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ECE 1150

Reading Assignment 2

1. It was interesting to read about the competition between the OSI and TCP/IP network models, especially when considering the reasons that TCP/IP was ultimately victorious. I liked David Clark’s idea of the apocalypse of the two elephants as it relates to standards; it makes sense that the OSI protocols were never adopted because of poor timing.

2. I also found the politics of the TCP/IP – OSI competition to be fascinating; it is not irrelevant that this competition was occurring in the latter part of the Cold War. OSI, being mainly created in the European community, maybe did not reach mainstream popularity in the United States due to stigma surrounding its origin. TCP/IP being the product of researchers and academics likely helped its cause as well, as opposed to OSI being created by government employees.

3. The sheer size and importance of the telecommunications world, outlined in Chapter 6, was not something I had every really considered before. Obviously, it is a critical part of modern global society, but I would not have guessed that organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union would be deemed so vital that they became an agency of the United Nations. ITU-T’s effectiveness at driving innovation in the field of telecommunications is also interesting; one might expect these innovations to originate from private companies or in research labs, but ITU-T’s bureaucracy seems capable of keeping up with those more streamlined organizations.