

# CSE 486/586: Distributed Systems

## The Internet in Two Lectures (Part 1)

Ethan Blanton

Department of Computer Science and Engineering  
University at Buffalo

# Last Time...

- Attendance is required
- Academic Integrity is important
- Projects are individual
- A brief overview of distributed systems

# Administrivia

Remember

- AI Quiz due Friday
- Programming Assignment 1 due next Monday

We're using Piazza, be sure to join!

# Introduction I

The next two lectures will be about the Internet.

Why?

- The design of the Internet influences distributed systems
- It's also really good!
- Steve likes it, and so do I

This isn't a networking course, just a refresher.

# Introduction II

The Internet handles many distributed systems problems

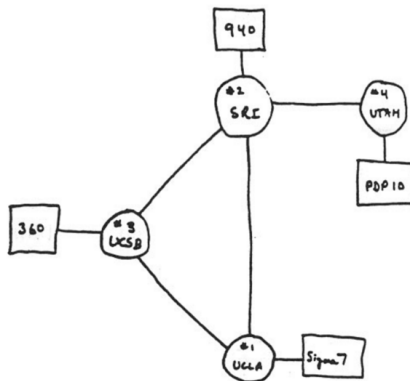
- Unreliable communication
- Failure detection
- Agreement

(However, for reasons we'll get into, we have to solve some of them again!)

# A Brief History...

- **1961:** Leonard Kleinrock writes the first paper on **packet switching**
- **1962:** J. C. R. Licklider of MIT wrote some memos about a “Galactic Network”
- **1962:** Licklider becomes head of DARPA Computer Research
  - Convinces his successors of the importance of networking
- **1965:** Lawrence G. Roberts & Thomas Merrill **connect two computers**, from MA to CA, over **telephone lines**
- **1966:** Roberts joins DARPA, develops a plan for the **ARPANET**
- **1969:** First two sites (UCLA and Stanford Research Institute) are connected to the ARPANET

# 1969



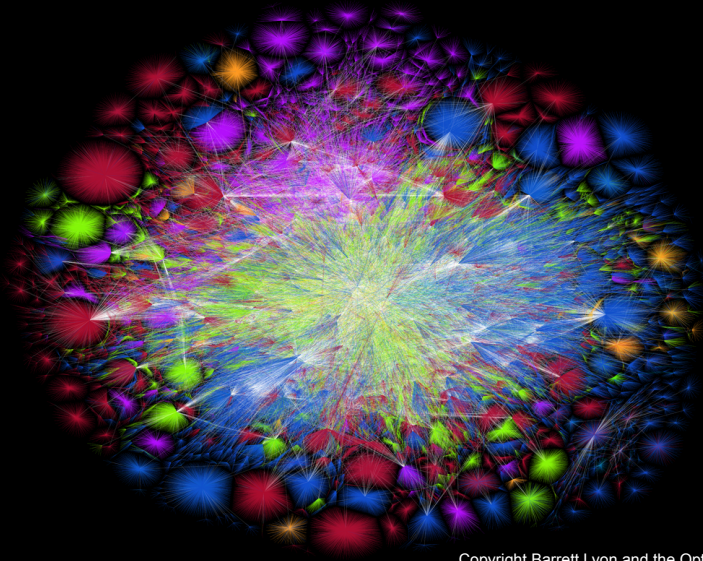
THE ARPA NETWORK

DEC 1969

Ethan Blanton / CSE 486/586: Distributed Systems



2015



Copyright Barrett Lyon and the Opte Project

# What Is the Internet?

It is a **network of networks**.

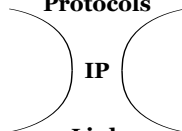
It was designed as **standard protocols** interconnecting **different networks**.

IP is the “narrow waist” of the Internet

There are **many protocols** above and below it.

## Application Protocols

**Transport  
Protocols**



**Link  
Protocols**

**Physical Layers**

# What *Is* a Protocol?

An **agreement** on **how to communicate**.

Every protocol consists of:

- Syntax: How things are “**written down**”
  - How is an integer represented?
  - Where is message length encoded?
  - *etc.*
- Semantics: What things **mean**
  - Who initiates communication?
  - How is lost information recovered?
  - *etc.*

In a **good protocol**, these things are **precise**.

# Networks Before the Internet

Prior to the Internet, networks were **walled gardens**.

IBM machines on one network, Digital on another ...

Different platforms and media used **different protocols**.

Protocols seldom crossed **physical media** boundaries:  
coaxial cable, twinaxial cable, twisted pair, *etc.*

# Internet Design Goals

To “develop an effective technology for multiplexed utilization of existing interconnected networks.”

*At the time it was assumed that there would be other sorts of networks [than the ARPANET] to interconnect, although the local area network had not yet emerged.*

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 Be robust to failure of networks or gateways | 4 Permit distributed management |
| 2 Support multiple types of service            | 5 Be cost effective             |
| 3 Accommodate a variety of networks            | 6 Permit easy host connection   |
|  | 7 Be resource accountable       |

*From David Clark's 1988 SIGCOMM paper (required reading) [1]*

# Internet Design Solution

**Layering** — the **network layer** and up

Existing networks underneath the network layer, and different types of service above.

Each layer can:

- rely on layers below, and
- provide services to layers above.

This provides:

- Encapsulation (layer details are hidden)
- Polymorphism (layer implementations can be replaced)

# Layers

We usually recognize five layers:

- Application (HTTP, SMTP, IMAP, XMPP)
- Transport (TCP, UDP)
- Network (IP — v4 or v6)
- Link (Ethernet, Wi-Fi, DOCSIS, LTE)
- Physical (coaxial cable, twisted pair, RF)

This is the standard CS approach to problems: add a layer of indirection!

The OSI Model recognizes 7, but it's a bad retcon<sup>1</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup>Wikipedia: Retroactive continuity, [or retcon], is a literary device in which established facts [...] are adjusted, ignored, or contradicted by a subsequently published work[.]

# But Which Layers?

Where and how to draw the layer boundaries is important.

Obviously **on top of the link layer** ...

**Packet switching** was selected, with the “bottom” layer handling:

- **Addressing**
- **Routing**
- **Fragmentation and Framing**

This is the **network layer**, IP (the Internet Protocol!) [2].

**Everything else** goes on top!



# The Network Layer

This division provides a “least common denominator.”

**Addressing** papers over the disparate local network address formats and semantics.

**Routing** handles walled gardens that don't know how to communicate.

**Fragmentation and framing** solves the problem of link layers with wildly different packet sizes — or no packets at all!

# Remaining Problems

We said the Internet **solves some distributed systems problems**.

But ...the network layer didn't. What does?

# Remaining Problems

We said the Internet **solves some distributed systems problems**.

But ...the network layer didn't. What does?

Another layer: the **transport layer**.

**Why?**

# What Layers, Part II

By giving each layer **minimal functionality**, we:

- reduce complexity
- increase flexibility
- serve multiple purposes

# The Network Layer, Part II

Why “network” layer?

Where does it do its work?

(Who handles routing? Who do addresses belong to?)

# The Network Layer, Part II

Why “network” layer?

Where does it do its work?

(Who handles routing? Who do addresses belong to?)

...**the network!** But what does that mean?

We divide duties between:

- **the network:** routers, gateways, *etc.*
- **endpoints:** communicating entities

# Why Route in the Network?

Remember this?

- 1 Be robust to failure of networks or gateways
- 2 Support multiple types of service
- 4 Permit distributed management

Routing at the endpoints complicates these design goals.

# What Layers, Part III

A big question:

Where *should* problems be solved?

A related question:

What sorts of problems *do* we solve?

Should the answers to these questions affect layering?



# What Layers, Part III

A big question:

Where *should* problems be solved?

A related question:

What sorts of problems *do* we solve?

Should the answers to these questions affect layering?

It turns out they do.

# What Layers, Part IV

What about the other layers? Do they belong to the endpoints?

# What Layers, Part IV

What about the other layers? Do they belong to the endpoints?

Find out Next Time!

# Summary

- A protocol is an **agreement** on how to communicate.
  - **Syntax & Semantics**
- The Internet is, primarily, a **network of networks**.
- Its durability and longevity are due to good **layering**.
  - Routing and addressing are handled **in the network**.

Next time:

- Reliability and Survivability
- Transport protocols

# References I

## Required Readings

- [1] David D. Clark. “The Design Philosophy of the DARPA Internet Protocols”. In: *Computer Communication Review* 18.4 (Aug. 1988), pp. 106–114. URL: <http://ccr.sigcomm.org/archive/1995/jan95/ccr-9501-clark.pdf>.

## Optional Readings

- [2] Jon Postel. *Internet Protocol*. RFC 791. Sept. 1981. 45 pp. URL: <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc791.txt>.

# Acknowledgements

These slides are based on slides from Steve Ko, used with permission.

Those slides contain the following attribution:

- These slides contain material developed and copyrighted by
  - Indranil Gupta at UIUC
  - Mike Freedman and Jen Rexford at Princeton