

Network Security

Introduction to networks

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What is a (computer) network

Definition

A *computer network* is two or more computers that are connected, so that information can be transmitted between them.

Is X a computer network?

- ▶ Your WiFi at home (router, notebook, etc.)? **Yes**
(quite obviously)
- ▶ Facebook? **No**
(a network of people, not of computers)
- ▶ A USB harddrive connected to your laptop? **Yes**
(a USB harddrive is actually a small computer)
- ▶ The World Wide Web? **No**
(network of documents, not of computers)
- ▶ The Internet? **Yes**
(probably the most famous computer network)
- ▶ Your laptop? **Yes**
(many connected independent components (“computers”))
- ▶ The phone network? **Yes**
(phones and backbone infrastructure are (special) computers)

Networks and protocols

Definition

A *network protocol* is a set of rules and conventions of how computers communicate in a certain network.

Typical aspects of network protocols

- ▶ Message format, in particular *header format*
- ▶ Data encoding
- ▶ Allowed messages and expected answers
- ▶ Session initialization and termination
- ▶ Synchronization of communication

A simple example: netcat

- ▶ Command on tyrion:

```
netcat -lp 51966
```

- ▶ Command on arya:

```
echo "Hi tyrion" | netcat tyrion 51966
```

Behind the scenes

- ▶ How/why does arya know tyrion? (or, what does “tyrion” mean from arya’s perspective?)
- ▶ What’s the magic value 51966? Could we use another one? Does it have to be the same on tyrion and arya?
- ▶ How does arya know that information should go through the cable? Does it actually go through the cable?
- ▶ What information (sequence of bits) goes through the cable?

The lowest level: Ethernet

- ▶ Simple case: place “bits” on a cable, all computers connected to this cable can see the bits
- ▶ Ethernet specifies what “cables” and “bits” look like
- ▶ More interesting for us: Ethernet has unique identifiers for network interfaces
- ▶ *MAC address*: 48 bit “physical address”
- ▶ MAC stands for “media access control”
- ▶ Specified in IEEE 802, not only used by Ethernet
- ▶ Ethernet ensures that bits are correctly transmitted
 - ▶ Transmit data in *frames*
 - ▶ Detect and recover from collisions
 - ▶ Ethernet uses a 32-bit checksum

The Ethernet frame

Preamble	Start of Delimiter	Destination MAC address	Source MAC address	802.1Q tag (optional)	Ethertype or Length	Payload	Frame check sequence (32-bit CRC)	Interpacket gap
7 Bytes	1 Byte	6 Bytes	6 Bytes	(4 Bytes)	2 Bytes	46–1500 Bytes (42–1500 Bytes)	4 Bytes	12 Bytes

- ▶ Most interesting for us: MAC addresses (and payload)
- ▶ Minimal payload size is 46 bytes (without 802.1Q tag) or 42 bytes (with 802.1Q tag)
- ▶ Gigabit Ethernet defines *Jumbo Frames* with payload >1500 bytes

From physical to logical addresses: IP

- ▶ MAC addresses are (more or less) fixed
- ▶ Not very flexible for logical configuration of networks:
 - ▶ Imagine replacing a computer
 - ▶ Imagine replacing just a network card
 - ▶ Want some hierarchy in addresses for large networks
- ▶ Higher-level, logical addresses provided by the *Internet Protocol* (IP)
- ▶ Multiple versions of IP, most important: IPv4 and IPv6
- ▶ For the moment, only consider IPv4:
 - ▶ 32-bit addresses (typically written in *dotted decimal*)
 - ▶ *Hostnames*, such as `tyrion` or `arya` are aliases for such an IP address
 - ▶ Multiple mechanisms to map hostnames to IP addresses, easiest one:
`/etc/hosts`
- ▶ Entry in `/etc/hosts` on `tyrion`:

```
192.168.42.2      arya
```
- ▶ Entry in `/etc/hosts` on `arya`:

```
192.168.42.1      tyrion
```


IP networks and addresses

- ▶ IP addresses have a *network part* and a *host part*
- ▶ Hosts with the same network part are “directly reachable”
- ▶ Access to hosts with a different network part needs to go through gateway (later in this lecture)
- ▶ Beginning of IP: First byte for network, last three bytes for host
- ▶ More flexible: Classes A,B,C for different splitting of network and host part
- ▶ Today: variable-length subnet masks (VLSM):
 - ▶ Specify how far the network part reaches through a bitmask
 - ▶ Example: Netmask 255.255.255.0 means that the first 3 bytes are network part
 - ▶ Example 2: Netmask 255.224.0.0 means that the first 11 bits are network part
 - ▶ Specify network together with mask, e.g:
 - ▶ Example: 192.168.42.0/24

Assigning an IP address to a network interface

- ▶ Network interfaces in Linux have logical names
- ▶ First ethernet interface (typically): eth0
- ▶ First WiFi interface (typically): wlan0
- ▶ Configuration of IP address on tyrion:

```
root@tyrion# ip addr add 192.168.42.1/24 dev eth0
```

- ▶ Configuration of IP address on arya:

```
root@arya# ip addr add 192.168.42.2/24 dev eth0
```

Some special IP address ranges

- ▶ 10.0.0.0/8: Private network (not reachable from the Internet)
- ▶ 172.16.0.0/12: Private network
- ▶ 192.168.0.0/16: Private network
- ▶ 169.254.0.0/16: Link local (direct physical connection)
- ▶ 127.0.0.0/8: Loopback, important host: 127.0.0.1 (localhost)

USER FRIENDLY by Illiad



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MIRANDA: YOU GUYS ARE SO LAME,
I BET YOU CAN'T EVEN KNOCK
ME OFF THE 'NET.

BLING13: OH YEAH? WE'LL FIX YOU.
DOOF: YOU'RE TOAST!
W4NK3R: WHAT'S YOUR IP ADDRESS?



MIRANDA: 127.0.0.1
COME GET SOME.

BLING13: *DISCONNECTED*
DOOF: *DISCONNECTED*
W4NK3R: *DISCONNECTED*



Picture source: <http://ars.userfriendly.org/cartoons/?id=20010523>

The IP header

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Version	IHL	DSCP				ECN		Total Length																							
Identification						Flags		Fragment Offset																							
Time to Live		Protocol				Header Checksum																									
Source IP Address																															
Destination IP Address																															
Options																															
...																															

Address mapping from IP to MAC: ARP

- ▶ arya knows the IP address of tyrion (192.168.42.1)
- ▶ arya knows that she's on the same network as tyrion
- ▶ Needs to find out the MAC address of tyrion
- ▶ Solution: Address resolution protocol (ARP)
- ▶ arya sends *ARP who has 192.168.42.1* to MAC broadcast address ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
- ▶ All other computers in the network check whether they have this IP address
- ▶ tyrion answers with ARP reply 192.168.42.1 is at 50:7b:9d:f4:db:29
- ▶ arya remembers this information in the *ARP cache*

Getting to the right process: TCP

- ▶ Need to be able to distinguish bits that shall go to netcat and bits that go to, e.g, my browser
- ▶ Solution: Transport Control Protocol (TCP)
- ▶ TCP introduces *port* numbers
- ▶ An end-to-end connection is characterized by
 - ▶ Source IP address, destination IP address
 - ▶ Source port, destination port
- ▶ Low port numbers (<1024) are *well-known ports*
- ▶ Examples: 22 (SSH), 25 (SMTP), 80 (HTTP), 443 (HTTPS)
- ▶ Low ports can typically only be opened (used by an application) with root rights
- ▶ TCP does *much* more than offering ports; e.g:
 - ▶ Creates a *reliable* connection
 - ▶ Takes care of retransmissions
 - ▶ Congestion control

The TCP header

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Source Port																Destination Port																	
Sequence Number																																	
Acknowledgement Number (if ACK set)																																	
Data Offset	Re-served	NS	CS	EW	UR	ACK	PSH	RST	SYN	FIN	Window Size																						
	000																																
Checksum																Urgent pointer (if URG set)																	
Options																																	
...																																	

TCP sessions

- ▶ Before sending data, create TCP connection with three-way handshake:
 - ▶ Client sends SYN, $SEQ=X$
 - ▶ Server answers with SYN, ACK, $SEQ=Y$, $ACK=X + 1$
 - ▶ Client answers with ACK, $SEQ=X + 1$, $ACK=Y + 1$
- ▶ Negative answer to a SYN is an RST
- ▶ During data transmission, each correctly received byte is acknowledged:
 - ▶ Sequence numbers increase with payload bytes sent
 - ▶ Acknowledgement numbers are the next expected sequence number
- ▶ Termination of a connection uses a 4-way handshake:
 - ▶ Each side terminates independently (through a FIN)
 - ▶ Each side acknowledges the FIN of the other side

Short recap: putting it together

- ▶ tyrion's netcat "listens" on TCP port 51966
- ▶ arya looks up the IP address of tyrion: 192.168.42.1
- ▶ arya sends an ARP request (ARP who has 192.168.42.1) to the broadcast MAC address ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
- ▶ tyrion answers with ARP reply 192.168.42.1 is at 50:7b:9d:f4:db:29
- ▶ arya establishes a TCP/IP connection to tyrion (TCP port 51966)
- ▶ arya sends "Hi tyrion" through the established TCP connection
 - ▶ TCP segment with destination port 51966
 - ▶ IP packet with source IP addr: 192.168.42.2 and dest. IP addr: 192.168.42.1
 - ▶ Ethernet frame with source MAC addr: 00:1e:68:b8:c7:eb, and dest. MAC addr: 50:7b:9d:f4:db:29
- ▶ arya sends all the bits of the Ethernet frame through the cable
- ▶ tyrion receives frame, opens it up, hands payload of TCP segment to the application listening on port 51966 (netcat)
- ▶ tyrion confirms receipt of the TCP segment (ACK)
- ▶ arya closes the session, tyrion closes the session

Network sockets

- ▶ Berkeley sockets are a network and inter-process communication API
- ▶ Most important functionalities of Berkeley sockets:
 - ▶ **socket()**: creates a new socket
 - ▶ **bind()**: binds a socket to an address and port (typically on the server)
 - ▶ **listen()**: go into “listen” state, announce size of input buffer (server side)
 - ▶ **accept()**: block until connection then create new communication socket (server side)
 - ▶ **connect()**: Connect to remote “listening” socket
 - ▶ **send()**: Send data through connected socket
 - ▶ **recv()**: Receive data from connected socket
 - ▶ **close()**: Close the connection, release resources allocated to socket

“netcat” client in Python

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import socket

host = 'tyrion'
port = 51966
s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
s.connect((host,port))
s.send('Hi tyrion\n')
s.close()
```

“netcat -l” in Python

```
#!/usr/bin/env python

import socket

host = ''
port = 51966
backlog = 5
bufsize = 1024

s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_STREAM)
s.bind((host,port))
s.listen(backlog)

client, address = s.accept()
data = client.recv(bufsize)
if data:
    print data
    client.close()
```

The Internet protocol suite

- ▶ The “Internet protocol suite” knows four layers:
- ▶ The *link layer*:
 - ▶ Communication of directly connected nodes
 - ▶ Physical channel, media access control
 - ▶ Examples: Ethernet (IEEE 802.3), WiFi (IEEE 802.11)
- ▶ The internet layer:
 - ▶ Connect hosts across networks
 - ▶ Host identification and routing
 - ▶ Most importantly: IP, ICMP, ARP, DHCP
- ▶ The transport layer:
 - ▶ Provides end-to-end communication
 - ▶ Can provide a reliable connection (retransmission etc.)
 - ▶ Most importantly: TCP, UDP
- ▶ The application layer:
 - ▶ Process-to-Process communication
 - ▶ Examples: HTTP, SSH, SMTP

Lightweight communication: UDP

- ▶ For some messages you do not have to ensure that they arrive
- ▶ A TCP session for sending “Hi tyron” is like cracking nuts with a sledgehammer
- ▶ Solution: User Datagram Protocol (UDP):
 - ▶ No session initialization
 - ▶ No session termination
 - ▶ No acknowledgements
 - ▶ No guaranteed transmission
- ▶ “Send your data and hope for the best”

The UDP header

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Source Port																Destination Port															
Length																Checksum															
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Source Port																Destination Port															
Length																Checksum															

- ▶ The Source Port and the Checksum are even optional

Control messages: ICMP

- ▶ ICMP stands for Internet Control Message Protocol
- ▶ Provides diagnostics and control on the internet layer
- ▶ ICMP messages are in the IP payload (protocol number 1)
- ▶ Most important ICMP messages:
 - ▶ Echo request and Echo reply (“ping”)
 - ▶ Destination unreachable
 - ▶ Redirect message
 - ▶ Source quench