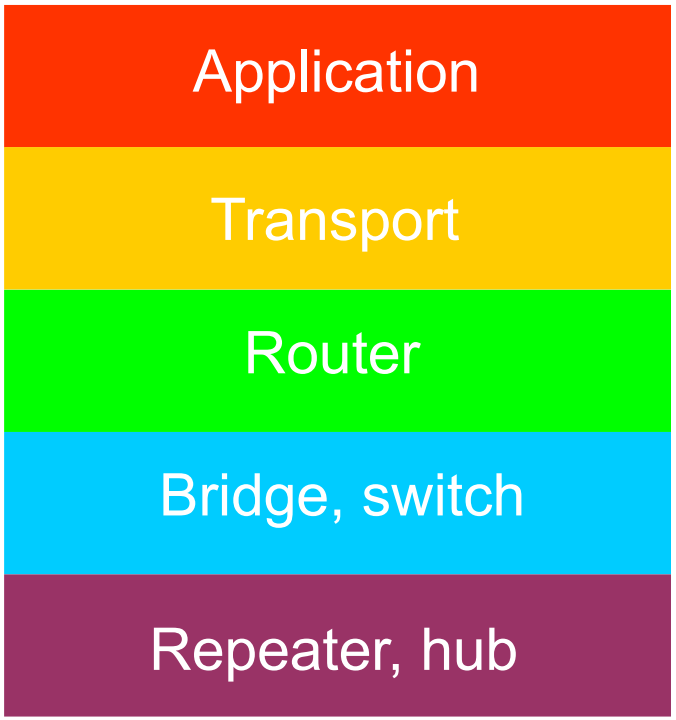
- When frame arrives with unfamiliar destination
  - Forward the frame out all of the interfaces
  - … except for the one where the frame arrived
  - Hopefully, this case won't happen very often!

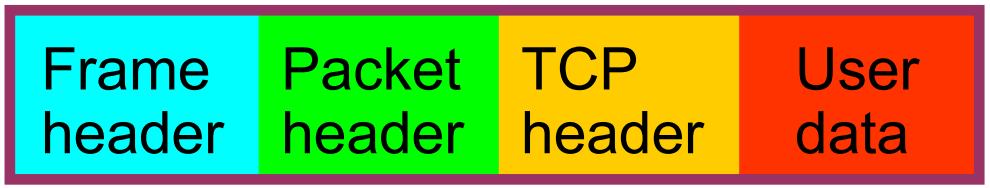
When in doubt, shout!



Summary: Multiple Layers

- Different devices switch different things
  - Network layer: packets (routers)
  - Link layer: frames (bridges and switches)
  - Physical layer: electrical signals (repeaters and hubs)





Conclusion

- Links
  - Connect two or more network adapters
  - … each with a unique address
  - … over a shared communication medium

More details …

- Slides 26-end in ...
  - http://docencia.ac.upc.edu/FIB/grau/XC/slides/xc-grau-4-lan.pdf