

Introduction

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Data Communications

• The development of the personal computer brought about tremendous changes



- Technological advances
 - Faster signals / higher data rate
 - Accurate information
 - Reliable
 - More flexible
 - Mobility
 - Cooperative

Effectiveness depends on:



- **Delivery** : deliver data to the correct destination
- Accuracy : deliver the data accurately
- **Timeliness** : Data delivered late are useless
- **Jitter** : Jitter refers to the variation in the packet arrival time

Components of a data communication system



Data flow (simplex, half-duplex, and full-duplex)



• **Simplex** : unidirectional; one transmits, other receives



• Half-duplex : each can transmit/receive; communication must alternate

Data flow (simplex, half-duplex, and full-duplex)



• **Full-duplex** : both can transmit/receive simultaneously

Networks

- A **network** is a set of devices (often referred to as **nodes**) connected by communication **links**.
- A link can be a cable, air, optical fiber, or any medium which can transport a signal carrying information.

Topics discussed in this section:

- Network Criteria
- Physical Structures
- Categories of Networks

Network Criteria



- Performance
 - Depends on Network Elements
 - Measured in terms of Delay and Throughput
- Reliability
 - Failure rate of network components
 - Measured in terms of availability/robustness
- Security
 - Data protection against corruption/loss of data due to:
 - Errors
 - Malicious users

Physical Structures

- Type of Connection
 - Point to Point single transmitter and receiver
 - Multipoint multiple recipients of single transmission
- Physical Topology
 - Connection of devices
 - Type of transmission unicast, multicast, broadcast

Types of connections: point-to-point and multipoint



a. Point-to-point



b. Multipoint

Categories of topology



A fully connected mesh topology (five devices)



A star topology connecting four stations



A bus topology connecting three stations



A ring topology connecting six stations



A hybrid topology: a star backbone with three bus networks



Categories of Networks



- Local Area Networks (LANs)
 - Short distances
 - Designed to provide local interconnectivity
- Metropolitan Area Networks (MANs)
 - Provide connectivity over areas such as a city, a campus
- Wide Area Networks (WANs)
 - Long distances
 - Provide connectivity over large areas

LANs, MANs and WANs



An isolated LAN connecting 12 computers to a hub in a closet



Local Area Network (LAN)





Multiple-building LAN

WANs: a switched WAN and a point-to-point WAN



a. Switched WAN



b. Point-to-point WAN

Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN)



A heterogeneous network made of four WANs and two LANs



Wide Area Networks (WAN)



Internetwork (Internet)



Protocols

- A protocol is synonymous with rule.
- It consists of a set of rules that govern data communications.
- It determines what is communicated, how it is communicated and when it is communicated.
- The key elements of a protocol are syntax, semantics and timing

Elements of a Protocol



- Syntax
 - Structure or format of the data
 - Indicates how to read the bits field delineation
- Semantics
 - Interprets the meaning of the bits
 - Knows which fields define what action
- Timing
 - When data should be sent and what
 - Speed at which data should be sent or speed at which it is being received.

Standarts

- Standards are necessary to ensure that products from different manufacturers can work together as expected
- Types
 - De jure (Formal) legislated by an officially recognized body
 - De facto by convention or widespread use
- Standards Organizations
 - Committees ISO, ITU-T, ANSI, IEEE, and EIA
 - Forums special-interest groups that quickly evaluate and standardize new technologies
 - Regulatory agencies FCC