Transport Layer

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COS 461: Computer Networks

Lectures: MW 10-10:50am in Architecture N101

http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/spr12/cos461/

IP Protocol Stack: Key Abstractions

Application	Applications	
Transport	Reliable streams	Messages
Network	Best-effort *global* packet delivery	
Link	Best-effort *local* packet delivery	

- Transport layer is where we "pay the piper"
  - Provide applications with good abstractions
  - Without support or feedback from the network

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Transport Protocols

- Logical communication between processes
  - Sender divides a message into segments
  - Receiver reassembles segments into message
- Transport services
  - (De)multiplexing packets
  - Detecting corrupted data
  - Optionally: reliable delivery, flow control, …

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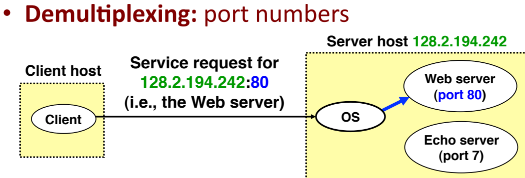
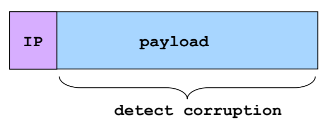
Two Basic Transport Features

- **Demultiplexing:** port numbers



- **Error detection:** checksums



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User Datagram Protocol (UDP)

- Datagram messaging service
  - Demultiplexing: port numbers
  - Detecting corruption: checksum
- Lightweight communication between processes
  - Send and receive messages
  - Avoid overhead of ordered, reliable delivery

SRC port	DST port
checksum	length
DATA	

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Advantages of UDP

- Fine-grain control
  - UDP sends as soon as the application writes
- No connection set-up delay
  - UDP sends without establishing a connection
- No connection state
  - No buffers, parameters, sequence #s, etc.
- Small header overhead
  - UDP header is only eight-bytes long

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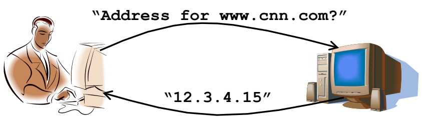
Popular Applications That Use UDP

- Multimedia streaming
  - Retransmitting packets is not always worthwhile
  - E.g., phone calls, video conferencing, gaming, IPTV
- Simple query-response protocols
  - Overhead of connection establishment is overkill
  - E.g., Domain Name System (DNS), DHCP, etc.

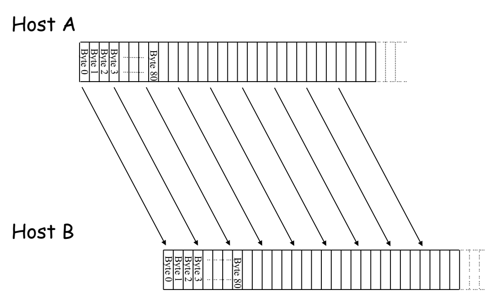


Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)

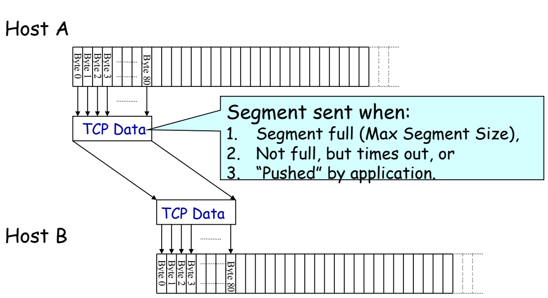
- Stream-of-bytes service
  - Sends and receives a stream of bytes
- Reliable, in-order delivery
  - Corruption: checksums
  - Detect loss/reordering: sequence numbers
  - Reliable delivery: acknowledgments and retransmissions
- Connection oriented
  - Explicit set-up and tear-down of TCP connection
- Flow control
  - Prevent overflow of the receiver's buffer space
- Congestion control
  - Adapt to network congestion for the greater good

Breaking a Stream of Bytes into TCP Segments

TCP "Stream of Bytes" Service

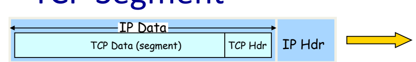


…Emulated Using TCP "Segments"



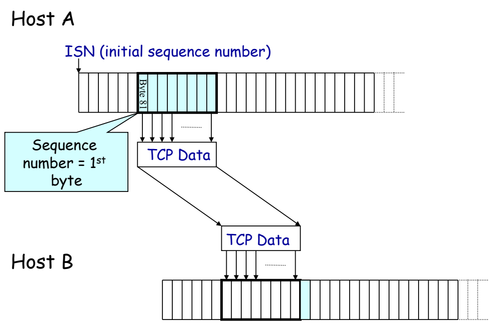
TCP Segment

- IP packet



  - No bigger than Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU)
  - E.g., up to 1500 bytes on an Ethernet link
- TCP packet
  - IP packet with a TCP header and data inside
  - TCP header is typically 20 bytes long
- TCP segment
  - No more than Maximum Segment Size (MSS) bytes
  - E.g., up to 1460 consecutive bytes from the stream

Sequence Number



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Initial Sequence Number (ISN)

- Sequence number for the very first byte
  - E.g., Why not a de facto ISN of 0?
- Practical issue: reuse of port numbers
  - Port numbers must (eventually) get used again
  - … and an old packet may still be in flight
  - … and associated with the new connection
- So, TCP must change the ISN over time
  - Set from a 32-bit clock that ticks every 4 microsec
  - … which wraps around once every 4.55 hours!

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Reliable Delivery on a Lossy Channel With Bit Errors

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Challenges of Reliable Data Transfer

- Over a perfectly reliable channel
  - Easy: sender sends, and receiver receives
- Over a channel with bit errors
  - Receiver detects errors and requests retransmission
- Over a lossy channel with bit errors
  - Some data are missing, and others corrupted
  - Receiver cannot always detect loss
- Over a channel that may reorder packets
  - Receiver cannot distinguish loss from out-of-order

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An Analogy

- Alice and Bob are talking
  - What if Alice couldn't understand Bob?
  - Bob asks Alice to repeat what she said
- What if Bob hasn't heard Alice for a while?
  - Is Alice just being quiet? Has she lost reception?
  - How long should Bob just keep on talking?
  - Maybe Alice should periodically say "uh huh"
  - … or Bob should ask "Can you hear me now?" ☺

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Take-Aways from the Example

- Acknowledgments from receiver
  - Positive: "okay" or "uh huh" or "ACK"
  - Negative: "please repeat that" or "NACK"
- Retransmission by the sender
  - After *not* receiving an "ACK"
  - After receiving a "NACK"
- Timeout by the sender ("stop and wait")
  - Don't wait forever without some acknowledgment

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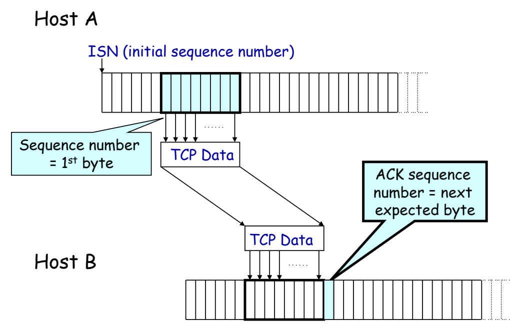
TCP Support for Reliable Delivery

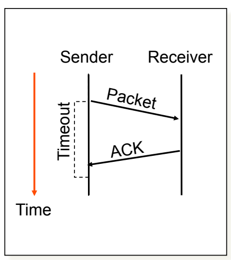
- **Detect bit errors:** checksum
  - Used to detect corrupted data at the receiver
  - …leading the receiver to drop the packet
- **Detect missing data:** sequence number
  - Used to detect a gap in the stream of bytes
  - ... and for putting the data back in order
- **Recover from lost data:** retransmission
  - Sender retransmits lost or corrupted data
  - Two main ways to detect lost packets

TCP Acknowledgments



Automatic Repeat reQuest (ARQ)

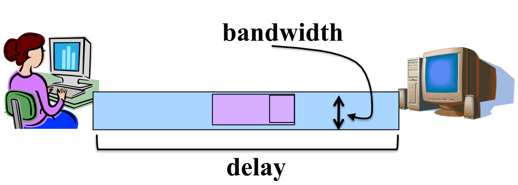
- ACK and timeouts
  - Receiver sends ACK when it receives packet
  - Sender waits for ACK and times out
- Simplest ARQ protocol
  - Stop and wait
  - Send a packet, stop and wait until ACK arrives



Flow Control:
TCP Sliding Window

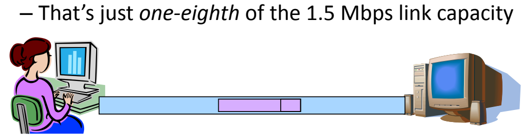
Motivation for Sliding Window

- Stop-and-wait is inefficient
  - Only one TCP segment is “in flight” at a time
  - Especially bad for high “delay-bandwidth product”



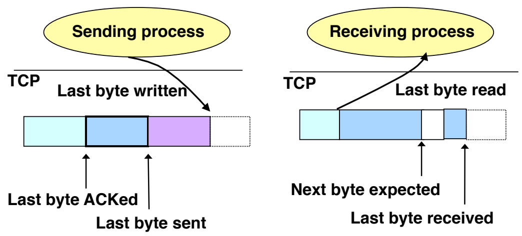
Numerical Example

- 1.5 Mbps link with 45 msec round-trip time (RTT)
  - Delay-bandwidth product is 67.5 Kbits (or 8 KBytes)
- Sender can send at most one packet per RTT
  - Assuming a segment size of 1 KB (8 Kbits)
  - 8 Kbits/segment at 45 msec/segment ➔ 182 Kbps
  - That’s just *one-eighth* of the 1.5 Mbps link capacity



Sliding Window

- Allow a larger amount of data “in flight”
  - Allow sender to get ahead of the receiver
  - … though not too far ahead



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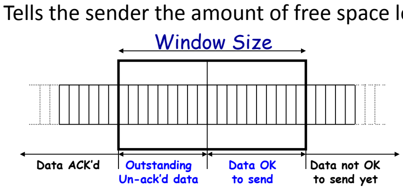
Receiver Buffering

- Receive window size
  - Amount that can be sent without acknowledgment
  - Receiver must be able to store this amount of data
- Receiver tells the sender the window
  - Tells the sender the amount of free space left



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Optimizing Retransmissions

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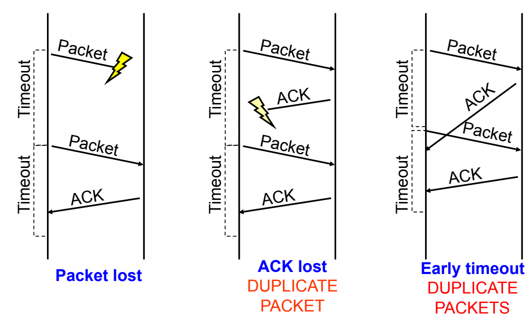
Reasons for Retransmission



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How Long Should Sender Wait?

- Sender sets a timeout to wait for an ACK
  - Too short: wasted retransmissions
  - Too long: excessive delays when packet lost
- TCP sets timeout as a function of the RTT
  - Expect ACK to arrive after an “round-trip time”
  - … plus a fudge factor to account for queuing
- But, how does the sender know the RTT?
  - Running average of delay to receive an ACK

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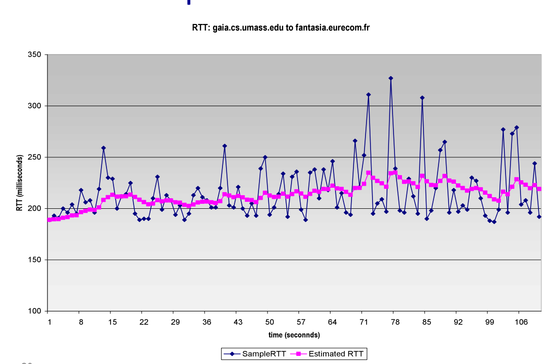
Example RTT Estimation



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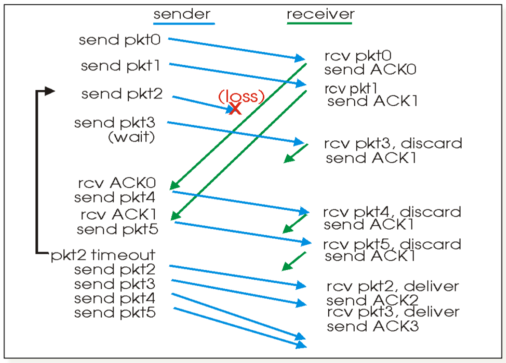
Still, Timeouts are Inefficient



Fast Retransmission

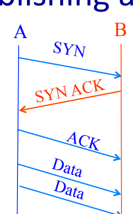
- When packet n is lost…
  - … packets n+1, n+2, and so on may get through
- Exploit the ACKs of these packets
  - ACK says receiver is still awaiting nth packet
  - Duplicate ACKs suggest later packets arrived
  - Sender uses "duplicate ACKs" as a hint
- Fast retransmission
  - Retransmit after "triple duplicate ACK"

Effectiveness of Fast Retransmit

- When does Fast Retransmit work best?
  - High likelihood of many packets in flight
  - Long data transfers, large window size, …
- Implications for Web traffic
  - Most Web transfers are short (e.g., 10 packets)
    - So, often there aren't many packets in flight
  - Making fast retransmit is less likely to "kick in"
    - Forcing users to click "reload" more often… ☺

Starting and Ending a Connection: TCP Handshakes

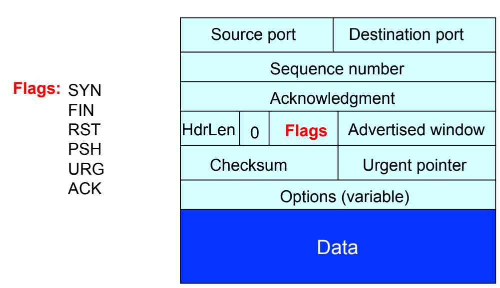
Establishing a TCP Connection



Each host tells its ISN to the other host.

- Three-way handshake to establish connection
  - Host A sends a **SYN** (open) to the host B
  - Host B returns a SYN acknowledgment (**SYN ACK**)
  - Host A sends an **ACK** to acknowledge the SYN ACK

TCP Header



Step 1: A's Initial SYN Packet

Flags: SYN, FIN, RST, PSH, URG, ACK

A's port		B's port	
A's Initial Sequence Number			
Acknowledgment			
20	0	Flags	Advertised window
Checksum		Urgent pointer	
Options (variable)			

A tells B it wants to open a connection…

Step 2: B's SYN-ACK Packet

Flags: SYN, FIN, RST, PSH, URG, ACK

B's port		A's port	
B's Initial Sequence Number			
A's ISN plus 1			
20	0	Flags	Advertised window
Checksum		Urgent pointer	
Options (variable)			

B tells A it accepts, and is ready to hear the next byte…
… upon receiving this packet, A can start sending data

Step 3: A's ACK of the SYN-ACK

Flags: SYN, FIN, RST, PSH, URG, ACK

A's port		B's port	
Sequence number			
B's ISN plus 1			
20	0	Flags	Advertised window
Checksum		Urgent pointer	
Options (variable)			

A tells B it is okay to start sending
… upon receiving this packet, B can start sending data

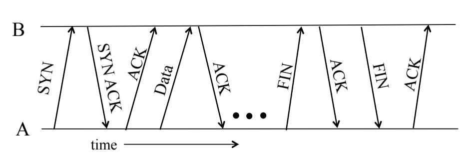
What if the SYN Packet Gets Lost?

- Suppose the SYN packet gets lost
  - Packet is lost inside the network, or
  - Server rejects the packet (e.g., listen queue is full)
- Eventually, no SYN-ACK arrives
  - Sender sets a timer and wait for the SYN-ACK
  - … and retransmits the SYN if needed
- How should the TCP sender set the timer?
  - Sender has no idea how far away the receiver is
  - Some TCPs use a default of 3 or 6 seconds

SYN Loss and Web Downloads

- User clicks on a hypertext link
  - Browser creates a socket and does a "connect"
  - The "connect" triggers the OS to transmit a SYN
- If the SYN is lost…
  - The 3-6 seconds of delay is very long
  - The impatient user may click "reload"
- User triggers an "abort" of the "connect"
  - Browser "connects" on a new socket
  - Essentially, forces a fast send of a new SYN!

Tearing Down the Connection



- Closing (each end of) the connection
  - Finish (FIN) to close and receive remaining bytes
  - And other host sends a FIN ACK to acknowledge
  - Reset (RST) to close and not receive remaining bytes

Sending/Receiving the FIN Packet

- Sending a FIN: close()
  - Process is done sending data via the socket
  - Process invokes "close()" to close the socket
  - Once TCP has sent all the outstanding bytes…
  - … then TCP sends a FIN
- Receiving a FIN: EOF
  - Process is reading data from the socket
  - Eventually, the attempt to read returns an EOF

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Conclusions

- Transport protocols
  - Multiplexing and demultiplexing
  - Checksum-based error detection
  - Sequence numbers
  - Retransmission
  - Window-based flow control
- Precept on Friday
  - Application-layer protocols: HTTP
  - HTTP proxy assignment

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