

ECE 435 – Network Engineering

Lecture 1

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Introduction

- Distribute and go over syllabus
- Talk about the class.
 - Homeworks, 50%: 11 total, lowest dropped.
Generally will be due on Wednesday by beginning of class. Will usually have at least a week to do them.
Submission by e-mail, grades sent in response to that e-mail, if you don't like that let me know.
Will send out e-mail when posted on website.
 - Midterm, 10%



- Final, 15%
- Class participation, 5%
- Project, 20%: Involves using what we learn to do a networking-related project, with a final writeup and demo the last week of classes. More details as we get closer.
- Late work penalty
- Class notes will be posted on the website.



- Will involve some C coding, also a lot of Linux configuration and possibly serial ports and network connections
- Lab: no dedicated lab. Might involve some sort of setup where you have to come in and try some things out.



Hardware

- Will be helpful to have a device with ethernet that you can run tests on
- Raspberry Pi B+/2B/3B is great because if you mess things up you can just pop in a new SD card
- Laptop or desktop is fine too. It helps if it is running Linux. Although most TCP/IP stacks are similar for backwards compatibility reasons.
- Having an ethernet cable might be good as well.



Networking



What is a Computer Network?

- A group of computers, connected to they can communicate
- Probably familiar with the Internet, which is a network of networks.



How can they be connected together?

- Wire (ethernet, telephone, powerlines)
- Fiber Optic
- Wirelessly: radio, microwave, infrared, laser
- Sound?



Why have networks?

- Resource sharing (printer, fileserver, etc.)
- Communication (e-mail, text messaging, video-conferencing, etc)
- Gaming
- Operating system/Security Updates



Why have network to your home?

- Accessing information (web-pages, etc)
- Entertainment (videos, gaming, web-pages, etc)
- Communication (e-mail, forums, video calls, phone calls)
- Shopping
- File sharing



Network Problems

- Reliability
- Security
- Expense
- Speed
- Addressing (how to find a machine)
- Error correction
- Scalability
- Standards



Network terms

- Client/Server
- Broadcast vs point-to-point
- Wide area network, local area network
- Bandwidth vs Latency. 100Mbps (100 mega-bits per second)
- Connection oriented vs packet based (Switched phone vs VOIP)
- Topology (star, ring, cube, mesh, hypercube)



OSI Reference Model

ISO/OSI Open Systems Interconnection (1984)

ISO 7498

Many thought this would be the standard, but didn't end up that way

Everyone still talks about it anyway

Various layers each a new layer of abstraction.

Layers should be independent. Layering violations



1. Physical – **bits**: the raw bits. How 0 and 1 encoded, electrons or photons, etc.
pins, volts, timing, frequency
topology, how wires laid out
bandwidth
2. Data Link – **frames**: Transforms raw line to one that handles errors,
breaks up data into frames, etc.
Unique identity for each device on network
Flow control, error handling



3. Network – **packets**: management of subnet. How packets routed from one network to another, addressing. (routing: what is routing?)

4. Transport – **end-to-end delivery**
accepts a stream of bytes from above and make it suitable for the network layer.
Gets back split up packets and turns it back into a total message.
flow control, reliable delivery, error correction

5. Session – allows different machines to have sessions



between them. session management, synchronization.
Lets different apps share one connection to the network.

6. Presentation – syntax of data being transmitted. Char encoding, compression, encryption
7. Application – high level protocol, like webserver (http), ssh, etc.



| | OSI | TCP/IP |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| 7 | Application | Application |
| 6 | Presentation | |
| 5 | Session | |
| 4 | Transport | Transport |
| 3 | Network | Internet |
| 2 | Data Link | Host-to-network |
| 1 | Physical | Host-to-network |

RFC 3439: “Layering considered harmful”



Results

- OSI (theoretical) never caught on for various reasons
- TCP/IP (practical) did, but has its own limitations which we'll discuss later

