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Networking

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Lecture O: Prelude



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Prelude: What is this course about?

- 1. It's about Computer Networks.
- 2. It's about the how and why of the Internet.
- 3. It's about foundations of networking beyond the Internet.

Prelude: Course Mater



Prelude: Why not to take this course?

<u>Disclaimer</u>: This lecture may contain material which is considered offending by students who believe that intellectual challenges are to be avoided.







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Lecture 1: Introduction

Part I: Introduction

Important: read chapter 1 in [Kurose-Ross]

<u>Our goal today:</u>

- get context, overview, "feel" of networking
- more depth, detail *later* in course
- approach:
 - descriptive
 - use Internet as example

<u>Overview:</u>

- what's the Internet
- what's a protocol?
- network edge
- network core
- access net, physical media
- performance: loss, delay
- protocol layers, service models
- backbones, NAPs, ISPs
- history

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

- millions of connected computing devices: hosts, end-systems
 - pc's workstations, servers
 - PDA's phones, toasters
 running network apps
- communication links
 - fiber, copper, radio, satellite
- routers: forward packets (chunks) of data thru network



"Cool" internet appliances



Digital photo receiver frame http://www.ceiva.com/



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



Web-enabled toaster+weather forecaster http://dancing-man.com/robin/toasty/

<u>", "nuts and bolts" view</u>

protocols: control sending, receiving of msgs

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:
 - WWW, email, games, ecommerce, database, voting, file (MP3) sharing
- communication services provided:
 - connectionless
 - connection-oriented
- cyberspace [Gibson]:
 - "a consensual hallucination experienced daily by billions of operators, in every nation,"



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



a human protocol and a computer network protocol:



Q: Other human protocol?





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Summer 04

Session A: Protocol Conventions

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Suggested:

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Protocol Conventions

Overview

- illustrate the Some principal elements of Elements
 - any protocol
 - service
 - environmental assumptions
 - vocabulary

Our goal today:

- encoding
- behavioural rules
- appreciate their
 - event-driven nature
- learn about protocol notations

Some history

- Elements of a protocol
- Sequence diagrams and MSCs
- State-transition diagrams and LTS
- Protocol flaws

Recall: What's a protocol?

<u>human protocols:</u>

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

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Some history of protocols

Ok, Internet has quite an interesting history.

But protocol history dates back a little longer, at least to 458 B.C.:

According to Aeschylus (in the play Agamemnon), fire signals were used to to communicate the fall of Troy to Athens over a distance of more than 450 km.

Avgos/Mykene



[Polybius, 2nd century B. C.]

"It is evident to all that in every matter, and especially in warfare, the power of acting at the right time contributes very much to the success of enterprises, and fire signals are the most efficient of all the devices which aid us to do this. [...] anyone [...] even if he is at a distance of three, four or even more days' journey can be informed."

More on the problems of past protocols

[Polybius, 2nd century B. C.]

"[...] it was possible [...] to convey information that a fleet had arrived at Oreus, Peparethus, or Chalcis, but when it came to some of the citizens having changed sides or having been guilty of treachery or a massacre having taken place in the town, or anything of the kind, things that often happen, but cannot all be foreseen — and it is chiefly unexpected occurrences which require instant consideration and help — all such matters defied communication by fire signal. For it was quite impossible to have a preconcerted code for things which there was no means of foretelling."

So, what is a protocol?

A set of rules governing communication

□ there are at least two parties.

□ they have some mutual concern, e.g.

- selling/buying bread
- transferring an mp3
- making Troy surrender
- □ they have something in common.
- they are communicating in some physical environment.

Service provided by a protocol

Transfer of *information* (or bread) between a source and one or more destinations

Some Issues:

- naming and addressing of the source and destination
- naming and addressing of the channel (logical or physical)
- properties of the underlying channel
- initiation and termination of the connection
- interpretation of the information
- error handling

Some concerns

□ How do we get started?

- □ What are we trying to communicate?
- Do we care whether the data/information is received?
- □ What is the penalty for failure?
- □ How do we finish?

The five elements of a protocol

A protocol specification consists of five distinct parts. To be complete, each specification should include explicitly:

- 1. The service to be provided by the protocol
- 2. The *assumptions* about the environment in which the protocol is executed
- **3**. The *vocabulary* of messages used to implement the protocol
- **4**. The *encoding* (format) of each message in the vocabulary

The *behavioural rules* guarding the consistency of message exchanges

Protocol Behaviour Notation

The unambiguos description of protocol behaviour is essential, but difficult. There is no universal notation. Frequently used are A

- message sequence charts/ sequence diagrams/ use cases
- state-transition diagrams





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MSC: Message Sequence Charts



blocks represent (internal) process activities



Definition: Basic MSC

□ A (basic) MSC M is a tuple (P,E,L,c, <)

- a set P of process labels (labelling the instance axis),
- a finite set E events E = $S \cup R \cup A$, consisting of
 - send events S (buh/)
 - receive events R (/buh)
 - action events A (task executions etc)
- a labeling function L: $E \rightarrow P$ (putting events on the instance axis),
- a bijection $c: S \rightarrow R$ (for send-receive edges)
- precedence relation $< \subseteq E \times E$
 - Send of a message occurs before its receipt
 - Events on the same instance are totally ordered

□ Must be well-formed: no cycles in precedence graph

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the transitive closure of defines a partial order on E

- A trace of MSC M is a linearization of the partial order <*.</p>
 - every trace is a finite sequence of events that "obeys" the precedence.
 - each event occurs exactly once in a trace and only after all its preceding events have already occurred in the trace so far.
 - always finite.

Semantics of MSC M

- is the set of all possible traces.
- can be represented as a finite LTS (and the interimentation of the second sec

Need to introduce partial orders?

- □ A relation is a set of pairs drawn from some set, say E.
- A reflexive relation is a relation that contains the pair (e,e) for each element e of E.
- A transitive relation is a relation which contains the pair (e,g) whenever it contains both (e,f) and (f,g).
- □ A partial order is a reflexive and transitive relation.

The exercises of DN are partially ordered (in time).

A total order is a partial order which for each pair (e,f) of
 E (with e≠f) does either contain (e,f) or (f,e) - but not both.
 The lectures of DN are totally ordered (in time).

MSC - How simple!







IEEE STANDARD FOR A

6.3.3 Details of link layer operation

The operation of the link layer packet transmitter and receiver is described by the state machine in figure 6-19.



Protocol Notation: State transition diagrams



A flowchart like notation for LTS has been adopted by the ITU ('SDL').



Labelled transition systems

An LTS is a quadruple (S, L, T, s) where

□ S is a set of states,

□ L is a set of labels,

□ T is a set of transitions, $T \subseteq (S \times L \times S),$

 \Box s \in S is the initial state.



(a light switch)
Grandma's telephone

What can happen?

- Well, grandma can take off the phone from the hook, and put it back on the hook
- Grandma may spin the dial
 (these days: press buttons) to 'dial' a number.
- Also, grandma may witness the 'bell', a 'ring tone', a 'dial tone', a 'busy tone'.

• Anything forgotten?



Grandma's telephone as an LTS



An LTS is a quadruple (S, L, T, s) where

- S is a set of states,
- L is a set of labels,
- T is a set of transitions, T⊆(SXLXS),
- $s \in S$ is the initial state.





Complete the LTS describing grandma's telephone

Do this with pencil and paper.

□ Choose meaningful names for the states in S.

You may assume that grandma can only call a single partner (which is *you*, her grandchild, of course). This is performed (in one shot) with 'dial'.

<u>Sequence Diagrams vs.</u> <u>State-Transition Diagrams</u>

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Sequence diagrams show the interaction of protocol peer entities - by example (use cases), or by counterexample (misuse cases).

■ State-transition diagrams show the behaviour of one protocol entity, possibly the complete behaviour.

Events in Protocol Behaviour

Protocol behaviour is driven by *events*:

- arrival of signals/messages
- timeouts

□ Events induce *state* changes.

A state is identified by the program location where the protocol entity waits for events (or generates events).

Protocol, Environment and Services



Protocol, Environment and Services



The five elements of a protocol

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5. The *behavioural rules* guarding the a message exchanges



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The purpose of the protocol:

- transfer text files as sequences of characters
- across a telephone line
- protect against transmission errors.
- o in ``full-duplex" file transfer, that is bidirectional simultaneously.



- positive and negative acknowledgments for traffic from A to B are sent on the channel from B to A, and vice versa. ·piggybacking
- every message contains two parts:
 - a message part, and
 - a control part that applies to traffic on the reverse channel.

2. Environmental Assumptions

1: Introduction

- The "environment" in which the protocol is to be executed consists of two users and a transmission channel.
 - The users can be assumed to simply submit a request for file transfer and await its completion.



• The transmission channel is assumed to cause arbitrary message *distortions*, but *not to lose, duplicate, insert, or reorder* messages.

We will assume that a lower-level module is used to catch all distortions and change them into undistorted messages of type '*err*'.

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The protocol vocabulary defines three distinct types of messages:

- *ack* for a message combined with a positive acknowledgment,
- nak for a message combined with a negative acknowledgment, and
- err for a message with a transmission error.

The vocabulary can be succinctly expressed as a set: *V* = { ack, err, nak }.





Each message consists of a control field identifying

- the message type and
- a data field with the character code.

This gives a simple structure of two fields: {control tag, data}

in a C-like notation:

```
enum control {ack, nak, err};
struct message {
enum control tag;
unsigned char data;
};
```

5. Behavioural rules



The behavioural rules for the protocol are informally described as follows:

<u>Control:</u> If

- the previous reception was error-free,
 - the next message on the reverse channel will carry an 'ack';
- the previous reception was in error,
 - it will carry a 'nak'.

<u>Data:</u> If

- the previous reception carried a 'nak', or the previous reception was in error,
 - retransmit the old message;
- otherwise ('ack') fetch a new message for transmission.





- The above simple, informal protocol description is convincing, yet the protocol has several flaws.
 - Data flows only if both processes have something to send

• The protocol does not terminate. As a quick fix, let's assume we can start up the protocol by faking an error message if we have data to send



















Design Flaws

. . .

- The above simple, informal protocol description is convincing, yet the protocol has several flaws.
 - Data flows only if both processes have something to send.
 - The protocol does not start up.
 - The protocol does not terminate.

• The protocol may not deliver the correct message, it may duplicate characters.

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<u>And now</u> <u>for the</u> <u>ten</u> <u>commandments</u>



⁶⁵Ten rules of protocol design

- 1. Make sure that the problem is well-defined. All design criteria, requirements and constraints, should be enumerated before a design is started.
- 2. Define the service to be performed at every level of abstraction before deciding which structures should be used to realize these services (*what* comes before *how*).
- 3. Design *external* functionality before *internal* functionality.
- 4. Keep it simple.
- 5. Do not connect what is independent. Separate orthogonal concerns.
- 6. Do not introduce what is immaterial. Do not restrict what is irrelevant.
- 7. Before implementing a design, build a high-level prototype and verify that the design criteria are met.
- 8. Implement the design, measure its performance, and if necessary, optimize it.
- 9. Check that the final optimized implementation is equivalent to the high-level design that was verified.
- 10. Don't skip Rules 1 to 7.

The most frequently violated rule, clearly, is Rule 10.



How to validate such protocols

- 1. Formalise the *five elements* **D** Typical inconsistencies: of a protocol in a formal 0 notation.
- 2. Unless you dare a manual proof, let a tool explore all possible event sequences and check for inconsistencies

'model checking'

3. if you think you cannot do 2., do 1. anyhow

- unspecified message arrivals
- safety violations (something bad happens),
 - e.g. deadlock (protocol stops unintentionally)
- liveness violations (nothing good happens),
 - e.g. livelock (protocol entities continue to exchange messages, but no service is provided)