The Network Layer

Antonio Carzaniga

Faculty of Informatics University of Lugano

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Outline

- Basic network-layer architecture of a datagram network
- Introduction to forwarding
- Introduction to routing
- General architecture of a router
- Switching fabric and queuing
- Internet network-layer protocol
- The Internet protocol (IP)
- Fragmentation



web server











Transport Level



Transport Level



Transport Level



Network Layer



web server

Network Layer



Network Layer









Fundamental component of the network layer



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A node in a graph



- Fundamental component of the network layer
- A node in a graph
- A finite set of input/output (physical) connections
 - a.k.a., interfaces or ports

Packet-switched network

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information is transmitted in discrete units called *datagrams*

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Connectionless service

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"Best-effort" service

delivery guarantee: none

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- congestion indication: none
















Potentially *multiple paths* for the same source/destination



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A sends a datagram to B



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Input: datagram destination

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- Simple design: "forwarding table"
- Issues
 - how big is the forwarding table?
 - how fast does the router have to forward datagrams?
 - how does the router build and maintain the forwarding table?

Routing

Routing



Routing



router k			
Α	2		•
В	1		




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Where does queuing occur?

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- Input ports
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- Where does queuing occur?
- Input ports
 - queuing may occur here if the switching fabric is slower than the aggregate speed of all the input lines. I.e., $R_S < nR_{in}$
- Output ports
 - queuing may occur here because of the limited throughput of the output link. I.e., R_{out} < min(R_S, nR_{in})

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 - *drop tail:* drop arriving packets when queues are full
 - active queue management: a set of policies and algorithms to decide when and how to drop or mark packets in the attempt to prevent congestion

Routing: defining paths and compiling forwarding tables

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- OSPF
- BGP

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IP

- addressing
- datagram format
- fragmentation and packet handling

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IP

- addressing
- datagram format
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ICMP

- error reporting
- signaling



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IPv4 Datagram Format



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How does the router handle cases where the size of an input datagram exceeds the maximum transmission unit (MTU) of the output link?



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- The datagram is *fragmented*

header		
~		

input datagram

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header

input datagram

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- The fragmentation scheme must ensure that the intermediate routers can fragment a datagram to whatever level necessary

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identifier	fragment	more	header	total
	offset	fragments	length	length
789	0	0	20	1020

Fragmentation to an MTU of 512

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identifier	fragment	more	header	total
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789	0	1	20	508

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identifier	fragment	more	header	total
	offset	fragments	length	length
789	122	0	20	44