Lecture 5: Application Layer Overview and HTTP

COMP 411, Fall 2022 Victoria Manfredi





Acknowledgements: materials adapted from Computer Networking: A Top Down Approach 7th edition: ©1996-2016, J.F Kurose and K.W. Ross, All Rights Reserved.

Today

Announcements

- homework 2 due Friday by 5p
- server_sock vs. client_conn
- battleship example

Network Measurement

- sources of delay
- Wireshark: looking at real traffic

Application layer

- overview
- Web and HTTP

HTTP protocol

- requests, responses, error codes

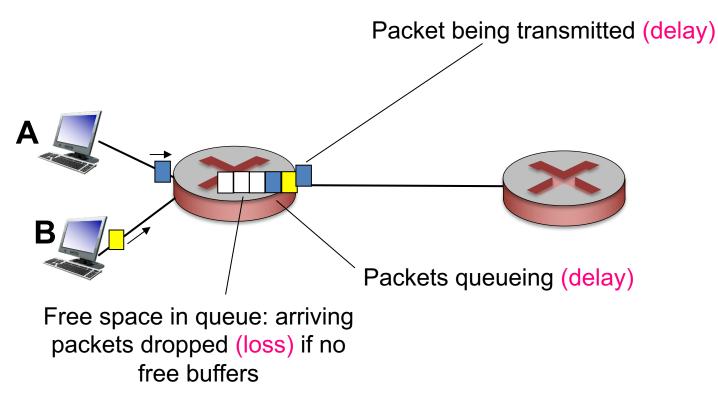
Network Measurement SOURCES OF DELAY

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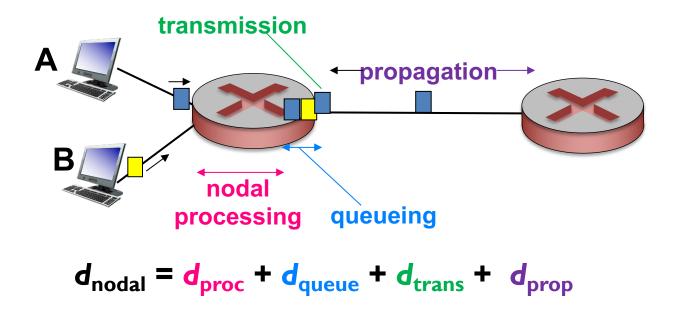
How do loss and delay occur?

If link arrival rate > transmission rate link for some time

- packets will queue, wait to be transmitted on link
- packets can be dropped (lost) if memory (buffer) fills up
- lost packet may be retransmitted by previous node, by source end system, or not at all



Four sources of packet delay



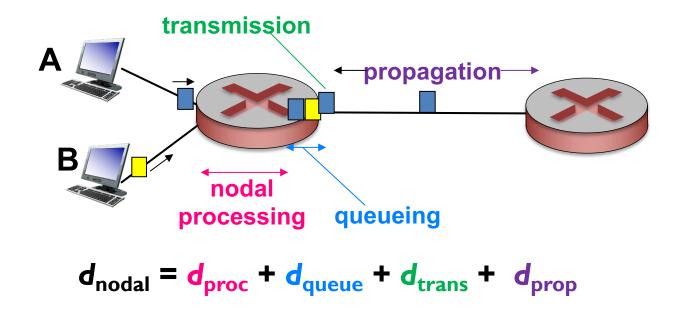
*d*_{proc}: processing delay

- check bit errors
- determine output link
- fast: typically < msec</p>
- usually done in hardware not software

d_{queue} : queueing delay

- time waiting at output link for transmission
- depends on congestion level of router

Four sources of packet delay



 d_{trans} : transmission delay d_{prop} : propagation delay

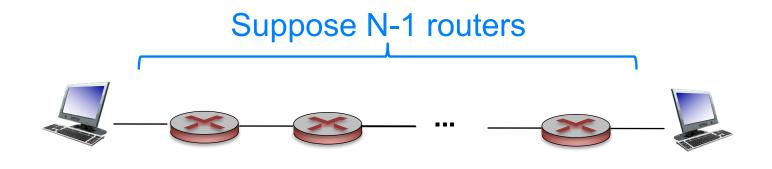
- depends on link bandwidth
- L: packet length (bits)
- R: link bandwidth (bps)

- $d_{trans} = L/R \leftarrow d_{trans}$ and $d_{prop} \rightarrow d_{prop} = d/s$ *very* different

- $-\mu$ s (within campus) to ms (satellite link)
- d: length of physical link
- s: propagation speed ($\sim 2x10^8$ m/s)

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End-to-end delay



Q: what is end-end delay if ignore queuing delay?

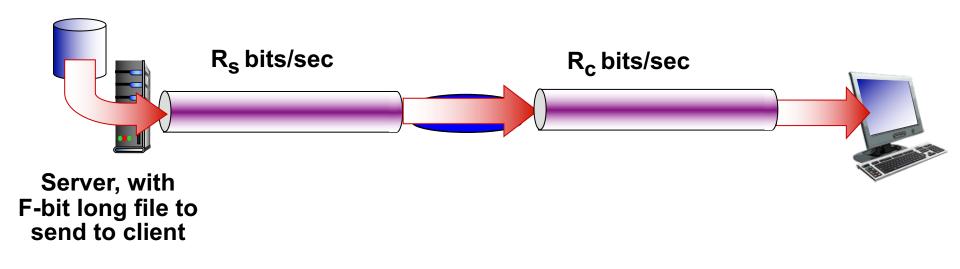
End-end delay = $N * (d_{proc} + d_{trans} + d_{prop})$

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Throughput

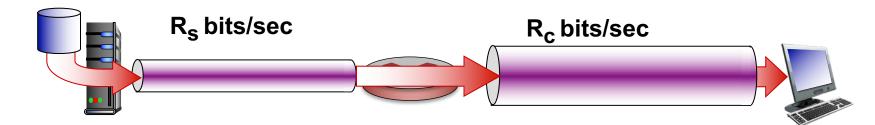
Rate at which bits transferred between sender/receiver

- measured in bits/time unit
- instantaneous: rate at given point in time
- average: rate over longer period of time

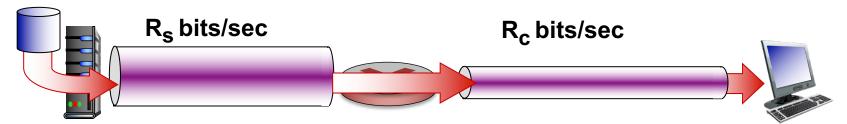


Throughput

 $R_s < R_c$ What is average end-end throughput?



 $R_s > R_c$ What is average end-end throughput?



bottleneck link

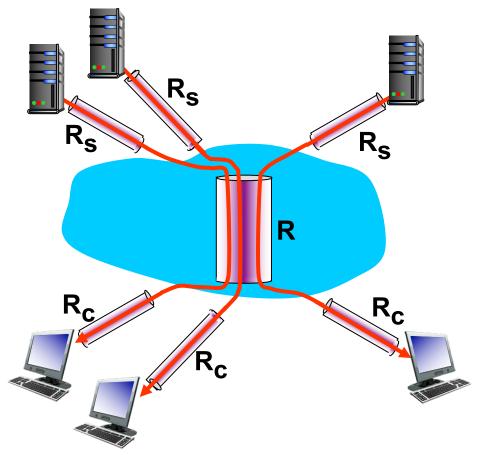
link on end-end path that constrains end-end throughput

Internet scenario

Per-connection endend throughput – min(R_c, R_s, R/10)

In practice

R_c or *R_s* is often bottleneck



10 connections (fairly) share *R* bits/sec backbone bottleneck link

Network Measurement TRACEROUTE

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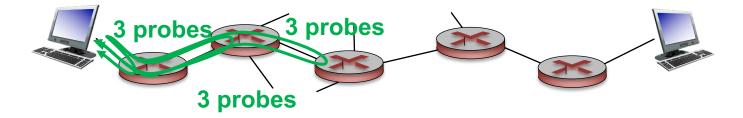
Real Internet delays and routes

Traceroute program

provides delay measurement from source to router along end-end
 Internet path towards destination

How?

- for all i:
 - sends three packets that will reach router i on path towards destination
 - sets packet time-to-live (TTL) to i
 - router i will return packets to sender
 - sender times interval between transmission and reply for each packet
 - measures Round Trip Time (RTT) delay

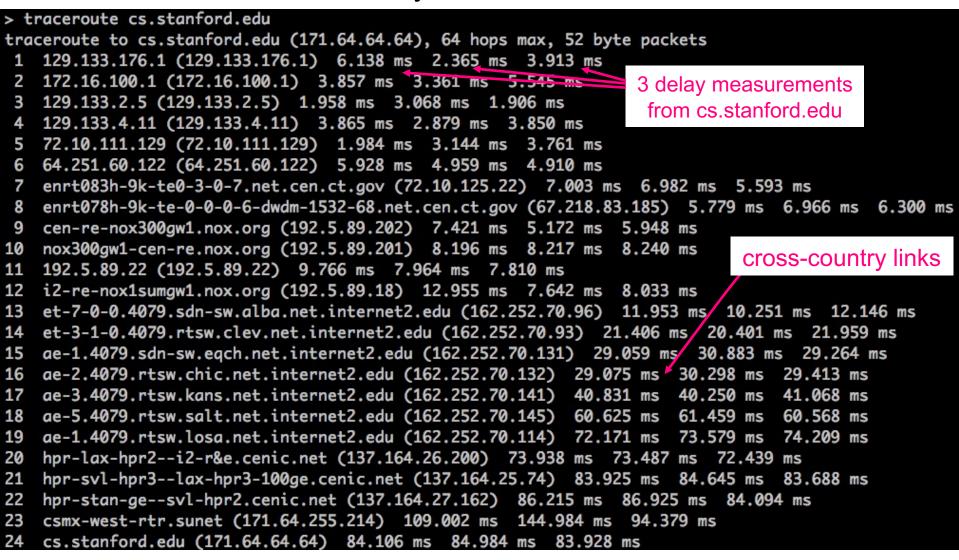


Note

- different probe packets may take different paths, so delays can vary

Real Internet delays, routes

traceroute: from wesleyan network to cs.stanford.edu



* means no response (probe lost, router not replying)

Using wireshark

Run traceroute and see what traffic is generated

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Application Layer OVERVIEW

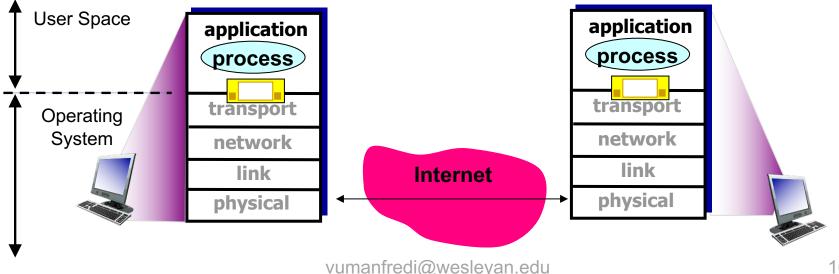
Application layer: where apps live

Application software

- processes running different hosts, communicate via messages

Application architecture

- client-server vs. peer-to-peer vs. hybrid
- overlaid on network architecture



Application layer protocols

Provide specific services to application

Define

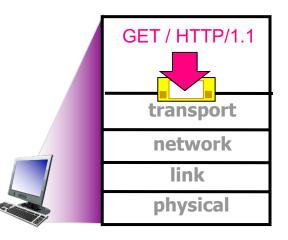
- types of messages exchanged
 - e.g., request, response
- message syntax
 - fields in messages, how delineated
- message semantics
 - meaning of info in fields
- rules
 - for when and how processes send and respond to messages

Rely on transport layer

 to get messages from process on one host to process on another host

Open protocols

- defined in RFCs
- support interoperability
- e.g., HTTP, SMTP
- Proprietary protocols – e.g., Skype



Application requirements

Dictate what transport layer services application needs TCP or UDP (or SSL/TCP or QUIC if you're Google)?

Service	App requirements	
Reliable data transfer: does all data need to be received?	Loss-tolerant? E.g. video?	
Throughput: does data need to be delivered quickly? Is app sending lots of data?	Bandwidth sensitive? E.g., video Elastic traffic? E.g., use as much/little bandwidth as available	
Timing: does data need to be delivered at certain min rate?		
Security: does data need to be secured from eavesdroppers and modification?	Encryption? Data integrity? Endpoint authentication? Confidentiality?	

Services provided by Internet transport protocols

TCP service

- connection-oriented
 - setup required between client and server processes
- reliable transport
 - messages delivered to destination process without error and in-order
- congestion control
 - sender reduces sending rate when network is overloaded
- flow control
 - sender reduces sending rate when destination is overloaded
- does not provide
 - timing, minimum throughput or delay guarantee, security

UDP service

- unreliable data transfer
 - best-effort service between sender and destination processes
- does not provide
 - reliability
 - flow control
 - congestion control
 - timing
 - throughput guarantee
 - security
 - connection setup

Q: why bother? Why is there a UDP?

Transport service requirements: common apps

	Application	Data loss	Throughput	Time sensitive
	File transfer	no loss	elastic	no
	E-mail	no loss	elastic	no
	Web documents	no loss	elastic	no
Real-	-time audio/video	loss-tolerant	audio: 5kbps-1Mbps video:10kbps-5Mbps	yes, 100' s msec
St	ored audio/video	loss-tolerant	same as above	yes, few secs
Ir	nteractive games	loss-tolerant	few kbps up	yes, 100's msec
	Text messaging	no loss	elastic	yes and no

Q: other apps you can think of?

Internet apps: application, transport protocols

Associated with each app is an app layer protocol: depending on app requirements, runs over specific transport protocols

Application	Application layer protocol	Underlying transport protocol
E-mail	SMTP [RFC 2821]	TCP
Remote terminal access	Telnet [RFC 854]	TCP
Web	HTTP [RFC 2616]	TCP
File transfer	FTP [RFC 959]	TCP
Streaming multimedia	HTTP (e.g., YouTube), RTP [RFC 1889]	TCP or UDP
Internet telephony	SIP, RTP, proprietary (e.g., Skype)	TCP or UDP

Q: where does security come into play?

Securing TCP

TCP & UDP

 no encryption: cleartext passwords sent into socket traverse Internet in cleartext

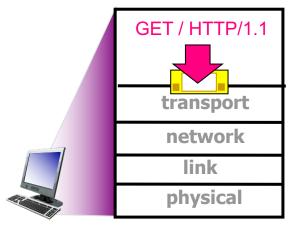
TLS/SSL

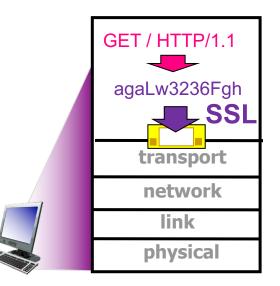
- at app layer
 - apps use SSL libraries, that "talk" to TCP
- provides encrypted TCP connection
 - data integrity
 - end-point authentication

TLS/SSL socket API

 cleartext passwords sent into socket traverse Internet encrypted

Q: Why does SSL run over TCP? How is TLS/SSL related to OSI model?





Network Applications WEB AND HTTP

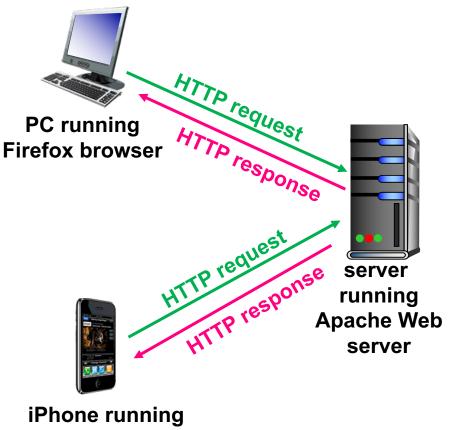
Web's application layer protocol

HTTP

HyperText Transfer Protocol

Client/server model

- client
 - browser that requests, receives, (using HTTP protocol) and "displays" Web objects
- server
 - Web server sends (using HTTP protocol) objects in response to requests



Safari browser

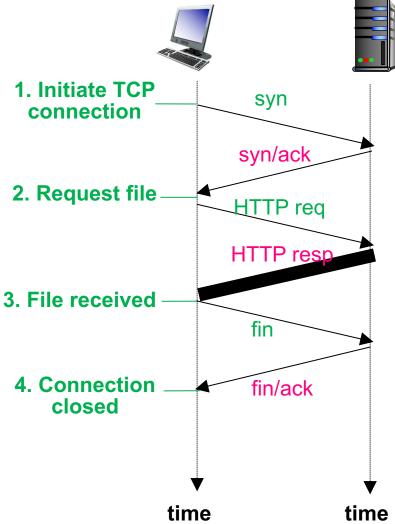
HTTP overview

When you click on a link

- 1. client initiates TCP connection
 - creates socket to server on port 80
- 2. server accepts TCP connection from client
- 3. HTTP messages exchanged between browser (HTTP client) and Web server (HTTP server)
- 4. TCP connection closed

Two types of HTTP messages

- request, response



HTTP is a stateless protocol

Stateless

- server maintains no information about past client requests

Why stateless?

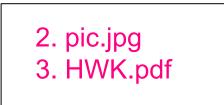
- stateful protocols are complex
 - storage
 - state must be maintained for potentially many clients
 - server/client crashes
 - views of state may be inconsistent, must be reconciled
 - · workaround: cookies

Format of a webpage

Web page consists of objects

- object can be HTML file, JPEG image, Java applet, audio file,...
- typically includes base HTML-file and several referenced objects

1. index.html



All 3 objects must be requested from server in order to fully load webpage

Each object is addressable by URL, e.g.,



Q: How do we download multiple objects using HTTP?

HTTP connections

2 ways to use HTTP requests to get objects from web server

1. Non-persistent HTTP

- at most one object sent over TCP connection
 - connection then closed
- for each object, setup and use separate TCP connection
 - downloading multiple objects requires multiple connections

– HTTP/1.0

2. Persistent HTTP

- multiple objects can be sent over single TCP connection between client, server
- reuse same TCP connection to download multiple objects
- HTTP/1.1: by default

Q: Which is faster? Which is better?

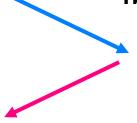
Non-persistent HTTP

Suppose user enters URL:

www.wesleyan.edu/mathcs/index.html

1a. HTTP client initiates TCP

connection to HTTP
server (process) at
www.wesleyan.edu
on port 80



2. HTTP client sends HTTP request message (containing URL) into TCP connection socket. Message indicates client wants object mathcs/index.html

1b. HTTP server on host

www.wesleyan.edu waiting for TCP connection at port 80 "accepts" connection, notifying client

 3. HTTP server receives request message, forms response
 message containing requested object, and sends message into its socket

Non-persistent HTTP

5. HTTP client receives response message containing html file, displays html. Parsing html file, finds 10 referenced jpeg objects

time

6. Steps 1-5 repeated for the 10 referenced jpeg objects referred to in index.html 4. HTTP server closes TCP connection.