TCIPG Reading Group

Introduction to Computer Networks

Based on: Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach , 4th edition. Jim Kurose, Keith Ross Addison-Wesley, July 2007.

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
- protocol layers, service models

Chapter 1: roadmap

1.1 What *is* the Internet?

1.2 Network edge

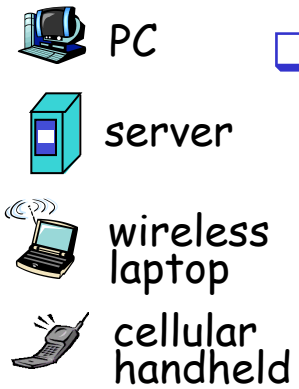
- end systems, access networks, links

1.3 Network core

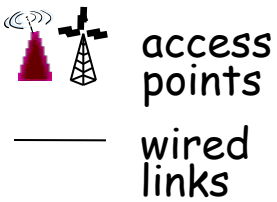
- circuit switching, packet switching, network structure

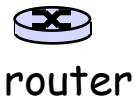
1.4 Protocol layers, service models

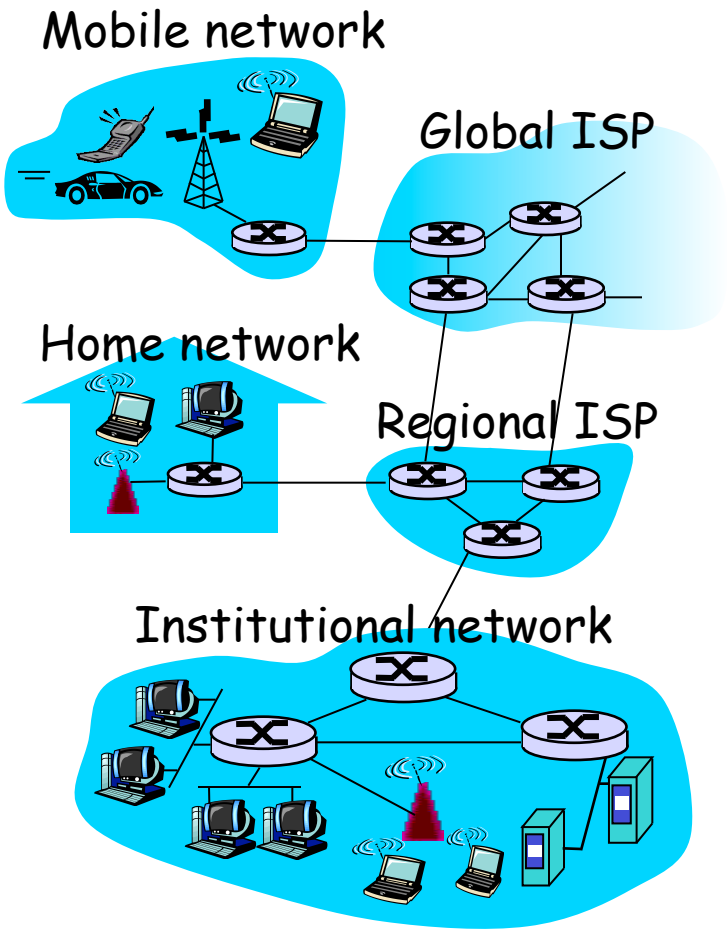
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view



- 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)



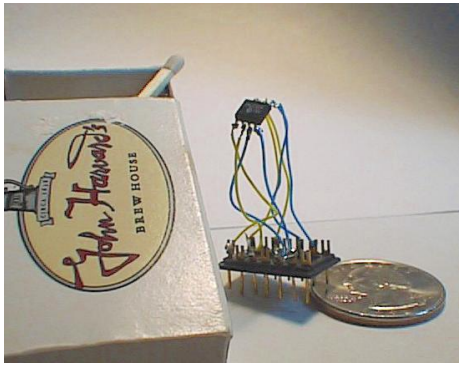




"Cool" internet appliances

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

Web-enabled toaster +
weather forecaster

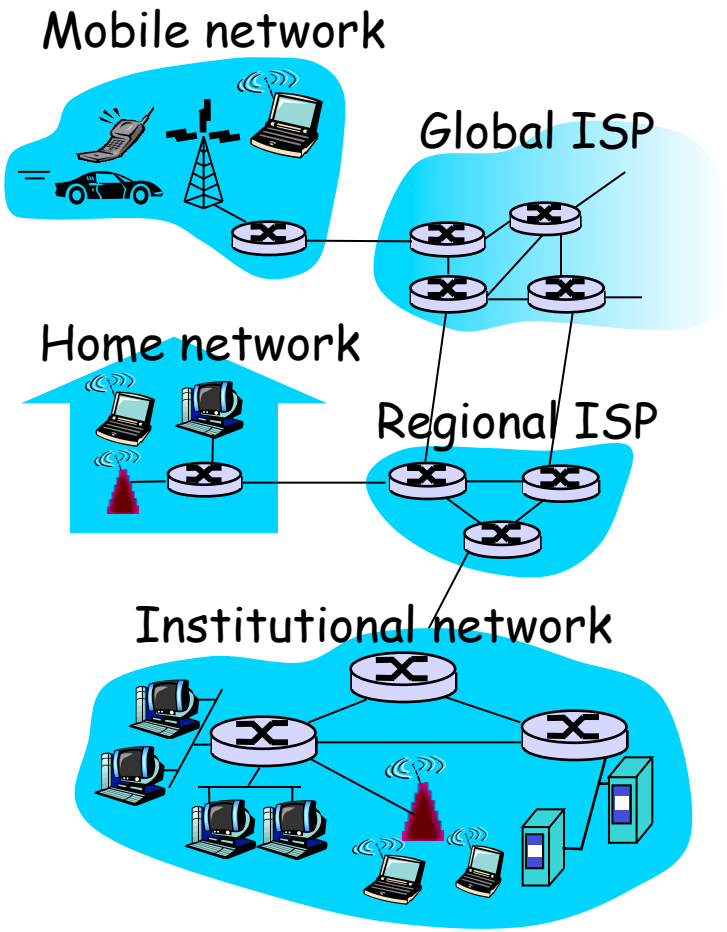


World's smallest web server
http://www-ccs.cs.umass.edu/~shri/iPic.html

Internet phones

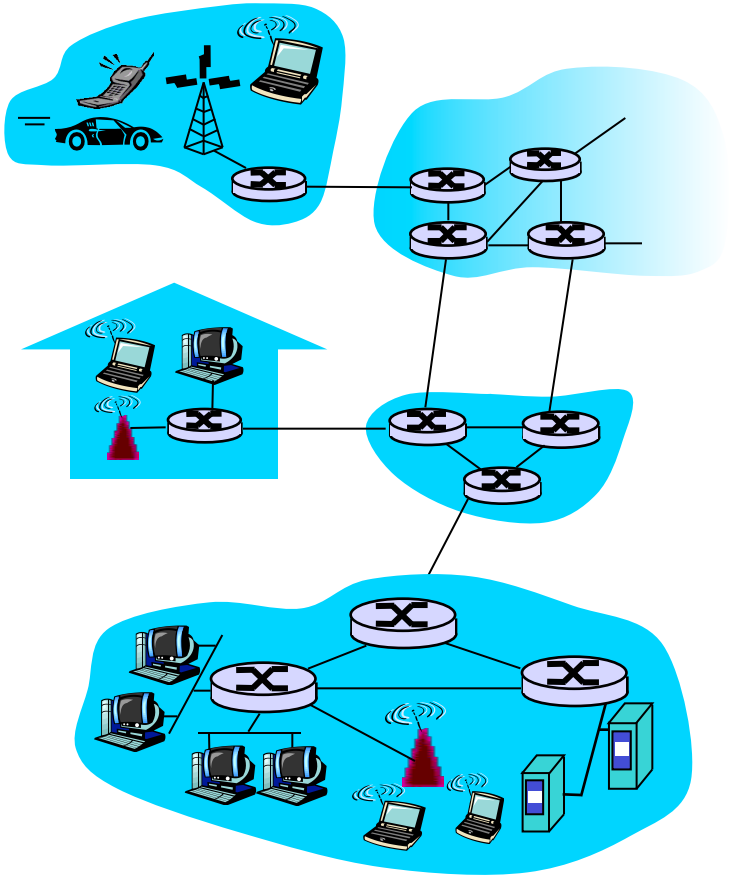
What's the Internet: "nuts and bolts" view

- *protocols* control sending, receiving of msgs
  - e.g., TCP, HTTP, Skype, ICCP
- *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

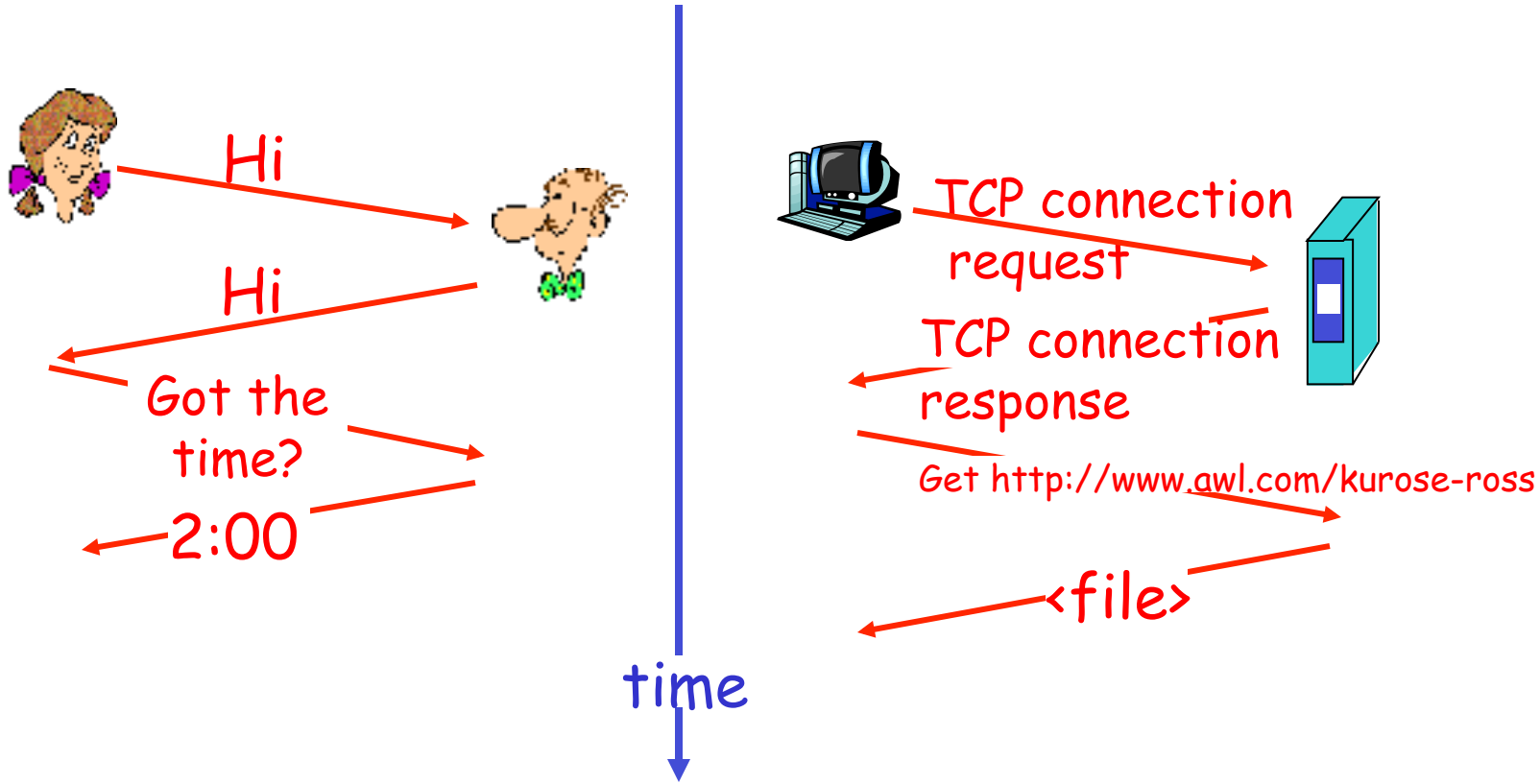
network protocols:

- 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

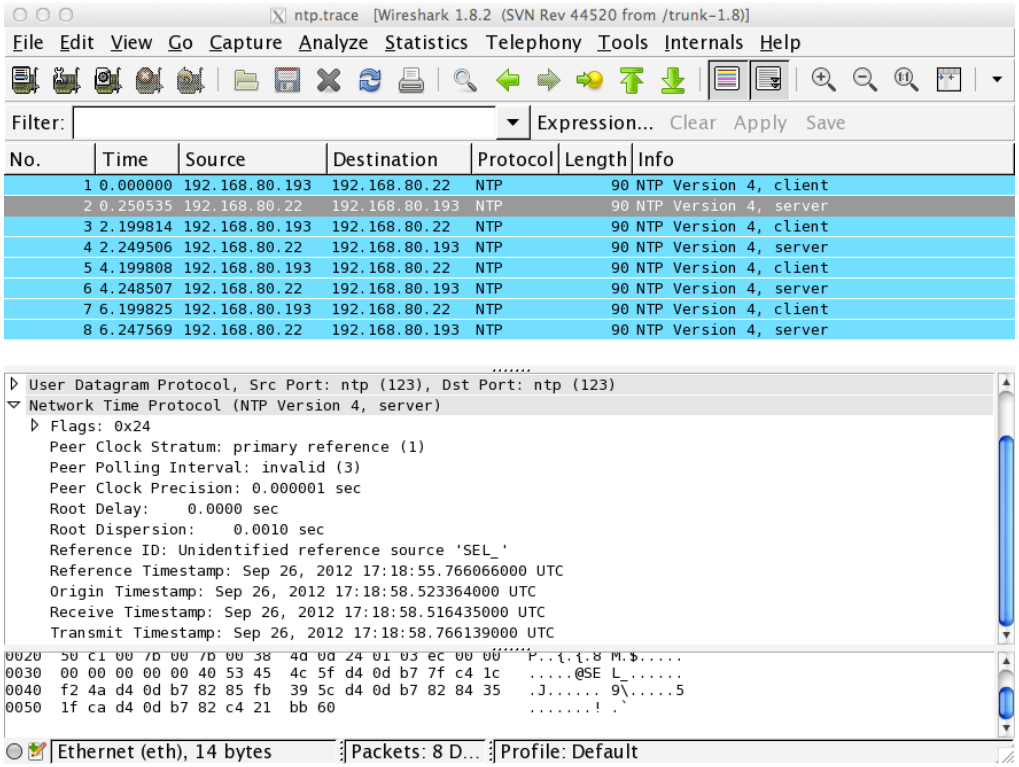
What's a protocol?

a human protocol and a computer network protocol:



Another time Protocol

- GPS Clock connected to an SEL 3354 with NTP service
- A Linux box requests to synchronize clock



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1.1 What *is* the Internet?

1.2 Network edge

- end systems, access networks, links

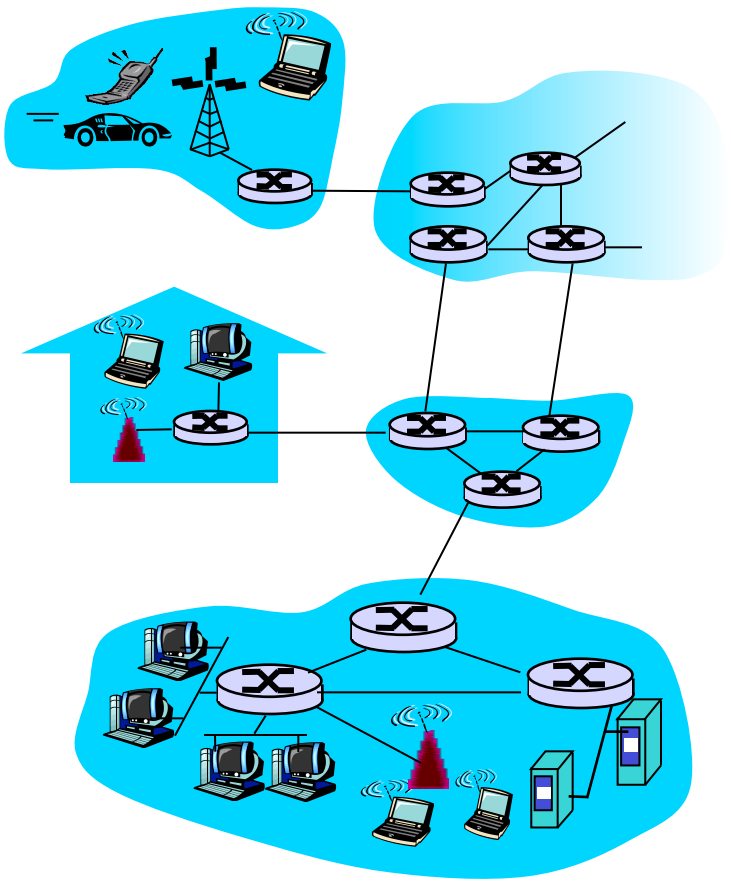
1.3 Network core

- circuit switching, packet switching, network structure

1.4 Protocol layers, service models

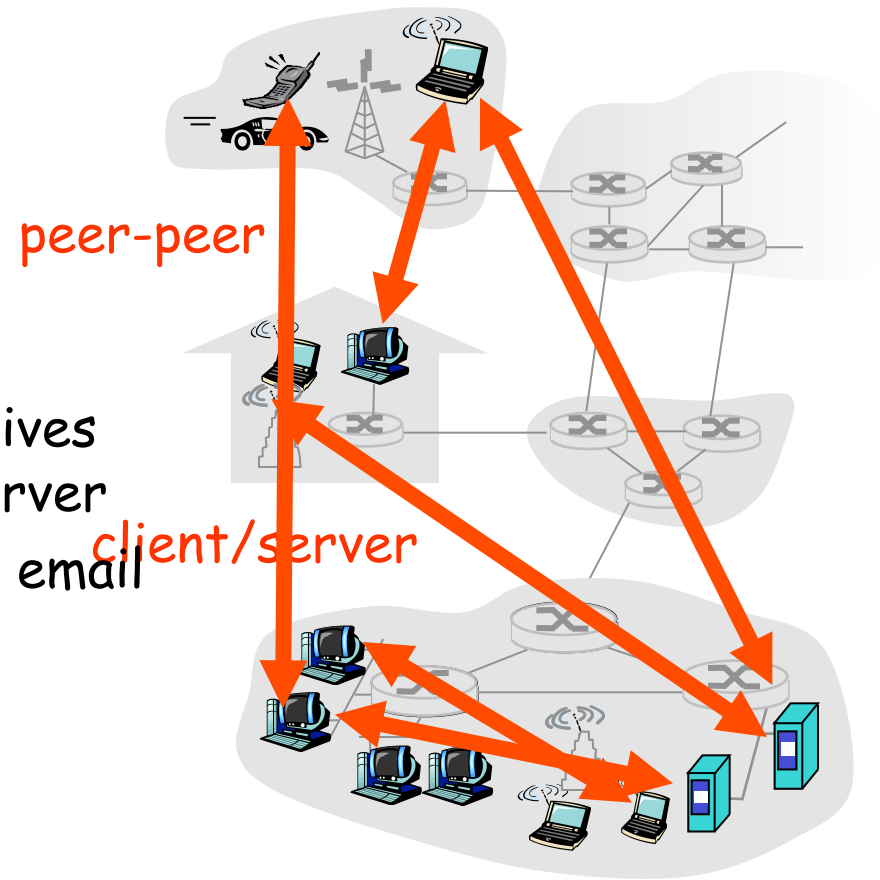
A closer look at network structure:

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

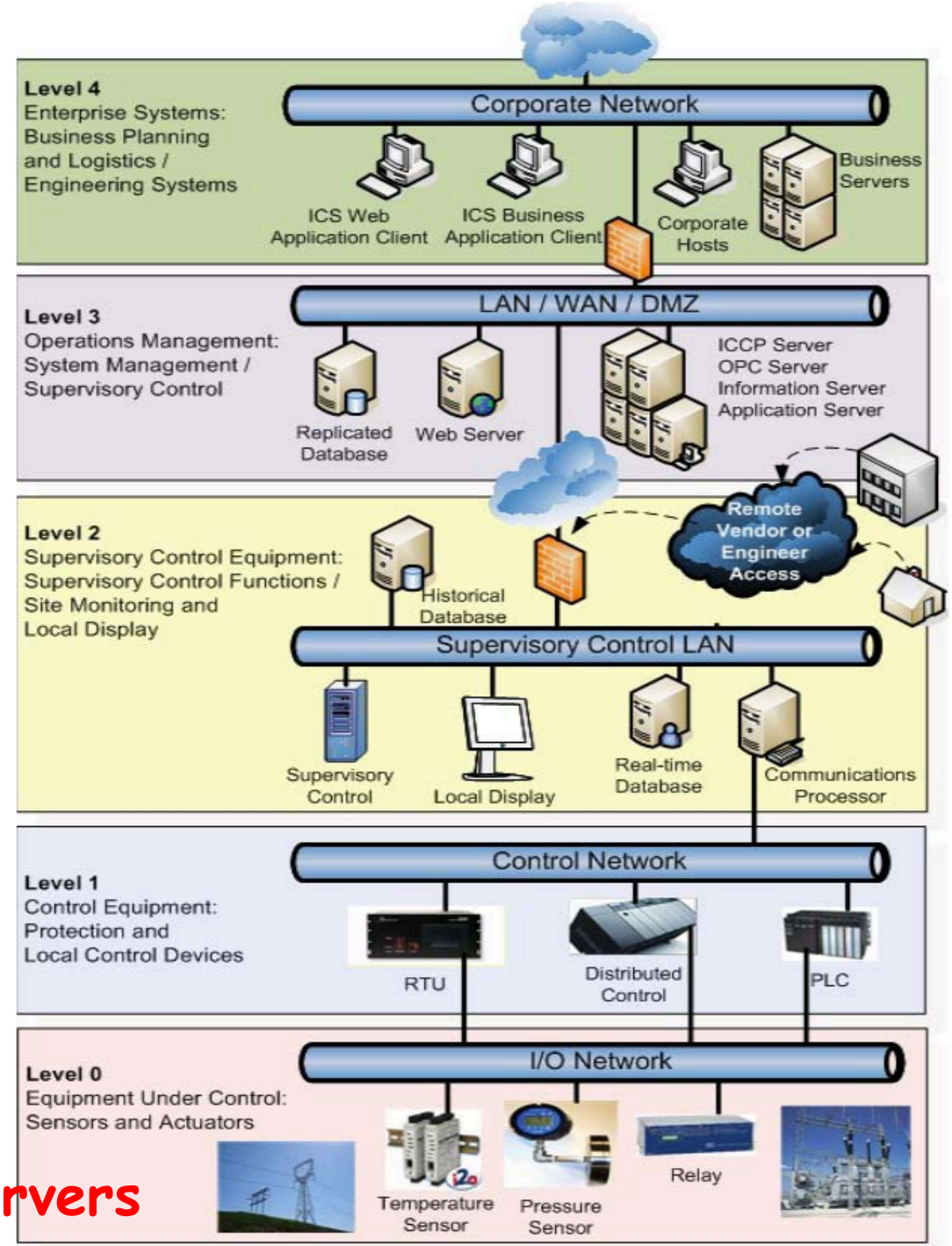


The network edge:

- end systems (hosts):
  - run application programs
  - e.g. Web, email,, ICCP
  - 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. BitTorrent, smart meters



SCADA



Identify clients/servers

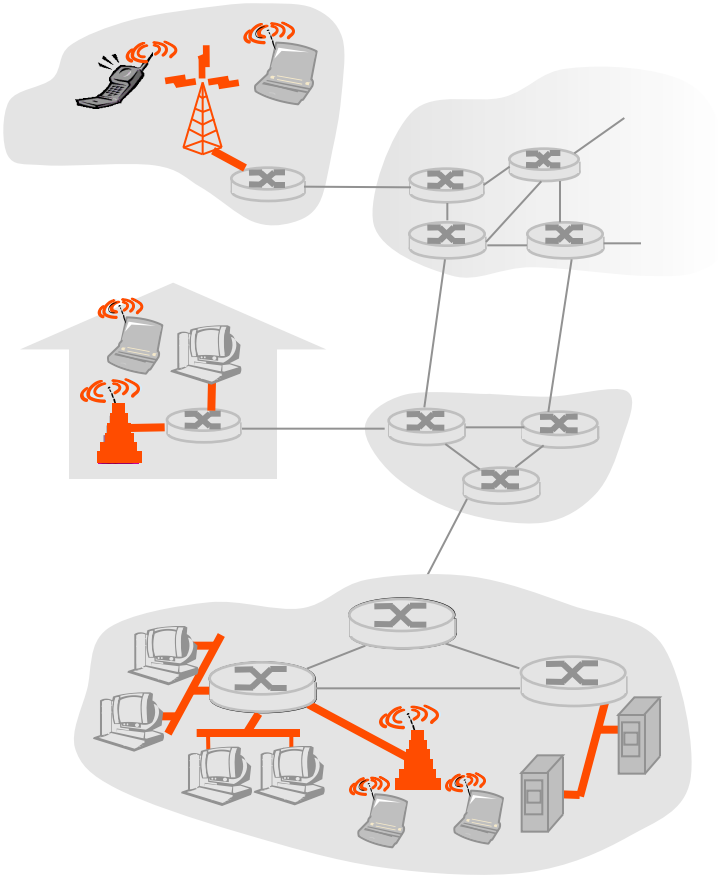
Access networks and physical media

Q: How to connect end systems to edge router?

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

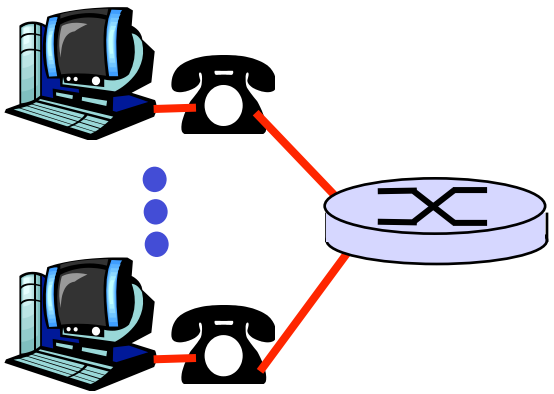
Keep in mind:

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



Residential access: point to point access

- Dialup via modem
  - up to 56Kbps direct access to router (often less)
  - Can't surf and phone at same time: can't be "always on"

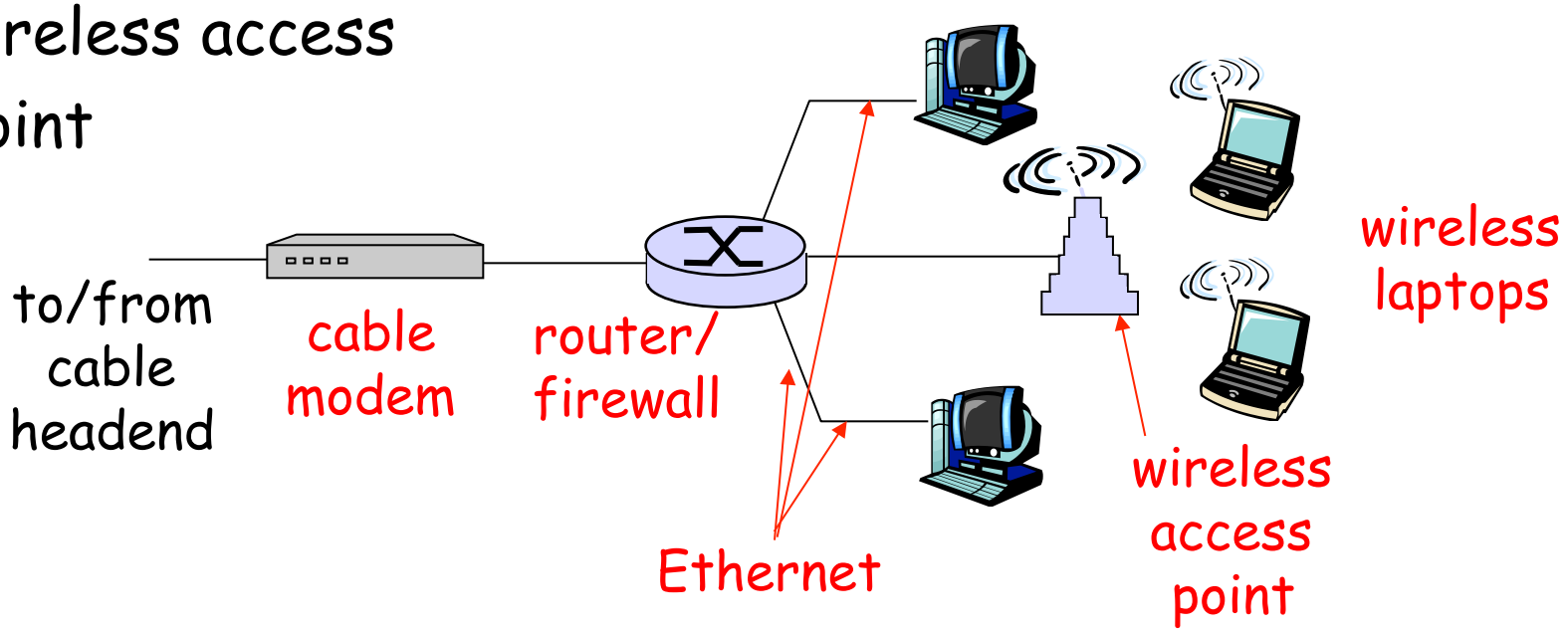


- DSL: digital subscriber line
  - deployment: telephone company (typically)
  - up to 1 Mbps upstream (today typically < 256 kbps)
  - up to 8 Mbps downstream (today typically < 1 Mbps)
  - dedicated physical line to telephone central office

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
  - Cat5: 100/0Mbps
  - Cat6: 10 Gbps
  - Difference is the number of twists/m

Physical Media

- PLC
  - Data carried over power lines
  - Long haul
    - Low frequency (100-200 Hz)
    - Low bandwidth
    - Used in transmission
  - Short haul
    - IEEE 1901
- Security issues??

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

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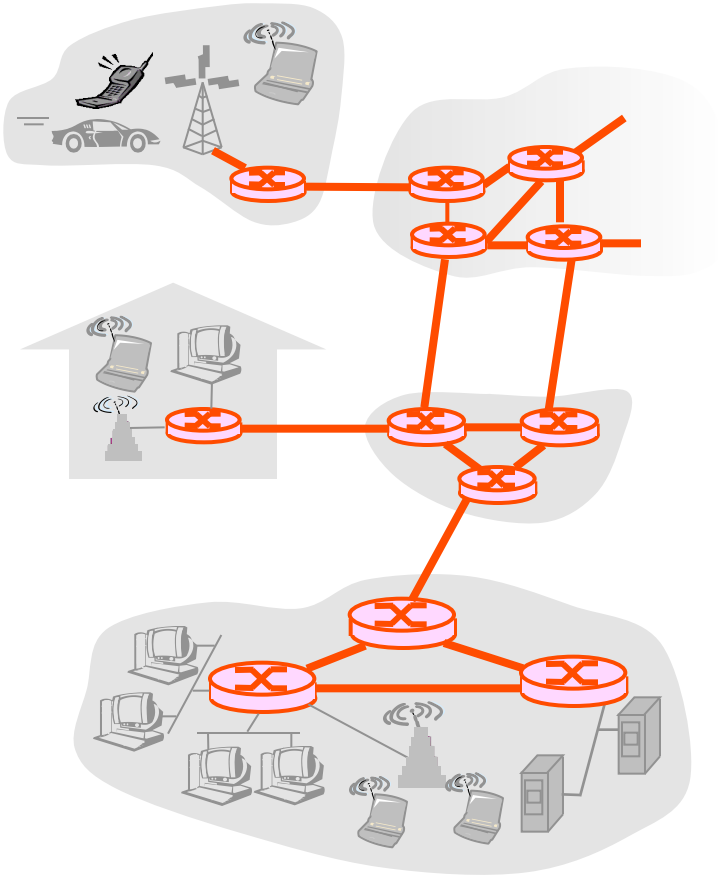
1.4 Protocol layers, service models

The Network Core

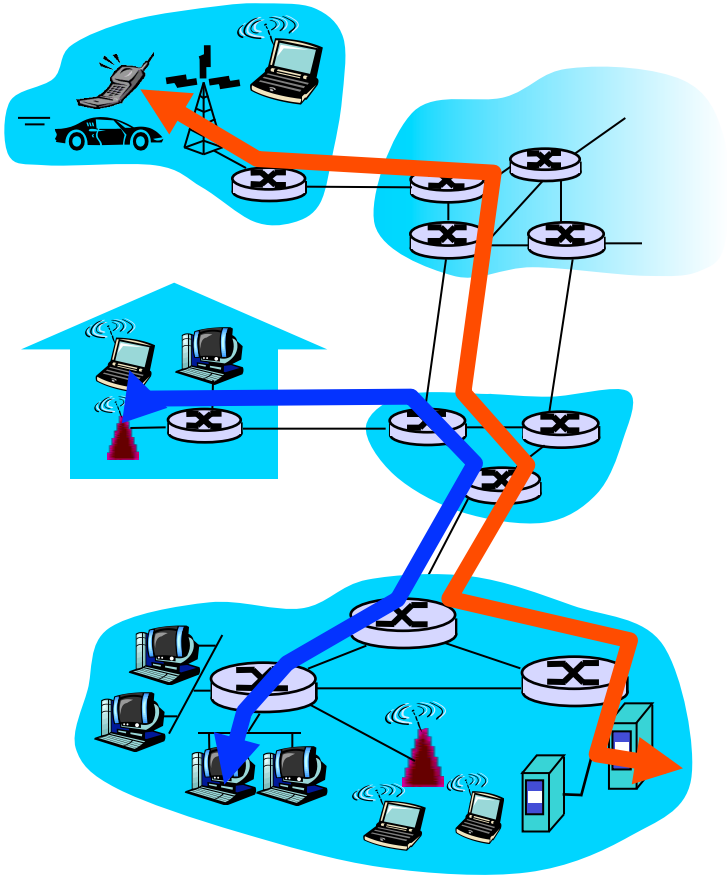
- mesh of interconnected routers
- *the* fundamental question: how is data transferred through net?
  - circuit switching: dedicated circuit per call: telephone net
  - packet-switching: data sent thru net in discrete "chunks"



Network Core: Circuit Switching

End-end resources reserved for "call"

- link bandwidth, switch capacity
- dedicated resources: no sharing
- circuit-like (guaranteed) performance
- call setup required



Network Core: Circuit Switching

network resources (e.g., bandwidth) divided into "pieces"

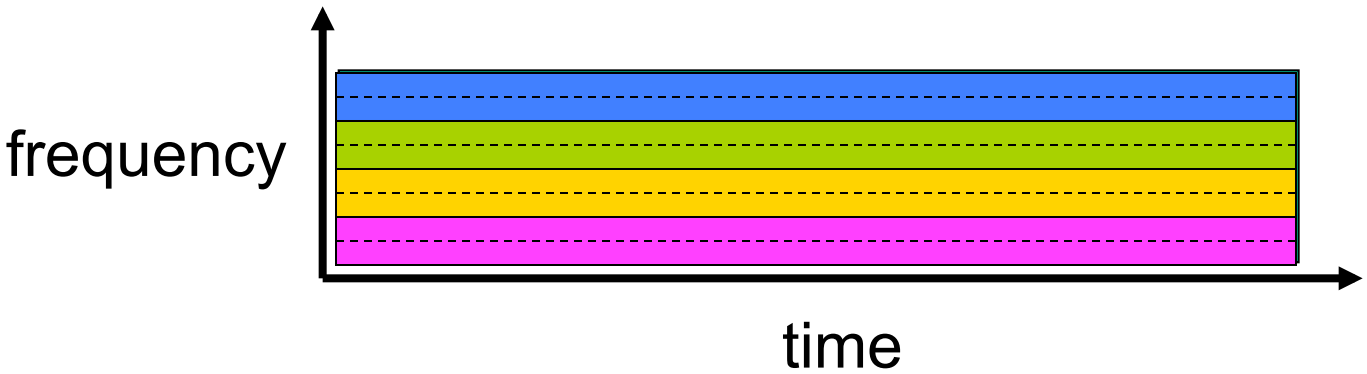
- pieces allocated to calls
- resource piece *idle* if not used by owning call *(no sharing)*
- dividing link bandwidth into "pieces"
  - frequency division
  - time division

Circuit Switching: FDM and TDM

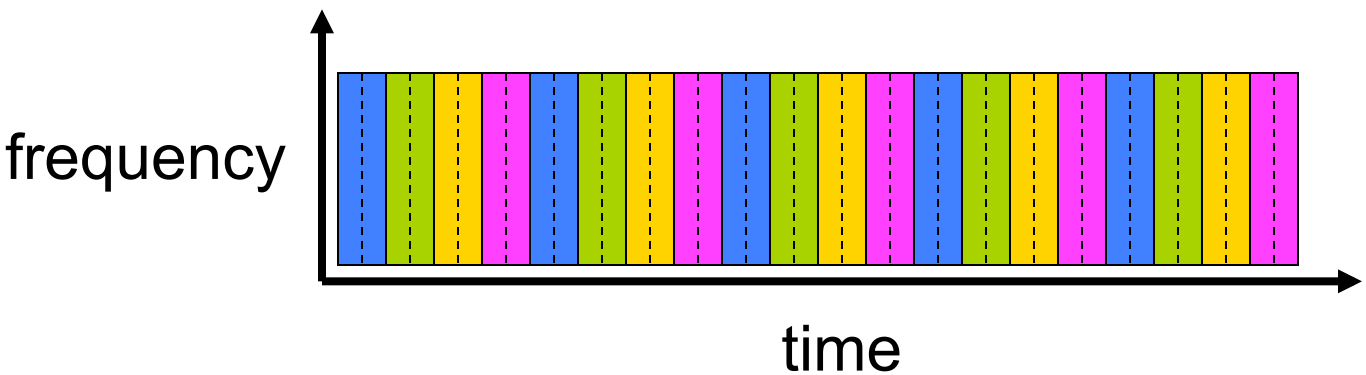
Example:

4 users

FDM



TDM



Network Core: Packet Switching

each end-end data stream divided into *packets*

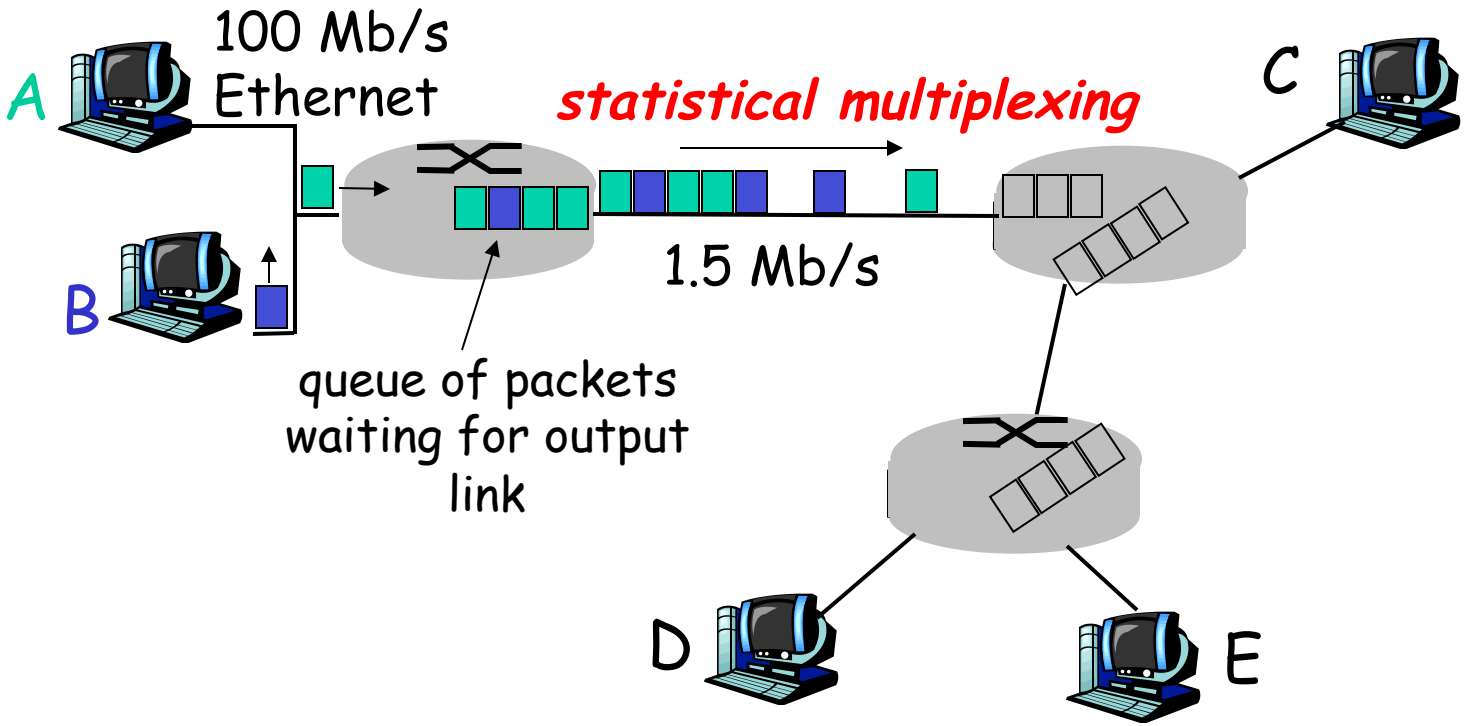
- user A, B packets *share* network resources
- each packet uses full link bandwidth
- resources used *as needed*

Bandwidth division into "pieces"
Dedicated allocation
Resource reservation

resource contention:

- aggregate resource demand can exceed amount available
- congestion: packets queue, wait for link use
- store and forward: packets move one hop at a time
  - Node receives complete packet before forwarding

Packet Switching: Statistical Multiplexing



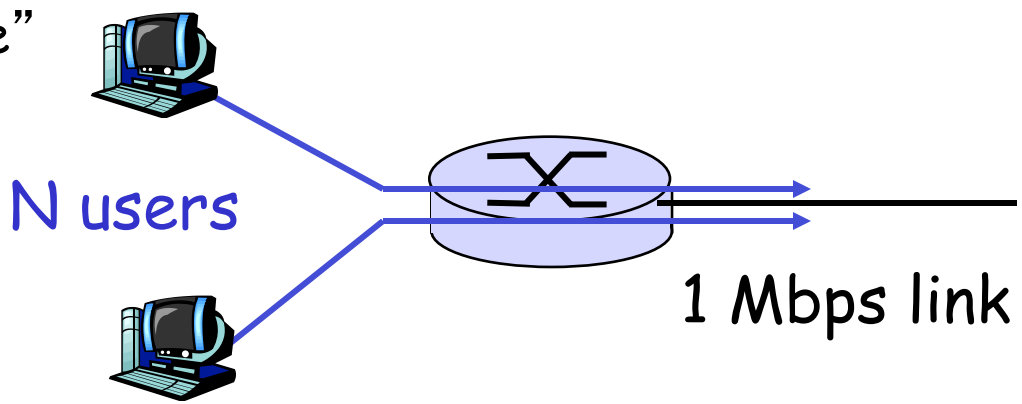
Sequence of A & B packets does not have fixed pattern, bandwidth shared on demand ➡ ***statistical multiplexing***.

TDM: each host gets same slot in revolving TDM frame.

Packet switching versus circuit switching

Packet switching allows more users to use network!

- 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?

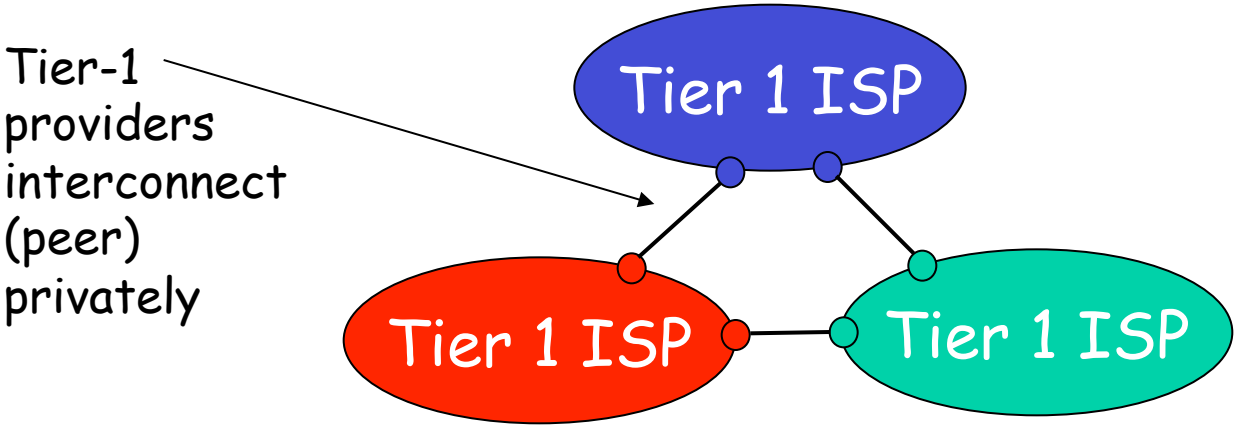
Packet switching versus circuit switching

Is packet switching a "slam dunk winner?"

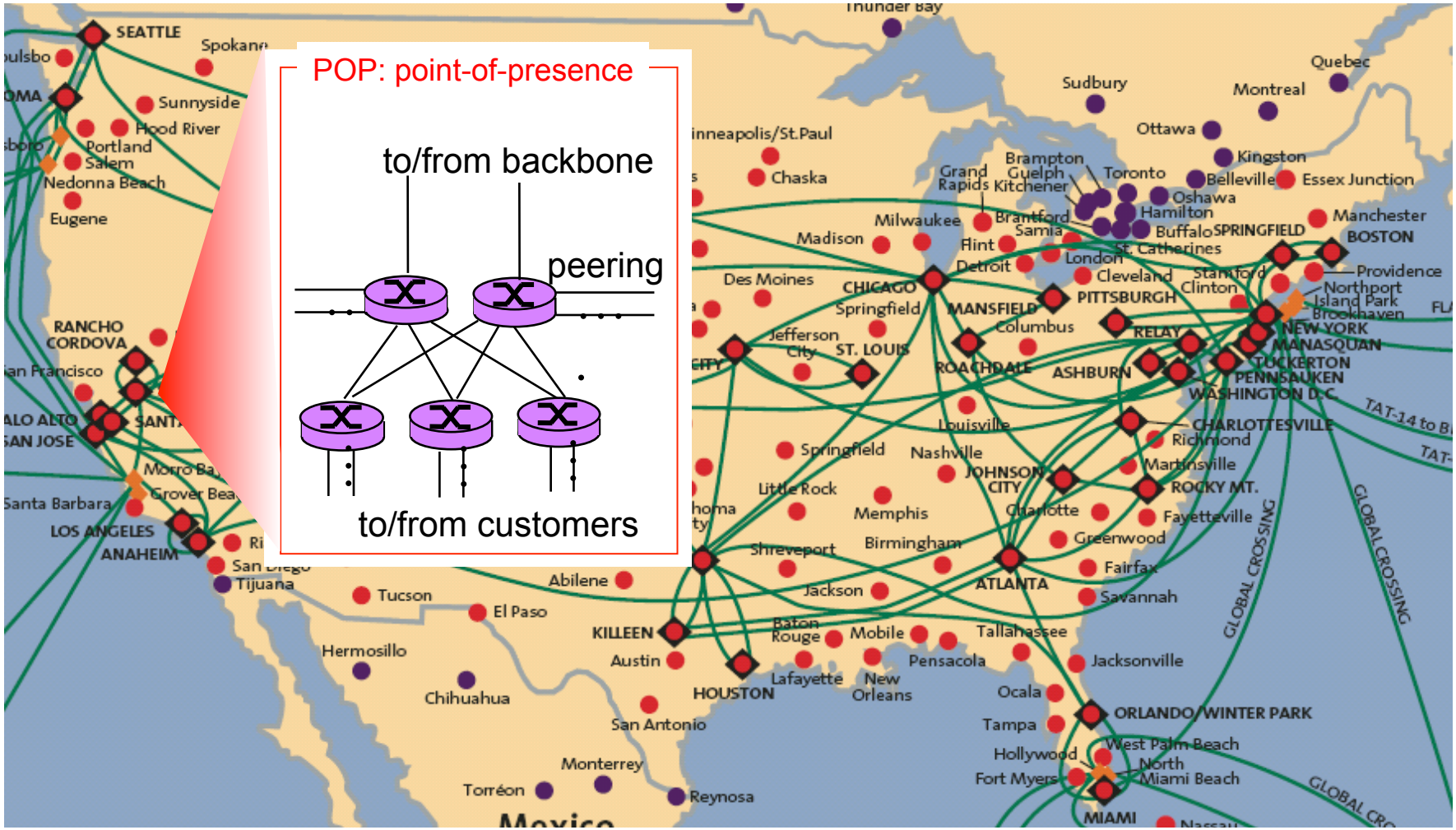
- great for bursty data
  - resource sharing
  - simpler, no call setup
- excessive congestion: packet delay and loss
  - protocols needed for reliable data transfer, congestion control
- Q: How to provide circuit-like behavior?
  - bandwidth guarantees needed for audio/video apps
  - still an unsolved problem

Internet structure: network of networks

- roughly hierarchical
- at center: "tier-1" ISPs (e.g., Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, Cable and Wireless), national/international coverage
  - treat each other as equals



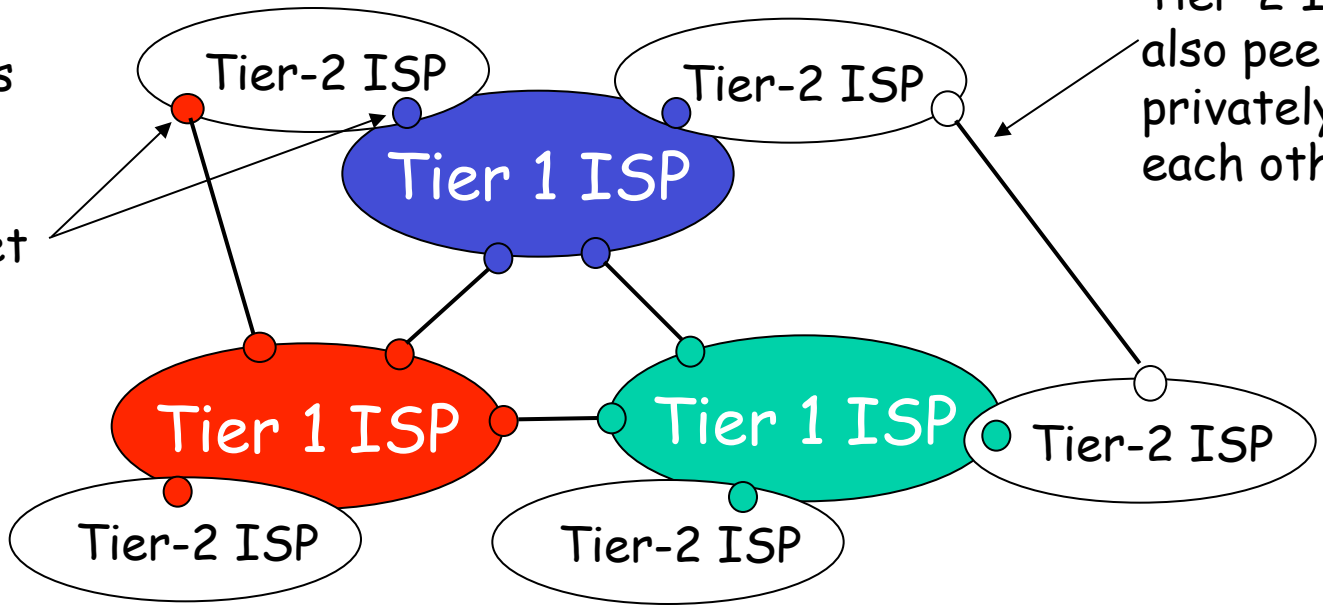
Tier-1 ISP: e.g., Sprint



Internet structure: network of networks

- "Tier-2" ISPs: smaller (often regional) ISPs
  - Connect to one or more tier-1 ISPs, possibly other tier-2 ISPs

Tier-2 ISP pays tier-1 ISP for connectivity to rest of Internet
- tier-2 ISP is *customer* of tier-1 provider

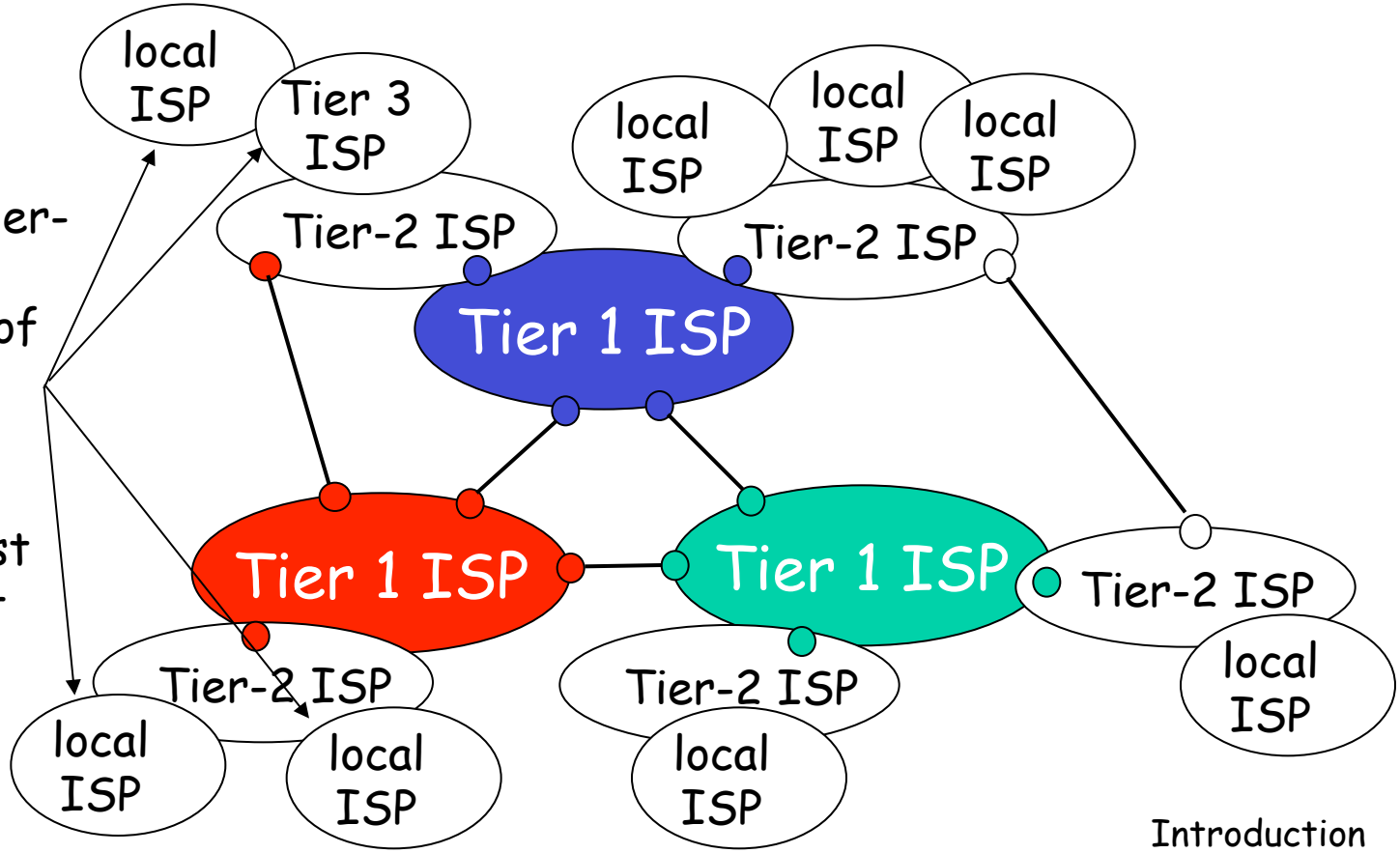


Tier-2 ISPs also peer privately with each other.

Internet structure: network of networks

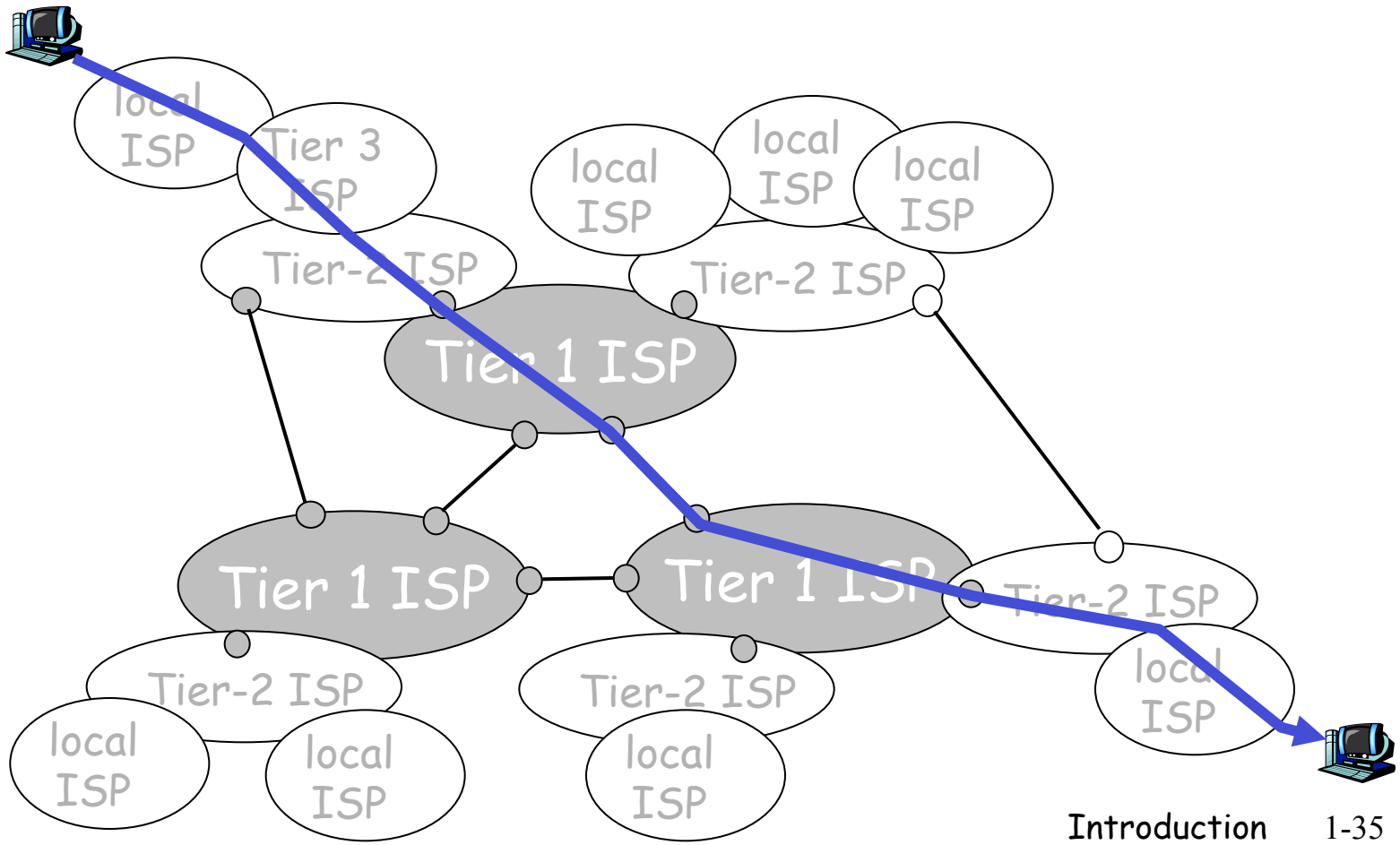
- "Tier-3" ISPs and local ISPs
  - last hop ("access") network (closest to end systems)

Local and tier-3 ISPs are *customers* of higher tier ISPs connecting them to rest of Internet



Internet structure: network of networks

- a packet passes through many networks!



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Protocol "Layers"

Networks are complex!

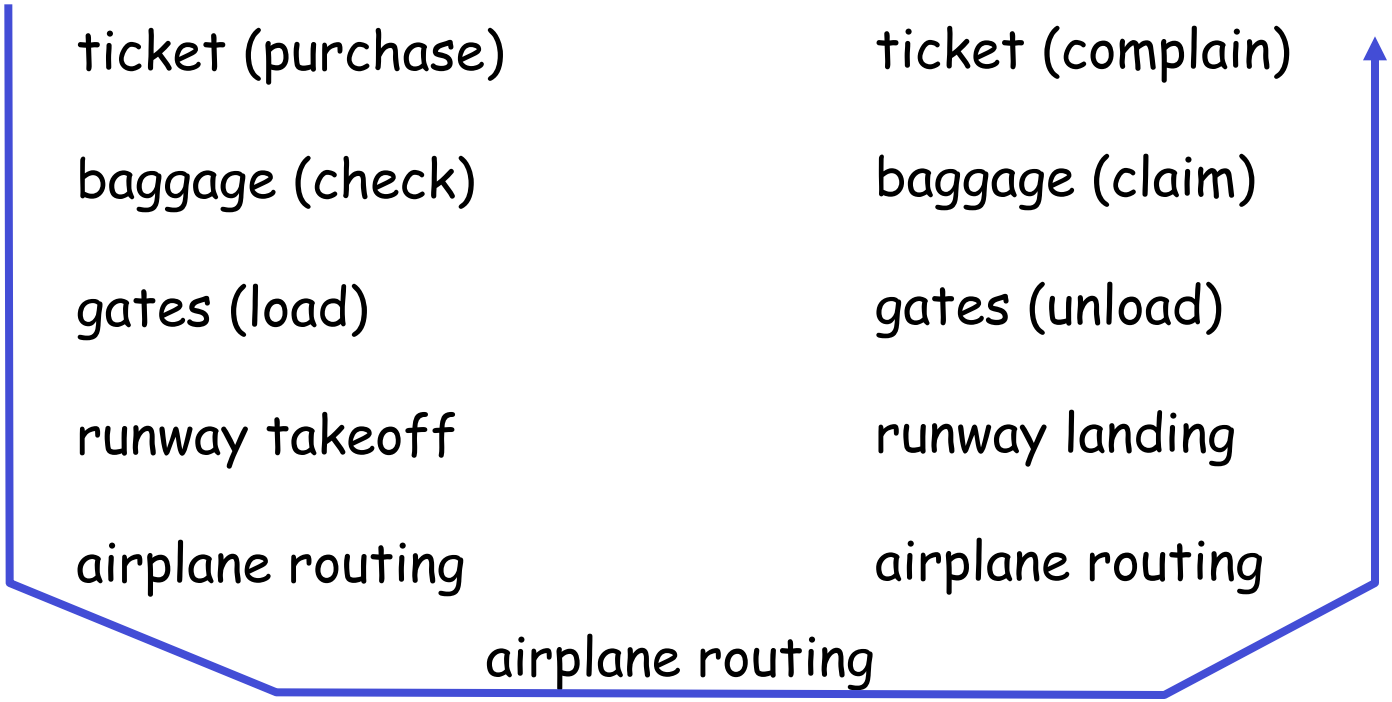
- many "pieces":
  - hosts
  - routers
  - links of various media
  - applications
  - protocols
  - hardware, software

Question:

Is there any hope of *organizing* structure of network?

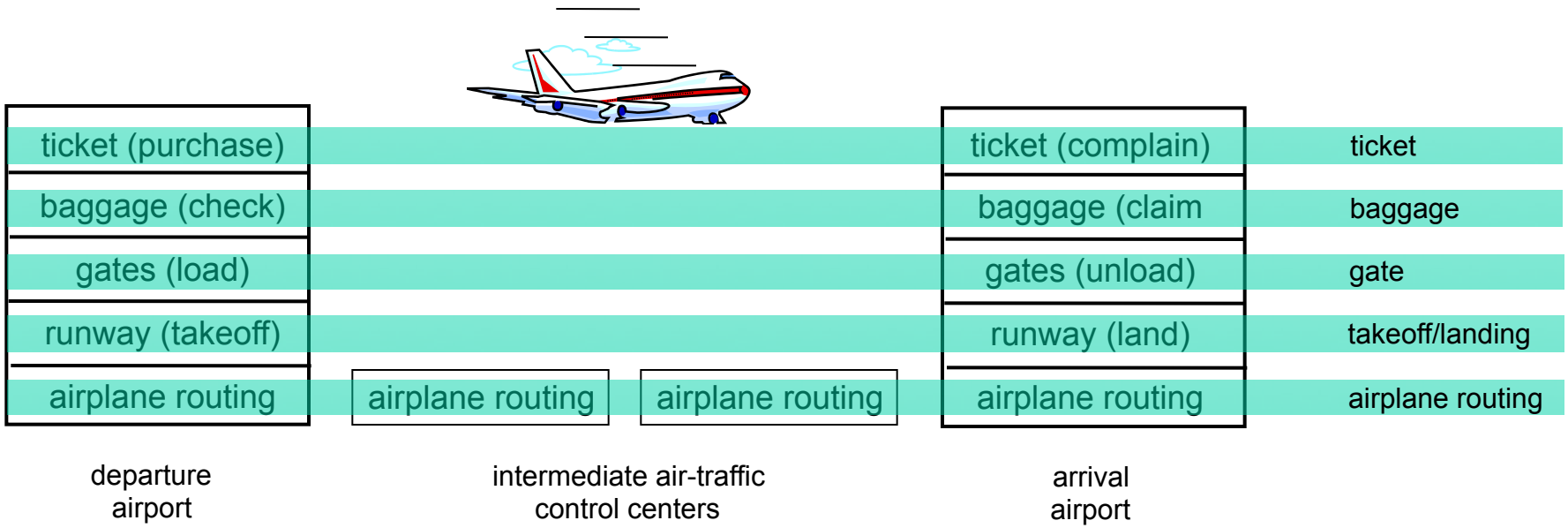
Or at least our discussion of networks?

Organization of air travel



- a series of steps

Layering of airline functionality



Layers: each layer implements a service

- via its own internal-layer actions
- relying on services provided by layer below

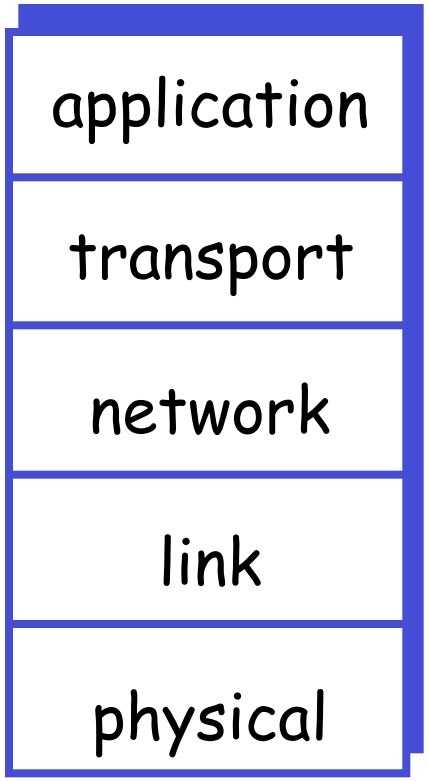
Why layering?

Dealing with complex systems:

- explicit structure allows identification, relationship of complex system's pieces
  - layered reference model for discussion
- modularization eases maintenance, updating of system
  - change of implementation of layer's service transparent to rest of system
  - e.g., change in gate procedure doesn't affect rest of system
- layering considered harmful?

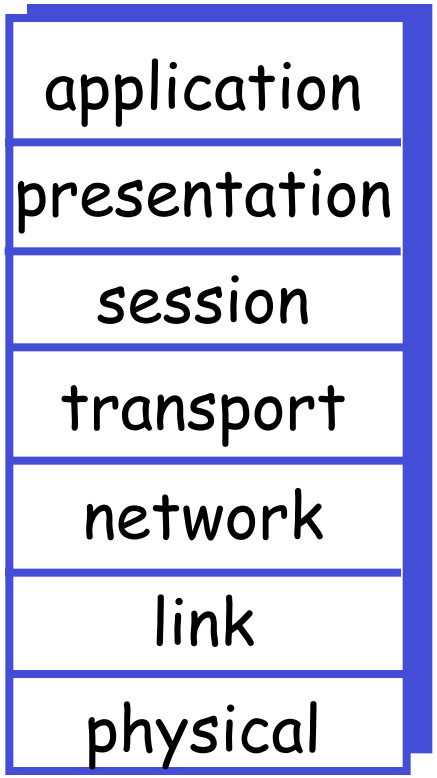
Internet protocol stack

- application: supporting network applications
  - FTP, SMTP, HTTP
- transport: process-process data transfer
  - TCP, UDP
- network: routing of datagrams from source to destination
  - IP, routing protocols
- link: data transfer between neighboring network elements
  - PPP, Ethernet
- physical: bits "on the wire"



ISO/OSI reference model

- presentation: allow applications to interpret meaning of data, e.g., encryption, compression, machine-specific conventions
- *session:* synchronization, checkpointing, recovery of data exchange
- Internet stack "missing" these layers!
  - these services, *if needed,* must be implemented in application
  - needed?



Encapsulation