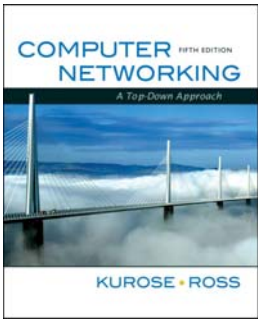
Chapter 1
Introduction



Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach, 5th edition.
Jim Kurose, Keith Ross
Addison-Wesley, April 2009.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Our goal:

- get "feel" and terminology
- more depth, detail *later* in course
- approach:
  - use Internet as example

Overview:

- what's the Internet?
- what's a protocol?
- network edge; hosts, access net, physical media
- network core: packet/circuit switching, Internet structure
- performance: loss, delay, throughput
- security
- protocol layers, service models
- history

Chapter 1: roadmap

1.1 What *is* the Internet?

1.2 Network edge

- end systems, access networks, links

1.3 Network core

- circuit switching, packet switching, network structure

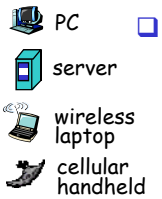
1.4 Delay, loss and throughput in packet-switched networks

1.5 Protocol layers, service models

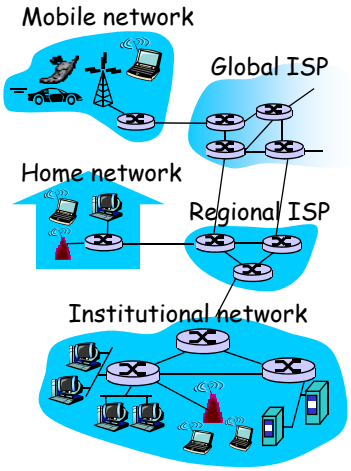
1.6 Networks under attack: security

1.7 History

What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view



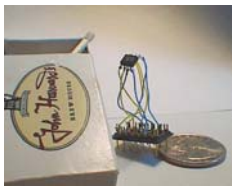
- millions of connected computing devices: *hosts = end systems*
  - running *network apps*
- *communication links*
  - fiber, copper, radio, satellite
  - transmission rate = *bandwidth*
- *routers:* forward packets (chunks of data)



"Cool" internet appliances

IP picture frame
http://www.ceiva.com/

Web-enabled toaster + weather forecaster

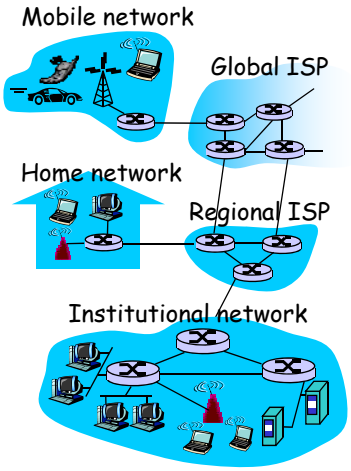


World's smallest web server
http://www-ccs.cs.umass.edu/~shri/iPic.html

Internet phones

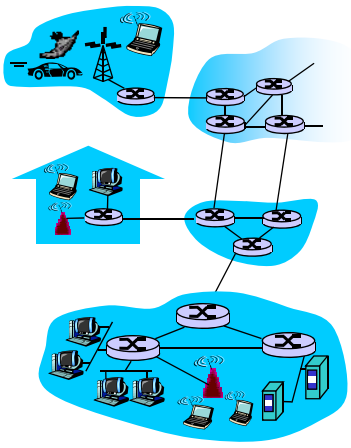
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

- *protocols* control sending, receiving of msgs
  - e.g., TCP, IP, HTTP, Skype, Ethernet
- *Internet:* "network of networks"
  - loosely hierarchical
  - public Internet versus private intranet
- Internet standards
  - RFC: Request for comments
  - IETF: Internet Engineering Task Force



What's the Internet: a service view

- communication *infrastructure* enables distributed applications:
  - Web, VoIP, email, games, e-commerce, file sharing
- communication services provided to apps:
  - reliable data delivery from source to destination
  - "best effort" (unreliable) data delivery



What's a protocol?

human protocols:

- "what's the time?"
- "I have a question"
- introductions

… specific msgs sent

… specific actions taken when msgs received, or other events

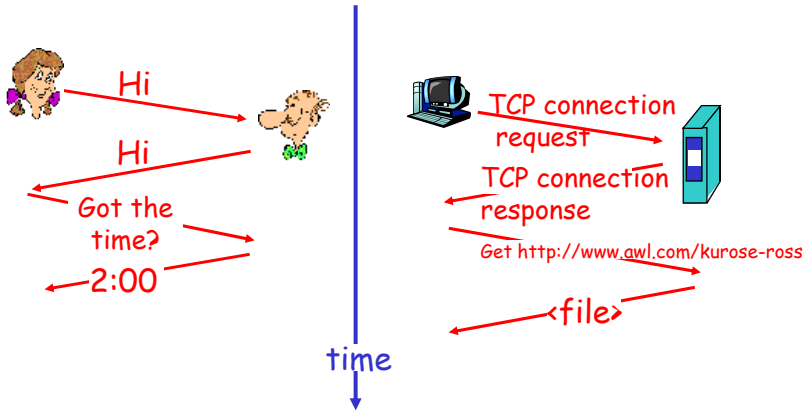
network protocols:

- machines rather than humans
- all communication activity in Internet governed by protocols

protocols define format, order of msgs sent and received among network entities, and actions taken on msg transmission, receipt

What's a protocol?

a human protocol and a computer network protocol:



Q: Other human protocols?

Chapter 1: roadmap

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1.2 Network edge

- end systems, access networks, links

1.3 Network core

- circuit switching, packet switching, network structure

1.4 Delay, loss and throughput in packet-switched networks

1.5 Protocol layers, service models

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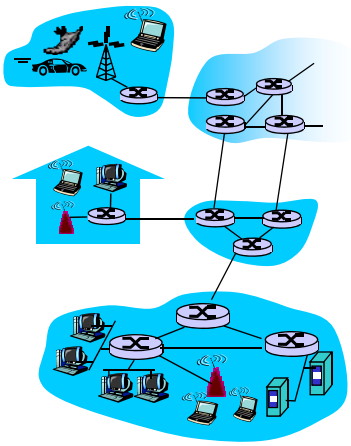
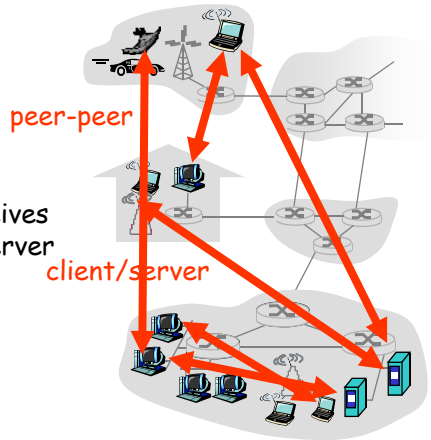
A closer look at network structure:

- network edge: applications and hosts
- access networks, physical media: wired, wireless communication links
- network core:
  - interconnected routers
  - network of networks



The network edge:

- end systems (hosts):
  - run application programs
  - e.g. Web, email
  - at "edge of network"
- client/server model
  - client host requests, receives service from always-on server
  - e.g. Web browser/server; email client/server
- peer-peer model:
  - minimal (or no) use of dedicated servers
  - e.g. Skype, BitTorrent



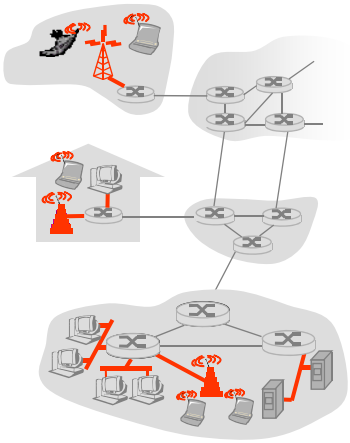
Access networks and physical media

Q: How to connect end systems to edge router?

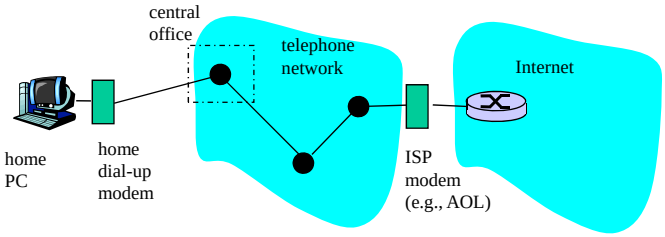
- residential access nets
- institutional access networks (school, company)
- mobile access networks

Keep in mind:

- bandwidth (bits per second) of access network?
- shared or dedicated?

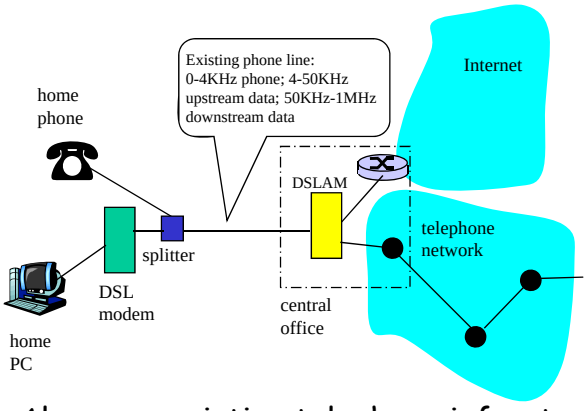


Dial-up Modem



- Uses existing telephony infrastructure
  - Home is connected to central office
- up to 56Kbps direct access to router (often less)
- Can't surf and phone at same time: not "always on"

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)



- Also uses existing telephone infrastruture
- up to 1 Mbps upstream (today typically < 256 kbps)
- up to 8 Mbps downstream (today typically < 1 Mbps)
- dedicated physical line to telephone central office

Residential access: cable modems

- Does not use telephone infrastructure
  - Instead uses cable TV infrastructure
- HFC: hybrid fiber coax
  - asymmetric: up to 30Mbps downstream, 2 Mbps upstream
- network of cable and fiber attaches homes to ISP router
  - homes share access to router
  - unlike DSL, which has dedicated access

Residential access: cable modems

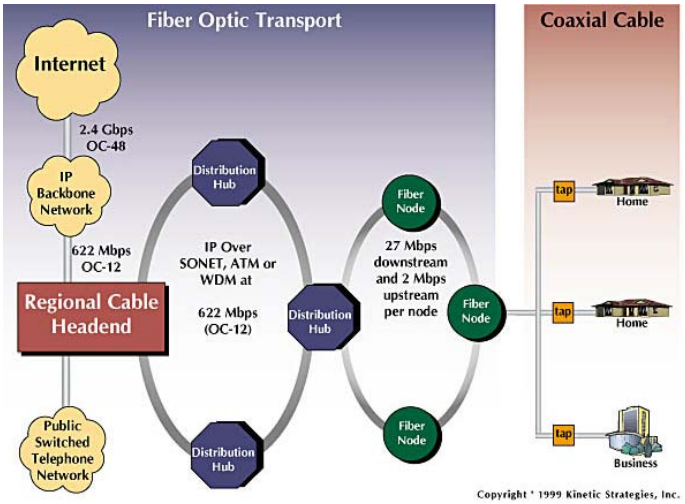
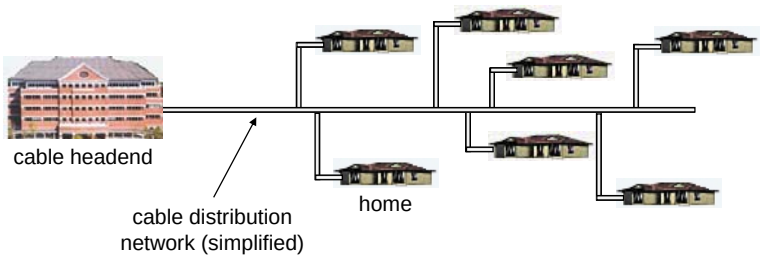


Diagram: http://www.cabledatacomnews.com/cmic/diagram.html

Cable Network Architecture: Overview

Typically 500 to 5,000 homes



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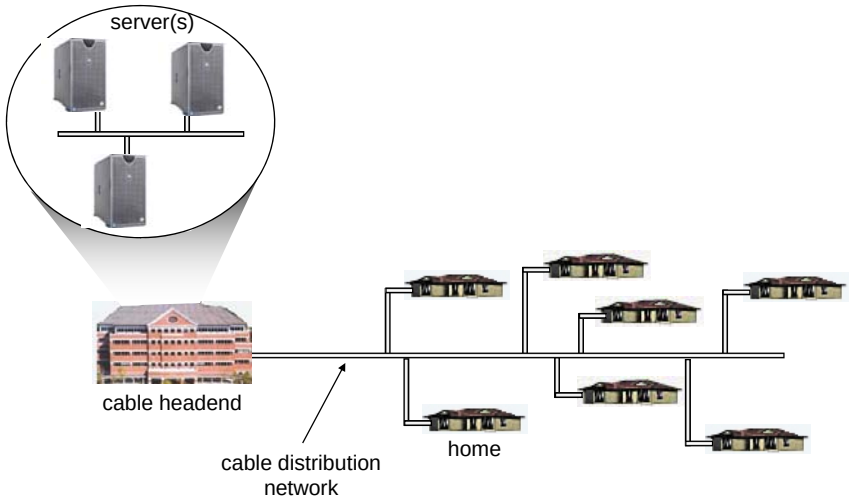

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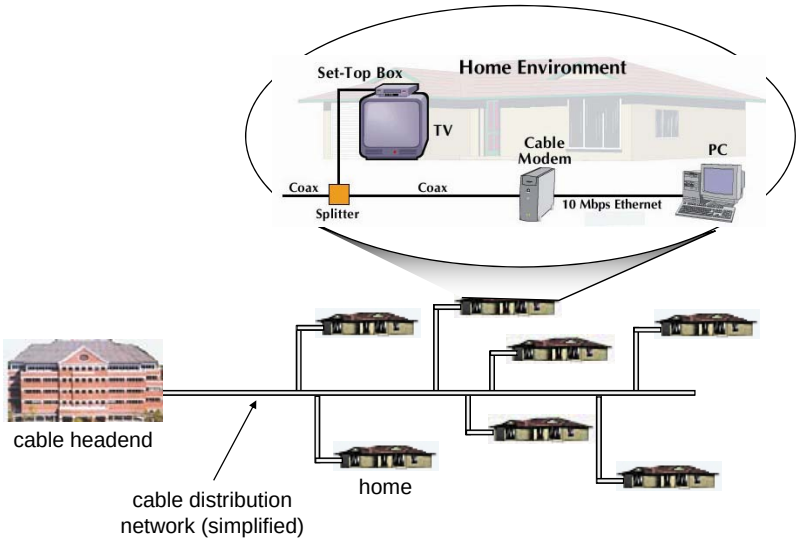
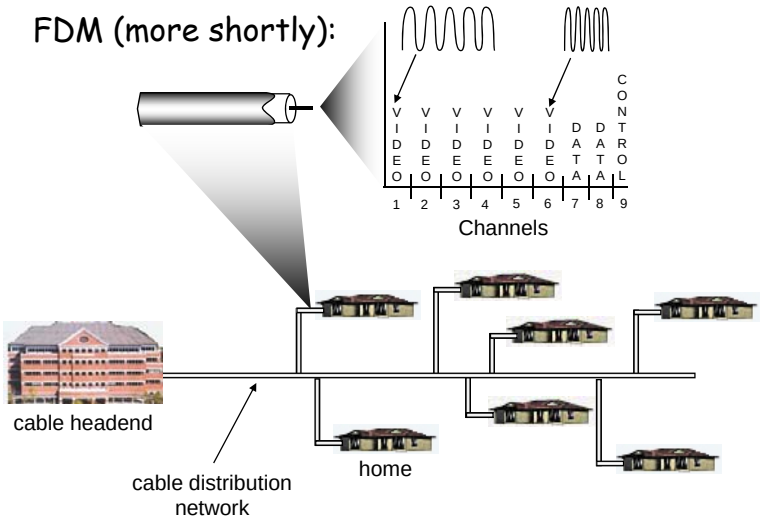
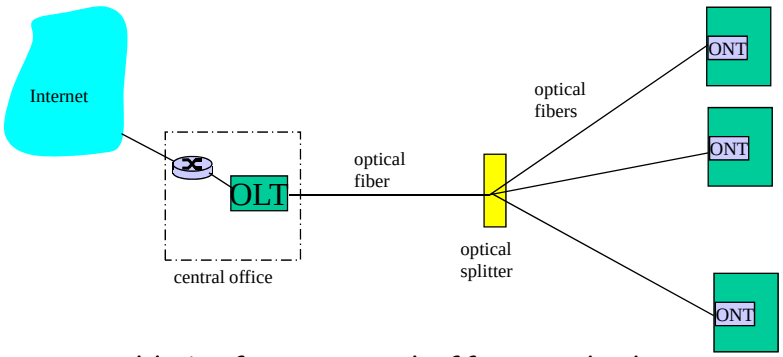


Cable Network Architecture: Overview

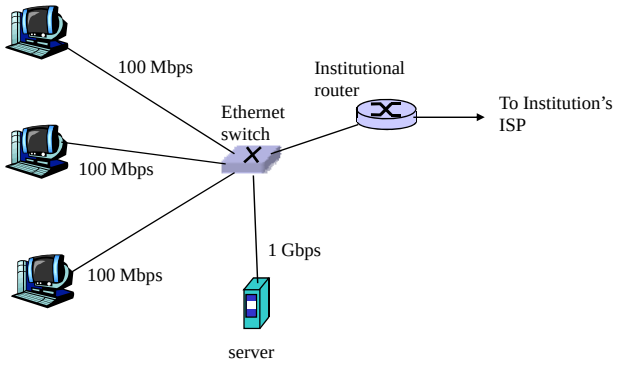


Fiber to the Home



- Optical links from central office to the home
- Two competing optical technologies:
  - Passive Optical network (PON)
  - Active Optical Network (PAN)
- Much higher Internet rates; fiber also carries television and phone services

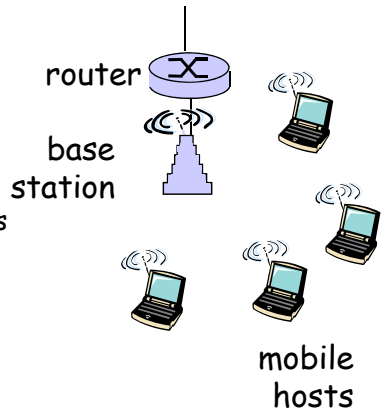
Ethernet Internet access



- Typically used in companies, universities, etc
- 10 Mbs, 100Mbps, 1Gbps, 10Gbps Ethernet
- Today, end systems typically connect into Ethernet switch

Wireless access networks

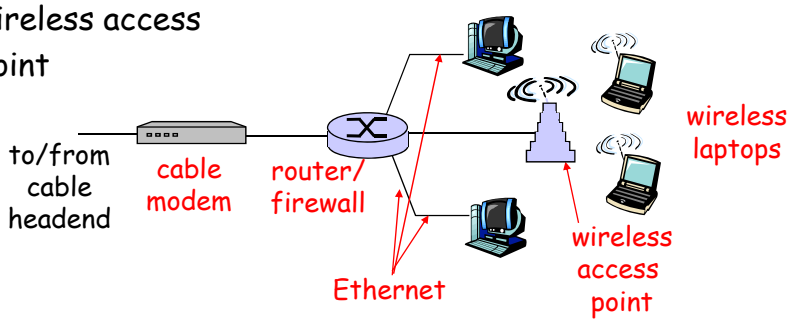
- shared *wireless* access network connects end system to router
  - via base station aka "access point"
- wireless LANs:
  - 802.11b/g (WiFi): 11 or 54 Mbps
- wider-area wireless access
  - provided by telco operator
  - ~1Mbps over cellular system (EVDO, HSDPA)
  - next up (?): WiMAX (10's Mbps) over wide area



Home networks

Typical home network components:

- DSL or cable modem
- router/firewall/NAT
- Ethernet
- wireless access point



Physical Media

- Bit: propagates between transmitter/rcvr pairs
- physical link: what lies between transmitter & receiver
- guided media:
  - signals propagate in solid media: copper, fiber, coax
- unguided media:
  - signals propagate freely, e.g., radio

Twisted Pair (TP)

- two insulated copper wires
  - Category 3: traditional phone wires, 10 Mbps Ethernet
  - Category 5: 100Mbps Ethernet

Physical Media: coax, fiber

Coaxial cable:

- two concentric copper conductors
- bidirectional
- baseband:
  - single channel on cable
  - legacy Ethernet
- broadband:
  - multiple channels on cable
  - HFC

Fiber optic cable:

- glass fiber carrying light pulses, each pulse a bit
- high-speed operation:
  - high-speed point-to-point transmission (e.g., 10's-100's Gps)
- low error rate: repeaters spaced far apart ; immune to electromagnetic noise

Physical media: radio

- signal carried in electromagnetic spectrum
- no physical "wire"
- bidirectional
- propagation environment effects:
  - reflection
  - obstruction by objects
  - interference

Radio link types:

- terrestrial microwave
  - e.g. up to 45 Mbps channels
- LAN (e.g., Wifi)
  - 11Mbps, 54 Mbps
- wide-area (e.g., cellular)
  - 3G cellular: ~ 1 Mbps
- satellite
  - Kbps to 45Mbps channel (or multiple smaller channels)
  - 270 msec end-end delay
  - geosynchronous versus low altitude