

Unit-III

Network Layer

- The Network Layer is the third layer of the OSI model.
- It handles the service requests from the transport layer and further forwards the service request to the data link layer.
- The network layer translates the logical addresses into physical addresses
- It determines the route from the source to the destination and also manages the traffic problems such as switching, routing and controls the congestion of data packets.
- The main role of the network layer is to move the packets from sending host to the receiving host.

The main functions performed by the network layer are:

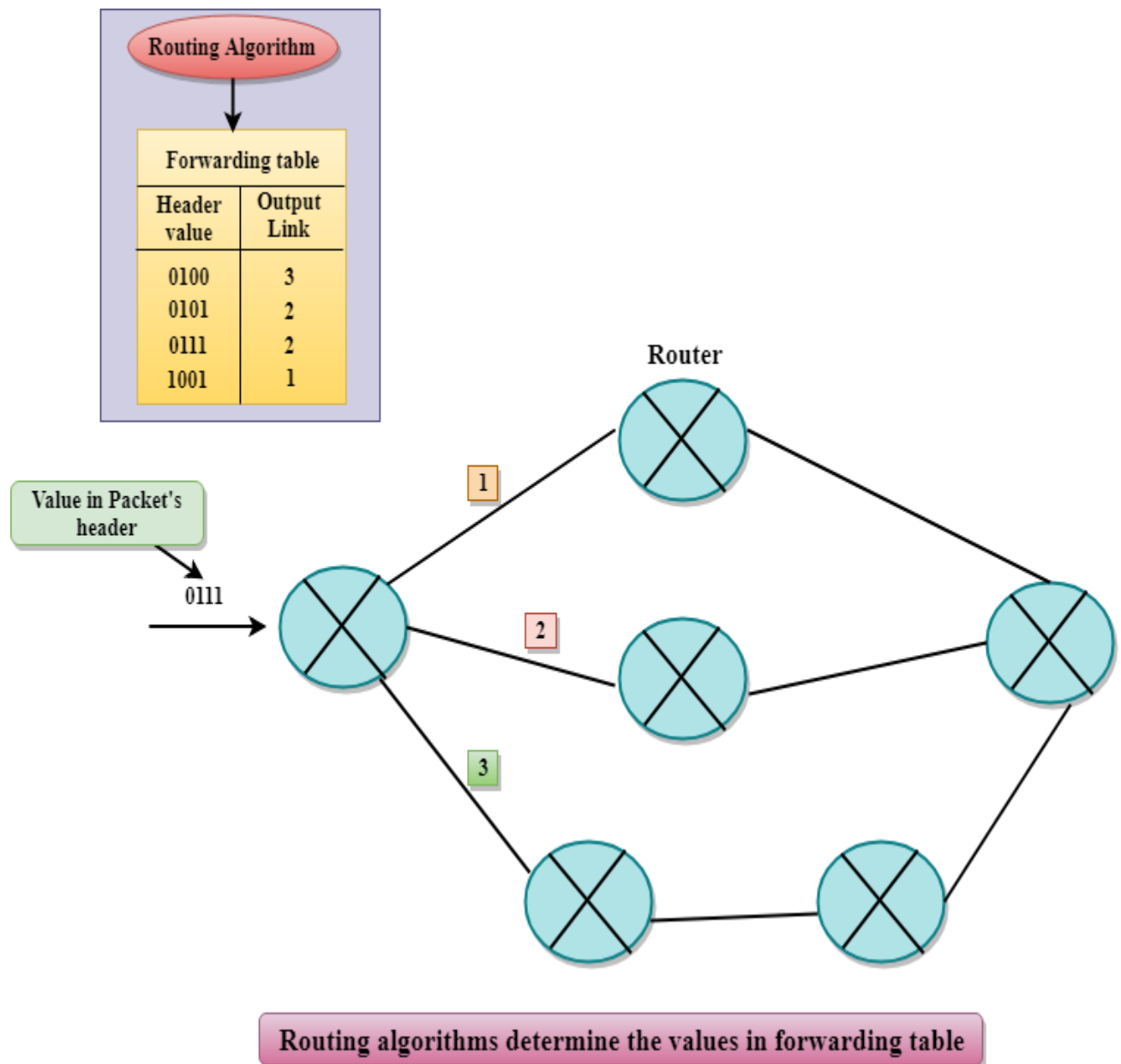
- **Routing:** When a packet reaches the router's input link, the router will move the packets to the router's output link. For example, a packet from S1 to R1 must be forwarded to the next router on the path to S2.
- **Logical Addressing:** The data link layer implements the physical addressing and network layer implements the logical addressing. Logical addressing is also used to distinguish between source and destination system. The network layer adds a header to the packet which includes the logical addresses of both the sender and the receiver.
- **Internetworking:** This is the main role of the network layer that it provides the logical connection between different types of networks.
- **Fragmentation:** The fragmentation is a process of breaking the packets into the smallest individual data units that travel through different networks.

Forwarding & Routing

In Network layer, a router is used to forward the packets. Every router has a forwarding table. A router forwards a packet by examining a packet's header field and then using the header field value to index into the forwarding table. The value stored in the forwarding table corresponding to the header field value indicates the router's outgoing interface link to which the packet is to be forwarded.

For example, the router with a header field value of 0111 arrives at a router, and then router indexes this header value into the forwarding table that determines the output

link interface is 2. The router forwards the packet to the interface 2. The routing algorithm determines the values that are inserted in the forwarding table. The routing algorithm can be centralized or decentralized.



Services Provided by the Network Layer

- **Guaranteed delivery:** This layer provides the service which guarantees that the packet will arrive at its destination.
- **Guaranteed delivery with bounded delay:** This service guarantees that the packet will be delivered within a specified host-to-host delay bound.
- **In-Order packets:** This service ensures that the packet arrives at the destination in the order in which they are sent.

- **Guaranteed max jitter:** This service ensures that the amount of time taken between two successive transmissions at the sender is equal to the time between their receipt at the destination.
- **Security services:** The network layer provides security by using a session key between the source and destination host. The network layer in the source host encrypts the payloads of datagrams being sent to the destination host. The network layer in the destination host would then decrypt the payload. In such a way, the network layer maintains the data integrity and source authentication services.

Routing

- A Router is a process of selecting path along which the data can be transferred from source to the destination. Routing is performed by a special device known as a router.
- A Router works at the network layer in the OSI model and internet layer in TCP/IP model
- A router is a networking device that forwards the packet based on the information available in the packet header and forwarding table.
- The routing algorithms are used for routing the packets. The routing algorithm is nothing but a software responsible for deciding the optimal path through which packet can be transmitted.
- The routing protocols use the metric to determine the best path for the packet delivery. The metric is the standard of measurement such as hop count, bandwidth, delay, current load on the path, etc. used by the routing algorithm to determine the optimal path to the destination.
- The routing algorithm initializes and maintains the routing table for the process of path determination.

Routing Metrics and Costs

Routing metrics and costs are used for determining the best route to the destination. The factors used by the protocols to determine the shortest path, these factors are known as a metric.

Metrics are the network variables used to determine the best route to the destination. For some protocols use the static metrics means that their value cannot be changed

and for some other routing protocols use the dynamic metrics means that their value can be assigned by the system administrator.

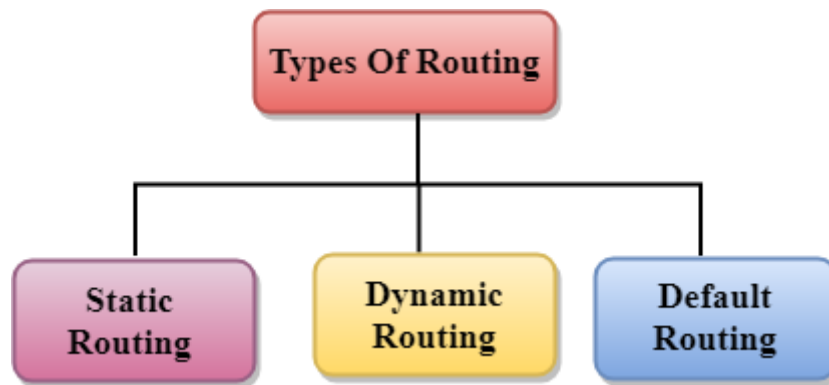
The most common metric values are given below:

- **Hop count:** Hop count is defined as a metric that specifies the number of passes through internetworking devices such as a router, a packet must travel in a route to move from source to the destination. If the routing protocol considers the hop as a primary metric value, then the path with the least hop count will be considered as the best path to move from source to the destination.
- **Delay:** It is a time taken by the router to process, queue and transmit a datagram to an interface. The protocols use this metric to determine the delay values for all the links along the path end-to-end. The path having the lowest delay value will be considered as the best path.
- **Bandwidth:** The capacity of the link is known as a bandwidth of the link. The bandwidth is measured in terms of bits per second. The link that has a higher transfer rate like gigabit is preferred over the link that has the lower capacity like 56 kb. The protocol will determine the bandwidth capacity for all the links along the path, and the overall higher bandwidth will be considered as the best route.
- **Load:** Load refers to the degree to which the network resource such as a router or network link is busy. A Load can be calculated in a variety of ways such as CPU utilization, packets processed per second. If the traffic increases, then the load value will also be increased. The load value changes with respect to the change in the traffic.
- **Reliability:** Reliability is a metric factor may be composed of a fixed value. It depends on the network links, and its value is measured dynamically. Some networks go down more often than others. After network failure, some network links repaired more easily than other network links. Any reliability factor can be considered for the assignment of reliability ratings, which are generally numeric values assigned by the system administrator.

Types of Routing

Routing can be classified into three categories:

- Static Routing
- Default Routing
- Dynamic Routing



Static Routing

- Static Routing is also known as Nonadaptive Routing.
- It is a technique in which the administrator manually adds the routes in a routing table.
- A Router can send the packets for the destination along the route defined by the administrator.
- In this technique, routing decisions are not made based on the condition or topology of the networks

Advantages Of Static Routing

Following are the advantages of Static Routing:

- **No Overhead:** It has no overhead on the CPU usage of the router. Therefore, the cheaper router can be used to obtain static routing.
- **Bandwidth:** It has not bandwidth usage between the routers.
- **Security:** It provides security as the system administrator is allowed only to have control over the routing to a particular network.

Disadvantages of Static Routing:

Following are the disadvantages of Static Routing:

- For a large network, it becomes a very difficult task to add each route manually to the routing table.
- The system administrator should have a good knowledge of a topology as he has to add each route manually.

Default Routing

- Default Routing is a technique in which a router is configured to send all the packets to the same hop device, and it doesn't matter whether it belongs to a particular network or not. A Packet is transmitted to the device for which it is configured in default routing.
- Default Routing is used when networks deal with the single exit point.
- It is also useful when the bulk of transmission networks have to transmit the data to the same hp device.
- When a specific route is mentioned in the routing table, the router will choose the specific route rather than the default route. The default route is chosen only when a specific route is not mentioned in the routing table.

Dynamic Routing

- It is also known as Adaptive Routing.
- It is a technique in which a router adds a new route in the routing table for each packet in response to the changes in the condition or topology of the network.
- Dynamic protocols are used to discover the new routes to reach the destination.
- In Dynamic Routing, RIP and OSPF are the protocols used to discover the new routes.
- If any route goes down, then the automatic adjustment will be made to reach the destination.

The Dynamic protocol should have the following features:

- All the routers must have the same dynamic routing protocol in order to exchange the routes.
- If the router discovers any change in the condition or topology, then router broadcast this information to all other routers.

Advantages of Dynamic Routing:

- It is easier to configure.
- It is more effective in selecting the best route in response to the changes in the condition or topology.

Disadvantages of Dynamic Routing:

- It is more expensive in terms of CPU and bandwidth usage.

- It is less secure as compared to default and static routing.

Network Layer Routing

When a device has multiple paths to reach a destination, it always selects one path by preferring it over others. This selection process is termed as Routing. Routing is done by special network devices called routers or it can be done by means of software processes. The software based routers have limited functionality and limited scope.

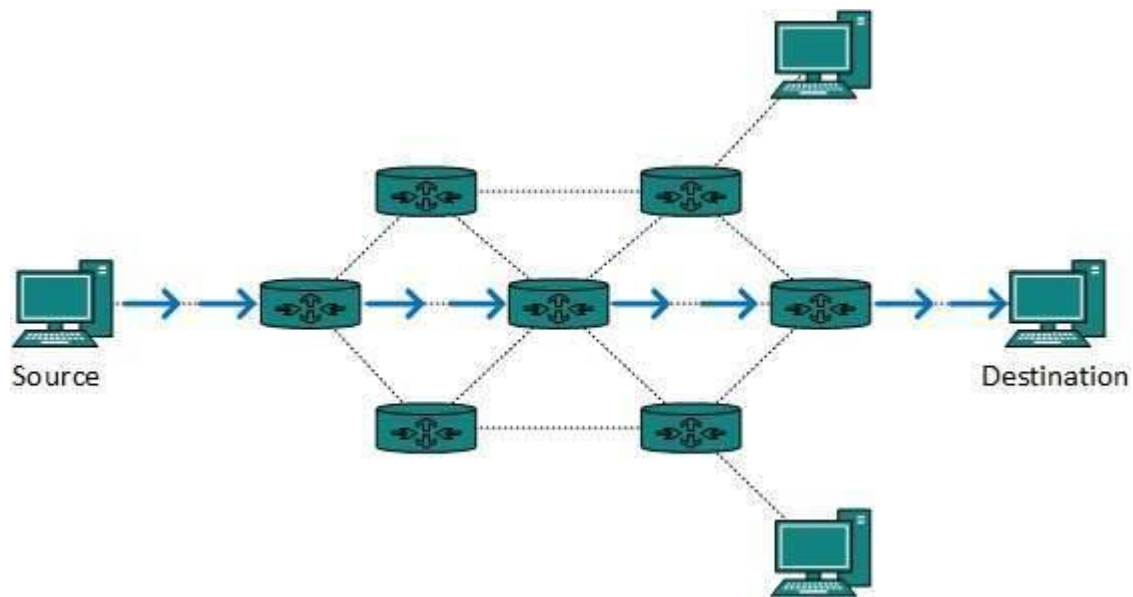
A router is always configured with some default route. A default route tells the router where to forward a packet if there is no route found for specific destination. In case there are multiple path existing to reach the same destination, router can make decision based on the following information:

- Hop Count
- Bandwidth
- Metric
- Prefix-length
- Delay

Routes can be statically configured or dynamically learnt. One route can be configured to be preferred over others.

Unicast routing

Most of the traffic on the internet and intranets known as unicast data or unicast traffic is sent with specified destination. Routing unicast data over the internet is called unicast routing. It is the simplest form of routing because the destination is already known. Hence the router just has to look up the routing table and forward the packet to next hop.



Broadcast routing

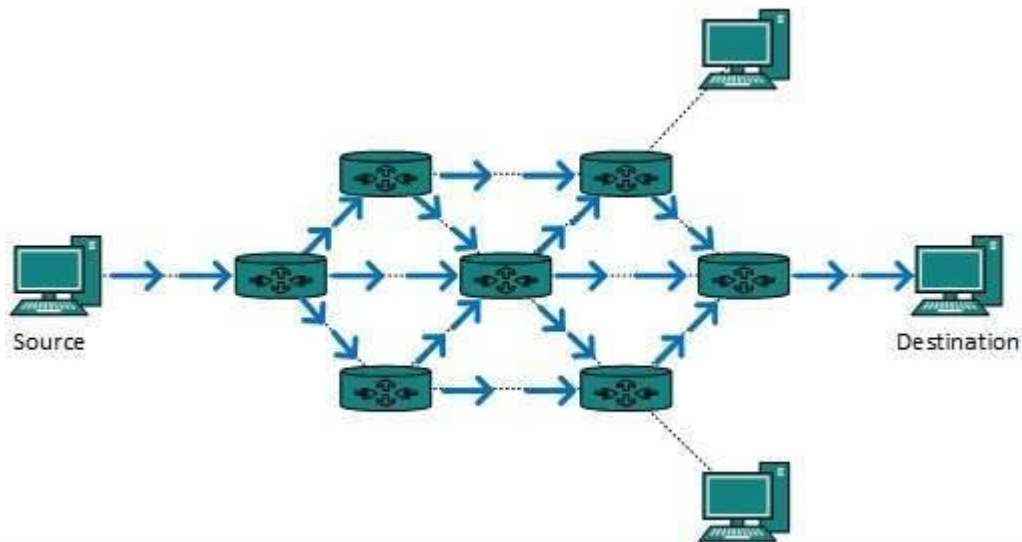
By default, the broadcast packets are not routed and forwarded by the routers on any network. Routers create broadcast domains. But it can be configured to forward broadcasts in some special cases. A broadcast message is destined to all network devices.

Broadcast routing can be done in two ways (algorithm):

- A router creates a data packet and then sends it to each host one by one. In this case, the router creates multiple copies of single data packet with different destination addresses. All packets are sent as unicast but because they are sent to all, it simulates as if router is broadcasting.

This method consumes lots of bandwidth and router must destination address of each node.

- Secondly, when router receives a packet that is to be broadcasted, it simply floods those packets out of all interfaces. All routers are configured in the same way.

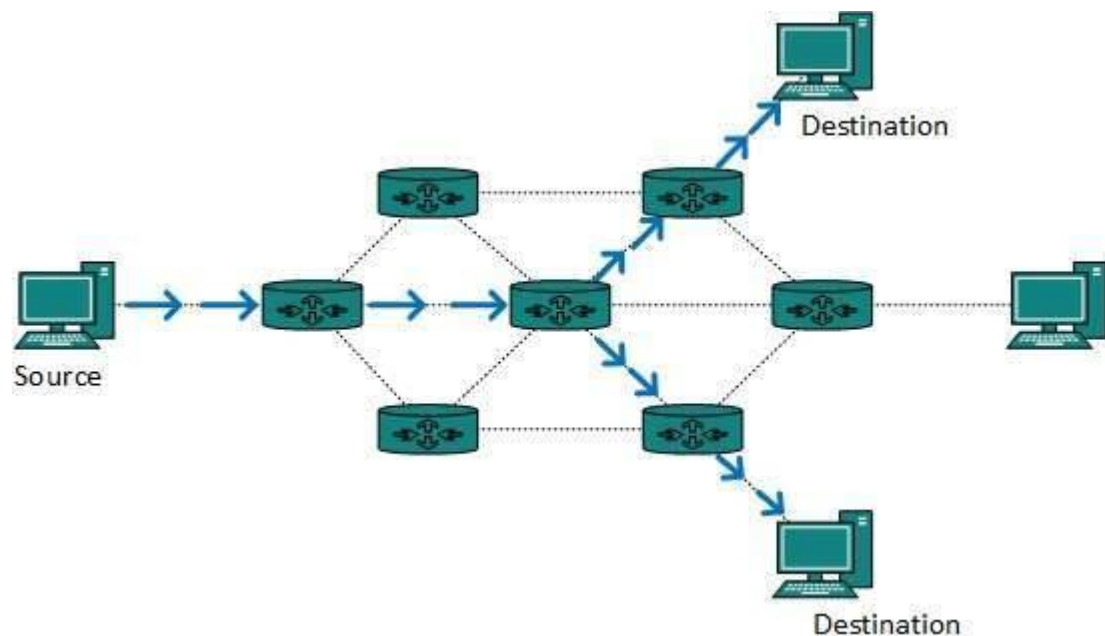


This method is easy on router's CPU but may cause the problem of duplicate packets received from peer routers.

Reverse path forwarding is a technique, in which router knows in advance about its predecessor from where it should receive broadcast. This technique is used to detect and discard duplicates.

Multicast Routing

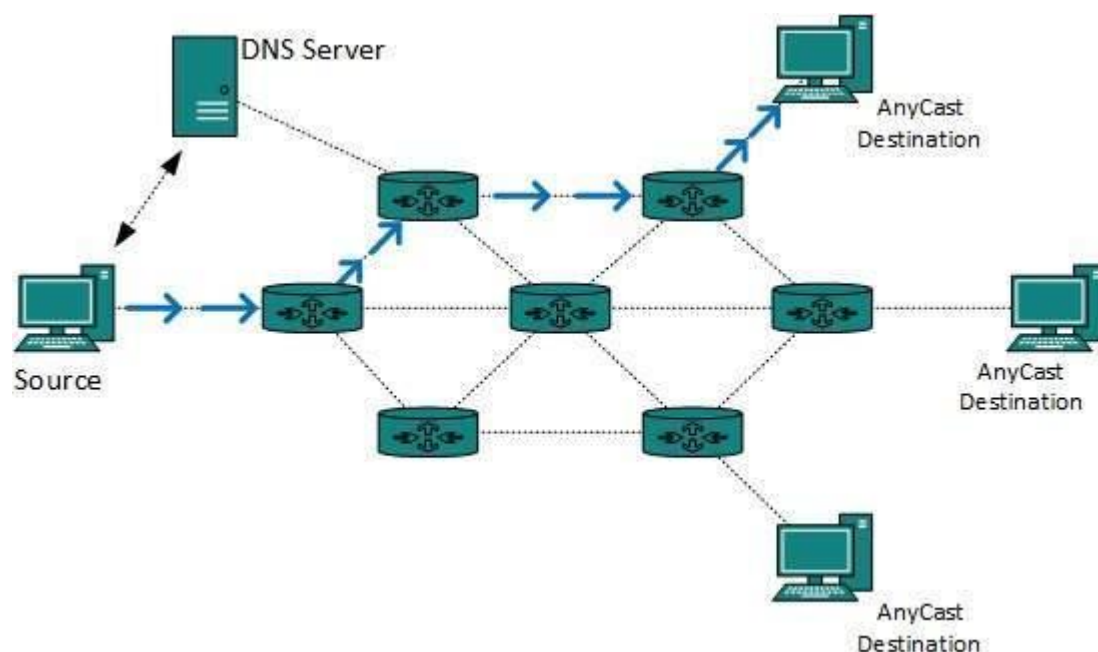
Multicast routing is special case of broadcast routing with significance difference and challenges. In broadcast routing, packets are sent to all nodes even if they do not want it. But in Multicast routing, the data is sent to only nodes which wants to receive the packets.



The router must know that there are nodes, which wish to receive multicast packets (or stream) then only it should forward. Multicast routing works spanning tree protocol to avoid looping. Multicast routing also uses reverse path Forwarding technique, to detect and discard duplicates and loops.

Anycast Routing

Anycast packet forwarding is a mechanism where multiple hosts can have same logical address. When a packet destined to this logical address is received, it is sent to the host which is nearest in routing topology.



Anycast routing is done with help of DNS server. Whenever an Anycast packet is received it is enquired with DNS to where to send it. DNS provides the IP address which is the nearest IP configured on it.

Unicast Routing Protocols

There are two kinds of routing protocols available to route unicast packets:

- **Distance Vector Routing Protocol**

Distance Vector is simple routing protocol which takes routing decision on the number of hops between source and destination. A route with less number of hops is considered as the best route. Every router advertises its set best routes to other routers.

Ultimately, all routers build up their network topology based on the advertisements of their peer routers,

For example Routing Information Protocol (RIP).

- **Link State Routing Protocol**

Link State protocol is slightly complicated protocol than Distance Vector. It takes into account the states of links of all the routers in a network. This technique helps routes build a common graph of the entire network. All routers then calculate their best path for routing purposes. for example, Open Shortest Path First (OSPF) and Intermediate System to Intermediate System (ISIS).

Multicast Routing Protocols

Unicast routing protocols use graphs while Multicast routing protocols use trees, i.e. spanning tree to avoid loops. The optimal tree is called shortest path spanning tree.

- DVMRP - Distance Vector Multicast Routing Protocol
- MOSPF - Multicast Open Shortest Path First
- CBT - Core Based Tree
- PIM - Protocol independent Multicast

Protocol Independent Multicast is commonly used now. It has two flavors:

- PIM Dense Mode

This mode uses source-based trees. It is used in dense environment such as LAN.

- PIM Sparse Mode

This mode uses shared trees. It is used in sparse environment such as WAN.

Routing Algorithms

The routing algorithms are as follows:

Flooding

Flooding is simplest method packet forwarding. When a packet is received, the routers send it to all the interfaces except the one on which it was received. This creates too much burden on the network and lots of duplicate packets wandering in the network.

Time to Live (TTL) can be used to avoid infinite looping of packets. There exists another approach for flooding, which is called Selective Flooding to reduce the overhead on the network. In this method, the router does not flood out on all the interfaces, but selective ones.

Shortest Path

Routing decision in networks, are mostly taken on the basis of cost between source and destination. Hop count plays major role here. Shortest path is a technique which uses various algorithms to decide a path with minimum number of hops.

Common shortest path algorithms are:

- Dijkstra's algorithm
- Bellman Ford algorithm
- Floyd Warshall algorithm