Introduction to transport layer

ECE 50863 – Computer Network Systems

Transport Layer

Application
Layer

Transport
Layer

TCP, UDP

Network
Layer

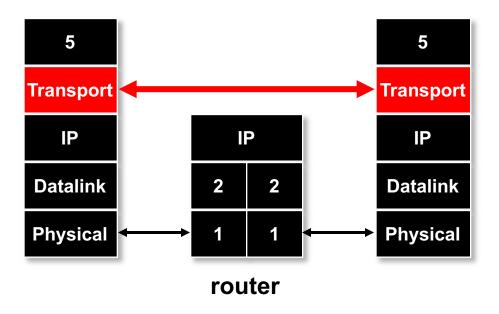
IP

(Data) Link
Layer

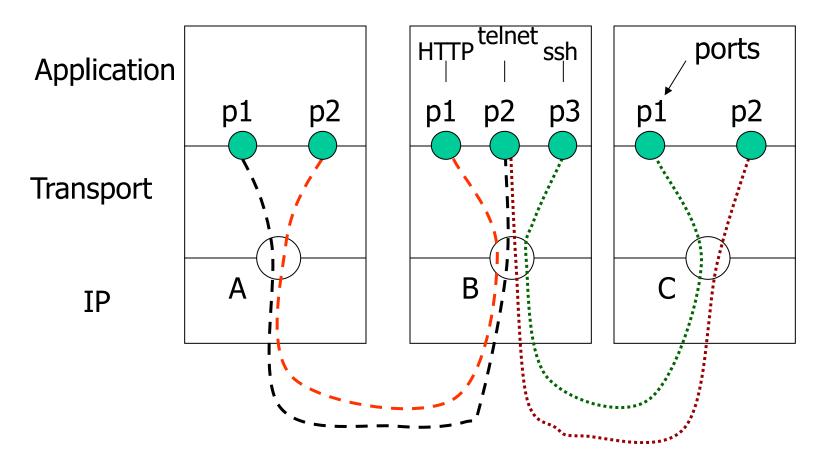
802.3, 802.11

Transport Protocols Concern only End Hosts, not Routers

- Header generated by sender is interpreted only by the destination
- •Routers view transport header as part of the payload



Using Transport Layer Port Number to (De)multiplex traffic



A TCP/UDP packet contains the following information: (Source Address, Destination Address, Source Port, Destination Port)

Popular Transport Protocols

- UDP:
 - Barebones, minimal
 - Does not provide much functionality besides multiplexing
- TCP:
 - Elaborate, lots of additional functionality provided.

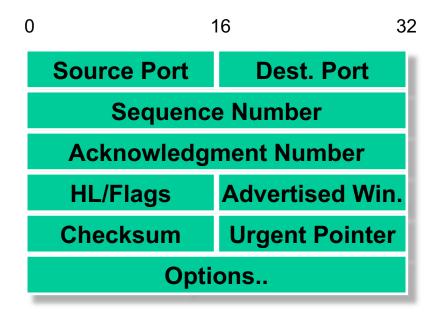
<u>Using UDP</u>

- Main reasons for using UDP
 - Lower latency
 - Reliable transmission not needed for some applications
 - TCP heavy-weight: application may only need some features
- Examples:
 - Video conferencing (e.g., Zoom)
 - Remote procedure calls
 - Gaming applications.
- Custom protocols/applications can be implemented on top of UDP
 - implement own reliability, flow control, ordering, congestion control
 - Selectively enable only necessary features

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)

- Reliable bidirectional in-order byte stream
- Lots of functionality
- Connection establishment.
 - Logical end-to-end connection, connection state to optimize performance
- Error control
 - Hide unreliability of the network layer from applications
 - Many types of errors: corruption, loss, duplication, reordering.
- End-to-end flow control and congestion control
 - Avoid flooding the receiver and network.

TCP Header

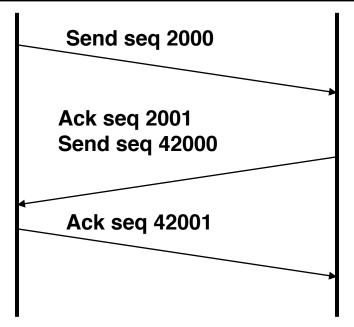


- •20 bytes total
- •Sequence Number, ACK: relate to TCP functionality for achieving reliable delivery.
- •Advertised window: For achieving a function called "flow control".
- •HL: Specifies Header Length
- •Flags: 6 flags in all
- •Urgent pointer: not common TCP usage, used to signal certain data is "out-of-band" and must be processed immediately

Important TCP Flags

- SYN: Synchronize
 - Used when setting up connection
- FIN: Finish
 - Used when tearing down connection
- ACK
 - Acknowledging received data
- RESET:
 - Receiver wants to abort connection, as it received unexpected segment.
- Push and Urgent flags:
 - Not as commonly used.
 - Signify receiving process must be notified, or out-of-band data

Bidirectional Communication

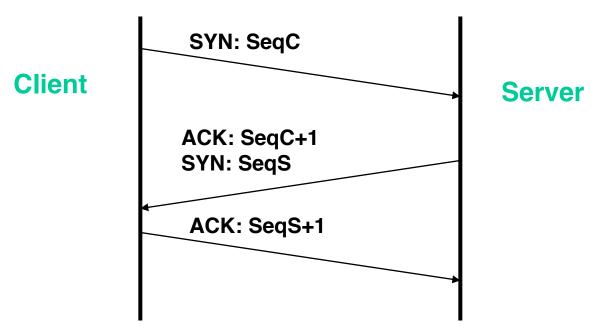


- Each Side of Connection can Send and Receive
- What this Means
 - Maintain different sequence numbers for each direction
 - Single segment can contain new data for one direction, plus acknowledgement for other
 - But some contain only data & others only acknowledgement

Connection Setup

- Why need connection setup?
- Mainly to agree on starting sequence numbers
 - Starting sequence number is randomly chosen
 - Reason, to reduce the chance that sequence numbers of old and new connections from overlapping

Establishing Connection



- Three-Way Handshake
 - Each side notifies other of starting sequence number it will use for sending
 - Each side acknowledges other's sequence number
 - SYN-ACK: Acknowledge sequence number + 1
 - Can combine second SYN with first ACK

Tearing Down Connection

- Either Side Can Initiate Tear Down
 - Send FIN signal
 - "I'm not going to send any more data"
- Other Side Can Continue Sending Data
 - Half open connection
 - Must continue to acknowledge
- Acknowledging FIN
 - Acknowledge last sequence number + 1

