

Layer 1, 2 and 3 Refresher

Campus Network Design & Operations Workshop



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Objectives

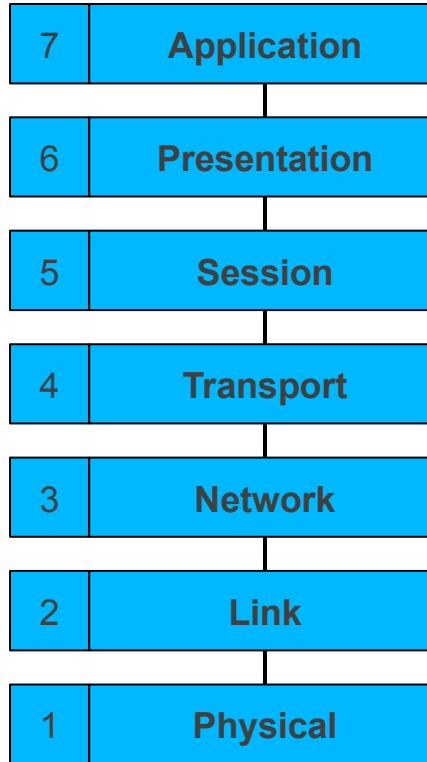
- To revise core networking concepts
- To ensure we are using the same terminology



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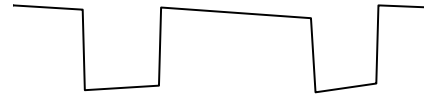
What is this?



Layer 1: Physical Layer

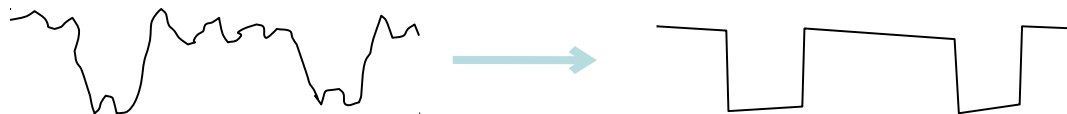
- Transfers a stream of bits
- Defines physical characteristics
 - Connectors, pinouts
 - Cable types, voltages, modulation
 - Fibre types, lambdas
 - Transmission rate (bps)
- No knowledge of bytes or frames

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Types of equipment

- Layer 1: Hub, Repeater, SFP, Media Converter
 - Hubs are not used any more!
- Works at the level of individual bits

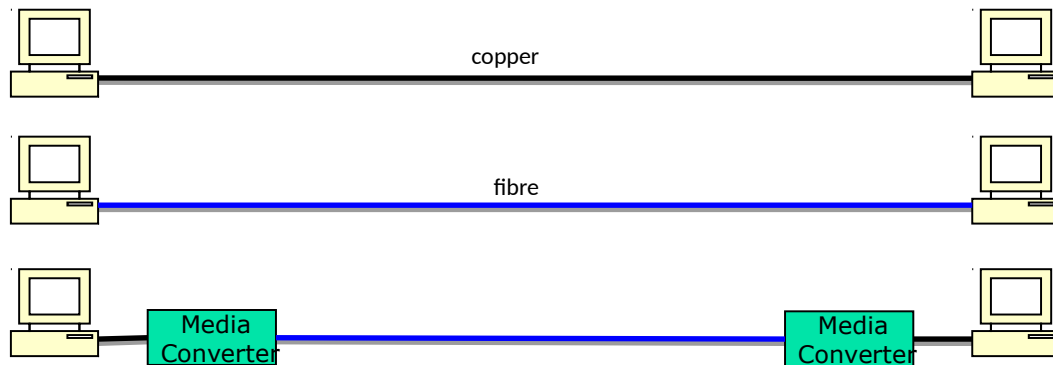


- All data sent out of all ports
 - Hence data may end up where it is not needed
- Transmission errors can occur
 - BER (Bit Error Rate), SNR (Signal to Noise Ratio)



Building networks at Layer 1

- What limits do we hit?
 - Cat5E/Cat6A cable length?
 - Fibre length?
 - Fibre type?
 - Media converters?

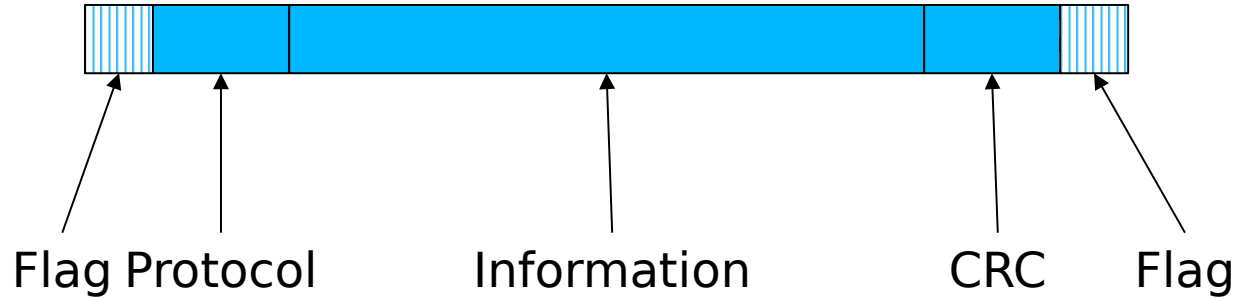


Layer 2: (Data) Link Layer

- Organises data into *frames*
- May detect transmission errors (corrupt frames)
- May support shared media
 - Addressing (unicast, multicast) – who should receive this frame
 - Access control, collision detection
- Usually identifies the L3 protocol carried



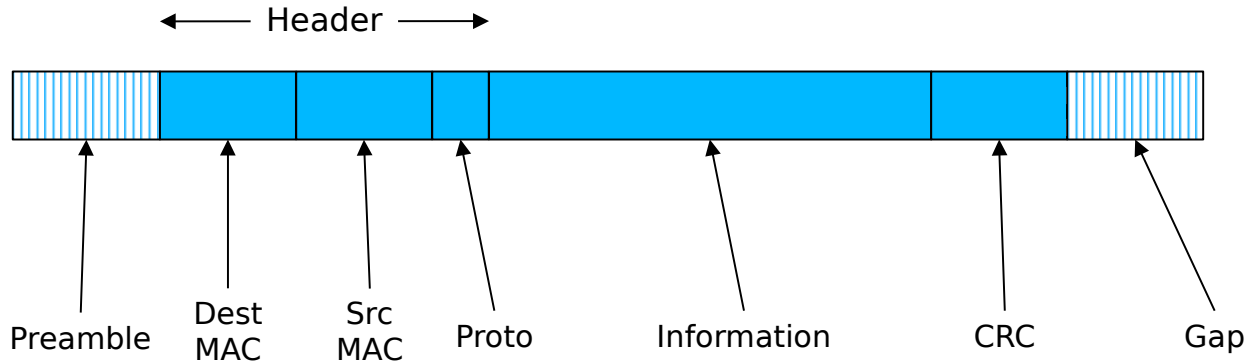
Example Layer 2: PPP



- Also includes link setup and negotiation
 - Agree link parameters (LCP)
 - Authentication (PAP/CHAP)
 - Layer 3 settings (IPCP)



Example Layer 2: Ethernet



- MAC addresses
- Protocol: 2 bytes
 - e.g. 0800 = IPv4, 0806 = ARP, 86DD = IPv6
- Preamble: carrier sense, collision detection



Types of equipment (contd)

- Layer 2: **Switch, Bridge**
- Receives whole layer 2 frames and selectively retransmits them
- Learns which MAC address is on which port
- If it knows the destination MAC address, will send it out only on that port
 - Otherwise, it sends it out on all ports
- **Broadcast** frames must be sent out of all ports, just like a hub
- Doesn't look any further than L2 header

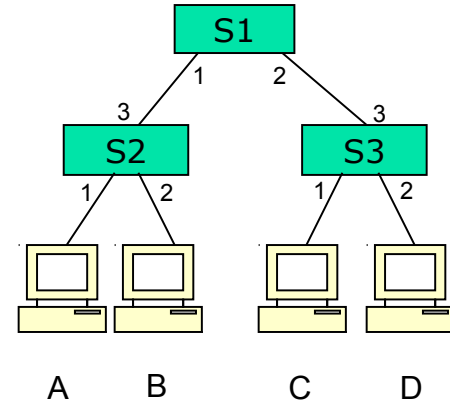


Address Learning

- MAC addresses learned by each switch

S1	<u>MAC</u>	<u>Port</u>
	A	1
	B	1
	C	2
	D	2

S2	<u>MAC</u>	<u>Port</u>	S3	<u>MAC</u>	<u>Port</u>
	A	1	C	1	
	B	2	D	2	
	C	3	A	3	
	D	3	B	3	



How Address Learning Works

- After receiving a frame with the **source** MAC address X on port Y, it “learns” that X is connected to port Y
- Learned MAC address and the corresponding port are added to the MAC Address Table ("bridge forwarding table")
- Later, when it receives a frame with **destination** MAC address = X, it can send it out only on port Y, and not on other ports
- If the destination MAC address of a received frame is not in the MAC Address Table, it must be sent out on all ports (like a hub)



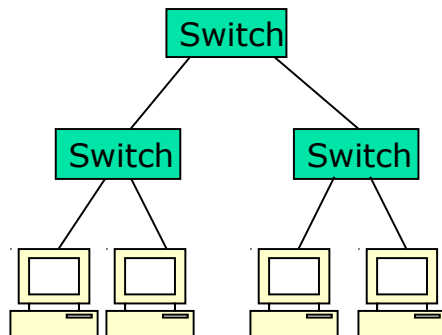
Address Learning (contd)

- If a switch port is connected to a single computer, then only its Ethernet address will be associated with that port
- If a switch port is connected to another switch (or hub or AP), then a number of Ethernet addresses may be associated with that port
- Entries in the forwarding table may expire, or be forced out if it runs out of space
- A managed switch will let you inspect its forwarding table



Building networks at Layer 2

- What limits do we hit?
 - Why can't we just keep adding more and more switches and devices indefinitely? What problems occur?

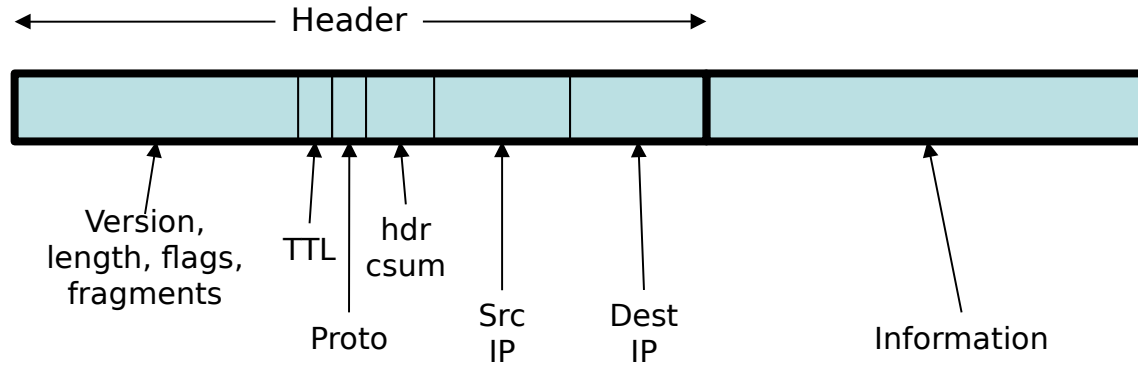


Layer 3: (Inter)Network Layer

- Connects Layer 2 networks together
 - Forwarding data from one network to another
 - These different networks are called subnets (short for sub-network)
- Universal datagram (Layer 3 data unit) format
- Unified addressing scheme
 - Independent of the underlying L2 network(s)
 - Addresses organised so that it can scale globally (aggregation)
- Identifies the layer 4 protocol being carried
- Fragmentation and reassembly



Example Layer 3: IPv4 Datagram



- Src, Dest: IPv4 addresses
- Protocol: 1 byte
 - e.g. 6 = TCP, 17 = UDP (see /etc/protocols)

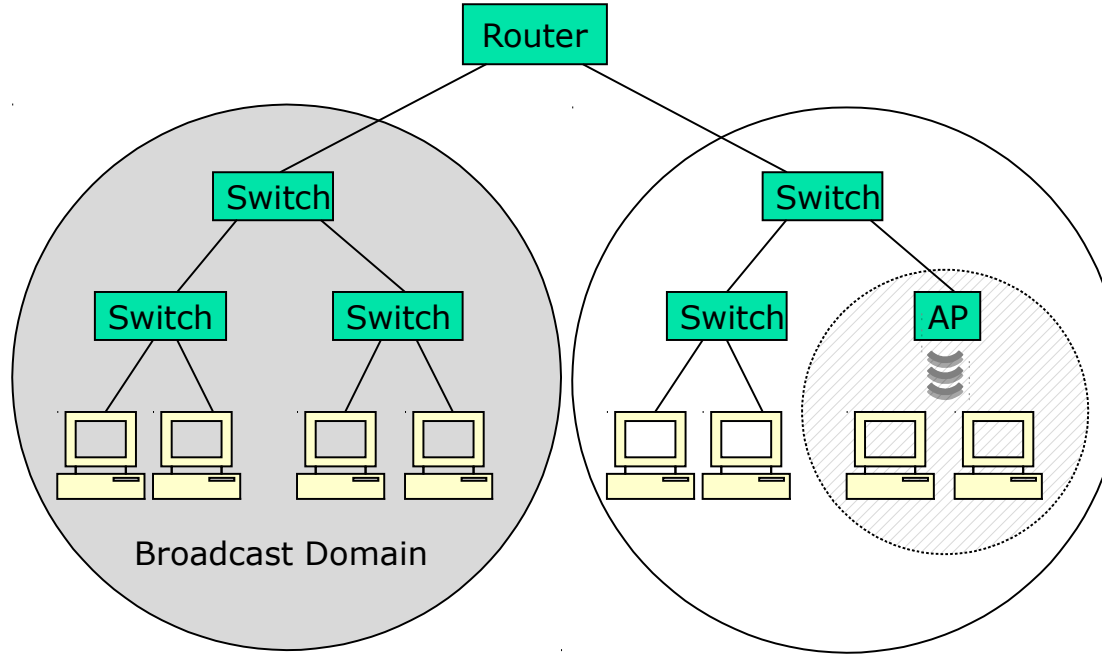


Types of equipment (contd)

- Layer 3: **Router**
- Looks at the destination IP in its Forwarding Table to decide where to send next
- Collection of routers managed together is called an “Autonomous System”
- The forwarding table can be built by hand (static routes) or dynamically
 - Within an AS: IGP (e.g. OSPF, IS-IS)
 - Between ASes: EGP (e.g. BGP)



Traffic Domains



Collision Domain: where several devices share one communication medium (e.g. wireless networks)

Broadcast Domain: all devices on the same sub-network



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Network design guidelines

- No more than ~250 hosts on one subnet
 - Implies: subnets no larger than an IPv4 /24
 - Maybe bigger if a lot of address churn (e.g. roaming wireless devices)
- Campus guideline
 - At least one subnet per building
 - More than one subnet will usually be required for larger buildings
- Wireless
 - many APs, each covering a small area, are better than one AP covering a large area
 - neighboring APs should be on non-overlapping radio channels

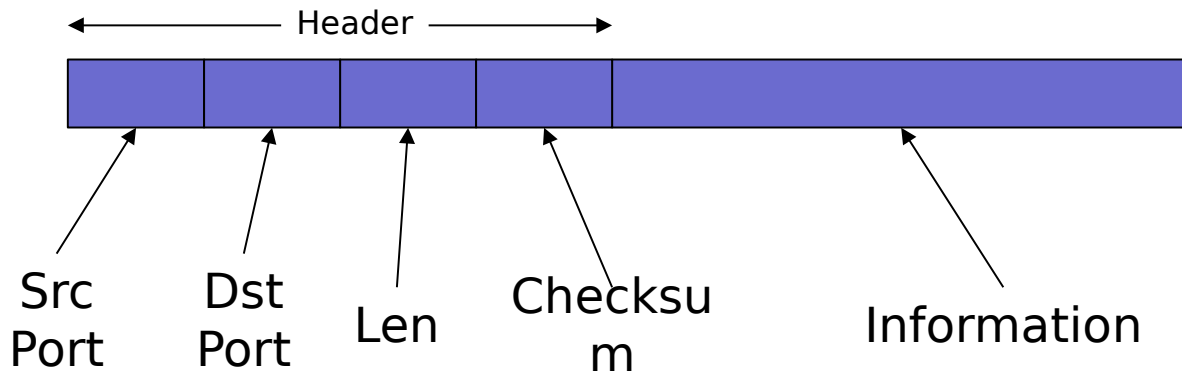


Layer 4: Transport Layer

- Identifies the *endpoint* process
 - Another level of addressing (port number)
- May provide reliable delivery
 - Streams of unlimited size
 - Error correction and retransmission
 - In-sequence delivery
 - Flow control
- Might just be unreliable datagram transport



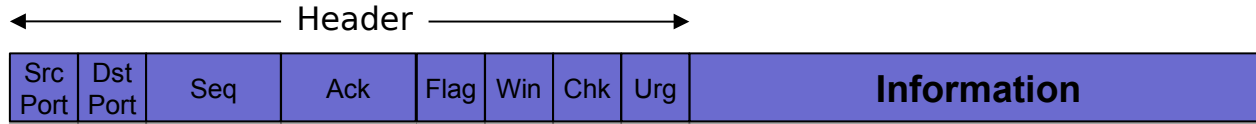
Example Layer 4: UDP



- Port numbers: 16 bits each
 - Well-known ports: e.g. 53 = DNS
 - Ephemeral ports: ≥ 1024 , chosen dynamically by client



Example Layer 4: TCP



- Port numbers: 16 bits each
 - Well-known ports: e.g. 80 = HTTP
 - Ephemeral ports: ≥ 1024 , chosen dynamically by client
- Reliable transmission: Sequence and Acknowledgement numbers
- Flow control: Window
- Session flags including SYN, ACK, FIN, RST
- Extensible via Options



Layers 5 and 6

- Session Layer: long-lived sessions
 - Re-establish transport connection if it fails
 - Multiplex data across multiple transport connections
- Presentation Layer: data reformatting
 - Character set translation
- Neither exist in the TCP/IP suite: the application is responsible for these functions



Layer 7: Application layer

- The actual work you want to do
- Protocols specific to each application
- *Give some examples*



OSI vs TCP/IP

OSI	TCP/IP
Application	Application
Presentation	
Session	
Transport	Transport (host-to-host)
Network	Internet
Data Link	Network Access
Physical	Physical

Source: William Stallings
*"Data and Computer
Communications"*



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Encapsulation

- Each layer provides services to the layer above
- Each layer makes use of the layer below
- Data from one layer is *encapsulated* in frames of the layer below



Encapsulation in action



- L4 segment contains part of stream of application protocol
- L3 datagram contains L4 segment
- L2 frame has L3 datagram in data portion



For discussion

- Can you give examples of equipment which interconnects two networks and operates at layer 4? At layer 7?
- At what layer does a wireless access point work?
- What is a “Layer 3 switch”?
- How does traceroute find out the routers which a packet traverses?



Debugging Tools

- What tools can you use to debug your network
 - At layer 1?
 - At layer 2?
 - At layer 3?
 - Higher layers?

