PART VII

INTERNET PROTOCOL:
FORWARDING IP DATAGRAMS
Datagram Transmission

- Host delivers datagrams to directly connected machines
- Host sends datagrams that cannot be delivered directly to router
- Routers forward datagrams to other routers
- Final router delivers datagram directly
Question

Does a host need to make forwarding choices?
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Answer: YES!
Example Host That Must Choose How To Forward Datagrams

- Note: host is singly homed!
Two Broad Cases

- Direct delivery
  - Ultimate destination can be reached over one network
  - The ‘last hop’ along a path
  - Also occurs when two communicating hosts both attach to the same physical network

- Indirect delivery
  - Requires intermediary (router)
Important Design Decision

Transmission of an IP datagram between two machines on a single physical network does not involve routers. The sender encapsulates the datagram in a physical frame, binds the destination IP address to a physical hardware address, and sends the resulting frame directly to the destination.
Testing Whether A Destination
Lies On The Same Physical Network
As The Sender

Because the Internet addresses of all machines on a single network include a common network prefix and extracting that prefix requires only a few machine instructions, testing whether a machine can be reached directly is extremely efficient.
Datagram Forwarding

- General paradigm
  - Source host sends to first router
  - Each router passes datagram to next router
  - Last router along path delivers datagram to destination host

- Only works if routers cooperate
General Concept

Routers in a TCP/IP Internet form a cooperative, interconnected structure. Datagrams pass from router to router until they reach a router that can deliver the datagram directly.
Efficient Forwarding

- Decisions based on table lookup
- Routing tables keep only network portion of addresses (size proportional to number of networks, not number of hosts)
- Extremely efficient
  - Lookup
  - Route update
**Important Idea**

- Table used to decide how to send datagram known as *routing table* (also called a *forwarding table*).
- Routing table only stores address of next router along the path.
- Scheme is known as *next-hop forwarding* or *next-hop routing*.
Terminology

- Originally
  - *Routing* used to refer to passing datagram from router to router

- More recently
  - Purists decided to use *forwarding* to refer to the process of looking up a route and sending a datagram

- But...
  - Table is usually called a *routing table*
Special Cases

- Default route
- Host-specific route
Default Route

- Special entry in IP routing table
- Matches ‘‘any’’ destination address
- Only one default permitted
- Only selected if no other match in table
Host-Specific Route

- Entry in routing table
- Matches entire 32-bit value
- Can be used to send traffic for a specific host along a specific path (i.e., can differ from the network route)
- More later in the course
Level Of Forwarding Algorithm

- Routing table uses IP addresses, not physical addresses
Summary

- IP uses routing table to forward datagrams
- Routing table
  - Stores pairs of network prefix and next hop
  - Can contain host-specific routes and a default route