

# Data Networks

## Introduction



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## Goals:

- Get "feel" & terminology
- More depth, detail *later* in course
- Approach:
  - Use Internet as example

## Overview.

- What's the Internet?
- What's a protocol?
- Network edge:
  - End-systems, access net, physical media
- Network core:
  - Packet/circuit switching, Network structure
- Performance: *Delay, loss, throughput*
- Protocol layers, service models
- Networks under attack: Security
- History



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## The network core

- Mesh of interconnected routers
- Packet-switching: Hosts break application-layer messages into *packets*
  - Forward packets from one router to the next, across links on path from source to destination
  - Each packet transmitted at full link capacity





# Packet-switching: Store-and-forward

- Takes *L* / *R* seconds to transmit (push out) *L*-bit packet into link at *R* bps
- *Store and forward:* Entire packet must arrive at router before it can be transmitted on next link

One-hop numerical example:

- L = 7.5 Mbits
- *R* = 1.5 Mbps
- One-hop transmission delay = 5 s



End-end delay = 2\*L/R (assuming zero propagation delay)

more on delay shortly ...



## Queuing and loss:

If arrival rate (in bits) to link exceeds transmission rate of link for a period of time:

- Packets will queue, wait to be transmitted on link
- Packets can be dropped (lost) if memory (buffer) fills up



# Two key network-core functions



#### Routing:

Determines source-destination route taken by packets



#### Forwarding:

Move packets from router's input to appropriate router output



## Alternative core: Circuit switching

- End-end resources allocated to, reserved for "call" between source & dest.:
- In diagram, each link has four circuits
  - Call gets 2<sup>nd</sup> circuit in top link and 1<sup>st</sup> circuit in right link
- Dedicated resources: no sharing
  - Circuit-like (guaranteed) performance
- Circuit segment idle if not used by call (no sharing)
- Commonly used in traditional telephone networks







# Packet switching versus circuit switching



## Packet switching may allow more users to use network!

#### Example:

- 1 Mb/s link
- Each user:
  - 100 kb/s when "active"
  - Active 10% of time

#### *Circuit-switching:*

• 10 users

#### Packet switching:

• With 35 users, probability > 10 active at same time is less than .0004 \*



- *Q:* How did we get value 0.0004?
- *Q*: What happens if > 35 users?
- \* Check out the online interactive exercises for more examples: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose ross/interactive/ Introduction



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# Packet switching versus circuit switching



Is packet switching a "slam dunk winner?"

- Great for bursty data
  - Resource sharing
  - Simpler, no call setup
- Excessive congestion possible: Packet delay and loss
  - Protocols needed for reliable data transfer, congestion control, ...
- Q: How to provide circuit-like behavior?
  - Bandwidth guarantees needed for audio/video apps
  - Still an unsolved problem ...





- End systems connect to Internet via access ISPs (Internet Service Providers)
  - Residential, company and university ISPs
- Access ISPs in turn must be interconnected
  - So that any two hosts can send packets to each other
- Resulting network of networks is very complex
  - Evolution was driven by economics and national policies
- Let us take a stepwise approach to describe current Internet structure





*Question:* Given *millions* of access ISPs, how to connect them together?





**Option:** Connect each access ISP to every other access ISP?





*Option: Connect each access ISP to one global transit ISP? Customer and provider ISPs have economic agreement.* 





But if one global ISP is viable business, there will be competitors ....







But if one global ISP is viable business, there will be competitors .... which must be interconnected





... and regional networks may arise to connect access nets to ISPs







... and content provider networks (e.g., Google, Microsoft, Akamai) may run their own network, to bring services, content close to end users









At center: Small # of well-connected large networks

• "Tier-1" commercial ISPs (e.g., Level 3, Sprint, AT&T, NTT), national & international coverage



• Content provider network (e.g., Google): Private network that connects its data centers to Internet, often bypassing tier-1, regional ISPs

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## Tier-1 ISP: E.g., Sprint







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