# CSC4200/5200 - COMPUTER NETWORKING 

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## So far...

- we saw how to build a local network
- How do we interconnect different types of networks to build a large global network?


## Why another layer?



## Switching

- Switch
- A mechanism to interconnect links to form a large network
- Forward frames



## Switches are Self learning!

- No configuration needed

- How do they construct such a table?

Collision domain 2

## Switches are self learning!

- Inspect the source MAC address
- What is a mac address?
- Associate mac address and incoming interface
- Store this association for later use, (for some time)
- aging-timer


## Switching Table

| 64 |
| :---: |
| Preamble |

addr addr

- To decide how to forward a packet, a switch consults a forwarding table


Destination, Port

A 3
B 0
C 3
D 3
E 2
F 1
G 0
H 0
Forwarding Table for Switch 2

## Switching Table

- Unknown destination $\rightarrow$ send out on all Interfaces (flooding)
- Skip the incoming interface


Destination, Port
----
A 3
B 0
C 3
D 3
E 2
F 1
G 0
H 0
Forwarding Table for Switch 2

## Switching Table Algorithm

- Create the table first!
- For each packet
- If destination address in arriving segment
- Drop
- If destination is in another segment
- Forward
- If destination unknown
- Flood!



## Switching Table Algorithm

- Send frame from C to F
- Switch $1 \rightarrow$
- Notes C is on Interface 3
- Floods
- Switch $2 \rightarrow$
- Notes C is on Interface 3
- Floods
- Host F replies
- Switch 2 notes F is on Interface 1
- Sends back over Interface 3
- Switch 1 notes F is on Interface 1
- Sends back over Interface 3
- Host c receives frame



## Bridges

- Bridges and LAN Switches

- Class of switches that is used to forward packets between sharedmedia LANs such as Ethernets
- Known as LAN switches
- Referred to as Bridges
- Suppose you have a pair of Ethernets that you want to interconnect
- One approach is put a repeater in between them, physical limitations
- An alternative would be to put a node between the two Ethernets and have the node forward frames from one Ethernet to the other
- This node is called a Bridge
- A collection of LANs connected by one or more bridges is usually said to form an Extended LAN


## Flooding over bridges causes forwarding loops



Spot the loop Why?

## Loop



Spot the loop Why?

## Solution? Spanning Tree

Think of the extended LAN as being represented by a graph that possibly has loops (cycles)

- A spanning tree is a sub-graph of this graph that covers all the vertices but contains no cycles
- Spanning tree keeps all the vertices of the original graph but throws out some of the edges
(a)

(b)


Example of (a) a cyclic graph; (b) a corresponding spanning tree.

## How do we create a spanning tree?

- Properties: No loops
- How?
- Selectively flood
- Distributed algorithm, no coordination!
- Automatic reconciliation when failure occurs


## How do we create a spanning tree?

- Properties: No loops
- How?
- Selectively flood
- Distributed algorithm, no coordination!
- Automatic reconciliation when failure occurs
- Switches elect a root
- The switch with the smallest identifier
- Each switch identifies if its interface is on the shortest path from the root
- Exclude if not

- Send message ( $\mathrm{Y}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{X}$ )
- From $x$, claims $Y$ is the root, distance is $d$


## How do we create a spanning tree?

- Message (Y, d, X) - (to, distance, from)
- 4 thinks it's the root
- Sends $(4,0,4)$ to 3 and 5
- Receives $(3,0,3)$ from 3
- Sets it to as the root since $3<4$
- Receives $(3,1,5)$ from 5
- Sees that this is a longer path to 3
- 2 hops vs direct path (1 hop)
- Removes 4-5 link from the tree



## What does 4 do when it hears from 2?

- Message (Y, d, X) - (to, distance, from)
- 2 hears ( $1,0,1$ ) from 1
- 2 sends ( $1,1,2$ ) to 3
- 3 sends $(1,2,3)$ to 5 and 4
- 4 receives $(1,2,3)$ from 3
- 4 receives $(1,3,5)$ from 5
- Sets 1 as root (id=1 is <id=4)
- Prunes the $4-5$ path since it is 4 hops compared to 3 hops via 3



## Failure and Downsides

- Even after the system has stabilized, the root continues to send messages periodically
- Other bridges continue to forward these messages
- When a bridge fails, the downstream bridges will not receive the configuration messages
- After waiting a specified period of time, they will once again claim to be the root and the algorithm starts again
- No load balancing



## Virtual LAN (VLANs)

- LANs are on the same Ethernet segments
- Does not scale very well - too many wires
- How can we put multiple people in different locations on the same Ethernet segment (LAN)?
- How do we create multiple LANs over the same wire?


## Why separate at all?

- LANs are on the same Ethernet segments! Security.
- Isolation - sensitive traffic vs normal traffic
- Containment of traffic - your for loop broke the internet

- How do we create multiple LANs over the same wire?


## VLANs



- Switches specify which VLAN is accessible over which interface
- Each interface can have a VLAN color
- Each Mac address can have a interface color
- Add VLAN tag to the Ethernet header


## Reading Assignment

Switching Basics - Chapter 3.1

- https://book.systemsapproach.org/internetworking/switching.html\#switching-basics
- Up to (but not including) Virtual Circuit Switching
- 20 minutes read
- Switched Ethernet, learning bridges, spanning tree algorithm, VLANs - Chapter 3.2
- https://book.systemsapproach.org/internetworking/ethernet.html\#switched-ethernet
- 30-40 minutes read

