

 Computer network A collection of computing devices that are connected in various ways in order to communicate and share resources

Usually, the connections between computers in a network are made using physical wires or cables

However, some connections are wireless, using radio waves or infrared signals



- The generic term node or host refers to any device on a network
- Data transfer rate The speed with which data is moved from one place on a network to another
- Data transfer rate is a key issue in computer networks



 Computer networks have opened up an entire frontier in the world of computing called the client/server model

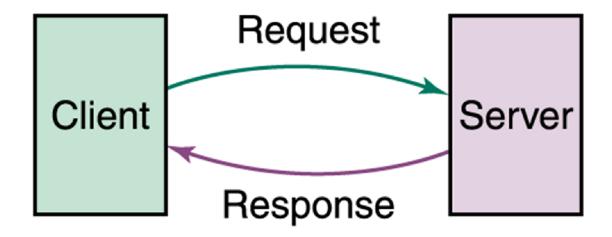


Figure 15.1 Client/Server interaction



- File server A computer that stores and manages files for multiple users on a network
- Web server A computer dedicated to responding to requests (from the browser client) for web pages
- Database Servers (SQL)
- Mail Servers



 Local-area network (LAN) A network that connects a relatively small number of machines in a relatively close geographical area



- Various configurations, called topologies, have been used to administer LANs
 - Ring topology A configuration that connects all nodes in a closed loop on which messages travel in one direction
 - Star topology A configuration that centers around one node to which all others are connected and through which all messages are sent
 - Bus topology All nodes are connected to a single communication line that carries messages in both directions



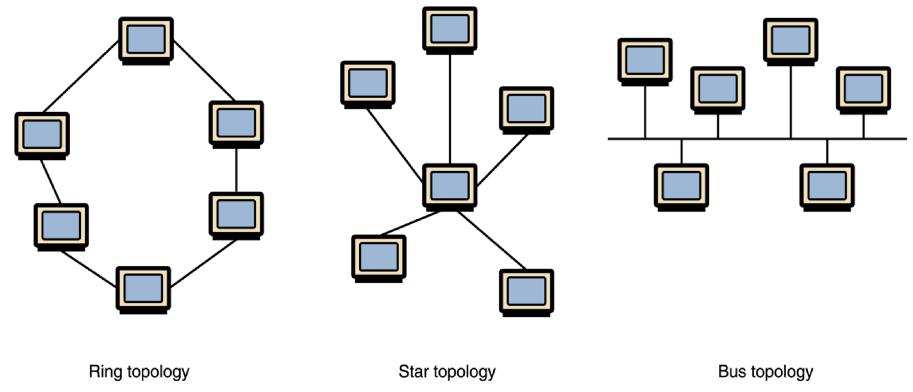


Figure 15.2 Various network topologies

 A bus technology called Ethernet has become the industry standard for local-area networks



 Wide-area network (WAN) A network that connects two or more local-area networks over a potentially large geographic distance

Often one particular node on a LAN is set up to serve as a gateway to handle all communication going between that LAN and other networks

Communication between networks is called internetworking

The Internet, as we know it today, is essentially the ultimate wide-area network, spanning the entire globe



 Metropolitan-area network (MAN) The communication infrastructures that have been developed in and around large cities



So, who owns the Internet?

Well, nobody does. No single person or company owns the Internet or even controls it entirely. As a wide-area network, it is made up of many smaller networks. These smaller networks are often owned and managed by a person or organization. The Internet, then, is really defined by how connections can be made between these networks.



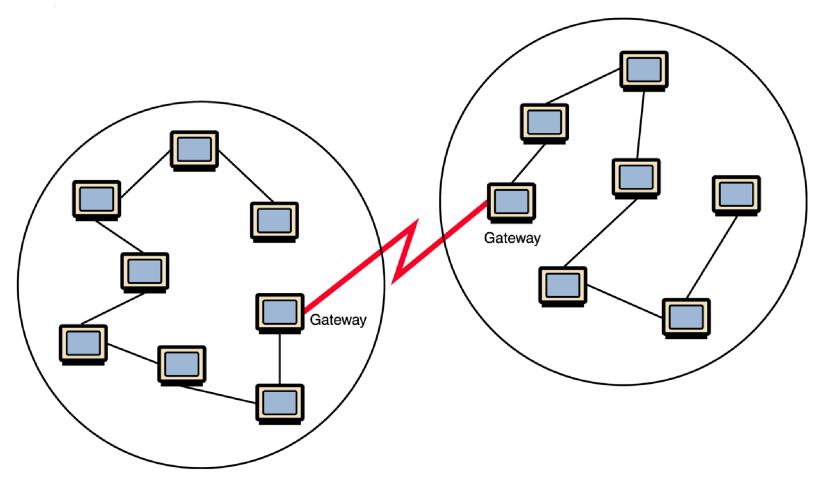


Figure 15.1 Local-area networks connected across a distance to create a wide-area network



Internet Connections

 Internet service provider (ISP) A company that provides other companies or individuals with access to the Internet

Eg- Verizon, Comcast



Internet Connections

- There are various technologies available that you can use to connect a home computer to the Internet
 - A phone modem converts computer data into an analog audio signal for transfer over a telephone line, and then a modem at the destination converts it back again into data
 - A digital subscriber line (DSL) uses regular copper phone lines to transfer digital data to and from the phone company's central office
 - A cable modem uses the same line that your cable TV signals come in on to transfer the data back and forth



Internet Connections

- Broadband A connection in which transfer speeds are faster than 128 bits per second
 - DSL connections and cable modems are broadband connections
 - The speed for downloads (getting data from the Internet to your home computer) may not be the same as uploads (sending data from your home computer to the Internet)



Open Systems

- Proprietary system A system that uses technologies kept private by a particular commercial vendor
- Open systems based on a common model of network architecture and a suite of protocols used in its implementation



Network Protocols

- Network protocols are layered such that each one relies on the protocols that underlie it
- Sometimes referred to as a protocol stack

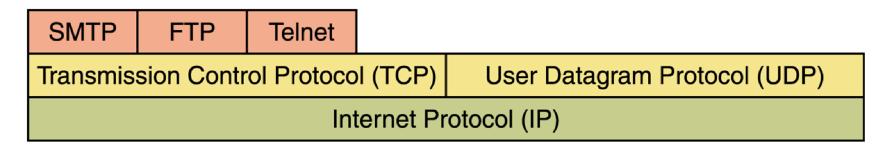


Figure 15.6 Layering of key network protocols



TCP/IP

- TCP stands for Transmission Control Protocol
 TCP software breaks messages into packets,
 hands them off to the IP software for delivery,
 and then orders and reassembles the packets
 at their destination
- IP stands for Internet Protocol
 IP software deals with the routing of packets through the maze of interconnected networks to their final destination



TCP/IP (cont.)

- UDP stands for User Datagram Protocol
 - It is an alternative to TCP
 - The main difference is that TCP is highly reliable, at the cost of decreased performance, while UDP is less reliable, but generally faster



High-Level Protocols

- Other protocols build on the foundation established by the TCP/IP protocol suite
 - Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)
 - File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
 - Telnet
 - Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (http)



Firewalls

- Firewall A machine and its software that serve as a special gateway to a network, protecting it from inappropriate access
 - Filters the network traffic that comes in, checking the validity of the messages as much as possible and perhaps denying some messages altogether
 - Enforces an organization's access control policy

Firewalls

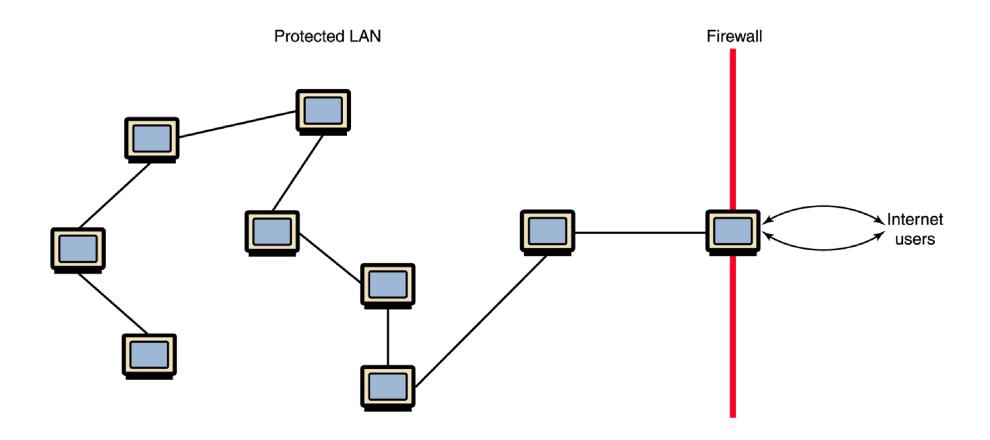


Figure 15.8 A firewall protecting a LAN



Network Addresses

 Hostname A unique identification that specifies a particular computer on the Internet

For example

matisse.csc.villanova.edu

condor.develocorp.com



Network Addresses

 Network software translates a hostname into its corresponding IP address

For example 205.39.145.18

- An IP address can be split into
 - network address, which specifies a specific network
 - host number, which specifies a particular machine in that network



- A hostname consists of the computer name followed by the domain name
- csc.villanova.edu is the domain name
 - A domain name is separated into two or more sections that specify the organization, and possibly a subset of an organization, of which the computer is a part
 - Two organizations can have a computer named the same thing because the domain name makes it clear which one is being referred to



- The very last section of the domain is called its top-level domain (TLD) name
- .com intended for commercial websites
- .org intended for organizations(mainly nonprofit)
- .gov- intended for government websites
- .edu intended for educational entities (now mainly used by third-level education entities
- .net intended for network and infrastructure ₁



 Organizations based in countries other than the United States use a top-level domain that corresponds to their two-letter country codes

Country Code TLD	Country
.au	Australia
.br	Brazil
.ca	Canada
.gr	Greece
.in	India
.ru	Russian Federation
.uk	United Kingdom

Figure 15.11
Some of the top-level domain names based on country codes



- The domain name system (DNS) is chiefly used to translate hostnames into numeric IP addresses
 - DNS is an example of a distributed database
 - If that server can resolve the hostname, it does so
 - If not, that server asks another domain name server