

# 15-441/641: Computer Networks

## IP Addressing

Fall 2019  
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Fall 2019  
<https://computer-networks.github.io/sp19/>

**Carnegie  
 Mellon  
 University**

## Outline

- IP design goals
- Traditional IP addressing
  - Addressing approaches
  - Class-based addressing
  - Subnetting
  - CIDR
- Packet forwarding

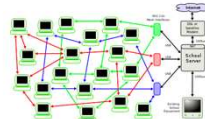


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## So far you know how to build a Local Area Network

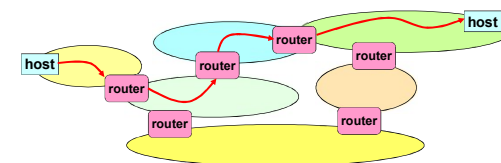


How do we get them to talk to each other?



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## Logical Structure of an Internet



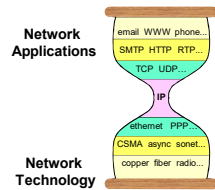
- Interconnection of separately managed networks using routers
  - Individual networks can use different (layer 1-2) technologies
- Packet travels from source to destination by hopping through networks
  - “Network” layer responsibility
- How do routers connect heterogeneous network technologies?



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## Solution: Internet Protocol (IP)

- Inter-network connectivity provided by the Internet protocol
- Hosts use Internet Protocol to send packets destined across networks.
- IP creates abstraction layer that hides underlying technology from network application software
  - Allows range of current & future technologies
  - WiFi, traditional and switched Ethernet, personal area networks, ...



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## The Packet as an Envelope

Host wants to send...

HTTP Packet Payload:  
GET nyan.cat....

IP address identifies final destination

IP Header  
To: 123.45.67.89 (Destination Host)  
From: 169.229.49.157 (Sender Host)

But need a local addressing header to travel between routers

Local Address Header (Ethernet, WiFi)  
To: Destination Host  
From: Sender Host



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## The Packet as an ~~Envelope~~ Set of Envelopes

Host wants to send...

HTTP Packet Payload:  
GET nyan.cat....

Datalink headers may differ across networks

IP address identifies final destination

IP Header  
To: 123.45.67.89 (Destination Host)  
From: 169.229.49.157 (Sender Host)

But IP header remains unchanged!

But need a local addressing header to travel between routers

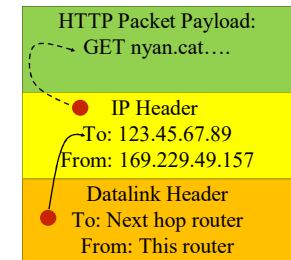
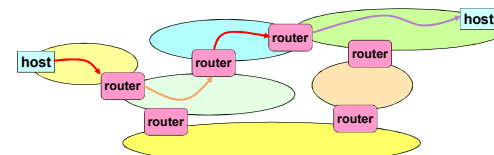
Local Address Header (Ethernet, WiFi)  
To: Destination Host  
From: Local Router



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## Traveling through the Internet

- Source adds all headers (HTTP, transport -> PHY)
- Each router:
  - Removes datalink layer
  - Uses IP header to make forwarding decision
  - Adds data link layer header for next network
- Destination removes all headers (PHY -> HTTP)



## What are the Goals?

- LANs: “Connect hosts” → switching:
  - Only has to scale up a “LAN size”
  - Availability
- Internet: “Connect networks” → routing:
  - Scalability
  - Manageability of individual networks – essential to achieving scalability
  - Availability
- Affects addressing, protocols, routing



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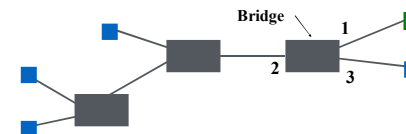
## Addressing and Forwarding

- Flat address space with smart routers
  - Packets carry a destination address
  - Routers know how to reach every host
- Flat address space with dumb routers
  - Packet header specifies the path the packet should take
- Hierarchical address space
  - What we actually do in IP – our focus today
- Table of circuit identifiers
  - More on this later in the course



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## Flat Address Forwarding



| MAC Address  | Port | Age |
|--------------|------|-----|
| A21032C9A591 | 1    | 36  |
| 99A323C90842 | 2    | 01  |
| 8711C98900AA | 2    | 15  |
| 301B2369011C | 2    | 16  |
| 095519001190 | 3    | 11  |

- Bridge/switch has a table that shows for each MAC Address which port to use for forwarding
- For every packet, the bridge “looks up” the entry for the packets destination MAC address and forwards the packet on that port.
  - Other packets are broadcast – why?
- Timer is used to flush old entries



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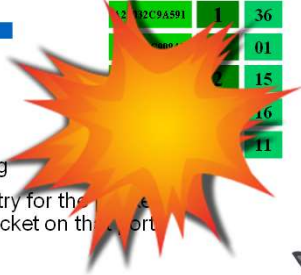
## Why is this not a good solution for the Internet?

Each router tracking  $2^{32}$  addresses = scalability nightmare

- Bridge tracking MAC Address which port to use for forwarding
- For every packet, the bridge "looks up" the entry for the destination MAC address and forwards the packet on the correct port
  - Other packets are broadcast – why?
  - Timer is used to flush old entries



| MAC Address       | Port | Age |
|-------------------|------|-----|
| 02:00:00:00:00:01 | 1    | 36  |
| 02:00:00:00:00:02 | 2    | 01  |
| 02:00:00:00:00:03 | 3    | 15  |
| 02:00:00:00:00:04 | 1    | 16  |
| 02:00:00:00:00:05 | 1    | 11  |



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## Source Routing

- List entire path in packet
  - Driving directions (north 3 hops, east, etc..)
- Router processing
  - Strip first step from packet
  - Examine next step in directions and forward
- Defined for IPv4 but rarely used
  - End points need to know a lot about network
  - Economic and security concerns
  - Variable header size



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## Hierarchical Addressing

- Flat addresses – one address for every host
  - My laptop: 1234-5067-8901
  - Does not scale – router table size explodes – 4.4 Billion and counting!
- Hierarchical – add structure
  - Postal address: US / PA / Pittsburgh / CMU / Gates / 9<sup>th</sup> fl / Steenkiste
  - Common "trick" to simplify forwarding, reduce forwarding table sizes
- What type of hierarchy do we need for the Internet?
  - How many levels?
  - Same hierarchy depth for everyone?
  - Who controls the hierarchy?



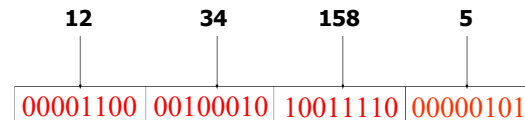
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## IP Addresses (IPv4)

- Unique 32-bit number associated with a host

00001100 00100010 10011110 00000101

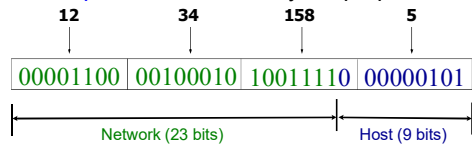
- Represented with the "dotted quad" notation
  - e.g., 12.34.158.5



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## Hierarchy in IP Addressing

- 32 bits are partitioned into a prefix and suffix components
- Prefix is the **network component**: CMU
- Suffix is **host component**: Prof. Sherry's laptop at CMU



- Interdomain routing operates on the network prefix
- Destination network operates on the host component



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## History of Internet Addressing

- Always dotted-quad notation
- Always network/host address split
- But nature of that split has changed over time



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## Original Internet Addresses

- First eight bits: network component
- Last 24 bits: host component

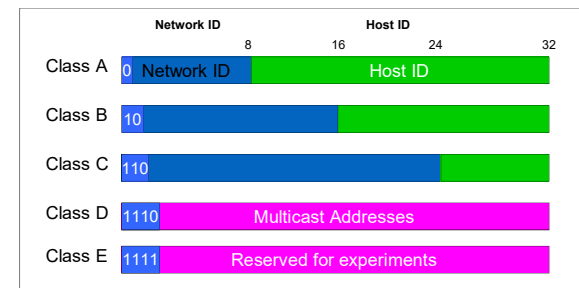
*Assumed 256 networks were more than enough!*



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## IP Address Structure, ca 1981

Routers know how to get to network ID, but not individual hosts.



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## IP Route Lookup, ca 1981

- Router extracts address class and network ID from IP address
- Forwarding table structure reflects address structure
  - Logically, a separate forwarding table for each address class
  - For unicast address (classes A-C) entries contain
    - The prefix for a destination network (length 8/16/24)
    - Information on how to forward the packet, e.g., exit port, ..
- www.cmu.edu address 128.2.11.43
  - Class B address – class + network is 128.2
  - Lookup 128.2 in forwarding table for class B
- Tables are still large!
  - 2 Million class C networks



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## Outline

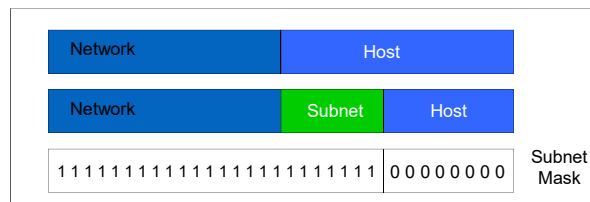
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## Subnetting

- Adds another layer to hierarchy
- Network can be split into multiple subnets
  - Prefix of the subnet is Network and (variable length) Subnet identifiers
- Subnetting is done internally in the organization
  - It is not visible outside – important for management



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## Subnet Addressing RFC 917 (1984)

- The Internet was growing and some “LANs” were very big
- Can no longer be managed as a single LAN
  - Too many hosts spread across multiple departments
  - Some protocols become inefficient
- Need a simple way to partition large networks
  - Partition into multiple IP networks with different (subnet) prefixes
  - Subnets are connected by routers – how do they learn subnet length?
- CMU case study in RFC
  - Chose not to adopt – concern that it would not be widely supported ☺



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## IP Address Problem (1991)

- Address space depletion: class-based addressing is inefficient
  - Suppose you need  $2^{16} + 1$  addresses?
  - Class A block is too big for all but a few domains
  - Class C block too small for many domains but they don't need a class B
  - Class B address pool was being allocated at a high rate
  - Many allocated address blocks are sparsely used
- IETF developed a strategy based on three solutions
  - Switch to a "classless" addressing model – this lecture
  - Network address translation (NAT) – next week
  - Definition of IPv6 with larger IP addresses – next week



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## Today's Addressing: CIDR

- CIDR = Classless Interdomain Routing
- Idea: Flexible division between network and host addresses
  - Not limited to three sizes 8/16/24
  - Prefix can be any size
    - Similar to subnets!
- Motivation: more efficient use of the IP address space
  - But seems hard to manage!
  - How do we limit the size of forwarding tables



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## CIDR (example)

- Suppose a network has fifty computers
  - Allocate 6 bits for host addresses (since  $2^5 < 50 < 2^6$ )
  - Remaining  $32 - 6 = 26$  bits as network prefix
- Flexible boundary means the boundary must be explicitly specified with the network address!
  - Informally, "slash 26" → 128.23.9/26
  - Formally, prefix represented with a 32-bit **mask**: 255.255.255.192 where all network prefix bits set to "1" and host suffix bits to "0"
  - This works for people, but how about prefixes in routers and packets?



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## IP Addressing: Hierarchical

- CIDR allows more efficient use of the IP address space
  - Helps (at least for a while) with the high demand for IP addresses
- But how does this help with the growth of forwarding tables?
  - Number of destination networks is growing as well!
- Solution has two complementary parts:
  - Allocation of IP addresses is done hierarchically based on network topology
  - Routers will combine forwarding entries for destinations "in the same general direction"



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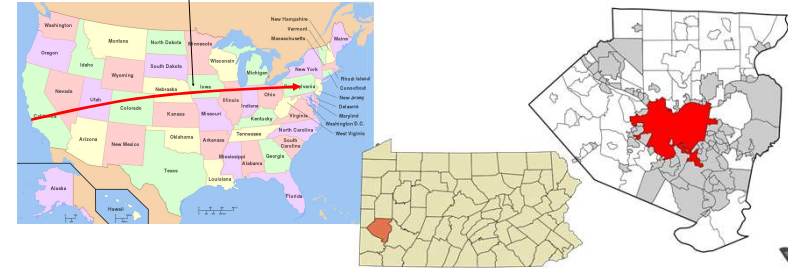
# Example: Sending a Letter

US / PA / Pittsburgh / CMU / Gates / 9<sup>th</sup> fl / Steenkiste



# Example: Made It to PA

US / PA / Pittsburgh / CMU / Gates / 9<sup>th</sup> fl / Steenkiste



# Example: and Pittsburgh

US / PA / Pittsburgh / CMU / Gates / 9<sup>th</sup> fl / Steenkiste



# Example: Made It!

US / PA / Pittsburgh / CMU / Gates / 9<sup>th</sup> fl / Steenkiste





## Address Allocation is Done Hierarchically

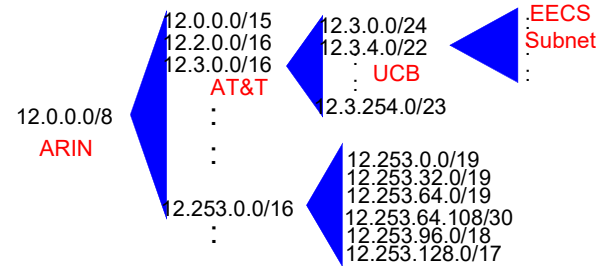
- Historically assignment of prefixes was "first come first serve"
- With CIDR: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) gives large blocks to...
- Regional Internet Registries, such as the American Registry for Internet Names (ARIN), which give blocks to...
- Large institutions (ISPs), which give addresses to ...
- Individuals and smaller institutions
- FAKE Example:

ICANN → ARIN → AT&T → UCB → EECS

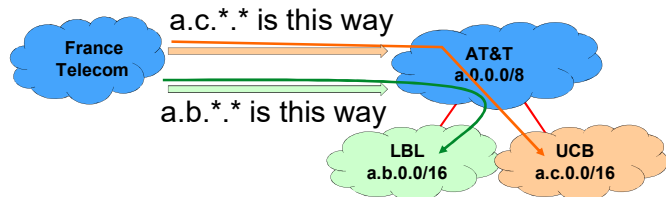


## CIDR: Addresses Allocated in Contiguous Prefix Chunks

Recursively break down chunks as get closer to host



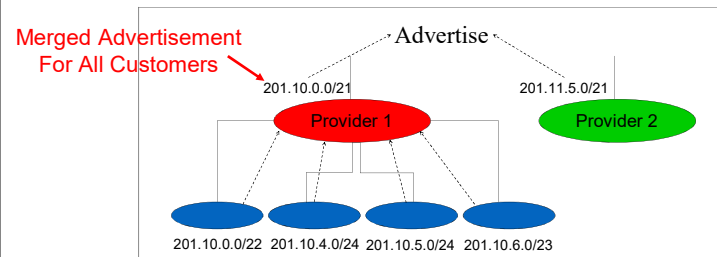
## IP Addressing → Scalable Forwarding?



- How many forwarding entries does France Telecom need for LBL/UCB destinations? **Two**
- How about if all a.0.0.0/8 addresses are served by AT&T - it "own" a.0.0.0/8, right? **One**
- In practice, it is complicated ...

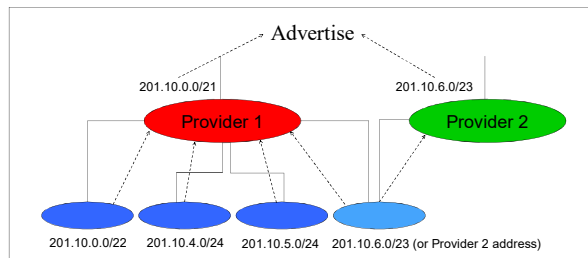


## Limiting Forward Table Sizes



## CIDR Implication: Longest Prefix Match

- How to deal with multi-homing, legacy addresses, ...



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## How LPM Works

- Routing protocols aggregate forwarding entries to reduce table size
  - E.g., 3 forwarding entries A/B/C 01010011.xy/10 can be combined into 01010011/8 if they forward through the same port
  - A fourth entry D that uses a different egress port has its own entry
- Works correctly because of longest prefix match (LPM)
  - Packets to A/B/C will match only the 01010011/8
  - Packets to D will match entries but will prefer the short "/10" entry
- Legacy prefixes (e.g., 128.2) also often have their own entry



## Filling in Some Router Details

- How do routing protocols learn the prefix size?
  - Routing advertisements include the prefix size
  - For stub networks (subnetting): routers are configured by admin
- But a router now needs ~30 forwarding tables?
  - No – forwarding uses a single tree data structure (called a trie)
  - Very efficient algorithms exist for look up both in HW and SW
- How do routers know the prefix size for destination addresses?
  - They do not need them because of how LPM look up works

